

NORTHLAND REGIONAL COUNCIL

Agenda

For an Ordinary Meeting of the Council to be held in the
Council Chambers, 36 Water Street, Whangarei,
on Wednesday, 21 May 2008 commencing at 1 pm

File 105.2

Opening Prayer

Apologies

Declaration of Conflicts of Interest

OPEN MEETING

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NORTHLAND REGIONAL COUNCIL

Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of the Council, held in the Council Chambers,
Northland Regional Council, 36 Water Street, Whangarei, on
Wednesday, 16 April 2008 commencing at 1 pm

File 105.2

PRESENT: Crs Mark Farnsworth, John Bain, Craig Brown, Joe Carr,
Peter Jensen, Lorraine Hill and Bill Rossiter.

In Attendance

Full Meeting

Chief Executive Officer
Council Secretary

Part Meeting

Strategic Development Manager
Monitoring Manager
Consents Manager
Land Operations Manager
Manager Planning and Policy
Finance and Corporate Services Manager
Communications Officer

OBITUARY – CAYTI WHITTON

The Chairman advised Councillors of the passing of Cayti Whitton, a former employee of the Northland Regional Council. Cayti was also Chief Executive Officer of the Northland Regional Council Community Trust.

OPENING PRAYER

The Council Secretary read the opening prayer.

APOLOGY:

Resolved: That the apology from Cr Walker be received. Leave of absence was granted at the 16 March Council meeting.

Cr Bain : Cr Brown

DECLARATION OF CONFLICT OF INTEREST

The Chairman gave members the opportunity to declare an interest on any item of business on the agenda for the meeting. Cr Rossiter indicated he had a conflict with a confidential item.

ITEMS OF NEW BUSINESS

Resolved: That the Council agrees to consider the following items of business for the reasons shown:

OPEN MEETING**1. ADDITIONAL TO ITEM 4, PAGE 22 – CHAIRMAN'S REPORT**

The Council agenda gave notice that the above information would be tabled at this meeting.

2. ADDITIONAL TO ITEM 5, PAGE 33 – CEO'S REPORT

The Council agenda gave notice that the above information would be tabled at this meeting.

3. CONFIRMATION OF REGIONAL LAND TRANSPORT COMMITTEE MINUTES HELD ON 15 APRIL 2008

The Council agenda gave notice that the above information would be tabled at this meeting.

4. CODE OF CONDUCT - COMPLAINT

The reason for urgency is the timely consideration of this complaint.

Cr Bain : Cr Brown

1. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 19 MARCH 2008

File 105.2

Resolved: That the minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of the Council held on 19 March 2008 be confirmed.

Cr Jensen : Cr Rossiter

2. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF AUDIT AND FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 26 MARCH 2008

File 105.2

Resolved: That the minutes of the Audit and Finance Committee meeting held on 26 March 2008 be received and the Committee's recommendations adopted.

Cr Farnsworth : Cr Rossiter

3. NORTHTEC VERBAL UPDATE ON TERTIARY EDUCATION IN NORTHLAND

File 246.3

Report from Council Secretary Audrey Grieve dated 31 March 2008.

Terry Barnett, Chief Executive Officer, Paul Binney, Chief Financial Officer made a presentation to the Council on tertiary education in Northland.

The NorthTec management sought NRC support for the Crown Business Case to improve facilities at the Raumanga campus and regional lobbying for Broadband and to get a link to KAREN (Kiwi Advanced Research Education Network).

Resolved: That the presentation from the NorthTec representatives be received.

Cr Bain : Cr Jensen

4. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

File 105.4

Report from Chairman Mark Farnsworth dated 7 April 2008.

Resolved: That the Chairman's report dated 7 April 2008 and supplementary item dated 16 April 2008, be received.

Cr Hill : Cr Rossiter

COMPLIANCE WITH DECISION MAKING PROCESS

The activities detailed in this report are provided for in the Council's 2006-2016 LTCCP, and as such are in accordance with the Council's decision making process and sections 76 to 82 of the Local Government Act 2002.

4.1 SUBMISSION TO ROYAL COMMISSION ON AUCKLAND

Resolved: That the Chairman's draft submission to the Royal Commission on Auckland be received and that the Chairman, Deputy Chairman and Chief Executive Officer have authority to finalise the submission.

Cr Brown : Cr Bain

5. CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S REPORT

File 105.3

Report from Chief Executive Officer, Ken Paterson, dated 3 April 2008.

Resolved: That the Chief Executive Officer's report dated 3 April 2008 and supplementary item dated 16 April 2008 be received.

Cr Carr : Cr Rossiter

COMPLIANCE WITH DECISION MAKING PROCESS

The activities detailed in this report are provided for in the Council's 2006-2016 LTCCP, and as such are in accordance with the Council's decision making process and sections 76 to 82 of the Local Government Act 2002.

6. LEASE TRANSACTIONS AND DOCUMENTS SEALED

Files 215.130.1; CON-12072

Report from Council Secretary Audrey Grieve dated 28 March 2008.

Resolved: That the lease transaction and use of the Council seal outlined in the report from the Council Secretary dated 28 March 2008, be approved.

Cr Jensen : Cr Rossiter

COMPLIANCE WITH DECISION MAKING PROCESS

The activities contained in this report are in accordance with the Council's Treasury Management Policy which was adopted in compliance with the decision making requirements of Sections 76 to 82 of the Local Government Act 2002.

7. LOCAL GOVERNMENT NEW ZEALAND – ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING AND CONFERENCE

File 161.2

Report from Council Secretary Audrey Grieve dated 9 April 2008.

- Resolved:**
1. That the Council Secretary's report dated 9 April 2008 be received.
 2. That the Chairman, Chief Executive Officer (or nominee) and Cr Bain be authorised to attend the Annual General Meeting and conference as this Council's delegates.
 3. That the Chairman be the Council's Presiding Delegate and that he or any other Council delegate nominated by him be authorised to exercise the Council's vote at the Annual General Meeting.

Cr Farnsworth : Cr Jensen

COMPLIANCE WITH DECISION MAKING PROCESS

The activities detailed in this report are part of the Council's day to day operations and as such are provided for in the Council's 2006-2016 Long Term Council Community Plan, and are in accordance with the Council's decision making process and sections 76-82 of the Local Government Act 2002.

8. LOCAL GOVERNMENT NEW ZEALAND – ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2008 – REMIT PROCESS

File 161.1

Report from Council Secretary Audrey Grieve dated 28 March 2008.

- Resolved:** That Councillors advise the Chairman of any remits they wish to have put forward for consideration to LGNZ. The Chairman advised Councillors of his intention to present a remit on broadband.

Cr Brown : Cr Jensen

Cr Rossiter took no part in discussion and voting on this item.

COMPLIANCE WITH DECISION MAKING PROCESS

The activities detailed in this report provided for in the Council's 2006-2016 Long Term Council Community Plan, and as such are in accordance with the Council's decision making process and Sections 76 to 82 of the Local Government Act 2002.

9. LOCAL GOVERNMENT NEW ZEALAND – NOMINATIONS FOR OFFICE OF PRESIDENT AND VICE PRESIDENT

File 161.1

Report from Council Secretary Audrey Grieve dated 28 March 2008.

Resolved: That Councillors discuss with the Chairman any nominations they wish to make for the Office of President and/or Vice President of LGNZ, and that the Chairman be authorised to arrange for the seconding of such a nomination by another member authority.

Cr Jensen : Cr Hill

COMPLIANCE WITH DECISION MAKING PROCESS

The activities detailed in this report provided for in the Council's 2006-2016 Long Term Council Community Plan, and as such are in accordance with the Council's decision making process and Sections 76 to 82 of the Local Government Act 2002.

10. FINANCIAL REPORT – 31 MARCH 2008

File 350.4

Report from Acting Financial Accountant dated 7 April 2008.

Resolved: That the financial report to 31 March 2008 be received.

Cr Rossiter : Cr Carr

COMPLIANCE WITH DECISION MAKING PROCESS

The activities detailed in this report are provided for in the Council's 2007/2008 Annual Plan, and as such are in accordance with the Council's decision-making process and Sections 76-82 of the Local Government Act 2002.

11. INVESTMENT SCHEDULE AND PERFORMANCE – FINANCIAL REPORT 31 MARCH 2008

File 350.4

Report from Finance and Corporate Services Manager Lisa Aubrey dated 31 March 2008.

Resolved: That the Investment Schedule and Performance Report to 31 March 2008 be received.

Cr Brown : Cr Rossiter

COMPLIANCE WITH DECISION MAKING PROCESS

The activities detailed in this report are provided for in the Council's 2007/2008 Annual Plan, and as such are in accordance with the Council's decision-making process and Sections 76-82 of the Local Government Act 2002.

12. PAID ACCOUNTS FOR APPROVAL**File 350.9****Report from Payments Officer Rachel Hills dated 31 March 2008.**

Resolved: That the payments for March 2008, as detailed in the report from the Payments Officer, Rachel Hills dated 31 March 2008, be approved.

Cr Hill : Cr Jensen

COMPLIANCE WITH DECISION MAKING PROCESS

The activities detailed in this report are provided for in the Northland Community Plan 2006-2016, and as such are in accordance with the Council's decision making process and Sections 76-82 of the Local Government Act 2002, and the requirements of the Public Bodies Contracts Act 1959.

13. PROGRESS OF TREATMENT SETTLEMENTS IN NORTHLAND**File 900.17.1****Report from Iwi Liaison Officer Rachel Ropiha dated 26 March 2008.**

- Resolved:**
1. That the report from the Iwi Liaison Officer, dated 26 March 2008, on Progress of Treaty Settlements in Northland, be received.
 2. That a further report be made on claims as these near completion and their implications for the Council are made clear.

Cr Rossiter : Cr Jensen

COMPLIANCE WITH DECISION MAKING PROCESS

The activities detailed in this report are provided for in the Council's 2006-2016 Long Term Council Community Plan, and as such are in accordance with the Council's decision making process and sections 76- 82 of the Local Government Act 2002.

14. VARIATION TO PLAN CHANGE 1 (MOORINGS AND MARINAS)**File 990.3.40****Report from Senior Coastal Policy Analyst Jonathan Gibbard dated 31 March 2008.**

- Resolved:**
1. That the report from the Senior Coastal Policy Analyst dated 31 March 2008, on Variation 1 to Plan Change 1 (Moorings and Marinas) to the Regional Coastal Plan for Northland, be received.
 2. That the officer's recommendations, as outlined in Attachment 2, be adopted as the Council Decisions on submissions to Variation 1 to Plan Change 1 to the Regional Coastal Plan for Northland.
 3. That the Council Decisions on Variation 1 be publicly notified on 26 April 2008.

Cr Hill : Cr Rossiter

COMPLIANCE WITH DECISION MAKING PROCESS

The decisions detailed in this report are part of a Regional Coastal Plan variation which is being progressed in accordance with the processes set out in the First Schedule of the Resource Management Act 1991. Pursuant to section 76(5) of the Local Government Act 2002, the requirements of the Resource Management Act 1991 take precedence.

15. AQUACULTURE PLANNING DOCUMENTS - DECISIONS

File 990.3.35

Report from the Coastal Planning Team Leader Ben Lee dated 31 March 2008.

- Resolved:**
1. That the Aquaculture Planning Hearings Committee recommendations on Proposed Plan Change 4 (Policy and Regulatory Regime for Aquaculture Management Areas), be adopted as Council decisions on submissions.
 2. That the Aquaculture Planning Hearings Committee recommendations on Threshold Evaluation Criteria, Use and Value Maps, and Aquaculture Evaluation Maps be adopted as the Council decisions
 3. That these decisions be publicly notified on 26 April 2008.

Cr Carr : Cr Farnsworth

Cr Bain requested that his vote against the resolution be recorded.

Special thanks was extended by the Chair of the Hearings Committee to the staff involved and the two independent Commissioners. The Council Chairman was asked to write to the independent Commissioners extending the Council's appreciation of their work.

COMPLIANCE WITH DECISION MAKING PROCESS

The decisions detailed in this report on Proposed Plan Change 4 (Policy and Regulatory Regime for Aquaculture Management Areas) relate to a Regional Coastal Plan Change being progressed in accordance with the processes set out in the First Schedule of the Resource Management Act 1991. Pursuant to section 76(5) of the Local Government Act 2002, the requirements of the Resource Management Act 1991 take precedence.

The Threshold Evaluation Criteria, Use and Value Maps, and Aquaculture Evaluation Maps are not provided for in the Council's 2006-2016 Long term Community Plan and accordingly have followed the Consultative Procedure pursuant to Section 87(1)(b) of the Local Government Act 2002. As such the decisions are in accordance with the Council's decision making process and sections 76-82 of the LGA 2002.

16. PROPOSED NEW ZEALAND COASTAL POLICY STATEMENT 2008 – SUBMISSION PROCESS

File 990.7

Report from Manager Planning and Policy Glenn Mortimer dated 2 April 2008.

- Resolved:**
1. That this report from the Manager Planning and Policy, dated 2 April 2008, on the Proposed New Coastal Policy Statement 2008, be received.

2. That the policy analysis developed by the Local Government NZ advisory group as part of the review process be used to develop a Northland Regional Council submission to the Board of Inquiry on the Proposed New Coastal Policy Statement 2008.
3. That the submission be developed by a team comprised of Crs Farnsworth, Hill and Brown, the managers of the Planning and Policy, Consents and Monitoring departments, the Coastal Planning Team Leader, and other nominated staff.
4. That the submission be prepared and forwarded by the due date of 7 May 2008 and reported to the May 2008 Council meeting.

Cr Rossiter : Cr Brown

COMPLIANCE WITH DECISION MAKING PROCESS

The decisions detailed in this report are related to the review of a National Policy Statement being progressed in accordance with the processes set out in the Resource Management Act 1991. Pursuant to Section 76(5) of the Local Government Act 2002, the requirements of the Resource Management Act 1991 take precedence.

17. CONSENTS DECISIONS AND APPLICATIONS IN PROCESS

File: 110.8

Report from the Consents Manager, David Roke dated 1 April 2008.

Resolved: That the information on resource consent decisions and applications in process be received.

Cr Rossiter : Cr Jensen

COMPLIANCE WITH DECISION MAKING PROCESS

The activities detailed in this report are provided for in the Council's 2006-2016 LTCCP, and as such are in accordance with the Council's decision making process and sections 76-82 of the Local Government Act 2002.

18. APPOINTMENT OF HEARINGS COMMITTEE

File 110.8

Report from Consents Manager David Roke dated 3 April 2008.

Item 1 was withdrawn as the matter had been resolved.

The Chairman declared an interest and withdrew from the Chair. The Deputy Chairman assumed chairmanship for the item.

Resolved: That Cr Brown be appointed to hear and decide on the applications by **Waitangi National Trust CON20071957801** – for a proposed **New Visitor Centre at Waitangi**.

Cr Jensen : Cr Rossiter

COMPLIANCE WITH DECISION MAKING PROCESS

The activities detailed in this report are provided for in the Council's 2006/2016 LTCCP, and in accordance with the Council's statutory delegations approved in July 2004. As such they are in accordance with the Council's decision making process and sections 76-82 of the Local Government Act 2002.

19. REPORT ON ENVIRONMENTAL MONITORING FOR THE PERIOD 1-31 MARCH 2008.

File 400.2 and 505.2

Report from Monitoring Manager Tony Phipps dated 4 April 2008.

Resolved: That the follow-up action taken by staff resulting from monitoring or environmental/maritime incidents during March 2008 be supported.

Cr Rossiter : Cr Jensen

COMPLIANCE WITH DECISION MAKING PROCESS

The activities detailed in this report are provided for in the Council's 2006/2016 LTCCP, and as such are in accordance with the Council's decision-making process and Sections 76-82 of the Local Government Act 2002.

20. MEMBERSHIP OF THE KAIHU RIVER LIAISON COMMITTEE

File 830.1.3

Report from Land Operations Manager Bob Cathcart dated 31 March 2008.

Resolved:

1. That the report on Membership of the Kaihu River Liaison Committee by the Land Operations Manager dated 31 March 2008 be received.
2. That the name and Terms of Reference for the Kaihu River Liaison Committee be amended as proposed in the Land Operations Manager's report and as shown on the attached tracked changes document.
3. That should there be more nominations for ratepayer representatives on the Liaison Committee than there are vacancies, a postal ballot be conducted.

Cr Hill : Cr Jensen

Cr Carr moved an amendment:

4. That an addition be made to the Terms of Reference granting the Kaihu River Liaison Committee the power (task-oriented) to co-opt an additional member of the Committee.

There was no dissent and this addition was added to the substantive motion.

COMPLIANCE WITH DECISION-MAKING PROCESS

The activities detailed in this report are provided for in the Council's 2006-2016 Long Term Council Community Plan, and as such are in accordance with the Council's decision-making process and sections 76-82 of the Local Government Act 2002.

21. REGIONAL LAND TRANSPORT COMMITTEE**File 110.6**

Resolved: That the Minutes of the Regional Land Transport Committee meeting held on 15 April 2008 be received and the Committee's recommendations adopted.

Cr Rossiter : Cr Carr

21.1 ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE**File 110.12**

Resolved: That Mike Kake be invited to be a member of the Environmental Management Committee as a cultural representative.

Cr Brown : Cr Farnsworth

21.2 SUPPLEMENTARY AGENDA – CODE OF CONDUCT MATTER

Resolved: That the action taken by the Chairman in this matter be endorsed, and that the matter be deemed to be closed when the action agreed between the Chairman, the complainant and the Councillor involved, has been concluded.

Cr Farnsworth : Cr Brown

COMPLIANCE WITH DECISION MAKING PROCESS

The activities detailed in this report are part of the Council's day to day operations and as such are provided for in the Council's 2006-2016 Long Term Council Community Plan and sections 76-82 of the Local Government Act 2002.

BUSINESS WITH THE PUBLIC EXCLUDED

Resolved: That pursuant to the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987, the public be excluded from the remainder of the meeting to consider:

1. Confirmation of the confidential section of the Minutes of the Council meeting held on 19 March 2008 and ratification of matters related to the Chief Executive Officer in the confidential section of the supplementary agenda of the Council meeting held on 19 March 2008.
2. Confirmation of the Confidential Section of the Minutes of the Audit and Finance Committee meeting of 26 March 2008.
3. Enterprise Northland.
4. Broadband Proposal Update.

The reason for excluding the public in relation to items 1 and 2 is as stated in the Minutes of those meetings.

The reason for excluding the public in relation to item 3 is to protect the privacy of natural persons.

The reason for excluding the public in relation to item 4 is to enable the Council to carry on without prejudice or disadvantage commercial negotiations and the making available of information would be likely to unreasonably prejudice the commercial position of persons who are the subject of the information.

Cr Jensen : Cr Carr

OPEN MEETING

Resolved: That the Council resumes in open meeting.

Cr Brown : Cr Farnsworth

CONCLUSION

The meeting concluded at 2.40 pm.

NORTHLAND REGIONAL COUNCIL
AUDIT AND FINANCE COMMITTEE

**Minutes of a Meeting of the Audit and Finance Committee
held in the Kaipara Room, 36 Water Street, Whangarei,
on Wednesday, 23 April 2008 at 10.00am**

File 110.11

PRESENT:

Cr P Jensen – Acting Chairman
Cr J Bain
Cr B Rossiter
Cr C Brown
Cr M Farnsworth

IN ATTENDANCE:

Full Meeting
Finance & Corporate Services Manager
Strategic Development Manager
Council Secretary
Administration Team Leader

APOLOGIES:

Resolved: That an apology for absence from Cr Walker be received.
Cr Rossiter : Cr Brown

DECLARATION OF CONFLICTS OF INTERESTS:

There were no conflicts of interests declared.

1. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF MEETING HELD 26 MARCH 2008**File 100.1**

The minutes had already been received and confirmed by Council and were tabled for information.

2. FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE – VARIANCE REPORTING TO 31 MARCH 2008**File 110.11**

Resolved: That the report Financial Performance – Variance Reporting to 31 March 2008 be received for information.

Cr Bain : Cr Rossiter

COMPLIANCE WITH DECISION MAKING PROCESS

The activities detailed in this report are provided for in the Council's 2006-16 LTCCP and as such are in accordance with the Council's decision-making process and sections 76 - 82 of the Local Government Act 2002.

3. APPROVAL TO ACCELERATE THE PREPARATION OF RIVER MANAGEMENT PLANS**File 318.1****The Committee Recommends to Council**

1. That the report on Approval to accelerate the preparation of River Management Plans by Finance and Corporate Services Manager, Lisa Aubrey dated 15 April 2008, be received.
2. That the Council approves un-budgeted expenditure to enable acceleration of surveying and river modelling work for the Kaeo, Awanui and Kaihu Rivers. The Council proposes to fund this expenditure from General Reserves in the first instance to be repaid to reserves from the targeted Land Management Rate in 2008/09.

Cr Brown : Cr Rossiter

COMPLIANCE WITH DECISION MAKING PROCESS

The activities detailed in this report are provided for in the Council's 2006-2016 LTCCP, and as such are in accordance with the Council's decision-making process and sections 76-82 of the Local Government Act 2002.

4. INTERNAL AUDIT PROGRAMME – 2007/2008**File 300.4**

Resolved: That the report Internal Audit Programme 2007/08 to 31 March 2008 be received.

Cr Brown : Cr Bain

COMPLIANCE WITH DECISION MAKING PROCESS

The activities detailed in this report are part of the Council's day to day operations and are in accordance with the Council's decision making process and sections 76-82 of the Local Government Act 2002.

5. REVIEW OF COUNCIL POLICIES – PART 1 – SIGNIFICANCE POLICY
File 100.3 & 100.5

The Committee recommends to Council

1. That the report by the Strategic Development Manager dated 14 April 2008 be received.
2. That the Significance Policy (as amended at this meeting) be recommended to the Council for inclusion in the draft Long Term Council Community Plan 2009-2019.

Cr Brown : Cr Jensen

COMPLIANCE WITH DECISION MAKING PROCESS

The activities detailed in this report are provided for in sections 5 and 90 of the Local Government Act 2002 and the Council's 2006-2016 Long Term Council Community Plan, and as such are in accordance with the Council's decision making process and sections 76-82 of the Local Government Act 2002.

BUSINESS WITH THE PUBLIC EXCLUDED

Resolved: That pursuant to the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987, the public be excluded from the remainder of the meeting to consider:

6. Confirmation of Minutes of Confidential Meeting held 26 March 2008
7. Update on Proposed Building Project

The reason for excluding the public in relation to item 6. is as stated in those minutes. The reason for excluding the public in relation to item 7 is that the public conduct of the proceedings would be likely to result in disclosure of information, the withholding of which is necessary to allow the Council to conduct, without prejudice or disadvantage, commercial activities, pursuant to section 7(2)(h) and 7(2)(i) of the said Act.

Cr Rossiter : Cr Brown

OPEN MEETING

The meeting resumed in open meeting at 10.39am.

CONCLUSION

The meeting closed at 10.39am

Presentation by New Zealand Fire Service

Trevor Andrews of the New Zealand Fire Service will make a presentation to the Council.

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Presentation by Arts Promotion Trust

Andy Britton, Chair, and Natacha Chossudovsky, Regional Arts Development Officer, of Arts Promotion Trust (Northland) will make a presentation to Councillors on the activities of the Arts Promotion Trust and how these relate to the regional creative sector strategy *Arts in the Regional Frame*.

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Chairman's Report

File 105.4

Report from Chairman, Mark Farnsworth, dated 7 May 2008.

The Council wishes Councillor Craig Brown a speedy recovery from his recent health issues. Councillor Brown has been informed that he should take the appropriate time to recover and that the rest of Council will cover his responsibilities.

MEETINGS/EVENTS ATTENDED

During the month I have attended the following meetings/events/functions:

- Meetings attended with the Council's CEO, Ken Paterson:
 - Stadium meetings.
 - The review of Enterprise Northland generated a number of meetings to give consideration to the development of the consultants' draft report.
 - A Kaipara District Council hosted Northland Mayoral Forum.
 - Ms Linda Wrigley, Director of the Whangarei Museum, who provided an overview of museum developments.
 - The Northpower launch of ConnectNorth, a partnership with TelstraClear. This positive initiative should help the roll out of broadband services in the Whangarei District.
 - Responded to an invitation from the Mayor of the Far North District Council, in his capacity as the Chair of Transpower, to meet with the Transpower Board at the Top Energy office in Kaikohe.
- Councillor Bill Rossiter (Chair of the Regional Land Transport Committee) and I joined the Transit NZ Board tour of Northland in conjunction with the three Mayors of the District Councils and other District Council representatives. The aim of the tour was to highlight the roading issues which Northland faces and reinforce the difficulties presented by some of the roading conditions that are encountered in the region.
- Hosted the Royal Commission on Auckland Governance. Representatives of the Kaipara District Council, Mayor Neil Tiller; and Whangarei District Council, Mayor Stan Semenoff and Deputy Mayor Kahu Sutherland, attended the afternoon session.

The opportunity was taken to reinforce the main points of the Council's submission to the Commission.

- A well attended public meeting co-ordinated by Councillor Ian Walker in which Professor Bob Carter presented an alternative view on climate change.
- Responded to an invitation from Councillor John Bain in his capacity as Chair of the Northern Regional Trust Board of St John to meet with both members of the St John Priory Trust Board and the Northern Regional Trust Board.
- In conjunction with the Council's Biosecurity staff, Don McKenzie and Peter Joynt, attended a Kaipara District Council meeting to outline the Council's approach to the control and eradication of Manchurian Rice Grass.
- Councillor Joe Carr and I attended the Ballance Farm Environment Awards at Forum North.

- Acted as a hearings panel member for a three day subdivision hearing involving a non-complying application from OB Holdings Limited. The block is located at Langs Beach.
- In conjunction with Planning and Policy Manager, Glenn Mortimer, met with Gavin and Shona Roberts to give careful consideration to a complaint about the actions of an individual councillor. This matter was the subject of a full report which was tabled by the Chairperson at the April meeting of Council.
- A Pouto 2F Trust meeting.
- A number of discussions with the Mayor of Rodney District Council, Penny Webster, with regards to the Royal Commission on Auckland Governance.
- Talk back radio interview with Dargaville's Big River FM.

NETWORKING

- Meetings, as requested, with residents and ratepayers
- District Council Mayors
- Councillors
- Media.

Recommendation

That the Chairman's report dated 7 May 2008 be received.

COMPLIANCE WITH DECISION MAKING PROCESS

The activities detailed in this report are provided for in the Council's 2006-2016 Long Term Council Community Plan and as such are in accordance with the Council's decision making process and sections 76 to 82 of the Local Government Act 2002.

Chief Executive Officer's Report to Council

File 105.3

Report from Chief Executive Officer Ken Paterson dated 7 May 2008.

COUNCIL AND GENERAL MANAGEMENT

STRATEGIC DEVELOPMENT

ANNUAL PLAN 2008/09

The Draft Annual Plan was printed during the period and circulated to the Council's contact database and posted on the website. In addition, a summary has also been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Local Government Act 2002 and circulated to all Northland households via mailbox delivery.

The period for public consultation is 12 April to 13 May 2008. Hearings will now take place on 5 and 6 June. The final Plan is expected to be adopted at a Special Council meeting on 25 June.

REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Councillors were given a presentation by consultants Morrison and Low regarding the review of Enterprise Northland. Consultation with Enterprise Northland will continue as the recommendations of the review are worked through.

Discussions continue with ONTRACK as to the shape of the final JV agreement to progress the designation of the Marsden Point Rail Link Corridor.

The Council entered into a Memorandum of Understanding with Kordia Group Ltd to work together to investigate the possibility of developing, building and operating a fibre optic-based telecommunication infrastructure in Northland to service the region.

Councillors were given a presentation from the Northland Events Centre Trustees on the outcome of the final Scoping Report.

NORTHLAND INTERSECTORAL FORUM

The Council continues to contribute to the Northland Intersectoral Forum (NIF) of leaders of governmental and local government agencies at the NIF Strategic Planners level. NIF membership collaborates and takes an active leadership role to advocate to central government regional needs. It also collaborates to design and resource regional solutions.

The Northland Intersectoral Forum has identified climate change (variability) and sustainable development as issues with which they should become collectively familiar. Through the NIF Strategic Planners and a purpose directed small working group the issues are to be explored with a view to establishing a regional framework for collaborative actions.

STAFF MATTERS

Leaving

Christine Schreuder, CEO's Acting PA finished her temporary employment with the Council on 25 April 2008.

Appointments

Michael Podesta commenced employment as Systems Analyst – DBA with effect from 7 April 2008.

Laura Shaft accepted a permanent appointment to the position of Coast Care Co-ordinator with effect from 14 April 2008.

Jonathan Gibbard, Senior Policy Analyst – Coastal was appointed to the position of Water and Soil Planning Team Leader with effect from 28 April 2008.

Kerry Webster an ex employee has been employed on a part time, fixed term basis as Land Management Officer – Environmental Fund with effect from 28 April 2008. Kerry will be employed for six months and will work one day per week.

Vacancies

Offers of employment have been made for the positions of Senior Project Accountant, Hazardous Substances Officer, Health and Safety/Human Resources Advisor and Local Government Project Manager. The respective start dates are 1 May, 12 May, 19 May and 3 June 2008.

The positions of Policy Analyst – Coastal and Policy Analyst – Water and Soil are currently being advertised internally and externally with applications closing on 15 May 2008.

Only one application was received for the position of Consents Officer – Coastal. This has been re-advertised on a couple of websites with applications now closing on 15 May 2008.

The position of Erosion and Sediment Control Specialist is on hold but may be re-advertised shortly.

The positions of Helpdesk Officer, Land Resources Officer and Consents Officer – Water, Wastes and Coastal remain on hold. In the meantime temporary and/or consultant staff are being used as required.

Training

Internal Training

Eleven staff attended First Aid training with Red Cross on various dates throughout the month.

External Training

Training Course	Dates 2008	Venue	Attendees
Climate Variability Workshop	02 April	Blenheim	S Osbaldiston
Decentralised Wastewater System	04 April	Auckland	A Carvell
GMDSS (Global Maritime Distress Safety Systems)	14-19 April	Auckland	J Lyle
First Look at Windows Server 2008	21 April	Auckland	M Cebalo, G Froggatt
NZ Rivers and Drainage Practitioners Seminar	27-29 April	Rotorua	J Camuso, B Leeuwenburg
SOLGM	29 April	Auckland	L Aubrey

CORPORATE

Forestry

No harvesting is underway currently. There have been no significant changes in the last month with respect to log prices or log markets.

Forest development work has continued in line with the Forest Management Plan. The first lift pruning of the 2002 area is yet to be completed. The contractor has had insufficient labour to complete. He has been advised to source additional labour.

The second and final pruning of the 2000 area (comprising 35.4 hectares) has also been contracted to be completed this financial year.

The forest came well through the rain event of 28 April. There were no new slips of any significance.

Possum control operations have been completed (by Steve Henderson NRC). External contractors have recently completed the road weed spraying within the forest.

PUBLIC COMMUNICATIONS

Northland's media was monitored for items of interest to the Council. Media releases were sent to appropriate media concerning the following:

- Kaipara embankment gains consent
- Few surprises in latest State of Environment report
- Self-help river maintenance - extract your own gravel (*joint release with Far North District Council*)
- \$7.5M Whangarei public bus contract awarded (*joint release with NZ Bus*)
- Comment sought on \$20.6M NRC Draft Annual Plan
- Consents granted to fill Opua site
- Parts of North to be off-limits to aquaculture
- Consultants recommend changes to NRC trust
- \$15,000 NRC enviro funding available to schools
- \$500,000 for 2008 NRC Environment Fund
- Opua boatyard gains replacement discharge consents

Council's regular monthly column in the Northern Advocate's 'Rural Advocate' supplement looked at the potential risks of unwanted Northland weeds hitching a lift in stock feed being sent to drought-stricken Waikato areas.

The Chairman's monthly 'From Where I Sit' column looked at 'The Royal Commission on Auckland Governance', while his monthly 'Northern Matters' column explained his role as Northland representative on the Auckland Regional Sustainable Development Forum.

EVENTS

NRC staff attended the Lifestyles Field days at the Maungaturoto Country Club on 12 and 13 April. Despite bad weather, attendance at the event was steady and our display was well received. The display focussed on plant and animal pests, composting, stream and wetland restoration and protection and trees for the land.

The third annual Ballance Farm Environment Awards were held on 23 April at Forum North. The NRC was involved again as the regional partner sponsor. Councillor Farnsworth attended and presented the NRC Water Quality Enhancement Award to Doug and Sally Lane, beef farmers from Kaeo. The supreme winners were Erica and Lindsay Whyte from Taupo Bay and a field day showcasing their farm is being held on 14 May.

Biosecurity and land management staff attended the Matapouri Environmental field day held on 26 April. The event had an extremely good turnout with at least 250 Matapouri locals and holiday home owners braving the rain to attend. The field day was organised by locals with displays from NRC, DOC, Friends of Matapouri and Tutukaka Landcare Coalition.

WEBSITE

Monthly usage:

	April 2008	March 2008	February 2008	January 2008	December 2007	November 2007
Visits ¹	24, 217	24,694	25, 726	34,247	29,010	30,879
Files downloaded ²	10,101	*19,910	15,459	14,867	11,601	19,910

* Higher than usual downloads in March of:

- Civil Defence Plan around the time of the Civil Defence Exercise on 10 and 11 March
- Newly available reports from NIWA on 2007 flooding

1. The **Visits** report reveals the total number of times that people have visited the website during the month.
2. The **Downloads** report shows the total number of files (eg. .exe, .pdf, .zip, etc) that were downloaded during the month.

Most popular pages (April 2008):

- Job vacancies
- Whangarei Bus Service
- Aquaculture Management
- Regional Water and Soil Plan
- Press releases
- Agendas and minutes

EDUCATION

School Visits

There were nine school visits during April, working with 300 students. The average user satisfaction rating was 93%. Topics covered included human impact on water quality, mangrove ecosystems, water quality testing, coastal development, water community ecosystems, land use, maritime biodiversity, oil spills and coast care. Staff from the Land Operations, Monitoring and Planning departments contributed.

Northland Regional Council 2008 Environmental Curriculum Awards

Schools enquiries have been continuing this month regarding NRC's \$15,000 Environmental Education action fund. Schools can be granted up to \$2000 each for Environmental Education focussed on school-based sustainable management of the North's environment. A press release about the award was sent to all Northland media. The award application deadline is 14 May 2008.

Northland Regional Council 2008 Seaweek Art Competition

Students from five schools have won prizes in the NRC 2008 Seaweek Art Competition. Their competition entries were selected from 350 pieces of art sent in from 16 Northland schools during Seaweek (2-9 March). Students from Kaitaia Intermediate, Maungatapere, Oromahoe, Raurimu and Mangakahia Area schools won their age group categories for the competition. The competition's aim was to celebrate children's art whilst encouraging protection of Northland's coastal environment.

A prizewinning assembly was held at Maungatapere School in April, with the others to follow early next term. Winners' art, along with that of competition finalists, can be viewed electronically on the 'For Schools' section of the NRC's website. Art pieces are also on display in a Whangarei bookshop, Whangarei's main library in Rust Avenue, Forum North and NRC's Whangarei office reception.

NRC Teacher Workshops

Teacher workshop preparation this month has included site visits to Opuā, discussions with outside speakers, continued logistical organisation of items such as staffing and catering, contact with successful workshop applicants, resource development and programme development. The workshop is due to be held on 21 May.

Sir Peter Blake Youth Environment Forum

Three Northland secondary school students attended MfE's national Sir Peter Blake Youth Environment Forum in Wellington. It was held in the second week of Term One holiday (28 April –1 May). Students from Kaitiā College, Te Kura Kaupapa Māori O Te Rawhiti Roa and Whangarei Boys High School attended along with a teacher chaperone from Te Kura Kaupapa Māori O Te Rawhiti Roa.

FINANCE AND INFORMATION SERVICES

FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE

Council continues to operate within a sound financial position. The results to 30 April are showing a net operating surplus before extraordinary items of \$3.6M. This favourable variance is due to strong investment returns providing favourable revenue results of \$331K and expenditure tracking behind budget by \$678K.

Expenditure will continue to be closely monitored in the third quarter of the financial year.

ADMINISTRATION

Complaints

There were two complaints made during the month of April. There is one longstanding complaint which remains outstanding.

INFORMATION SERVICES

IS Helpdesk

Gen-i have been contracted from 11 February to provide the IS helpdesk service and the service is progressing well.

Calls closed last month	72
Calls open at month start	6
Total calls received at month end	82
Total calls closed at month end	72
Outstanding calls at month end	16

Smartstream Council Activity Reporting (SCAR) Project.

Staff are currently working on a project to enable the Council to more easily measure and accurately report on the cost of Group Activities and Council Activities as defined in the Long Term Council Community Plan (LTCCP).

The change will be effective from 1 July 2008, this being the start of the new financial year.

PLANNING AND POLICY

RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PLANNING

Regional Coastal Plan Change 1 (Mooring and Marinas)

A consent order was filed with the Environment Court on 31 March that will resolve the final outstanding appeal on Plan Change 1. The judge made a request for further information which has been provided. At the time of this report, a decision from the Court is still pending.

Following Council adoption of the Officer's Recommendations on Variation 1 to Plan Change 1 at its April meeting, the decisions were publicly notified on 26 April. No appeals have been received to date.

Regional Coastal Plan Change 2 (Marine 1 Review - Whangarei Harbour)

The Department of Conservation (DoC) appealed the Council decision, requesting inclusion of a further five Marine 1 Management Areas in Whangarei Harbour. Through negotiation, all the parties have agreed on an amended suite of areas. A consent memorandum signed by all the parties was sent to the Environment Court in early May.

Regional Coastal Plan Change 3 (Mangrove Management)

DoC also appealed some of the decisions of Council on Plan Change 3, requesting various amendments. Following successful negotiations, all but one of the parties has so far signed the consent memorandum. Once all the signatures have been received, the consent memorandum will be lodged with the Court for consideration.

Regional Coastal Plan Change 4 (Aquaculture Management)

The Hearing Committee recommendation reports were adopted by Council at the meeting on 16 April. The decisions were publically notified on 26 April and submitters have until 9 June to lodge an appeal with the Environment Court.

Mooring Management Plans

The development of the Mangawhai Mooring Management Plan is being run in conjunction with the Kaipara District Council (KDC) review of its Reserves Management Plan. Progress on the KDC Management Plan has slowed due to staff shortages and subsequently progress on the Mooring Management Plan has also slowed. KDC staff have yet to advise a revised timeframe for further progress on the Coastal Reserves Management Plan.

In the meantime, work has commenced on preparing mooring management plans for a suite of high priority mooring areas around Russell and Opuia, referred to as the Inner Bay of Islands. Initial discussions have been held with Far North District Council (FNDC), Far North Holdings Limited (FNHL) and Department of Conservation (DoC), representatives of which will form the core of a working party to assist staff in developing the plans. A draft consultation plan has been developed setting out actions and preliminary timeframe, with Mooring Management Plans for the subject areas scheduled for completion in March 2009. A questionnaire, information sheet and letter to mooring owners have been drafted and will be circulated early in June, to be followed by public meetings to gain further feedback. It is anticipated that draft Mooring Management Plans will be available for public comment by November 2008.

Vehicles on Beaches

A letter has been sent to the Minister of Conservation requesting speed restrictions be set for Northland beaches as an interim measure while local authorities develop

local solutions for an improved management regime for vehicles on beaches. A response from the Minister's office states that a reply can be expected by mid May.

The vehicles on beaches agenda item to the April Regional Land Transport Committee (RLTC) fuelled lively debate surrounding the lack of action following this summer's fatality. A meeting has been scheduled with KDC Councillors for 21 May, where NRC staff will present the NRC recommended way forward. This will be an opportunity to outline the NRC recommended way forward and to discuss any issues or alternatives the KDC may have with this approach. A preliminary meeting on 14 May has also been arranged between NRC, KDC and Dargaville Police to discuss the potential for an increased police presence on high conflict beaches within the Kaipara District.

WDC Councillors have indicated a strong interest in progressing bylaws to improve the management of vehicles on beaches, particularly at Ruakaka. We are awaiting action by WDC staff to facilitate a meeting to progress this.

No further discussions have been held with FNDC as it is understood that their position, opposing the NRC approach, remains unchanged.

Regional Water and Soil Plan Change 2

With the Water and Soil Planning Team Leader position being filled, steps are being taken to convene the Plan Change 2 Working Group as approved by Council at its December 2007 meeting. The working group, consisting of NRC and District Council Councillor representatives, will discuss and agree the detail of the proposed changes. Following this workshop, it is anticipated that the plan change will be presented to Council for approval to publicly notify the Plan Change and call for submissions.

Regional Air Quality Plan Change 1 (Marsden Point)

The Hearings Committee decisions were adopted at the March Council meeting and were publically notified on 5 April 2008. One appeal has been received, from the NZ Refining Company. A reply has been sent to the Environment Court and negotiations will commence shortly once a meeting is held with NRC legal counsel.

Regional Air Quality Plan Change 2 (Backyard Burning)

The Hearings Committee decisions were adopted at the March Council meeting and were publically notified on 5 April 2008. Submitters have until 19 May to appeal the decisions.

A meeting was held with Allan Kerrisk, Assistant Fire Region Commander, to discuss combined education campaigns and sharing of information relating to fire incidences.

OTHER PLANNING MATTERS

During April 2008, 25 resource consent applications were received from the Whangarei, Kaipara and Far North District Councils. There were 17 non-notified, and eight notified applications. NRC has so far provided comment on 12 applications, further advice on one application, and made seven formal submissions.

A variety of comments were made regarding wastewater management, stormwater management, natural hazards (flooding), at risk aquifers, the permitted activity rules in the Regional Water and Soil Plan for Northland (RWSP) for earthworks, vegetation clearance and culvert crossings, reverse sensitivity issues, protection of outstanding natural features, heritage protection, visual impact and coastal management.

The formal submissions made were as follows:

S Whitehead, Glenbervie - A submission was made advising that subsequent to further information being received, the NRC's concerns regarding the application were satisfied. The application was no longer opposed and NRC withdrew its wish to be heard.

Evo Holdings Ltd., Ruakaka - A submission was made advising that subsequent to further information being received, the NRC's concerns regarding the application were satisfied. The application was no longer opposed and NRC withdrew its wish to be heard.

Reid Roofing Ltd., Parua Bay - A submission was made opposing the application in its current form. The applicant was advised that insufficient information was provided regarding wastewater management. It was requested that the application be placed on hold under section 92 of the Resource Management Act (RMA) pending the receipt and review of this information.

B E Boyd and C G Walberg, Waipu - A submission was made opposing the application in its current form. The applicant was advised that insufficient information was provided regarding wastewater management. It was requested that the application be placed on hold under section 92 of the RMA pending the receipt and review of this information.

Rolling Ridges Ltd., Waipu - A submission was made advising that part of the property was identified as flood susceptible, and if this area was to be built on a detailed engineering report should be provided addressing the suitability of the site and any associated issues. The applicant was also advised that insufficient information was provided regarding wastewater management.

Clements Farms (Matapouri) Ltd., Marua - A submission was made advising that a culvert on the property was in breach of the permitted activity rules in the Regional Water and Soil Plan (RWSP) and that consent would be required from the NRC. The applicant was also advised that insufficient information was provided regarding wastewater management. The permitted activity rules in the RWSP regarding earthworks, vegetation clearance and earthworks and vegetation clearance in a Riparian Management Zone were also advised.

Waitangi National Trust, Waitangi – A submission was made opposing the application to construct a major visitor centre and convention centre in the Waitangi Treaty house grounds. The basis of the opposition is that the proposal is considered to be in conflict with relevant planning documents and Resource Management Act provisions, in that it would have adverse effects on the natural character, landscape, and heritage values of the area. In particular, it is considered that the proposed development would not protect and enhance the nationally important cultural, historic and amenity values of the location, as outlined in section 24 of the Regional Policy Statement.

TRANSPORT PLANNING

Total Mobility

Financial information pertaining to expenditure for April 2008 is not presently available. This will be tabled separately at the Council meeting.

A database update is presently underway to check the validity of current total mobility identification cards, particularly with regard to dates of expiry.

Passenger Service Registration

During April 2008, there was one Application for Registration, no Applications to Vary Services, and two verbal indications of Abandonment of Services.

Letters requesting confirmation of registered services presently in operation have been sent to all relevant operators. The information collected will be used to ensure that the Northland Regional Council's (NRC's) database of registered operators is up to date.

Whangarei Urban Bus Service

22,567 passengers were carried during the month of April 2008. This included 141 Total Mobility clients using their yellow vouchers for free bus travel at off peak times.

Fare box revenue collected for April was \$31,473.

Work continues to ensure the smooth transition of services from the existing to new operator on 1 July 2008. The contract between NRC and NZ Bus has now been signed and a new bus colour scheme finalised.

Northland Transport Network Study

A Northland Technical Advisory Group has been scheduled for 9 May 2008 to consider and refine a draft regional project and funding prioritisation process. On completion of the testing phase, the process will be presented to the Regional Land Transport Committee for approval.

RoadSafe Northland Forum

The first meeting of the Technical Advisory Group (TAG) formed by RoadSafe Northland to progress the Regional Road Safety Plan (RRSP) took place during the month under review. The TAG agreed that regional road safety priorities to be addressed within the RRSP must be 'evidenced based', i.e. identified through data supplied by the New Zealand Police, the NZ Transport Agency, Local Authorities, ACC and Health Agencies.

In compiling the RRSP, TAG will ensure that the content and outcomes of the document aligns with national and regional requirements.

IWI LIAISON

The Office of Treaty Settlements, Te Aupouri and NRC met again during April. The first in a series of meetings, to look at the finer details of settlement options and tools which may include or impact on NRC, saw NRC provide an overview of its roles and functions.

NRC staff have committed to further meetings which will encompass issues relating to the management of Te Oneroa a Tohe (90 Mile Beach). The next meeting is set for 30 May where NRC provide a report on a 'without prejudice' basis on management options provided for under the RMA for closer involvement of Te Aupouri in managing activities on the beach.

Keni Peihana who is working for the Ngatiwai Trust Board on a cultural fisheries initiative under the Fisheries Regulations, met with the Iwi Liaison Officer to discuss the project and how NRC might be able to assist.

During April NRC's Panui, Purongo Putaiao was published. Articles included the recently published Annual Report, the State of the Environmental Report, Whangarei Bus Service, Education Curriculum Awards Fund and an update on the outcome of the Aquaculture Management Areas hearings.

CONSENTS

Consents in Process

During April 2008, a total of 98 Resource Consents were issued. These comprised:

3	Moorings
24	Coastal Permits
4	Air Discharge Permits
12	Discharge Permits
11	Land Use Consents
11	Water Permits
10	Bore Consents
104	Decisions were issued as detailed elsewhere in the Agenda.
78	Applications were received.

Of the 287 applications in progress at the end of April:

147	were received more than 12 months ago (most awaiting further information);
33	were received between 6 and 12 months ago (most awaiting further information);
107	less than 6 months.

MONITORING

AIR QUALITY

Incidents

Thirty-three air incidents were received during April, the majority being burning and smoke nuisance complaints. The slightly cooler conditions prompted an increase in the number of odour nuisance complaints.

Industrial Issues

Monitoring visits were made to five industrial sites. The site visits confirmed that the inspected industries were complying with the conditions of their resource consents.

The monitoring programme for the New Zealand Refining Company is currently being reviewed in accordance with the resource consent. The results of the review will be presented to the liaison group early in May. It is anticipated that there will be some reductions in the frequency of stack emission testing, with a possible increase in the frequency of ambient monitoring around the refinery and at Whangarei Heads.

Other Issues

A meeting was held with staff from the Whangarei District Council on the issue of dust from unsealed public roads. This is an issue that both Councils receive a number of complaints about each year and the purpose of the meeting was to develop a joint initiative to avoid duplication of effort and ensure that complainants receive fair, consistent and useful advice.

The air quality team are currently investigating the viability of installing air quality monitoring equipment in the Lower Port Road area. This is an area from where a number of air quality related complaints are received each year. It is hoped that the installation of an air quality monitoring station will assist with the evaluation air quality

in this area and also provide valuable information to existing and prospective industries who wish to operate in this area.

WATER QUALITY AND DISCHARGE MONITORING

Some 57 compliance inspections/assessments for consented activities were carried out up until the reporting cut off in April 2008. A total of 305 samples were collected, with 1150 field measurements or analysis made.

As part of the Council initiative to facilitate the re-classification of Waikare inlet water quality, staff have attended and provided technical assistance to those involved.

At the time of NRC's last visit to the FNDC Kawakawa sewage treatment, the water levels in the flow equalisation pond had been lowered. Investigation into the February non-compliance resource consent effluent standards is on going.

Regional Council staff met with Fonterra to discuss the non compliant discharges to the Otamatea estuary as reported last month. Further investigations at the site that day revealed that the programmed discharge times for the next day had again been entered incorrectly into the control programme. The issue is to be escalated further by NRC staff.

Recent monitoring of stormwater discharges from the Whangarei City urban area indicated non-compliance with discharge standards for some of the contaminants measured. This related particularly to trace metals. Trace metals if entrained in sediments of the receiving environment have the potential for ongoing adverse effects on the estuarine ecology. Further investigations will be undertaken in conjunction with WDC staff.

Three bores at Houhora were sampled for benzene and hydrocarbons in March. This sampling was carried out as a result of suspected bore contamination from leaking petrol tanks at the Houhora Service Station. Results of sampling indicate that all three bores were contaminated with hydrocarbons. The level of contaminants found in the bores is significantly above the recommended drinking water guidelines. A comprehensive assessment and resource consent applications are required and have been requested from those responsible for the site.

WATER RESOURCES

Water Take Compliance Monitoring

Water use records for the 2007/08 year are currently being assessed for compliance. As with March, higher than normal river flows were sustained over the greater part of Northland delaying consent compliance monitoring programmes for water takes. Seven groundwater bores were inspected to assess compliance with the consent conditions. Five bore permits were processed during April. In addition, the groundwater bore database was updated with 39 new records, most of which were created from a bore survey carried out in the Matapouri and Oakura areas in 2007.

Hydrology, Telemetry and Maintenance

The Meteorological Service issued four severe weather bulletins for Northland during April, of which two were associated with severe thunderstorm activity. The telemetry system operated very efficiently during these events with some rain stations recording very high hourly rainfall intensities resulting in localised flooding. NIWA personnel successfully installed new telemetry software with two main components. Firstly, the server, which operates automatically and handles communications with the remote dataloggers and the data retrievals, and secondly, the sever manager which provides the user with data and day-to-day operational information. The new software was tested thoroughly during a thunderstorm event at the end of April. Two

water level stations were added to the telemetry network using GPRS communications. Of the 68 hydrometric stations, one rainfall station and one water level station are still to be telemetered.

Minor site maintenance was carried out at two water level stations, one groundwater station and three rain stations. Work included desilting water level recording wells and upgrading new software to dataloggers.

The total missing record for the year is 0.72%, with none being recorded in April. Twenty-six state of environment monitoring flow measurements were carried out and 30 information requests were dealt with during the month.

Water Resources

Northland experienced a series of active fronts during April producing severe thunderstorm activity and associated intense rainfall. Two severe rain events occurred during the periods 14-16 April and 29-30 April. Both events resulted in flash flooding.

On 15 April, thunderstorm cells developed over an area from the North Hokianga to Kerikeri. This band of mobile thunderstorms moved quickly southwards producing intense thunderstorm activity and severe lightning strikes. At the Omapere telemetered rain station, 67.5mm was recorded in one hour and 97mm over 3 hours. Rainfall amounts of 20mm to 27mm/hr were being recorded inland and along the western hills of Northland from the Hokianga to the Kaipara Harbours. Flood warnings were issued for the west coastal areas, inland areas of the Mangakahia River catchment and the low-lying river flats at Tangiteroria.

On 29 April the Meteorological Service warned of another series of active fronts, "bringing moist northerlies and thunderstorm activity that could produce some intense downpours, especially in the eastern hills. Rainfall rates were likely to be 20mm to 30mm/hr". As predicted, early on 29 April heavy rain fell over the eastern hills of Glenbervie and the northern hills of Ngunguru. Rainfall amounts of 23mm to 40.5mm/hr were recorded. The heavy rain and thunderstorm activity was more intense in the northern hills of Ngunguru where 86mm fell in three hours, resulting in slips and road closures.

During the evening of 29 April, thunderstorm activity returned to an area of the eastern hills from the Bay of Islands to Whangarei. Rainfall amounts of 31mm/hr were recorded at Puhipuhi, 55mm/hr at Oakura Bay and 65mm/hr in the northern hills of Ngunguru. Once again, flash flooding, slips and road closures resulted. Total daily rainfall amounts for 29 April were: Whangarei/Glenbervie 86mm to 96.5mm, Oakura Bay 121.5mm, Puhipuhi 109mm and the northern hills of Ngunguru 178mm. Elsewhere, rainfall amounts varied from 10.5mm at Dargaville to 62.5 mm at Kaeo. Flood warnings were issued for Hikurangi Swamp, Wairua River catchment and the low lying river flats at Tangiteroria.

Consequently rainfall, river flows and groundwater levels were above normal for April.

COASTAL MONITORING

Forty-one events were recorded for coastal monitoring activities during April. Seventeen minor non-compliances were found, the majority for coastal structure maintenance in the Kaipara Harbour and inadequate navigation marking of marine farms in Orongo Bay. One significant non-compliance was determined in relation to seawall repair works along the Paihia foreshore. The consent holder has since submitted a proposal for restoration.

A survey of all the oyster farms in Northland was undertaken to estimate the amount of allocated space that has been developed and the amount of the developed space that is in a poorly maintained condition. Recent aerial imagery was compared with survey plans for each farm to estimate these figures. The results indicate that of 675 hectares allocated, approximately 360 hectares have been developed. Of that developed space, approximately 60 hectares is in a poor condition.

Estuarine Monitoring

Baseline monitoring of the sediment and ecological health of the Kerikeri Inlet estuary was undertaken. The sampling involved the collection of sediments for nutrient and contaminant analysis and invertebrates for assessment of site health. The methodology being used was derived from a national protocol for long-term assessment of estuarine health. This work completes the field sampling of estuaries for the current year. Once the samples have been analysed the data will be interpreted to determine ecosystem health and a report prepared before the end of the year.

Marine Pollution – Boat Sewage

A survey, by way of letter, was undertaken to assess how commercial maritime operators are achieving compliance with the sewage discharge rules of the Marine Pollution Regulations (MPRs) within the Bay of Islands area.

Final response to the survey was good, with 18 replies from the 23 operators surveyed. All survey respondents reported various strategies or means to comply with the MPRs, the most common means being sewage holding tanks (72%) with discharge of sewage at permitted discharge areas or via sewage pump-out facilities. A summary of the various means of complying are contained in the following table, and will be published on the Council website.

Operator	Means of Complying
Arline Fishing Charter	Majority of trips spent in discharge permitted areas. Will install signage on toilet door advising of no discharge during transit to fishing grounds.
Bay of Islands Boat Hire	Discharge only done in permitted areas.
Bay of Islands Sublime Fishing	Did not reply to survey.
Blue Sea Charters	Fish in areas where discharge is permitted.
Captain Bucko's Fish and Dive	Did not reply to survey.
Carino Sailing and Dolphin Charters	Did not reply to survey.
Dolphin Discoveries (1996) Limited	Holding tanks.
Earl Grey Fishing Charters	Holding tanks.
FairWind Charters Ltd	Holding tanks.
Fullers Bay Of Islands Ltd	Holding tanks.
Great Escape Yacht Charters	Holding tanks.
Kings Dolphin Cruises and Tours	Holding tanks.
Major Tom Charters	Holding tanks.
Pacific Ranger Charters	Did not reply to survey.
Primetime Charters and Gamefishing Ltd.	Holding tanks.
R Tucker Thompson Sailing Trust	Holding tanks and pump-out at Opuia Wharf berth.
Seclusion Charters Ltd	Did not reply to survey.
Spot X Fishing Experiences	Holding tanks.
Stray Cat Sailing Charters	Holding tanks.

The Moorings	Holding tanks and use pump outs.
Triple B Boat Charters	Lectra San treatment system.
Wild Bill Sports Fishing Charters	Holding tanks.
William Ernest Elliot	Crew and customers directed to use land-based facilities, no operating sewage system on board. Fifteen minute ferry crossing from Russell to Paihia.

OIL SPILL PREPAREDNESS AND RESPONSE

Marine Oil Spill Response

A small petrol leak from the refuelling facility at Tutukaka Marina was the only reported oil spill incident in April. The leak was investigated by the marina manager and traced to a broken fuel line. The pump was immediately taken out of service until repairs were completed later the same day. The small petrol slick dispersed quickly.

Oil Spill Response Preparedness

The Whangarei and Opuia based maritime officers attended a two-day response equipment workshop which was hosted by Maritime New Zealand (MNZ) for members of the national response team.

NAVIGATION, SAFETY AND MARITIME OPERATIONS

Navigation Safety

The Whangarei Harbour Safety Management System document was finalised and submitted to MNZ for its review, systems audit and subsequent approval.

The Deputy Harbourmaster attended a Northern regions safety forum where a number of navigation and safety issues, including the standardising of mooring specifications and procedures, were discussed.

The Regional Harbourmaster participated in a water safety seminar that was jointly funded by MNZ and Water Safety New Zealand. Numerous topics were discussed and areas of mutual cooperation/benefit identified for future reference.

Aids to Navigation

A new North Cardinal marker buoy with a self contained light was established at Whale Rock in the Bay of Islands.

Council received a report that the East Cardinal Mark, just south of the entrance to Parua Bay, Whangarei Harbour, was extinguished. A site visit confirmed that the existing light unit was faulty but this could not be rectified due to access difficulties. A navigation warning was issued via coastguard radio and the light unit was replaced at the first opportunity using the Waikare. The light was extinguished for a total of 10 working days between the report being received by Council and the fault being remedied. This is an exception to the Council policy of repairing faulty lights within five working days.

Maritime Incidents

There were 16 maritime related incidents reported during April; a downturn in incident numbers that is consistent with the time of year. The reported incidents were minor in nature and impact and were dealt with in accordance with Council procedures.

MNZ reported that two vessels tried to transit through the Poor Knights Area To Be Avoided, despite the area being clearly marked and notified on the navigation charts for the area.

A site visit by Council maritime staff confirmed that the fishing vessel "Seawyf" had fallen from the top of the Fair Way Reef in Doubtless Bay, and had broken up into a number of pieces. All the pieces are contained within the charted footprint of the reef, so pose no additional navigational hazard. Debris that was washed up on beaches following the vessel sinking was cleared by Kaitaia-based staff.

LAND USE MONITORING

Thirty one compliance monitoring inspections were made during the April period. The results of all visits are recorded in the tabulated monitoring records.

The disposal of peat from earthworks at a large scale development in the Ruakaka area has been undertaken in an inappropriate manner, with little control on the operation. Some of the disposal sites were close to a sensitive marine environment and no sediment controls were in place until NRC intervention. The matter has been taken up with the relevant parties to ensure that the operation is appropriately managed. Up to 1.1 million cubic metres of peat is to be removed from two adjacent sites at Ruakaka and disposed of off-site.

WASTE MANAGEMENT

DoL Hazardous Substances Contract

Workplace inspections continued, with priority given to restaurants storing and using LPG. A number of transit depots were also inspected.

Waste Hazardous Substances Collection

The collection, storage and transport of waste hazardous substances from throughout the region continued without incident. April was reasonably quiet with 220 kilograms of substances collected.

ENFORCEMENT

Abatement/Infringement Notices

Five Abatement Notices were served during April, relating to the following activities:

- Unauthorised boat ramp in the CMA.
- FDE discharges not in compliance with consent conditions.
- Non-compliance with consent conditions for coastal activities.
- Dust nuisance from a road as a result of heavy truck traffic.

Ten Infringement Notices were served during the month, relating to the following activities:

- Sewage spill in estuary.
- FDE discharges not in compliance with consent conditions.
- Unauthorised extensions to a boat ramp.

Prosecutions

There are two cases in progress for alleged offences against the Resource Management Act:

- An individual has been charged in relation to damage to the foreshore and seabed associated with the clearance of mangroves at Hauparua Inlet, Bay of Islands in May 2007. The defendant has indicated a guilty plea but some facts are currently being disputed. A date for sentencing is awaited.

- A farmer, his company and a contractor have been charged in relation to alleged unauthorised discharge of farm dairy effluent to a stream at Aranga in August 2007. The case has been adjourned to 19 May for pleas to be entered.

LAND OPERATIONS

LAND MANAGEMENT

Environment Fund – Most projects funded via the Environment Fund are tracking well and are expected to be completed on time. The new funding round for the 2008/2009 financial year, which opened on 1 May 2008, has been publicised and applications invited. Staff from the Land Management Team are taking enquiries for this new round already. In addition a Landcare Trust officer has been employed on a part time basis to provide short-term assistance with monitoring previous Environment Fund projects.

Ballance Farm Environment Awards – The Ballance Farm Environment Awards dinner and prize-giving was held on 23 March and was attended by a number of staff from the Land Management Team. As previously reported, a number of Council officers assisted with judging these awards.

Northland Pastoral Farming Development Group – Land Management Team Leader Stefan Seitzer and Land Management Officer Vincent Lane represented the Northland Regional Council at the Northland Pastoral Farming Development Group meeting on 16 April 2008. This umbrella Group provides a forum for groups with an interest in supporting pastoral farming and encourages scientific research that has relevance to farming in Northland. Currently the Group is preparing a national conference scheduled for 9 May 2008. This event brings together a number of keynote speakers and workshops that will focus on the theme “Farming for the Future”. The Northland Regional Council will be represented at this conference by staff from the Land Management Team and the Land Operations Manager.

The National Institute of Water and Atmospheric Research (NIWA) Annual Lakes Survey – Biodiversity Officer Lisa Forrester spent one week assisting NIWA with diving and fieldwork for the annual Northland lakes survey. Weed surveillance was done on eight lakes and the lake SPI (Submerged Plant Index) assessed on three. Lake reconnaissance was carried out on four new lakes and three dams. A further three lakes with known pest species were checked. This work is being carried out in order to achieve the Council’s goal of preventing deterioration of water quality and loss of biodiversity values in Northland lakes. A report on the current state of the lakes will be presented at the July 2008 Environmental Management Committee meeting.

Lake Omapere – A review of the current state of the Land Environment Plans associated with the Lake Omapere project has been completed and a farming consultant has been engaged to complete any outstanding works.

Nga Whenua Rahui – Land Management Team Leader Stefan Seitzer held a meeting with Nga Whenua Rahui representatives to discuss possible benefits of closer collaboration between Nga Whenua Rahui and the Northland Regional Council. Nga Whenua Rahui representative Mike Mohi will hold a brief workshop with relevant Council staff to explain the work of Nga Whenua Rahui and explore possible linkages, especially in the areas of biodiversity protection and riparian strip management.

Field Days – An Environmental Field Day at Matapouri over Anzac weekend was a success with over 250 people attending, despite rain. The day was organised by

locals and included displays and information tables from the Council, Department of Conservation and local landcare groups. Biosecurity and Biodiversity staff fielded many questions about pest control and weeds and handed out pamphlets and booklets on various issues from looking after septic tanks to tree planting.

Land Management Officer Debbie Johnson attended a field day organised by the Dairy Action Team to introduce the Farm Enviro Walk Tool at Evan Smeath's farm, Hukerenui. The Farm Enviro Walk Tool will allow dairy farmers to identify visible symptoms for improving nutrient and effluent management.

Land Management Officer Debbie Johnson also attended the Northland Small Block Field Day at Maungaturoto and presented information on soils, fertilisers and the Council's Environment Fund.

The Council was represented at the Far North Monitor Farm Field Day at Pakaraka by farming consultant Ian Hanmore, who gave a presentation and responded to questions about the Land Environment Plans.

Land Management Officer – Environment Fund Kathy Mortimer represented the Council at the Waimate North Landcare Group field day on 19 April 2008. Kathy made a powerpoint presentation on the topic of tree planting and planning for planting and provided a handout on the subject. This annual event was very well patronised with 120 people from around the district attending. The Council's representation at this event also resulted in 15 new applications to the Environment Fund.

Envirolink Projects – Land Management Officer Vincent Lane has submitted two applications for Envirolink grants. These grants to scientific organisations fund the compilation of documents from completed research or, with the larger grants, actually fund research. A medium advice grant (\$20,000) has been sought to compile a report titled "Guidelines for landowners to assess regenerating totara (*podocarpus totara* var. *totara* and var. *waihoensis*) resource on their farms". Northland (and indeed much of the country) has a significant potential resource in naturally regenerating totara, covering much of the hillsides and gully/riparian areas. A recent preliminary survey of totara regenerating on farms indicates there is likely to be hundreds of thousands of hectares of totara in Northland that could be sustainably managed for long-term specialty timber production.

Much of the totara is on steep hill slopes or riparian areas where it is assisting to control and enhance water quality. Encouraging farmers to consider these trees as a productive component of their farm system, rather than weeds or firewood to be cut down will have environmental benefits for the region.

However, farmers do not have access to a reliable, cost-effective technique that they can use to assess the extent, quality and potential of the regenerating totara on their farms. The need for this was identified by farmers/landowners at a recent workshop held to discuss training, information transfer and research needs. Farmers are keen to determine the characteristics of their own developing totara stands and their potential for sustainable management as a long term timber resource complementary to their existing pastoral land use. Managing totara would contribute towards sustainable management of the regions' resources. The advice for the small advice grant will be used to assist landowners to plan development in a manner that takes into account environmental constraints as well as production constraints. The advice will be presented in form of a workshop to farmers at an upcoming farming conference and to train Council land management staff to run workshops on the topic.

A small grant (\$5,000) has been applied for to produce a report on “How to promote soil best management practices to pastoral farmers when they are under increasing pressure to intensify production”.

Landcare Group Meetings – Land Management Officer Vincent Lane has been involved with the newly formed Otamatea Harbour Care Group (OHCG). Quite a few of the farmers / landowners in the area have fenced their foreshores but have not yet planted due to lack of labour and plants. Several large landowners are members already. Vincent introduced the group to the Integrated Kaipara Harbour Management Group's website (<http://www.kaiparaharbour.net.nz>) which is set up to showcase the activities of Kaipara land care groups such as this one. The OHCG is keen to use this website to promote and inform residents of their activities. The Group agreed to use 5 June 2008 (World Environment Day) as the Group's first community planting day.

Workshops and Training – Land Management Officer Debbie Johnson attended a three day CIMS 4 emergency incident management course.

Land Management Team Leader Stefan Seitzer held a meeting with Andrew Saunders from Northtec to address possibilities of up-skilling Council staff in the areas of GIS and remote sensing. It was agreed to approach Unitec to run a module on remote sensing in Whangarei with the required number of participants to be made up from Council and Northtec staff.

The Land Operations Manager attended a workshop in Wellington on the topic of “Hill country erosion: a review of knowledge on erosion processes, mitigation options, social learning and their long-term effectiveness in the management of hill country erosion”. The workshop, which followed the compilation of a directory on the topic, was run for the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry by AgResearch, University of Auckland, Landcare Research and HortResearch. Participants included scientists from the Crown Research Institutes and universities, soil conservation staff from regional and unitary councils, and practical farmers and farm foresters. The need for such a review was identified when the Ministry of Agriculture and central North Island Regional Councils investigated the need for more sustainable management of erodible North Island hill country. It quickly became apparent that there were no longer soil conservators available to prepare the large number of whole farm plans required, or to advise on erosion control methods.

River Management

Remedial works are progressing well at Kaeo with the river channel being cleared of obstructions from Green Lane through to the oyster factory, an overflow created on the northern bank of the river downstream of Omaunu Road. Work is underway on strengthening the stopbank that has been built to protect the Mangaiti settlement and the marae, and to clear Waikara Creek. Resource consents for widening the overflow across Green's land upstream of the schools, to build a timber wall along SH10 near the Police Station and to complete protection works at Mangaiti are expected to be issued during the week commencing 12 May 2008, enabling this work to be completed this construction season.

A public notice was issued inviting nominations for area representatives on the Kaeo River – Whangaroa Catchment Management Liaison Committee and a report recommending appointments is being considered by the Environmental Management Committee at its meeting of 21 May 2008. Similar notices will be posted inviting nominations for positions on the Awanui and Kaihu liaison committees will be invited within the next two weeks.

The long-reach digger is working on the lower Whangatane Channel on the Awanui River Scheme and will, within the next few weeks complete planned work in the Far North. It will then be brought back to the Kaihu River to complete work planned under that scheme.

BIOSECURITY

Community Pest Control Areas (CPCA) - Survey and monitoring of pest control contracts in Community Pest Control Areas has been underway and results are starting to flow back. Council staff trained to a national standard in pest population monitoring completed assessment during April in the Maungaraho CPCA at Arapohue. The overall result of a 37 per cent possum abundance index was disappointing and well above the required 10 per cent agreed to in the CPCA management plan. Council poison register records that 140 kilos *Pestoff* possum pellets were used in the CPCA to fill bait stations however the number of possums and possibly rodents in the area appears to have been underestimated and the poison insufficient in order to manage them down to low numbers.

Work will be required by the community to address the reinvasion of this area over the next few months before further monitoring of the site is due in August. The community is gearing up for this work. A landowner with the largest area of land in the CPCA, and who has recently obtained his Controlled Substance Licence, has commenced using Feratox striker baits (cyanide pellets) and this is expected to achieve the required results.

The Tutukaka CPCA has been pest-control monitored with a four per cent possum abundance recorded, one percent better than the contract target, and indicating very low residual possum numbers. This is a pleasing result for the contractors and the community. Rabbit populations within this control area are low to moderate and staff will complete a poisoning operation for these later this month.

Contracts for pest control have also been let and have been completed for Opara CPCA in the Hokianga and monitoring of results for this project will be completed in early May. A large area of lantana was successfully controlled as part of this work and contractors have been reducing possum and rodent populations.

Contract work is also underway with the initial spraying the remaining areas of wild ginger along the riverbanks in the Waiare Valley CPCA on the Kaeo River and past spray sites are being monitored. Results of this past work show that excellent control of wild ginger has been achieved in all areas sprayed last autumn.

Pest Plant Control - Chinese mugwort, a pest plant which is an aggressive invader along river margins, has been virtually eradicated in a biosecurity spray trial conducted along the banks of the Kaeo River. A contractor has carried out follow-up spraying and surviving plants observed by staff during a recent inspection were localised and very few. The infestation density was estimated at 0.01 per cent of the original and in most areas the mugwort has completely gone. There are only a few isolated infestations of this plant in Northland and staff will eradicate these over the next few years.

Work this month in the Dargaville area has been dominated by activity on Manchurian wildrice. Follow-up inspections were carried out on 26 sites & spraying of regrowth carried out where necessary. No regrowth was found at eight of these sites and all other sites were at very low density levels and have been sprayed using either backpacks or the NRC spray rig.

The survey and recording of wild rice outlier sites to be included in the MAF-funded programme continues and staff remain confident that this will be completed in the next three weeks. The next step will be to compile the various components of the work programme so that contractors can be engaged and where necessary individual, site-specific programmes can be decided upon.

A combined MAF and Council presentation on the ricegrass programme, given to the April meeting of the Kaipara District Council, was well received by councillors.

Animal pests – The Council's Mt Tiger Block has had been successfully treated for pests with eight per cent possum abundance index, two percent better than the target of ten. The forest has 269 *philproof* possum bait stations set up and a further 31 to be placed in other possum hotspots over the next month. The control results have been very pleasing as the area is known to have very high possum populations. The stations will be filled with *pestoff* possum bait about this time next year to reduce the possum population even further, and eradication of wild goats will continue at Mt Tiger and on adjoining land. The work will assist in the protection of over one hundred hectares of indigenous forest and several hundred hectares of radiata pine.

Inquiries have been made to Department of Conservation staff in Wellington in regard to changes in the levels of protection for Canada geese and black swan. Far North farmers expressed concern last year about these two species damaging crops and affecting pasture as their numbers were thought to be growing. DOC staff reported back that reports have been drafted, one for Canada geese and one for the other species, and it is hoped to have them finalised and presented to the Minister in the near future. Management of Canada geese is a contentious issue with markedly different opinions and approaches suggested in different regions, with some regions concerned about the financial implications if the Fish and Game Council is not responsible for managing the birds. The Northland Regional Council wishes the protected game bird status removed for Canada geese and black swan for the Northland region to allow more effective control where necessary. NIWA staff noted that Canada geese were present on all the Far North dune lakes during recent lake surveys.

Field Days – Biosecurity staff attended a life-stylers field day at Maungaturoto on Saturday 12 April. Pest plant & animal control had the largest number of enquiries, with stoat control enquiries slightly ahead of requests for possum control advice.

Over 150 people attended an Environment field day held at Matapouri over Anzac weekend organised by the QEII National Trust. Many inquiries concerning animal and plant pest control were responded to by Council staff in attendance.

CIVIL DEFENCE EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

The MetService issued weather warnings for heavy rain and thunderstorms for the Northland region on 13, 14 and 15 April 2008 and again on 28, 29 and 30 April. Both weather events brought significant rainfall to parts of Northland resulting in localised flooding and some infrastructure damage. On each occasion the weather events were continuously monitored, however, no Civil Defence activations were required.

On 10 April the Northland CDEM Group hosted the North Island CDEM Group Chairs Forum in Whangarei. The Forum was attended by the Minister of Civil Defence, Hon Rick Barker, and the Director of Civil Defence, Mr John Hamilton. Representatives from CDEM Groups from across the upper North Island attended. The agenda included the opportunity for each group to outline activities that it was undertaking and the Minister provided an outline of priority projects.

On 18 April the Northland CDEM Group held its Annual CDEM Forum with this year's theme of "Community Resilience". The event was attended by approximately 160 people. The Key Note speakers included Mr Bob McDavitt, MetService, Dr Graham Leonard, GNS on Tsunami, and Ms Antoinette Mitchell, Whangarei District Council, and Mr Bruce Young, a Whananaki resident, on local community response plans. The event was well received and positive feedback was received on the content of the Forum and standard of speakers.

The Hazard Management Team Leader attended the National Recovery Managers Course in Wellington on 14 and 15 April as part of the "expert panel" which provided advice and a case study presentation to the course.

On 15, 16, 17 April a CIMS Level Four course was held at the Council's Whangarei office with 19 attendees. The course make-up included representatives from Police, Fire Service, St Johns Ambulance, DOC, Councils and the private sector. A second Level Four course for the year commences on 6 May.

The Group Emergency Operations Centre Plan has been reviewed and re-written with a number of amendments and changes. This has included changes resulting from de-briefs of the storm events in 2007 and the recent Exercise Ruaumoko.

Recommendation

That the Chief Executive Officer's report dated 7 May 2008 be received.

COMPLIANCE WITH DECISION MAKING PROCESS

The activities detailed in this report are provided for in the Council's 2006-2016 LTCCP, and as such are in accordance with the Council's decision making process and sections 76 to 82 of the Local Government Act 2002.

Lease Transactions and Documents Sealed

File 215.3.1; 215.58; 215.107; CON-480

Report from Council Secretary, Audrey Grieve, dated 5 May 2008.

The following property transactions were processed and sealed of Council during the past month.

- | | |
|--------------|--|
| File 215.3.1 | Transfer of Lease, Airzone Management Ltd to KC & CA Martin Family Trust – 142 Dent Street Whangarei. |
| File 215.58 | Transfer of Lease Hamwick Properties to Ness Properties Ltd – 20 Union East Street. |
| File 215.107 | Transfer of Lease Pacific Gold Family Trust to CE Huntington & GT Trustees Ltd – 34 Port Road Whangarei. |

Documents Sealed

The following document was sealed:

- | | |
|---------|--|
| CON-480 | Deed of Grant of Funds (Biodiversity Advice Fund & Biodiversity Condition Fund). |
|---------|--|

Recommendation

That the lease transaction and use of the Council seal outlined in the report from the Council Secretary dated 5 May 2008, be approved.

COMPLIANCE WITH DECISION MAKING PROCESS

The activities contained within this report are in accordance with the Council's Treasury Management Policy which was adopted in compliance with the decision making requirements of Sections 76 to 82 of the Local Government Act 2002.

Review of Enterprise Northland

File 150.1

The report on the review of Enterprise Northland will be tabled at the meeting.

E:\TEMPORARY WORK AREA\2008 AGENDAS\2008 COUNCIL MEETINGS\MAY 2008\REVIEW OF ENTERPRISE NORTHLAND.DOC

Financial Report – 30 April 2008

File 350.4

Report from Acting Financial Accountant Kim Harvey dated 7 May 2008.

The **Summary Council Cost of Services Statement** and **Cost of Service Statements by Activity** for the month ended 30 April and the **Balance Sheet** as at 30 April are presented for Councillors' information.

OPERATING RESULTS

The Summary Cost of Services Statement shows a net operating surplus before extraordinary items for the ten months to 30 April of \$4.2m. This is a favourable result compared with the budgeted surplus of \$2.5m. This favourable variance is due to revenue results of \$500k greater than budget due to strong investment returns and operating expenditure tracking behind budget by \$678k. The extraordinary items have been removed to provide a truer reflection of Council operating activity. The extraordinary items are the special dividend received from Northland Port Corporation in November of \$2.3m and the \$13.4m expenditure budgeted for the Regional Events Centre. Taking these items into account, the net surplus after extraordinary items at 30 April is \$6.4m.

The results for the month of April show a deficit of \$346k compared to a budgeted deficit of \$224k. The unfavourable variance for the month of \$122k is not significant. It is largely due to consultants costs being higher than budgeted in relation to Catchment Management Assistance, Economic Development, Establishment of the CCTO and the Broadband Initiative Business Plan.

REVENUE

The year to date revenue at \$17.6m is ahead of budget by 2.9% with dividends (excluding the special dividend) making a significant contribution to this result at \$456k (28.6%) ahead of budget. Investment interest income at \$2.3m is ahead of budget by \$355k (18.1%). Net forestry revenue has been deferred to 2008/09 and as a result shows a \$(578k) negative variance against budget.

EXPENDITURE

The year to date expenditure at \$13.9m is 4.6% or \$(678k) lower than budget. Some of the key costs contributing to this result are highlighted below.

Consents expenditure at \$1.4m is 16.7% lower than budget. Major projects have not come on stream as forecasted, and costs have consequently been lower than budget.

Total Planning and Policy expenditure at \$2.4m is 8.8% lower than budget. This is primarily due to a reduction in salaries and wages resulting from unfilled vacancies.

To provide a better reflection of the true operating results the costs relating to the Regional Events Centre, which include a grant of \$12.6m and interest costs of \$814k have been classified as an extraordinary item. The budget for these costs have been rephased to period 12. In doing this, a more accurate view of the Council's operating results will be presented during the year.

CAPITAL EXPENDITURE

Capital expenditure for the ten months is \$1.3m, and is significantly lower than the budgeted \$6m. Unspent capital will be carried forward into the 2008/09 financial year. The capital programme currently includes a provision for the re-development of a site which will be dependant on the proposal/s presented to Council.

Recommendation

That the financial report to 30 April 2008 be received.

COMPLIANCE WITH DECISION MAKING PROCESS

The activities detailed in this report are provided for in the Council's 2006-2016 Long Term Council Community Plan, and as such are in accordance with the Council's decision-making process and Sections 76-82 of the Local Government Act 2002.

The Summary Cost of Services Statement is outlined below:

Monthly Report for April 08

Total Council Revenue	April 08				YEAR TO DATE				Annual
	Actual	Budget	Variance	Var %	YTD Actual	YTD Budget	Variance	Var %	Budget
User Fees & Sundry	275,848	164,666	111,183	67.5%	2,701,511	2,607,653	93,858	3.6%	2,988,400
Grants & Subsidies	66,374	64,597	1,778	2.8%	431,587	445,790	(14,202)	(3.2%)	556,386
Investment Property Income	222,914	256,510	(33,596)	(13.1%)	2,655,209	2,853,355	(198,147)	(6.9%)	3,206,375
Investment Interest Income	226,254	196,072	30,182	15.4%	2,316,007	1,960,718	355,290	18.1%	2,352,861
Gain on Sale of Investment Property	0	0	0	-	87,000	0	87,000	100.0%	0
Dividend Income	0	0	0	-	2,051,568	1,595,664	455,904	28.6%	1,595,664
Net Forestry Revenue	0	0	0	-	0	578,053	(578,053)	(100.0%)	578,053
Targeted Fixed Environmental Rate	311,050	307,085	3,965	1.3%	3,110,500	3,070,853	39,646	1.3%	3,685,024
Land Management Rate	233,765	231,260	2,505	1.1%	2,337,647	2,312,585	25,062	1.1%	2,775,105
Awanui River Rate	39,168	35,000	4,168	11.9%	391,685	350,000	41,685	11.9%	420,000
Kaihu River Rate	5,167	5,922	(755)	(12.8%)	51,669	59,219	(7,551)	(12.8%)	71,063
Regional Recreational Facilities Rate	143,222	140,159	3,063	2.2%	1,432,216	1,401,588	30,628	2.2%	1,681,906
	1,523,762	1,401,270	122,492	8.7%	17,566,598	17,235,478	331,120	1.9%	19,910,837
Expenditure									
Council & Strategic Development ²	345,268	338,369	(6,898)	(2.0%)	2,014,207	2,036,129	21,922	1.1%	3,250,012
Consents	213,822	160,504	(53,317)	(33.2%)	1,364,356	1,638,024	273,668	16.7%	1,997,485
Land Operations	441,354	500,999	59,645	11.9%	3,746,966	3,738,930	(8,036)	(0.2%)	5,146,064
Environmental Monitoring	520,847	439,267	(81,580)	(18.6%)	4,253,987	4,497,689	243,702	5.4%	5,577,951
Planning and Policy	273,458	248,007	(25,451)	(10.3%)	2,361,329	2,587,888	226,559	8.8%	3,154,810
Finance & Information Services	0	(61,504)	(61,504)	100.0%	95,359	(32,420)	(127,779)	394.1%	1
	1,794,747	1,625,642	(169,105)	(10.4%)	13,836,204	14,466,240	630,036	4.4%	19,126,323
Regional Events Centre/ Strategy Grants ²	75,000	0	(75,000)	(100.0%)	101,580	149,706	48,126	32.1%	13,043,932
	1,869,747	1,625,642	(244,105)	(15.0%)	13,937,784	14,615,946	678,162	4.6%	32,170,255
Net Cost of Service ¹	(345,985)	(224,372)	(121,613)	(54.2%)	3,628,814	2,619,532	1,009,282	38.5%	(12,259,418)
Committed expenditure					(530,224)		(530,224)		
Net Cost of Service before extraordinary items	(345,985)	(224,372)	(121,613)	(54.2%)	4,159,038	2,619,532	479,058	18.3%	(12,259,418)
Extraordinary Items									
Special Dividend ³	0	0	0	0.0%	2,279,520	0	2,279,520	100.0%	0
Recreational Event Centre ²	0	0	0	0.0%	0	0	0	0.0%	74,706
Net Cost of Service after extraordinary items	(345,985)	(224,372)	(121,613)	(54.2%)	6,438,558	2,619,532	2,758,578	105.3%	(12,334,124)
Capital									
					1,289,048	6,012,480	4,723,432	78.6%	7,214,976

Note

1. Net Cost of Service including committed expenditure before extraordinary items.
2. Refer to notes on Summary Cost of Service Statement by Activity for Council & Strategic Development in Appendix One. Expenditure relating to the Regional 'Events Centre have been removed for comparative purposes.
3. Special dividend classified as extraordinary item to provide a better reflection of the true operating results.

Summary Cost of Service Statements by Activity are attached in Appendix One.

NORTHLAND REGIONAL COUNCIL

Balance Sheet As at 30 April 2008

<u>COMMUNITY PLAN</u> Year Ended June 08	<u>THIS YEAR</u> YTD	<u>ANNUAL REPORT</u> JUNE 2007
<u>PUBLIC EQUITY</u>		
112,168,610 Accumulated Funds	85,921,477	85,921,477
2,844,167 Reserves & Funds	35,285,595	28,264,654
(12,259,418) Current Year Surplus / (Deficit)	6,438,582	7,020,942
102,753,359 TOTAL EQUITY & RESERVES	127,645,655	121,207,072
<u>REPRESENTED BY</u>		
7,678,034 Cash & Deposits	22,808,351	18,535,217
3,834,780 Debtors	2,385,264	2,227,822
Prepayments	38,843	132,821
130,962 Stock/Materials	138,994	138,994
11,643,776 TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS	25,371,452	21,034,855
85,341,627 Investments	79,079,771	83,079,771
85,341,627 TOTAL INVESTMENTS & RECEIVABLES	104,451,223	83,079,771
14,678,213 Fixed Assets	27,214,136	27,415,787
Less Accumulated Depreciation	7,741,217	6,737,254
14,678,213 FIXED ASSETS AT BOOK VALUE	19,472,920	20,678,534
7,214,975 Capital Projects in Progress	5,812,031	354,858
118,878,591 GROSS ASSETS	129,736,173	125,148,018
4,433,501 Creditors	749,345	2,669,369
Provisions and Accruals	1,341,174	1,271,577
4,433,501 CURRENT LIABILITIES	2,090,519	3,940,945
11,691,731 Term and Other Liabilities		
16,125,232 TOTAL LIABILITIES	2,090,519	3,940,945
102,753,359 NET ASSETS	127,645,655	121,207,072

Appendix One: Summary Cost of Service Statement by Activity
Monthly Report for

April 08

Council & Strategic Development

	April 08					YEAR TO DATE				
	Actual	Budget	Variance	Var %	Explanation	YTD Actual	YTD Budget	Variance	Var %	Explanation
Revenue										
User Fees & Sundry	24,872	4,625	20,247	437.8%		62,393	46,250	16,143	34.9%	
Investment Property Income	222,914	256,510	(33,596)	(13.1%)	A	2,655,209	2,853,355	(198,147)	(6.9%)	
Gain on Sale of Investment Property	0	0	0	-		87,000	0	87,000	-	B
Net Forestry Revenue	0	0	0	-	C	0	578,053	(578,053)	(100.0%)	C
Targeted Fixed Environmental Rate	105,965	104,614	1,351	1.3%		1,059,647	1,046,141	13,506	1.3%	
Regional Recreational Facilities Rate	143,222	140,159	3,063	2.2%		1,432,216	1,401,588	30,628	2.2%	
	496,973	505,908	(8,935)	(1.8%)		5,296,465	5,925,387	(628,922)	(10.6%)	
Expenditure										
Community Representation & Strategic Planning	208,183	197,309	(10,875)	(5.5%)		1,133,973	1,109,528	(24,445)	(2.2%)	
Regional Economic Development	116,891	110,785	(6,106)	(5.5%)		636,704	622,979	(13,725)	(2.2%)	D
Commercial	20,193	30,276	10,082	33.3%		243,530	303,622	60,092	19.8%	
	345,268	338,369	(6,898)	(2.0%)		2,014,207	2,036,129	21,922	1.1%	
Regional Events Centre/ Strategy Grants	75,000	0	(75,000)	-		101,580	149,706	48,126	32.1%	D
	420,268	338,369	(81,898)	(24.2%)		2,115,787	2,185,835	70,048	3.2%	
Net Cost of Service before extraordinary items	76,706	167,538	(90,833)	(54.2%)		3,180,678	3,739,552	(558,874)	(14.9%)	
Extraordinary Items										
Recreational Event Centre	0	0	0	0.0%		0	0	0	0.0%	D
Net Cost of Service after extraordinary items	76,706	167,538	(90,833)			3,180,678	3,739,552	(558,874)		
Capital						574,407	2,827,033	2,252,626	79.7%	

Explanation

Revenue

A. Investment Property Income

Rental income from rental property in Commerce Street lower than budgeted

Rental income from rental property in Commerce Street lower than budgeted

B. Gain on Sale of Investment Property

Gain on sale of investment property held for sale from previous year.

C. Net Forestry Revenue

Forest Revenue forecasted from Forest Harvests has been deferred to 08/09.

Forest Revenue forecasted from Forest Harvests has been deferred to 08/09.

Expenditure

D. Regional Events Centre/ Strategy Grants and Regional Economic Development

The budgeted Regional Events Centre Grant (\$12.5), Operating Subsidy (\$75K) and associated interest cost (\$814K) have been rephased to period 12. These budgeted costs have been reclassified to extraordinary items to provide a better reflection of the true operating costs for council.

Monthly Report for

April 08

Consents	April 08					YEAR TO DATE					Annual Budget
	Actual	Budget	Variance	Var %	Explanation	YTD Actual	YTD Budget	Variance	Var %	Explanation	
Revenue											
User Fees & Sundry	109,701	56,833	52,867	93.0%	A	436,149	568,333	(132,184)	(23.3%)	A	682,000
Targeted Fixed Environmental Rate	28,863	28,495	368	1.3%		288,633	284,954	3,679	1.3%		346,360
	138,564	85,329	53,235	38.4%		724,782	853,288	(128,505)	(15.1%)		1,028,360
Expenditure											
Consents Applications	124,873	93,736	(31,137)	(33.2%)	B	796,793	956,617	159,824	16.7%	B	1,166,544
Consents Advice & Information	88,948	66,769	(22,180)	(33.2%)	B	567,564	681,408	113,844	16.7%	B	830,941
	213,822	160,504	(53,317)	(33.2%)		1,364,356	1,638,024	273,668	16.7%		1,997,485
Net Cost of Service	(75,257)	(75,176)	(82)	(0.1%)		(639,574)	(784,737)	145,163	(18.5%)		(969,125)
Capital						0	0	0			

Explanation

Revenue

A. User Fees & Sundry

Two large consents processed this month - Northern Dairylands Ltd \$18,000 and Crest Energy Ltd \$33,000

Overall still behind budget as major projects have not come on stream as forecasted, which has resulted in a corresponding reduction in expenditure

Expenditure

B. Consents Applications, Advice and Information

Includes costs of Goldpine appeal for the period July 2007 to March 2008 \$30,000

Major projects have not come on stream as forecasted, and costs have consequently been lower than budget

Monthly Report for

April 08

Land Operations	April 08					YEAR TO DATE					Annual Budget
	Actual	Budget	Variance	Var %	Explanation	YTD Actual	YTD Budget	Variance	Var %	Explanation	
Revenue											
User Fees & Sundry	41,165	24,708	16,456	66.6%		185,137	247,083	(61,946)	(25.1%)	A	296,500
Grants & Subsidies	0	0	0	-		0	0	0	-		10,000
Land Management Rate	233,765	231,260	2,505	1.1%		2,337,647	2,312,585	25,062	1.1%		2,775,105
Awanui River Rate	39,168	35,000	4,168	11.9%		391,685	350,000	41,685	11.9%		420,000
Kaihu River Rate	5,167	5,922	(755)	(12.8%)		51,669	59,219	(7,551)	(12.8%)		71,063
	319,265	296,890	22,374	7.5%		2,966,138	2,968,888	(2,750)	(0.1%)		3,572,668
Expenditure											
Hazard & Emergency Management	125,722	113,796	(11,926)	(10.5%)		858,508	939,388	80,880	8.6%		1,221,094
River Management Works	19,941	4,167	(15,774)	(378.6%)		775,863	236,667	(539,196)	(227.8%)	B	508,722
Sustainable Land Management	134,855	122,062	(12,792)	(10.5%)		920,870	1,007,625	86,755	8.6%		1,309,794
Biosecurity Management	160,836	260,973	100,137	38.4%	C	1,191,726	1,555,250	363,524	23.4%	C	2,106,454
	441,354	500,999	59,645	11.9%		3,746,966	3,738,930	(8,036)	(0.2%)		5,146,064
Net Cost of Service	(122,089)	(204,108)	82,019	40.2%		(780,829)	(770,042)	(10,786)	1.4%		(1,573,396)
Capital						38,221	151,250	113,029	74.7%		181,500

Northland Regional Council - 21 May 2008
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Explanation

Revenue

A. User Fees & Sundry

Field materials are sold to contractors to carry out work on behalf of the Council. As noted below, there is a shortage of contractors, therefore income from the sale of field materials is below budget.

Expenditure

B. River Management Works

Expenditure includes approved storm damage repairs of \$533,000, being Awanui \$350,000, Kaihu \$42,000 and Kaeo \$141,000.

C. Biosecurity Management

Spending not as anticipated due to a shortage of contractors resulting in delays in carrying out the work agreed with Community Pest Control Area groups.

Underspend on consultants, pest control contractors, poisons and field work due to a shortage of contractors (resulting in delays in carrying out the work agreed with Community Pest Control Area groups) and a small number of agreements with community groups that are yet to be signed.

Monthly Report for

April 08

Finance & Information Services	April 08					YEAR TO DATE				
	Actual April 08	Budget	Variance	Var %	Explanation	YTD Actual	YTD Budget	Variance	Var %	Explanation
Revenue										
User Fees & Sundry	9,417	0	9,417	-		33,011	0	33,011	-	
Investment Interest Income	226,254	196,072	30,182	15.4%		2,316,007	1,960,718	355,290	18.1%	
Dividend Income	0	0	0	-		2,051,568	1,595,664	455,904	28.6%	A
Targeted Fixed Environmental Rate	0	(0)	0	-		0	(0)	0	-	
	235,671	196,072	39,599	20.2%		4,400,586	3,556,381	844,205	23.7%	
Expenditure										
Finance & Information Services	344,143	293,651	(50,492)	(17.2%)		3,269,036	3,519,134	250,098	7.1%	
Internal recharges	(344,143)	(355,155)	(11,012)	(3.1%)		(3,173,677)	(3,551,554)	(377,877)	10.6%	
	0	(61,504)	(61,504)	100.0%		95,359	(32,420)	(127,779)	394.1%	
			0					0		
Net Cost of Service	235,671	257,576	(21,905)	(8.5%)		4,305,227	3,588,801	716,426	20.0%	
Extraordinary Items										
Special Dividend	0	-	0	0.0%		2,279,520	0	2,279,520	100.0%	A
Net Cost of Service after extraordinary items	235,671	257,576	(21,905)			6,584,747	3,588,801	2,995,946	83.5%	
Capital						170,396	1,791,155	1,620,759	90.5%	

Explanation

Revenue

A. Dividend Income

Total dividends received for year higher than forecast; received 9 cent share in total, budget was 7 cents per share.
The special dividend has been reclassified as an extraordinary item to enable a better reflection of the financial results.

Monthly Report for

April 08

Environmental Monitoring	April 08					YEAR TO DATE					Annual Budget
	Actual	Budget	Variance	Var %	Explanation	YTD Actual	YTD Budget	Variance	Var %	Explanation	
Revenue											
User Fees & Sundry	59,520	49,832	9,688	19.4%		1,565,773	1,459,319	106,453	7.3%		1,610,400
Grants & Subsidies	29,058	28,597	462	1.6%		54,512	85,790	(31,277)	(36.5%)	A	114,386
Targeted Fixed Environmental Rate	66,668	65,818	850	1.3%		666,676	658,178	8,497	1.3%		800,011
	155,246	144,247	11,000	7.6%		2,286,961	2,203,287	83,673	3.8%		2,524,797
Expenditure											
State of the Environment Monitoring	160,248	131,633	(28,616)	(21.7%)		1,293,391	1,353,273	59,882	4.4%		1,648,995
Resource Consent Compliance	125,718	103,268	(22,450)	(21.7%)		1,014,692	1,061,670	46,978	4.4%		1,293,670
Environmental Incidents Response	65,982	54,199	(11,783)	(21.7%)		532,552	557,208	24,656	4.4%		678,971
Hazardous Substances & Contaminated Sites	39,515	32,459	(7,056)	(21.7%)		318,935	333,701	14,766	4.4%		406,623
Oil Pollution Response	21,379	19,450	(1,929)	(9.9%)		180,839	196,937	16,097	8.2%		256,068
Harbour Safety & Navigation	108,004	98,257	(9,746)	(9.9%)		913,577	994,900	81,323	8.2%		1,293,624
	520,847	439,267	(81,580)	(18.6%)		4,253,987	4,497,689	243,702	5.4%		5,577,951
Net Cost of Service	(365,600)	(295,020)	(70,580)	23.9%		(1,967,026)	(2,294,401)	327,376	(14.3%)		(3,053,154)
Capital						499,848	399,417	(100,431)	(25.1%)		479,300

Northland Regional Council - 21 May 2008

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Explanation

Revenue

A. Grants & Subsidies

This variance is due to timing, and is expected to catch up by year end.

Monthly Report for

April 08

Planning & Policy	April 08					YEAR TO DATE					Annual Budget
	Actual	Budget	Variance	Var %	Explanation	YTD Actual April 08	YTD Budget April 08	Variance	Var %	Explanation	
Revenue											
User Fees & Sundry	31,173	28,667	2,507	8.7%		419,047	286,667	132,381	46.2%	A	344,000
Grants & Subsidies	37,316	36,000	1,316	3.7%		377,075	360,000	17,075	4.7%		432,000
Targeted Fixed Environmental Rate	109,554	108,158	1,396	1.3%		1,095,544	1,081,580	13,964	1.3%		1,314,653
	178,044	172,825	5,219	3.0%		1,891,666	1,728,247	163,419	9.5%		2,090,653
Expenditure											
Resource Management Planning	99,850	90,557	(9,293)	(10.3%)		838,844	944,938	106,094	11.2%		1,151,943
Public Communication & Education	60,150	54,551	(5,598)	(10.3%)		505,319	569,230	63,911	11.2%		693,930
Regional Transport Management	26,004	23,584	(2,420)	(10.3%)		282,464	246,095	(36,369)	(14.8%)	B	300,006
Passenger Services Administration	87,454	79,314	(8,139)	(10.3%)		734,702	827,625	92,923	11.2%		1,008,931
	273,458	248,007	(25,451)	(10.3%)		2,361,329	2,587,888	226,559	8.8%		3,154,810
Net Cost of Service	(95,414)	(75,182)	(20,232)	(26.9%)		(469,663)	(859,641)	389,978	(45.4%)		(1,064,157)
Capital						6,177	843,625	837,448	99.3%		1,012,350

Explanation

Revenue

A. User Fees & Sundry

Funding from the Ministry for the Environment to cover aquaculture planning expenditure incurred during the period Oct 06 - Nov 07 in changing the regional coastal plan.

B. Regional Transport Management

Includes Northland Transport Network Study expenditure \$64k.

Investment Schedule and Performance – Financial Report 30 April 2008

File 350.4

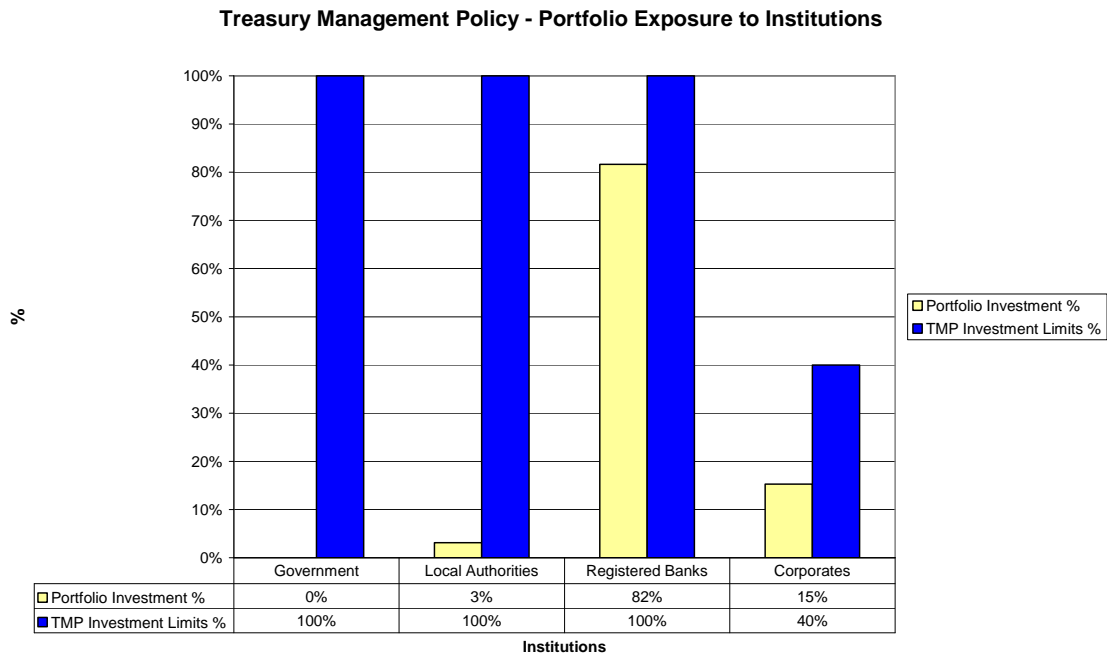
Report from Finance and Corporate Services Manager Lisa Aubrey dated 30 April 2008.

PURPOSE

This report provides a summary of investment performance for the ten month period ending 30 April 2008 and to report compliance against the Investment Policy. The investment policy is a requirement of section 102(4)(a) of the Local Government Act. The investment policy was adopted as part of the 2006-2016 Long Term Council Community Plan.

INVESTMENT OF CASH AND STOCK/BONDS

The graph below graphically illustrates Council's investment of cash and stock/bonds against the limits set out in the Investment Policy. Council's investment complies with the Investment Policy.



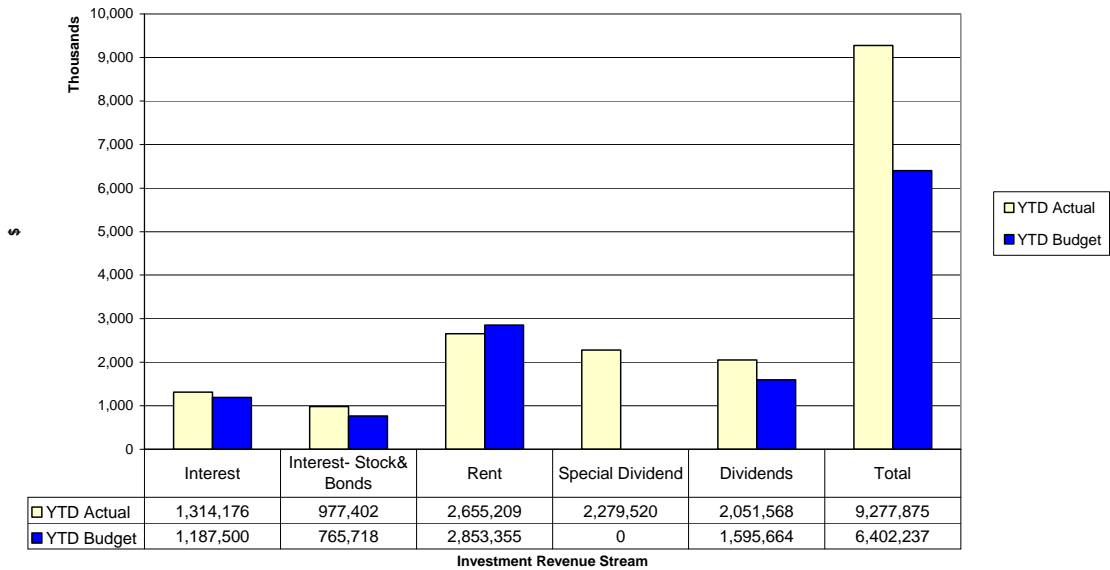
FINANCIAL YEAR TO DATE PERFORMANCE

Year to date, the investment portfolio has made a return of \$9,277,875 against a budgeted return of \$6,402,237. The increase over budgeted revenue is the result of:

- The special dividend from Northland Port Corporation of \$2,279,520 received in November and;
- The increased interest received where the budgeted interest rate has increased. On call funds are currently earning a return of 8.25% and short term deposits between 8.80 and 9.13%.

The breakdown of the year to date return by investment revenue stream is as follows:

Fund Performance against Budget



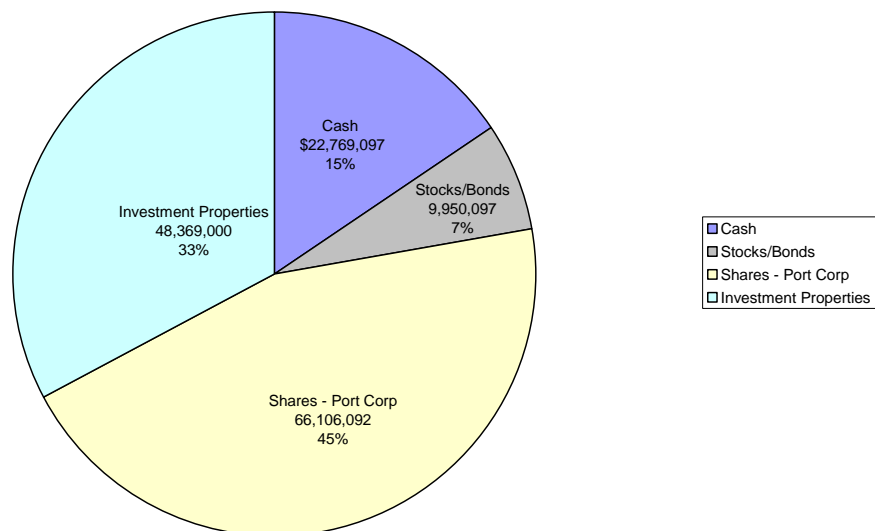
Portfolio of Total Funds

The total value of the investment portfolio as at 30 April is \$147,192,276 and is comprised of:

- Cash \$22,769,097
- Stocks/bonds \$ 9,950,097
- Shares – Port Corp* \$66,106,082
- Investment Properties \$48,369,000

* Northland Regional Council holds 22,795,201 shares in Northland Port Corporation (NZ) Limited. The cost value of these shares is \$8,058,150. As at 30 June 2007, the market price of these shares was \$3.40. As at 30 April 2008, the market price is \$2.90.

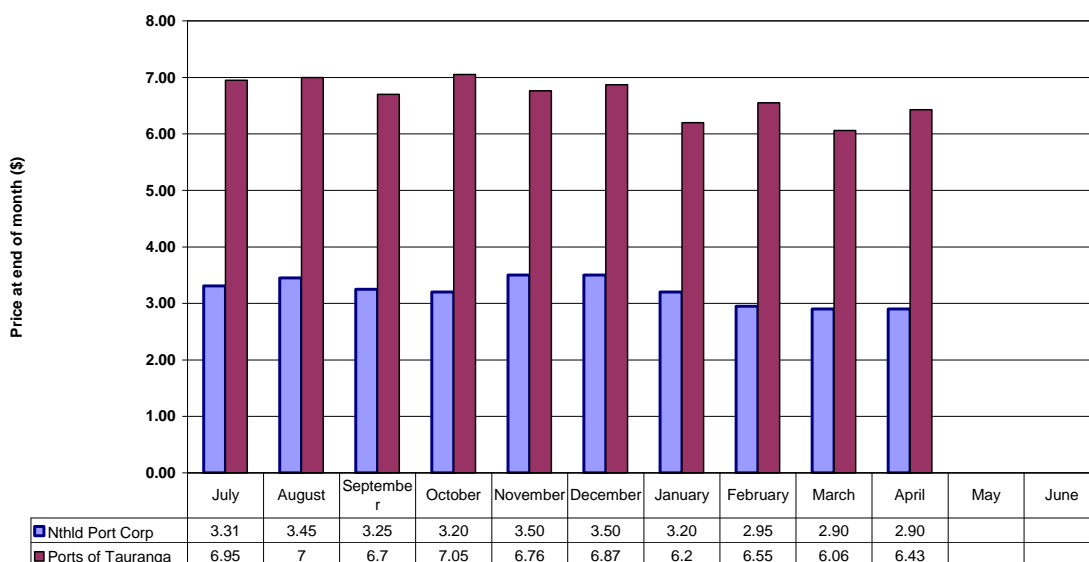
Portfolio of Total Funds



Northland Port Corporation Share Price Movement

The graph below graphically illustrates the movement in the Northland Port Corporation's share price in the current financial year. Share price data for the Ports of Tauranga has been provided for comparative or benchmarking purposes. Comparative share price data is not available for Ports of Auckland as they are now wholly owned by the Auckland Regional Council.

Northland Port Corporation Share Price Movement compared to Ports of Tauranga



2007/2008

Recommendation

That the Investment Schedule and Performance Report to 30 April 2008 be received.

COMPLIANCE WITH DECISION MAKING PROCESS

The activities detailed in this report are in accordance with the Council's Treasury Management Policy which was adopted in compliance with the decision-making requirements of sections 76-82 of the Local Government Act 2002.

Paid Accounts for Approval

File 350.9

Report from Payments Officer Rachel Hills dated 30 April 2008

Set out below is the summary of expenditure that was approved and paid during April 2008.

Northland Regional Council General Account

Direct Debits	vouchers 100876 - 100892	\$6,199,065.05
Computer Cheques	vouchers 19492 - 19517	\$43,910.48
Direct Credits	vouchers 1018394 - 1018720	\$1,138,079.26
Payroll Transactions		\$757,566.18
Total		\$8,138,620.97

Analyses of Expenditure Classes

Labour costs	\$757,566.18
Operating costs	\$1,033,360.00
Capital Expenditure	\$167,092.06
Call/Term deposits/Investments	\$6,180,602.73
Total	\$8,138,620.97

The vouchers are available for inspection if required.

This report is tabled in terms of the Council's delegation policy made pursuant to the Public Bodies Contracts Act 1959.

Recommendation

That the payments for April 2008, as detailed in the report from the Payments Officer, Rachel Hills dated 30 April 2008, be approved.

COMPLIANCE WITH DECISION MAKING PROCESS

The activities detailed in this report are provided for in the Long Term Council Community Plan 2006-2016, and as such are in accordance with the Council's decision making process and Sections 76-82 of the Local Government Act 2002, and the requirements of the Public Bodies Contracts Act 1959.

Whangarei Bus Service Funding

File 955.4.4

Report from Manager Planning and Policy, Glenn Mortimer, and Finance and Corporate Services Manager, Lisa Aubrey, dated 8 May 2008

PURPOSE

To present a firm funding proposal for the Northland Regional Council (NRC) to fund the local share of the contracted Whangarei urban bus service through a targeted rate.

INTRODUCTION

The contracted Whangarei urban bus service has recently been re-tendered with the new service starting on 1 July 2008.

The current service specifications were largely designed to cater for those on low incomes and/or without private vehicles. Since its inception, patronage has risen from 80,000 passenger trips per year to over 230,000.

The specifications for the new service include increased hours of operation and frequency of trips to cater for the increased demand and to also provide for commuters to and from work.

To date, the local share (50%) of funding for the service has been provided by the Whangarei District Council (WDC), with the remainder funded by Land Transport NZ. As a precursor to tendering the contract, at the December 2007 Council meeting a proposal was presented for a progressive changeover of local funding of the service from WDC to the NRC on the basis that:

- there is nationally and regionally a push for more, affordable passenger transport services; and
- the provision for passenger services is a regional council responsibility;
- such provision needs secure funding arrangements; and
- the current funding arrangements make efficient administration of the growing contracted service very difficult for NRC staff.

Having considered the item, the Council resolved:

That the proposal for a staged changeover of funding of the contracted Whangarei bus service from the Whangarei District Council to the Northland Regional Council be in two stages only over a two year period:

- \$100,000 first year;
- Second year – NRC move to take over the funding entirely.

That a formal approach be made to the Whangarei District Council explaining the proposal and the rationale for it.

This was followed up by an item to the Council's 27 February 2008 annual planning workshop, setting out how the transfer of funding responsibility could be made through either the introduction of a targeted regional rate, an increase in revenue by raising fares, or a combination of both. A preferred option of a combination of both was indicated. That option was that the NRC:

- (a) Reduces the local share required for the contracted Whangarei city bus service by increasing fares by \$1 effective from 1 July 2008 - the start of the new contract period; and
- (b) Take over funding of the local share of costs from the Whangarei District Council by introducing a targeted regional rate to apply for all rateable properties within the district, effective from 1 July 2009.

That preliminary analysis was based on an estimated total gross contract value of new service of \$1,343,000 per annum. The actual total gross contract value is now known to be \$1,489,000 p.a. Using this figure, the following is a firm proposal for the fare increases and the targeted rate.

FARE REVENUE

The requirement for local rating can only be considered after fare revenue is deducted from the contract price.

It is important to note from the outset that, irrespective of the proposed change to local funding, an increase in fares for the new contracted service is being considered. This is because fares have not increased since the service's inception in 2002 despite significant fuel increases over that period and the new service will include brand new buses, increased trip frequency, and extended hours.

The current fare schedule and other higher cost options are shown in Table 1 below. The upper figure is based on a web search of fares for contracted services in other similar sized New Zealand cities. The results for single adult fares are as follows:

Timaru	\$1.15
Palmerston North, Wanganui, Levin, Rotorua	\$2
New Plymouth, Tauranga	\$3

Table 1. Fare level options

Option	A (current)	B	C	D	E
Single fare - adult	\$2	\$2.50	\$3	\$3.50	\$4
Single fare - child	\$1	\$1.50	\$2	\$2.50	\$2
Transfer fare – adult	\$3	\$3.50	\$4	\$4.50	\$5.50
Transfer fare – child	\$1.50	\$2	\$2.50	\$3	\$3.50
10-trip ticket – adult	\$15	\$20	\$25	\$30	\$35
10-trip ticket - child	\$8	\$12	\$16	\$20	\$24

The new service is projected to carry around 303,000 passengers in the first year with patronage expected to continue to increase over the contract period.

Using existing proportions of ticket sales in each of these categories, the average fare has been calculated for each of the fare options. The average fare in turn has been used to calculate the estimated total fare revenue. Deducting this from the

contract price provides an indication of the local share required from rates as set out in the following table:

Table 2. Estimated NRC share required at different fare levels

Option	A	B	C*	D	E
Average fare	\$1.49	\$1.89	\$2.30	\$2.31	\$2.64
Fare revenue	\$451,708	\$567,249	\$712,717	\$858,185	\$976,854
LTNZ share (50% of remainder)	\$518,646	\$460,876	\$388,141	\$315,407	\$256,073
NRC share (50% of remainder)	\$518,646	\$460,876	\$388,141	\$315,407	\$256,073
Gross contract cost	\$1,489,000	\$1,489,000	\$1,489,000	\$1,489,000	\$1,489,000

*Option C is the average revenue based on the projected \$1 fare increase effective 1 July 2008.

TARGETED RATE

Because the service operates within the Whangarei urban area only, if a targeted rate was to be struck this would logically be applied to that area.

However, if wider benefits are considered then there is an argument that the rate should apply to the Whangarei district as a whole. For example, ratepayers outside will benefit from:

- The contribution of the modern passenger transport service to Whangarei's image as a progressive district
- The potential for 'park and ride' options for people living outside the urban area (as has been discussed by the Bus Subcommittee)
- The ease of vehicle travel within and through the urban area through reduced congestion.

There are approximately 18,000 rateable properties within the Whangarei urban area and approximately 35,000 rateable properties within the wider Whangarei district.

Using the estimated local share requirement indicated at each fare increment in Table 2, the following table shows the estimated annual targeted rate required to cover the local share at the different fare levels.

Table 3. Estimated annual targeted rate per property

Option	A	B	C	D	E
Local share required	\$518,646	\$460,876	\$388,141	\$315,407	\$256,073
Targeted rate: urban area	\$28.82	\$25.60	\$21.56	\$17.52	\$14.23
Targeted rate: district-wide	\$14.82	\$13.17	\$11.09	\$9.02	\$7.32

Note that the above are approximations only as the actual level of local share required is dependent on patronage levels and these will only be known once the service has been in operation for a period of time. The figures also do not include a fee for collecting rates (WDC); this fee is likely to be in the proximity of 10%.

FUNDING PROPOSAL

2008/09 Financial Year – first year of operation

Following discussions with the WDC political representatives and CEO, there has been a verbal commitment given that \$400,000 would be set aside by WDC to cover the local share for the coming 2008/09 financial year. This is consistent with the WDC's past annual contribution to local funding of the service, i.e. it is not an added cost.

As shown in Table 2, if fares were increased as set out for Option C then the \$400,000 would be sufficient to cover the projected local share required (\$388,141).

This fare level is consistent with that charged in Tauranga and New Plymouth. It also provides a margin of safety should patronage not increase as projected.

At this level, fares should still be affordable to most users and should still be cheaper than running most private vehicles taking into account rising fuel prices. Based on the conservative IRD reimbursement figure for vehicle use of \$0.62 per km, any trip over 5km will cost more than using the bus and this does not take into account the cost of parking fees that are charged within Whangarei's CBD.

Patronage of the new service will be monitored on a monthly basis to gauge public reaction to it. If patronage does not meet expectations or those on low income are unduly affected then changes such as using stepped fares (zoning) and/or providing special concessions can be considered.

2009/10 Financial Year On

As shown in Table 3, an annual targeted rate of approximately \$11 per rateable property within the whole district or \$22 for rateable properties within the Whangarei urban area is estimated to fund the local share. With the reduced local share required as a result of the recommended fare increase, this targeted rate will allow the NRC to fully fund the local share from the 2009/10 financial year on.

Once the service is in operation for 4-6 months, the actual amount required can be more accurately determined. This timing allows finalisation of the figure to be linked into the LTCCP review process next financial year.

Recommendation

1. That fares for the new contracted Whangarei urban bus service be increased to the levels set out in Option C in this report.
2. That the fare increase be implemented as of 1 July 2008, the scheduled start date for the new service.
3. That patronage levels for the new service be closely monitored over the first year of operation to assess any effects of the fare increase on use of the service.

4. That a targeted rate be introduced to apply within all or part of the Whangarei district in order to fund the local share of operating the new service from 1 July 2009 on.
5. That the actual amount of the targeted rate and its area of application be determined through the forthcoming Long Term Council Community Plan review process.

COMPLIANCE WITH DECISION MAKING PROCESS

The activities detailed in this report are part of the Council's management of the contracted passenger transport services under the Transport Services Licensing Act 1989, and as such are in accordance with the Council's decision-making process and sections 76-82 of the LGA 2002.

Northland Regional Council 2008 Environmental Curriculum Award

File 240.5

Report from the Environmental Education Officer Teresa Rudgley dated 21 April 2008.

INTRODUCTION

The Northland Regional Council annually offers schools within the Tai Tokerau region up to \$2,000 each through the Northland Regional Council Environmental Curriculum Award. This Award is offered to recognise effective environmental education in the North. The Award fund totals \$15,000.

The Northland Regional Council 2008 Environmental Curriculum Award process is now underway. More than 170 Northland schools have been sent relevant details. Applications for the Award close on Wednesday, 14 May 2008.

As in past years, a judging sub-committee is needed to select successful applicants. The sub-committee will meet to carry out the selection process. A date will be arranged to suit the Councillors concerned. Councillors and the Environmental Education Officer, Teresa Rudgley, will visit successful winners at their schools and present the awards.

These awards recognise achievement in environmental education through demonstrated action for the environment. They particularly support efforts in line with the Council's regional community outcome number three: "Northland's natural environment is sustainably managed" and the Ministry of Education Guidelines for Environmental Education in New Zealand Schools.

Recommendation

That the report by the Environmental Education Officer, Teresa Rudgley, dated 21 April 2008, on the Northland Regional Council 2008 Environmental Curriculum Award, be received.

That Crs _____ and _____ be confirmed as members of the judging sub-committee for the Environmental Curriculum Awards 2008.

COMPLIANCE WITH DECISION MAKING PROCESS

The activities detailed in this report are provided for in the Council's 2006–2016 Long Term Council Community Plan, and as such they are in accordance with the Council's decision making process and sections 76-82 of the Local Government Act 2002.

Non Notified Resource Consent Applications – Circulation to Iwi Groups: January–December 2007

File 900.17.1

Report from Iwi Liaison Officer Rachel Ropiha dated 6 May 2008.

PURPOSE

To provide information relating to the circulation of non-notified consent applications to iwi groups in 2007.

BACKGROUND

The circulation of non-notified applications for resource consent to iwi is a non-statutory process that was initiated on a trial basis in 1995 in consultation with iwi. It was intended that the trial would enable the Council to identify, from those applications the Council considered as having minor environmental impacts, which of those activities iwi could be concerned with and potentially be adversely affected by.

In March 1996, the Council agreed that the procedure for circulating non-notified consent applications to iwi be continued until the Regional Plans became operative. In the years following the Regional Plans becoming operative, the Council has agreed to continue the procedure given its perceived value to Maori in alerting them to activities which may be of concern to them in relation to Sections 6(e), 7(a) and 8 of the Resource Management Act (RMA).

IWI CIRCULATION FOR 2007

From an assessment of Consent Decision Agendas, a total of 320 development proposals were processed on a non-notified basis during the calendar year ending December 2007. This includes 33 applications to change consent conditions, nine of which were considered to be minor and were therefore not circulated to iwi. Two new applications for land use excavations were also considered to have minor effect and were not circulated. The Council also received four applications for Certificate of Compliance which again, were not circulated for comment. A further 90 bore permits were also not circulated as per current Council procedure.

In the 2007 calendar year, there was a 17.5% response rate to the circulation of applications. Of the responses received, consents technical staff time spent on responding to queries and concerns from iwi, continues to be charged to the applicant as part of the processing costs.

For the 2007 year a total was also made of how many letters are actually sent to iwi groups. As with development proposals where there may be more than one activity, in some cases there may be up to seven different groups who express an interest in one particular area. Calculating the number of letters sent provides the Council with more information relating to the significance of circulation of non-notified consent applications.

A total of 1403 letters were sent to groups on the Council's database. This equates to a 4% response rate if calculated against actual letters sent rather than against the number of proposals processed for 2007.

Of those responses received, land use consent activities drew the greatest response rate - 28% - closely followed by a 25.6% response rate to land discharges. A summary of resource consent application types and the number of responses is provided in Table 2 of the attachment.

RESOLUTION OF IWI QUERIES

Consent processing staff consider comments made by iwi groups to decide whether they deem iwi to be adversely affected by an application. The concerns raised need to be made in relation to sections 6, 7 and 8 of the RMA. Consents staff also need to have regard to the nature and validity of concerns raised prior to making recommendations to grant or decline an application for consent.

Of the 56 responses received from iwi, 13 were in support of applications, with a further three asking for certain conditions to be imposed, or for the supply of monitoring results as a condition of giving approval. However, these conditions and monitoring requests were not always enforceable although they were considered when the application was processed.

Iwi responses in clear opposition to the granting of applications for resource consents intended to be treated as non-notified were less than 3% of all applications circulated. This is a decrease from the 7.8% in 2006 but the same as in 2005. Table 2 attached provides the breakdown of responses from iwi.

OBSERVATIONS

The process of circulating non notified consents, while it draws very few responses, is seen as a necessary and welcome process by many Maori in Northland. The procedure is seen as one way of maintaining a relationship with Maori or one component of such a relationship.

While the procedure is seen as a positive process for Council to follow, some groups on the Council's database have never responded. Further, some consent types draw few, if any comments, while renewals for minor activities have already been through a thorough consultative process.

With this in mind discussions have been held with some technical staff as to what types of consents they feel could be removed from the circulation list. Currently bore permits are the only non notified consent type that is not circulated to iwi. This was an agreed to process in consultation with the previous Te Kotahitanga o Te Tai Tokerau.

Two consent types have been recommended by staff as fitting the criteria of not circulating. These are: -

- renewals of on-site domestic wastewater and
- moorings in Marine 4 (moorings including marinas) Management areas.

Renewals for onsite domestic wastewater have already been through a circulation process when they were initially lodged as subdivision proposals with the District Council and therefore iwi have already had an opportunity to raise concerns about the proposal.

Likewise, moorings in Marine 4 areas have already been through a consultative process through Plan Change 1 of the Regional Coastal Plan. They will also go through a further consultative process via the Mooring Management Plans regime.

A meeting has been arranged with the resource management personnel of one of the Iwi Authorities with a view to discussing the circulation process and perhaps refining what is sent out. Other meetings with Iwi Authorities will also be arranged to discuss

the same issue. It is anticipated that technical staff responsible for these two areas also be involved in these meetings, resulting in a recommendation to Council.

CONCLUSION

The Council's process of circulation of non-notified consents applications remains the most effective direct contact with tangata whenua regarding consent applications. It is therefore considered to be beneficial in carrying out the Council's duties under Part II of the Resource Management Act and as applied in the Regional Policy Statement.

However, having regard to previous reports of the circulation of non-notified consents and the continued low response rates to the information sent out it would seem practical to now consider what, if any, consent types could be removed from the circulation list. With this in mind the following is recommended.

Recommendation

1. That the report from the Iwi Liaison Officer, dated 6 May 2008, on Non Notified Resource Consent Applications – Circulation to Iwi Groups : January–December 2007, be received.
2. That meetings between Iwi Authority personnel responsible for resource management, the Iwi Liaison Officer and technical staff be held during June and July 2008 to discuss the circulation of non notified consent applications and how to refine the current procedure.

COMPLIANCE WITH DECISION MAKING PROCESS

The activities detailed in this report are provided for in the Council's 2006-2016 Long Term Council Community Plan, and as such are in accordance with the Council's decision making process and sections 76- 82 of the Local Government Act 2002.

Attachment 1**Table 1**

	Opposed	Responses	Granted non-notified RCA
Air Discharge	-	-	8
No responses received for this consents activity.			
Land Discharge	1	11	44
One consent (change) for sewage was not circulated for comment and a 25.6% response rate to consent type.			
Water Discharge	-	1	16
A 6.25% response rate to consent type.			
Coastal Air Discharge	-	-	-
No applications were received for this type.			
Coastal Discharge	-	-	-
No applications were received for this type.			
Land Use Consent	4	21	81
Two applications for new consents and three for change of conditions were not circulated for comment. A 27.6% response rate was received for the 76 circulated for comment.			
Coastal Permit	1	18	126
Five applications for change of condition were not circulated for comment. A response rate of 14.8% was received for the 121 circulated.			
Water Take	2	5	40
Rate to consent type.			
Water Permit	-	-	1
No responses received for this consents activity.			
COC	-	-	4
All four COC's were not circulated for comment.			
Totals	8	56	320

Table 2

	Approve / No Concerns	Conditional Approval	Opposed	Information Requested	No Response	Total sent (actual)	Not Circulated
Bore	0	0	0	0	0	0	90
Air discharge	0	0	0	0	34	34	
Land discharge	3	6	1	1	171	182	1 Change
Water discharge	0	0	0	1	54	55	
Coastal air discharge	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Coastal discharge	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Land use	2	15	4	0	306	327	2 New 3 Change
Coastal Permit	8	7	1	2	621	639	5 Change
Water Take	0	3	2	0	158	163	
Water Permit	0	0	0	0	3	3	
COC	0	0	0	0	0	0	4
Total	13	31	8	4	1347	1403	105

Consents Decisions and Applications in Process

File: 430.1

Report from Consents Manager, David Roke dated 1 May 2008.

The Consents Manager's report on resource consent decisions made since 1 April 2008 is circulated to Councillors under separate cover. Progress on notified applications is as set out in the following table:

NOTIFIED APPLICATIONS

Publicly Notified

Applicant	Proposal	Notification Period	Comment
Whangarei District Council CON20031137501	Replacement consents for Hikurangi Swamp flood control drainage scheme	12 December 2006 to 1 March 2007	Extended notification period by one month on 1 February 2007. Fifty submissions received; 28 against, 16 for, 35 wish to be heard. Pre-hearing resolution of some submissions being attempted by Applicant.
Far North District Council. Bay of Islands Community Wastewater Scheme CON20060110804	Expansion of Paihia WWTP to receive and treat additional wastewater from Kerikeri, Waipapa, Waitangi, and Russell if necessary	30 May 2007 to 28 June 2007	Fifty-one submissions received, 42 opposed. Change to designation submission period closed 11 July (re-notified). Processing on hold under Section 92 for consultation with iwi. Meeting with applicant on 14 February 2008. Draft recommendations prepared and circulated to applicant for comment. Cultural effects assessment still awaited.
M Te Whata & Others and R Graham CON200616124	Rock seawall at Omapere	24 May 2007 to 21 June 2007	Decision under delegated authority pending.
Far North District Council CON20060116801	Kawakawa WWTP Section 128 review of monitoring programme	13 June 2007 to 12 July 2007	Viral monitoring rounds completed – final results received. Awaiting response from experts on viability of progressing with Section 128 review of current indicator.
Far North District Council CON20070283501 CON20070283601 CON20071912101	Kaitaia Public Water Supply	9 August 2007 to 7 September 2007	Processing placed on hold at Applicant's request to allow further consultation.
Waitangi National Trust CON20071957801	New visitors centre at Waitangi	5 March to 4 April 2008	Jointly notified with FNDC. Twelve submissions received by the Council. Application on hold awaiting further information/clarification of heritage issues.

Applicant	Proposal	Notification Period	Comment
Far North District Council CON20070263501	Replacement application for Rangiputa WWTP	19 February 2008 to 19 March 2008	Four submissions received: Two against and wishing to be heard, and two in support. Discussions with applicant underway regarding draft recommended conditions.
Far North District Council CON20071950201	Upgrade of Kaitaia Resource Recovery Park	11 December 2007 to 30 January 2008	Submitter withdrew wish to be heard. Decision to grant subject to conditions made under delegated authority on 9 April 2008. No objections received and consent certificate issued 5 May.
Paihia Maritime Properties Ltd CON20080624501	Replacement consent for existing aquarium/café at Paihia	14 March 2008 to 15 April 2008	Pre-hearing meeting scheduled for 14 May 2008.
Whangarei District Council CON20080191601	New discharge of process wastewater from Ruakaka Water Treatment Plant into Ruakaka River	13 March 2008 to 14 April 2008	Two submissions received, both in support with one wishing to be heard. One late submission received that was in opposition and wishing to be heard. Applicant is in discussions with submitters regarding the issues raised. Hopeful of resolving matters and avoiding a Hearing.

Limited Notified

Applicant	Proposal	Notification Period	Comment
Mr J Keith CON20061752701	Discharge to private land of sewage from WDC Ruakaka WWTP via spray irrigation	10 July 2007 to 8 August 2007	Four submissions received, all heard. Two in support and two in opposition. Application on hold at request of applicant to allow them to try and resolve submissions.
Fonterra Co-op Ltd CON20060437319	Condensate discharges from Kauri site to Wairua River	4 October 2007 to 7 November 2007	One submission received against proposal. Applicant requested a time extension to attempt resolution of issues raised by the sole submitter.
B M & C A Kokich and D G & L S Anderson CON20080496501	Replacement pasture irrigation water take from Mangere Stream	28 February 2008 to 31 March 2008	Three submissions received: one against, one in support and one neutral. One submitter wishing to be heard. Pre-hearing meeting to be held on 13 May 2008.
Far North Holdings Limited CON20081153501	Section 127 change to dredgings disposal area and Section 88 applications for vegetation clearance at Colenso Triangle land at Opua	1 April 2008 to 29 April 2008	Joint notification with Far North District Council. Three submissions received by the Council. Pre-hearing meeting now proposed.

Applicant	Proposal	Notification Period	Comment
M J Griffiths CON20070868701	Farm dairy effluent discharge at Aranga.	2 April 2008 to 1 May 2008	Five submissions received. All in opposition with two wishing to be heard.
Sutherland Family Trust CON20070805602	New jetty and upgrade existing ramp at Edmonds Road, Kerikeri	18 April 2008 to 19 May 2008	

PRE-HEARING MEETINGS

Applicant	Proposal	Held	Outcome
Whangarei District Council CON20060257601	Replacement Ngunguru sewerage discharge consents	Pre-hearing held 13 December 2006	Applicant has requested that application be placed on hold for at least a year so that they can monitor performance of upgraded plant and appropriate consent conditions formulated based on the results, particularly with regard to ammonia concentrations.
Far North District Council CON20070266701	Replacement consents for Omapere/Opononi WWTP discharges	21 August 2007	Additional information regarding land disposal options sought by appellant. Draft recommendations formulated and circulated to applicant for comment.
Far North Holdings Ltd CON20060545411	Paihia Waterfront Re-development	27-28 November and 19 April 2007 (3)	CIA being prepared by applicant's consultant.
Explore NZ (2004) Limited CON20071904701	Proposed jetty in Hahangarua Bay, Moturua Island	31 October 2007	Applicant commissioning Historic Values Assessment and conducting further discussions with Ngati Kuta hapu.
AFFCO Moerewa CON20070738112	Activities resulting from inclusion of a proposed milk powder plant at Moerewa	20 November 2007	Forty-four submissions, 41 opposed. Applicant to now meet with submitter/s absent from a previous pre-hearing meeting. Draft consent conditions currently being considered by the applicant prior to distribution to submitters.
Carter Holt Harvey Woodproducts New Zealand CON20070841702	Discharge contaminants to air	19 December 2007	Two of the four heard submitters have provided written approval of the draft conditions of consent. No agreement achieved from the remaining two submitters, so now require a hearing.
The Rotary Club of Maungaturoto and Districts Incorporated CON20071215401	Proposed swimming pontoon at Bullet Point, Mangawhai Harbour	28 February 2008	Hearing scheduled for 16 May 2008.

Applicant	Proposal	Held	Outcome
Kaipara District Council CON20010111501	Replacement consents for Maungaturoto WWTP	29 January 2008	Meeting with two heard submitters. General agreement in principle to applicant's proposal. Final draft recommendations to be agreed to by the applicant. These will then be circulated to the submitters for comment. High expectation that submitters will withdraw their wish to be heard and that a hearing will not be required.

HEARINGS

Applicant	Proposal	Date of Hearing	Decision Issued/Comment
J C W Robinson CON20060788201	Section 128 Review of quarrying consent conditions	Postponed to allow Consent Holder to review technical report	Awaiting advice from the applicant regarding the purchase of adjoining (submitter's) property.
Far North District Council CON200404369 (01-02) CON200407356 (01-08)	Consents associated with water supply for Omapere/Opononi. Existing water takes from Waiotemarama Stream and dam on Waiarohia Stream	24 and 25 September 2007	Hearing adjourned to allow the applicant to provide the results of consultation with Iwi.
Director-General of Conservation CON20082006901	Aerial application of Brodifacoum on Eastern Bay of Islands (Rat eradication)		Fifty-two submissions received, including seven late. Fifty submissions in support, nine wishing to be heard, including two submissions against. Hearing postponed to allow applicant to provide a report on how cultural matters have been addressed.
K Male & Far North District Council CON20071804801	Seawall in Taipa Estuary	RCA Hearing held 7 May 2008	All submitters have withdrawn their wish to be heard. Recommendation to the Minister pending.
Crest Energy Limited CON20061607602	New application with proposed cable landfall at Pouto instead of Glorit	24 August 2007 to 21 September 2007	Hearing scheduled for week beginning 26 May 2008.
D C Schmuck CON20060791410	Replacement consents for various discharges to land, air and water at Doug's Opuia Boatyard	11 March 2008	Decision issued 29 April 2008.

Applicant	Proposal	Date of Hearing	Decision Issued/Comment
Northern Dairylands Limited CON20071792701	Causeway across a flood plain of the Waitaua Stream, a tributary of the Kaihu River, for the purpose of stock movement	12 March 2008	Hearings Commissioners granted consent on 28 March 2008. No appeals received. Consent issued 29 April 2008.
Far North Holdings Limited CON20071835101	Placement of clean fill and dredge disposal for site formation at Opuā	Joint hearing held on 17 March 2008	Hearings Committee decision issued 9 April 2008. No appeals received.
O B Holdings Ltd CON20041213701	Earthworks for 4.5 km access road for 44 lot subdivision at Cove Road, Langs Beach	Joint hearing held 9 to 11 April 2008	Hearings Committee presently deliberating.

APPEALS/OBJECTIONS

Applicant	Proposal	Progress
Advance Developments Ltd CON20061540301	Subdivision earthworks at Tutukaka	Applicant requested to provide further landscape and visual information for revised proposal, prior to setting date for Court hearing.
Far North District Council CON19940739901	Replacement Hihi Beach sewerage discharge consents	Environment Court issued a Consent Order on 1 May 2008 granting consent subject to agreed amendments to a number of consent conditions.
Far North District Council & Far North Holdings Limited CON20051368901	Exclusive occupation of coastal marine area at various locations	One appeal lodged relating to one occupation area only (Waitangi). Formal notice of a Court assisted mediation session now awaited.
Goldpine Limited CON20061698001	Roundwood production and treatment plant, Flyers Road	Four appeals received against NRC decision and one against WDC decision. Four Section 274 parties on appeal against NRC decision and five on appeal against WDC decision. The Court has set a timetable for exchange of evidence in preparation for a full Hearing in June 2008. The Court required that experts also confer on technical matters and report back to the Court by 5 May 2008 on areas of agreement and disagreement on. The experts met in Auckland on 1 May.
Northland Regional Council CON20041257401	Awanui flood management scheme	Four appeals received. Informal resolution of one appeal but others still outstanding. Environment Court-appointed mediation held on 14 February to attempt resolution of outstanding issues. While there was an indication of agreements being possible, these were not reached on the day, but six weeks was given for settlement documents to be completed. Still attempting informal resolution.

Recommendation

That the information on resource consent decisions and applications in process be received.

COMPLIANCE WITH DECISION MAKING PROCESS

The activities detailed in this report are provided for in the Council's 2006/2016 LTCCP, and as such are in accordance with the Council's decision-making process and sections 76-82 of the Local Government Act 2002.

CONSENTS DECISIONS AND APPLICATIONS IN PROCESS.DOC

Appointment of Hearings Committees and Delegations

File: 110.8

Report from the Consents Manager, David Roke dated 7 May 2008.

DELEGATION TO HEAR AND DECIDE CONSENT APPLICATIONS

Members for Hearings Committees are required to be appointed to hear and decide applications. In discussion with the Chairperson of the Hearings Committee, the following recommendations are made:

Hearings Committee replacement for Cr Brown

As Cr Brown is presently indisposed, alternative appointments are required for two Hearings Committees:

Crest Energy Limited – CON20061607601 – Kaipara Harbour Marine Turbine Power Generation Project

The Council has already appointed Cr Hill (Chair), Cr Brown, and Commissioner J Dahm (the Minister of Conservation's appointee) to hear, decide and make recommendation to the Minister, on these applications, set down for a hearing commencing on 26 May. The Council has often had Commissioner John Smart, an expert in coastal processes, on its larger project coastal consent hearing committees. It is recommended that, given his knowledge of the Northland coast, availability at short notice, absence of any known perception of bias, and knowledge to the Regional Coastal Plan, he replace Cr Brown on the Committee.

The Rotary Club of Maungaturoto and Districts Incorporated – CON20071215401 – For a Proposed Swimming Pontoon at Bullet Point, Mangawhai Harbour

Due to the urgency - the proposed hearing date being 16 May, and given Cr Brown's situation and also Cr Hill's unavailability, independent commissioner Les Simmons has already been appointed (on 7 May) by a quorum of the Council's Hearings Committee (replacing Cr Hill (Chair) and Cr Brown)

Paihia Maritime Properties Limited – CONCON20080624501 – Replacement Resource Consents for the Existing Aquarium/Cafe Building Adjoining Marsden Road and Paihia Wharf

A Hearings Committee comprising Cr Walker (Chair) and Cr Carr is suggested, to hear and decide the application, should a pre-hearing meeting not result in informal resolution. Given the past problems with non-attendance at past pre-hearing meetings of one of the three submitters on this application, approval is also sought for that submitter to be required to attend the proposed pre-hearing meeting on this application. The applicant agrees to the proposed approach.

Recommendations

1. That Commissioner John Smart replace Cr Brown on a hearings committee now comprising Cr Hill (Chair), J Dahm, and John Smart appointed to hear and decide the applications by **Crest Energy Limited – CON20061607601** – Kaipara Harbour Marine Turbine Power.
2. That Cr Walker (Chair) and Cr Carr appointed to hear and decide the applications by **Paihia Maritime Properties Limited – CONCON20080624501** – replacement resource consents for the existing aquarium/cafe building adjoining Marsden Road and Paihia Wharf, in the event that a hearing becomes necessary. **AND** Given the past problems with non-attendance at previous pre-hearing meetings of one of the three submitters on this application, approval is also given for that submitter to be required to attend the proposed pre-hearing meeting on this application.
3. That the advice of the appointment of Independent Commissioner Les Simmons (replacing Cr Hill (Chair) and Cr Brown) to hear and decide on the applications by **The Rotary Club of Maungaturoto and Districts Incorporated – CON20071215401** for a proposed swimming pontoon at Bullet Point, Mangawhai Harbour, be received.

COMPLIANCE WITH DECISION MAKING PROCESS

The activities detailed in this report are provided for in the Council's 2006/2016 LTCCP, and in accordance with the Council's statutory delegations approved in July 2004. As such they are in accordance with the Council's decision making process and sections 76-82 of the Local Government Act 2002.

Biosecurity Act 1993 and Resource Management Act 1991 Warrants

File: 100.2, 220.4.1, 220.4.6

Report from Land Operations Manager Bob Cathcart dated 6 May 2008.

PURPOSE

To authorise the issuing of warrants of appointment under the Biosecurity Act 1993 and the Resource Management Act 1991 to officers within the Land Operations Department.

INTRODUCTION

The duties of the listed officers require them to enter onto property to enforce the provisions of the Biosecurity Act (BSA) and the Resource Management Act (RMA), undertake inspections and, in the case of the Biosecurity Officers, issue instructions and/or undertake pest control operations. In accordance with Council Policy, staff are required to be with Council at least six months and have undergone specific training prior to them being delegated the authority to issue abatement notices under the RMA. Consequently only powers to seek information and for entry onto property are being recommended at this stage.

The officers involved are:

Joseph Owen Camuso	River Management Engineer
Benjamin Leeuwenburg	River Management Technical Officer
Stefan Alfred Johann Seitzer	Land Management Team Leader
Debbie Kay Johnson	Land Management Officer
Vincent Roderick Lane	Catchment Management Officer
Lisa Jane Forester	Biodiversity Officer
Trevor Ross Johnson	Biosecurity Officer
Don Scott McKenzie	Biosecurity Team Leader
Michael Knight	Pest Management Officer, Kaitaia

The Council is asked to authorise the issuing of warrant of appointment to the above officers, evidencing their authorities under the following sections of the Resource Management Act 1991:

- 22 Power to seek information, including the names and addresses of persons believed to have breached the Act.
- 332 Power of entry onto private property (except dwelling house); and to take samples of water, air, soil or organic matter.
- 333 Power to enter property to carry out surveys, investigations, tests or measurements.

In addition, the Committee and Council is advised that the Council's Chief Executive Officer, exercising his powers under Section 103 of the Biosecurity Act, has issued warrants of appointment as "authorised persons" under the Biosecurity Act to each of the above officers with authority under the following sections of that Act :

- 106 Power to require assistance
- 109 Power of inspection

- 113 Power to record information
- 114 General Powers
- 121 Power to examine organisms
- 122 Power to give directions

In addition, the Don McKenzie and Michael Knight have the following powers under the Biosecurity Act:

- 115 Use of dogs and devices (applies particularly to the use of firearms and pesticides to control pest species and requires the approved person to hold the appropriate licenses)
- 121A Power to apply article or substance to a place (relates to laying of, for example, baits to determine the presence or otherwise of an pest organism)

Recommendation

1. That the report Biosecurity Act 1993 and Resource Management Act 1991 warrants by Land Operations Manager Bob Cathcart, dated 6 May 2008, be received.
2. That warrants of appointment under the Resource Management Act 1991 be issued to:

Joseph Owen Camuso	River Management Engineer
Benjamin Leeuwenburg	River Management Technical Officer
Stefan Alfred Johann Seitzer	Land Management Team Leader
Debbie Kay Johnson	Land Management Officer
Vincent Roderick Lane	Catchment Management Officer
Lisa Jane Forester	Biodiversity Officer
Trevor Ross Johnson	Biosecurity Officer
Don Scott McKenzie	Biosecurity Team Leader
Michael Knight	Pest Management Officer, Kaitaia
3. That it is noted that the Chief Executive Officer has appointed Joseph Owen Camuso, Benjamin Leeuwenburg, Stefan Alfred Johann Seitzer, Debbie Kay Johnson, Vincent Roderick Lane, Lisa Jane Forester, Trevor Ross Johnson, Don Scott McKenzie and Michael Knight as authorised persons pursuant to section 103, of the Biosecurity Act 1993, who may exercise powers under sections 106, 109, 113, 114, 121, and 122 of that Act; and
4. That it is noted that Don Scott McKenzie and Michael Knight may exercise the additional powers provided by sections 115 and 121A of that Act.

COMPLIANCE WITH DECISION MAKING PROCESS

The activities detailed in this report are provided for in the Council's 2006-2016 Long Term Council Community Plan and as such are in accordance with the Council's decision-making process and sections 76 to 82 of the Local Government Act 2002.

Confirmation of Minutes – Regional Land Transport Committee

File 110.6

The Minutes of the Regional Land Transport Committee meeting to be held on 20 May 2008 at 10 am will be tabled at the Council meeting for confirmation and adoption.

E:\TEMPORARY WORK AREA\2008 AGENDAS\2008 COUNCIL MEETINGS\MAY 2008\RLTC CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES.DOC

Confirmation of Minutes - Environmental Management Committee

File 110.12

The Minutes of the Environmental Management Committee meeting to be held on 21 May 2008 at 10 am will be tabled at the Council meeting for confirmation and adoption.

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Business with the Public Excluded

Recommendation

That pursuant to the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987, the public be excluded from the remainder of the meeting to consider:

1. Confirmation of the confidential section of the Minutes of the Council meeting held on 16 April 2008.
2. Confirmation of the Confidential Section of the Minutes of the Audit and Finance Committee meeting of 23 April 2008.
3. Notes of Confidential Council Workshop held on 16 April 2008.
4. Notes of Confidential Council Workshop held on 30 April 2008.
5. Verbal Update on Major Projects by Chief Executive Officer

The reasons for excluding the public in relation to items 1 and 4 are as stated in the Minutes of those meetings.

The reason for excluding the public in relation to item 5 is that public conduct of the proceedings would be likely to result in the disclosure of information, the withholding of which is necessary to allow the Council to conduct without prejudice or disadvantage commercial activities pursuant to Section 7(2)(h) and (i) of the said Act.