

Ngā pārongo hou

Latest council news

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Waste contract worth millions awarded

Northland Waste Limited has been awarded a 10-year contract, worth around \$50 million, to operate the council's refuse transfer stations and community recycling centres.

The contract means Northland Waste will take over the Far North's southern area transfer and recycling stations from Waste Management on 1 October 2024 and continue its operation of northern sites. The current contracts expire on 30 September 2024.

This does not affect kerbside collections, which will continue to run independently as user-pays services.

The contract length was chosen after consultation with potential suppliers in relation to the life expectancy of assets such as bins, trucks, and balers and allows for the cost recovery of those items to be spread across the longest possible time.

The tender was initially offered as six portions to separate the capital-intensive activities to make the facility operations contract more accessible to smaller tenderers. However, it was recognised that the package put forward by Northland Waste to operate all sites offered the best service and value for money while retaining a proven operator.



Northland Waste will operate all refuse transfer stations and community recycling centres in the Far North from 1 October.

The contract includes a provisional price for kerbside services. These were included because last year the Ministry for the Environment stated its intention to standardise kerbside recycling nationally and to mandate providing kerbside recycling by 2027. Legislation for this hasn't been passed by the current Coalition Government.

The introduction of standardised kerbside recycling, and other additional services, haven't been decided on yet. The public will be consulted on introducing additional solid waste services alongside consultation on revising the council's Solid Waste Management and Minimisation Plan later this year.

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New chapter for service centre



Kerikeri Service Centre is relocating to Procter Library.

The council's Kerikeri Service Centre will relocate from its ground floor premises on Kerikeri Road to the Procter Library by 1 May 2025.

The relocation is part of wider efforts to reduce costs without reducing services by investing in council-owned assets rather than spending money leasing non-council premises.

The move also reflects the changing demands of our community. There are fewer walk-in customers at service centres, and residents complete more tasks online. Libraries are also now more than just book lenders – they're community hubs offering a wide range of services and activities.

The change will maximise resourcing and support increasingly busy libraries while maintaining critical service centre functions for Kerikeri. Designs are being drawn up to adapt the Procter Library to accommodate the service centre. The work will use renewal funds already allocated to this building. No new budget is required.

Threat of toxic sea spurge to FN

When Awanui farmer, Kevin Matthews, spotted an unusual plant in the sand dunes on Te Oneroa-a-Tōhe - Ninety Mile Beach, he knew he was looking at a highly invasive and toxic weed known as sea spurge.

Harmful to humans and animals, the African and Asian native is starting to appear on New Zealand shores and has been causing major environmental damage on the coasts of Western Australia and Tasmania.

Northland Regional Council's Biosecurity Officer, Ceres Sharp, explains in our video why sea spurge (*Euphorbia paralias*) is a threat but also why pulling it out is the last thing you should do when you find it on the beach or on sand dunes.

If you find sea spurge, please call the Ministry for Primary Industries on 0800 80 99 66 and Northland Regional Council. A nationwide programme to stop sea spurge from spreading is being led by the Ministry for Primary Industries, partnered with regional councils and the Department of Conservation.

To watch our video and for the full story, visit fndc.govt.nz



Toxic sea spurge should not be pulled out.

Boards change funding rounds



A decision on the two-monthly funding trial is expected in 2025.

Community board funding applications are now being reviewed every two months instead of monthly in a trial running until the end of the year.

The change gives council funding advisors more time to offer guidance to the community on available funding and advice on writing applications. The shift to every other month also allows community boards to approach funding decisions more strategically, ensuring that resources are allocated effectively.

Funding is available through Te Hiku, Bay of Islands-Whangaroa, and Kaikohe-Hokianga community boards, as well as Creative Communities and the Rural Travel Fund. Eligible projects should promote community leadership, self-reliance, and volunteer work, or provide high-quality facilities or services that otherwise wouldn't be possible.

In recognition of the new decision timeframe, organisers of Christmas and Waitangi Day events are advised to submit funding applications by 18 October 2024.

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