

Te Puāwaitanga sports hub on track

Physical work to create five sports fields at Te Puāwaitanga - Bay of Islands Sports Hub in Waipapa has wrapped up with Phase 1 of construction completed.

Four of the fields have been sown in couch grass – two being sand-based turfs and two soil-based. The fifth playing surface is a training field sown in rye grass. However, it will be several months before players can enjoy the new fields. They will remain closed until at least early 2025 to allow grass on the specialist turf fields to grow in. The entire complex will remain fenced off to protect the grass during this period.

Once there is sufficient couch grass coverage, the fields will be rolled and irrigation systems tested before they can open for use by rugby league, football and cricket teams.

Other works completed include a sealed carpark with 144 marked parking spaces, eight disabled parks and three bus bays. A toilet block and a concrete path have been constructed, and extensive landscaping, fencing, and weed control have been undertaken.



Work on the Te Puāwaitanga sports hub in Waipapa is making positive progress with Phase 1 now complete.

A water supply has also been commissioned and is now being tested, and a wastewater system installed. Phase 1 of the sports hub construction had a budget of \$10.758 million with \$8.758 million provided by council and \$2 million from the government's COVID-19 Response and Recovery Fund.

While Phase 2 of the project is currently unfunded, the resource consent allows for future projects to

support the growth of sports in the region. Possible additions include club and changing rooms, a hockey field, additional multipurpose sports fields, softball diamonds, and cricket outfields and nets for training. Further engagement with sports groups and the public will be required to confirm project priorities and timelines.

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Speed changes hit the road



Residents campaigned for years to lower speed limits on Kapiro Road.

Speed limits dropped from 100km/h to 70km/h on Kapiro Road from State Highway 10 to 50m west of the Landing Road roundabout, on Monday 16 September. The change was part of the final rollout of speed limit reductions implemented along Kerikeri urban periphery roads under the Bay of Islands-Kerikeri Speed Limit Review.

The change followed public consultation in 2022 that attracted 253 submissions on proposed speed limits – two-thirds of which supported or partially supported new speed limits in the area. The submissions were considered at a formal hearing in March last year.

New speed limits will also be activated over the next few weeks around Whangaroa and rural connecting roads in the north of the catchment area. None of these speed limit changes will be impacted by the government's proposed reversal of set speed limits.

The government's recently released draft of the Land Transport Rule, Setting of Speed Limits 2024, is at the proposal stage and not yet legislation. The draft rule identifies "blanket" speed restrictions. However, the Bay of Islands-Kerikeri and Whangaroa speed reviews did not take a blanket approach. Each road was

assessed individually, and any speed limit changes only finalised and implemented following public feedback obtained during formal consultation.

A full list of roads affected is on our website.

Views sought on animals bylaw



Consultation on the proposed bylaw closes at 5pm on 18 November.

Residents are being asked to weigh in on a proposed Keeping of Animals Bylaw, which aims to address community concerns such as animal noise, odours, and the management of cats. It sets out rules to ensure animals are managed responsibly without disrupting the well-being of residents.

The bylaw will provide clear guidelines for animal ownership while balancing the needs of the community. It does not include dogs, which are regulated under the council's Dog Management Policy and the Dog Management Bylaw 2018.

Under the proposal, cats aged over four months must be desexed and microchipped. Other key provisions include:

- Animals like bees, chickens, pigs, and horses must be managed in a way that prevents nuisances, protects public health, and avoids property damage

- Horse droppings in public places within residential, commercial, and industrial zones must be cleaned up.
- Roosters must not be kept in residential and commercial areas.

The consultation period runs until 18 November 2024. Feedback can be made through an online submission form, via email, by post, or at FNDC service centres.

Parking fines get a rev up



Drivers wrongly parking in a mobility space now face a fine of \$750.

Drivers who misuse Far North mobility parking spaces will face a fine of \$750 – up from \$150 – as part of central government's changes to infringement fees. The updated fees come into effect across Aotearoa from 1 October 2024 - the first increase in parking infringement fees in two decades. Fees for towing and impoundment are also rising in line with inflation. Nearly 40 parking infringement fines will be increased, including overstaying in a parking area, parking without due care and attention, parking a non-electric vehicle in an area for charging electric vehicles, parking on a pedestrian crossing, obstructing a driveway, failure to dip headlights when parked, parking in a loading zone, and parking on broken yellow lines.

