



Tāiki ē: Te Tiriti Strategic Intent and Implementation Plan

Ngā tino kaupapa o te tau kua pahure

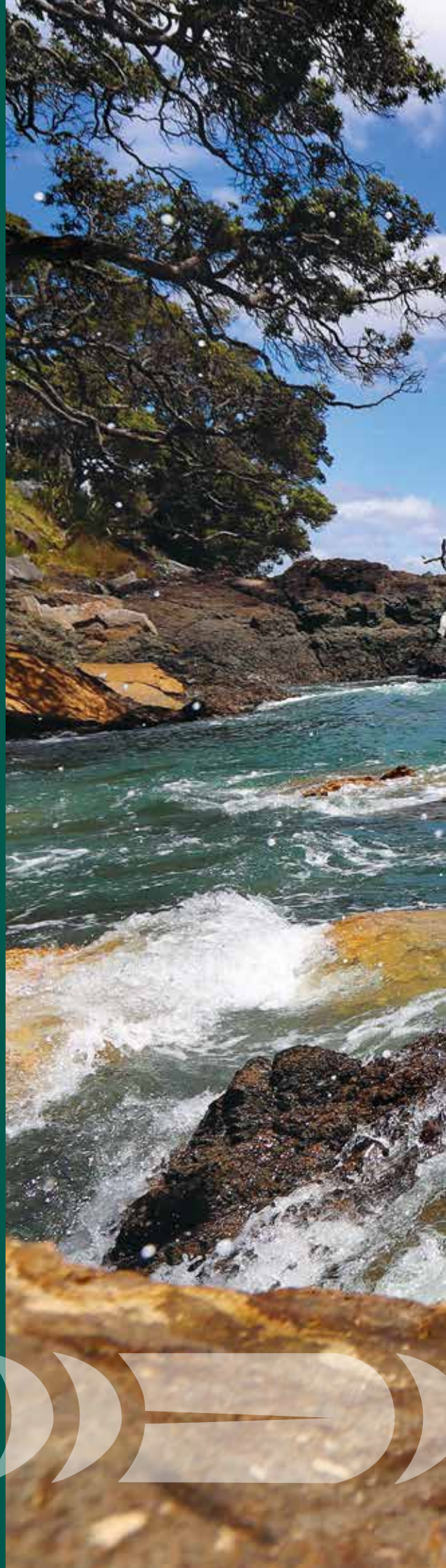
Highlights of the past year 2025/26



Karakia

Whakataka te hau ki te uru
Whakataka te hau ki te tonga
Kia mākinakina ki uta
Kia mātaratara ki tai
E hī ake ana te atakura
He tio, he huka, he hau hū
Tīhei mauri ora!

*Cease the winds from the west
Cease the winds from the south
Let the breeze blow over the land
Let the breeze blow over the ocean
Let the red-tipped dawn come with a sharpened air.
A touch of frost, a promise of a glorious day.*





Mihi

Tuia ngā pae maunga o tēnā kokonga, o tēnā kokonga
o ngā Tai o Tokerau,

Huihuia ō tātou mate kia mihia, kia poroporoakitia.

Anei rā ngā whakamānawatanga o te wā ki a koutou e
pānui mai nei.

Tēnei te mihi nui ki a koutou katoa.

Mā whero, mā pango, ka oti ai te mahi!

*Bring together the mountain ranges from all corners of
Taitokerau.*

*Assemble those who have passed on, to be
acknowledged and farewelled.*

We are greatly honoured to have you join us.

Greetings to you all.

Through collaboration, the work shall be achieved.

Nā Nyze Manuel (Iwi representative) and Cr Arama Morunga
(council representative)

Co-chairs of Te Ruarangi





He iwi tahi tātou kia ora ai te taiao

Kawanatanga and Rangatiratanga working together for the wellbeing of the environment.

Te Kaunihera ā-rohe o Te Taitokerau | Northland Regional Council and Te Ruarangi present these stories from the past year that reflect the kaupapa of Tāiki ē.

The stories shared here show our ongoing commitment to Te Tiriti o Waitangi and to strengthening enduring, mana-enhancing partnerships with tāngata whenua across Taitokerau.

Reflections from the past year

The past year has been one of unprecedented change and challenges across Aotearoa and Taitokerau. As councils and communities moved into a new triennium, there was change at both the council and Te Ruarangi table, bringing new voices, fresh perspectives, and renewed purpose. This created an opportunity to refine and focus priorities across Te Ruarangi and Tāiki ē, while continuing to honour the kaupapa and the enduring relationships built since Te Ruarangi was established in 2014.

For councils and communities alike, central government changes, complex environmental pressures, and climate change impacts are testing how we work, how we listen, and how we honour our responsibilities to each other and to future generations. Navigating these challenges requires care, openness, and a shared commitment to maintaining trust and momentum that furthers the aspirations of our region. Practical kaupapa such as Wānanga Waioara and hapū-led protection of rāhui tapu marine areas show what this looks like in action.

The year has also reaffirmed the importance of rangatiratanga, of advocating for and protecting hard-won progress, and of continuing to uphold Māori aspirations for te taiao, whenua and wai. These kaupapa remain deeply connected to He Whakaputanga o te Rangatiratanga o Niu Tirenī 1835 and Te Tiriti o Waitangi 1840. In Taitokerau there is a special relationship between these key agreements.

Within this context, the mahi continuing across the rohe deserves recognition. Despite uncertainty and competing demands, iwi, hapū, kaitiaki, staff, and partners have persisted – showing up to kōrero, strengthening relationships, and turning shared intent into action on the ground.

From marae-based engagement to collaborative projects and programme delivery, these efforts reflect a collective commitment to partnership and to meaningful outcomes for Taitokerau.

Tāiki ē continues to provide a foundation throughout all these challenges – reminding us that progress is built over time, through trust, persistence, and shared endeavour. In areas such as climate resilience, this is being put into practice through marae preparedness and locally led recovery planning.

The stories in this report reflect both the reality of the times we are in, and the ongoing kaha and mahi happening across the rohe to realise a healthier environment and thriving communities for generations to come.

The whakapapa of Tāiki ē

Tāiki ē is our Te Tiriti o Waitangi strategic intent and implementation plan, guided by the vision:

He whenua haumoko, he wai mā, he iwi whai ora – land that is bountiful, water that is pure and healthy, and people who are flourishing.

It provides a clear framework for working in genuine partnership to protect and restore te taiao, now and for future generations.

Tāiki ē sets out priority actions across five focus areas – capacity and capability, representation, water / marine, climate crisis, and economic development – which continue to shape council's long-term plans and our shared journey towards improved outcomes for the environment and the people of Taitokerau.

Te Ruarangi is the council working party that breathes mauri into the partnership – in essence, it is the relationship in action. Made up of iwi and hapū representatives and councillors from across the rohe, Te Ruarangi provides a space for Kāwanatanga and Rangatiratanga to come together. It is guided by shared values and a collective responsibility to protect and care for te taiao.

Bringing the kaupapa to life

Te Ruarangi co-chairs Nyze Manuel and Cr Arama Morunga share their whakaaro on the values and aspirations that underpin the work of Tāiki ē in caring for our taiao.

Watch the full video: www.nrc.govt.nz/ngā-purākau



Ngā reo o te iwi

Voices of the people

In June 2026 kaitiaki from several kaupapa across the rohe shared their whakaaro on how action grounded in partnership is strengthening momentum and making a real difference for haukāinga and the wider community.

Watch the full videos at www.nrc.govt.nz/ngā-purākau



Rāhui tapu marine protected areas

"Whakapapa is part of the tikanga – so all of our tamariki can stand at Mimiwhangata, can stand at the Poor Knights, can stand anywhere and know what gives them the right to stand there.

That's all part of the work that we've been doing, part of this co-management mahi that we've undertaken with NRC."

Holly Hetaraka, Te Uri o Hikihiki

Mountfield dam pest fish project

"Us three have all been working with [NRC kaimahi] ... they've been teaching us to read the YSI, the water tester... get the fyke nets in, take the tuna down to the awa in the safest way possible."

Kaitaiao, Patuharakeke



Te Ohonga o Mahuri restoration project

"Partnership with NRC has been through funding and it's been through training and knowledge and resources.

"We've got this established and it's happening and we're working together. What I hope to see for the future generations is that they pick this up and carry it on.

"Hopefully this is a blueprint to be able to carry on into other Māori land blocks."

Piripi Reihana-Ruka, Ngāti Pakau

Ngā whāinga

Desired goals

Tāiki ē sets out a strategic intent 2021-2040 for council to achieve its Te Tiriti o Waitangi commitments. The goals are realised through actions and resourcing that are embedded in council's Long Term Plan.

TE RAUKAHA ME TE ĀHEITANGA | CAPACITY AND CAPABILITY

- 01 **Capability** Tāngata whenua are supported to give effect to their aspirations in council decisions and operations.
- 02 **Capacity** Tāngata whenua are adequately resourced to participate in council decisions and operations.
- 03 **Partnership** Tāngata whenua and council work in a Te Tiriti o Waitangi partnership to achieve their shared goals.

TE KANOHI MĀORI | MĀORI REPRESENTATION

- 04 **Te Tiriti o Waitangi** Is upheld and embraced.
- 05 **Decision-making** Tāngata whenua are equitably represented in all council decisions and operations.
- 06 **Resourcing** Tāngata whenua are equitably resourced to contribute to council decisions and operations.

TE WAI / TE MOANA | WATER / MARINE

- 07 **Mauri** The mauri of water is protected, restored and improved.
- 08 **Mātauranga** Information/knowledge is gathered and collated to better understand and improve the health of water.
- 09 **Mana o te Wai** Partner with tāngata whenua to give effect to Te Mana o te Wai.

TE TAIRARU ĀHUARANGI | CLIMATE CRISIS*

- 10 **Te Ao Māori** Te Ao Māori is inherent in mahi relating to climate crisis and its impacts.
- 11 **Advocacy** Tāngata whenua and council work together in the development of climate crisis policy.
- 12 **Implementation** Partner with tāngata whenua by providing support and resources to prepare for and address the effects of the climate crisis.

TE WHANAKETANGA ŌHANGA | ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

- 13 **Whai Rawa** Council advocates for and supports economic development for tāngata whenua.
- 14 **Whai Mana** Tāngata whenua self-reliance and self-determination is supported by council.
- 15 **Whai Oranga** Economic growth is compatible with the protection and enhancement of ecological, spiritual and cultural values of tāngata whenua.

* Note: Council has signalled its intent to move away from referencing a Climate Crisis, and this will form part of the current Tāiki ē Te Tiriti Strategic Intent review, for consideration and endorsement by Te Ruarangi and adoption by council.

Ngā tino kaupapa o te tau kua pahure

Highlights of the last year

TE RAUKAHA ME TE ĀHEITANGA CAPACITY AND CAPABILITY



The full team of kaimahi involved in checking and cleaning watercraft at Lake Taharoa.

Building biosecurity capability through partnership

Freshwater biosecurity checks were once again carried out at Kai Iwi lakes this summer to prevent the spread of invasive pests into the internationally recognised Lake Taharoa.

This represents the third year of collaboration with local iwi Te Roroa and Te Kuihi hapū, which has seen more than 5000 watercraft checked and cleaned over that time.

Iwi kaimahi trained and warranted under the Biosecurity Act work seven days a week through the summer to educate the public about why Lake Taharoa is a taonga and the risks of the potential spread of freshwater pests including the invasive freshwater clam, *Corbicula fluminea*.

Surveillance for freshwater clam is also carried out with iwi support, with eDNA testing completed before and after summer.

Together, these actions demonstrate how working in partnership and investing in people builds lasting capability to protect the unique freshwater environments in Taitokerau for future generations.

TE RAUKAHA ME TE ĀHEITANGA CAPACITY AND CAPABILITY

Patuharakeke partnership protecting indigenous fish

The Patuharakeke Te Pou Taiao Native Fish Trap and Transfer and Koi Carp Removal Project focuses on protecting indigenous fish and restoring freshwater ecosystem health through a sequenced approach, prioritising 'trap and transfer' of native fish ahead of targeted koi carp removal and ongoing surveillance.

Delivered in partnership between Northland Regional Council and Patuharakeke as mana whenua, this follows in the footsteps of an existing partnership with Te Uri O Hau. A defining element of the programme is the way mana whenua leadership, knowledge, and kaitiakitanga are embedded into delivery, rather than limited to advisory roles.

Patuharakeke kaimahi are trained in biosecurity best practice, monitoring techniques, and health and safety for freshwater environments, allowing them to become actively involved in field operations, pest fish surveillance and incursion response readiness.

The council maintains training records and shares its future work programmes with the aim of offering consistency of opportunities for kaimahi, with other projects also becoming available through agencies such as the Department of Conservation.

This approach reflects the emphasis in Tāiki ē on building enduring capability, trust, and partnership, ensuring iwi are equipped to play a sustained role in freshwater stewardship.



Patuharakeke kaimahi with tuna (eels) and goldfish captured during the draining of a farm dam near Waipu. The tuna were transferred to a new location.



TE RAUKAHA ME TE ĀHEITANGA CAPACITY AND CAPABILITY

Growing understanding in freshwater monitoring

A focused freshwater monitoring hui held in Mangōnui in September 2025 supported kaitiaki, hapū and community practitioners to deepen their understanding of water quality and what monitoring results mean in practice. The programme was designed for groups already confident in sampling their waterways, with a focus on building insight into the scientific impacts on aquatic life, ecosystems and human health.

Participants explored stream health monitoring in detail, learning how indicators, external inputs and fluctuations affect aquatic life, ecosystems and human health. Sessions on environmental DNA introduced emerging tools for detecting species

presence, with discussion on sampling methods, data sovereignty and reporting options.

The wānanga also created valuable space for whanaungatanga, enabling kaitiaki and practitioners to share experiences and strengthen regional networks. Delivered through collaboration between hapū, community groups, NRC, the Department of Conservation and Wai Connections, the kaupapa supported a shared approach to caring for wai.

Further regional workshops are planned for Whangārei and Kaikohe in 2026, continuing this commitment to building local monitoring capability.





TE KANOHI MĀORI REPRESENTATION

Strengthening partnerships with tāngata whenua in resource consent process

Improvements delivered through the Resource Consent Review Action Plan are helping create a more inclusive consent process, with a focus on strengthening engagement with tāngata whenua.

Two key initiatives this year include:

- the spatial mapping in GIS of the areas of interest of iwi and some hapū, as well as the rohe covered by Iwi / Hapū Environmental Management Plans and Mana Whakahono ā Rohe agreements; and
- clearer guidance for pre-application meetings.

The spatial mapping work will enable council staff and applicants to more accurately identify the appropriate iwi and hapū to engage with, supporting earlier and

more meaningful consultation with tāngata whenua about areas of importance to them.

Alongside this, improved pre-application guidance encourages and provides clearer direction for early engagement by applicants with tāngata whenua, and aims to enhance their understanding of relevant policy considerations.

These improvements help address long-standing challenges, streamline processes, and reduce uncertainty for all parties. This work supports more proactive, transparent and respectful engagement, and facilitates better partnership with tāngata whenua in the resource consent process.

Continuity and renewal for Te Ruarangi

Moving into a new council triennium, Te Ruarangi marked an important moment of renewed leadership and representation of iwi and hapū from Taitokerau. Te Ruarangi is a key partnership forum between NRC and tāngata whenua, focused on strengthening relationships and influencing decision-making.

Earlier, Te Ruarangi farewelled Whaea Nora Rameka, acknowledging the significant contribution she made over many years in shaping the kaupapa and strengthening relationships. Ngāti Rehia is now represented by Kipa Munro who acknowledges the mana and integrity of Whaea Nora and leadership she provided for Te Ruarangi.

At the December 2025 hui, newly elected co-chairs Arama Morunga and Nyze Manuel from Whangaroa stepped into their roles, carrying forward the foundations laid by Pita Tipene and Tui Shortland. Their leadership reflects both continuity and new perspectives.

Together, these changes highlight the enduring strength of Te Ruarangi as an authentic space for partnership, where relationships are honoured and a shared commitment continues to guide progress and council's accountability to iwi and hapū.



TE KANOHI MĀORI REPRESENTATION

Advocating for iwi and hapū perspectives in system reform

Tāiki ē is continuing to provide a strong and consistent foundation for how NRC has approached advocacy to central government, ensuring a clear focus on upholding Te Tiriti o Waitangi and strengthening partnership with tāngata whenua.

This has been particularly important over the current period of significant reform, including changes to the resource management and local government systems.

Council submissions have emphasised the importance of embedding meaningful partnership with iwi and hapū throughout planning and decision-making processes, ensuring systems are grounded in local knowledge and reflect Māori rights and interests.

This includes advocating for clear mechanisms for Māori representation and for Te Tiriti obligations to be explicitly recognised in new frameworks.

This work has been shaped with input from iwi and hapū representatives on Te Ruarangi working alongside council to reflect a clear voice on Te Tiriti impacts.

Together, this approach reflects Tāiki ē in action – providing a clear framework for joint advocacy that supports enduring partnerships and better outcomes for Taitokerau.

Deepening Te Tiriti relationships across Taitokerau

NRC's Te Tiriti Partnerships and Engagement team plays a central role in strengthening enduring relationships between the council and tāngata whenua, particularly during a period of significant system reform and change.

Grounded in Tāiki ē, the team provides leadership, coordination and assurance that partnership principles are woven consistently across strategic and operational delivery.

Working alongside iwi and hapū, the team supports meaningful participation in decision-making through relationship agreements, Mana Whakahono ā Rohe, and kaupapa-led engagement that reflects local priorities and mātauranga Māori. This mahi helps maintain trust, continuity and shared understanding, even as legislative and policy settings shift.

Across council, the team supports programmes and projects that embed partnership outcomes, from climate resilience and biodiversity to regulatory reform and emergency management. It does this by building capability, supporting joint advocacy and providing a stable relational presence. This helps ensure Te Tiriti partnerships are a core part of how council works with tāngata whenua for Taitokerau.

TE WAI / TE MOANA WATER/MARINE

Strengthening hapū-led marine protection

The Rāhui Tapu – marine protected areas programme continues to demonstrate the strength of hapū-led protection of te moana, with a key milestone marked by the launch of the vessel *Te Mauri* in December 2025.

Supporting compliance monitoring of the Mimiwhangata Rāhui Tapu, the hapū-owned vessel enables Te Uri o Hīkīhiki to carry out on-water activities grounded in local knowledge and kaitiakitanga.

This development strengthens an established partnership, with NRC contracting the hapū-related vessel entity to undertake surveillance work from the vessel, working alongside hapū to support compliance, monitoring and protection efforts.

The use of *Te Mauri* expands capability, allowing for a more consistent presence on the water, improved monitoring, and greater local engagement with those using the area.

The initiative also creates opportunities to build skills and experience within the hapū, supporting pathways toward increased autonomy in managing the rāhui and engaging taiohi in practical kaitiaki roles.

This kaupapa reflects shared leadership, restoring and protecting the mauri of the moana for future generations.



From left: Morore Piripi, Tony Barber, Houpeke Piripi, Cr Arama Morunga and NRC kaimahi Robert Nathan



The new patrol boat 'Te Mauri' was blessed and named before its official launch

TE WAI / TE MOANA WATER/MARINE

Wānanga Waioara: Sharing mātauranga, shaping collective action

The third Wānanga Waioara was held in June at Waitangi. The two-day event included a Climate Summit, bringing together kaitiaki, hapū practitioners, councils and communities to share mātauranga o te taiao and strengthen regional partnerships.

Led by tāngata whenua, supported by NRC's Te Ruarangi (Taitokerau Māori and Council Working Party), this expanded wānanga reflected a deepening commitment to kaupapa-led spaces where "kāwanatanga and rangatiratanga can work together for the well-being of the taiao".

Te Ruarangi co-chair Nyze Manuel says when looking after our taiao is at the centre of what, why, when and how we do, kaitiaki are at the forefront.

"Working alongside NRC with hapu, iwi and community for the greater good of our taiao will be a success. Why? Because we all share the good, bad and successes together.

"From state of emergencies to biosecurity and the Mauri o Te wai we all share the responsibilities."

The first day centered on the wānanga waioara and acknowledged wai as a living relationship, exploring tikanga, mātauranga and kaitiaki-led initiatives to

restore the mauri of waterways. Kōrero tuku iho or ancient knowledge sat alongside practical examples of environmental action, highlighting the depth of knowledge held across Taitokerau and the evolution of kaitiaki groups that incorporate technology with mātauranga Māori.

The regional climate summit focused on collective action and resilience. Hapū and community voices shared lived experiences of climate impacts and locally led solutions, supported by councils and agencies. Themes of innovative approaches strengthened relationships, and the growing leadership and involvement of rangatahi were strongly represented, echoing the success of Wānanga Waioara of previous years.

Overall, the wānanga was a great success, with approximately 143 attendees across the two days. It reinforced the value of coming together kānohi ki te kānohi to amplify Taikī ē, build trust and support coordinated action.

Wānanga Waioara continues to grow as a key regional forum for learning, connection and future-focused thinking strengthening the partnership between kaitiaki, hapū, iwi and councils.





TE WAI / TE MOANA WATER/MARINE

Lake Ngatu milestone celebration

Lake Ngatu has marked five years free of oxygen weed – a significant milestone, reflecting sustained partnership and long-term commitment to protecting a freshwater taonga.

This Far North dune lake has seen improvements in water quality and native plant life as a result of collective action to prevent invasive species from taking hold.

This achievement was made possible through collaboration between Ngāi Takoto, Northland Regional Council, the Department of Conservation and project partners, working together over many years to remove risk, build shared understanding and support kaitiakitanga in practice.

Weed eradication played a vital preventative role, helping safeguard the lake from long-term ecological harm.

The milestone was marked through an education day at the lake in April 2026, where tamariki from Paparore School – long-time kaitiaki of Lake Ngatu – learned how restoration, everyday actions and biosecurity all connect to the health of the lake.

This kaupapa reflects Tāiki ē in action, demonstrating how partnership, collective action and intergenerational learning can protect taonga and strengthen relationships.



TE TAIRARU ĀHUARANGI CLIMATE CRISIS

Strengthening marae flood resilience across Taitokerau

Flooding remains one of the most frequent and damaging natural hazards in Taitokerau, with Māori communities and marae often facing heightened risk due to their locations in low-lying areas. The Flood Resilient Māori Communities and Marae project is supporting hapū, iwi and marae to strengthen preparedness and reduce vulnerability through locally led, collaborative approaches.

Backed by \$6.738 million in combined funding – 78% from central government and 22% from NRC – the kaupapa is working with six flood affected Māori communities and 35 marae across the region. The focus extends beyond physical protection to include emergency planning, community education, and

understanding long-term options for managing risk, including adaptation and relocation where required.

Planning integrates mātauranga Māori with technical tools such as flood modelling and GIS insights, alongside targeted, small-scale infrastructure improvements. This approach supports practical decision-making while protecting local knowledge.

Recent severe weather events reinforced the value of this preparedness. Marae with plans in place and resources ready were better able to respond quickly and support their communities when it mattered most. Together, this mahi strengthens resilience, supports hapū-led solutions, and helps protect marae as enduring centres of community life.

Peruperu project building climate resilience

A Taitokerau initiative is helping communities strengthen food security and climate resilience by reviving traditional Māori gardening practices.

Led by Āteanui Ltd, The Peru Packhouse focuses on growing peruperu (Māori potatoes), using mātauranga Māori to support sustainable, low carbon food systems.

Support from NRC's Climate Resilient Communities Fund has enabled the expansion of peruperu crops and the development of a seed bank to support wānanga for whānau. Guided by the maramataka, these wānanga share growing knowledge and practical skills, supporting whānau to grow their own kai and strengthen local food systems.

From an initial 1000 seeds in 2020, the kaupapa has grown to a seed bank of around one million, with whānau in the Hokianga now growing peruperu at scale.

This mahi demonstrates how kaupapa Māori approaches can build resilience to climate impacts, strengthen community wellbeing, and sustain mātauranga for current and future generations.



Tahu Warmington, Te Ringa Raupā – Project Co-Lead in the purapura (seed) cooler storage room. Photo credit: Pita Tipene

TE TAIRARU ĀHUARANGI CLIMATE CRISIS



Ōtetao Reti marae, one of the 10 marae recovery hubs activated during the January floods.

Rae ki te Rae Whakaaro: Marae-led recovery in action

Following the January 2026 flooding across Taitokerau, hapū and marae played a central role in supporting their communities through recovery.

Guided by the Rae ki te Rae Whakaaro model, a marae-based recovery approach was activated to provide whānau with face-to-face, coordinated support grounded in tikanga and manaakitanga.

Developed through partnership between marae, hapū, Northland Civil Defence Emergency Management and council teams, the model places a korowai of care around recovery efforts, recognising marae as trusted community anchors.

During the Whangaruru floods, ten Ngāti Wai marae activated immediately, demonstrating the strength of marae-led response and local leadership. Following this, a wide range of agency partners worked alongside marae to provide wrap-around recovery support.

This kaupapa highlights how marae-centred approaches strengthen resilience, build local capability, and deliver recovery that reflects the priorities and lived experience of whānau.

TE WHANAKETANGA ŌHANGA ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Economic development in action across Taitokerau

NRC continues to support a stronger, more resilient regional economy through its support for Northland NZ Limited, with a key focus on enabling Māori economic development and supporting pathways for tāngata whenua to grow capability, participate fully in the economy, and lead their own development aspirations.

Across Taitokerau, this support is helping to grow pakihi Māori through partnerships with organisations such as Te Hiringa and Whāriki Te Taitokerau, supporting Māori SME development, capability, and business growth across the region. Through workshops, events and ongoing engagement, Whāriki strengthens whanaungatanga while supporting businesses to navigate challenges and identify new opportunities. It also creates space for Māori-led approaches to business, grounded in kaupapa Māori and aligned with the aspirations of whānau, hapū and iwi.

Northland's flagship business foundations programme, The Pick, is supporting local people to turn ideas into real businesses that contribute to jobs, innovation and long-term regional growth; in 2025 nearly two-thirds of participants identified as pakihi Māori. Partnerships play an important role in the programme's success, including Te Rarawa through its asset holding company, Te Waka Pupuri Pūtea.

At the same time, iwi-led projects such as the Rakaumangamanga Great Walk are progressing, demonstrating how economic development can be grounded in kaitiakitanga and aligned with the protection of wāhi tapu and te taiao.

These initiatives are supported by strong partnerships across iwi, hapū, government and regional organisations.

Together, this work reflects a coordinated approach to economic development that supports self-reliance, strengthens partnerships, and ensures growth is balanced with the protection and enhancement of cultural, spiritual and environmental values.



The Pick 2025 pitch night

TE TUARI MĀTAURANGA, TE WHAKANUI I NGĀ EKENGA ANGITU SHARING MĀTAURANGA, CELEBRATING SUCCESS

Hands-on learning rooted in mātauranga

He Tirohanga Māori – Education Encounters 2025 brought together people, place and practice in ways centred on mātauranga Māori and reflected Tāiki ē in action.

For the first time, these immersive learning days were held on marae – Te Houhanga a Rongo Marae in Dargaville, Pehiāweri Marae in Glenbervie, and Waimanoni Marae in Awanui – embedding tikanga and cultural context from pōwhiri through to whakakapi.

More than 300 ākonga, kaiako and whānau participated across Kaipara, Whangārei and the Far North. Rotations such as te ao o te tuna, whakairo, taonga tākaro and rongoā Māori fostered curiosity while strengthening connections to the environment and to te ao Māori.

Each marae contributed its own unique knowledge, creating locally grounded experiences that reflected the richness of iwi and hapū perspectives.

Participant feedback was overwhelmingly positive, with students valuing the practical learning and the connections they made between cultural knowledge, caring for waterways, reducing litter, and protecting te taiao.

This kaupapa reflects Tāiki ē by prioritising partnership, elevating Māori knowledge systems, and creating meaningful opportunities for tamariki to see themselves and their environment through a te ao Māori world view, inspiring kaitiakitanga for the future.



Learning the stories behind carving patterns at Te Houhanga a Rongo Marae, guided by Matua Robert Nathan, Senior Kaiārahi Tikanga Māori at NRC.

TE TUARI MĀTAURANGA, TE WHAKANUI I NGĀ EKENGA ANGITU SHARING MĀTAURANGA, CELEBRATING SUCCESS

Kiwi release highlights partnership success

The release of three young kiwi into Te Waorahi at Piroa-Brynderwyn in March 2026 marks an important milestone for hapū and community-led conservation in this high-value ecological area.

Part of the wider 22,374ha Piroa/Brynderwyn 'High Value Area', the release reflects years of sustained pest control and restoration across the landscape.

The dusk release brought together Patuharakeke, Te Uri o Hau, Te Parawhau and Ngāti Hine alongside local landowners, community conservation groups and partner agencies. Gifted by Ngāti Hine, the kiwi were welcomed through tikanga and named by mana whenua, reinforcing the deep cultural connection to these taonga manu.

The success of the release sits within a broader, collaborative effort led by Piroa-Brynderwyn Landcare and partner organisations like NRC to restore habitats, manage predators and protect biodiversity across the hills and surrounding areas. The area now supports a growing kiwi population that is breeding and expanding its range.

It demonstrates how sustained partnership and care of te taiao can enable taonga species to return and thrive.



TE TUARI MĀTAURANGA, TE WHAKANUI I NGĀ EKENGA ANGITU SHARING MĀTAURANGA, CELEBRATING SUCCESS



Kaimahi from Te Uri O Hau's Environs – Mauri Ora team locating and controlling scattered spartina growing amongst mangroves.

Tackling spartina together

The spartina control programme in the Kaipara Harbour highlights the value of partnership in protecting coastal ecosystems.

Spartina, an invasive aquatic grass, spreads rapidly across mudflats, smothering native habitats, altering tidal flows, and reducing feeding grounds for native wildlife. Controlling its spread is critical to maintaining the health and mauri of the harbour.

Te Uri O Hau's Environs – Mauri Ora team and NRC's Pest Plant team are working side by side to deliver control and monitoring, combining technical expertise with deep local knowledge. This joint approach has significantly increased the scale of work underway while addressing skills and capacity needs.

Through hands-on experience and supported training, kaimahi are building capability, including gaining aquatic weed control qualifications that strengthen long-term resilience.

This collaborative model fosters strong relationships, enables knowledge sharing, and creates opportunities for environmental management within the rohe, supporting both the restoration of the Kaipara Harbour and those connected to it to lead its care into the future.

TE TUARI MĀTAURANGA, TE WHAKANUI I NGĀ EKENGA ANGITU SHARING MĀTAURANGA, CELEBRATING SUCCESS

A moving classroom for kauri protection

Te Ara Mātauranga o Te Kauri – the Kauri Education Trailer – brings together partners, knowledge and community to support kauri protection across Taitokerau.

Developed collaboratively by Northland Regional Council, the Department of Conservation and the Kauri Ora Iwi CoLab, the trailer brings together mātauranga Māori and science-based learning to support kauri protection across Te Tai Tokerau.

The trailer had its official launch at Waitangi, and is designed as a mobile, immersive education space, enabling communities to engage with kauri through hands-on and interactive experiences.

From learning hygiene practices to prevent disease spread, to exploring the relationships between kauri, ngahere and wider ecosystems, the initiative strengthens understanding and encourages collective responsibility.

Grounded in iwi perspectives and shaped by local knowledge, Te Ara Mātauranga o Te Kauri reflects a commitment to working together to protect taonga species.

This kaupapa embodies Tāiki ē by centring partnership, elevating mātauranga Māori, and empowering communities to take action for the wellbeing of kauri and te taiao.

Partners came together at Waitangi to celebrate the launch of Te Ara Mātauranga o Te Kauri.



Ngā putanga o te mahere mahi

Action plan outcomes

Our vision for the future is only as good as the actions we set in place to achieve it.

Tāiki ē contains 31 actions, and this section covers how council is tracking against each of these actions, recognising that many actions span a longer time period than the one-year focus of this annual report.

Action	Status	Commentary
1 Establish Te Tiriti o Waitangi Health Check and Review Framework by: a. carrying out an independent review of council's obligations and performance against Te Tiriti o Waitangi performance standards utilising the Te Arawhiti Framework in a Taitokerau context; b. identifying and implementing priority areas for improvement based on Te Tiriti o Waitangi Health Check; c. reporting to and seeking views and input of Te Ruarangi and councillors as part of the review; d. reviewing the implementation of the recommendations annually; and e. undertaking a full Te Tiriti o Waitangi Health Check every two years.	ON TRACK	Priority 1 action Stage Two of the Te Tiriti o Waitangi Health Check was completed within the 2025/26 reporting period and formally received in 2025. The review assessed progress against the 2022 recommendations, council's implementation of Tāiki ē, and the effectiveness of Māori participation mechanisms including Te Ruarangi. The report concluded that the partnership is in a strong place compared with many local authority relationships, while also confirming that further improvement and implementation work is still required. Staff are now working to refine an implementation plan aligned with Tāiki ē priorities, avoid duplication and link future priority actions to NRC's Long Term Plan.

Action	Status	Commentary
2 Continue developing a Tāiki ē (NRC Te Tiriti o Waitangi Strategy and Implementation Plan) that includes, as a minimum: a. what it means for NRC to uphold its Te Tiriti o Waitangi obligations (e.g., what will success look like) and how NRC will live them through decision-making and operations; b. NRC's overarching positions are clearly articulated on important matters such as transfer of powers under the resource management legislation, payment for kaitiaki, recognition of mātauranga Māori and tāngata whenua participation in decision-making; and c. incorporate the findings and recommendations of Te Tiriti o Waitangi Health Check.	ON TRACK	Priority 1 action Tāiki ē continues to operate as the council-wide roadmap for giving effect to Te Tiriti obligations. The strategy was linked directly to the Te Ruarangi Terms of Reference review, the Stage Two Health Check recommendations, and future Long Term Plan planning. Te Ruarangi endorsed the scope for a strategic review of Tāiki ē actions and priorities, with the next phase to focus on refreshing priorities, demonstrating impact and aligning implementation with available resourcing.
3 Support and increase the uptake of the development of Iwi and Hapū Environmental Management Plan (IHEMP) by: a. allocating existing staff time towards assisting iwi and hapū with b and c below; b. developing a bespoke communication plan for increasing awareness and visibility of existing or future funding and support for IHEMPs, including targeting communications to iwi, hapū and whānau networks (including reaching out to specific iwi and hapū who may need extra support); and c. increasing the amount of funding and staff capacity in the 2024-2034 Long Term Plan to respond to the potential increase in shared work programmes.	ON TRACK	Council continued to support Iwi and Hapū Environmental Management Plan uptake through dedicated staff time and the annual funding round. Applications were received and allocated for the 2025/26 year, with contracts being prepared and the \$30,000 funding pool committed. This continues to support iwi and hapū planning capacity and strengthens the use of iwi/hapū planning documents in council processes
4 Support and increase the uptake of Mana Whakahono-ā-rohe agreements and commitments made within them by: a. allocating existing staff time towards assisting iwi and hapū with b, c and d below; b. making it clear that NRC is open to receiving invitations and having discussions regarding entering into a Mana Whakahono-ā-rohe process with iwi and hapū; c. developing a bespoke communication plan for increasing awareness and visibility of existing or future funding and support for Mana Whakahono-ā-rohe, including targeting communications to iwi, hapū and whānau networks (including reaching out to specific iwi and hapū who may need extra support); and d. increasing the amount of funding and staff capacity in the 2024-2034 Long Term Plan to respond to the potential increase in shared work programmes.	ON TRACK	Priority 1 action Four Mana Whakahono ā Rohe agreements are in place with Ngāti Rēhia, Patuharakeke, Te Parawhau and iwi o Ngāti Hine. Ngāti Kuta and Patukeha have initiated an intent for Mana Whakahono-ā-rohe, and further initiations have been received from iwi and hapū in response to legislative and resource management reforms. Given proposed legislative changes affecting Mana Whakahono ā Rohe agreements, council has confirmed its commitment to existing agreements. Further progression of current initiation requests is paused until council has a clearer understanding of the new legislation and the future role of iwi participation agreements.

Action	Status	Commentary
5 Support and increase the number of Māori Resource Management Act Hearing Commissioners by: a. developing and implementing a consistent process and policy for: i. the identification of suitable candidates by tāngata whenua to become certified resource management hearing commissioners; ii. establishing when Māori commissioners will be utilised in council RMA resource consent and plan change decisions and operations; iii. how iwi and hapū will be consulted on the appointment of hearings commissioners within their rohe; and b. provide a dedicated funding stream to support the formal certification of Māori commissioners; c. identifying external funding sources (e.g. central government or territorial authorities) to maximise opportunities for tāngata whenua; and d. identifying cohorts of whānau, hapū and iwi to complete the training to encourage a supportive learning experience.	ON TRACK	Progress has continued on building the pool of Māori Resource Management Act hearing commissioners. Māori commissioner training has been supported in partnership with Far North District Council, and a guideline for identifying and appointing suitable Māori hearings commissioners has been developed through the resource consent review work programme. This supports consistent use of Māori expertise in hearings and decision-making processes.
6 Ensure the delivery of targeted educational noho (training programmes) on resource management processes by: a. developing and implementing a programme in particular areas of interest with TTMAC (e.g. Ngā Whainga of TTMAC Strategic Intent); and b. allocating existing or new staff time towards delivering the programme and providing targeted assistance to whānau, hapū and iwi through council's RMA processes.	ON TRACK	Planning progressed for targeted kaupapa Māori resource management learning, including Wānanga Waiora 2026 and related training pathways. The 2026 programme was confirmed for 11–12 June at Waitangi and expanded to include climate change and collective action alongside wai and kaitiaki kaupapa. Council kaimahi also continued to support whānau, hapū and iwi to navigate RMA and consent processes.
7 Taking into account the existing tools and models available, develop and fund a culturally appropriate council environmental monitoring programme that: a. addresses iwi and hapū interests and concerns in the monitoring of the environment; b. includes the incorporation of mātauranga Māori, tikanga Māori and recognition of the role of tāngata whenua as kaitiaki; c. recognises and provides for any cultural monitoring tools endorsed by iwi and hapū; d. is consistently implemented as a component of NRC environmental monitoring and reporting practices and processes; and e. is reviewed and updated every three years for its effectiveness and efficiency.	ON TRACK	Priority 1 action Work continued toward culturally appropriate environmental monitoring, including independent review work on current monitoring approaches and ongoing investment in tangata whenua environmental monitoring. Wānanga Waiora strengthened the regional kaitiaki network, providing a forum for mātauranga, tikanga and practical monitoring approaches to be shared and translated into future work programmes.

Action	Status	Commentary
8 Taking into account the existing tools and models available, develop and fund a culturally appropriate programme that enables and supports tāngata whenua to undertake their own freshwater monitoring aspirations that: - addresses iwi and hapū interests and concerns in the monitoring of the environment; - includes the incorporation of mātauranga Māori, tikanga Māori and recognition of the role of tāngata whenua as kaitiaki; - recognises and provides for any cultural monitoring tools endorsed by iwi and hapū; - is consistently recognised and incorporated where appropriate as a component of NRC environmental monitoring and reporting practices and processes; and - is reviewed and updated every three years for its effectiveness and efficiency.	ON TRACK	Priority 1 action The tangata whenua environmental monitoring fund was promoted for 2025/26, with applications assessed through the annual process. Freshwater monitoring capability was also strengthened through kaitiaki-focused learning, including a Mangōnui freshwater monitoring hui in September 2025 and planned further workshops in Whangārei and Kaikohe. This supports iwi and hapū to lead monitoring within their own rohe while strengthening shared understanding of freshwater health.
9 Review, update and embed how NRC delivers its regulatory services to ensure regulatory activities (e.g. resource consents and compliance monitoring) are undertaken in a culturally appropriate manner and seek to include iwi and hapū to the greatest extent possible, including by: - developing an efficient and consistent framework for notifying and involving iwi and hapū with resource consent applications; - providing suitable opportunities for iwi and hapū to provide feedback within statutory timeframes; - taking into account the following: - The legislative constraints of the RMA; - Where legislative conflicts arise, advocate for change to central government in accordance with Action 12 of this Implementation Plan. - committing funding to consistently resource iwi and hapū for undertaking this work.	ON TRACK	Priority 1 action The 12-month Resource Consent Review Action Plan is progressing, guided by MTAG. By May 2026, most programme actions had been completed or embedded, including the iwi and hapū contact database, pre-application process improvements, circulation of non-notified decisions, Māori hearing commissioner guidance and integration of tikanga into hearings. Further work remains on GIS/IRIS integration, Cultural Impact Assessment templates, consent form updates and dedicated iwi/hapū consent support.
10 Advocate to, and where appropriate, actively support, local and regional education providers, businesses and institutions to address existing skills shortages by: - engaging with tāngata whenua involved in existing projects to identify skills shortages in priority areas for NRC and TTMAC to focus on (e.g., planning, environmental monitoring); - identifying programmes and opportunities that deliver education programmes in priority areas for NRC and TTMAC; and - identifying opportunities to develop work programmes that fill skills shortages in priority areas for NRC and TTMAC.	ON TRACK	Council continued to support capability-building in resource management and related priority areas. Making Good Decisions / RMA 101 training was completed by 30 whānau, iwi and hapū participants, and webinar support was provided for the New Zealand Planning Institute on Mana Whakahono ā Rohe. This action remains within existing resources and contributes to growing the pool of tangata whenua capability in planning and environmental decision-making.

Action	Status	Commentary
11 Ensure tāngata whenua are consistently resourced to participate in governance, decision-making and operational activities by: - reviewing different funding models used elsewhere in Aotearoa that could be applied, adapted and enhanced in Taitokerau; - taking into account the findings of (a), develop and implement an agreed methodology and policy regarding consistent resourcing of tāngata whenua.	ON TRACK	Priority 1 action Resourcing for tangata whenua participation remains a central implementation issue. Te Ruarangi, MTAG and working party representatives continue to contribute across governance, workshop and reform processes. In 2025/26, Te Ruarangi endorsed mechanisms for iwi/hapū representatives to attend council workshops on matters of interest, and LTP planning work is being used to test future resourcing requirements for participation and advice.
12 Support iwi and hapū in their endeavours to obtain further funding and support through external sources (e.g. central government or territorial authorities). Specific actions could include: - allocating existing staff time and resources towards assisting iwi and hapū in applying for funding; and / or - creating a new role and employing someone dedicated to assisting iwi and hapū in applying for funding.	ON TRACK	Staff continued to support iwi and hapū to access external funding opportunities, including support connected to Access to Experts, community resilience funding, Te Puni Kōkiri and Foundation North opportunities. This work remains within existing resources and supports iwi and hapū aspirations where council funding alone is insufficient.
13 Undertake joint advocacy to central government on agreed priorities and interests, including on new legislation and initiatives such as the Future of Local Government Reforms, by: - establishing the agreed priorities areas with TTMAC (e.g. water/ marine, climate crisis and economic development); - developing and implementing an agreed process with TTMAC to effectively and efficiently respond and advocate on behalf of Taitokerau on the agreed priority areas identified in (a).	ON TRACK	Priority 1 action Joint advocacy was a significant focus in 2025/26 because of local government and resource management reforms. MTAG advice was reported through Te Ruarangi, iwi/hapū representatives participated in council workshops, and an extraordinary Te Ruarangi meeting was convened on 24 June 2026 to consider the Head Start pathway. Submissions and advice emphasised Te Tiriti obligations, meaningful participation and protection of iwi/hapū interests.
14 Collaborate with, and advocate to other territorial authorities (such as Auckland Council and Whangārei, Kaipara and Far North district councils) where there are cross-boundary overlaps and duplication for iwi and hapū to improve and streamline engagement processes and resourcing where possible. Note: For example, Kaipara Moana Remediation	ON TRACK	Council continued to collaborate across territorial authority boundaries where reforms and shared iwi/hapū interests require a coordinated response. Work with district councils, Te Kārearea, Te Kuaka and related technical discussions supported a regional approach to local government and resource management reform matters. External funding and collaborative opportunities continue to be identified through cross-council relationships.

Action	Status	Commentary
15 Identify opportunities within legislation for tāngata whenua members of TTMAC to: - join or participate in other council governance structures; and - where appropriate, have formal voting rights on sub-committees.	ON TRACK	Priority 1 action Te Ruarangi representation in council governance structures was strengthened for the 2025–2028 triennium. Iwi/hapū representatives were nominated and confirmed for the Natural Resources Working Party, Biosecurity and Biodiversity Working Party and Joint Climate Change Adaptation Committee. Te Ruarangi also endorsed a standing invitation model for selected iwi/hapū representatives to participate in council workshops on matters of interest such as RM and LG reforms.
16 Deliver specific projects within agreed priority areas of interest (e.g. water/marine, climate crisis, economic development) to tāngata whenua and NRC by: - undertaking a stocktake of existing projects and work programmes being progressed with the agreed priority areas of interest; - establishing and implementing a joint TTMAC and NRC work programme that identifies new opportunities for joint projects; and - seeking resourcing through the 2024 – 2034 Long Term Planning cycle.	ON TRACK	Specific projects continued across agreed priority areas, including rāhui moana, Caulerpa management, marae preparedness, flood mitigation, Wānanga Waiora, climate resilience and economic development planning. These projects are reported through relevant operational teams and provide practical examples of Tāiki ē moving from strategy into delivery across the rohe.
17 Develop and embed a cultural awareness and competency framework for councillors, staff and relevant consultants and contractors that includes, at a minimum: - creating an induction process that explains the cultural context of Taitokerau, recognising that each hapū have their own tikanga; - presents the importance of Te Tiriti o Waitangi / and He Whakaputanga / The Declaration of Independence to NRC in all activities; and - provides an understanding of and empathy for tikanga Māori (e.g., mauri, kaitiakitanga and mātauranga).	ON TRACK	Council continued to lift cultural awareness and competency through Te Whāriki and related training. The framework has been reviewed and updated, manager wānanga were scheduled, and councillor cultural competency training was planned and implemented before 30 June 2026. Marae-based education encounters and induction material also supported staff and elected members to deepen understanding of Te Tiriti, He Whakaputanga, tikanga and mātauranga Māori.

Action	Status	Commentary
18 Invest in building tāngata whenua capacity and capability, by: - reviewing council's existing scholarship/internship programme to ensure that it supports the following outcomes: - tāngata whenua undertaking their role as kaitiaki; or - Increasing tāngata whenua participation in jobs that are directly relevant to council's activities; or - Includes governance training, such as associateships. - maintaining and increasing where appropriate in the 2024-2034 Long Term Plan, scholarship/internship programmes for tāngata whenua who whakapapa to Taitokerau iwi/hapū.	ON TRACK	The scholarship and internship programme continued to support Māori employment outcomes, with eight Tū i te Ora scholarships budgeted annually and four specifically for Māori. Interns contributed to summer campaigns including biosecurity responses such as gold clam. This continues to build pathways for tāngata whenua into council-related environmental and governance mahi.
19 Develop an engagement policy and framework that formalises engagement procedures with iwi and hapū on Annual Plan, Long Term Plans, Regional Planning, and Regional Policy Statements.	ON TRACK	Council continued to develop engagement approaches through live policy and reform processes, including annual planning, long-term planning, regional planning and national direction submissions. Te Ruarangi, MTAG and iwi/hapū caucus feedback shaped council positions on local government, resource management and national planning reforms, with recurring emphasis on Te Tiriti obligations, meaningful consultation and regional distinctiveness.
20 Develop and maintain a digital tāngata whenua contacts database that spatially identifies indicative iwi and hapū rohe boundaries that can be utilised to guide engagement processes (e.g. resource consents), that: - takes into account overlapping iwi and hapū boundaries; - recognises the sensitivity and accuracy of information; and - uses the best available information (e.g., within IHMPs); and mātauranga).	ON TRACK	The iwi and hapū contacts database and spatial mapping work progressed through the Resource Consent Review Action Plan. GIS mapping of iwi/hapū areas of interest, IHMP coverage and Mana Whakahono ā Rohe areas is being developed to support earlier and more accurate identification of who should be engaged. IRIS is operational, with ongoing cleansing, verification, system integration and staff training still required.
21 Investigate and identify opportunities for the transfer or delegation of decision-making powers or operations (e.g., pursuant to section 33 of the Resource Management Act 1991) in areas of interest/ concern to iwi and hapū, by: - identifying actions needed by NRC to implement the transfer or delegation and how these will be implemented; and - providing assistance (e.g. staff assistance or funding support to engage an independent facilitator) to the iwi or hapū that are seeking the transfer or delegation.	ON TRACK	Priority 2 action Te Ruarangi has requested further focus on transfer of powers and delegation opportunities. Papers and advice were scheduled for further discussion, including provision of material to Te Waiāriki, Ngāti Korora, Ngāti Takapari representatives. This action remains linked to the broader strategic review, resource management reforms and future settlement / statutory contexts.

Action	Status	Commentary
22 Ensure the successful ongoing implementation of Māori constituencies by: a. promoting and raising awareness of Māori seats and encouraging Māori to stand for local government; and b. engaging with iwi and hapū to undertake a review of Māori constituencies within the first triennium following implementation to measure success and the representativeness of the constituencies.	ON TRACK	Priority 1 action requiring review Māori constituencies were successfully implemented in the current governance period and supported through election awareness activity; however, the outcome of the binding poll means Māori constituencies are not currently possible for the next period. This action will need to be reviewed through the Tāiki ē strategic review to determine how council continues to support Māori representation and participation under the changed legislative setting.
23 Providing ongoing support to ensure an equitable and culturally safe working environment for councillors.	ON TRACK	Council continued to support an equitable and culturally safe environment for councillors through Te Reo interpreter support, cultural competency training, participation in Waitangi commemorations, induction material and ongoing advice. This remains within existing resources and supports councillors to participate respectfully in Te Ruarangi, marae-based hui and broader Te Tiriti partnership spaces.
24 Review council procurement policies and processes to ensure fair and equal opportunities for tāngata whenua consultants and contractors to obtain council contracts.	ON TRACK	Council's procurement policy has been updated with a provision that supports this action. Progressive procurement pathways for iwi and hapū suppliers were identified as a priority for Te Ruarangi reporting in 2025/26, and staff were asked to provide written guidance on pathways for iwi/hapū to access council contracts. This action is being progressed within existing resources.
25 Identify opportunities in council activities for tāngata whenua consultants and contractors to apply for council contracts.	ON TRACK	This action is being progressed alongside the procurement policy work. Te Ruarangi reporting identified the need to make procurement pathways clearer for iwi and hapū suppliers and to improve visibility of contract opportunities across council activities. Continued implementation will require operational teams to identify suitable opportunities early and support culturally appropriate procurement practice.

Action	Status	Commentary
26 During each review of the Annual Plan or Long Term Plan, consider and implement appropriate financial and other support for specific actions outlined in this Implementation Plan.	ON TRACK	Ongoing. Long Term Plan and Annual Plan processes continue to be key mechanisms for considering financial and other support for Tāiki ē implementation. The 2026/27 Annual Plan did not go out for consultation and included a 0% rate increase; future resourcing implications for Tāiki ē, Te Tiriti Health Check recommendations and Te Ruarangi participation are being considered through strategic review and future LTP planning. Te Ruarangi representatives participated in LTP workshops and this is an ongoing way that tangata whenua are represented at the review of the Annual Plan and Long Term Plan.
27 Continue to support the active involvement of tāngata whenua in the Freshwater Planning Instrument for Taitokerau under the National Policy Statement for Freshwater Management by: - acknowledging the special relationship tāngata whenua have with wai, and te mana me te mauri o te wai; - ensuring that NRC exercise its role and functions to give effect to this special relationship; and - giving effect to the recommendations in Ngā Roimata o Ngā Atua Report.	ON TRACK	Priority 1 action Freshwater planning and Te Mana o te Wai implementation continue through related monitoring, freshwater and kaitiaki programmes. This work is linked to Actions 7 and 8, Wānanga Waiora, the tangata whenua environmental monitoring fund, freshwater monitoring hui and ongoing partnership with iwi/hapū on water quality, mātauranga, data sovereignty and freshwater health.
28 Support tāngata whenua to address the effects of the climate crisis and strengthen the resilience of their communities to natural hazard events by: - identifying opportunities for tāngata whenua led approaches to: - mitigating the adverse effects of the climate crisis; - immediately respond to adverse weather events and natural hazards within their rohe; and - recover from adverse weather events and natural hazards within their rohe; and - implementing priority actions in Ngā Taumata o Te Moana Implementation Plan (www.nrc.govt.nz/CC-implementation-plan) and Taitokerau Climate Adaptation Strategy (www.ttcn.nz/resources/ttcas/); - supporting advocacy associated with the Taitokerau Resilience Action Plan (www.nrc.govt.nz/ResilienceActionPlan); and - providing resources and mandate for local Māori leaders to support community safety and wellbeing before, during and after natural hazard events.	ON TRACK	Priority 1 action Climate resilience work was a major area of progress in 2025/26. Wānanga Waiora and the Climate Summit were delivered in June 2026, supporting kaitiaki networks and future hapori Māori resilience planning. Council worked alongside and supported marae-led recovery approaches following the January 2026 floods.

Action	Status	Commentary
29 Ensure strong tāngata whenua self-reliance and self-determination through sustainable economic development by: - supporting tāngata whenua to develop and implement their own economic development plans; and - co-designing regional plans for economic development in Taitokerau (e.g. Te Taitokerau Economic Action Plan, and Te Rerenga) and ensuring that these include clear, measurable and achievable actions.	NEEDS ATTENTION	Priority 2 action Needing focused next steps. Māori economic development was separated from Wānanga Waiora so it can be developed as a dedicated forum. Following Wānanga Waiora and the Climate Summit, a Wānanga Ōhanga Māori steering group/sub-group will be convened to support next steps for a Māori economic development forum. Broader activity continues through Northland NZ, Whāriki Te Taitokerau and pakihi Māori capability-building initiatives.
30 Support tāngata whenua aspirations associated with marine environmental protection and economic development opportunities by: - Identifying opportunities for tāngata whenua-led approaches (e.g. customary practices such as rāhui) within Taitokerau to: - Identify and implement marine protected areas; - Undertake restoration and enhancement programmes within the coastal marine areas; - Review and implement marine biosecurity policies and measures; and - Progressing with culturally and ecologically appropriate economic development opportunities within the coastal marine area (e.g. aquaculture activities).	NEEDS ATTENTION	Priority 3 action needing renewed focus. Marine protection remains a priority, but parts of the work programme may be affected by the local government and resource management reforms. Practical progress continued through rāhui moana, the launch of the hapū-owned vessel Te Mauri for Mimiwhangata Rāhui Tapu monitoring, Caulerpa engagement and ongoing hapū-led protection work. Further work is needed once the legislative framework is clearer.
31 Develop, monitor and report on a key performance indicator framework to assess NRC delivery of outcomes for tāngata whenua against Ngā Whaingā within the Strategic Intent.	ON TRACK	Priority 2 action needing focused next steps. The KPI framework is being aligned with Te Tiriti Health Check recommendations and the wider Tāiki ē strategic review. Future reporting needs to move beyond completion status and better demonstrate the impacts and benefits of the work being delivered for tāngata whenua, Te Ruarangi, council and the wider community. This work is being progressed through the strategic review with Te Ruarangi leaders. This is established through the monitoring and reporting regularly of Tāiki ē, the independent Tiriti health check, the current strategic priorities review and the update of Tāiki ē and through this annual monitoring report.

Source basis: Te Ruarangi agendas and action sheets, Chief Executive report items, Stage Two Te Tiriti o Waitangi Health Check, Tāiki ē 2025/26 highlights and annual report draft material covering 1 July 2025 to 30 June 2026.



About te unaunahi design which appears throughout this document

Te unaunahi I whakapiripiri ki te Ikanui ā Maui

The scales that cling to the Great Fish of Maui

Te Unaunahi is a whakairo (carving) design that originated from the descendants of Manaia and shared widely throughout Tai Tokerau.

This Tai Tokerau whakarei (surface pattern) represents fish scales, and also symbolises safety and protection. The extended name of the unaunahi design (above) refers to the deeper mātauranga carried in the symbol. The unaunahi is represented by four scales that each represent an aspect of the physical world.

Te Unaunahi Tuatahi refers to the minerals and substances which make up the earth and sky.

Te Unaunahi Tuarua refers to the flora which cloak the earth.

Te Unaunahi Tuatoru refers to the animal world.

Te Unaunahi Tuawha refers to the human elements.

The fifth line of the unaunahi pattern represents the aho tapu connecting the physical world and humanity to a higher spiritual energy. Te aho tapu as it appears in the unaunahi is an element that threads through each aspect of the physical world, but is visually connected to the scale representing humanity. Humanity is depicted by the fourth scale to remind us we are teina to all of the physical world. The aho tapu is connected to humanity to remind us of our responsibility to protect our environments.

This pūrākau is shared with the approval of Tohunga Whakairo Te Warihi Hetaraka.



Karakia Whakamutunga

Unuhia, unuhia

Unuhia ki te uru tapu nui

Kia wātea, kia māmā

Te ngākau, te tinana, te wairua i te ara tangata

Koia rā e Rongo,

Whakairia ake ki runga

Kia tina! TINA!

Hui e! TĀIKI E!

Release us from the formalities of this gathering

Let our hearts, body and spirits be clear, be free to carry on with our day

Let our meeting be suspended

Draw together! Affirm!





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