

# The Right Debate

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*Hongi at Waitangi, Bay of Islands  
Courtesy of Northland Inc.*

## What we discussed with you

During consultation on this LTP, we asked for your feedback on a number of key issues.

- Should we allocate funding to develop a community and civic hub in Kaikohe similar to Kaitaia's Te Ahu?
- Should we invest in a permanent cycle trail link between Taumarere and Opuā when the temporary section is reclaimed by the Bay of Islands Vintage Railway Trust for their rail link?
- Should we extend Pou Herenga Tai (the Twin Coast Cycle Trail) beyond its current scope to create more connections across our District?
- Does the District (and the Russell community) support transferring the Russell wharf to Far North Holdings Limited for development?
- How much money should be allocated to remedial works on the Kaitaia wastewater system to prevent overflows during stormy weather?
- Does the community support the allocation of additional funding to Community Boards for place making projects?
- Are funding levels for the Infrastructure Grants Fund and the Events Investment Fund appropriate or should more money be allocated? And who should have the authority to make decisions on how those funds are distributed, Councillors or Community Boards?
- Is rainwater harvesting to tanks the most appropriate solution in providing potable water to the residents of Te Kao? And if we do so, what, if any, financial assistance do ratepayers feel is appropriate from Council?
- How much should Council contribute financially to the Kawakawa Tourism Hub and Kawakawa town square projects?

We also consulted on the following non-key but still important (or legislatively required) items:

- a library strategy that will extend the reach of our community libraries and improve the way they operate
- our annual adjustment of fees and charges
- proposed changes to our rates remission and postponement policies following a legislated review
- our updated Significance and Engagement Policy.

866 submissions were received from members of the public, organisations, groups and businesses, and more than 130 submitters spoke at hearings in Kerikeri, Kaitaia and Kaikohe. In addition to the issues we asked for your feedback on, submitters raised others that are of importance to them. For many of these, Council's decision was not to make any change to the LTP, but this does not mean that the topics and issues raised were not considered important. While deliberating, Council acknowledged the need to develop a variety of strategies and plans to address current and future

requirements across our District from core infrastructure including roading and stormwater through to community facilities, halls, sporting facilities and parks. These initiatives will get underway immediately, and will be carried out in collaboration with our communities.

## Decisions made on the key issues

**Kaikohe community and civic hub.** Support for the development of a community and civic hub in Kaikohe (similar to Kaitaia's Te Ahu) was strong. As a result of feedback Council confirmed the \$11.8 million budget and will now work with partners, including Ngapuhi and central government, to progress on a suitable design for consultation with the community. Funding was brought forward to the first four years of the LTP to enable design and business case development and funding applications to central government in a joint effort between Council (Far North Holdings) and Te Rununga A Iwi O Ngapuhi and Ngapuhi Asset Holdings Company.

**Pou Herenga Tai (Twin Coast Cycle Trail).** Council made two decisions as a result of feedback. Firstly, it confirmed a budget of \$4.6 million to retain the cycle trail's coast to coast status by replacing the section between Opuā and Taumarere that will be affected by the Bay of Islands Vintage Railway Trust's rail link. Submissions also indicated strong support for further developing the cycle trail to create more connections across our District. The originally proposed development period of 21 years was shortened, with investment of \$26 million from years four to 10, and a further \$18.7 million allocated beyond the 10 years of the LTP. Council did confirm, however, that it intends to carry out extension projects only if a minimum of 50% government subsidy can be confirmed, and if this cannot be achieved, further consultation will occur.

**Russell Wharf.** While the community (and particularly the residents of Russell) support transferring the wharf to Far North Holdings, concerns about community input on the future of the asset were made clear. Council therefore confirmed its proposal to divest the wharf to FNHL on the condition that the community and tangata whenua maintain input into the development, future direction, management and governance of the wharf.

**Kaitaia wastewater.** Council proposed spending \$5.1 million on preventing wastewater spills in the sort of storm we typically get every three months. Feedback from across the District indicated support for this option, however in deliberations Council felt that spending more to eliminate spills in more severe weather events is preferable, and as a result confirmed a budget of \$13.4 million to resolve the overflow issues from the Kaitaia wastewater scheme.

**Community funding.** Council confirmed the allocation of \$100,000 additional funding to Community Boards to fund place making projects. This gives each Community Board an additional \$33,333 per annum to allocate to projects in their ward that they feel would improve the 'liveability' of their

place. Also confirmed was the continuation of the district-wide Infrastructure Grants Fund at \$100,000 and the district-wide Events Investment Fund of \$80,000 alongside a decision that Community Boards should decide how both funds are allocated through formal funding rounds.

**Te Kao potable water.** The decision to support the Te Kao community's preference for rainwater harvesting to tanks was confirmed, with the cost of implementation borne by the resident. Council acknowledges that the community is likely to require some financial assistance in making this plan a reality, and agreed to consult with affected residents on an interest free loan for those who wish to take up the offer.

**Kawakawa Tourism Hub.** Council confirmed its proposal to provide a one-off grant of \$230,000 for the Kawakawa Tourism Hub / Te Hononga, funded through the ward rate to assist the Hundertwasser Park Charitable Trust to build four toilets and one pay shower in the new centre which will be near the designated freedom camping site. Council also agreed, in principle, to providing a loan of \$160,000 to the Trust for a 10 year term to help with the development of a town square next to the Hundertwasser toilets.

**Community outcomes.** The proposed community outcomes were adopted with minor changes. The final version can be found on page 11 of this document.

**Library strategy.** Council confirmed funding to enable to implementation of a library strategy that will provide a way forward that preserves the traditional library service (loaning out books) but that also responds to the demand for new information and communication services, such as access to the web. The 10 year library strategy and was adopted and the associated funding was confirmed.

**Fees and charges.** Fees and charges were adopted as proposed. However, the Kaikohe-Hokianga Community Board requested, and were granted, delegated authority to set the fees for Kaikohe's Memorial Hall. Until this has been completed the current fees will remain.

**Rating policies.** We consulted on amended rates remission and postponement policies as a result of legislative review requirements. Proposals included some deletions of policies that are no longer required or used and the addition of remissions for extreme financial hardship and two new policies to incentivise Māori economic development on Māori Freehold and Treaty Settlement land. Council confirmed and adopted these policies with minor amendments, with the exception of the remission for extreme financial hardship.

**Significance and Engagement Policy.** The policy was adopted without change.

## Other budget adjustments made as a result of consultation

**West Coast Road, Panguru flood mitigation.** The Panguru community, including students from the school, asked Council to start flood mitigation works earlier than proposed. The project, jointly funded by Council and the Northland Regional

Council (NRC), will now start in 2018/19. NRC have changed their budget timing to match ours.

**Strategic roading initiatives.** The proposed roading programme included significant funding for major roading initiatives in Kerikeri, and while Kerikeri residents defended the need for these projects, others in the District felt that this money should be invested elsewhere. In debating the issue, Council decided to delay a decision on the South Eastern Bypass and Waipapa to Kapiro link projects until a District-wide roading strategy could be developed to determine the priorities for roading across the District. The funding for these projects has been reallocated to the implementation of initiatives from the strategy and re-timed to begin in 2020. Additional unsubsidised funding of \$1 million per annum was also allocated for road sealing, for which priorities will be set by the strategy. The strategy will be completed in time to inform the 2019/20 Annual Plan.

**Broadwood Swing Bridge.** The swing bridge at Broadwood, a popular tourist attraction, is currently closed and in a dangerous state due to overdue repairs. An additional \$100,000 has been allocated for repairs and a load assessment to ensure ongoing safety of the asset.

**Animal control.** In debating submissions relating to animal control Council made a decision to increase the amount of operating funding for animal control by \$180,000 per annum in a bid to improve the level of service delivered.

**Sportsville funding for Lindvart Park, Kaikohe.** Council made a decision earlier this year to appoint Sportsville as the management entity for Lindvart Park in Kaikohe, and has now made a decision to allocate an annual grant of \$40,000 to Sportsville to assist them.

**Taipa stormwater and wastewater.** The Taipa bridge supports a rising main that transfers wastewater from the Cable Bay, Coopers Beach and Mangonui communities to the treatment plant in Taipa. NZTA is replacing the bridge, and as a result of this work Council has an opportunity to deal with some wastewater and stormwater issues at relatively low cost. \$90,000 has been allocated to the new wastewater pipe on the bridge and a further \$400,000 has been allocated to upgrade the stormwater network around the Taipa township in conjunction with the bridge works. The additional funding has been allocated to 2018/19.

**Mawson Avenue, Waipapa water supply.** The private water scheme that provides bore water to the residents of Mawson Avenue in Waipapa will soon be shut down by the owner. Consultation with the community lead to a decision to connect the customers of the scheme to Council's Kerikeri water scheme. Funding of \$500,000 has been allocated to enable upgrade of the Mawson Avenue scheme reticulation to enable connection.

**Civil Defence.** The Councils of Northland have for some time been considering a shared service for Civil Defence, and to that end Council has agreed to contribute an additional \$60,000 in 2018/19 to cover our District's share of a regional recovery manager's salary and the establishment of a fully

integrated regional shared service. The funding level will be reviewed in the 2019/20 Annual Plan once the potential for a regional rate to fund this essential service is investigated by NRC.

## New strategies, plans and policies

Throughout the decision-making process Council committed to the development of a number of strategies and policies to guide future decisions. It is expected that these policies, plans and strategies will complement the Sustainable District Strategy that is currently being developed.

- A District-wide roading strategy to identify priorities for the future. The strategy is to include parking and footpaths. Footpath proposals and requests from submissions are to be considered and prioritised as part of the strategy work.
- A full review of Council's rating policies and practices.
- A public toilet strategy to identify current and likely future requirements and capacity, location of facilities and minimum standards.
- A stormwater strategy to identify priorities for the District. Council resolved to include flood mitigation projects for Moerewa and Kawakawa, and that these be prioritised for spend in light of Northland Regional Council's projects for the Taumarere River catchment not progressing.
- Accelerated focus on the long term strategy for the Hokianga Harbour Crossing in collaboration with the Hokianga Ferry Liaison Group.
- Development of (and consultation on) a Smoke Free on Council Property policy.
- Consider solid waste strategies in light of current uncertainties in the recycling market.
- An indicative business case for Kohukohu to Herekino and Rawene to Kaitaia via Broadwood routes to be designated state highways to present to NZTA for consideration.
- Review submissions on speed control and traffic calming and control measures and assess in line with Safer Journeys, the safe system approach, rules and speed management guidance.

## Changes as a result of new information

**Roading subsidies.** After consultation on the LTP commenced, Council was informed by the NZ Transport Agency that our Funding Assistance Rate (FAR) would be increased from 1 July 2018. This means we will receive a higher level of subsidy to assist with our roading programme and less local share

funding from Far North District ratepayers. In assessing the impact of this positive news, Council decided to retain the local share at the level proposed to allow the flexibility to respond to funding offered to Council under any changes that may arise from the review of the Government Policy Statement for roading, which we anticipate may make provision for previously unsubsidised activities.

**Capital works reforecast.** Concurrent with consultation, Council carried out its annual reforecast of capital works for the current financial year to determine which projects would not be complete at the end of the year and would therefore require funding to be carried forward. To ensure a deliverable programme of work in 2018/19 any projects that could be retimed were moved to outer years. Projects carried forward to 2018/19 or later totalled \$2.8 million.

**Electricity supply.** During consultation on the LTP Council was made aware that externally provided data on which electricity contracts had been calculated was incorrect. Operating costs have been increased by \$400,000 per annum as a result.

## Budget corrections

**Tourism Infrastructure Fund (TIF) local share.** Council is in the process of applying to the TIF for the development of public toilets in several locations, however, one of the criteria is confirming that the local share of 50% has been budgeted. This was overlooked when the LTP was being developed, so additional capital funding of \$514,000 in 2018/19 has been added, \$394,000 capital and the remainder operational.

**Kerikeri Pavilion.** In restoring the pavilion to its previous condition, renewals not carried out while the building was closed now need to be completed as part of the project. Council has budgeted an additional \$300,000 for this purpose.

**Maromaku domain.** An additional \$213,880 has been budgeted to complete work on the netball courts.

**Omanaia / Rawene water treatment plant.** An additional \$400,000 has been added to the budget to cover expected shortfalls and an application for increased MoH funding has been made.

## Other changes Council decided to make

**Rawene sewerage rates.** Council made a decision to reduce the value of the depreciation element of the capital rate for the Rawene Sewerage rate by 40% for 2018/19 only to reflect the subsidy proportion of the original scheme.

# What you will get for your Rates dollar in 2018/19

With all the changes made as a result of consultation and new information, this is what your rates dollars pays for in 2018/19



**19¢**

**Roading**



**14¢**

**Wastewater Services**



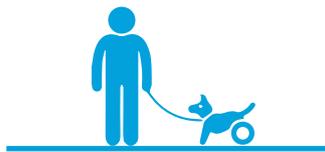
**10¢**

**Customer Services**  
Libraries, information / service centres



**10¢**

**Community Services**  
Cemeteries, town maintenance etc



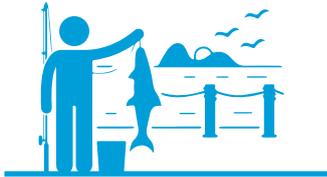
**10¢**

**Regulatory Services**  
Building, animal control etc



**8¢**

**Forward Planning**  
Policy, community assistance etc



**7¢**

**Recreation Facilities**  
Parks and reserves, maritime, pools



**5¢**

**Stormwater and Flood Protection**



**4¢**

**Refuse**  
Transfer stations



**4¢**

**Governance**



**3¢**

**Sustainable Environment**  
District Plan, Māori engagement etc



**3¢**

**Water Supply**



**1¢**

**Public Safety**  
Civil Defence



**1¢**

**Housing for the Elderly**



**1¢**

**Footpaths**