

Rautaki Haere • Strategic Direction



# Hononga Rautaki Strategic linkages

## Ngā Wāhanga e Whā o te Hauora • The Four Aspects of Wellbeing



### Our Vision

**HE WHENUA RANGATIRA**  
A DISTRICT OF SUSTAINABLE PROSPERITY & WELL-BEING

### Our Mission

**HE ARA TĀMATA**  
**CREATING GREAT PLACES**

*Supporting our people*

## He Rautaki Whakaarotau • Our Strategic Priorities



Better asset management



Address affordability



Enable sustainable economic development



Adapt to climate change



Protect our water supply



Deepen our sense of place and connection

## He Putanga Hapori • Our Community Outcomes



Proud, vibrant communities



Prosperous communities supported by a sustainable economy



Communities that are healthy, safe, connected and sustainable



Connected communities that are prepared for the unexpected



A wisely managed and treasured environment that recognises the role of tangata whenua as kaitiaki



We embrace and celebrate our unique culture and heritage and value it as a source of enduring pride

# Te Mahi Tahī me te Māori

## Working with Māori

### **He Whenua Rangatira - A District of Sustainable Prosperity and Well-Being**

### **He Ara Tāmata - Creating Great Places, Supporting Our People**

Far North District Council's vision and mission illustrates the connection between people and place. This is especially so for tangata whenua who have a long and rich association with the Far North. Council recognises this long settlement and therefore the special position of tāngata whenua within this District and the significant and long-term role Māori have to play in Council's decision-making.

As important are our values by which we operate.

- Manawatōpū: Unity of purpose and working together
- Kaitiakitanga: Environmental stewardship and sustainability
- Mana tangata: Respect and fairness
- Te Tiriti o Waitangi: Partnership
- Tū tangata: Strong cultural identities
- Whanaungatanga: Family, community, connecting and sharing

Council recognises it needs to establish meaningful and enduring relationships with Māori in order to enable effective participation in decision making while at the same time achieving mutually beneficial outcomes. Our values provide a vehicle for this to occur.

Translating our vision, mission and values into tangible outcomes for and with Māori, four key areas of work have been identified to help guide and underpin our work:

- Recognising the Treaty of Waitangi and other statutory obligations
- Effective participation in council decision-making
- Understanding and valuing a Māori worldview
- Strengthening relationships and partnerships with Māori.

Understanding these goals and embedding them across all functions is crucial if Council is to be successful in building relationships with Māori founded on trust and mutual respect.

### **Recognising the Treaty of Waitangi and other statutory obligations**

The Far North has a rich and diverse history. We have one of the largest Māori populations in New Zealand

with over half of the district identifying as Māori. The Far North is also home to the Te Tiriti o Waitangi / the Treaty of Waitangi, the founding document of Aotearoa New Zealand.

The Council acknowledges and respects the Crown's responsibility as Treaty partner and the requirement of local government to take into account the principles of Te Tiriti o Waitangi / the Treaty of Waitangi, specifically the obligations placed on Council to provide opportunities for Māori to participate in decision-making and other council processes which is meaningful to both parties.

Council also recognises the requirement on local government to contribute to the Crown's broader relationship responsibilities by ensuring engagement with Māori is meaningful.

Council also recognises the Treaty of Waitangi settlement process and outcomes, and is committed to supporting the spirit and implementation of our District's Treaty settlements and assisting negotiations between the Crown and Māori when invited.

Council will:

- Undertake an audit to assess the organisations performance in acting in accordance to Te Tiriti o Waitangi / Treaty of Waitangi statutory obligations, and to understand where opportunities for improvement exist.
- Provide Treaty of Waitangi training for all elected members and staff.
- Fulfill statutory obligations to Māori as prescribed in legislation.
- When developing policies, consider the implications of the Treaty and the relationship of Māori and their culture and traditions with their ancestral lands, water, sites, wāhi tapu, and other taonga.
- Provide for and implement Treaty settlement outcomes.
- Actively engage in settlement discussions and provide relevant information as requested.
- Give effect to existing Memorandum of Understanding.

### **Effective participation in council decision-making**

Council acknowledges the unique perspective of Māori and recognise that tangata whenua are more than an interest group or stakeholder.

Therefore, we need to ensure we are including the right people, at the right time - across all levels of Council - in

order for Māori to make informed decisions about our processes and work. In doing so, we also need to ensure we maintain ongoing open discussions and interactions with Māori in order to provide relevant information to assist them to participate in our decision-making processes.

A key part in this journey is the decision by Council to establish Māori wards for the 2022 and 2025 local body elections and to develop mechanisms that allow for Māori participation in Council decisions. This evolving mechanism, that will provide for greater and broader participation by Māori across all functions and decisions of Council, will be a key focus in the coming years and will see us move away from transactional relationship agreements such as Memorandum of Understanding.

Council will:

- Work with Māori to co-design a mechanism to enable participation of Māori in decisions of Council – at a governance level. While this is being established Council may, on advice, implement interim measures that ensure participation in Council decisions at the earliest possible opportunity.
- With Māori, develop a series of workshops on RMA and LGA issues pertinent to Māori and actively promote these across the District.
- Provide an annual contestable fund to assist two Māori in the Far North to attend the Making Good Decisions Course.
- Provide annual contestable funding for the development or review of Iwi/Hapū Environmental Management Plans.

## Understanding and valuing a Māori worldview

The Council recognises that having the capability and capacity to engage are issues for both Council and Māori. The Council will continue to provide opportunities for Māori to gain knowledge of Council processes and will actively assist Māori with developing their capacity to input into decision-making processes via hui and targeted training workshops.

At the same time, we recognise that we also need to look internally at our own capacity and capabilities to ensure we have the right skills. We acknowledge we need a sound understanding of Māori worldview concepts and values when undertaking our work and as a key component for building relationships with Māori. Without an understanding of these concepts and values, we will not be able to uphold our legislative obligations.

Council will:

- Develop a competency framework/tool for Council and staff to influence and enhance Far North District Councils responsiveness capabilities to Māori.

- Develop and implement a training plan to support and grow cultural competencies of staff and governance.
- Provide information sessions for council staff and elected members on legislative obligations to Māori, Treaty settlement legislation, environmental management plans and on Māori perspectives.
- Develop a database of Māori stakeholders.
- Support forum that bring Council, Māori and other agencies together.

## Strengthening relationships and partnerships with Māori

Relationships need to be across the organisation - they are not the responsibility of a single person or team. In recognising that relationships are a whole of council effort, we also recognise that successful relationships are founded on how we talk to, behave toward and deal with one another. We also realise that we need to move away from one off interactions and look to build consistent and sustainable relationships for the long-term.

Council will:

- Create a Council resource for successful engagement with Māori.
- Develop a mechanism whereby Council have regular engagement opportunities with Māori, such as regular ongoing hui across the District.
- Actively participate in bodies and forum such as the Iwi, Local Government Authorities Chief Executives Forum (ILGACE) and Whai Kāinga (regional housing forum), where Māori participation as partners or, Māori outcomes are a key component of these mechanisms.
- Provide ongoing opportunities for Māori to participate in the development of the draft and proposed District Plan.
- Support the dissemination of data and information to Māori in order for their effective engagement in council activities and decisions.
- Support and participate in inter-agency training opportunities.

## Looking forward

Council is looking to build a strong foundation from within and move towards long-term beneficial relationships and partnering with Māori. We have started our journey by showing our intent for greater surety for Māori in our decision making. We aim to grow from these recent decisions and are committed to do so.