Annual Report 2011



Putting Northland first



directory

Main Office

Street Address: Postal Address:

Telephone No: Facsimile No: Email: Freephone: 24/7 Environmental Hotline: Website: LinkedIn:

Facebook:

Twitter:

Dargaville Office

Address: Telephone No: Facsimile No:

Kaitāia Office

Address: Telephone No: Facsimile No: 36 Water Street, Whāngārei 0110. Private Bag 9021, Whāngārei Mail Centre, Whāngārei 0148. 09 438 4639 09 438 0012 mailroom@nrc.govt.nz 0800 002 004 0800 504 639 www.nrc.govt.nz www.linkedin.com/companies/ northland-regional-council www.facebook.com/ NorthlandRegionalCouncil www.twitter.com/NRCExpress

61B Victoria Street, Dargaville 0310. 09 439 3300 09 439 3301

192 Commerce Street, Kaitāia 0410. 09 408 6600 09 408 6601

Ōpua Office

Address: Telephone No: Facsimile No: Unit 10, Ōpua Marine Park, Ōpua 0200. 09 402 7516 09 402 7510













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introduction

The Northland Regional Council produces an Annual Report each year to account for the money provided to us by our ratepayers and through investments, financial institutions and government agencies. This is our Annual Report for the year ending 30 June 2011.

In this report you will see the progress we have made in delivering what we set out to achieve and our involvement in working towards the social, economic, environmental and cultural outcomes for Northland.

The way in which most of the information is shown is governed by legislation, such as the Local Government Act 2002 and standard accounting practices, but you will also find general information about the regional council, our roles and the activities we perform.

There have been many highlights during 2010-2011 including funding for a wide range of community projects, work to develop the next generation of our Regional Policy Statement and the completion and official opening of the multi-purpose Northland Events Centre. The "our year in review" section is a snapshot of these.

The Northland Regional Council has 11 key activity areas: Democracy and Corporate Services, Regional Information and Engagement, Regional Economic Development, Resource Management Planning, Transport, Consents, Environmental Monitoring, Land and Rivers, Biosecurity, Emergency Management and Maritime Operations. In each area we show you our key performance indicators – the targets we use to measure our success and financial performance.

The summary report

The regional council has also produced a summary of this report. The summary outlines the most important information, to give you an easy snapshot of exactly what we have achieved in the past year. This summary is available from all our offices and can also be found on our website: *www.nrc.govt.nzlannualreport*

Our mission

Through growth, putting Northland first by providing regional leadership, environmental protection, economic opportunities and integrated infrastructure.

Our role

The Northland Regional Council aims to create a region of choice through growth, and the provision of regional leadership, environmental protection, economic opportunities and integrated infrastructure.

We will achieve this by putting our community and the Northland region first. We are committed to being forward thinking and innovative, flexible and open, responsive and value-driven, and professional and accountable. We also work with others – regional and central government, iwi, community groups, development agencies and commercial enterprises – to meet these goals.

Your regional council is made up of eight elected councillors, including a Chairman, an appointed Chief Executive Officer (CEO) and around 140 full-time staff. We are here to serve our community and ensure Northland is a great place to live.

Measuring our performance

We keep track of our performance during the year so we can measure how effective we have been in delivering on our plans for the region. Through our Annual Report we aim to keep you informed and make ourselves accountable. Our performance is measured against key indicators (also known as performance measures) for each area of our work. Indicators with particular progress in the last year are featured in the "our year in review" section and all the key indicators are included in "our activities" section.

Chairman and CEO's foreword

The 2010-2011 year has been one of change for both Northland as a region and those who lead your regional council. As a region, Northland continued to suffer the lingering economic effects of the global recession and weathered another drought (which eventually ended in spectacular fashion in late January courtesy of Cyclone Wilma). Northlanders joined the rest of New Zealand to offer what assistance we could to those in earthquakestricken Christchurch, including seconding a number of council staff in Civil Defence roles and welcoming more than 250 southern residents who fled here for some respite in the quake's aftermath.

Politically, the October 2010 local body elections ushered in a number of changes around the council table with three new councillors – and subsequently a new chairman and deputy – elected. The council's Chief Executive Officer Ken Paterson also tendered his resignation in April 2011, leaving to take up a new role as Chief Executive for Tauranga City Council in July. (Councillors expect to appoint his replacement later this year.)

Despite these changes and challenges, your council once again rose to the task carrying out a huge amount of work across many areas. At the start of 2010-2011 we managed to implement an annual budget that saw the average regional council rates bill increase by about \$13.90 plus GST this year (less than 27 cents a week). However, as the financial year drew to a close, your councillors made the difficult decision to redirect our investment income. This redirection will see council build a reserve to fund community projects that will increase Northland's economic performance and improve the environmental, cultural and social wellbeing of Northlanders and move away from subsidising rates for council services.

While this will enable us to support economic projects that will improve the region's economic performance and lessen our reliance on our investment income (which typically subsidised roughly one-third of the average rates bill) it will come at a cost to ratepayers. Our service rate will increase on average \$17.80 (including GST) annually for each of the next five years.

On the planning front, councillors and staff spent a great deal of time working to develop a new Regional Policy Statement (RPS). The RPS is designed to enable development while ensuring the region's natural and physical resources are sustainably managed, making it one of Northland's most important planning tools and its development spans several years.

We consulted on a RPS draft discussion document in December 2010 with the public providing feedback on the various issues explored. Summaries of the submissions were published and have helped guide development of a draft statement. A report outlining the draft regionally significant issues to tāngata whenua was finalised in June and presented to the Tai Tokerau Iwi Chief Executives group in early June. Drafting of objectives, policies and methods for the Draft Regional Policy Statement was underway at year end with a draft document due for release for informal public consultation later this year.



Work continued on our important flood protection and Priority Rivers Project and river management plans have now been developed for all 27 rivers or groups of streams involved. We consulted with each affected community on these draft plans via a series of public meetings and hui throughout the region during September – November 2010. River Management Liaison Committees have also been established for urban Whāngārei (Hātea and Raumanga Rivers), Awanui, Kaihū, Kaeo-Whangaroa Stream and Kerikeri-Waipapa. They've been helping us develop and refine river management plans which will be the starting point for implementation of flood risk reduction measures.

Water – both its quality and quantity – remains a priority for your council and much of our work revolves around it. Our rivers and streams provide habitat for a range of indigenous flora and fauna, as well as being an important water supply for rural communities, horticulture and agricultural demands. As Northlanders, we also value our region's water resources for the important recreational, aesthetic and cultural values they offer.

On behalf of the community, we once again monitored a huge range of activities – many of them water-related – including bacterial levels at popular swimming spots over the summer months to let the public know how safe water is for swimming. (We also completed our Annual Monitoring Report in August 2010; it's available on our website at www.nrc.govt.nz/amr

We issued 1284 resource consents (up 155 on the previous 12 months) for industrial, public and private developments across the region. Among significant projects processed during the year was the Whāngārei District Council's emergency sewage discharge from the upgraded Okara Pump Station. Despite the additional workload, the Northland Regional Council maintained an excellent performance record, processing 98 percent of consent applications within statutory timeframes.

During the year 65 percent of consents we monitored were fully compliant, 24 percent had minor non-compliance and 11 percent were significantly non-compliant; these figures are all similar to last year. We worked with locals in the Otaika area, more than 200 of whom gave us details of their water use in late 2010 and early 2011 as part of a pilot programme designed to ensure we don't over-allocate our region's water resources in future.

The National Institute of Water and Atmospheric Research (NIWA) is now doing a study for us to establish ecological flows in the Otaika area. Once complete, this will allow us to determine how much water is available for further allocation and any lessons learned from the Otaika pilot project could be rolled out to other areas on a catchment by catchment basis in future.

A total of 57 Environment Fund projects were completed in the 2010-2011 financial year using council funds of \$519,191. This fund has now provided more than \$3 million since 1996 to help people improve and protect Northland's natural environment. Twenty of this year's projects were from the Far North, attracting 38 percent of the funding, another 21 were from the Whāngārei district (37 percent of funding) and the remaining 14 projects (attracting 25 percent of funding) from the Kaipara.

The most popular projects during 2010-2011 were fencing (primarily of streams and wetlands for water quality), biodiversity, soil conservation and erosion control. In order to improve accessibility, changes were made in the 2009-2010 year which means people can now apply for funding for worthwhile projects almost year-round, rather than inside a previously much smaller 10-week application window. This change proved very popular in the 2010-2011 year and it's hoped it will give additional support for reaching the Dairying and Clean Streams Accord's targets, particularly for water quality. We also set up a soil conservation project, mapping areas of high erosion risk and identifying soil conservation and erosion/sediment control issues and options to deal with them.

We continued to work with local communities and industry to promote pest management and facilitate pest control through Community Pest Control Areas (CPCA). There are now 36 CPCA plans underway in Northland which target pest ants, animals and weeds. These represent more than 800 owners and cover 32,675 hectares of private land involving individuals, community trusts and Māori shareholder land.

Lastly, at the time of writing the Rugby World Cup 2011 was underway and two sold-out and very successful pool matches had been held at the Northland Events Centre in Whāngārei. We look forward to the ongoing economic and other benefits RWC 2011 should bring to our region in the weeks and months to come. Council's regional economic agency Enterprise Northland has played a pivotal role in the build up to the Tournament in Northland, including providing a regional Northland 2011 Co-ordinator. (Northland 2011 is the group co-ordinating the North's RWC 2011 planning and operational delivery. Its membership includes the Northland Regional Council, the region's three district councils and the Northland Rugby Union. It is also supported by local economic, sporting, tourism and business groups.) Regional council staff also provided support and assistance to Northland 2011, including development of the Northland 2011 website www.northland2011.com and helping to create the 'Paint It Red' campaign enthusiastically embraced by so many Northlanders.

Our thanks to everyone who played a role in council's successes over the 2010-2011 year and to those who will help us face the challenges ahead in the next year.

Craig Brown Chairman

Tony Phipps Acting Chief Executive Officer



governance structure

THE PEOPLE OF NORTHLAND

Со	uncillors	Council business plans and policies
Environmental Management Committee	 Resource Management Plan preparation Submissions to district plans Environmental monitoring 	BiosecuritySustainable land managementHazard management
Regional Transport Committee	Regional land transportRoad safety administration	Total Mobility Scheme
Hearings Committee	Resource consentsAppeals	 Changes and variations to regional plans
Finance and Audit Committee	 Review of council policies Review of Annual Report Liaison with council-controlled organisations 	Liaise with Audit NZPerformance monitoring
Regional Policy and Development Committee	 Regional Policy Statement Regional economic development Community Growth Programme 	
Northland Civil Defence Emergency Management Group	Emergency managementJoint standing committee of North	hland local authorities
	Long Term PlanAnnual PlanAnnual Report	Strategic planningPolicy development

Full details of all council's governance arrangements and processes are contained in its Governance Statement. A copy of Northland Regional Council's Governance Statement is available on request, or by visiting the website: www.nrc.govt.nz

council management structure

THE COU	NCIL	
Chief Executive C Tony Phipps (Ac		
	ACTI	VITIES
Deputy CEO / Operations Director <i>Tony Phipps</i>	 State of the environment monitoring Passenger transport management Resource management compliance Environmental incident responses Hazard management Hazardous substances and contaminated sites River management 	 Land and biodiversity Oil pollution response Harbour safety and navigation Consent applications Consents advice and information Biosecurity Emergency management
General Manager CEO's Office and Projects <i>Linda Stansfield</i> Growth/Infrastructure Manager <i>Vaughan Cooper</i>	 Democracy/councillor advice and support * Council-controlled organisations * Community Growth Programme Regional infrastructure management 	Regional transport planning
General Manager Planning and Policy Kathryn Ross	Resource management planningLong Term PlanAnnual Plan	
General Manager Finance and IT ————————————————————————————————————	 Finance accounting and financial reporting * Financial and equity investments * Taxation * 	 Rating * Information services * Revenue systems * Commercial investments Annual Plan
General Manager Community Relations Jason Dawson	Environmental educationCommunicationsIwi liaison	
Human Resources Manager Judy Macdonald	 Human resources management * Health and safety * 	

* Activity support services

your regional councillors



Craig Brown – Chairman

Whāngārei constituency Phone: 09 432 7575 Email: craigb@nrc.govt.nz

Craig Brown is the former mayor of the Whāngārei District Council and is serving his third term on the regional council. He is a former policeman, and has been involved in farming and real estate. Cr Brown is serving his third term on the

Northland District Health Board and has just completed six years on the NorthTec Council. He has been heavily involved on school boards of trustees since their instigation, for which he received an award for services to education from the New Zealand School Trustees Association. Cr Brown was on the Whāngārei District Council for 12 years, six of them as mayor.



John Bain – Deputy Chairman

Whāngārei constituency Phone: 09 437 6096 Email: jbain@internet.co.nz

John Bain is best known to most as chairman of the high profile air ambulance provider, the Northland Emergency Services Trust (NEST). A member of the Northland District Health Board, Cr Bain has had a 35 year

involvement with the Northland Ambulance Service, including many years as its chairman. Cr Bain has been self-employed since his early twenties and is currently in the importing business.



Joe Carr

Far North constituency Phone: 09 401 9197 Email: carr.clan@farmside.co.nz

Okaihau-based Joe Carr has local business, farm and forest interests and is also a Justice of the Peace. He is a trustee of the Far North Life Education Trust and a former Far North district councillor. Cr Carr has served on a number of

regional council committees over the past nine years including Civil Defence and Emergency Management, Regional Land Transport and Landcare. He has previously been a Hearing Commissioner and Appeal Negotiator for the Far North District Council.



Tony Davies-Colley

Whāngārei constituency Phone: 09 435 4090 Email: tony@westpoint.net.nz

Tony Davies-Colley is a businessman involved in technology, engineering, farming, forestry and property. He is a director of several private companies. Cr Davies-Colley has an Agricultural Science degree and over the last 30 years

has been actively involved in farming, forestry and the wood processing industry.



Bronwyn Hunt

Far North constituency Phone: 09 408 3412 Email: bronyh@hotmail.com

Bronwyn has been involved in local government for more than 20 years, 13 of which were in the Far North district. Her community interests are wide and varied. Currently working for Te Runanga o Te Rarawa, Cr Hunt heads

the Strategy and Policy Unit. Cr Hunt is serving her first term on the regional council.



Graeme Ramsey

Kaipara constituency Phone: 09 439 7022 Email: baylys@igrin.co.nz gramsey@pgfnz.org.nz

Graeme returned home to Dargaville after a management career overseas. He served six years as mayor of the Kaipara district and has continued his career in New Zealand as Chief Executive Officer

and Director of commercial and not-for-profit national organisations. Cr Ramsey has degrees in Geography, Sociology and a Masters in Business Administration. He lives at Baylys Beach with his wife Josie.



Bill Rossiter

Whāngārei constituency Phone: 09 437 2807 Email: billro@xtra.co.nz

Bill Rossiter is serving his fifth term on the regional council. He previously served as a Whāngārei District Councillor. He is a Northpower trustee and was previously the Road Safety Co-ordinator for RoadSafe Northland. He is active in

community organisations, including Rotary and an appointed Whāngārei RSA Trustee. Cr Rossiter is a retired businessman involved in the printing and stationery business.

Ian Walker



Far North constituency Phone: 09 408 0072 Email: ian@nzfarmers.com

Ian Walker is a farmer, retailer and has business interests in Information Technology. He has held a number of directorships and is currently President of Farmers of New Zealand and a Director of Northland Port Corporation NZ Limited.

This is his fourth term as a regional councillor.

council committees and advisers

Chairman Craig Brown is an ex-officio member of all committees.

Environmental Management Committee

Councillors Joe Carr (Chairman), Graeme Ramsey (Deputy Chairman), Craig Brown (ex-officio), Bill Rossiter, Bronwyn Hunt, Tony Davies-Colley.

- Cr Di Maxwell representing the Far North District Council.
- Cr Crichton Christie representing the Whāngārei District Council.
- Cr Brian McEwing representing the Kaipara District Council.
- Nicole Anderson representing cultural interests.
- Greg Blunden representing environmental interest groups.
- Richard Booth representing the farming community.
- Chris Jenkins representing the Department of Conservation.
- Geoff Gover representing the forest industry.

Regional Transport Committee

Councillors John Bain (Chairman), Joe Carr (Deputy Chairman), Craig Brown (ex officio).

- Cr Tom Baker representing the Far North District Council.
- Cr Greg Martin representing the Whāngārei District Council.
- Cr Wayne Linton representing the Kaipara District Council.
- Stephen Town representing the NZ Transport Agency.
- Tony Norman representing public health.
- Ken Rintoul representing economic development.
- Steve Westgate representing environmental sustainability.
- Rawson Wright representing cultural interests.
- Clifford Paxton representing New Zealand Police, safety and security.
- Howeth Mountain representing access and mobility.

Audit and Finance Committee

Councillors Bill Rossiter (Chairman), Graeme Ramsey (Deputy Chairman) Craig Brown (ex officio), John Bain, Joe Carr, Bronwyn Hunt, Tony Davies-Colley, Ian Walker.

Regional Policy and Development Committee

Councillors Ian Walker (Chairman), Craig Brown (ex officio), Tony Davies-Colley and John Bain.

- Cr Ann Court representing the Far North District Council.
- Cr John Williamson representing the Whāngārei District Council.
- Cr Julie Geange representing the Kaipara District Council.

Hearings Committee

Councillors Craig Brown (Chairperson) and Bronwyn Hunt.

The committee (or the council) may appoint any individual member/s or other independent person/s as Commissioner/s pursuant to section 34(1) of the RMA, to conduct a hearing in any particular case. The committee (or the council) may also revoke such a delegation at any time, by notice to the delegate.

Northland Regional Council Community Trust

The Northland Regional Council Community Trust was established in March 1996 using the proceeds from the sale of some of the Northland Regional Council's majority shareholding in the Northland Port Corporation. The current trustees are Andrew Britton, Rawson Wright, Irene Durham and Bill Shepherd.

Councillor portfolios and memberships

- Broadband Cr Tony Davies-Colley and Cr Bill Rossiter.
- Catchment Management Cr Joe Carr.
- Economic Development/Regional Growth Cr Ian Walker.
- Environment Cr Joe Carr.
- Environment Awareness Cr Bill Rossiter.
- Growth Strategy Cr Ian Walker.
- NZ Refining Company Community Liaison Committee Chairman Craig Brown.
- Northland Chamber of Commerce Cr Tony Davies-Colley and Cr Bill Rossiter.
- Northland Conservation Board Cr Bronwyn Hunt.
- Northland Regional Animal Health Committee Cr Ian Walker.
- Ngunguru Sand Spit Deputy Chairman John Bain.
- Northland Regional Council Engagement with Māori Cr Bronwyn Hunt.
- Northport Cr Ian Walker.
- Northport Liaison Committee Chairman Craig Brown.
- Regional Policy Statement Cr Ian Walker.
- Rivers Cr Joe Carr.
- Road Safety Deputy Chairman John Bain.
- Ruakaka Sewerage Working Party Chairman Craig Brown.
- Shared Services Working Group CEO, Cr Bill Rossiter, Cr Tony Davies-Colley, Cr Bronwyn Hunt and Cr Graeme Ramsey.
- Transport Deputy Chairman John Bain.
- Vehicles on Beaches Deputy Chairman John Bain.
- Youth Education Cr Bill Rossiter.

Advisers

Auditor:	Audit New Zealand on behalf of the Auditor-General.
Bankers:	ASB Bank.
	ANZ National Bank.
	Bank of New Zealand.
	Kiwibank.
	TSB Bank.
Solicitors:	Blank Sing & Associates, Auckland.
	Burnes Fraser, Auckland.
	Chapman Tripp, Whāngārei.
	John G Walton, North Shore.
	Karenza de Silva, North Shore.
	Laurene Holley, Auckland.
	North South Environment Law, Auckland.
	Simpson Grierson, Wellington.
	Swan Law, Whāngārei.
	Thomson Wilson, Whāngārei.
	Webb Ross, Whāngārei.

The Chief Executive Officer is responsible for setting the direction of the council within the policy framework provided by councillors. The management team is accountable to him and he is accountable to the council.

community outcomes

As part of the council's aim of creating a sustainable region of choice for Northlanders, we identified eight regional community outcomes six years ago. While the identification process in 2005 was a joint project with the three Northland district councils, each organisation ended up with different community outcomes, with common themes that linked to the four well-beings. The regional community outcomes describe what you as a Northlander value and what you'd like our region to be like in the future. They encapsulate the community's priorities by which the present social, economic, environmental and cultural well-beings can be assessed.

Regional Community Outcomes

- 1. Northland residents are safe and healthy
- 2. Northland's infrastructure is developed in a sustainable way
- 3. Northland's natural environment is sustainably managed
- 4. Northland is prosperous
- 5. Northland residents are educated and skilled
- 6. Northland has cohesive communities
- 7. Northland retains and enhances its regional identity
- 8. Northland residents have access to recreational and leisure opportunities

Full details of the regional community outcomes can be found in the Northland Community Plan 2009-2019 or online at www.nrc.govt.nz/LTP

Achieving the community outcomes relies on the whole community to pull together. The regional council, through its own functions and services, has varying levels of influence on the different community outcomes. We work with the relevant district councils, government agencies, other Northland organisations and the community at large on specific initiatives to extend our influence to progress the achievement of the community outcomes.

The council may therefore contribute to community outcomes in a number of ways, including:

- As the lead agency largely responsible for action in a particular area.
- As the joint lead agency managing a programme in conjunction with other organisations.
- Supporting/advocating providing support to other lead agencies.
- No direct influence being aware of activities being undertaken by the community or other organisations, but without a direct role to play.

When the council does have a role to play in achieving community outcomes, it may be involved in a number of different ways including:

- As a service provider carrying out a programme using the council's own resources. This would be most common when the council is the lead agency or joint lead agency.
- As a funder making a financial investment in a programme, but not necessarily leading it.
- As a regulator developing and enforcing rules, as appropriate.
- As a promoter/facilitator encouraging progress by organising interested parties, publicly expressing support or securing financial support from other sources.

The Northland Intersectoral Forum (NIF) has representatives from all these organisations and has a co-ordinator to ensure regular meetings are held for sharing information; collate the monitoring of the key indicators chosen to assess our achievement towards the community outcomes and coordinate specific initiatives. The last monitoring report was compiled in 2009 and the next report will be completed in late 2011. The 2009 report noted that 38 of the 51 indicators were active and rated the four well-beings as follows:

- Social requires some further investigation for most of the indicators with positive ageing and affordable housing considered on target.
- Economic considered to be on target overall with more investigation into the thriving economy indicator.
- Environmental requires further investigation for most of the indicators with the adaptability to climate variability considered on target.
- Cultural requires further investigation for half of the indicators with the sustainable natural areas and vibrant creative industries considered on target.

This Annual Report includes the results of the regional council's key performance measures for 2010-2011 within the "Activity" section. Key measures and how they relate to specific community outcomes are featured in the "our year in review" section and include trend results for recent years where available.

The regional council's planning processes are guided by these community outcomes, national directives and public feedback on specific proposals at review periods. The council's planning framework is represented in the diagram opposite.

In the "Activity" section later in this Annual Report, you'll find a breakdown of why we do the various activities we've reported on, how they contribute to community outcomes, what we did (including progress with our initiatives) and how we performed.

council planning process

THE COUNCIL'S MANDATE TO DO THINGS

> Resource Management Act 1991

Land Transport Management Act 2003

Biosecurity Act 1993

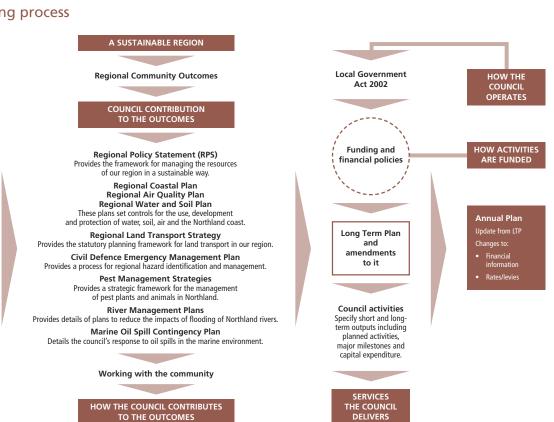
Hazardous Substances and New Organisms Act 1996

Soil Conservation and Rivers Control Act 1941

> Civil Defence Emergency Management Act 2002

Local Government Act 2002

Local Government (Rating) Act 2002 Other Legislation



Our year in numbers

1284 resource consent applications processed.

99.4% of resource consent applications processed within statutory time frames.

- 28 lakes monitored quarterly by the Regional Council.
- 31 river quality monitoring sites sampled monthly.
- 85 freshwater and coastal sites monitored weekly throughout summer.
- 23 reported marine oil spills responded.
- 57 Environment Fund projects were completed to a value of \$519,191.
- 90% approximate amount of GIS data and aerial photography now publicly available.
- 94% of passengers surveyed rated the CityLink Whangarei bus service as 'Good, Very Good or Excellent'.
- 392 maritime incidents responded to throughout the year.
- 21% increase in our website subscribers.
- 89% increase in e-payments.
- 115% increase in Twitter followers.
- 32,675 hectares of land now covered by Community Pest Control Areas.
- 35,043 Total Mobility trips were operated.
 - 992 reported environmental incidents responded to.
 - 21 reported hazardous substance incidents responded to.
 - 27 CoastCare groups established.
 - **33** ships piloted into the Bay of Islands.

our activities – what we do

The Northland Regional Council is one of Northland's main environmental guardians. We are charged with protecting Northland's land, water, coast and air while allowing for sustainable development. We are also responsible for promoting the region's economic, social and cultural wellbeing: 'Putting Northland first'.

Our responsibilities include environmental management, flood and land management, biosecurity, emergency management, pollution control, public transport planning and funding, and coastal navigation and safety. Councillors decide our overall policies and our 140 staff implement them.

Roughly half our income comes from rates and charges with the balance from investments and government grants.

Awards and funding

The council has funding available to assist with a variety of eligible environmental, educational and cultural initiatives undertaken by the Northland community.

Regional council funding and advice is available to all individuals, landowners, community groups, schools and iwi throughout the region. www.nrc.govt.nz/funding

Biosecurity

Biosecurity is about protecting our environment, economy and way of life from the harmful impacts of pest animals, pest plants and diseases. The council works with landowners to target regional pest plants and animals and helps the rural economy by controlling possums to stop the spread of bovine Tb. www.nrc.govt.nz/nasties





Education and public information

Specialist council staff host seminars and field days designed to educate Northlanders about a variety of topics linked to the environment, while others visit schools to deliver environmental education initiatives. We also produce a wide range of publications and self-help guides covering most aspects of our work. www.nrc.govt.nz/schools and www.nrc.govt.nz/publications

Emergency management

The council co-ordinates the Civil Defence Emergency Management Group for the region. We work together to minimise the potential effects of emergencies, prepare ourselves and the community, respond to emergencies and help the community to recover. www.nrc.govt.nz/civildefence

Environmental planning and monitoring

The region's natural resources sustain our lives. We help people to use these resources appropriately and sustainably. Through Regional Plans, resource consents and monitoring, we work with the community to care for our environment – the air, land, water and coast.

www.nrc.govt.nz/environmentalmonitoring and www.nrc.govt.nz/consents

Flood management

The region's rivers can put homes, farmland, jobs, livelihoods and property at risk from flooding. We help communities protect themselves from the effects of flooding. *www.nrc.govt.nzlfloodplans*

Harbours

We look after the navigational safety of all vessels in our region's harbours – from Kaipara in the south to Pārengarenga in the north – and around the regional coastline. We also encourage safe boating behaviour and we are ready to respond in the event of a marine oil spill. *www.nrc.govt.nz/onthewater*

Infrastructure

We work with regional and national agencies to help ensure the provision and security of core regional infrastructure like transport, energy and telecommunications. We also have plans to establish an Infrastructure Development Authority as a way to fund future infrastructure projects. *www.nrc.govt.nz/projects*



Land management

We encourage landowners to recognise the economic and social value of managing land in a way that will protect the resource and meet the needs of current and future generations. The regional council works with landowners to develop sustainability and property conservation plans and with rural community groups.

Pollution control

We maintain a 24/7 incident response service (0800 504 639), conduct environmental assessments of industrial and commercial sites, and maintain a register of sites with hazardous industries or activities. *www.nrc.govt.nz/waste*



Tourism and economic development

We support business development and tourism promotion through the Northland Regional Council Community Trust and its subsidiaries, Enterprise Northland and Destination Northland Ltd. www.enterprisenorthland.co.nz and www.northlandnz.com

Transport

We help plan the region's road network and administer and partially fund Whāngārei's urban bus service. www.nrc.govt.nz/transport and www.nrc.govt.nz/bus

Water management

We ensure there is enough water for everyone – a difficult task with so many competing needs. Water allocation, use and monitoring help us to manage our water resources. *www.nrc.govt.nz/water*

