

Draft Annual Plan 2010-2011



SUMMARY

Find out more and have your say
on what your Regional Council
wants to do for you.

Putting Northland first

NORTHLAND
REGIONAL
COUNCIL



a word from the chairman and chief executive officer

A proposal to develop a Regional Growth Programme, water quality initiatives, rekindled debate about the future make up of Northland's local government and an election are just some of the many issues facing your Regional Council over the next 12 months.

These and other challenges – coming as Northland works to recover from the aftermath of the global recession – signal yet another busy year for the Council and the community it serves.

This Draft Annual Plan largely follows a path set out last year when the Council adopted its Northland Community Plan for 2009-2019, however, this Draft contains some new initiatives too.

To pay for these and other expenditure over the next 12 months, the Council is seeking your input on what is effectively a sliding scale of possible general rates increases ranging from 3.3 percent to 12.39% (excluding river rates) – page 7.

At the lower end, a general rates increase of 3.3% would add around \$4.70 (including GST) annually to the average rates bill, while at the upper end, the average yearly rates bill would increase by about \$18.15.

The higher increase would pay for initiatives including:

- A Regional Growth Programme (\$451,000) – page 3.
- Water quality initiatives (\$113,000) – page 4.
- A mangrove removal and sediment management programme (\$135,000) – page 5.
- Rugby World Cup regional coordination (\$135,000) – page 5.

On the planning front, the Council is poised to embark on some very important work in 2010-2011, including a proposal to develop a Regional Growth Programme and a new generation Regional Policy Statement (page 3).

The coming year will also see the Regional Council continue work on the development, or updating, of flood risk reduction plans for the 27 rivers in Northland carrying the highest levels of flood risk (page 9).

Work with Flood Management Community Liaison Committees – including at Awanui and in Whāngārei's Central Business District – will continue (page 4).

We'll also continue plans to implement a more rigorous regional water allocation regime to ensure Northland's water resources are managed in a sustainable way and not over allocated (page 9).



We would greatly appreciate your thoughts on this Draft Annual Plan and urge you to have your say before submissions close on May 10. A submission form can be found on page 11 of this summary document.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Mark Farnsworth".

Mark Farnsworth
Chairman

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Ken Paterson".

Ken Paterson
Chief Executive Officer

have your say

The Regional Council is urging all Northlanders to take some time to make their views known on where – and how – it should spend ratepayers' money.

The public has until Monday 10 May to comment on the Regional Council's Draft Annual Plan 2010-2011.

The Draft Annual Plan 2010-2011 provides updated financial information on the budget and rates for the coming financial year. The community has the opportunity to help determine where and how the budget is spent.

The Draft Annual Plan 2010-2011 supports the Northland Community Plan 2009-2019. The Draft Annual Plan only focuses on identifying any changes or additions to – rather than repeating – the detailed information contained in the Community Plan. It is important that the Draft Annual Plan is read together with the Northland Community Plan.

Copies of the Draft Annual Plan 2010-2011, the Northland Community Plan 2009-2019 and this Summary are available from all Regional Council offices.

The Draft Annual Plan and this Summary are available on the Council website at www.nrc.govt.nz/draftannualplan and the Community Plan is available at www.nrc.govt.nz/ltcp. You can also phone the Regional Council on 0800 002 004 and copies will be posted to you.

focus for the year 2010-2011

In this section you'll find the key issues, actions and projects the Council has identified as priorities for Northland in the coming year. Your feedback is also needed on a number of projects so you will find "YOUR CHOICE" highlighted on these projects throughout this section.

regional growth programme

In the latest Community Plan the Council identified the Regional Growth Programme as one of its key priorities for 2010-2011 and beyond.

The Regional Growth Programme will provide a framework to prioritise economic and environmental infrastructure, enabling the Council to effectively target its resources. The programme will also provide a structure to manage the complex relationship between environmental protection, economic resilience and growth and the provision of necessary infrastructure for Northland.

To date, preliminary work has been funded from Regional Council reserves. The next stage is to consult with key stakeholders on the priorities for the region and the various options available that will ensure Northland prospers and grows.

Also in the Community Plan 2009-2019, the Council flagged its intention to set a rate in the upcoming financial year to help fund the activities needed to develop and carry out the Regional Growth Programme.

The Council is now seeking public comment on the proposal to increase the Targeted Council Services rate by \$450,795 (including GST) a year to help fund this work. It is proposed the rate be paid by all Northland ratepayers with Far North ratepayers paying an extra \$4.97 (including GST), Kaipara \$5.80 and Whāngārei ratepayers an extra \$5.37 per year.

More information on the proposed rate increase to fund the Regional Growth Programme can be found in the Draft Annual Plan 2010-2011.

YOUR CHOICE

- OPTION 1:** support the increase of the Targeted Council Services rate to enable the Council to continue with the development and implementation of the Regional Growth Programme, with Far North ratepayers paying an extra \$4.97 (including GST), Kaipara \$5.80 and Whāngārei ratepayers an extra \$5.37 per year; or
- OPTION 2:** support a different amount of rates contribution; or
- OPTION 3:** do not support the rate increase.



regional policy statement – shaping northland's future

The Regional Council is responsible for developing and implementing a "Regional Policy Statement" (RPS).

Northland's RPS provides the broad direction and framework for managing Northland's natural and physical resources. This includes the land, water, air, soil, minerals, energy, all plants and animals, and physical structures.

Preparing a new RPS provides an opportunity to review the current balance between use, development and protection of Northland's natural and physical resources.

There will be many opportunities for Northlanders to have their say and help shape the content and approach of the next RPS. The first chance will be between July and November this year when an "Issues and Options" document will be released seeking views on the significant regional issues and the options available to the Regional Council (and others) for sustainably managing them.

More information on the new RPS, including an overview of the consultation process and timeline, can be found in the Draft Annual Plan 2010-2011.

Preparing the new RPS is a statutory requirement for the Council that has already been budgeted for as part of the latest Community Plan.

A questionnaire is available on the Council website – www.nrc.govt.nz/newRPS – and all Regional Council offices. The questionnaire asks what you think are the major natural and physical resource issues facing Northland and how you think these issues could be dealt with in the future.

focus for the year 2010-2011 continued

priority rivers – Whāngārei central business district flood risk reduction

The Northland Regional Council Priority Rivers Project centres on 27 catchments around Northland.

The catchments have been identified as priorities for flood risk planning by the Council and local communities because of the potential threats the rivers and streams pose to lives, buildings, road access, infrastructure and agriculture.

A flood management community liaison committee for the Whāngārei urban catchments – including the Central Business District (CBD) – has been set up, in line with those already operating for the Awanui, Kaeo and Kaihū catchments.

The Whāngārei committee provides the Council with an opportunity to more actively communicate with stakeholders and affected residents as it investigates options and carries out flood risk reduction measures.

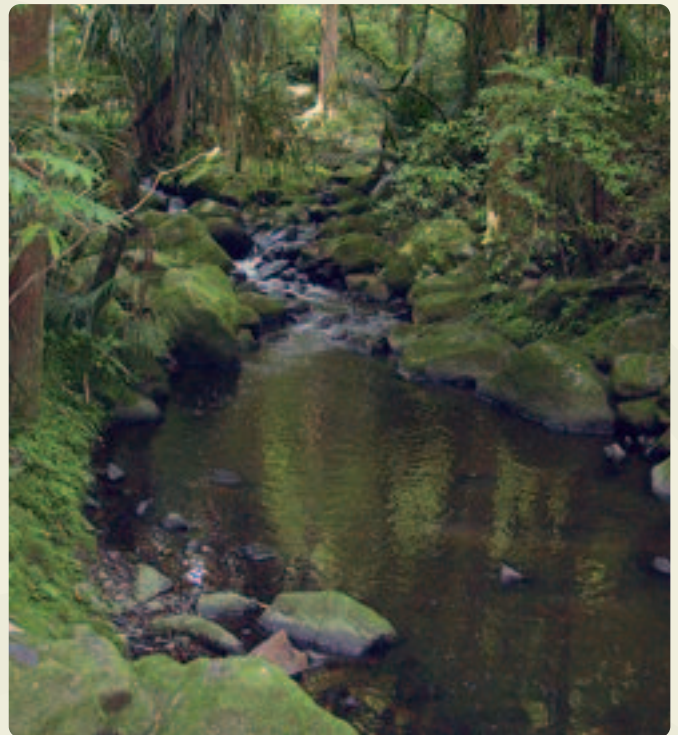
The Whāngārei District Council has already investigated and assessed flood risk and risk reduction measures for the Whāngārei CBD, developing a CBD Floodplain Management Strategy that provides a detailed conceptual analysis of flood hazards, risks, and mitigation and benefit costs, estimating an annual total flood risk cost of \$5.57M to the Whāngārei CBD.

Seven flood management options were presented in the strategy, ranging in cost from \$22M to \$56M.

The strategy was completed in 2007 and public consultation was carried out around the potential flood management schemes. Little public feedback was received during the consultation process and no preferred option was finalised.

Further consultation will be required under the Local Government Act before any decisions are made on the establishment of flood control schemes and the setting of targeted rates to cover the funding of schemes.

It is proposed to have costed works and targeted rates funding options ready for public consultation in conjunction with the 2011-2012 Annual Plan process (if not before). As a result, there is no budget adjustment in this Draft Annual Plan over and above what has already been budgeted for in the Northland Community Plan 2009-2019.



water quality initiatives

Improvement of water quality in Northland is recognised by the Council as a top priority. To ensure more progress in this area, the Council is proposing to increase funding for water quality initiatives in the 2010-2011 year, over and above what was budgeted for in the Northland Community Plan.

The Council proposes to budget an additional \$112,500 (including GST) for new initiatives aimed at improving Northland's water quality. This funding is in addition to the substantial programme of current work already underway including the Dairy Farm Effluent Improvement Project and the Northland Sewage Accord.

The extra funding will be used to support community-led initiatives such as those in the Wairoa Hokianga, Bay of Islands Baycare, Doubtless Bay Community Care and Whangaroa Harbour Group projects. Work in bathing water catchments – where water quality is a problem – will also be increased.

YOUR CHOICE

- OPTION 1: support the \$112,500 increase in funding to be spent on improving water quality in Northland; or
- OPTION 2: support a different funding contribution; or
- OPTION 3: oppose this additional expenditure to improve water quality in the 2010-2011 financial year.

More information on the Council's planned activities in relation to water quality can be found in the environmental monitoring section on pages 161 to 176 of volume 1 of the Northland Community Plan 2009-2019 and in the Land and Biodiversity activity on page 188. Copies of the Community Plan are available from all Regional Council offices or on the Council website www.nrc.govt.nz/ltcpcp



mangrove removal and sediment management

The Council is proposing to introduce a programme of work to actively manage mangroves in areas where they are contributing to problems including flooding, drainage and lowered amenity values.

Changes have already been made to the Regional Coastal Plan to allow for resource consent to remove mangroves, under certain conditions.

The Council is now considering options that would enable community-led initiatives to fund the removal of mangroves. These options may include Regional Council support for resource consent; rates-funded removal of specific areas of mangroves; or applications to the Council's Environment Fund to pay for such work.

Should the Council go ahead, it is likely a call for expressions of interest from community groups – who are interested in partnering with the Council in this project – will be made. A process including assessment of the impacts of any mangrove removals would be undertaken. It is anticipated that communities would pay for the physical removal of mangroves in their area.

The Council is proposing that \$135,000 (including GST) be included in the 2010-2011 financial year to fund the other work required to implement mangrove removal and sediment management projects including impact assessments and community liaison.

YOUR CHOICE

- OPTION 1:** support the Council's proposal to budget \$135,000 to assess mangrove removal and sediment management work; or
- OPTION 2:** support the project with a different amount of funding; or
- OPTION 3:** oppose the Council's proposal to introduce a programme to actively manage mangroves in Northland.

co-governance with Māori

Co-governance has had an increasingly high profile as part of Government Treaty settlement processes and can be anything from minimum involvement in a decision making process through to the full delegation of power to an entity.

Formal co-governance structures have been set up by separate legislation – for example for the Waikato River Settlement – often over specific resources, and a range of organisations have been represented on the co-governance bodies including; Iwi, Regional Councils, District Councils and the Crown.

Not all co-governance has been legislated for. Non-statutory arrangements for specific resources – for example in New Plymouth where it is used for selected New Plymouth Port assets – have also been used.

As the iwi and hapū of Tai Tokerau further engage with the Crown over Treaty settlements in Northland, the role of the Council in co-governance and/or other decision making and resource management processes will be developed.



rugby world cup pre-planning

Planning for Northland's Rugby World Cup 2011 (RWC) is well underway and details of team hosting and game dates have now been confirmed. The teams from Canada, Tonga and Asia 1 will be based in Whāngārei and the Bay of Islands during September 2011 – games include Tonga vs Canada on 14 September 2011 and Tonga vs Asia on 21 September 2011.

Governance and Working Party groups have been established – made up of all key stakeholders and funders – and a Charter has also been signed by all Council Mayors, Chairs and Chief Executives committing to delivering a high quality RWC festival that benefits all of Northland.

Task teams have been put in place to handle the detailed planning required – everything from traffic management, to security and safety, to festivals and celebrations.

A web site has been established to highlight the Northland RWC 2011 activity and to provide key information. For more information go to www.northland2011.com

The Council is proposing to budget \$135,000 (including GST) towards the personnel costs of a RWC project manager, a share of visitor programme costs for Destination Northland to carry out offshore promotional work and a share of the cost of Enterprise Northland to host inward investment events and business to business forums.

YOUR CHOICE

- OPTION 1:** support the Council's proposal to contribute \$135,000 towards RWC pre-planning; or
- OPTION 2:** support the event with a different amount of funding; or
- OPTION 3:** oppose the Council's proposal to contribute \$135,000 towards RWC pre-planning.

focus for the year 2010-2011 continued

aquaculture

Aquaculture is an industry with significant growth opportunities for Northland and has the potential to provide a positive economic impact to the more rural areas of the region.

As part of its role as a leader of economic strategy in Northland, the Regional Council wants to fully investigate and evaluate the potential, and the effects of aquaculture in the region before any decisions about the industry's future are made.

In conjunction with Enterprise Northland, the Council will work with central government agencies, the aquaculture industry and other key stakeholders to work out how it can assist with the sustainable development of aquaculture in a way that best meets the needs of Northlanders.

The Council will provide updates in future Annual Plans or Long Term Council Community Plans as more information becomes available and public comment will be sought on the preferred way forward for Northland.



broadband

The Regional Council remains actively interested in the provision of world class broadband infrastructure throughout Northland.

As detailed in the Northland Community Plan 2009-2019, the Council to date has assumed the lead role in working with central government and other groups – including Iwi, Kordia, FX Net, Northpower and Top Energy – to progress broadband services and other communication technologies in Northland.

The Council has now passed this lead role on to other groups who are currently driving the initiative. However, the Council is ready to help in any way appropriate for a public sector entity that benefits the economy and future well being of the people of Northland.

minerals

Northland has a wide range of mineral goods and currently produces cement, high quality ceramic clays, limestone for agriculture, and rock and sand aggregates. There are also prospects for aluminium, bentonite, coal, copper, diatomite, feldspar sand, gold, kauri gum, lead, mercury, nickel, peat, phosphate, serpentinite, silica sand, zeolite and zinc.

The NZ Institute of Economic Research has estimated the potential economic benefits to discover and develop Northland's mineral resources at \$47 billion (excluding aggregate, limestone and sand).

Before any important decisions are made about the future of the mineral industry in Northland, the Council and communities need to understand the nature and extent of mineral deposits in Northland. Once this information is available, the Council and communities will be well placed to manage these resources for future generations.

For the year ahead, the Council will work with central government, industry and other local authorities to determine the way forward.

As a result, no specific funding has been allocated to mineral assessments or investigation in this year's Annual Plan. Any future proposals on mineral investigations or projects will be outlined in future annual plans or community plans with public comment sought before any decisions to fund are made.

possible future development of a national conference and events centre at Waitangi

The Regional Council has been approached by Enterprise Northland, the Waitangi Trust Board and Far North Holdings Ltd to support the development of a National Conference and Events Centre at Waitangi in the Bay of Islands.

The Council has asked that the decision whether or not to contribute any funding to this project be postponed until after the development of a list of prioritised infrastructure for Northland. Such a list will be used to help guide the Council and others in making economic development decisions for Northland.



money matters

We are forecasting total operational spending of \$24.5 million during 2010-2011.

Operational spending provides for the Council's day-to-day operations and services; things like working with the community to care for Northland's environment – air, land, water and coast.

The Council is also responsible for flood management, looking after the navigational safety of all vessels in our region's harbours and working with regional and national agencies to help ensure the provision and security of core regional infrastructure like transport, energy and telecommunications.

The Council also administers Whāngārei's urban bus service and helps plan the region's transport network, ensuring there is enough water for everyone. It protects our environment from the harmful impacts of pest animals, pest plants and diseases and co-ordinates Northland's Civil Defence Emergency Management Group.

The prospective Statement of Comprehensive Income shows our budgeted operating revenue and expenditure

	LTCCP Forecast 2010-2011 \$ GST EXC	Draft Annual Plan Forecast 2010-2011 \$ GST EXC
Total Revenue	25,465,295	25,289,099
Total Operating Expenditure	24,859,337	24,456,119
Net Surplus/(Deficit) from Operations	605,958	832,980
Transfer from/(to) Reserves	(509,575)	(737,339)
Total Comprehensive Income after Transfers from/(to) Reserves	96,383	95,641

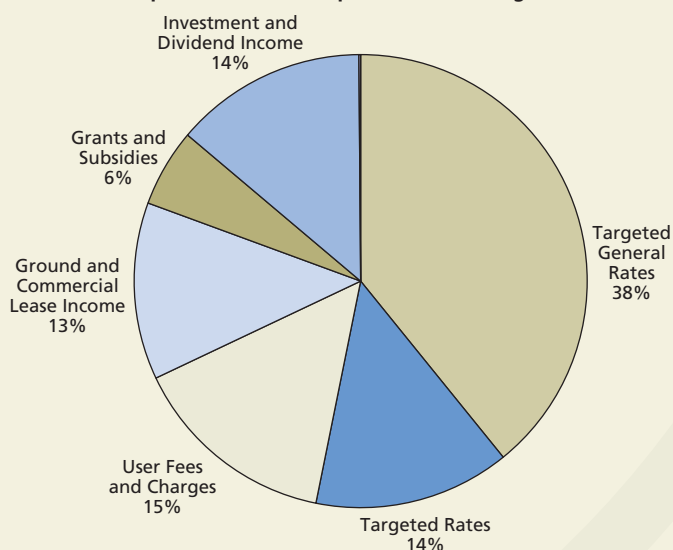
Where will the money come from?

Operating expenses are funded through rates, fees and charges, grants and subsidies and other income.

Rating currently provides 52% of the Council's income, user fees another 15% and grants and subsidies 6%. The balance comes from investment income (14%) and ground and commercial lease income (13%).

The graph below shows these funding sources for the next 12 months.

2010-2011 Proposed sources of operational funding and revenue



Our proposed funding for 2010-2011 is \$25.2 million.

rates

Our Draft Annual Plan 2010-2011 calls for a rates increase of between 3.3% and 12.39%, excluding river rates.

The final rates increase adopted by the Council will effectively depend on submissions made during public consultation on the Draft Annual Plan and which – if any – of several proposed initiatives the community supports.

At the lowest end, the Draft Annual Plan calls for a 3.3% general rates increase generating an extra roughly \$400,000 (GST inclusive) in rates. This follows a comprehensive review of Council operating budgets and is equivalent to a rates increase of about \$4.70 per ratepayer. It would cover inflationary increases and minor adjustments across a number of Regional Council activities.

However, the Draft Annual Plan also includes proposals to fund several optional initiatives including:

- A Regional Growth Programme (\$450,795)
- Water quality initiatives (\$112,500)
- A Rugby World Cup Regional Project Manager (\$135,000)
- A mangrove removal programme (\$135,000)

If the public was supportive and these and other initiatives were adopted by Council, the average ratepayer's rates bill would increase by approximately \$18 a year or 12.39%. (A rates increase of this order would generate an extra \$1.57 million.)

The fixed charges for the Targeted Northland Regional Recreational Services Rate, the Targeted Transport Rate (Whāngārei only) and the Targeted Rescue Helicopter Services Rate have not been increased.

Rates collected for river management schemes are excluded from the above calculations. The Council is proposing to increase River Management Rates by 3.3% in the 2010-2011 financial year.

Targeted general rates are made up of two rates; a Council Services Rate and a Land Management Rate. Targeted general rates are paid on all rateable properties in Northland.

Other targeted rates include River Management Rates, a Northland Regional Recreational Facilities Rate, a Regional Infrastructure Rate, a Transport Services Rate (Whāngārei only) and a Rescue Helicopter Services Rate.

Understanding the impact of inflation on rates

Total Council rates for the 2010-2011 financial year are \$13,396,525 (GST exclusive).

- 1% rate increase = \$133,965 in revenue
- 1% increase in expenditure = \$244,561
- This means Council must increase rates by 1.8% for every one percent increase in its spending.

money matters continued

What level of rates can you expect to pay?

Proposed 2010-2011 Financial Year Rates (assuming Land Value is \$200,000)	Far North (per SUIP)	Kaipara (per RU)	Whāngārei (per SUIP)
Council Services Rate	\$70.09	\$81.70	\$77.39
Land Management Rate	\$35.66	\$34.98	\$39.62
Regional Recreational Facilities Rate	\$5.63	\$5.63	\$28.13
Regional Infrastructure Rate	\$4.86	\$4.76	\$5.40
Rescue Helicopter Services Rate	\$8.28	\$8.28	\$8.28
Transport Rate			\$11.98
TOTAL (including GST of 12.5%)	\$124.52	\$135.35	\$170.80

The above table identifies what your rates will be if your property has a land value of \$200,000. It should be noted the Targeted Land Management and Targeted Regional Infrastructure Rate are set as a rate in the dollar per dollar of land value. The rate in the dollar is different for each district as the rates are equalised using data provided by Quotable Value to effectively align the three Districts values dates. If the valuation dates were aligned, the Land Management and Regional Infrastructure Rate would be set as the same rate in the dollar across all three Districts.

user fees and charges

We also impose fees and charges for some of our services.

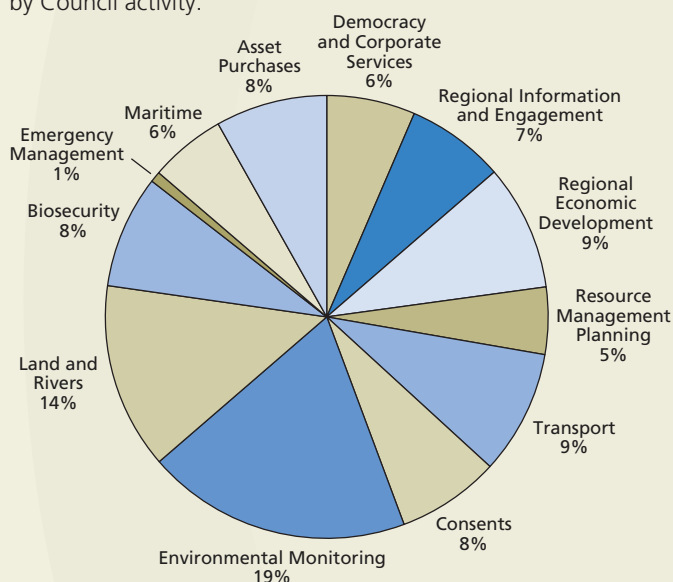
Fees and charges are applied in accordance with the Council's Fees and Charges Policy.

The Council is proposing to leave its user fees and charges largely unchanged for the 2010-2011 financial year. However, an increase in resource application fees is proposed. Increases are also proposed for permitted activity dairy shed effluent system fees to reflect increased costs. Hātea River Channel Fees have been discontinued. These fees were expected to be levied for a three year period commencing 2008-2009, however, due to the dredging coming in under budget, the Council is able to discontinue these charges one year ahead of schedule.

expenditure

We are forecasting total gross spending of \$26.7 million during 2010-2011.

This graph shows the allocation of our proposed spending by Council activity.



capital expenditure

The proposed 2010-2011 capital expenditure for Regional Council operational assets totals \$2,225,580. This does not include any proposed carry forwards of unspent capital expenditure from the 2009-2010 financial year.

It is anticipated that for ongoing projects where capital expenditure remains unspent at the end of the current financial year, this will be assessed and with approval of the Audit and Finance Committee, will be carried forward into the following year to enable projects to be completed.

other matters included in the Draft Annual Plan 2010-2011

Charging Policy

The Resource Management Act 1991 and the Aquaculture Reform (Repeals and Transitional Provisions) Act 2004 authorise the Regional Council to fix resource consent charges relating to the Council's functions and responsibilities under the Act.

Costs are also recoverable under the Building Act 2004, Biosecurity Act 1993, the Local Government Act 2002, and Property Law Act 2007 and under the Local Government Official Information and Meetings act 1987. Costs may also be recovered under the authority of the Council's Navigational Safety Bylaws.

Proposed amended or new charges included in the Draft Annual Plan 2010-2011 are as follows:

- Revised fixed initial deposit fees for resource consent applications;
- Revise the Local Government Act 2002 charges in relation to the Permitted Activity Dairy Shed Effluent Systems – Fees.
- Make minor amendments to the Navigation, Water Transport and Maritime Safety Bylaw Charges 2009.

A full copy of the proposed 2010-2011 Charging Policy can be found on the Council's website at:

www.nrc.govt.nz/annualplanandpolicies

Proposed Amendments to the Navigation, Water Transport and Maritime Safety Bylaw charges 2009

The Navigation, Water Transport and Maritime Safety Bylaw Charges 2009 have been updated to remove charges that are no longer required and to provide clarification on an existing charge.

Proposed amendments included in the draft Annual Plan 2010-2011 are:

- Section 7(c) Pilotage fees for ships visiting the Bay of islands when the vessel's GRT is less than 500 to acknowledge the application of pilotage fees will only apply to ships where the vessel is more than 100 GRT.
- Remove fees set out in Clause 10(a) – (f) Hātea River Channel fees. The fees were set to recover \$100,000 over a three year period, however due to the project coming in under budget these user charges are no longer required.

More detailed information can be found in the Navigation, Water Transport and Maritime Safety Bylaw Charges 2009 section of the Draft Annual Plan 2010-2011.

what's been done

Since the Northland Community Plan 2009-2019 was published last year, the Council has successfully completed a wide range of projects. This section highlights some of the Council's major achievements during the past year.

northland events centre

During the last year, the Regional Council has led the construction of the Northland Events Centre at Okara Park in Whāngārei. The Council is on target to deliver on its promise to provide a multi-events centre managed by an independent Trust. It is due to be completed in May 2010, on time and within budget.

Funding for the Events Centre consists of \$13 million from the Regional Council and \$3 million from the Whāngārei District Council. An additional central government grant of \$2.5 million has also been secured to enable the Events Centre to meet the standards necessary to host Rugby World Cup games and to provide a lasting legacy for the region.

The Regional Council is working jointly with the Whāngārei District Council on the formal opening of this premier community facility, which will be managed and operated by the district council. For more information on the events centre project, visit the Council's website: www.nrc.govt.nz/leventscentre

priority rivers

The Council continued work on the development, or updating, of flood risk reduction plans for the 27 rivers in Northland that carry the highest levels of flood risk.

Detailed surveys of the floodplains in catchments have been undertaken to help develop computer flood models and produce flood hazard maps. In addition, a series of public meetings were held to gather more information about flood levels and who is affected.

Flood work in the Kaihū, Kaeo and Awanui catchments continues. Extensive flood protection work has been completed in Kaeo, including repairing and extending the existing stop bank. A detailed hydraulic river model was also developed to assess the best way to further reduce flood risks.

Water was drained from Bell's Hill near Kaitiāia to reduce the risk of the hill collapsing and threatening the town. Meanwhile, on the Kaihū River catchment, residents were asked for input on future plans for the Kaihū River scheme, while flood hazard maps were completed and flood modelling started.

More information on the Councils Land and Rivers group of activities can be found on pages 181 to 188 of Volume 1 of the Northland Community Plan 2009-2019, available at all Regional Council offices or go to: www.nrc.govt.nz/ltccp Information on the Priority Rivers Project is available on the Council website at: www.nrc.govt.nz/priorityrivers



sustainable water allocation plan

In the Northland Community Plan 2009-2019, the Council said it planned to carry out a more rigorous water allocation regime, to ensure Northland's water resources are managed in a sustainable way and not over allocated.

Work is currently underway to establish water management zones on a priority basis for allocation of freshwater resources. More information on the Sustainable Water Allocation Plan can be found on Page 13 of Volume 1 of the Northland Community Plan 2009-2019 available at all Regional Council offices or go to: www.nrc.govt.nz/ltccp

marsden point rail link designation

In October 2009, a panel of independent Commissioners recommended that national rail operator KiwiRail be allowed to formally designate the corridor of land it would use for the proposed rail link from Oakleigh to Marsden Point.

Although KiwiRail has yet to make a decision on when the proposed 20km long link might be built, it has been seeking a "legal notice of requirement" for the proposed corridor effectively protecting the route from other future development or uses that would be incompatible with a railway line.

KiwiRail has also applied to the Northland Regional Council and the Whāngārei District Council for various resource consents needed to construct, operate and maintain the proposed rail link. These consent applications have resulted in a number of appeals which the various parties (including the Regional Council) are currently working to resolve.

The proposed line would link the Marsden Point deepwater port to the national rail network. The rail link is an invaluable piece of infrastructure that is needed to deliver significant, long lasting economic benefits to Northland. More information on the Marsden Point Rail Link Designation can be found in the projects section of the Council's website www.nrc.govt.nz/marsdenrail

what's been done continued



Hātea river channel upgrade

Around 4.5km of Whāngārei's Hātea River channel, including part of the Town Basin Marina channel, has been dredged to remove thousands of tonnes of built-up silt.

New buoys and markers were installed once the dredging was completed and the associated mooring systems and lights were upgraded. The project was completed under budget enabling the Council to remove user charges, previously set to fund this work. More information on the amendment of the Water Transport and Maritime Safety Bylaw Charges 2009 – required to make this change – can be found on page 8 of this plan.

stock truck effluent disposal facilities

The Council included in its last LTCCP, \$101,250 (including GST) to provide two more stock truck effluent disposal sites to reduce the number of illegal discharges, improve road safety and promote public and environmental health.

A private effluent disposal site operator in the Kaipara District has agreed to develop its site, allowing all other stock carriers to use the existing facility – the development is currently in the consents process.

The new Kaipara site is located on the premises of Kaipara Livestock, Dargaville Ltd, on Beach Road, off State Highway 12 and is expected to be operational by June 30, 2010.

Whāngārei District Council is currently in the process of constructing a disposal facility in its district at Southend Ave, Whāngārei. In the Far North District, a scoping report of the preferred site is currently underway. This report will be presented to a future meeting of the Northland Stock effluent Working Group and a plan for developing the new site will then be drawn up ready for use in the 2012-2013 financial year.

multi-council controlled organisation – integrated regional information software

In the Northland Community Plan 2009-2019, the Council decided to establish a new Council Controlled Organisation (CCO) with a number of other Regional Councils.

The new CCO will enable the Councils to work together to develop and maintain a software suite – known as IRIS (Integrated Regional Information Software) – that will be used by the member Councils to deliver their groups of activities.

Plans with the partnering Councils have progressed and more details have been finalised. The IRIS CCO will be a limited liability company, and its shareholders will be the six Regional Councils that are developing the IRIS software. It is anticipated that the new IRIS CCO will be legally formed and become operative after 1 July 2010.

More details on the IRIS project can be found on page 219 of Volume 1 of the Northland Community Plan 2009-2019, available at all Regional Council offices or on the Council website: www.nrc.govt.nz/lttccp

transfer of northland port corporation shares to the infrastructure development authority

In the Northland Community Plan 2009-2019, the Council reserved the option of transferring its majority shareholding in the Northland Port Corporation (NPC) to a 100% Council owned and operated Infrastructure Development Agency (IDA).

This decision was made following an operational efficiency and effectiveness review, with the transfer expected to provide financial benefits to the Council, including accessing the imputation credits attached to dividends that the Council receives from NPC.

The Council has not yet considered it financially worthwhile to transfer its shareholding to the IDA although it may elect to do so at some stage in the future.

This Summary of the Northland Regional Council's Draft Annual Plan 2010-2011 complies with the requirements of the Local Government Act 2002 to have a summary of proposal.

submission form



Submitter Details (please print clearly)

First Name:	Surname:
Organisation (if applicable):	
Postal Address:	
	Post Code:
Business Hours Telephone:	After Hours Telephone:

Please write your comments in the space provided and forward your submission to:

Draft Annual Plan 2010-2011 Submission Northland Regional Council Freepost 139690 Private Bag 9021, Whāngārei Mail Centre Whāngārei 0148	Online: via www.nrc.govt.nz/draftannualplan Fax: 09 438 0012 e-mail: mailroom@nrc.govt.nz
--	--

Submissions should reach the Council by 3.00pm, 10 May 2010.

Would you like to attend a hearing in person to tell Councillors more about the matters you have raised in your written submission?

Please tick It is anticipated the hearing of submissions will be held 24 and 25 May 2010.

<input type="checkbox"/>	NO, I DO NOT wish to appear in support of my submission
<input type="checkbox"/>	YES, I DO wish to appear in support of my submission

Please tick Specific proposals in this year's Draft Annual Plan

Regional Growth Programme	
<input type="checkbox"/>	I support the \$450,795 increase in Targeted Council Services rate to fund the Regional Growth Programme (see page 3).
<input type="checkbox"/>	I support a different amount of rates contribution of \$
<input type="checkbox"/>	I do not support the rate increase.
Water quality Initiatives	
<input type="checkbox"/>	I support the \$112,500 increase in funding to be spent on improving water quality in Northland (see page 4).
<input type="checkbox"/>	I support a different funding contribution of \$
<input type="checkbox"/>	I oppose this additional expenditure.
Mangrove Removal Proposal	
<input type="checkbox"/>	I support the Council's proposal to budget \$135,000 to assess mangrove removal and sediment management work (see page 5).
<input type="checkbox"/>	I support the project, but with funding of \$
<input type="checkbox"/>	I oppose the Council's proposal.
Rugby World Cup Pre-Planning	
<input type="checkbox"/>	I support the Council's proposal to contribute \$135,000 towards RWC pre-planning (see page 5).
<input type="checkbox"/>	I support the event, but with funding of \$
<input type="checkbox"/>	I oppose the Council's proposal.

PTO for additional comments on the Draft Annual Plan – use further sheets if necessary.

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Are there any other issues in this Draft Annual Plan that you would like to make a submission on?

I support / oppose

On pages:

Because:

I suggest:

I support / oppose

On pages:

Because:

I suggest:

I support / oppose

On pages:

Because:

I suggest:

Use further sheets if necessary.

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Submissions presented to Council are considered public documents subject to the provisions of the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987.