

## YOUR LOCAL FAR NORTH COUNCILLORS

Ō koutou kaikaunihera ā-rohe ki Te Hiku o te Ika



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Find out more: [www.nrc.govt.nz/councillors](http://www.nrc.govt.nz/councillors)

## Residents survey

He uiuinga whānui o ngā kainoho

We'd love to hear from you about the work we do, what's important to you and how we can do better. Follow the link or scan the QR code to share your views with us.

[nrc.govt.nz/residentssurvey](http://nrc.govt.nz/residentssurvey)



## TŌ TĀTOU TAITOKERAU Our Northland

GET LOCAL  
NEWS DIRECT TO  
YOUR INBOX.



Sign-up to receive stories, events and updates on the great mahi happening around Northland - for our environment, for our mokopuna.

SCAN THE QR CODE  
TO SIGN UP

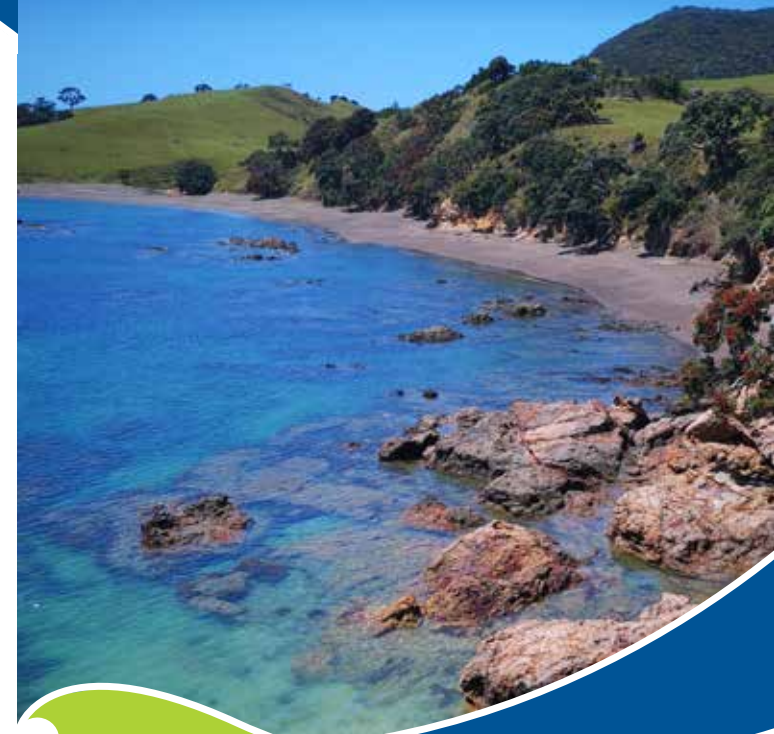


For more info visit:  
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**Northland**  
REGIONAL COUNCIL  
Te Kaunihera ā rohe o Te Taitokerau

# Working for a thriving Northland

E mahi nei kia tōnui ai  
Te Taitokerau



Far North district  
January 2026

**Northland**  
REGIONAL COUNCIL  
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*Geologists, archaeologists and local hapū inspect a test pit dug along the proposed route of a proposed new channel for the Kaeo River.*

## IMPORTANT LOCAL FLOOD WORK CONTINUES

### E haere tonu ana ngā mahi waipuke ā-rohe

**We're continuing important work on two Far North schemes designed to help lessen the risk local communities face from flooding.**

The Kaeo River – Whangaroa Catchment Working Group last year supported the construction of \$1.5 million flood protection works for Kaeo township and adjacent portions of State Highway 10 for resilience to home and business owners and main roading routes.

The project will see the junction of the Waikara Stream and Kaeo River shifted 500 metres downstream and a new 500-metre long deflection bank constructed alongside Kaeo township. Once complete, the project is expected to reduce the depth of floodwaters in Kaeo during a one in a hundred year flood event by up to half a metre.

This project is funded through a combination of targeted and regionwide flood infrastructure rates and central government funding from National Infrastructure Funding and Financing (formerly Crown Infrastructure Partners). Earthworks are underway and are expected to take several months, depending on the weather.

Meanwhile, we're planning to spend \$2.5 million over the next two years to remove a weak spot in our long-running, multimillion dollar Awanui flood scheme on the Lower Whangatane Spillway at Kumi Rd near Awanui township.

This project will take about two years to complete and will see about two kilometres of stopbanks set back by up to 250 metres, effectively creating more room in the river channel for floodwaters.

This will also reduce the flood level there by about half a metre which may not seem like a lot but could be the difference between the floodwaters overtopping the stopbanks or not.

The Crown is funding \$1.5M of the cost via the Regional Infrastructure Fund and we will fund the remaining \$1M through existing rates.

## Local Government reform and you

### Te whakahoutanga o te kāwanatanga ā-rohe me tō whai wāhi

**As ratepayers you are no doubt interested in central government's proposals for local government reform and how this will affect you.**

It's still early days but the government is proposing a two-part plan which would first see our regional councillors replaced with a panel of Northland's three district mayors, creating a 'Combined Territories Board' (CTB). The second part would require the CTB to propose its own model for the future of local government in its region, in line with government criteria.

You can read more about it here: [www.dia.govt.nz/simplifying-local-government](http://www.dia.govt.nz/simplifying-local-government)

We agree that it's time for a major review as our current system has been in place for 35 years, but we want to ensure any reform is in the best interests of Northland as a whole, rather than a solution imposed by Wellington.

All four Northland councils are united in working together proactively on solutions to better serve our communities and the region. Central government is calling for public submissions on its proposal until 20 February 2026.

## Are you GOOD TO GO *this summer?*

**Kua rite katoa koe mō tēnei raumati?**

Before you hit the beach, visit your favourite lake or river, or head out on the boat, check out our online 'Good to Go' hub. It's a one-stop-shop for the latest local rules, regulations, and tips to help you and your whānau have a safe and enjoyable summer.

You'll find information on fishing, diving, and anchoring restrictions in the Bay of Islands, and guidance on how you can help protect our lakes and rivers from invasive freshwater clam. The hub also includes a link to Safeswim, so you can find up to the minute information of water quality and conditions at your favourite swimming spot. To explore the hub and make sure you're 'Good to Go', visit

[www.nrc.govt.nz/goodtogo](http://www.nrc.govt.nz/goodtogo)

*Are you  
GOOD TO GO?  
this summer?*

