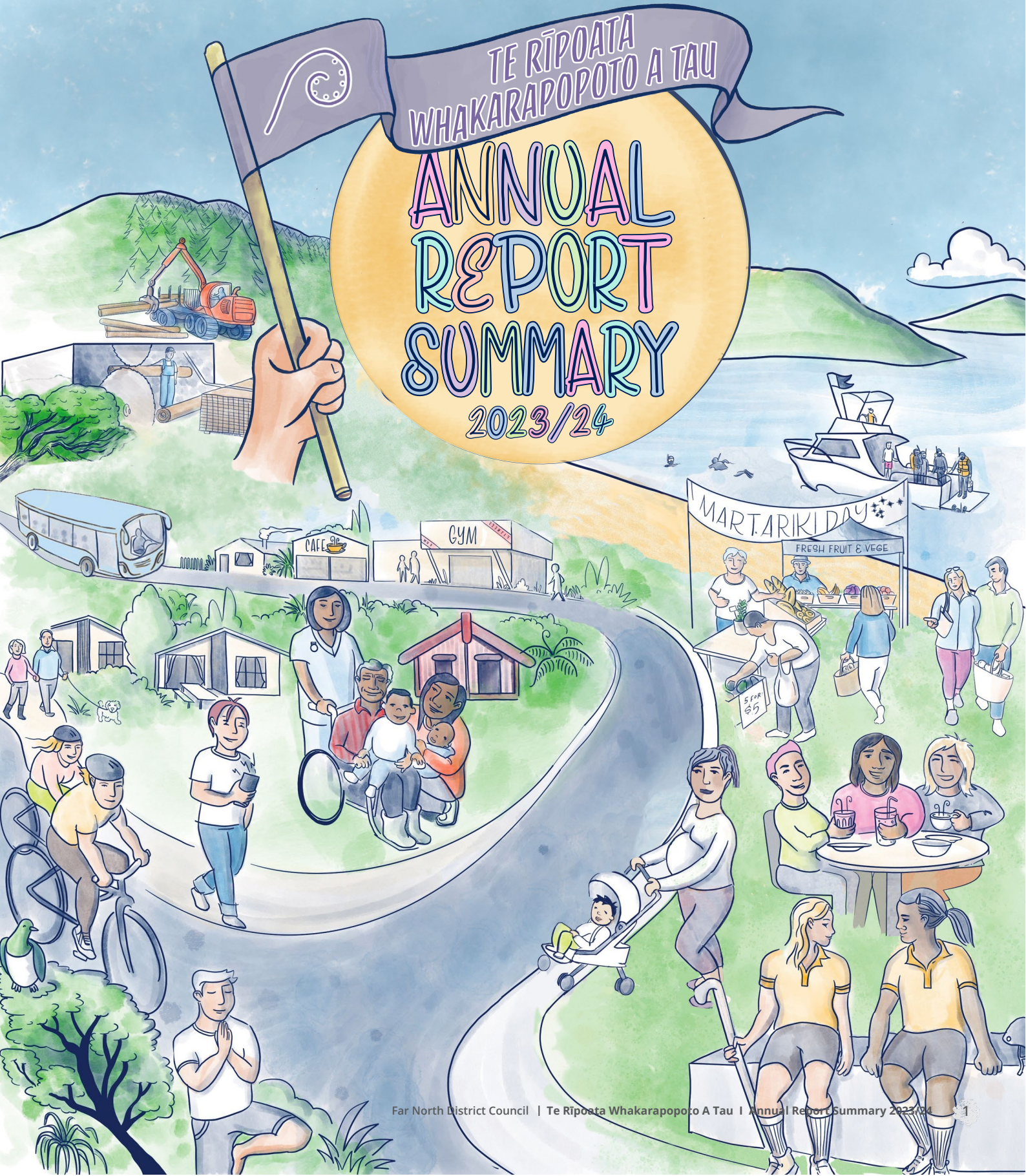


TE RĪPOATA  
WHAKARAPOPOTO A TAU

# ANNUAL REPORT SUMMARY

2023/24



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As noted in its report, Deloitte Limited has reviewed this summary for consistency with the full Annual Report and has confirmed that it fairly and consistently represents the major matters dealt with in the full report for the year ended 30 June 2024.

# Ngā karere o te Kahika

## **Kia ora e te whānau o Te Hiku o te Ika,**

Anei tā mātou pūrongo ā-Tau tuarua hei Kaunihera ā-Rohe o Te Hiku o te Ika i pōtitia i te tau 2022. He mea nui tēnei pūrongo, nā te mea e whakaatu ana i te tau pūtea tuatahi mō tō mātou Kaunihera hou, nō reira, kei a mātou te tino kawenga. Ā, ka kitea te hiranga o ngā marama 12 i tēnei pūrongo! I whakaaetia e mātou tā mātou Mahere ā-Tau 2023/24 i muri tonu mai i a Huripari Kerehoma. Ā, ko tēnei āwha tētahi kaupapa tino nui e rangona tonutia ana, ā, e whakaaweawe tonu nei i a ahau, hei kahika. Ko te take, i whakaatu mai i te hiranga o te hapori, o te whakawhitihiti kōrero, me te māia o ngā iwi o Te Tai Tokerau.

I pāngia a Te Tai Tokerau e te \$41 miriona o te wharanga i ngā huarere mai i Hūrae 2022. Ā, tae atu hoki ki te āwha o Ākuhata 2022 i pakaru ai te Mangamuka Gorge, ko Kerehoma me ētahi atu āwha i kīia ai ināianei ko ngā Huarere o te Ika-a-Māui (NIWE). Kua 175 ngā wāhi, ā, kua tāutu ki ngā whakatikatika i roto i ngā mahere ipurangi. Nō te Maehe, e 85 ngā paheke e whakatikatikahia tonutia ana, ā, ko ngā patunga o ētahi o ēnei wāhi e whakararuraru ana i ngā mahi me ngā pūtea hangahanga ā haere ake nei.

Ā, Ko ngā pānga a te NIWE i huri ai te whakamahere mō tō mātou Kaunihera. Koinei te take, ko Te Tai Tokerau tētahi o ngā Kaunihera e waru i whai whakaaro kia rerekē te Mahere Pae Tawhiti (LTP). Kāhore mātou i whakamahere mō ngā tau 10, engari mō ngā tau e toru e whai ake nei. Ina hoki, kua whakaritea kia noho ko ngā rori hei kaupapa matua. I titiro hoki mātou ki ngā pēhanga utu pēnei i te pikinga o ngā utu, ngā utu inihua, me ngā utu mō ngā kaituku mahi.

Ko ngā pēhanga utu e pāngia ana hoki te iwi o Te Tai Tokerau, ā, he tino mea nui tēnei ki tā mātou tirohanga. Nā te mea e whakaatu ana te Mahere Pae Tawhiti (LTP) i ngā kaupapa ka mahia, ā, me pēhea hoki e utua ai, he mea nui te matapae mō te pikinga o ngā reiti. I aro nui te wā o te uiui LTP ki te pikinga o ngā reiti i whakaarotia mō te 16.5 ōrau. Ā, i tino harikoa ahau ki te whakapuaki i te wā i whakaaetia ai te LTP, kua paku noa te pikinga o ngā reiti ki te 4.5 ōrau anake, ko te pikinga iti katoa i te motu.

He tino tohu nui tēnei mō tō mātou kaunihera, ehara i te mea nā tā mātou aronga kaha anake, engari, kāhore i whakapāpaku i ngā ratonga e mahia nei e mātou. Ko ētahi o ngā whakapaunga ki te kaupapa mahi whakapaipai (te hanga whare me te hangahanga) i panahia ki ngā tau e heke mai ana, engari, ka hāngai noa ki ngā kaupapa whakapaipai kāhore anō kia tīmata.

Ahakoia e aro nui ana tō mātou kaunihera hou ki ngā hanganga matua me ngā ratonga mō ā mātou kaiutu reiti, kāhore mātou e āhei ki te aro noa ki ngā mea taketake anake. Me whai whakaaro hoki mātou ki te whānui o te kaupapa — ko ngā kaupapa me ngā ratonga e hāngai ana ki ngā take e noho nei ngā whānau ki konei, ā, me te tōtō hoki i ngā manuhiri hou. E whakahihī ana ahau i ētahi o ngā kaupapa matua kua oti i tēnei tau!

Kua eke ngā pokapū hākinakina e rua ki te tutukitanga, ā, me te tini tau i muri mai i te tīmatanga. Ko ngā kainoho, ko ngā rōpū hākinakina, ko ngā pakihī, ko ētahi atu rōpū hoki e whai pānga ana i ārahi ai i ēnei kaupapa, ā, nā te kaunihera i whakarato te pūtea mā roto i tā mātou LTPs.

Ko Papa Hawaiki, te pokapū hākinakina-tini \$14.8 miriona ki Lindvart Park, He mea whakatuwhera e Kaikohe i te Apireira. I takoha tō mātou kaunihera i te \$4.4 miriona ki tēnei kaupapa, ā, i runga anō i taku pānga, e hākoakoa pai ana ki te kite i ngā rangatahi me ngā kaumātua e whakamahi ana i ēnei whare. Nō muri i ngā tekau tau o te whakamahere me te kohikohi pūtea, kua tū te pokapū hākinakina \$12 miriona o Te Hiku i Kaitiāia, ā, āianei e tū ana he pokapū kauhoe hou, he whare whakapakari tinana, he rūma hui anō hoki.

Kua tūwhera hoki tētahi tapa tāone hou i Kaitiāia. Ko ngā kainoho i whai wāhi ki te Kaupapa Whakahou Whenua Wātea o Te Hiku, i whakahoungia tētahi papa waka hokomaha tawhito hei wāhi e hui ai, e whakatā ai, e hākoia ai rānei ki ngā mahi toi. Ko tēnei mahi toi, ko Te Rerenga Wai o Tangonge, e whakaatu ana i tētahi whakapakoko ingoa kore ki runga kia whakamanahia ngā tāngata o mua, o nāianei, o anamata hoki e karangahia ana te tāone matua o Te Hiku, ko Kaitiāia hei kāinga. E 7-mita te teitei - he taumata anō. Ko tēnei tapa tāone hou te mutunga o tēnei kaupapa \$9.5 miriona whaimana, ā, kua tino whakapakari i ngā tāone me ngā hapori puta noa i Te Hiku o te Ika.

Ko te whakarāpopototanga o tō mātou tau mai i Hūrae 2023 ki Hune 2024 e whakaatu ana i ētahi pūrongo pai mō te tupu. I whakaatu te tauranga o te tau 2023 i te piki o te taupori o Te Tai Tokerau ki te 9.5 ōrau mai i te tau 2018. Hei rohe, ko ngā tauranga tupu tangata o Te Hiku o te Ika e huihui tahi ana me ngā tino rohe teitei. Kua eke te taupori o te rohe ki te 194,007, ā, neke atu i te 40 ōrau he Māori. He tohu pai tēnei, mā te mahi tahi e waihanga nei mātou i ngā wāhi e hiahia ana ngā hapori ki te noho.

He mea nui te tupu ki te whakamahere ratonga, ngā whare, me ngā hanganga e tautoko ai i ō tātou tāngata. E ngana ana mātou ki te whai wāhi ki ngā hanganga matua. Iā rā, mai i tōku tūnga hei kahika, e uiui mai ana ngā tāngata ki ahau ki te whakatikatika i ngā rori me ngā kōhao. He kaupapa matua tēnei ki tō mātou kaunihera.

Kua tae tō mātou kaunihera ki te tau tuarua i te whare. E whakahihī ana ahau i te tīma mīharo o ngā kaikaunihera me ngā mema poari hapori e whakakanohi ana i ngā tāngata o Te Hiku o te Ika. I te taumata whakahaere, kua kotahi tau neke atu a Guy Holroyd hei Tumuaki, ā, ko ana hekenga werawera me ana whakapaunga kaha e hāpai nei i a mātou ki te ārahi i Te Hiku o te Ika kia pai ake.

*Kua tawhiti kē tō haerenga mai, kia kore e haere tonu; he tino nui rawa ō mahi, kia kore e mahi tonu.*

*We have come too far not to go further; we have done too much not to do more.*

(Sir James Henare, Ngāti Hine)

We've got a lot more to do and I'm proud of our work to date.  
Kia kaha Far Northeners!



**Moko Tepania**  
Kakihia

# Message from the Mayor

## ***Kia ora Far North whānau***

Here it is, our second Annual Report as the Far North District Council elected in 2022. Of note for me though, is that it reflects the first full financial year of our new council so this report is one that we own completely. What a significant 12 months reflected in this report! We adopted our Annual Plan 2023/24 off the back of Cyclone Gabrielle. This storm was a truly significant event and its impact continues to inform my outlook as mayor, because it highlighted the importance of community, communication and the incredible resilience of Far Northerners.

The Far North suffered approximately \$41 million worth of damage from significant weather events since July 2022. This included the August 2022 storm that took out the Mangamuka Gorge, Cyclone Gabrielle and a number of other storms that are now known as the North Island Weather Events (NIWE). In total 175 sites needed repair due to storm damage. As of March, our online repair map showed 85 slips still being worked on. Some of these sites require significant engineering, planning and funding to be resolved. Damage from these events will continue to impact operational and infrastructure budgets for the foreseeable future.

NIWE changed the outlook for planning for our council, and it's why the Far North is one of eight councils to approach the latest LTP differently. Instead of planning spending for the usual 10-year period, this LTP looks to the next three years. This 'catch up' budget was designed to make roading the very top priority. We also needed to take into account spiralling inflation, increased insurance and contractor costs, and an ensuring that we stay on top of our three waters assets.

Cost pressures facing Far Northerners was also very high on our radar. Because the LTP sets out what we plan to do and how to pay for it, forecasting what rate rises will be is a crucial part of the equation. The LTP consultation period focused on a proposed 16.5 per cent rates increase. But I was very excited to announce that when the LTP was finally adopted we had achieved the lowest increase in the country, at just 4.5 per cent for the 2024/25 financial year.

This was a real landmark for our council not only because of the rigorous approach we took, but because there was no reduction in the services we deliver. Some spending in the capital works programme (building and engineering) was pushed out to future years, but this will only impact capital projects not started yet.

While our new council has focused on key infrastructure and services for our ratepayers, we can't be tunnel visioned about delivering only the fundamentals. We have to consider the big picture too - projects and services that contribute to why whānau live here, and that also to attract newcomers. I'm proud of some of our key projects that have been completed in the past year!

Two sports hubs have made it to the finish line, years after the starting gun was fired. Residents, sports groups, businesses, and many other interest groups have driven these projects with the council providing funding through our LTPs.

Papa Hawaiki, the \$14.8 million multi-sports complex at Lindvart Park, Kaikohe opened its doors in April. Our council contributed \$4.4 million to this project and on a personal level, it's particularly gratifying to see rangatahi and kaumātua alike making regular use of these facilities. After decades of planning and fundraising, the \$12 million community-driven Te Hiku Sports Hub in Kaitiāia now boasts a state-of-the-art aquatic centre, gymnasium and function rooms.

A new town square has also opened in Kaitiāia. Locals involved in Te Hiku Open Spaces Revitalisation Project transformed what was an old supermarket car park into a place for locals to meet, relax, or just enjoy the artwork. This art piece, Te Rerenga Wai o Tangonge includes a nameless figure at the top to acknowledge those of the past, present and future who call our Te Hiku capital, Kaitiāia home, and at 7-metres high - it is literally next level. The new town square marked the completion of this \$9.5 million dollar multi-award winning project which has significantly boosted towns and communities across the far Far North.

The round-up of our year from July 2023 to June 2024 includes some good news on growth. The 2023 census revealed the population of Far North has grown by 9.5 per cent since 2018. As a region, Northland's growth statistics are among the highest. Our regional population is now 194,007, with almost 40 per cent Māori. What a great indication that together, we're creating places our communities want to live in.

Growth is a crucial consideration when planning services, facilities and infrastructure that will support our people. We are also playing catch up for our core infrastructure. Every day, since becoming your mayor, people ask me about repairing our roads and potholes, this is a major priority for our council.

Our council is now into its second year in office. I am proud of the incredible team of councillors and community board members we have representing Far Northerners. At an operational level, Chief Executive, Guy Holroyd has been in his role for over a year and his contributions and work ethic are helping us to shape the Far North for the better.

With all the change this past year has brought, perhaps an apt whakatauaākī (proverb) is one displayed at Te Kōngahu Museum of Waitangi.

*Kua tawhiti kē tō haerenga mai, kia kore e haere tonu; he tino nui rawa ō mahi, kia kore e mahi tonu.*

*We have come too far not to go further; we have done too much not to do more.*

(Sir James Henare, Ngāti Hine)

We've got a lot more to do and I'm proud of our work to date.  
Kia kaha Far Northerners!



**Moko Tepania**  
Mayor

# Ngā karere o te Kaiwhakahaere Matua

## Kia ora koutou katoa

Me whai wā ahau ki te whakataki ake, ko wai ahau, nā te mea, ko tēnei taku pūrongo ā-Tau tuatahi hei Tumu Whakarae (CE) mō Te Kaunihera o Te Hiku o te Ika. I muri iho i taku urunga ki te kaunihera i te Hune, i tērā tau hei CE taupua, kātahi ahau ka tohua ki te tūranga matua i te Hepetema.

I ahau mai ahau i te ao pēke me te pūtea, ā, koni atu i te 20 tau o taku umanga ki Rānana, i mua i tā mātou ko taku whānau hoki mai ki Aotearoa i te tau 2007. Nōku i Rānana, ka mahi ahau hei kaiārahi i te Global Structured Credit mō ngā rōpū e toru; mō JP Morgan, mō Deutsche, mō Citigroup hoki. Nō nā tata nei, e kīia ana e au ko taku “Northland boot camp”, i tū ahau hei Tumu Whakarae mō te Tarahiti Ngahere o Ngāti Hine. He wheako whakarangatira tēnei, ā, i tino whaihua taku whakarite mō taku tūranga o āianei, ki konei me mātua mōhio ki ngā matatini o te hītori me te ahurea o Te Tai Tokerau.

I taku pōhiri, e rua ngā kōrero i mea ai ahau. Ka tahi, ki a ahau te kaha ki te kawea i tēnei tūranga me te whakapau i taku katoa; ā, ka rua, he tangata mahi tahi ahau. Ko te tikanga o tāku i mea ai, he kaitākaro ahau nō te tīma o Te Taitokerau – Arā, ko ngā kaiutu reiti, ko ngā kainoho, ko ngā kaimahi o te Kaunihera o Te Hiku o te Ika, ko ngā mema pōti anō hoki – kia hāpai i tēnei tīma me te whaihua. E ārahi ana ahau i ngā whakahaere o te kaunihera ki tētahi aronga whakahou i ngā ratonga mahi me te whaihua mō te pūtea.

Ko te kitenga o ngā kaupapa e ao mārama ana, ā, e whaihua ana ki te oranga me te hauora o ō tātou kaiutu reiti, he mea manawa reka. E kōrero ana au mō te otinga o ngā pokapū hākinakina e rua – arā, ko Te Hiku me Papa Hawaiiki i te Papa Tākaro o Lindvart ki Kaikohe. He mea whakarato e ēnei pokapū hākinakina-tini ngā momo hākinakina koni atu i te 20, ā, he mea ārahi e ō rātou hapori ki ngā takoha a te kaunihera. E hangā ana tētahi pokapū hākinakina hou tuatoru ki Waipapa, ā, he mea utu te nuinga nā te kaunihera. Hei te otinga, ka tāpirihia Te Puāwaitanga ki te whānuitanga o ngā hākinakina me ngā ngohe tākaro e whakapiki ana i te hauora me te oranga o ō tātou tāngata.

E whakatūria ana hoki te Whare Pukapuka o Kaikohe, kua roa kē e whanga ana, me te Pokapū Hapori, me te aha, ka whakahoungia te tiriti matua o Kaikohe. I tīmata te turakitanga o te whare ki te tūnga o te whare hou i te Hūrae. E matakite ana, ka tutuki ā te tau 2025.

He nui tonu ngā homaitanga i taku tau tuatahi. – Kua kōkiri mātou i te tini o ngā kaupapa hou. Engari, me mihi ka tika ki ngā wero o muri i tūtakhiria ai e mātou, hei kaunihera. Huri atu, huri mai, koni atu i te 10 āwha rerekē, tae rā anō ki a

Huripari Gabrielle, i pāngia te hononga rori o Te Hiku o te Ika i te tau 2022 me te tau 2023. I eke te nama ki te whakatika i ngā paheketanga, i ngā poka rori me ngā raru papa ki te \$41 miriona. Ka pāngia tonutia tō tātou hononga rori ngoikore e ngā āwha. Ko tō tātou wero, he whakatika, he hanga anō i tō tātou rori me te whakapūmau i ō tātou hanganga puta noa.

Ko tētahi panonitanga nui i whai mana ai i taku urunga ki te kaunihera, ko te whakakorenga o Northland Transportation Alliance (NTA), he rōpū ā-rohe i whakatūria ai hei ratonga mō ngā kaunihera katoa o Te Tai Tokerau. Āianei, kei FNDC ngā kaimahi rori, ā, ka taea e rātou te arotahi ki te whakapakaritanga o te hononga rori, kia pai ake ngā mahi mō ngā kaiutu reiti.

Mā tēnei tauira e pai ake ai tā mātou whakahaere i ngā mahi tiaki rori me ngā kaupapa hanganga.

He aronga motuhake ngā rori nō tā mātou Mahere Tauroa (LTP) 2024-27 ‘catch up,’ ā, he nui ake te whakapaunga pūtea ki tēnei wāhanga. Kua matapaetia te \$328 miriona, ka whakapaua ki ngā whakahou rori me ngā mahi hou i waenga i ngā tau 2024-29. Tuia ki tērā, Ko ngā whakapaunga pūtea kua matapaetia mō ērā atu rawa pūmau, ko te \$268 miriona ki te waipara, \$168 miriona ki ngā ratonga wai, me te \$39 miriona ki te waiāwhā.

Ka whakatakoto hoki te LTP 2024-27 i tō mātou tapeke whiwhi reiti kia utu ai mātou i ngā mea i maheretia ai. Ka nui te pakeke ki te whakapūmau tonu i ngā ratonga pai me te whaihua mō te moni, i a mātou e ngana ana kia iti tonu te reiti. E whakapono ana ahau i tutuki i a mātou, nā tā mātou whakatau i te pikinga ki te 4.5 ia heneti ki te Mahere ā-Tau (AP) 2024 – 2025, koinei te mea iti katoa i te motu.

I 16.5 ia heneti te pikinga reiti i kawea ai e mātou ki te hapori i te wā o te whakaritenga LTP 2024-27. Whai atu i tērā, ko ngā arotake maha me ngā kaimahi e kōmirimiri ana i ngā pūtea whakahaere i ia rārangi ki te kimi i te \$8.5 miriona neke atu rānei hei penapena. Ko te tāpaetanga o te \$5 miriona mai i te wāhanga arumoni o te kaunihera, ā, ko Far North Holdings Limited (FNHL), i tuku hoki i tētahi tāpaetanga nui. Kua kīia tēnei, he tāpaetanga “Motuhake”, “Harore rangitahi” rānei, heoi, me pēnei kē tāku, ko ngā kawata a te kaunihera kia utu tono a FNHL i ngā tāpaetanga ā haere ake nei.

Ko tā mātou rautaki whare ā-Rohe e turaki ana i ngā ārai ki te hanga whare hou me ngā papakāinga (Te noho ā-Hapori Māori) mā te mahi ngātahi ki ngā iwi, ki ngā hapū, ki ngā umanga whare, ki ngā kaihanganga anō hoki. Nā te ārahitanga a



FNHL, kua pai ngā huarahi ki te whakarato whare. I tuwhera te kaupapa whare o Te Kohekohe ki ngā whare tareka ā-utu e 60. I tēnei wā, i Kaitiāia, e 56 ngā whare e wātea ana ki ngā tāngata o te hapori, ā, e 28 ngā rūma takitahi e tūtohi ana i roto i te mahi tahi ki ngā rōpū maha.

Ko te whakahoutanga o Ngā Wai e Toru tētahi atu panonitanga nui i te tau kua pahure. Nō te whakakorenga o te ture o Ngā Wai e Toru, i tohua mai e te Kāwanatanga haumi, ko te rangatiratanga me te whakahaere o ngā rawa wai ā-rohe ka mau tonu ki ngā kaunihera, ki ētahi atu rōpū whaihōnonga rānei. E mōhiotia ana, Ko tēnei huarahi hou ki te whakahaere i ngā hanganga wai, ko Local Waters Done Well. Ka whakamōhio atu mātou ki a koutou te āhuetanga o tēnei ture hou mō te tukunga o ngā ratonga wai, i te wā e tiroiro ana, e waihanga ana rānei ngā kaikaunihera i ētahi rautaki rawa hou mō te Mahere Ratonga Tuku Wai (WSDP). Ko te āwanganga ki ngā kaikaunihera me ngā kaiutu reiti, ko ngā taumata utu ka puta i te WSDPs. Ki konei i te FNDC, kua tīmata mātou i tētahi rautaki whakahaere pūtea ka mahi tahi me te whakatūnga hou o tō tātou hanganga wai. Mā te āta whakahaere o ngā rawa, ka whakaheke tēnei rautaki i tō tātou taumata nama ā te tekau tau e tū mai nei. Ka whiriwhiri tahi mātou ki ngā hapori, ā, ka pai hoki tā mātou whakatairanga i tēnei.

Nō te wā i tohua ai ahau hei Tumu Whakarae, he nui ngā panonitanga o te wā. Ehara i te mea, ko taku ārahitanga anake te mea hou, engari i pōtīhia ngā kaikaunihera e waru marama i mua atu, ā, nā tētahi whakahoutanga o roto i puta ai te māharahara ki ngā kaimahi kaunihera. I tono ahau kia arotakehia aua tukanga. Ko taku whāinga, he tiroiro i te whaihua o te hanganga o te kaunihera. I hiahia hoki ahau kia iti iho ngā raru, mā te pupuri ki ngā tino wāhanga o te hanganga hou, te arotake me te tūtohu o ngā tono panoni kaimahi, ā, me te whakarerekē ā te wā e tika ana. Kei a mātou tētahi hanganga me ngā wāhanga umanga matua e ārahina ana e ngā kaiwhakahaere rōpū, ko rātou e noho tahi ana hei rōpū whakahaere matua. Ko te aronga mō te tau e tū mai nei kia pūmau te taumata o ngā ratonga, me te whanaketanga o ngā whiwhinga i te ratonga kaihoko, i te māpua, i te whaihua me te whanaketanga o ngā ratonga e hāpai ana i ō mātou kaiutu reiti me ngā kainoho.

I runga i tētahi tirohanga hou, me te maha o ngā taumata, e kaikā ana ahau ki te kite i ngā hua o te tau e whai mai ana. Ngā mihi nui.



**Guy Holroyd**  
Kaiwhakahaere Matua

# Message from the Chief Executive Officer

## *Kia ora koutou katoa*

I would like to take a moment to introduce myself as this is my first annual report as Chief Executive (CE) of the Far North District Council. After joining the council in June last year as an interim CE, I was then appointed to the permanent role in September.

My background is in banking and finance, and I spent almost 20 years of my career in London before returning to New Zealand in 2007 with my family. While in London, I worked as Managing Director in Global Structured Credit for three different organisations - JP Morgan, Deutsche and Citigroup. More recently, in what I describe as my “Northland boot camp” I was Chief Executive of Ngāti Hine Forestry Trust. This was an enriching experience and invaluable in preparing for my current role where an understanding of the multi-faceted history and culture of the Far North is key.

At my pōwhiri (welcome) I said two things. First, that I have the courage to take on this role and give it my full energy; and second, that I am a team player. By that I meant, I'm playing for the Far North Team – that's ratepayers, residents, FNDC staff and elected members – to serve this team and get results. I am leading council operations with a renewed focus on customer service and value for money.

Seeing projects come to fruition and add to the lives and wellbeing of our ratepayers has been gratifying. I'm talking about the completion of two sports hubs – Te Hiku and Papa Hawaiki at Kaikohe's Lindvart Park. These world-class, multi-sport complexes cater to more than 20 sporting codes and both were driven by their communities with contributions from the council. A third new sports hub is being developed at Waipapa and is funded mostly by the council. When completed, Te Puāwaitanga will add to the range of sports and recreational activities that improve the health and wellbeing of our people.

Also taking shape is the long-awaited Kaikohe Library and Civic Hub, which will transform Kaikohe's main street. Demolition of buildings on the site of the new facility started in July. Construction is expected in 2025.

My first year at the council has been very rewarding - we have begun a significant number of new initiatives. But I must acknowledge the background challenges we, as a council, have faced. One by one, at least 10 different significant weather events, including Cyclone Gabrielle, inflicted damage to the Far North roading network between 2022 and 2023. The bill to fix the slips, potholes and surface damage left behind reached \$41 million. Weather events will continue to damage our fragile roading network. Our challenge is to repair and rebuild our roading and to make all of our infrastructure resilient.

One significant change to come into effect since I joined the council was the disbanding of the Northland Transportation Alliance (NTA), a regional organisation that served all Northland councils. Roading staff are now in-house at FNDC and they can focus on improving the resilience of our roading network to deliver better value for ratepayers.

This model gives us greater control of roading maintenance and construction projects.

Roading is a special focus of our 'catch up' Long Term Plan (LTP) 2024-27 which has allocated significantly more spending to this area. It has forecast a \$328 million spend on road renewals and new works between 2024-29. Forecast spending on other fixed assets include \$268 million for wastewater, \$168 million for water supplies and \$39 million for stormwater.

The LTP 2024-27 also sets our total rates take so we can pay for what is planned. The struggle is real in trying to maintain good service and value for money while keeping rates as low as possible. I believe we achieved that balance when we adopted a 4.5 per cent increase, the lowest in the country.

The proposed rate rise we took to the community during LTP 2024-27 consultation was 16.5 per cent. What followed was multiple reviews with staff going through operations budgets line by line to find more than \$8.5 million in savings. A dividend of \$5 million from the council's commercial arm, Far North Holdings Limited (FNHL), also made a significant contribution. This has been referred to as a “special” or “one off” dividend but let me clarify here that the council's expectation is FNHL will continue to pay dividends going forward. This will be achieved by the council supporting FNHL to take a greater role in regional development, particularly housing.

Our regional housing strategy is reducing barriers to building new homes and papakāinga (Māori community living) by working more closely with iwi, hapū, housing agencies and developers. With FNHL in the driving seat, we've made great in-roads in housing provision. Te Kohekohe housing project opened the doors to 60 affordable homes. Meanwhile in Kaitiāia, housing for up to 56 community members will be made possible with 28 one-bedroom units proposed in collaboration with several other organisations.

Three Waters reform was another source of significant change over the past year. When three waters legislation was repealed, the Coalition Government signalled that ownership and control of local water assets will be retained by councils or associated entities. This new approach to water infrastructure management is known as Local Waters Done Well.

We'll keep you informed about what this new legislation means for the delivery of water services as council staff investigate and formulate a new asset strategy for the legislated Water Services Delivery Plan (WSDP). A concern for councillors and ratepayers is levels of debt that may be incurred with the WSDPs. Here at FNDC, we have initiated a balance sheet management strategy that will run in tandem with the rebuild of our water infrastructure. Through careful asset management, this strategy will offset our debt levels over the coming decade. We will be consulting with communities and promoting a good level of transparency on this.

When I became Chief Executive, there was a lot of change in the air. Not only was my leadership new, but councillors had been elected just eight months prior, and an internal restructure had created significant uncertainty for council staff. I commissioned a review of that process. My goal was to check that the council's structure was fit for purpose. I also wanted to ensure a minimum of disruption by keeping the

best parts of the new structure, reviewing and proposing staff changes, and only adjusting where absolutely necessary. We now have a structure with core business areas headed by group managers, who together form a revitalised senior management team. The focus for the coming year is to maintain a stable platform of operations while driving gains in customer service, productivity and efficiency, and improving the value of services we provide to our ratepayers and residents.

With a fresh outlook in place, on so many levels, I look forward to seeing what the next year brings.

Ngā mihi nui.



**Guy Holroyd**  
Chief Executive Officer

# Ngā Manu Mātārae Civic Leadership



**Kahika - Mayor**  
Moko Tepania



**Councillor**  
**Ann Court**  
Bay of Islands-  
Whangaroa Ward



**Councillor**  
**Felicity Foy**  
Te Hiku Ward



**Councillor**  
**Hilda Halkyard-  
Harawira**  
Ngā Tai o Tokerau  
Ward



**Councillor**  
**Babe Kapa**  
Ngā Tai o Tokerau  
Ward



**Councillor**  
**Penetaui Kleskovic**  
Ngā Tai o Tokerau  
Ward



**Councillor**  
**Steve McNally**  
Bay of Islands-  
Whangaroa Ward



**Councillor**  
**Mate Radich**  
Te Hiku Ward



**Councillor**  
**Tāmami Rākena**  
Ngā Tai o Tokerau  
Ward



**Kōwhiri -  
Deputy Mayor**  
**Kelly Stratford**  
Councillor  
Bay of Islands-  
Whangaroa Ward



**Councillor**  
**John Vujcich**  
Kaikohe-Hokianga Ward

# Ngā Rāngai Hapori Community Boards

## Bay of Islands - Whangaroa



**Lane Ayr**  
(Deputy Chair)  
Kerikeri



**Tyler Bamber**  
Waipapa



**Jane Hindle**  
Russell-Ōpua



**Bruce Mills**  
Whangaroa



**Roddy Pihema**  
Kawakawa-Moerewa



**Amy Slack**  
Kerikeri



**Belinda Ward**  
(Chair)  
Paihia

## Kaikohe - Hokianga



**Mike Edmonds**  
Kaikohe



**Trinity Edwards**  
Kaikohe



**Tanya Filia**  
(Deputy Chair)  
South Hokianga



**Harmonie Gundry**  
North Hokianga



**Jessy McVeagh**  
South Hokianga



**Chicky Rudkin**  
(Chair)  
Kaikohe

## Te Hiku



**Darren Axe**  
North Cape



**Sheryl Bainbridge**  
Doubtless Bay



**Rachel Baucke**  
Kaitāia



**Adele Gardner**  
(Chair)  
Kaitāia



**John Stewart**  
(Deputy Chair)  
Kaitāia



**Bill Subritzky**  
Whatuwhiwhi

# Ā mātou pitōpito mahi

## Our performance in brief

As outlined in the Annual Plan 2023/24, it was a challenging year with high levels of inflation, unpredictable weather conditions, disruptive road closures and damage resulting from heavy rain events. The year saw a focus on recovery, whilst navigating various external factors affecting the local government sector.

As part of the strategic direction, the plan identified several priority areas, including better asset management, protecting and enhancing water supplies, adapting to a changing environment, and stimulating economic activity where we can. In addition to this, there was more emphasis on deepening the sense of place and connection across the rohe: and of course, keeping a sharp eye on costs to the ratepayer.

The total rates increase was 6.78%, higher than originally planned, in year three of the LTP 2021-31. A number of budgets were revised upwards to accommodate cost increases, together with a revised work programme to reprioritise and carry forward projects that suffered delays from severe weather, supply chain challenges, and available resources.

Despite the various challenges faced across our district, council continued to perform with key achievements completed throughout the year, with some notable examples being:

- The council confirmed in February it will take a lead in tackling the district's housing crisis by working more closely with iwi and hapū, housing agencies and developers to reduce barriers to building new homes. We showcased this at a Housing Expo held at Waitangi during Waitangi Day celebrations in February 2024.
- The council launched a major spatial planning project in Kerikeri to set the growth agenda for our largest town. This will provide a blueprint for a district-wide spatial plan for the Far North.
- The historical river port town of Awanui, just north of Kaitiāia, was recognised as the nation's Best Tiny Town at the annual Keep New Zealand Beautiful Awards 2023 held at Parliament House in Wellington in October 2023.

- The council adopted an internal Climate Action Policy following endorsement by Te Kuaka – Te Ao Māori Committee on 28 November. This marked a significant stride forward in climate mitigation and adaptation efforts.
- The council launched our Arotake Whakaahuatanga Tangata / Representation Review in February 2024. The review is undertaken at least every six years to ensure the council's governance structure fairly and effectively represents the Far North's diverse communities.
- Urgent works to repair a busy one-lane bridge on Landing Road in Kerikeri was completed late February 2024. The bridge was closed for three days (and nights).
- The council refreshed our 35-year-old logo as part of its goal to boost the use of te reo Māori within the organisation.
- The council adopted the LTP 2024-27 that included a total rate increase of 4.5%, the lowest rates increase in Aotearoa.
- The council's Nothing-But-Net programme, which enables communities to connect to the internet by providing free public Wi-Fi, completed an extension into the Hokianga with hotspots switched on at Ōpononi, Panguru and Mangōnui.
- A stunning Pou artwork symbolising a paddle lit up a blessing to mark the completion of the Unahi Wharf Carpark Upgrade Project, the second stage of a revamp of wharf facilities. The first stage of the wharf rebuild was completed in 2022.

Despite many successes, the back-to-back severe weather events left the council with a considerable repair bill. This has been compounded by spiralling inflation – the highest rates experienced in New Zealand in more than 30 years. In response, we have reassessed and reprioritised a number of projects to allow us to fund and focus on repairing our transport network, maintaining momentum on executing key existing capital projects for our region, whilst also ensuring that we maintain service levels and enhancing community well-being.

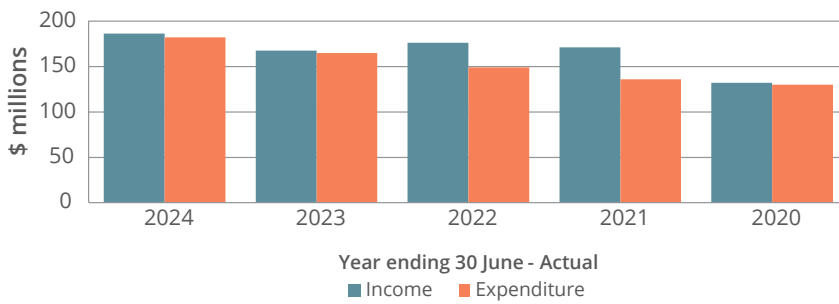
## Financial overview

Our operational result for the 2023/24 financial year shows a net surplus of \$2.8 million compared to a budgeted net surplus of \$6.5 million.

### Financial trends

	Budget	2024	2023	2022	2021
Income	171	186	168	176	171
Expenditure	165	183	165	149	136
Surplus	7	3	3	27	35

## Operational performance



- The council ended the year with a strong cash position of \$9.3 million (2023 \$18.8 million) due to prudent cash management
- Debt increased to \$131.0 million (2023 \$105.5 million), including short term borrowings of \$61.0 million (2023 \$55.5 million).

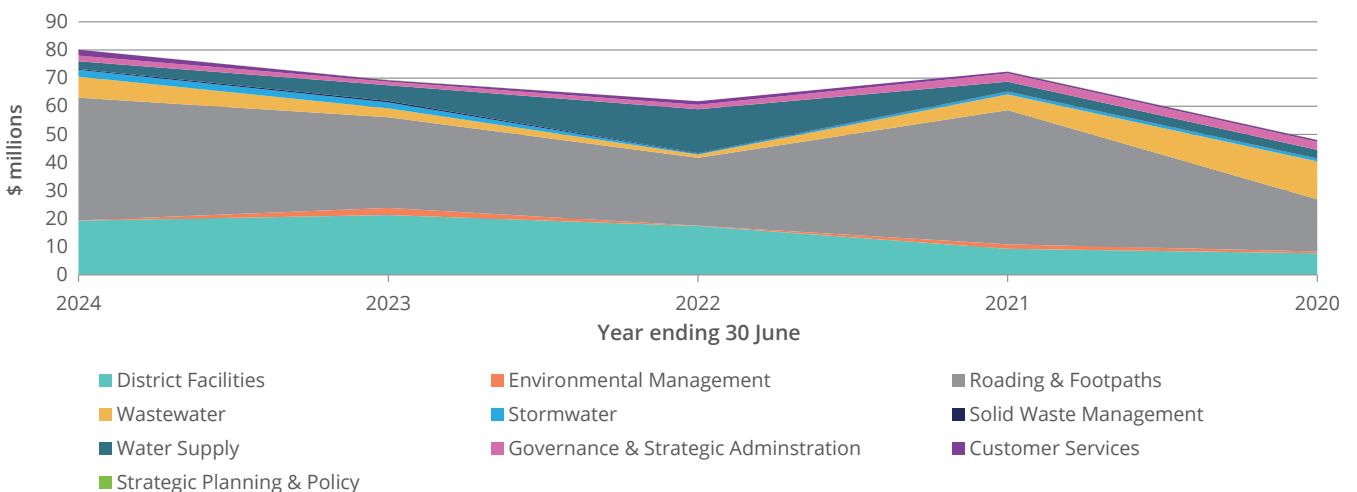
## Capital Expenditure

Capital expenditure of \$80.1 million for the year was lower than expected reflecting continued disruptions to supply chains and severe weather events. Please refer to page 118 for further explanation on significant variances to Annual Plan budget.



	2024 Budget	2024 Actual	2023 Actual	2022 Actual	2021 Actual	2020 Actual
Roading and Footpaths	36.4	43.6	32.2	24.1	47.7	18.5
Water Supply	4.8	2.7	5.7	15.7	3.5	3.0
Wastewater	16.7	7.5	3.2	1.2	5.6	13.5
Stormwater	7.8	2.4	2.1	0.3	0.9	1.0
Solid Waste Management	0.6	0.4	0.5	0.2	0.1	0.1
District Facilities	32.9	19.3	21.3	17.4	9.3	7.6
Customer Services	1.5	2.1	0.5	1.3	0.6	0.6
Environmental Management	-	0.1	2.5	0.1	1.6	0.7
Strategic Planning and Policy	-	-	-	0.1	-	-
Governance and Strategic Administration	2.8	2.0	1.3	1.6	3.0	2.9
<b>Total</b>	<b>103.5</b>	<b>80.1</b>	<b>69.3</b>	<b>61.8</b>	<b>72.3</b>	<b>47.9</b>

## Capital works programme



## Non-financial overview

The council records a variety of key performance indicators (KPIs) to report our non-financial outcomes for Levels of Service. Individual KPIs for levels of service are reported by activity group within the Statement of Service Performance.

	Achieved	Not achieved	Not assessed	Total
Roading and Footpaths	6	2	-	8
Water Supply	3	2	-	5
Wastewater	4	1	-	5
Stormwater	3	1	-	4
Solid Waste Management	1	2	-	3
District Facilities	4	4	-	8
Customer Services	8	4	1	13
Environmental Management	3	4	-	7
<b>Total</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>53</b>

## Outlook

In an ideal world, we should have maintained a steady course for year three of the LTP 2021-31. However, as we all know, the world has changed and the local government sector, like many others, is experiencing significant disruption. As explained in Our Performance in Brief (pages 19-20), our capital programme was hugely affected this year by sharply rising inflation, unpredictable and unreliable supply chains, workforce availability within our supply networks and the severe weather events.

The Finance Strategy in the latest LTP 2024-27 reflects an overarching focus on supporting recovery post severe weather events, repairing and building resilience into our transport infrastructure. The other key areas of focus were financial sustainability, affordability and economic recovery within the context of community wellbeing.

Local Water Done Well is the Coalition Government's plan to address New Zealand's long-standing water infrastructure

challenges. It recognises the importance of local decision making and flexibility for communities and councils to determine how their water services will be delivered in the future. It will do this while ensuring a strong emphasis on meeting economic, environmental and water quality regulatory requirements. Whilst we agree change is needed for water infrastructure, there is still uncertainty as to the changes and implementation.

The ongoing Government inquiry into the future of local government continues, where the role and function of councils is under the spotlight, with an aim to deliver enhanced community wellbeing outcomes for our communities. This comes at the same time as an overhaul of the Resource Management Act that could result in regionalised arrangement for land-use planning and regulatory activities. It is still very much a 'watch and wait' situation.







































# Mahinga whakarato

## Statement of service provision

### Community outcomes

The work and activities that the council provides are guided by community outcomes - the set of aspirations or goals that the community as a whole said were important to the District. Although each activity contributes in some way to these outcomes, this varies from high in some areas, to not significant in others. The community outcomes link to the four aspects of wellbeing as shown on the next page.

The table below shows our group of activities and their alignment with our community outcomes.

What we do	How our community outcomes link to our activities					
	Communities that are healthy, safe, connected and sustainable	Connected and engaged communities prepared for the unexpected	Proud, vibrant communities	Prosperous communities supported by a sustainable economy	A wisely managed and treasured environment that recognises the special role of tangata whenua as kaitiaki	We embrace and celebrate our unique culture and heritage and value it as a source of enduring pride
<b>Roading and Footpaths</b>						
<b>Water Supply</b>						
<b>Wastewater</b>						
<b>Stormwater</b>						
<b>Solid Waste Management</b>						
<b>District Facilities</b>						
<b>Customer Services</b>						
<b>Environmental Management</b>						
<b>Strategic Planning and Policy</b>						
<b>Governance and Strategic Administration</b>						

## Community wellbeing

Schedule 10, clause 23 (d) of LGA 2002 requires us to "describe any identified effects that any activity within the group of activities has had on the social, economic, environmental, or cultural well-being of the community".

### What are the four aspects of wellbeing?



#### Ā iwi • Social

Involves individuals, their families, whanau, iwi/hapū and a range of communities being able to set goals and achieve them, such as education, health, the strength of community networks, financial and personal security, equity of opportunity, and rights and freedoms.



#### Ōhanga • Economic

Looks at whether the economy can generate the employment and wealth necessary to provide many of the requirements that make for social well-being, such as health, financial security, and equity of opportunity.



#### Taiao • Environmental

Considers whether the natural environment can sustainably support the activities that constitute healthy community life, such as air quality, fresh water, uncontaminated land, and control of pollution.



#### Ahurea • Cultural

Looks at the shared beliefs, values, customs, behaviours and identities reflected through language, stories, visual and performing arts, ceremonies and heritage that make up our communities.

### Activities summary

Activity	Ā iwi Social	Ōhanga Economic	Taiao Environmental	Ahurea Cultural	Narrative
1 <b>Roading and Footpaths</b>	✓	✓	✓		Work continues with fixing emergency works slip sites across many parts of our transport network after experiencing in excess of 10 significant weather events since July 2022. Restoration of these sites will be the focus of our LTP for the next three years. In addition to the recovery works, road maintenance and renewals are delivered across the district including reseals, sealed and unsealed rehabilitations.
2 <b>Water Supply</b>	✓	✓	✓		<p>Water quality - Funding from the Department of Internal Affairs Better Off Fund enabled the installation of treatment and monitoring equipment required by Taumata Arowai under the Drinking Water Quality Assurance Rules. Specifically, continuous source water monitoring, continuous monitoring of water going into supply, sampling site upgrades, and upgrading all water treatment plants to achieve compliance with standards for protozoa treatment. Most plants now have multiple barriers for both bacteria and protozoa.</p> <p>The council provides monthly compliance reports to Taumata Arowai via WaterOutlook software. These reports show that new equipment has led to water treatment improvements. Water quantity - FNDC had previously purchased shares in Matawii dam. During summer FY 2023/24 water from Matawii dam was successfully treated at the Taraiare Hills water treatment plant reducing the need for water restrictions in Kaikohe.</p>
3 <b>Wastewater</b>	✓	✓	✓	✓	<p>The Far North Water Alliance was disbanded in March 2024 after the repeal of 3 waters reforms and the introduction of Local Water Done Well. The council is now required to focus on assessing the Local Water Done Well delivery models.</p> <p>The council also consulted on how we rate those who access or could access wastewater services. The final decision was to continue with the status quo based on feedback received and the council's final decision adopted in June 2024. Russell wastewater treatment plant UV was upgraded resulting in removal of abatement notice. Consent was obtained for the Kohukohu wastewater treatment plant.</p>

Activity	Ā iwi Social	Ōhanga Economic	Taiao Environmental	Ahurea Cultural	Narrative
4 Stormwater	✓	✓	✓		Despite the heavy rain warning and power outage in June 2024, no flooding events were reported. Additionally, stormwater complaints decreased by 48% compared to the previous year, attributed to fewer weather events. The council also consulted on how we rate stormwater across the district. The final decision was to implement a targeted rate based on land use and a public good rate per rating unit to increase funding for stormwater and drainage improvements. The final decision was adopted June 2024.
5 Solid Waste Management	✓	✓	✓		We have tendered our three main waste contracts and contracted Northland Waste to deliver all three under one contract from October 2024. Following initial, pre-tender community consultation in 2023, a working group of industry experts and community has been formed and has started the Waste Minimisation Plan review and development.
6 District Facilities	✓	✓	✓	✓	<p>Work has concluded at Lindvart Park, Kaikohe with the main building now open. This facility features a double court with acoustic panelling so performances and large gatherings can be held. The facility also includes a gym and changing facilities.</p> <p>Work progressed at Te Puawaitanga with Stage 1 of the project nearing completion including four playing fields, one training field, irrigations system, cricket pitches, toilets with changing rooms and parking for 144 vehicles, eight disabled parking and three bus bays, stormwater and on-site wastewater system and landscaping. Further work is progressing for the successful operations of this facility.</p> <p>The Te Hiku o te Ika Revitalisation project saw significant cultural structures installed around Ahipara, Awanui and Kaitāia, as well as development of Kaitāia town square, upgrades to market square and many new inclusions for play and open spaces.</p> <p>Stage 1 of Russell Cemetery extension works to clear and prepare the new area were completed. Stage 2 will continue from spring 2024 to bring to life the cemetery design and other functional elements.</p> <p>The Pukenui coastal walkway completed the first of three sections late in 2023 to deliver a walking track from State Highway 1 along Houhora Heads Road to the coast. Work continues on the next section which aims to deliver a track along Waterfront Road, looping back to State Highway 1.</p> <p>Upgrades to the Ōpua-Paihia Walkway from Te Haumi through to English Bay to improve safety and user experience were completed early in 2024.</p> <p>Maritime facility upgrades around the district have also been completed including Whangaroa maritime, Hokianga Harbour works, Mill Bay jetty renewals and the inclusion of new truck parking and dinghy ramp at Mangōnui.</p>
7 Customer Services	✓	✓		✓	<p>Paihia had 74 cruise ships scheduled to visit the Bay of Islands the summer season. Visitor numbers were down slightly due to access difficulties with the Brynderwyn's closed and diversions in place.</p> <p>Customer Services delivery has improved significantly since the creation of the Contact Centre as its own team. Call handle times, abandoned call rates, and front-facing query resolution rates all improved dramatically in the last quarter of 2023/24.</p> <p>Our libraries continue to experience growth, with in-person programming attendance and online library use continuing to remain high.</p>

Activity	Ā iwi Social	Ōhanga Economic	Taiao Environmental	Ahurea Cultural	Narrative
<b>8 Environmental Management</b>	✓		✓		<p>BCA performance remains steady resulting in 100% compliance with Statutory requirements. Consents are the lowest they have been in seven years with 441 issued compared with 1531 in 2022. Market confidence is low due to high interest rates, a high cost of living and building materials. Any change in these conditions may result in an increase in market confidence which should result in a raise in consenting numbers.</p> <p>Resource Consent Compliance has significantly improved throughout the year. This is due to additional staffing and a concerted effort to move the legacy applications through to the decision space.</p> <p>Levels of Service remain high within the Compliance team solidly meeting targets in Animal Management, and Environmental Health Services. Noise response has improved significantly on previous years however this performance is largely reliant on Police availability to assist.</p>
<b>9 Strategic Planning and Policy</b>	✓	✓	✓	✓	<p>The Proposed District Plan (PDP) hearings are currently underway and will continue through to November 2025. As part of the ongoing refinement of the PDP, Variation 1 – minor errors and corrections is set to be notified in late 2024. Meanwhile, the development of the Kerikeri-Waipapa Spatial Plan remains on track, with its completion scheduled for mid-2025.</p> <p>Work also continues across the district with the development of Community Place-making Plans and Reserve Management Plans within the three wards.</p> <p>In addition to these projects, we are progressing through our strategy, policy, and bylaws programme, which includes key initiatives such as the Solid Waste Strategy, Housing Strategy, Open Spaces Strategy, Alcohol Control Bylaw, and several three waters-related bylaws.</p> <p>The Community Adaptation Programme, designed to assist communities in adapting to the impacts of climate change, has launched Stage One in the Hokianga-Whangapē-Herekino areas. Furthermore, Council is nearing the completion of its first carbon footprint reports, covering the 2023 and 2024 financial years, marking an important step in measuring and addressing our environmental impact.</p>
<b>10 Governance and Strategic Administration</b>	✓	✓		✓	<p>A mid-term governance review was undertaken to ensure our governance structure remains fit for purpose. We also conducted a representation review to ensure our elected positions and boundaries fairly represent our communities of interest in preparation for the 2025 Local Government Elections.</p>

## Resident Opinion Survey

Far North District Council has an ongoing need to measure how satisfied residents are with resources, facilities and services provided by the council, and to prioritise improvement opportunities that will be valued by the community.

Tauranga-based research company Key Research has been assessing changes in the public's satisfaction with the council's performance since 2017. Its research objectives are to:

- Provide a robust measure of satisfaction with the council's performance in relation to services and assets
- Determine performance drivers and assist the council to identify the best opportunities to further improve satisfaction

- Measure how the council's reputation is evaluated by its residents
- Assess changes in satisfaction over time and measure progress against the LTP 2021-31.

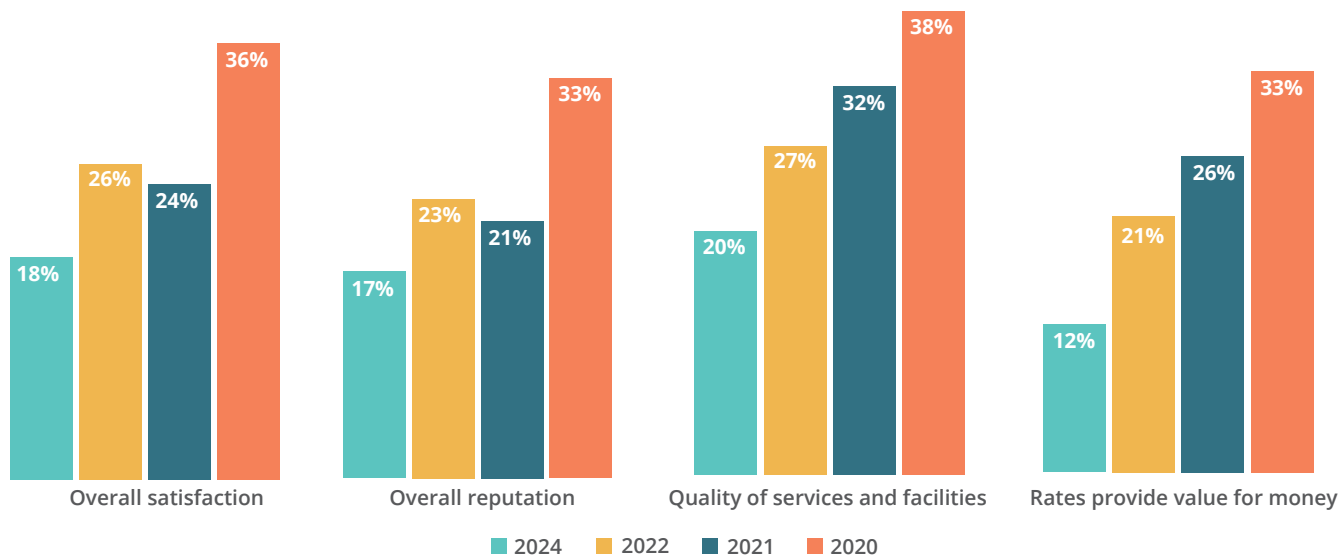
After the 2022/23 survey results, and following business adjustments related to post-COVID-19 activities, the Resident Opinion Survey will now be conducted biannually starting this year (2024). With the next survey to be undertaken in 2026.

The methodology has evolved over the years and for the most recent 2023/24 survey involved a quarterly online survey residents of the district were invited to participate in via an email sent by the council (from its proprietary database) under Key Research guidance. Previously the study had consisted of a quarterly postal invite to complete the survey sent to residents randomly selected from the electoral roll.

Questions were mostly carried over from the 2021/22 survey to ensure that long-term statistical trends have integrity, although some refinements were made for 2023/24. It was structured to provide a comprehensive set of measures relating to core activities, services and infrastructure, as well as to provide a wider perspective of performance.

The council's overall performance declined from 26 per cent in 2022, to 18 per cent in 2024. Satisfaction across all main metrics also experienced decreases over the past two years. These results continue downward trends recorded in other recent opinion surveys and reflect similar results experienced by many other councils in Aotearoa since the COVID-19 pandemic and national lockdowns.

### Overall Performance (2020-2024)



To reverse this trend, the council has made changes to external communications to better explain its activities and decisions. It now publishes at least six news stories a week to its website and social media channels, and has added video production capabilities to its suite of external communication tools and aims to publish at least two videos to its online platforms weekly. Customer-facing operations have also been revamped, particularly the Contact Centre. Since March 2024 the percentage of customer calls that are resolved at first point of contact climbed from 35 per cent to 67 per cent in August. Over the same period, the average wait time a

customer waits to have their call answered fell from 2.22 minutes to 0.37 minutes. The average handle time (the time it takes to fully complete a customer query) fell from 9.37 minutes to 4.31 minutes. The total interactions of the Contact Centre including calls taken rose from 2,935 in March 2024 to 4,702 in August 2024.

These efforts were reflected in the latest Resident Opinion Survey report with improved awareness of council activities, particularly work on the District Plan.

### Comparison of results 2022 - 2024

#### Biggest improvements

Service / Facility / Activity	2024	2022	Change (2022 to 2024)
Residents who have made some or a lot of effort to stay informed about what the council is doing	37%	21%	+16%
I am aware of changes to the District Plan and opportunities where I can participate in these plan changes	21%	11%	+10%
Informed about the council's District Plan	17%	11%	+6%
Informed about what the council is doing	21%	16%	+5%

## Biggest decreases

Service / Facility / Activity	2024	2022	Change (2022 to 2024)
How the council's Animal Management Team manages dogs in the District	16%	35%	-19%
Satisfaction with cemeteries	62%	83%	-18%
Overall water management	18%	35%	-17%
Overall refuse and recycling disposal services	53%	67%	-14%
Satisfaction with the council-owned urban (town) stormwater management system	23%	37%	-14%

It is not always clear whether external events play a role in satisfaction levels. For example, intense media coverage of two high-profile dog attacks before and during the survey period may have influenced opinions about dog control in general. Likewise, controversy over central government proposals to change the way councils operate their three waters assets may also have sharpened opinions.

In the case of animal management, the council has increased funding and staffing of its Animal Management Team. This will increase the teams visibility within communities and enable it to provide community engagement, particularly around keeping safe around dogs.

The council has made progress on addressing outstanding abatement notices on several wastewater plants and is working directly with communities to find long-term solutions for wastewater disposal. It has instituted better

online monitoring systems for potable and wastewater networks, and is supporting the development of three waters infrastructure for new housing developments in growth areas like Kaikohe and Kawakawa.

In August 2024, the council awarded a 10-year contract, worth around \$50 million, to Northland Waste Limited to operate its network of refuse transfer stations and community recycling centres. This consolidates the council's waste and recycling operations within a proven operator and will provide greater value for money for ratepayers.

The 2023/24 Residents' Survey Results – full detailed report was presented to councillors at the 12 September 2024 Council meeting.

## Resident Survey summary dashboard

Annual resident survey result comparison 2023 to 2024.

Service / facility / activity	2024 % very satisfied / satisfied	2023 % very satisfied / satisfied
Roading	13	13
Footpaths	22	24
Water Supply	37	52
Wastewater	54	59
Stormwater	23	26
Refuse transfer stations	74	85
Community recycling stations	70	74
Cemeteries	65	75
Libraries	84	78
Public toilets	38	39
Parks and reserves	50	57
Coastal access	35	38
Carparking facilities	35	38
How the council's animal management team manages dogs in the district	16	28
How the council's animal management team manages livestock in the district	22	26
Community board awareness in your area	80	79
Informed about the District Plan	17	31
Aware of changes to the District Plan	21	32
Informed about what the council is doing (all residents)	21	19
Informed about what the council is doing (Māori respondents)	16	15
Overall performance of the council	18	17

# Arotake pūtea

## Financial Performance

A full copy of the Annual Report can be viewed at the Far North District Council offices, our main service centres or on our website: [www.fndc.govt.nz](http://www.fndc.govt.nz).

Deloitte Limited has audited the council's full Annual Report and has issued an unmodified report. As part of the audit, the auditors looked at whether the financial statements fairly reflect the council's financial performance and position and comply with generally accepted accounting practice. Additionally they looked at the council's non-financial performance and how fairly it has monitored and reported on its activities. The summary cannot be expected to provide as complete an understanding of the financial and non-financial performance of the council as the full Annual Report. The full Annual Report for the year ended 30 June 2024 was adopted by the council on 31 October 2024.

These summary financial statements for the Far North District Council and Group are summarised from the full financial statements. The consolidated financial statements reflect the operations of Far North District Council and its subsidiary Far North Holdings Limited (FNHL), its wholly owned subsidiaries, Bay of Islands Marina Ltd and Far North Housing Limited and its associates Kaikohe Berryfruit GP Limited, 450 Kamo Road Limited Partnership and 56 Tawanui RD GP Limited; the council controlled organisations – Pou Herenga Tai Twin Coast Cycle Trail Charitable Trust (Pou Herenga); and the council organisation Te Ahu Charitable Trust (TACT). Far North District Council's equity share of 33.3% of its associate Northland Inc. has been equity accounted into the parent entity financial statements. The summary financial statements do not include all the disclosures provided in the full financial statements and cannot be expected to provide as complete understanding as provided in the full financial statements.

The summary financial statements are presented in New Zealand dollars and all values are rounded to the nearest thousand. The information included in this summary has been prepared in accordance with PBE FRS 43: Summary Financial Statements. The full financial statements have been prepared in accordance with Tier 1 Public Benefit Entity accounting standards.

### Basis of preparation

The financial statements have been prepared on a going concern basis, and the accounting policies have been applied consistently throughout the year.

## Statement of comprehensive revenue and expense

For the year ended 30 June 2024

	Note	Council			Group	
		Actual 2024 \$000s	Budget 2024 \$000s	Actual 2023 \$000s	Actual 2024 \$000s	Actual 2023 \$000s
<b>Total revenue</b>		<b>185,475</b>	<b>171,330</b>	<b>167,572</b>	<b>212,996</b>	<b>198,979</b>
<b>Expenses</b>						
Personnel costs	4	34,109	38,203	33,814	39,591	38,342
Depreciation and amortisation expense	14	47,694	45,480	41,784	49,329	43,531
Finance costs	6	5,735	5,409	3,479	8,920	6,332
Other expenses	5	95,089	75,697	85,691	134,788	95,808
<b>Total expenses</b>		<b>182,626</b>	<b>164,789</b>	<b>164,769</b>	<b>232,627</b>	<b>184,014</b>
<b>Surplus / (deficit) before tax</b>		<b>2,849</b>	<b>6,540</b>	<b>2,803</b>	<b>(19,631)</b>	<b>14,965</b>
Financial assets at fair value through equity	24	3	-	(8)	3	48
Cash flow hedges	24	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Items that will not be reclassified to surplus</b>						
Gain / (loss) on asset revaluations	16/24	110,223	115,898	164,979	104,782	169,918
Movement to retained earnings		-	-	-	1,500	125
Share of associates other comprehensive income		-	-	-	(22)	-
Tax on revaluation		-	-	-	(213)	117
<b>Total other comprehensive revenue and expense</b>		<b>110,226</b>	<b>115,898</b>	<b>164,971</b>	<b>106,050</b>	<b>170,208</b>
<b>Total comprehensive revenue and expense</b>		<b>113,075</b>	<b>122,438</b>	<b>167,774</b>	<b>84,577</b>	<b>184,383</b>

## Statement of changes in equity

For the year ended 30 June 2024

	Note	Council			Group	
		Actual 2024 \$000s	Budget 2024 \$000s	Actual 2023 \$000s	Actual 2024 \$000s	Actual 2023 \$000s
<b>Opening balance 1 July</b>		<b>2,489,335</b>	<b>2,486,877</b>	<b>2,321,561</b>	<b>2,612,670</b>	<b>2,428,587</b>
Total comprehensive revenue and expense for the year		113,075	122,438	167,774	84,577	184,382
<b>Closing balance 30 June</b>		<b>2,602,410</b>	<b>2,609,315</b>	<b>2,489,335</b>	<b>2,697,247</b>	<b>2,612,670</b>

## Statement of financial position

as at 30 June 2024

	Note	Council			Group	
		Actual 2024 \$000s	Budget 2024 \$000s	Actual 2023 \$000s	Actual 2024 \$000s	Actual 2023 \$000s
Public equity		2,602,410	2,609,315	2,489,335	2,697,247	2,612,970
<b>Assets</b>						
Current assets		54,024	42,056	53,276	70,757	74,819
Non-current assets		2,718,970	2,773,952	2,578,483	2,893,094	2,767,826
<b>Liabilities</b>						
Current liabilities		99,078	41,668	91,192	156,510	110,047
Non-current liabilities		71,504	165,024	51,231	108,593	119,627
<b>Net assets</b>		<b>2,602,410</b>	<b>2,609,315</b>	<b>2,489,335</b>	<b>2,697,247</b>	<b>2,612,970</b>

## Statement of cash flows

For the year ended 30 June 2024

	Note	Council			Group	
		Actual 2024 \$000s	Budget 2024 \$000s	Actual 2023 \$000s	Actual 2024 \$000s	Actual 2023 \$000s
Net cash inflows from operating activities		45,097	48,386	50,771	38,735	56,919
Net cash inflows / (outflows) from financing activities		25,500	56,798	24,000	25,121	33,546
Net cash inflows / (outflows) from investing activities		(80,080)	(103,395)	(69,328)	(72,989)	(85,060)
<b>Opening balances 1 July</b>						
Cash and cash equivalents		18,798	5,582	13,353	19,762	14,357
<b>Less balances 30 June</b>						
Cash and cash equivalents	8	9,316	7,371	18,798	10,629	19,762
<b>Cash movements for the year</b>		<b>(9,482)</b>	<b>1,789</b>	<b>5,445</b>	<b>(9,133)</b>	<b>5,405</b>



## Variations to Annual Plan

	Council 2024 \$000s
<b>Statement of comprehensive revenue and expense</b>	
Annual Plan surplus	6,540
Annual Report surplus / (deficit)	2,849
<b>Net operating variance surplus / (deficit)</b>	<b>(3,691)</b>
Variance represented by:	
Variance area	
Rates	(1,444)
Other	15,589
<b>Total revenue variance / surplus / (deficit)</b>	<b>14,145</b>
Variance represented by:	
Variance area	
Personnel costs	4,094
Depreciation and amortisation expense	(2,214)
Finance costs	(326)
Other expenses	(19,390)
<b>Total expenditure variance surplus / (deficit)</b>	<b>(17,836)</b>
<b>Net operating variance surplus / (deficit)</b>	<b>(3,691)</b>

### Significant variances to Annual Plan budget - statement of financial position

The major variances to annual plan budget arise mainly because the budgeted figures were based upon the audited closing balances for June 2022, adjusted for activity that was expected to occur during the 2022/23 financial year. The closing balances for June 2023 were not known at the time the 2023/24 budgets were approved. The planned capital programme was not fully delivered in the financial year to 30 June 2024 due to supply chain disruptions, high demand for construction services and delays from the severe weather events. The key areas of under delivery were for district facilities and wastewater capital projects. We also experienced delays in consents being issued, flow-on impacts to timing and scheduling of multi-year projects, project concept refinement and clarification; and delays with community engagement.

- Other reserves were \$4.07 million greater than anticipated largely due to an increase in asset revaluation reserves
- Restricted reserves were \$7.96 million less than anticipated partly due to Community services reserves being overstated in prior years by \$4.56 million resulting in the re-statement to opening balances in the current year
- There was an increase in Receivables \$10.5 million due to an increase in rates and Waka Kotahi (NZTA) subsidy, sundry and accrued debtors. Referring to Note 9, we can also see the similar movements year on year, with an increase of \$11.3 million, again largely driven by rates and sundry debtors, combined with Other Receivables (GST) also contributing to the increase.
- Borrowings were less than expected by \$42.85 million, and Property, plant and equipment was less than expected by \$56.33 million. These were both due to capital projects not being completed as planned resulting in loan funding not required.

## Financial prudence benchmarks

This section discloses the council's financial performance in relation to various benchmarks to enable an assessment of whether the council is prudently managing its revenues, expenses, assets, liabilities and general financial dealings.

The council is required to include this statement in accordance with the Local Government (Financial Reporting and Prudence) Regulations 2014.

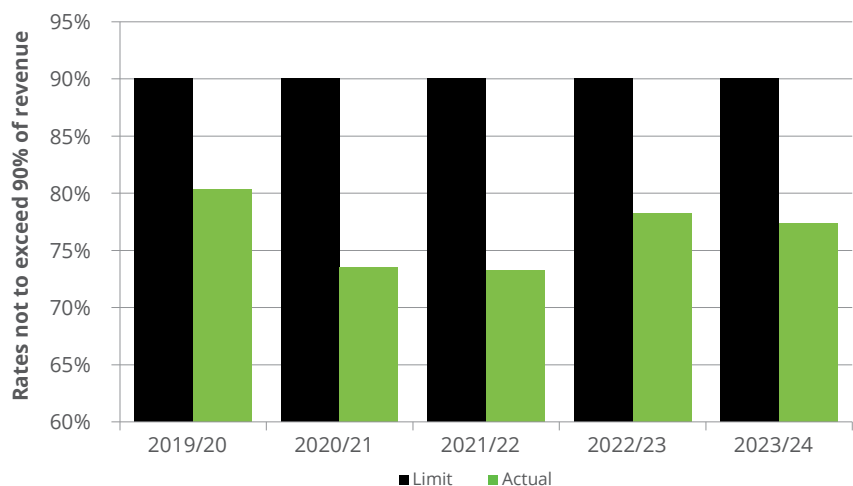
### Rates affordability benchmarks

The council meets the rates affordability benchmark if:

- its actual rates income equals or is less than each quantified limit on rates; and
- its actual rates increases equal or are less than each quantified limit on rates increases.

#### Rates (income) affordability

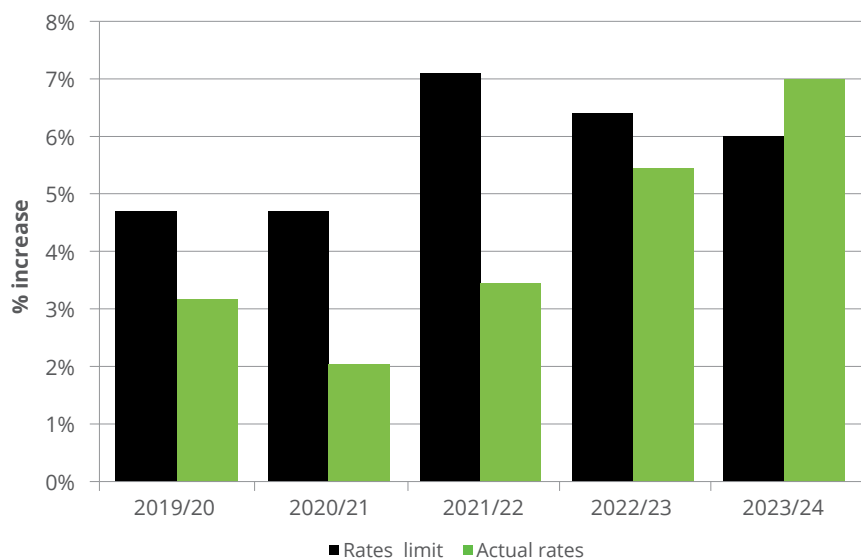
This graph compares the Council's actual rates income with a quantified limit on rates contained in the financial strategy included in the council's LTP 2021-31. The quantified limit is that rates revenue (excluding subsidies and capital income) will not exceed 90% of total revenue. The graph shows the budgeted rates proportion of revenue measured against the actual proportion achieved. The council has achieved this benchmark.



#### Rates (increase) affordability

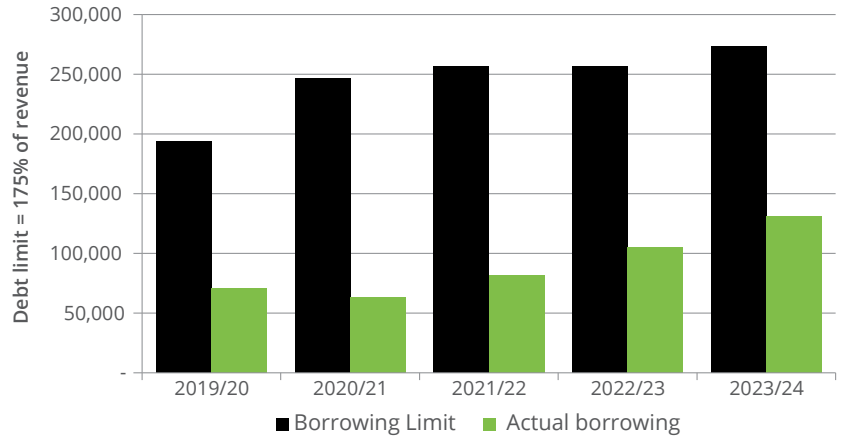
This graph compares the council's actual rate increases with a quantified limit on rates increases (included in the financial strategy within the council's LTP 2021-31). The quantified limit is that total rates increase should not exceed LGCI (Local Government Cost Index) plus 3.5%. The graph shows the actual rate increase percentages measured against the predicted rate percentage increases.

The council has not achieved this benchmark as several budgets were adjusted upwards to account for cost increases, along with a revised work programme to re-prioritise and carry forward projects delayed due to severe weather, supply chain issues and resource availability.



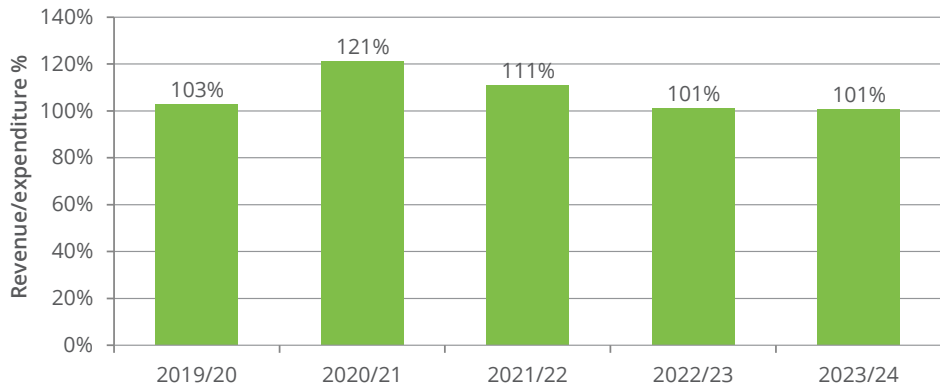
### Debt affordability benchmark

The council meets the debt affordability benchmark if its actual borrowing is within the quantified limit on borrowing. This graph compares the council's actual borrowing with a quantified limit on borrowing stated in the financial strategy included in the council's LTP 2021-31. The quantified limit is that debt be no higher than 175% of total revenue (excluding subsidies and capital income). The graph shows the actual borrowing measured against the maximum borrowing determined by the quantified limit. The council has achieved this benchmark.



### Balanced budget benchmark

This graph displays the council's revenue (excluding development contributions, financial contributions, vested assets, gains on derivative financial instruments and revaluations of property, plant and equipment) as a proportion of operating expenses (excluding losses on derivative financial instruments and revaluations of property, plant and equipment).



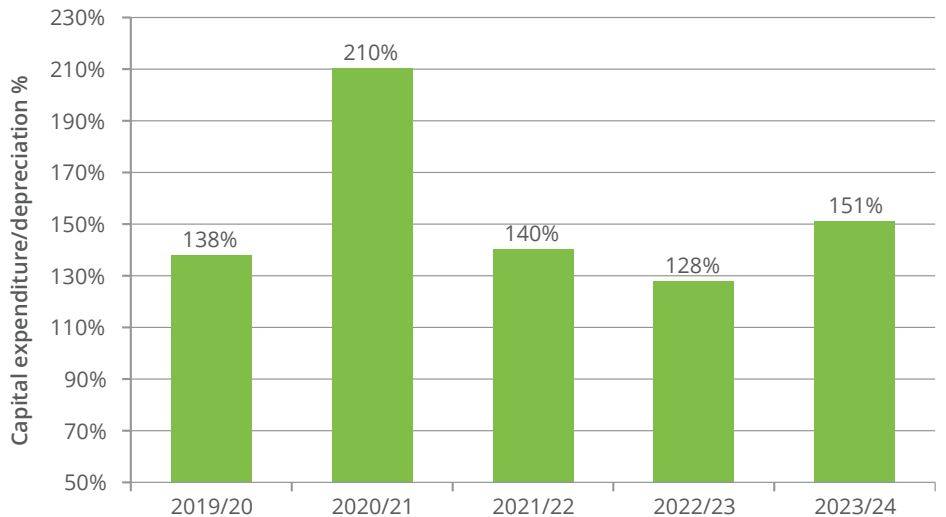
The council meets this benchmark if its revenue equals or is greater than its operating expenses. The council has achieved this benchmark.

### Essential services benchmark

This graph displays the council's capital expenditure on network services as a proportion of depreciation on network services. Network services are defined as:

- Water supply
- Sewerage and treatment and disposal of sewage
- Stormwater drainage
- The provision of roads and footpaths

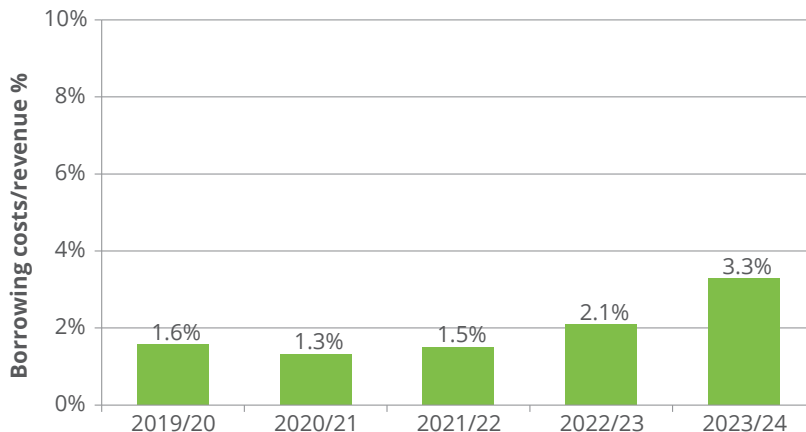
The council meets this benchmark if its capital expenditure on network services equals or is greater than depreciation on network services. The council has achieved this benchmark.



### Debt servicing benchmark

The following graph displays the council's borrowing costs as a proportion of revenue (excluding development contributions, financial contributions, vested assets, gains on derivative financial instruments and revaluations of property, plant and equipment).

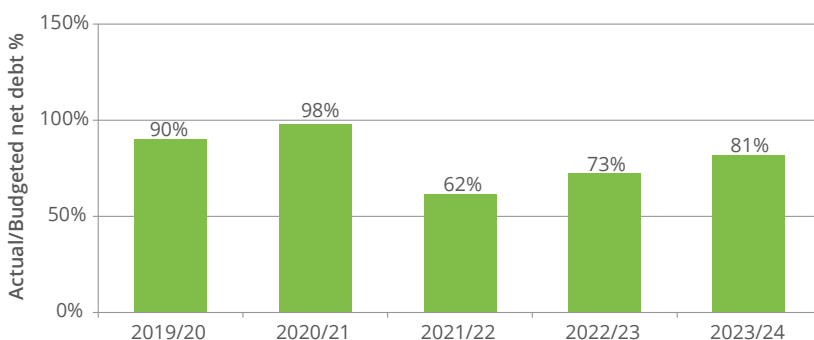
Because Statistics New Zealand projects the council's population will grow more slowly than the national population growth rate, it meets the debt servicing benchmark if its borrowing costs equal or are less than 10% of its revenue. The council has achieved this benchmark.



### Debt control benchmark

This graph displays the Council's actual net debt as a proportion of planned net debt. In this statement, net debt means financial liabilities less financial assets (excluding trade and other receivables).

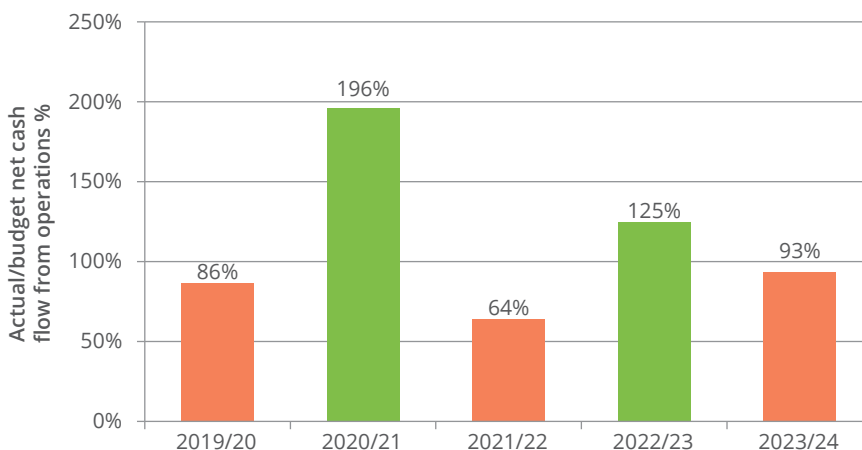
The council meets the debt control benchmark if its actual net debt is equal or is less than its planned net debt. The council has achieved this benchmark.



### Operations control benchmark

This graph displays the council's actual net cash flow from operations as a proportion of its planned net cash flow from operations.

The council meets the operations control benchmark if its actual net cash flow from operations equals or is greater than its planned net cash flow from operations. The council has not achieved this benchmark in 2023/24. This is primarily due to rates revenue collection being lower than planned together with the impact of not completing projects at balance sheet date, resulting in lower subsidies and grants received than forecast. This includes projects like Lindvart Park now complete with planned budget no longer required, plus Rawene Wastewater improvements in progress and carried forward to the following financial year.



## Independent Auditor's Report

### To the Readers of Far North District Council's summary of the Annual Report for the year ended 30 June 2024

The summary of the annual report was derived from the annual report of the Far North District Council (the District Council) for the year ended 30 June 2024.

The summary of the annual report comprises the following information on pages 14 to 22:

- the summary statement of financial position as at 30 June 2024;
- the summaries of the statement of comprehensive revenue and expenses, statement of changes in equity and statement of cash flows for the year ended 30 June 2024;
- the notes to the summary financial statements that include accounting policies and other explanatory information; and
- the summary statement of service provision.

## Opinion

In our opinion:

- the summary of the annual report represents, fairly and consistently, the information regarding the major matters dealt with in the annual report; and
- the summary statements comply with PBE FRS-43: *Summary Financial Statements*.

## Summary of the annual report

The summary of the annual report does not contain all the disclosures required by generally accepted accounting practice in New Zealand. Reading the summary of the annual report and the auditor's report thereon, therefore, is not a substitute for reading the full annual report and the auditor's report thereon.

The summary of the annual report does not reflect the effects of events that occurred subsequent to the date of our auditor's report on the full annual report.

## The full annual report and our audit report thereon

We expressed an unmodified audit opinion on the information we audited in the full annual report for the year ended 30 June 2024 in our auditor's report dated 31 October 2024.

## Council's responsibility for the summary of the annual report

The Council is responsible for preparing the summary of the annual report which includes preparing summary statements, in accordance with PBE FRS-43: *Summary Financial Statements*.

## Auditor's responsibility

Our responsibility is to express an opinion on whether the summary of the annual report represents, fairly and consistently, the information regarding the major matters dealt with in the full annual report and whether the summary statements comply with PBE FRS 43: *Summary Financial Statements*.

Our opinion on the summary of the annual report is based on our procedures, which were carried out in accordance with the Auditor-General's Auditing Standards, which incorporate the Professional and Ethical Standards and the International Standards on Auditing (New Zealand) issued by the New Zealand Auditing and Assurance Standards Board.

In addition to our audit and our report on the disclosure requirements, we have carried out an assurance engagement on trustee reporting, which is compatible with those independence requirements. Other than this engagement we have no relationship with or interests in the District Council.



Bennie Greyling  
**for Deloitte Limited**  
**On behalf of the Auditor-General**  
**Auckland, New Zealand**  
31 October 2024

**WHAKAPĀ MAI  
CONTACT US**

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CREATING GREAT PLACES**  
*Supporting our people*