

Purongo Putaiao

ISSUE 8 | November 2011

Welcome

Nau mai haere mai

Kia ora and welcome to the latest edition of the council panui, Purongo Putaiao, for 2011. It is nearly the end of the year and what a year it has been.

During September Northland played host to three international rugby teams, here to play in the 2011 Rugby World Cup; Canada, Japan and Tonga. What a great success! Two sell-out games provided Northland with great rugby spectacles. For a small region we certainly painted the North red.

The review of the Regional Policy Statement is well underway. We are now at the point where we have compiled a draft and we want you to have your say. You have until December to have a look at it and see if we are heading in the right direction.

We have had great successes in environmental education and reached a milestone in funding with the council's Environmental Fund. These initiatives bode well for future generations.

Lastly, I hope you enjoy this issue of the council panui. There is a lot of information in it about projects we want your input into so please take the opportunity to have your say. We value your ideas and input.



Craig Brown

Kei roto

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Help us write your 'story'

Northland – what will it be like in the future? Will it be a region that's growing, where we have economic prosperity, resources and special places that future generations can continue to treasure?

The new Regional Policy Statement (RPS) is one of the most important planning tools for Northland. It will set out how our natural and physical resources should be managed; from the mountains to the sea and for the benefit of all Northlanders.

Kathryn Ross Northland Regional Council's General Manager – Planning and Policy, says the 'story' behind the new RPS emphasises just how important the document is for Northland's future.

"The new RPS will shape Northland – how we live, work and use our natural resources," she says.

The Draft New RPS is currently available for public comment. It includes the resource management issues of significance to Māori and Kathryn says it's important the council receives feedback on this working draft.

"This is an opportunity for tangata whenua to have their say about our

region's significant resource issues, potential solutions and what they value" she says.

Council and the Tai Tokerau Iwi CEO Consortium saw an opportunity to develop a model of engagement with tangata whenua that would increase participation in the development of the the new RPS, but would also raise awareness about the ways in which tangata whenua could ensure that policies adopted by council would have regard for kaitiakitanga.

Find out when Draft New RPS consultation hui will be held in your area on P2.

Prior to writing the draft, council undertook a review of the current RPS, the latest science and other relevant information – including hapū/iwi environmental management plans, and reviewed submissions on our annual and long-term plans.

Kathryn says that as part of this initial process, the council engaged the Tai Tokerau Iwi Technicians' Forum to also review our analysis of this information and the current RPS.

Continued on P2

Structure of the Draft New RPS



Purongo Putaiao

Help us write your 'story' *continued*

Continued from P1

"Our review and the technicians' forum analysis formed the basis of an RPS discussion document aimed at gathering feedback to inform the development of the Draft New RPS," says Kathryn.

"Earlier this year members of the technicians' forum also engaged directly with Māori to provide input into the Draft New RPS. They checked if the information we already had was still relevant, asked whether there were any new significant issues for tangata whenua, and subsequently produced a report on the findings from the first round of consultation hui."

"Members of the technicians' forum also drafted a review document on the issues and options for tangata whenua and wrote a report on the findings from the first round of consultation hui," says Kathryn.

"They will now undertake a second round of consultation hui on the Draft New RPS alongside the council."

The key issues facing Northland have been identified and unlike the first generation RPS, these issues have clearly focussed on the high level, significant regional resource management issues (there are 12 in the Draft New RPS as opposed to the 132 issues that are in the current RPS).

"The Draft New RPS includes the issues identified by Māori in the earlier round of consultation and specific issues and objectives have been included around tangata whenua participation in decision-making," says Kathryn.

She says the issues and objectives identified by tangata whenua that relate to specific resources have been integrated throughout the document and further broken down at the policy and method level into five key areas: Land and water; Regional form, infrastructure and planning; Tangata whenua; Natural hazards; and Special places.

The Draft New RPS – what now?

Now that the Draft New RPS has been written the council wants to know if it has got it right. The Draft New RPS was released for public feedback on 20 October 2011. To have your say you need to provide your feedback to the council by 9 December 2011.

The technicians' forum and the Northland Regional Council will be hosting a second round of consultation hui during November. This is where we need your input.

We want feedback particularly on the policies and methods that have been drafted as these state what we are going to do to address the key issues. We want to know how these will affect tangata whenua – both the benefits and the costs. Council wants to clearly understand the impact of any future management regime.

Here's how you can have your say:

Four hui are planned around Taitokerau to consult with tangata whenua on the Draft New RPS.

The hui will be held at the following locations:

KAITĀIA

REAP Centre, Fri 11 Nov, 10am-2pm

KAWAKAWA

Nuflo Centre; Tue 15 Nov; Time TBC

DARGAVILLE

Oturei Marae, Wed 16 Nov; 4pm-8pm

WHĀNGĀREI

Venue TBC, Thu 17 Nov, Time TBC

For further information about these hui please

contact Abe Witana (Te Runanga o Te Rarawa),

Phone: 09 408 1971 (work)

027 408 0100 (mobile)

Email: abe@terarawa.co.nz

How to provide feedback on the Draft New RPS

You can either attend the hui and give verbal feedback or you can write down what you think and send it to us. Do this by either downloading a feedback form from our website, or create your own document. Please include your name and contact details then send to:

Draft Regional Policy Statement Feedback

Attn: RPS Project Manager

Mailroom

Northland Regional Council

Freepost 139690

Private Bag 9021, Whāngārei Mail Centre

Whāngārei 0148

Email: mailroom@nrc.govt.nz

Fax: 09 438 0012

Navigation bylaw review

Navigation Safety Bylaw 2011



Putting Northland first



This summer the Northland Regional Council is consulting on a number of proposed changes to its existing Navigation Safety Bylaws that could affect a variety of issues – from permitted speeds to lifejacket use.

If you use, play in or play by the sea, then you might be interested in some of the changes being considered. Council wants to know what you think.

Jim Lyle, the council's Regional Harbourmaster, says full details of all the proposed changes will be made available later this year when an official consultation period begins and he's encouraging as many people as possible to comment on them.

"Submissions don't have to be limited to our proposed changes – it's also your opportunity to have your say on anything you'd like to see included in these bylaws."

Changes to speed limits, restriction of activities where there is a safety issue inshore and rewriting the rules around lifejackets are among some of the changes the council's proposing.

The changes are aimed at; clarifying some anomalies, raising safety standards and reflects changes that have taken place of the years.

The submission period will take place over summer (likely mid-December to mid-February) to allow for all users to have their say.

Once the official submission period is over, the council will hold hearings to consider people's comments in March 2012.

Any changes to be implemented as a result will need to be approved by councillors and are likely to take effect in mid-2012.

For more information, contact the council on 0800 002 004.

FIND OUT MORE

- Navigation Safety Bylaws
- Marine pollution regulations
- All you need to know when you're out on Northland's waters

www.nrc.govt.nz/onthewater



Annual Report and summary available soon

Copies of the council's latest Annual Report – and Summary Annual Report – will be available online shortly at:

www.nrc.govt.nz/annualreport

The summary shows you what we did during the year, some of the highlights and what it cost to provide the many services we do on behalf of Northlanders. It covers the 12 months to June 30, 2011.

Hard copies of the summary will also be available soon from all regional council offices. The full Annual Report – which is expected to run to about 200 pages – will also be available as a hard copy shortly.

Annual Report 2011



Putting Northland first



New Northland Regional Council CEO appointed



Far North Holdings Limited chief executive and Kawakawa resident Malcolm Nicolson has been appointed as the Northland Regional Council's new Chief Executive Officer.

Mr Nicolson's appointment as NRC CEO (replacing former CEO Ken Paterson), will see him lead the council's 140-plus staff from January 23 next year.

Mr Nicolson has a Bachelor of Commerce degree and a Masters of Business Administration degrees and for the past 12 years has headed Far North Holdings Limited, which was set up by the Far North District Council in 1997 to handle its commercial activities.

Council Operations Director and Deputy CEO Tony Phipps will continue to fill in as Acting CEO until Mr Nicolson assumes his role.

South-African born Mr Nicolson has lived in New Zealand since 1996 and is married with two adult children.

"I am passionate about unlocking the immense reservoir of opportunity that exists in Northland and look forward to being able to continue serving the diverse communities of the region through this new role," he says.

Regional council Chairman Craig Brown says the council's role has broadened in recent years to include a more economic focus and Mr Nicolson will bring welcome experience in this area.

Mr Brown says he and his fellow councillors are appreciative of staff efforts in the several months since Mr Paterson's departure, and in particular Mr Phipps in his role as Acting CEO.

Environment fund support to top \$4 million

The Northland Regional Council's Environment Fund – set up in the mid-1990s to help people improve and protect Northland's natural environment – will have given away about \$4.2 million by the end of this financial year.

For almost a decade from 1996, the council has set aside about \$100,000 annually for the fund, however, that increased dramatically in 2005 to almost \$300,000 each year.

Dean Evans, the regional council's Land Programme Manager, says, annual funding increased again the following year to \$500,000 and has remained around that level since.

He says given the fund typically contributes up to half the cost of a project, it effectively means more than \$8 million worth of initiatives benefitting the regional environment will have been carried out by July next year.

The fund is open to individuals and voluntary groups for eligible projects, mainly on

private land. Landowners, community and conservation organisations and local Māori groups have all successfully applied to the Environment Fund.

Dean says changes two years ago mean applications for funding can now be made virtually year-round with a total of 57 projects being completed in the 2010-2011 financial year.

Twenty-two of those projects were in the Far North, 21 in the Whāngārei district and 14 in the Kaipara.

He says the smallest grant awarded in 2010-2011 was \$813 for fencing at Whangaruru, while the largest – \$32,000 – was also spent on fencing, this time in the Kaikohe area.

Information on the Environment Fund (including application forms and guidelines) is available from the regional council's website www.nrc.govt.nz/environmentfund or by calling (0800) 002 004.

Further information

If you wish to discuss anything raised in this newsletter, please contact:



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ŌPUA
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www.twitter.com/NRCEXpress