

RAUTAKI

STRATEGY 2025 - 2035

VISION:

A Resilient District of Sustainable Prosperity and Well-Being.

"Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world, indeed, it's that only thing that ever has."

RAUTAKI – STRATEGY 2025 – 2035

Stage One Focus: Kai – Food

KAUPAPA AIM

There are a number of aims in developing this strategy, recognising the Far North Resilient Communities Charitable Trust (FNRCCT) role as a not-for-profit, independent, volunteer, community-focused Trust.

- Embracing an independent umbrella for resilient, connected activities in the Far North. (Whether delivered directly by the Trust or others)
- FNRCCT becoming a 'Guiding Light' - as a conduit, advocate, doer and/or navigator
- Promoting a collaborative and local approach to community strength and resilience
- Hope-filled - meaningful change, on the ground, that leads the way in caring for people and place
- Provides a pathway of empowerment to collectively lead local resilience approaches (seen as 'wayfinders')

'I think the Kaupapa Aim is to create a paradigm shift in thinking from our current limited situation to expansive, regenerative, thinking of humanity as part of a living ecosystem that grows and develops in a self-sustaining, resilient way ... to model how this is possible and communicate a clear vision story for this.

Imagination is so important.' Hui Participant

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This 10-year strategy has been developed for and by the Far North Resilient Communities Charitable Trust (the Trust). The Trust acknowledges and is grateful to be part of a much wider 'eco-system' in that numerous organisations and individuals are contributing to promoting and growing a resilient district and region.

With this in mind, the Trust humbly offers an overarching vision with key goals for a potential future of resilience in action within the Far North. This has been developed through review and incorporation of various pieces of strategy work undertaken by other organisations within the region, along with a kai focused stakeholder hui.

This strategy outlines what the Trust sees as its key role and focus over the coming years, which is, practically, to develop a Headquarters providing a sustainable, central, secure base for Trust activities, including being a distribution hub, community centre and knowledge (sharing) hub. The aim is to ultimately demonstrate and promote mana motuhake – self-reliance (localism) in action.

It also promotes the idea of the Trust as a wayfinder, navigator, connector, and advocate.

"The power of the people is stronger than the people in power."

— Wael Ghonim

"If you want to go fast, go alone. If you want to go far, go together."

— African Proverb

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Far North Resilience: Vision

A Resilient District of Sustainable Prosperity and Well-Being.

Delivery Mechanisms

**Kai
Food**

Regenerative systems & affordable fresh healthy food, grown and available locally.

**Kāinga
Housing**

Sustainable and affordable healthy homes available for all.

**Mātauranga
Education**

Skilled and practical people able to contribute meaningfully.

**Ōhanga
Economy**

Enhancing the economy by encouraging (new) working opportunities for all.

**Hapori
Community**

Creating caring communities where everyone is valued and respected.

Te Taiao – Environment

Te Taiao at the foundation of decision making. Respecting and protecting our water, earth and sky so it remains safe and healthy for now and future generations.

‘WHĀINGA – INTERGENERATIONAL GOALS’

Locally led. Regionally enabled. Centrally supported.

TUAPAPA – FOUNDATIONS

- The Far North is recognised as resilient, thriving wayfinders (grounded, agile, hopeful)
- Empowered, demonstrable local decision-making in action (genuine partnership approach)
- Abundant whenua, prosperous, mindful whānau – respected, connected and adaptive
- Weather resilience and adaptability, while developing a light environmental footprint
- People and communities knowledgeable and effective in civic rights and duties
- Equitable, renewable energy generation and distribution with maximum benefit to consumers
- Secure, resilient, safe, clean waterways and supply
- Improved quality connectivity (human and technical), skills and capability for all

TE TAI AO - ENVIRONMENT

Te Taiao at the foundation of decision making. Respecting and protecting our water, earth and sky, so it remains safe and healthy for now and future generations.

- Recognising all is interconnected and interrelated, working in sync with the natural world
- Te Taiao in conjunction with people *at* the centre of decision-making
- Regenerative environmental stewardship (protect and restore), building environmental resilience
- Comply with the precautionary principle and eliminate pollution and (chain) poisons where possible – includes becoming plastic-neutral
- Access to land, water and healthy soils, while growing connection to our natural environment
- Clean, healthy waterways, water sources, improved ecosystems with minimal pests
- Reduced emissions equitably



KAI – FOOD

Regenerative systems & affordable fresh healthy food, grown and available locally.

- Kai sovereignty (where locals produce, distribute, and consume food, while also controlling the approach to and means of food production and distribution)
- Community Distribution/Education Networks - fairer, shorter, cleaner supply chains
- Encouragement to grow, hunt and/or gather kai, including marine to consume and distribute
- Increase in community gardens and regenerative food systems (preferably organic)
- Utilisation of 'wild kai' (for humans, pets, other wildlife)
- Affordable, abundant, fresh, safe, local food supply for all
- Building resilience to disruption or the unavailability of food

“A regenerative approach shifts the focus of sustainable design from slowing down entropy to building the capability of living communities to evolve toward greater value.” Hui Participant

HAPORI – COMMUNITIES

Creating caring communities where everyone is valued and respected.

- Empowered people, encouraged to reach their full potential, be in good health and actively engaged, in the place of their choice
- Connected, steadfast, kind and knowledgeable
- A united voice advocating for the best for everybody (empowered civic leadership)
- Cohesive, caring communities, where everyone is valued and respected

“It is them (Communities - Hapori) who create the change - engagement, mindshift, buy-in... we need people empowered, to be strong, courageous, visionaries, resourced, supported, can do.” Hui Participant



ŌHANGA – ECONOMY

Enhancing the economy by encouraging (new) working opportunities for all.

- An economy where no one is left behind (equitable wealth distribution)
- Growth in supply and demand for natural foods and the natural medicinal sector (Northland food bowl) for local consumption and export (R&D and production of natural nutraceuticals)
- Appropriate infrastructure and services that complement local resilience and prosperity
- Focus on collaboration and strong business clusters
- Embracing a circular economy/takarangi model
- Establishment and implementation of sustainable exchange mechanisms
- Increased social enterprise and investment projects, including youth led enterprise

“Equitable wealth distribution is a systems change that needs to happen at the central government level.”

Participant feedback.

MĀTAURANGA – EDUCATION

Skilled and practical people able to contribute meaningfully.

- Kōrero Tuku Iho – celebrated strength of intergenerational knowledge
- Strong foundation of quality, relevant education and knowledge sharing
- People able to authentically contribute meaningfully to a flourishing society and provide for themselves where possible
- Learning opportunities to support people and their families to develop their unique human capabilities to lead resilient lives
- Transformative, relevant education and workforce development, evolving individually and collectively, resulting in a skilled and resilient workforce
- Experts in the environment, food and green energy industries
- Youth programmes that build confidence, self-esteem, relationships, respect, skills, literacy, etc



KĀINGA – HOUSING

Sustainable and affordable healthy homes available for all.

- Healthy, secure, and affordable housing solutions appropriate to our people's needs
- Eco-housing communities provided with sweat equity
- More '[Abbeyfields](#)' style community housing

“We are not going to have people living in slums while there are workmen here capable of building decent houses. We have visions of a new age, an age where people will have beauty as well as space and convenience in and about their homes.”

– Prime Minister Michael Joseph Savage in 1936



GENERAL OBSERVATIONS

COMMON AREAS OF OPPORTUNITY

- The Far North is ripe for locally-led reform (be a 'test case/trial' district for community-led resilience initiatives). Thinking big!
- Regenerative approaches – moving from one-off, disconnected initiatives to collective, long-term impact
- The ever-increasing wealth gap requires innovative thinking

IDENTIFIED COMMON CHALLENGES:

- Lack of long-term sustainable, connected and innovative strategy/planning
- (Sustainable) Investment (noting the need to transition to a hand up not a hand out)
- Skilled (relationship orientated) people, includes soft and hard skills (while recognising the rapid expansion of automation and its impact on human workforce requirements moving forward)
- Overwhelming – where to start?
- (Access) to good Whenua
- Impacts of current policy and legislative requirements and knowing how to effect change (need for strengthened citizen engagement)
- Global trends and impacts

“School curricula will play a major role in shaping a new culture. We will have to be active in recalibrating those curricula and its effective delivery.”
Participant feedback.

“If we are to achieve local sovereignty, we must know how to be effective in determining central government policy and that only happens if people are well educated in civics; knowing your human rights, knowing how to defend them, how to hold officials to account and how to maintain government institutions of integrity.” Participant feedback.

FAR NORTH RESILIENT COMMUNITIES COMMITMENT

This section identifies the Trust's key focus over the coming decade, recognising it will also contribute to the wider kaupapa, as and when needed.

TUAPAPA – FOUNDATIONAL APPROACH

'Wayfinding is a living, breathing, dynamic and real skill which includes aspects such as genuine adaptive capability, multi-dimensional intelligence, empathetic humanity and the kind of authenticity and ethical conviction that grows valiant and honourable people.'

Page 16, Wayfinding Leadership - ground-breaking wisdom for developing leaders

The Trust see itself as a wayfinder, navigator, connector and advocate. There is clear recognition that it will take collective responsibility and ownership to create and empower community connectedness and resilience.

TRUST GOALS

- To advocate for and lead, as appropriate, the implementation of this strategy
- Successfully demonstrate 'wayfinding' leadership
- Enact genuine, inclusive, knowledgeable local decision-making
- Operate from a sustainable, central, secure community base (social enterprise)
- Be trusted as a credible advocate for community empowerment

DELIVERY APPROACH

- Seen as an umbrella for 'resilient' activities
- A reputable conduit and, when required, deliverer (of resilient activities)
- Has a strong cohort of committed people to lead, drive, do (paid, volunteers, etc)

KEY FOCUS 2025 - 2028

KAI – FOOD

‘Affordable fresh healthy food, grown and available locally.’

GENERAL STATEMENT

While the Trust embraces six key areas of resilience, the initial focus is on Kai – Food resilience, in which a delivery plan has been developed.

The Far North, once known as the food bowl of the Pacific, is a wonderful food-producing district, with plenty of potential. Yet healthy, quality food is expensive for many and generally comes via the ‘middlemen’, from out-of-area corporates. Seafood has always been an important food source, yet it is difficult to source unless you are able to get it yourself, and expensive.

Farming plays an important part in food resilience yet it is getting more difficult for people to overcome the hurdles (regulatory, environmental, few young people coming into the industry, distance to support industries, etc). Our farmers need to be supported and appreciated.

Organics, regenerative farming, mobile/micro abattoirs and the need to support growers right from home gardeners (teaching skills, sharing produce etc) through to small horticulturalists trying to make a living from their land. Aspects, such as seed saving, inputs such as compost and natural pest deterrents, through to consumption and distribution, all need to be addressed to ensure a sustainable, resilient future.



KEY ACTION

There are two key areas of action, which are currently recognised as gaps within local approaches:

- A Headquarters (HQ), providing a central, secure base for Trust activities, and following
- A Community Distribution Network (outposts/hubs)

These two actions are seen as key drivers for local community resilience, while also being a catalyst for community leadership. It is believed that by instigating these key projects, it will seed many other initiatives through organic collaboration.

Key activities/outcomes include:

- Celebrating community connection, networking and knowledge sharing
- HQ - a central storage and distribution point, along with a co-operative social enterprise hub
- Food Co-op (community kitchen, mobile abattoir base, etc)
- Increases and promotes access and availability to locally grown, fresh, natural food
- Supports and encourages local growers, producers and 'hunter-gathers' (of all sizes)
- Reduces wastage, including the need for regional/national transportation methods
- Ultimately celebrates 'buy local' by walking the talk

This focus ultimately demonstrates and promotes Mana Motuhake – self-reliance in action.

As at June 2025, the focus has been on developing a strategy for Kai – Food.

The following five areas of focus will be developed over the next one to two years, including action plans.

HAPORI – COMMUNITIES

'Creating caring communities where everyone is valued and respected.'

ŌHANGA – ECONOMY

'Enhancing the economy of the Far North by encouraging new working opportunities for all.'

MĀTAURANGA – EDUCATION

'Skilled and practical people able to contribute meaningfully.'

KĀINGA – HOUSING

'Sustainable and affordable healthy homes available for all.'

TE TAIAO - ENVIRONMENT

'Te Taiao at the foundation of decision making. Respecting and protecting our water, earth and sky, so it remains safe and healthy for now and future generations.'

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

PUNA IHIRANGI – CONTENT SOURCE:

The following organisations and resources have been reviewed and sourced from, in developing this strategic document. This helps ensure alignment across approaches and offers opportunities for inclusive and collaborative mahi.

- [FNRCCT](#)
- [Healthy Families Far North](#)
- [Regional Economic Development Plan](#)
- [Arohatia te Taiao](#)
- [Far North District Council](#)
- [Kai Motuhake](#)
- [Climate Action Tai Tokerau](#)
- [Local Food Northland](#)
- [Kai Ora Fund](#)
- [Northland Regional Council](#)
- [Te Hau Ora O Ngāpuhi](#)
- [Transition Towns](#)

- Thank you -

A heartfelt thank you to the Lotteries Commission for providing local grant funding that helps strengthen our community. We also wish to acknowledge and thank Tania McInnes of GBT Ventures Ltd for working alongside us to write and develop this strategy document on behalf of the Far North Resilient Communities Charitable Trust.

FURTHER INFORMATION

Please visit The Trust [website](http://www.resilientcommunitiesfn.co.nz) for further information.
www.resilientcommunitiesfn.co.nz

