RECREATION | SPORT | LEISURE | CONSULTANCY

Northland Aquatic Facilities Plan

2023

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Project Steering Group

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About RSL Consultancy

RSL Consultancy undertakes projects and offers strategic advice throughout Aotearoa to enable community well-being. We support organisations to make informed decisions when it comes to their people, facilities, places and spaces. RSL carries out a range of pre-planning work from needs assessments and feasibility reports to business cases. We also work on a range of organisational strategic and operational projects.

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1 Executive Summary

Purpose and scope

The purpose of this Plan is to identify the current and future aquatic facility needs for Te Tai Tokerau. The development of this Plan was a key recommendation from Kōkiri ai Te Waka Hourua; the regional play, active recreation and sport strategy which was developed in 2021. The scope of this Plan is aquatic facilities that have community access or school pools.

There are significant benefits gained through the provision of aquatic facilities

There are significant health and well-being benefits from being physically active and aquatic participation provides a low cost option for many. There are cultural benefits gained through connecting people to the natural environment (tangata to taiao) and through the learning that can be gained.

Te Tai Tokerau is a region surrounded by moana and with many awa and pūahatanga. Developing swimming skills assists in improving water safety outcomes and allows people to participate in a wide range of aquatic-based activities, both within aquatic facilities and the natural environment.

Population growth is forecast across the region

The population continues to grow in Northland, with a forecast increase of approximately 55,000 people by 2053. This increase will place increased demand pressures on aquatic facilities.

The amount of community accessible pool space is below recommended guidelines

The available pool space at both community and school-based aquatic facilities has been assessed against Sport New Zealand's guidance for pool space (27m^2 per 1,000 residents). Overall, Te Tai Tokerau has a surplus of space (65m^2 per 1,000 residents), but much of this pool space includes school pools which are not accessible to the wider community. The amount of pool space available for the Te Tai Tokerau to access is only 17m^2 per 1,000 residents.

The table below shows available pool space across Te Tai Tokerau by territorial council area, and in the cases of the Far North and Kaipara, there are further sub-district breakdowns.

Analysis of the current shortfall/deficit of pool space in Te tai Tokerau

	Pool Area Available (m^2)	Population (2023)	Surplus / Shortfall of Pool Space m (2023)	Future Population Forecast (2053)	Surplus / Shortfall of Pool Space in 2053
Far North (Bay of Islands)	660	23,278	32	28,409	-107
Far North (Kaikohe and surrounds)	136	17,148	-327	17,994	-350
Far North (Hokianga and surrounds)	82	7,243	-113	7,124	-110
Far North (Kaitaia and surrounds)	897	27,163	163	29,600	97
Kaipara DC (Central)	39	9,038	-205	10,635	-249
Kaipara DC (East)	0	7,339	-198	11,720	-316
Kaipara DC (West)	535	11,646	221	13,219	178
Whangārei DC	1,194	101,530	-1,547	141,207	-2618
Te Tai Tokerau (Total)	3,543	204,385	-1,976	259,908	-3,475

To give a spatial perspective on the amount of water area at pools the following examples are provided:

- Whangārei Aquatic Centre: 1,085m2
- Kauri Coast Community Pool: 950m2
- Northland College Pool: 366m2
- Whangaroa Community Pool: 391m2

The current and future shortfall in pool space is spread across most of Te Tai Tokerau. This deficit is forecast to grow over time and is exacerbated when outdoor pools are closed. Only 5 of the 127 pools are open for at least 6-7 months of the year. A number of recommendations have been outlined for each council area as to the future aquatic facilities network.

The proportion of school pools is high, and they are ageing

In comparison to other regions in Aotearoa, Te Tai Tokerau has a very high proportion of school pools. Approximately 95% of the 127 pools in Northland are school pools (accounting for 80% of the pool space). The average age of a school pool in Northland is 50 years.

Results from a survey of schools highlighted approximately 50% of school pools are available for community use, in some form. There are a number of shared issues when operating a school pool, including maintenance and the cost of operating the pool. 10% of schools indicated it was either unlikely or very unlikely that their pool would be operational in 15 years' time.

Community aquatic facilities are not owned by territorial authorities

All of the community-accessible pools are owned by charitable trusts (or by the Ministry of Education and operated by the community). Of the community-owned and operated aquatic facilities, Sport Northland owns three (the Whangārei Aquatic Centre, the Bay of Islands Recreation Centre and the Kauri Coast Community Pool). This report proposes this ownership model is reviewed to ensure a fit-for-purpose ownership model is in place.

Recommendations

Recommendations are provided with timeframes, either short-term (1-3 years), medium-term 4-9 years), long-term (10 plus years) or ongoing.

Regional Recommendations

Recommendation	Timeframe
• Sport NZ to continue to advocate to the Ministry of Education about the importance of school pools and the need to retain these pools.	Ongoing
• Sport Northland to facilitate School Pool Workshops for schools to share the issues and challenges they have in operating pools and what solutions can be found.	Short term
Any new partnership pools, re-developments or new facilities should consider: • The range of aquatic activities that whānau are interested in accessing. • Culturally appropriate naming that connects the facility to the area and people it is within. • The wider facility area as a gathering place for whānau to come and recreate together.	Ongoing

Recommendation	Timeframe
Any partnership pools, re-developments or new facilities should consider the findings and general trends identified in this report, including but not limited to: • Whole of life costs. • Appropriate measures to address environmental sustainability. • How any additions complement and support the network approach to the provision of aquatic facilities	Ongoing
Sport Northland and the relevant territorial authorities to undertake an independent review to investigate the most effective long-term ownership model for aquatic facilities.	Short
Appropriate levels of funding support are provided by each council to support ongoing maintenance and renewals of community aquatic facilities. This funding needs to be indexed against inflation.	Ongoing
Sport Northland to work with each council to identify suitable school pools that could enter into community partnerships to be available outside of school hours (such as the current partnership agreements in place at Whangaroa College, Tikipunga High School, Otamatea High School and Bream Bay College).	Short
Consider how community–school partnership pools can meet the requirements of learn-to-swim programmes, given the under-supply of this type of space in community facilities.	Medium
Ensure the community-school partnership pools are accredited with *PoolSafe* to provide an independent quality assurance framework.	Ongoing
Sport Northland to work with the Ministry of Education and the three local authorities to facilitate a technical condition report and corresponding asset maintenance plan for the school pool network. These condition reports should be prioritised, based on relative accessibility to other aquatic facilities for each identified school.	Medium
Sport Northland to further develop the collaborative relationship with Water Safety NZ to ensure water safety programmes are accessible for all tamariki in Te Tai Tokerau.	Ongoing

Local Recommendations

Recommendations are provided with timeframes, either short-term (1-3 years), medium-term (4-9 years), long-term (10 plus years) or ongoing.

Area / Facility	Recommendation	Timeframe
	Far North District	
Kaikohe	FNDC to investigate new community – school partnership pools to free up more space for community participation.	Short
Kaikohe	FNDC to investigate a new aquatic centre at Lindvart Park that would include a variety of water types including leisure / play / learn to swim and fitness water. An analysis should be undertaken on the	Short

Area / Facility	Recommendation	Timeframe
	community's ability to access various facility options (such as a year-round, indoor pool or a summer, outdoor facility)	
Bay of Islands	FNDC, in partnership with Kerikeri High School, to upgrade the community change facilities at the Kerikeri Pool.	Short
Bay of Islands	FNDC to look at the provision of additional space to meet the needs of the growing ageing population in the area, such as hydrotherapy and relaxation water.	Medium
Far North	FNDC to continue to invest in the existing school / community model at Kaeo. Sport Northland work with the Whangaroa Community Pool Committee to assist in accessing additional funds to help with the running of this pool.	Ongoing
Hokianga	FNDC to explore suitable school partnership/s to formalise community-wide access to swimming pool space in the wider Hokianga area.	Medium
	Kaipara District	
Kaipara West	KDC to secure ongoing community access to the Dargaville High School (DHS) pool for the months when the Kauri Coast Community Pool is closed, with a focus on learn-to-swim opportunities.	Short
Kaipara West	If ongoing community access to DHS cannot be secured, then KDC investigate the enclosing of the hydrotherapy and toddlers' pool spaces at the Kauri Coast Community Pool.	Medium
Kaipara Central	KDC to work with Swim Kaipara to secure ongoing community access to the Otamatea High School pool	Medium
Kaipara Central	KDC to work in partnership with Swim Kaipara to upgrade the Otamatea High School pool, including additional shelter and the possible covering of the pool.	Medium
Kaipara East	KDC to secure a community access agreement for the Mangawhai school pool.	Short
Kaipara East	KDC to undertake a feasibility study for a new pool at Mangawhai that would include water types that reflect this community, including warm water, learn to swim, fitness and leisure water. This study needs to reflect the infrastructure challenges in the Mangawhai area and potential developments in the surrounding aquatic network.	Short
	Whangārei District	
Whangārei	Sport Northland and WDC need to ensure that a formal, independent condition assessment of WAC is undertaken every	Short

Area / Facility	Recommendation	Timeframe
	third year and incorporated into a formalised asset management plan.	
Whangārei	WDC and Sport Northland continue to work alongside Bream Bay College and Tikipunga High School to ensure seasonal pool access continues in addition to securing additional school pool partnerships to access more pool space for the community. Priority should be given to larger school pools in the city.	Ongoing
Whangārei	If demand warrants it, opening hours at the WAC could be extended to help accommodate any future demand pressures.	Ongoing
Whangārei	WDC to undertake a feasibility study for where additional community pool space in the Whangārei area should be planned for, with a particular emphasis on learn-to-swim / education pool space and additional warm water / leisure space. Should a feasibility study confirm the need for additional pool space in Whangārei, WDC to secure an alternative site for a new aquatic centre.	Medium
Whangārei	Sport Northland work with WDC to understand the anticipated environmental risks associated with the current WAC site.	Short

Pools are SO VERY important to ALL children. Our rate of drownings is so, so high. We need pools to be part funded. We don't need anything swanky, just an operational pool, with equipment that isn't constantly breaking (to save money). Our roll is on average 110. The pool was opened in 1969 and it has enabled thousands of children to learn to swim over the years. It is an important part of all of our lives." Survey Respondent

2 Introduction

2.1 Background

In 2021 Kōkiri ai Te Waka Hourua (2021-2030), a strategy for play, active recreation and sport for Te Tai Tokerau was developed. This strategy brought together Sport Northland, iwi, local authorities, regional sport and recreation organisations, health agencies and play advocates to create a collaborative approach to address participation in the region.

A key recommendation from Kōkiri ai Te Waka Hourua was to develop a region-wide aquatic facilities plan that "considers provision of warmer water facilities, learn to swim (all ages), competitive swimming and aquatic sport needs across the region". Regional stakeholders commissioned RSL Consultancy to facilitate the development of this plan with facilitation provided by Sport Northland.

2.2 Purpose of the Northland Aquatic Facilities Plan

The Northland Aquatic Facilities Plan (the Plan) serves to understand the current and future demand and supply of aquatic facilities in the area and make recommendations on what needs to be done to ensure the network of facilities is fit for purpose.

The Plan considers the provision of all aquatic facilities including, but not limited to, learn to swim (all ages), competitive swimming and aquatic recreation and sport needs across the region. The Plan utilises recently developed guidance from the Sport New Zealand Aquatic Facilities Strategy [1] to provide metrics around the types of pool space that people desire and compares this with what the current network of aquatic facilities provides.

The Plan also showcases Northland-based case studies to illustrate some of the challenges and opportunities facing the region. Trends in aquatics are also provided and are considered in the recommendations for the future.

2.3 Benefits of Participation in Aquatic Based Activities

The benefits of participation in aquatic activities are well documented. There are significant health and well-being benefits from being physically active and aquatic participation provides a low to zero impact option for people. There are cultural benefits gained through connecting people to the natural environment (tangata to taiao) and through the learning that can be gained.

The development of swimming skills assists in improving water safety outcomes and allows people to participate in a wide range of aquatic-based activities, both within aquatic facilities and the natural environment. Te Tai Tokerau is a region surrounded by moana and with many awa and pūahatanga, therefore there is both access to water bodies for recreation, sport and kaimoana gathering.

2.4 Scope and definitions

The scope of The Plan is those pool facilities that are available for either school or community use. For the purposes of this Plan, the definitions contained in the NZRA Aquatic Facility Guidelines 2015 are used[2]:

[1] Initial information from the Sport New Zealand Aquatics Facilities Strategy was provided in draft form during the latter stages of this project and has been incorporated where possible.

[2] Sourced from https://www.nzrecreation.org.nz/tools/search.aspx?sect=Site search Aquatic.

2.4.1 Aquatic Facility

An aquatic facility means any facility, which includes a pool(s). A pool means any water retaining structure, wholly or partially of artificial construction and generally having a circulation and filtration system, designed for recreational, training or therapeutic swimming. Often the term “aquatic facility” can be used interchangeably with the term “pool”.

2.4.2 Geothermal Aquatic Facility

Any pool which uses geothermal water, i.e., water which emerges from the ground at an uncontrolled temperature generated by geological forces. This includes recirculating systems and unfiltered, non-recirculating (“fill and draw”) systems.

2.4.3 Natural bodies of water

This Northland Aquatic Facilities Plan does not consider natural bodies of water, although it is acknowledged in some areas of Te Tai Tokerau these natural waterways (rivers, estuary, sea) are the only spaces available for aquatic activity to occur. It is also acknowledged in this Plan that a high proportion of Māori participation is in ways that are not always recognised as traditional sport and recreation, rather through lifestyle and purposeful activity, often in the natural environment including awa and moana.

This plan does not consider the provision and use of domestic pools, or those pools located at retirement villages or rest homes.

2.5 Methodology

The Plan has been developed based on an agreed methodology that has combined the following phases.

- Confirming and assessing the aquatic facilities stocktake to understand the current provision, use and capacity of aquatic assets in Northland including those owned by Councils, Schools, Trusts and others that are available to the public.
- Engagement with key stakeholders; including facility owners, operators and key user groups via surveys, interviews, site visits and Project Working Group workshops.
- A survey of Te Tai Tokerau schools.
- Analysis of trends in aquatic use and provision.
- Understanding the current and future demographic make-up of Te Tai Tokerau.
- An examination of current and projected levels of participation in aquatic activities in the area.
- Identifying current and future gaps and over-provision of facilities.
- Identification of asset and non-asset solutions (actions) to re-shape the network in order to meet current and future demand.
- Draft prioritisation and timing of the actions above.

3 Strategic Alignment

The following section identifies the alignment the Northland Aquatic Facilities Plan has with various national, regional and local direction. This section then provides analysis on the impact this alignment may have to the shape of the aquatics network in Northland.

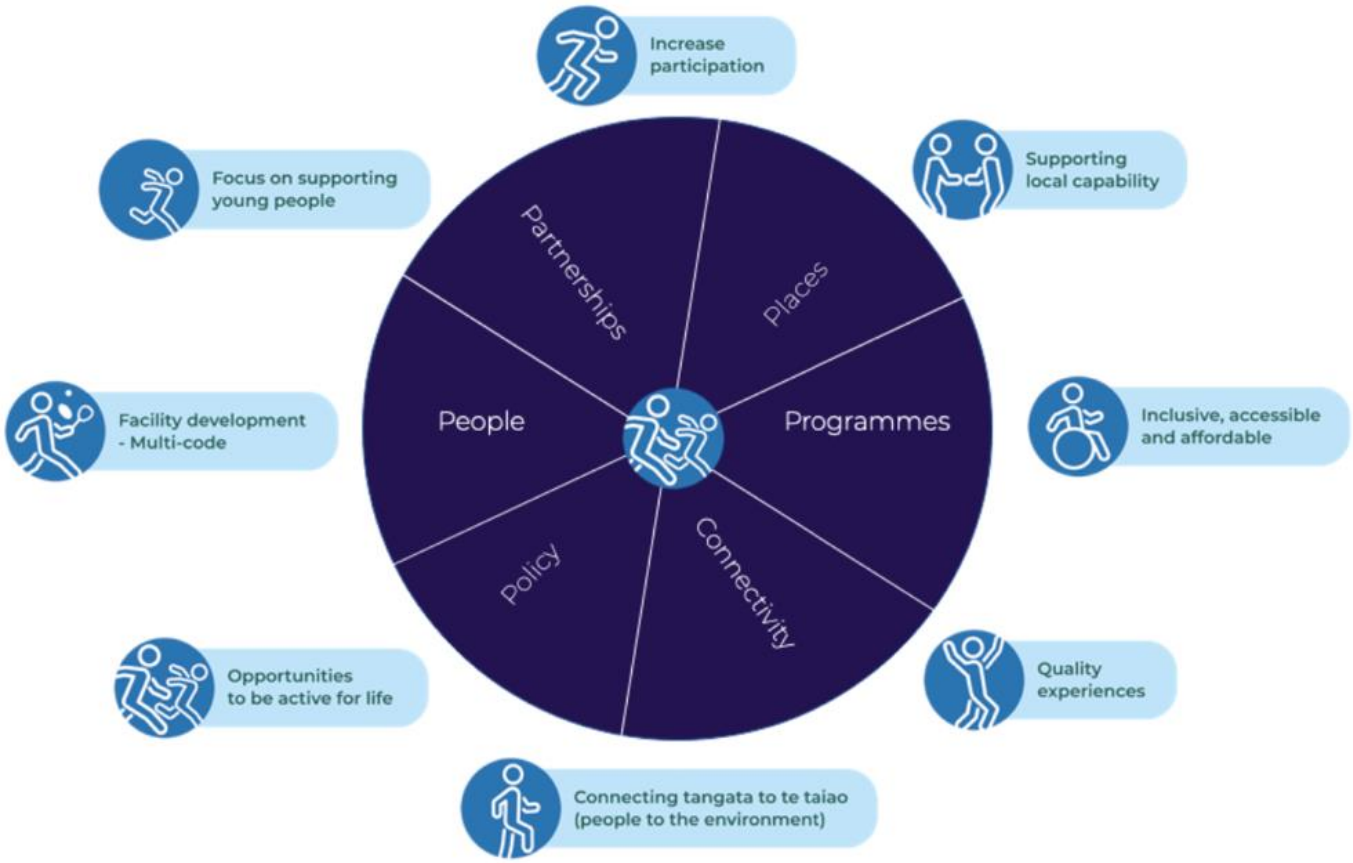
3.1 Regional context

3.1.1 Kōkiri ai Te Waka Hourua (2021-2030)

This strategy sets out the vision for the future of play, active recreation and sport in Te Tai Tokerau, providing high-level strategic guidance across the sector. The strategy identifies future priorities for the region to focus on to help improve participation levels. Partners and stakeholders involved in the strategy development process clearly expressed a strong desire for a more active future in Te Tai Tokerau.

Vision: Keeping Te Tai Tokerau moving in partnership, using our tikanga (way of doing things) to guide how we act now and in the future.

Strategic Pillars



Key challenges facing the Te Tai Tokerau region include:

- Population distribution
- Equity issues due to social and economic barriers
- Transport challenges - need to travel long distances to access facilities.
- Small ratepayer base and limited Council funds for delivery of all core services.

The trends, key challenges, opportunities and specific direction and recommendations identified in the Kōkiri ai Te Waka Hourua strategy which have relevance when considering the future of the aquatics network include:

Trends

- Swimming is one of the highly ranked participation activities in Northland – this occurs in a range of natural and built aquatic settings.
- A high proportion of Māori participation is in ways that are not always recognised as traditional sport and recreation, rather through lifestyle and purposeful activity, often in the natural environment including awa and moana.

Challenges

- Ability to fund maintenance and operations of facilities and programmes.
- Affordability
- Accessible facilities (for all)
- Distribution, quality and age of many aquatic facilities
- Centralisation of competitions and facilities can challenge the ability to deliver to local communities.
- Lower level of service in smaller communities and the need to travel to main aquatic facilities.
- Need to optimise existing facilities where possible.

Challenges for Māori

- Accessibility including cost of travel and participation.
- A sense of disconnect is felt in spaces and places due to the foreign environment.
- Access to information and opportunities including a lower level of service in smaller communities and the associated need to travel.

Opportunities

- Multi-use facilities
- Partnership approaches including with schools for access to local aquatic facilities that meet basic needs.
- Maximising the connection with the natural environment
- Quality programmes and opportunities that cater to diverse needs and interests including through informal and casual participation opportunities.

Opportunities for Māori

- Reflecting the whakapapa/mātauranga/history of areas in parks, facilities, maunga, moana, awa, roto and having appropriate names of places that reflect the community.
- Sharing a Māori approach (throughout the sector)
- Developing marae to include spaces for participation.

Aquatic facility provision

- Provision of aquatic facilities by state and state integrated schools is important for local access, particularly for small communities.
- Most school provided facilities are outdoor seasonal pools, typically open from November – April.
- Gap in aquatic facility provision that suits multi-generational use i.e., warmer water for kaumatua, kuia, play water and swimming lessons.

Identified aquatic programme gaps:

- Water safety education, including in natural settings (beach, ocean, rivers) and learn to swim opportunities (including for adults).

Table 3.1 Regional Context - Objectives and priorities related to aquatics:[3]

Pillar	Objectives:	Priorities:
Spaces & Places Ngā wāhi o Te Tai Tokerau	A well-planned network of spaces and places across the region.	Maximise existing facilities in the first instance, before building new. This will include the development of well-planned maintenance and renewal programmes. Develop a regional aquatic facilities plan that considers provision of warmer water facilities, learn to swim (all ages), competitive swimming and aquatic sport needs across the region. This work will replace or align with the proposed Whangārei District Aquatic Facilities Plan. Focus should be given to maximising use and access to existing facilities through partnerships and upgrades/re-developments to ensure facilities are fit-for purpose for an aging population. Priority should be given to increasing local access rather than developing an additional 50m pool in the region. Ensure existing key regional, national and international hierarchy facilities have asset management plans in place and are maintained in accordance with the plans.

[3] Source: Kokiri Ai Te Waka Hourua

3.1.2 Local context

The following table outlines findings for each council area in Te Tai Tokerau during recent localised planning. Some of the identified recommendations may already be complete (such as the development of the Te Hiku Aquatic Centre in Kaitaia.

Table 3.2: Local Context

	Far North District	Kaipara District	Whangārei District
Strategy:	Far North Space & Places (Facilities) Plan 2021-2030	Kaipara Spaces & Places Plan 2021-2030	Active Recreation and Sport Strategy for Whangārei District
Key Trends of relevance to aquatic facility provision	• Overall low population density • Rapid population growth expected in some parts (particularly Kerikeri and surrounds) • Potential for some easing in population in parts of the district • Significant area of coastline, many harbours and rivers • Challenge to access to aquatic facilities and programmes, particularly for learn to swim (all ages) and for smaller communities. • Individual workout, swimming, dancing and group exercise classes are the most common facility-based activities[4] • Last 12 months participation Swimming/diving (17%)	• Aging population • Main growth expected in Mangawhai, Kaiwaka and Maungaturoto Population expected to ease slightly in Ruawai-Matakohe, Otamatea and Maungaru • District has a large area of harbour, along with many rivers and lakes. • Individual workout, swimming and group exercise classes are the most common facility-based activities. • Last 12 months participation Swimming/diving (18.3%).	• Aging population – 65+ will be 1/3 of resident population by 2043. • Growing population • Ageing facilities • Poor health profile in district • Larger proportion / number of residents with disabilities of some kind • Affordability and access issues including travel distances. • Expected participation rate for swimming 12.8%
Key Aquatic Recommendations:	19. Te Hiku - Support the completion of this major multi-sport hub project that is due to commence construction. This will provide a key sub- regional/district asset.	Section 9.2 Aquatic Facilities (pools) Investigate formal partnerships with schools, where required, to increase	17. That a detailed district aquatic facility plan is developed to consider the overall network and specific works to provide greater opportunity for increased warmer water facilities, learn to swim, competitive

[4] Data in this section regarding on common activities and participation rates in each TA area was sourced from Sport NZ insights Tool.

Strategy:	Far North District Far North Space & Places (Facilities) Plan 2021-2030	Kaipara District Kaipara Spaces & Places Plan 2021-2030	Whangārei District Active Recreation and Sport Strategy for Whangārei District
	Through the final detailed design and development phase, or future project stages, ensure that all ages and abilities (including youth) are provided for in the aquatic area through the provision of hydrotherapy space, learn to swim and general water space (including play features). This may require future-proofing considerations in the design phase to allow for future expansion or change if required. 38. Investigate formal partnerships with schools, where required, to increase community access to school provided pools. 39. Ensure there is a well-planned programme of ongoing facility maintenance and upgrades to ensure existing facilities continue to meet the needs of the community	community access to school provided pools. Ensure there is a well-planned programme of ongoing facility maintenance and upgrades to ensure existing facilities continue to meet the needs of the community. Kauri Coast Community Pool • Maintain as key aquatic facility for Kaipara District. Undertake options assessment / feasibility study for upgrading the facility to meet future needs of the community. A priority consideration is options for extending the season and maximising use of the hydrotherapy / children's pool through covering these areas. Options for provision of some covered lane space could also be considered within this planning work. This should be done in conjunction with the Regional Aquatic Facility Plan as proposed in the regional strategy. • Ensure starting blocks and lane ropes are maintained in good condition to support competitive swimming requirements.	swimming, and access to Ministry of Education facilities. The district aquatic facility plan will feed into the development of the regional aquatic facility plan.

3.2 National context

3.2.1 National Aquatic Facilities Strategy 2013

Sport NZ commissioned the development of the first National Aquatic Facilities Strategy to understand what facilities existed in New Zealand and to help identify areas of potential under-supply or areas where there was a surplus of facilities. The Strategy provided a region-by-region summary of findings. Some key findings from this strategy were:

- The Northland region has a higher than an average proportion of outdoor pools (59% vs 41% for NZ), the 2nd lowest proportion of heated pools (32% vs 77%NZ)
- Northland has low provision of Council owned pools (2,132m²) equating to 75 people per square metre of pool, compared to the NZ average of around 45/m², and the highest proportion of school pools (83% vs 56%NZ), making it highly dependent on the school network.
- 79% of pools were 45 years or older in 2013 and this was highlighted as a risk.
- On a 'population-to-facility' basis in the Northland region, there is a current shortfall [in 2013] of around 5 'standard' pools (8 lane 25m). By 2031 projected demand growth indicates that this shortfall will still be 5 standard pools.

3.2.2 National Aquatic Facilities Strategy 2023

The 2013 National Aquatic Facilities Strategy is currently being updated. This 2023 Strategy has taken a more detailed look at the aquatics network. In particular, the updated strategy has included factors such as:

- The temperature and depth of water, and how this relates to hat activities can reasonably occur.
- The types of activities pools are used for, and then compared this with the types of facilities that are available.

The findings for this strategy have been incorporated into the Northland Aquatic Facilities Plan.

3.2.3 The Social Return on Investment of Recreational Physical Activity in Aotearoa New Zealand (2022)

Sport NZ commissioned research to understand the social return on investment of recreational physical activity (SROI)[5]. The results of this research found that for every $1 spent, there is a social return of $2.12 to New Zealand, meaning that the value of the wellbeing outcomes is greater than the costs, making recreational physical activity a potentially cost-effective investment.

Over half of this return on investment was measured as health outcomes, noting the benefits of physical activity to individuals health. While other returns include subjective wellbeing, closely followed by work, care and volunteering benefits.

[5] For the purposes of this study this was defined as competitive sport, undertaken in an organised structure, for example, in a competition or tournament, or informally outside an organised structure; and non-competitive active recreation for enjoyment and wellbeing, that occurs in the built, landscape and natural environments. This may include activities such as kapa haka, fitness/exercise, dance, tramping, outdoor recreation and active play, but excludes household activities such as gardening, and other domestic activities. Active transport for work commuting was also excluded. All activities falling within this definition are included within the scope of the study.

This return on investment is likely to be conservative as it did not include Māori outcomes, which we deliberately non monetised.

The key findings of the study note: The bi-cultural approach recognised that Māori outcomes are distinct from the general population's outcomes, and it was agreed these outcomes must therefore be treated accordingly. These outcomes were not measured for their contributions to economic expenditure or production as part of the national SROI. Mori stakeholders described outcomes that are consistent with Māori views of wellbeing, noting dimensions other than physical – such as spiritual, mental, emotional, cultural health, all within the context of environmental health.

From an aquatics facilities perspective, the SROI reaffirms the importance of the provision of spaces where people can come and recreate; and the benefits that are accrued from this activity.

3.2.4 Water Safety New Zealand Data and Initiatives

New Zealand has a high fatal drowning rate (1.7 per 100,000) compared to other Western nations such as Australia (1.1) and Canada (1.3). In 2021 there were 91 recreational (intending to be in the water) and non-recreational (no intention of being in the water) preventable drowning fatalities in NZ. This is a per 100,000 population rate of 1.76, up from the previous 5-year average of 1.67. 2021 had the highest number of preventable drowning deaths since 2011. As at 10 March 2023, there had been 40 official drownings in the 2022/2023 summer period (excluding those related to Cyclone Gabrielle). This compared to 30 at the same time in the 2022 calendar year. In 2022 84.95% of drowning fatalities were male.[6]

Northland has a 10-year average of 10.7 drownings per year. The majority of these fatalities are males (86%), particularly males of European (53%) or Māori (36%) descent. See Appendix 6 for more information.

Programmes and resources

Water Safety New Zealand works with partners, communities and schools to teach children the skills they need to survive. The Water Skills for Life programme is the national standard for aquatic education in New Zealand primary schools. It is linked to the national educational curriculum and gives children the skills and knowledge they need to assess risk and make smart decisions around water. It comprises 7 competency areas:

- Water safety and awareness
- Getting in and out of the water
- Submersion
- Personal buoyancy
- Orientation
- Safety of self and others
- Propulsion

These are taught through 4 learning levels for students between year 0 and year 8. Sport Northland delivers this programme on behalf of Water Safety New Zealand across the region (and has done since 1997).

Water Safety New Zealand also funds some swim schools to deliver Water Skills for Life to students, primarily at local aquatic centres for schools that don't have a school pool.[7]

They also have a targeted resources for parents - Under5 water safety for little people, with resources and help keep young children safe around water.

Kia Maanu Kia ora Stay afloat Stay Alive

This Water Safety New Zealand initiative was established to help address the tragic fact that Māori are overrepresented in New Zealand's annual drowning statistics. The kaupapa starts with and acknowledges the intimate connections Māori have always had with wai – the sea and landscape waterways. It is central to Māori identify, as a life-giving force for sustenance, health and wellbeing. The Kia Maanu Kia Ora kaupapa embodies these intimate connections to wai so that the Māori worldview of the physical and spiritual properties of wai are integral to water safety. It also ensures

[6] Information sourced and summarised from https://www.watersafetynz.org/drowning-insights

[7] Information sourced and summarised from https://www.watersafetynz.org

that water safety is not merely about teaching water skills but starts with a deeper understanding and respect for wai that is natural for Māori, which can lead to the provision of more purposeful drowning prevention for all New Zealanders. There are a range of resources provided to support this kaupapa, including Wai Puna which is a theory of Māori water safety developed by Dr Chanel Phillips (Ngāti Hine, Ngāpuhi) along with resources targeted at kura and primary schools.[8]

[8] Information sourced and summarised from https://kmko.nz/?src=nav

4 Aquatic Facility and Participation Trends

4.1 General Aquatic Trends[9]

The importance of swimming and water-based leisure.

Swimming and water-based leisure have always been a human need and desire since ancient times and will continue to be so. Their physical and emotional benefits have always been recognised.

Individualisation

Recreation activities like swimming are thriving. They allow people to be active when and where they want, to better suit their lifestyle and other commitments like work and family. These are often performed in public spaces that are not limited by opening hours.

Immersing in a lifelong healthy lifestyle

Water sports and swimming fit in perfectly with the trend of people leading more healthy lifestyles coupled with an ageing society with more active seniors. Water-based exercise classes and swimming lessons for adults are becoming more popular. Swimming lessons for children (in school or as a leisure activity) are becoming more important.

Pools as 'wellness hubs'

The increasing importance of 'preventive health care' (including mental health/stress reduction) is encouraging holistic life-style activities. The combination of sports with relaxation activities is gaining in importance, so wellness offerings are being added more frequently to classical competition pools, e.g., warm water (Hydrotherapy), spa pools, sauna/steam rooms, treatment areas, lounging zones.

Fun through play for children and families

In addition to the wellness trend, children and families are a core target group for pools. Having fun is important for children and families as an introduction to the water and for leisure. Sport NZ has identified the value and variety of play as key to the development of young people not just for their sporting future but for their overall happiness and wellbeing. To support this, facilities need to be attractive and provide amenities focused on fun activities and play.

Designing for inclusivity

The concept of accessibility has expanded significantly in recent years as society becomes more inclusive. This has also been driven by demographic change, migration and increasing cultural diversity. Social sustainability and inclusion have become important goals for public leisure facilities. Inclusivity requirements are resulting in new design strategies for many aspects of pools including stairs, lighting, signage, surfaces and acoustics, as well as for universal changing areas and toilets.

Pools as places for socialising

The social function of sports and leisure facilities is growing in importance. Facilities need to be multifunctional and serve as a 'social hub' for the community. In many instances pools are an important gathering space for whānau to recreate and socialise.

Sustainability

Climate change places a new focus on ecological sustainability. This necessitates a holistic approach from planning and

[9] Acknowledgement and sincere gratitude to Jamie Delich for his contribution.

construction through to the operation of pools with a minimal ecological footprint. Important strategies include water conservation, heat recovery, combined heat and power generation, solar energy, passive house principles, and waste/ plastic reduction.

Safe and secure pools

The potential for antisocial behaviour calls for measures such as video surveillance and security personnel. The increasing responsibility and liability of leisure facilities towards their users raises the need for more surveillance staff, surveillance technology and more complex building construction and makes the use of certified products more important.

Competing demands on public finances

The competing demands on public finances call for a prioritisation of investments. In competition for public funding, promoters of pool projects must communicate the significant 'public value' of pools (the 'social return on investment'). Over the last 30 years there has been an increasing emphasis on the financial metrics of facilities, at the expense of the less tangible social and cultural benefits.

Digital transformation

Technology can benefit and encourage participation. The omnipresence of digital technology makes the digital accessibility of sports and leisure facilities indispensable, before, during and after the visit. Another development is an increasing demand for sports tracking/performance measurement. Admission control and (non-cash) payment systems will transform service quality for users and reduce staffing requirements.

Increased expectations

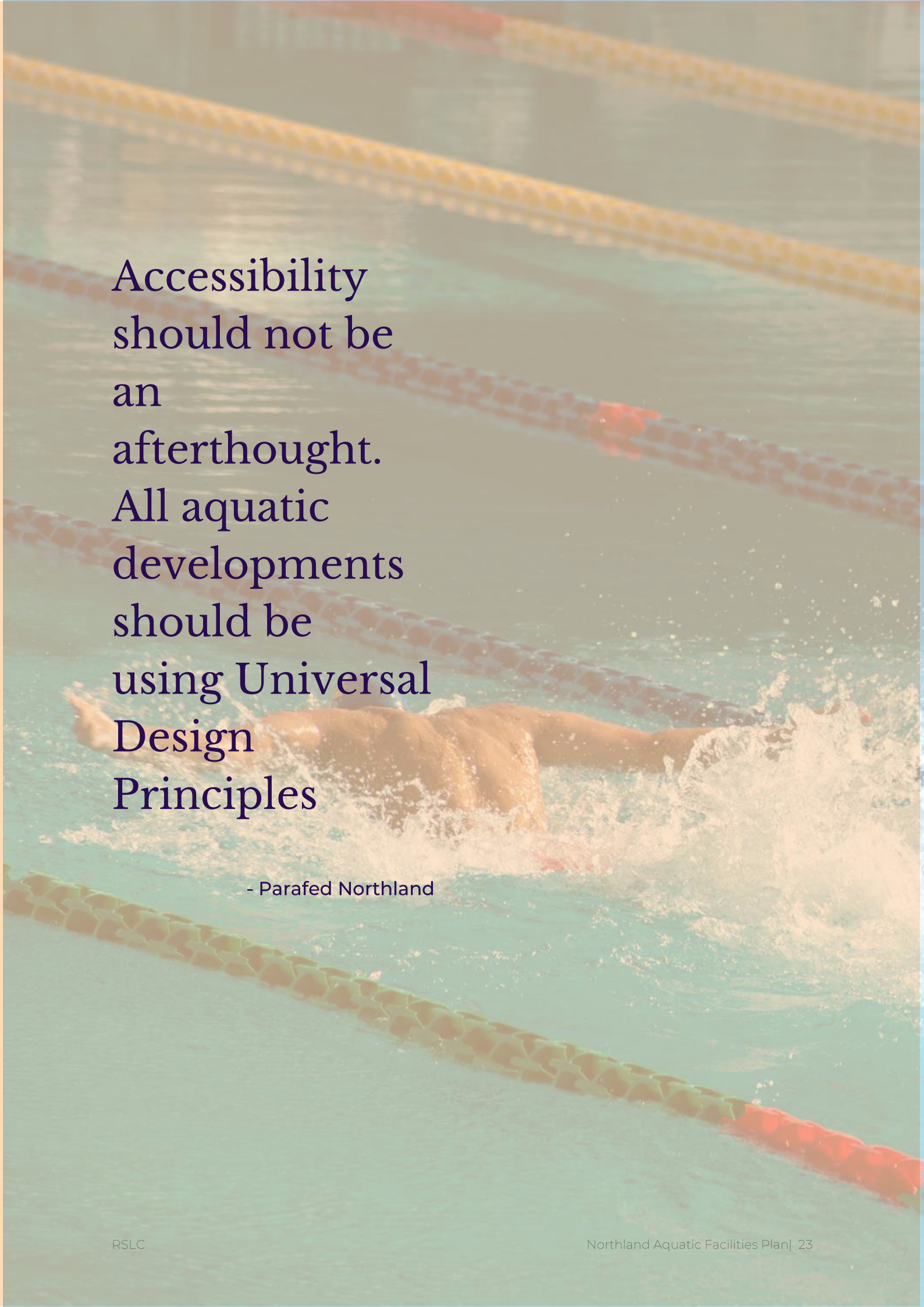
Globalisation, the internet and people's increasing mobility are influencing user expectations. Participants in sport and active recreation are now 'customers' expecting a higher level of service both in terms of the facility standards, flexibility and ease of use. National and international trends should therefore be monitored closely, with the growing harmonisation of quality standards.

The fight for talent

Demographic change and economic influences have led and will lead to significant difficulties for leisure facilities in recruiting and retaining skilled staff. This means that pools will have to improve employee loyalty and develop new ways of attracting and retaining staff, e.g., employer branding, pay equity, in-house staff training. In some areas, new technologies may reduce staff requirements or result in the revision of job responsibilities.

Good design

The delivery and operation of successful pools are complex tasks. Good design is an essential part of providing an enhanced user experience that fosters long-term loyalty and high participation. The complete quality of the swimming experience is a critical component for long-term success.



Accessibility should not be an afterthought. All aquatic developments should be using Universal Design Principles

- Parafed Northland

4.2 Northland Region and Districts (local) Participation Trends

Table 4.1 below shows expected participation in swimming (as a percent of the population or demographic category) for each of the three districts in the Northland region alongside the expected National participation[10].

Table 4.1: Expected Participation Rates in Swimming

Demographic Group	Whangārei District %	Kaipara District %	Far North District %	National %	Indicative Comparison with National Participation
Whole Population	12.8	12.3	13.1	13.5	⇔
Tamariki	35.5	34.6	34.6	45	↓
Rangatahi	24.5	27.8	27.6	21.6	↑
Tertiary	24.5	22.2	31.9	11.1	↑
Young Adults (16-34)	7.7	8.0	7.7	12.5	↓
Young Families (25-45)	11.2	11.2	9.4	12.2	⇔
Older Families (35-60)	22.9	21	24.8	10.3	↑

[10] Source: Sport NZ Insights Tool

Demographic Group	Whangārei District %	Kaipara District %	Far North District %	National %	Indicative Comparison with National Participation
(Children at home)					
Older Adults (35-64) (no children at home)	9.1	8.9	10.6	8.7	⇔
Young Retirees (65-75)	5.2	5.5	4.5	10.4	↓
Older Retirees (75+)	6.8	7.2	5.9	5.2	⇔

- In all three districts the expected participation in swimming is much the same as the national expected participation rate.
- The expected participation rates for Tamariki are lower in all three districts than the expected national participation rate.
- The expected rates for Rangatahi are higher or similar to the national expected rate, while for Tertiary the participation rates are much higher than the national expected participation rate, especially in the Far North District.
- The expected participation rates in young adults are lower than the national expected rate in all three districts and similar for young families.
- In older families (in which children still live at home) the expected participation rate in swimming is notably higher than the national rate.
- The participation rate in swimming for older adults is similar to the national expected rate in all three districts however the rate for young retirees is notably lower than the national rate.
- In all three districts participation in swimming is at a similar rate to the national expected rate for older retirees.

These participation figures demonstrate a variable level of participation across life stages. The participation rates of tamariki, when compared to national comparisons is a concerning statistic. While no direct link can be made between aquatic facility availability and participation, not having quality, aquatic provision is a potential factor in reduced participation, along with a range of socio-demographic factors.

The Bay of Islands Recreation Centre, Kawakawa

5 Northland Aquatic Facilities Network Overview

5.1 Northland Demographic Profile

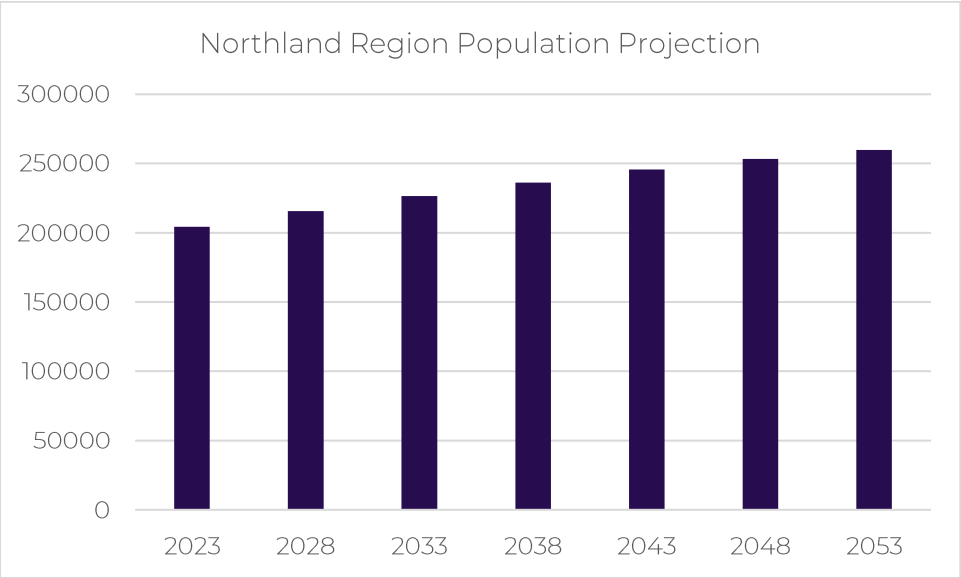
	Demographic Highlight	Impact on Aquatic Activities
	The population of the Northland region was 204,385 in 2023. In the 30 years to 2053, the population is expected to increase by 27% or 55,523 people to reach 259,908.	An increase in the total number of people wishing to participate in aquatic activities.
	71% of the growth in Northland's population (39,677 people) is expected to be in the Whangārei District, 14% in the Kaipara district (7,551) and 15% in the Far North district (8,295 people).	A large increase in the number of people in the Whangārei district potentially wishing to engage in aquatics activities.
	The distribution of the region's population will remain fairly similar over time. By 2053 54% of the Northland region's population will reside in the Whangārei district (50% 2023), 32% in the Far North district (37% in 2023) and 14% in the Kaipara district (same as in 2023).	While the Whangārei district will continue to have the majority of the population, there is still a need to support local aquatic participation across the region.
	The population of the Northland region is aging.	More demand for aquatic facilities by this cohort, along with the types of activities they wish to participate in which may be more individual and informal recreation. A requirement for facilities that are warm and accessible.

	In the Northland region the proportion of the population identifying as New Zealand European (74%), and Māori (37%), are both higher than that for New Zealand as a whole[11] (69% and 17% respectively). The ethnic profile of the Northland region is projected to be very similar proportionately by 2043. When compared to its make-up in 2023	The participation preferences of various ethnic groups can vary. Ethnic identity may impact what recreational activities people choose to participate in for example the kind of aquatic experiences undertaken.
	Much of the Northland region falls into the category of "most deprived" or 9-10 out of 10. There are 3 areas; the Bay of Islands, Whangārei and Mangawhai that are somewhat less deprived being categorised as between 3 to 6 out of 10 on the deprivation scale.	Potential barriers to accessing and affording aquatic opportunities for much of the population. Need to consider the provision of localised, affordable aquatic facilities.

5.1.1 Northland Region Population

The population of the Northland region was 204,385 in 2023. In the 30 years to 2053 the population is expected to increase by 27% or 55,523 people to reach 259,908.

Figure 5.1: Northland Region Population Projection



71% of the growth in Northland's population (39,677 people) is expected to be in the Whangārei district, 14% in the Kaipara district (7,551) and 15% in the Far North district (8,295 people).

[11] Ethnic data for the Northland Region was sourced from Stats NZ Medium projections.

Table 5.1: Northland Region Territorial Authority Population Projections

Territorial Authority	2023	2028	2033	2038	2043	2048	2053	Change 2023-2053	% Change 2023-2053
Far North	74832	77546	79854	81409	82513	83184	83127	8295	11%
Kaipara	28023	29982	31571	32877	33973	34868	35574	7551	27%
Whangārei	101530	108109	115206	122043	129121	135369	141207	39677	39%
Total	204385	215637	226631	236329	245607	253421	259908	55523	27%

5.1.2 Northland Population Distribution

In 2053 the proportion of the Northland region population in the Kaipara district is expected to remain at 14%. Over the same period, the proportion of the population in the Whangārei district is expected to increase by 4% to 54% while the proportion in the Far North district is expected to decrease by 5% to 32%.

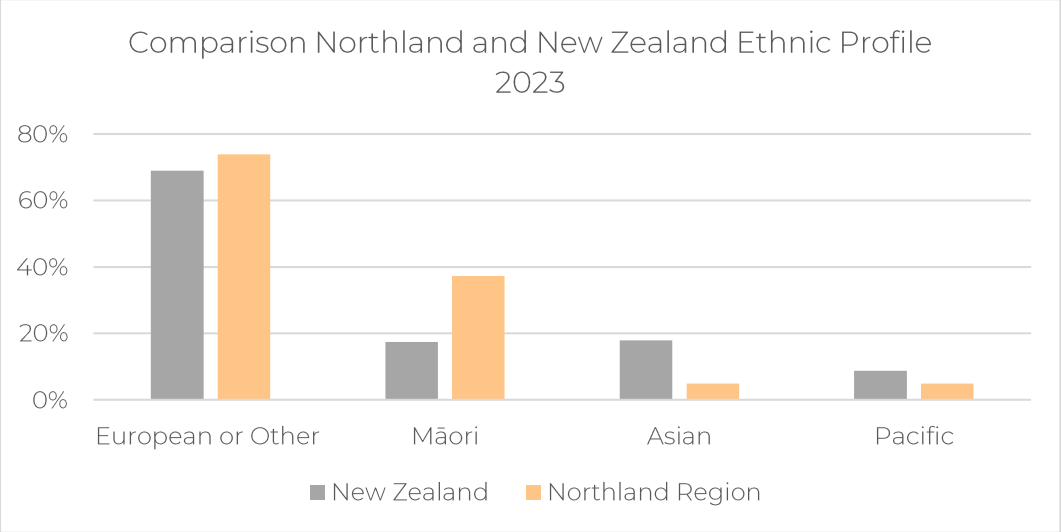
Table 5.2: Northland Population Distribution

District	% Pop 2023	% Pop 2053
Far North	37%	32%
Kaipara	14%	14%
Whangārei	50%	54%

5.1.3 Northland Region Ethnic Profile

In the Northland region the proportion of the population identifying as New Zealand European, (74% %) compared to 69%), and Māori, (37% compared to 17%), are both higher than that for New Zealand as a whole[12]. Conversely, the proportion of those identifying as Asian and Pacific is much lower that than for the whole of New Zealand[13].

Figure 5.2: Ethnic Profile Northland Region compared to New Zealand



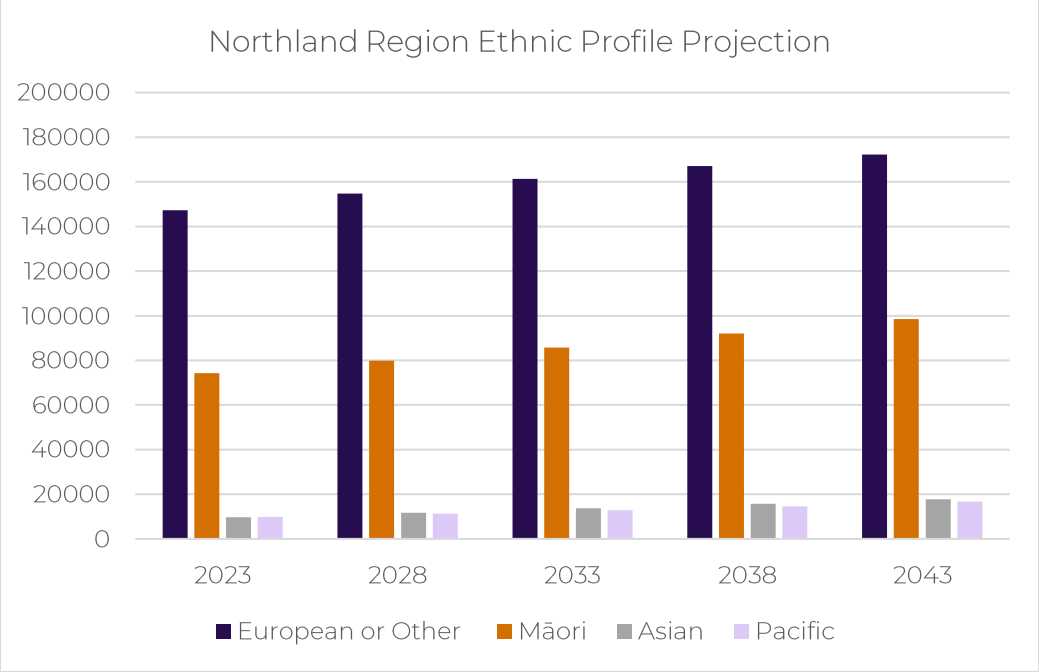
[12] Ethnic data for the Northland Region was sourced from Stats NZ Medium projections.

[13] Individuals can identify with more than one ethnic group, so totals may add to more than population totals.

While it is expected that the populations of all four ethnic groups will grow in the 20 years to 2043, the ethnic profile of the Northland region is projected to remain very similar to its make-up in 2023.

How various ethnicities utilise aquatic facilities can vary. For example, feedback received during the development of this plan was that many Māori enjoy participating in aquatic recreation as whānau, with the social elements outside the pool as important as the pool itself (for example space to gather and share kai).

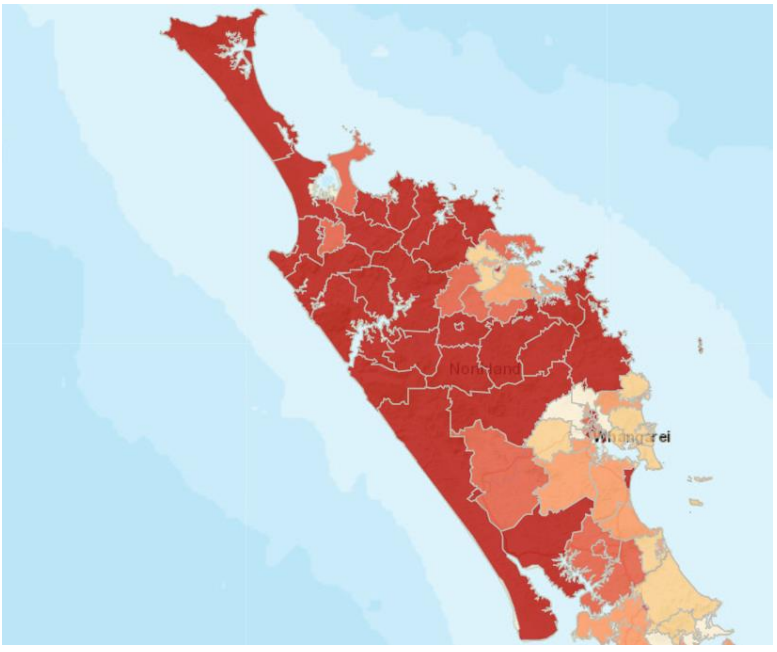
Figure 5.3: Northland Region Ethnic Profile Projection



5.1.4 Deprivation[14]

Figure 5.4: Deprivation in the Northland Region

The New Zealand Index of Deprivation (NZDep) provides information on socio economic deprivation. The index measures the level of deprivation for people in small areas and is based on nine Census 2018 variables. NZ Dep is displayed in 10 deciles where Decile 1 represents areas which are least deprived, and Decile 10 represents areas which are most deprived.



Much of the Northland region falls into the category of "most deprived" or 9-10 out of 10. There are 3 areas; the Bay of Islands, Whangārei and Mangawhai that are somewhat less deprived being categorised as between 3 to 6 out of 10 on the deprivation scale.

[14] Deprivation information sourced from the New Zealand Index of Deprivation 2018 (NZDeop2018).

Highly deprived communities may face greater barriers when accessing aquatic facilities and programmes such as learn-to-swim lessons due to transport and entry fee costs.

5.1.5 Northland's Geographical Uniqueness – coastlines and warmer water

Northland is a region surrounded by water. It has 3,200 kms of coastlines and harbours. No part of Northland is more than 40kms from the coast. The region also has 2 marine reserves and 10 harbours[15]. This presents both opportunities and challenges; there is a large amount of natural environment to swim in, therefore the need to have water skills is critically important for residents.

The location of Northland also lends itself to having warmer than average water temperatures, when compared to the rest of New Zealand. By way of example, water temperatures in Whangārei range between 22 degrees Celsius in summer to 15 or 16 degrees in winter. This can be compared with Wellington which has water temperatures of 16 or 17 degrees in summer and 12 degrees in winter[16]. Warmer water on average makes the option of swimming in the natural environment more appealing for some. This should be a factor to explore when any developments are proposed to the aquatic facility network.

[15] Source: Northland Regional Council Webpage

[16] Source: New Zealand Water Temperatures (seatemperature.org)

5.2 Northland Region Pools Snapshot[17]

Northland Region

Total Pools	Total Pool Area	Community Pools	School Pools	% Pool Area School Pools
127	**17461 m²**	**6**	**121**	**80%**

5.2.1 Community Operated vs School Facilities

There are 7 community-operated facilities across the Northland region comprising 20% of the total pool area. By contrast, there are 120 school pools across the region providing 80% of the pool area.

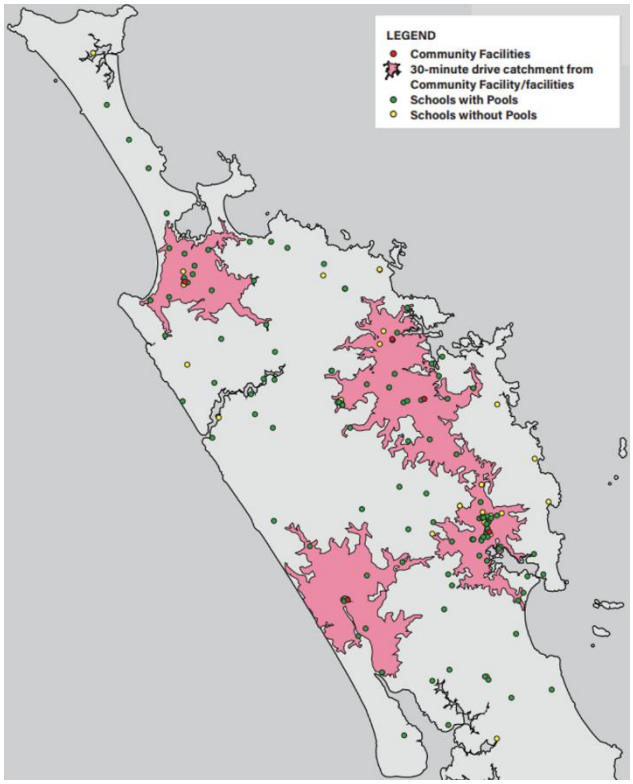
Table 5.3 Community Operated vs School Facilities

	Community Pools	Community Pool Water Area (m²)	School Pools	School Pool Water Area (m²)
Far North	4	1375	58	6796
Kaipara	1	950	20	2268
Whangārei	1	1137	44	4934
Total	6	3,462	121	13,998

[17] See appendix 1 for an inventory of pools

5.2.2 Access to Community Aquatic Facilities

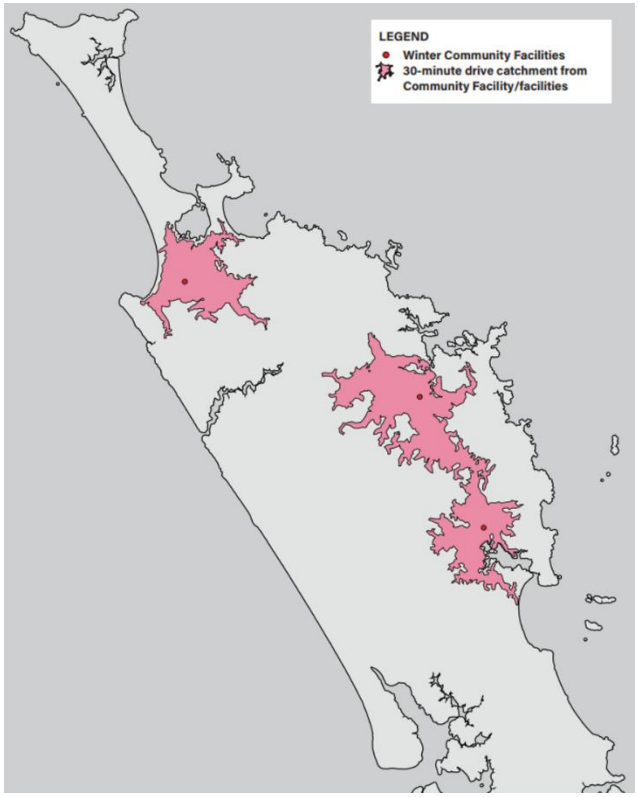
Figure 5.5: Pool Access with 30 min Drive time to Community Aquatic Facilities – Summer Provision



Te Tai Tokerau is a large geographical area and there are very few community-accessible pools. Figure 5.1 illustrates the current community pool network in the region and shows an approximate 30-minute drive time to each of these pools. The map highlights there are large areas of the region that cannot access a community pool within this time frame.

Access to community provision of aquatic facilities becomes more difficult outside of the 3-5 months a year that summer pools are open in Northland. Figure 5.2 shows available provision in the winter months.

Figure 5.6: Pool Access with 30 min Drive time to Community Aquatic Facilities – Winter Provision



These two maps demonstrate the contrast in available pools during the summer period, compared with the rest of the year. It highlights the heavy reliance on school facilities to serve the aquatic needs of smaller communities. The Kaipara district has no winter-based provision that is reliably available to the community[18].

[18] Dargaville High School pool is available for some organised groups, but no casual swimming.

5.3 Demand Modelling

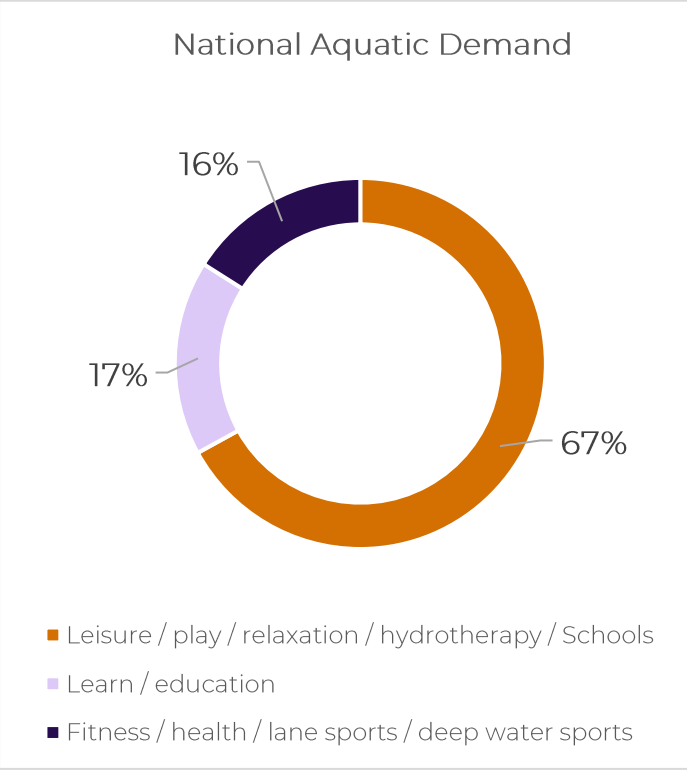
Demand modelling has been undertaken to identify if the existing network of aquatic facilities can meet current and future needs. The modelling has incorporated a number of factors to assess the current supply of pool space and to forecast future requirements. These factors include:

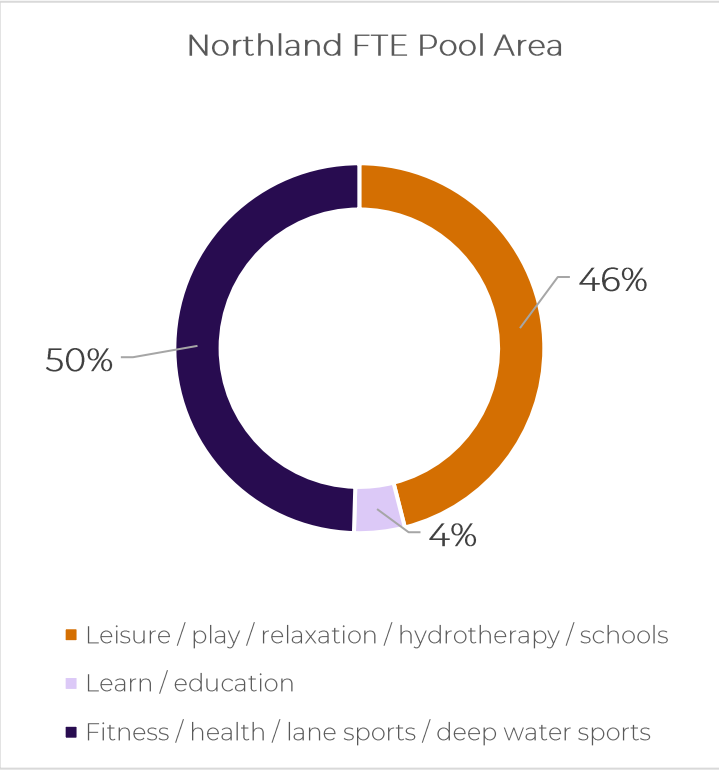
- Water temperatures and depths
- The types of pool spaces available
- The water area available
- Aquatic participation preferences

Appendix 8 explains these factors in more detail.

Figures 5.7 and 5.8 below show the comparison of the pool supply, by type, for Te Tai Tokerau, compared with the National Aquatic Demand profile. This comparison highlights the relative over-supply of Fitness/ Health / Lane sports / Deep water sports and the relative undersupply of Leisure and Play water and Learn to Swim / Education water. This information is further broken down at a district level in sections 6 to 8.

Figure 5.7 National Aquatic Demand and Figure 5.8 Northland FTE Pool Area





5.4 Northland Supply and Demand Model

Table 5.4 shows that if all pools are included then there is an adequate supply of pool space. However, many school pools are not available for wider community use, creating an under-supply of pool space in some areas of Te Tai Tokerau.

Table 5.4 Northland Supply and Demand Model

	Te Tai Tokerau
Total Pool Space (m^2)	18,830
Pool Space Available (for the community) (m^2)	3,543
Population (2023)	204,385
Total Pool Space (m^2) / 1,000 residents	92
Total Pool Space Surplus Shortfall (m^2 per 1,000 residents)	65
Pool Space Available (m^2) / 1,000 residents	17
Surplus / Shortfall of Pool Space (m^2) per 1,000 residents	-10
Surplus / Shortfall of Pool Space in 2023 (m^2)	-1976
Projected Population (2053)	259,908
Projected Surplus / Shortfall Available Pool Area (m^2)	-3,475

These regional statistics are further analysed at a local level across Te Tai Tokerau, to identify where there is under-supply and how this could potentially be addressed. Additional factors need to also be considered such as:

- Catchment population
- Travel time to and from an aquatic facility
- The demographic profile of the area, including age and ethnicity profiles.
- The deprivation level of the area
- The type of pool spaces that are available.
- The current and future expected participation in aquatic activities.
- Natural environmental factors, such as access to natural bodies of water for swimming.

To give a perspective on the amount of water area at pools, the following provide localised examples of the pool area for various facilities in Te Tai Tokerau:

- The Whangārei Aquatic Centre –1,085m2
- The Kauri Coast Community Pool – 950m2
- Northland College Pool - 366m2
- Whangaroa Community Pool – 391m2

6 Far North District Aquatic Facilities Network

6.1 Far North Community Profile

6.1.1 Far North Sub-Districts

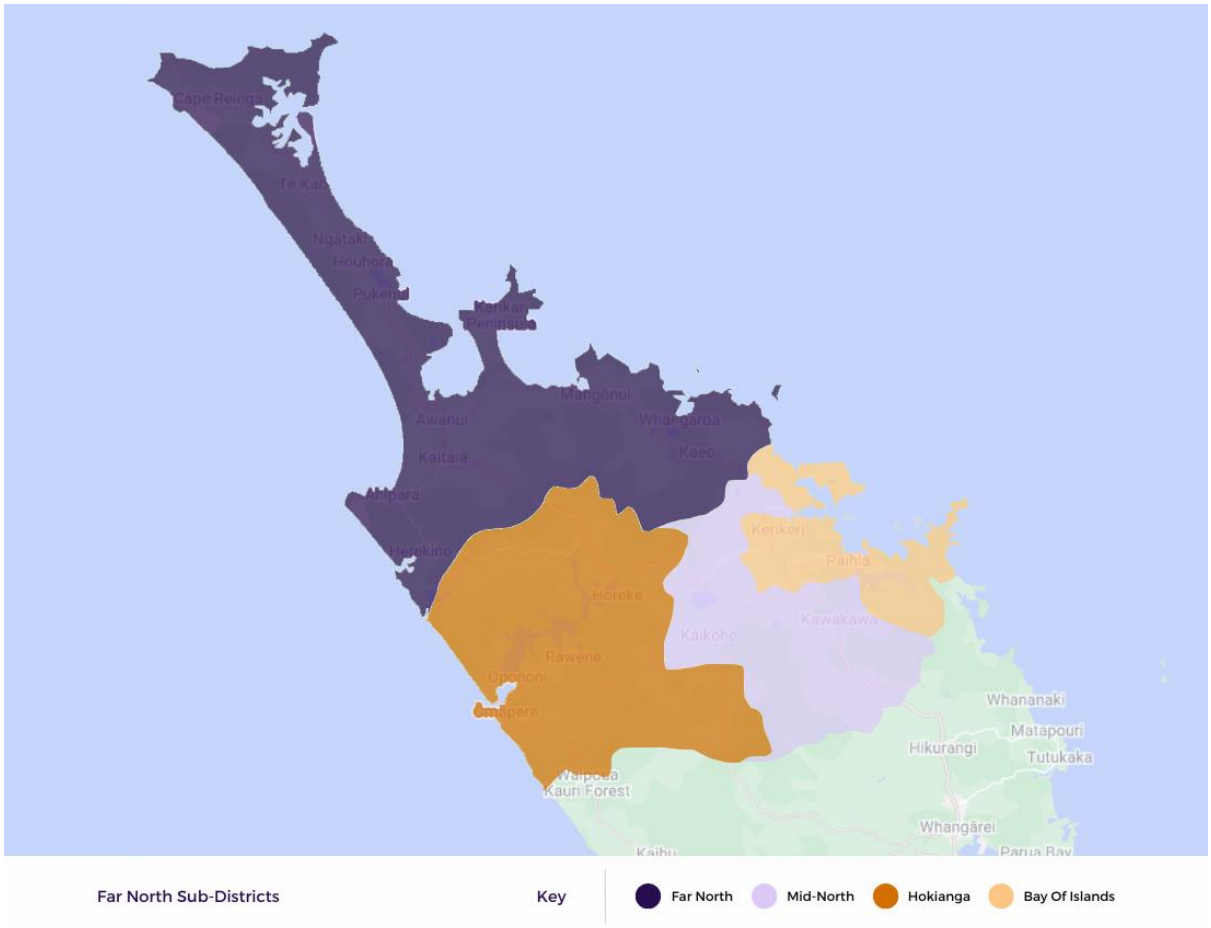
For planning purposes, the Far North district has been sub-divided into 4 general areas:

- The Far North (including Kaitaia and surrounds)
- Kaikohe and surrounds
- Bay of Islands
- Hokianga area and surrounds

The make-up of the four sub-districts from SA2 areas can be found in Appendix 1.

It is recognised that these are arbitrary boundaries and, in some instances, may not represent the primary catchment for all residents in that area, however, they are used for the purposes of providing further granularity to the demand modelling of the network.

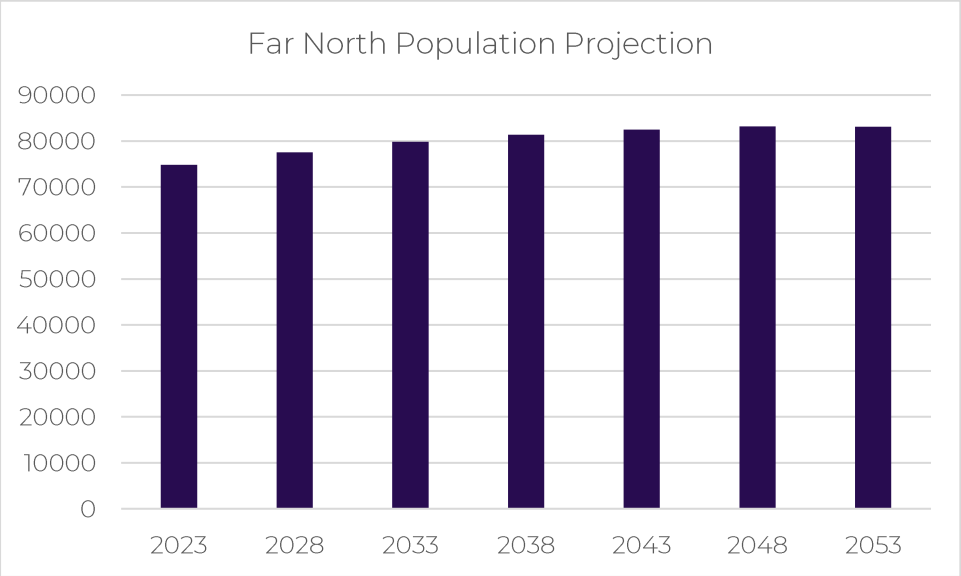
Figure 6.1: Far North Sub-Districts



6.1.2 Far North Population Projection

The population of the Far North district was 74,832 in 2023[19]. It is expected to increase by 11% in the 30 years to 2053 to reach a population of 83,127.

Figure 6.2: Far North Population Projection



6.1.3 Far North Sub-District Population Projection

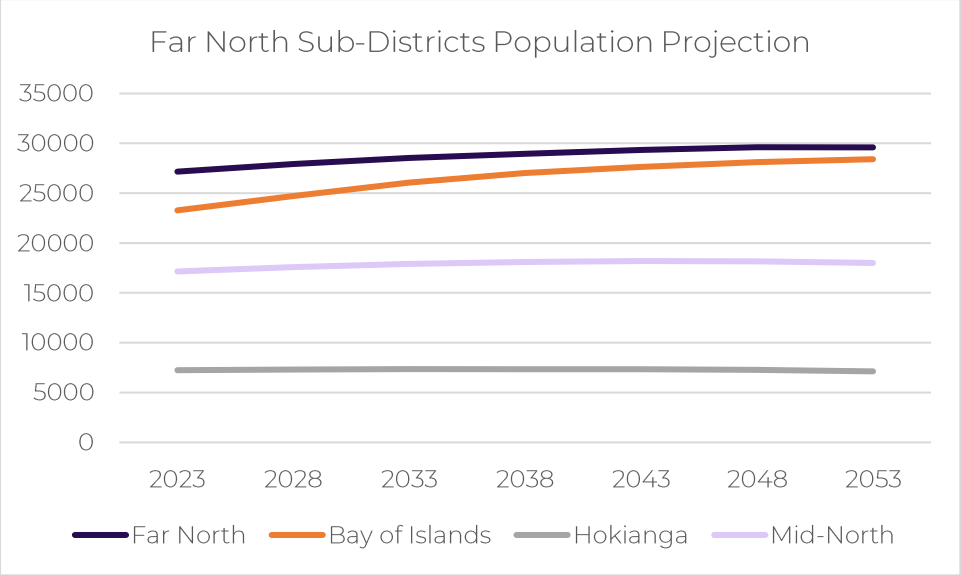
It is expected that 62% of the increase in population in the Far North district in the 30 years to 2053 will occur in the Bay of Islands area and 30% in the Far North area. Over the same period, the Mid-North and Hokianga populations are expected to remain much the same with a projected increase of 5% in the Mid-North and a 2% decline in Hokianga.

Table 6.1: Far North Sub-District Population Projection

Sub District	2023	2028	2033	2038	2043	2048	2053	Change 2023-2053	% Change 2023-2053
Far North	27163	27932	28536	28949	29351	29611	29600	2437	9%
Bay of Islands	23278	24724	26072	27030	27621	28114	28409	5131	22%
Hokianga	7243	7319	7352	7338	7347	7284	7124	-119	-2%
Mid-North	17148	17571	17894	18092	18194	18175	17994	846	5%
Total	74832	77546	79854	81409	82513	83184	83127	8295	11%

[19] Demographic data for the Far North was sourced from Infometrics 2022, (medium projections)

Figure 6.3: Far North Sub-District Population Projection



The distribution of the population in the Far North sub-district is expected to remain much the same over the 30 years to 2053. It is expected the Bay of Islands proportion of the population will increase by 3%, and the other three areas will remain much the same.

Table 6.2: Far North Sub-District Population Distribution

Sub District	% Population 2023	% Population 2053
Far North	36%	36%
Bay of Islands	31%	34%
Hokianga	10%	9%
Mid-North	23%	22%

6.2 Far North Pools Snapshot

Far North District	
Total Pools	62
Total Pool Area	8,172m^2
4 Community Pools	6%
58 School Pools	94%
% Total Pool Area School Pools	83%
59 Pools Summer Only	95%
22 School Pools with Community Access	38%

6.3 Far North Pools – Analysis of Supply and Demand

The following information is presented for the four sub-districts, based on the travel times required to access various parts of the district.

Table 6.3: Far North Aquatic Facilities Current and Projected Surplus/Deficit of Pool space

	Far North (Kaitaia[20] and Surrounds)	Kaikohe and Surrounds	Bay of Islands	Hokianga and surrounds
Total Pool Space (m^2)	3,810	1787	2,636	1031
Pool Space Available (for the community) (m^2)	897	136	660	82
Population (2023)	27,163	17,148	23,278	7243
Total Pool Space (m^2) / 1,000 residents	140	104	113	142
Total Pool Space Surplus/Shortfall (m^2 per 1,000 residents)	113	77	86	115
Pool Space Available (m^2) / 1,000 residents	33	8	28	11
Surplus / Shortfall of Pool Space (m^2) per 1,000 residents	6	-19	1	-16
Surplus / Shortfall of Pool Space in 2023 (m^2)	163	-327	32	-113
Projected Population (2053)	29,600	17994	28,409	7124
Projected 2053 Surplus / Shortfall Available Pool Area (m^2)	97	-350	-107	-110

The modelling suggests the Far North of the FNDC area has sufficient pool space and will continue to do so up to 2053. The Te Hiku Trust facility in Kaitaia has added significant capacity to the network in this area of the district.

There is currently an undersupply of pool space in Kaikohe and surrounding areas. This is projected to remain at similar levels out to 2053.

The Bay of Islands area supply currently closely matches demand. It is forecast to have a small deficit in water space over time.

The Hokianga area is forecast to have a small deficit in water space over time. It has a significant school pool supply, but without community access to a number of these pools, it reports a deficit of community-accessible pool space.

[20] Includes the pool space that will be available from the Te Hiku area.

6.3.1 Kaikohe and Surrounds

The Kaikohe area has the most acute under-supply of pool space in the FNDC area. The pool at Kaikohe College serves as a community facility outside school hours. It was developed in 1957 and is a standard rectangular pool. It is located at the rear of the college site and cannot be viewed from the road.

The pool is reported to have significant deferred maintenance issues. It is highly unlikely this pool will remain operational in the medium term (5-10 years) without significant investment in the pool and mechanical plant.

Kaikohe Community Pool - Northland College

Figure 6.4: Kaikohe and Surrounds Current FTE Pool Area

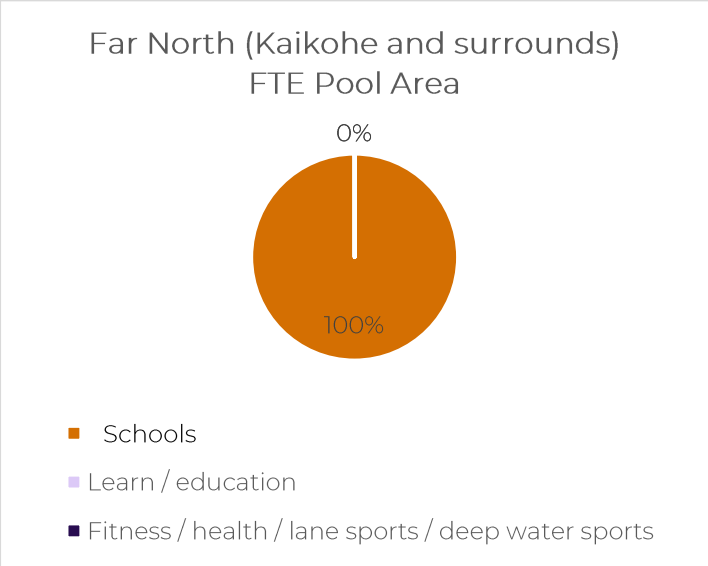


Figure 6.4 indicates there is no variety of water on offer in the Kaikohe and surrounds area, with 100% of available pool space being school based provision (however noting there is a hot water aquatics alternative located at Ngawha Springs, a few kilometres from Kaikohe).

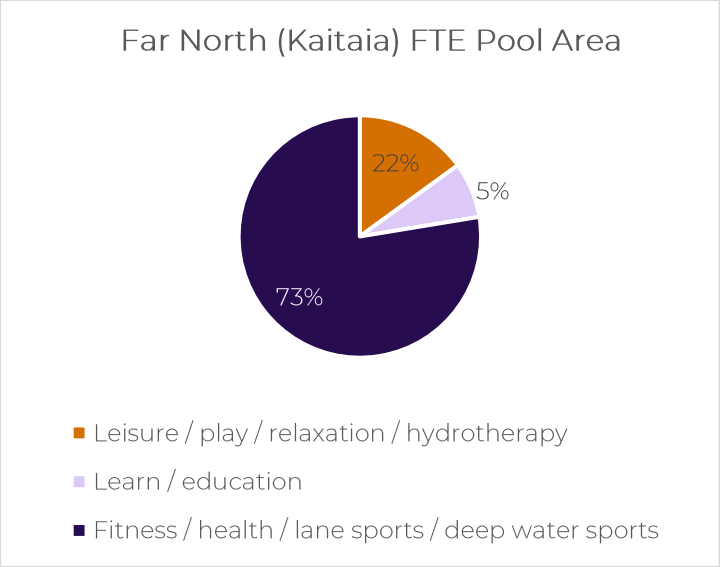
A new multi-sports hub is being developed at Lindvart Park in Kaikohe and there have been preliminary discussions about developing a fit for purpose, community aquatic centre alongside the sports hub.

Consideration should be given to a range of pool spaces to cater for the community profile of the area, including a mix of learn-to-swim, leisure and fitness pools. Accessibility and affordability should also be key drivers when considering the future pool spaces in the area.

6.3.2 The Far North (Kaitaia and Surrounds)

The Far North has the highest level of aquatic facility provision in the Far North District Council area. Te Hiku Sports Hub Aquatic Facility, due to open in the latter months of 2023 in Kaitaia adds significant (and varied types of) pools to the area. Te Hiku development will be the first new pool in the Far North district for approximately 35 years. This development opening will also see the closure of the Kaitaia Memorial Pool. The FNDC will provide an operational grant to the Te Hiku Aquatic Facility's Trust. The modelling of future demand has taken into account these changes.

Figure 6.5: Far North FTE Pool Area



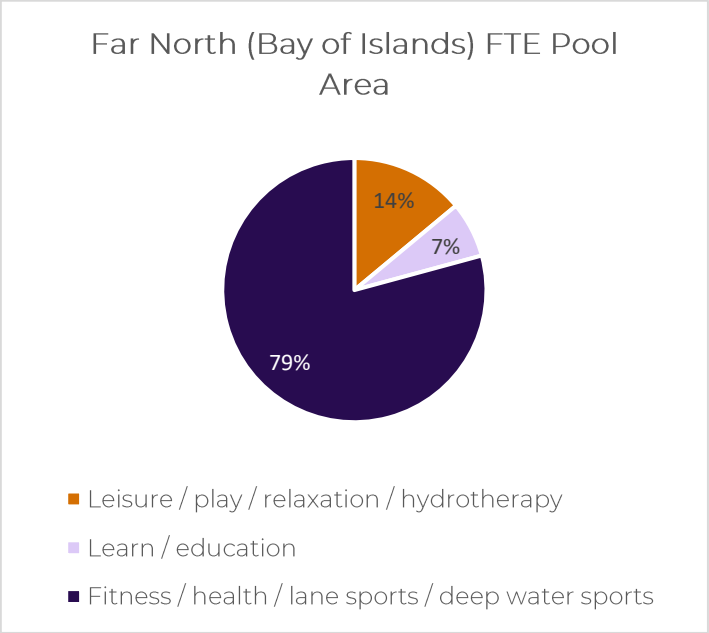
Given the geographic size of the area, and the drive time required for some to access Kaitaia it is important that satellite community or school facilities are maintained and available. One such example is the Whangaroa Community Pool in Kaeo, that serves the needs of the Kaeo and surrounding areas (see Section 10 for a case study on this pool). Drive time to the next closest community pools is around 30 minutes, which is a barrier for many in this community.

When future upgrades are being made to the network of aquatic facilities in the Far North area, additional or retrofitted pool space should focus on learn to swim and leisure / play spaces as the current supply is dominated by traditional lane pools, mostly at schools (see Figure 6.5).

6.3.3 Bay of Islands

The Bay of Islands area currently has a network of available pool spaces that meets demand when using the modelled data. A challenge for the area is whether facilities offer the types of water that meet the community profile and if pools are available within a reasonable drive time from the community. Future forecasting indicates that as the population of the area grows there will be an undersupply of aquatic space. There will also be a further ageing of the population.

Figure 6.6: Far North (Bay of Islands) FTA Pool Area



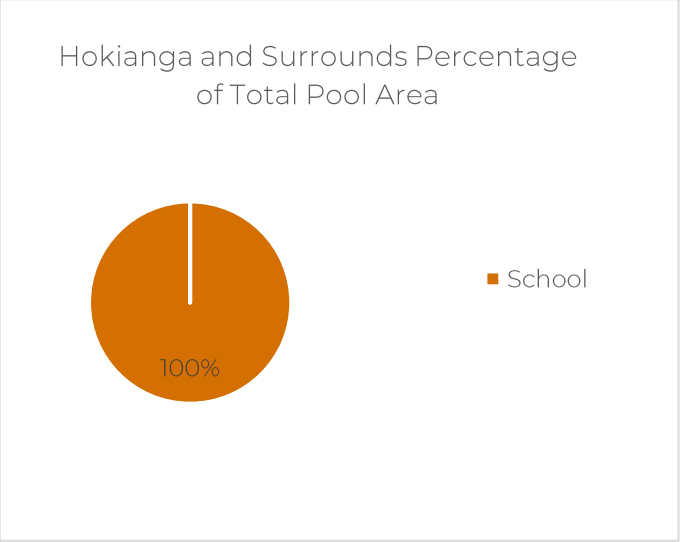
Given the current make-up of pool spaces (see Figure 6.6) and the community profile, consideration should be given to increasing the amount of warmer water (both learn to swim and hydrotherapy) and leisure water.

There is a heavy reliance on the Kerikeri Community Pool located on the Kerikeri High School grounds (toward the back of the school). Feedback received indicates the current change room arrangements need to be upgraded (including retrofitting cubicles and creating gender-neutral change spaces) to future-proof the facility. The Bay of Islands Recreation Centre in Kawakawa is a heated, indoor 25m pool, located on Bay of Islands College land.

6.3.4 Hokianga and Surrounds

The Hokianga and its surrounds has a small deficit of pool space that is projected to remain at similar levels until 2053. There are no community aquatic facilities provided in the area.

Figure 6.7 Hokianga and Surrounds Pool Area



There are eight schools that have pools in this area. Five of these pools have some form of community arrangement (such as the school community being able to access the pool outside school hours).

There is a need for more access to be secured at school sites, where possible, for the wider community. Sport Northland and the FNDC could play a role in facilitating these access agreements.

7 Kaipara District Aquatic Facilities Network

7.1 Kaipara Community Profile

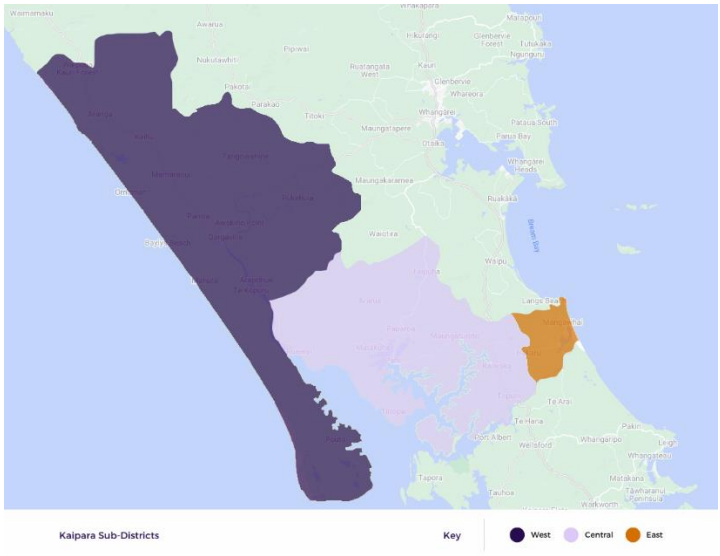
7.1.1 Kaipara Sub-Districts

For planning purposes, the Kaipara district has been sub-divided into 3 areas:

- Kaipara West (Dargaville and surrounds)
- Kaipara Central (Southeast Kaipara)
- Kaipara East

The make-up of each sub-district from SA2 areas can be found in Appendix One

Figure 7.1: Kaipara Sub-Districts



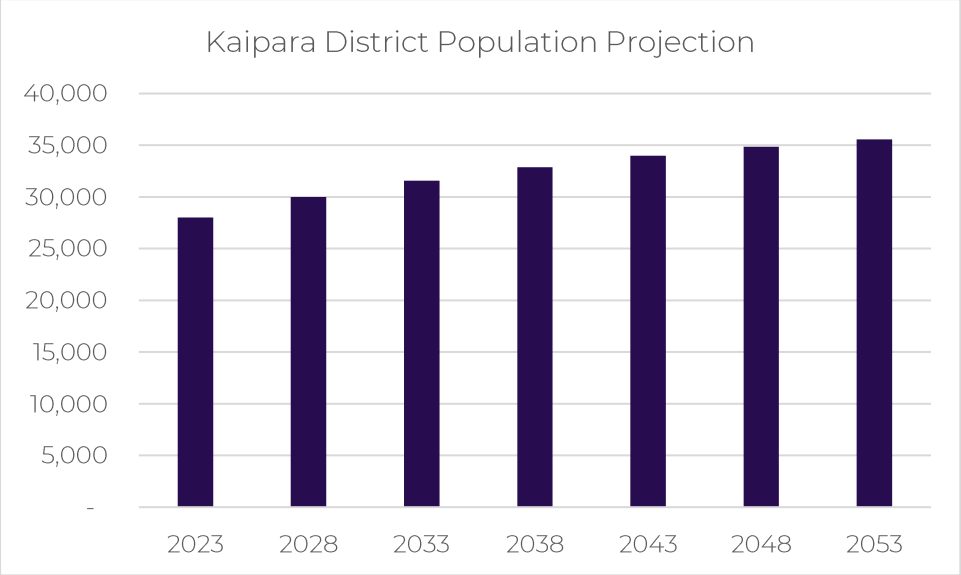
7.1.2 Kaipara District Population Projection

The population of the Kaipara district was 28,023 in 2023[21]. It is expected to increase by 27% (7,552 people) in the 30 years to 2053 to reach a population of 35,574[22].

[21] Demographic data for the Far North was sourced from Infometrics 2022, (medium projections)

[22] Demographic data for the Kaipara district was sourced from Infometrics January 2023 (medium projections)

Figure 7.2 Kaipara District Population Projection



7.1.3 Kaipara Sub-District Population Projection

While the populations of all three sub-districts are expected to increase, it is expected that 58% of the increase in population in the Kaipara district in the 30 years to 2053 will occur in the East area which is expected to see growth of 4,381 people. 21% of growth (1,573 people), is expected to occur in the West and the same (21% - 1,597 people) in the Central area.

Table 7.1: Kaipara Sub-District Population Projection

Sub District	2023	2028	2033	2038	2043	2048	2053	Change 2023-2053	% Change 2023-2053
West	11646	12033	12360	12616	12833	13023	13219	1573	14%
Central	9038	9483	9822	10075	10302	10493	10635	1597	18%
East	7339	8467	9388	10187	10838	11352	11720	4381	60%
Total	28023	29982	31571	32877	33973	34868	35574	7551	27%

By 2053 it is expected that the proportion of the population in the East area of the Kaipara district will have increased by 7% to 33%. At the same time, it is expected that the proportion of the population in the West will have decreased by 5% to 37%. The proportion of the population in the Central area is expected to decrease by 2% to 30%.

Table 7.2: Kaipara District Population Distribution

Sub District	% Pop 2023	% Pop 2053
West	42%	37%
Central	32%	30%
East	26%	33%

7.2 Kaipara District Pools Snapshot

Kaipara District

 Total Pools	21
 Total Pool Area	3218m^2
 1 Community Pool	5%
 20 School Pools	95%
 % Total Pool Area School Pools	70%
 20 Pools Summer Only	95%
 7 School Pools with Community Access	35%

7.3 Kaipara District Pools – Analysis of Supply and Demand

Table 7.3: Kaipara Aquatic Facilities Current and Projected Surplus/Deficit of Pool Space

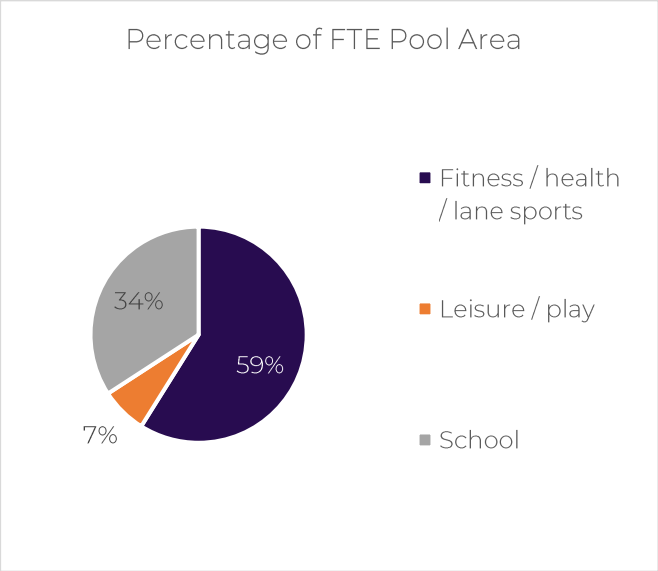
	Kaipara West	Kaipara Central	Kaipara East
Total Pool Space (m^2)	2,342	802	56
Pool Space Available (for the community) (m^2)	535	39	0
Population (2023)	11,646`	9,038	7339

	Kaipara West	Kaipara Central	Kaipara East
Total Pool Space (m^2) / 1,000 residents	201	89	8
Total Pool Space Surplus Shortfall (m^2 per 1,000 residents)	174	62	-19
Pool Space Available (m^2) / 1,000 residents	46	4	0
Surplus / Shortfall of Pool Space (m^2) per 1,000 residents	19	-23	-27
Surplus / Shortfall of Pool Space in 2023 (m^2)	221	-205	-198
Projected Population (2053)	13,219	10,635	11,720
Projected 2053 Surplus / Shortfall Available Pool Area (m^2)	178	-249	-316

Each of the sub-districts is discussed further below.

7.3.1 Kaipara West

Figure 7.3: Kaipara West FTE Pool Area



The Kaipara West area is well served for pool space. The Kauri Coast Community Pool[23] (KCCP) provides a range of water spaces (summer only). The KCCP has the only 50 metre pool in Northland. The Dargaville High School facility offers some capacity in the winter, although this can be varied.

There is an imbalance in the type of water on offer in the Kaipara West area, when compared to the demand profile. There is no community learn to swim water identified in the pool profile for the area (although it is acknowledged there are some lessons offered in other types of pools). Leisure water is also under-represented.

[23] Owned by Sport Northland with management services contracted out.

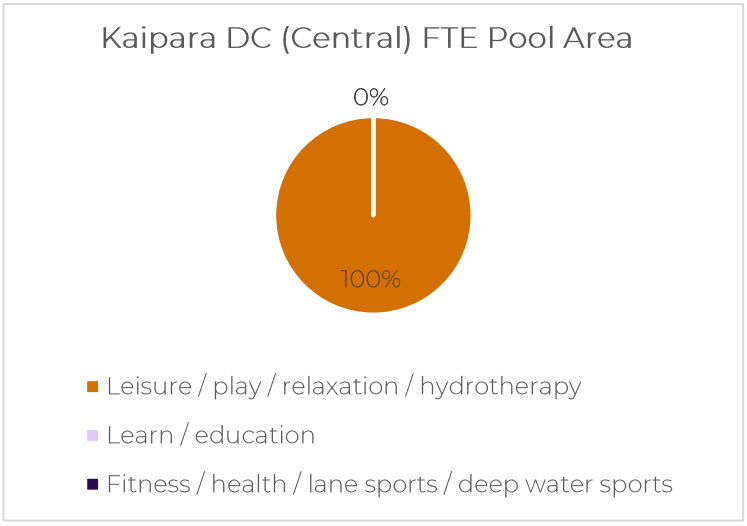
When the KCCP closes for approximately 6 months each year there is no community accessible water in the wider Kaipara district. Consideration could be given to enclosing the toddlers/hydrotherapy pool spaces at the KCCP to allow year-round operation. This enclosure would allow learn to swim and hydrotherapy-based uses to be available for the wider community year-round. Another potential upside to this would be the ability to offer year-round employment for some of the pool lifeguard team who are currently employed seasonally.

KDC should also investigate a formal arrangement for the community to access the Dargaville High School pool during the months the KCCP is closed.

Kauri Coast Community Pool - Covered Hydrotherapy and Toddlers area

7.3.2 Kaipara Central

Figure 7.4: Kaipara Central FTE Pool Area Type



There are only 7 pools in the Kaipara Central area, all at schools. The median age of a pool in the area is 1961 (62 years old).

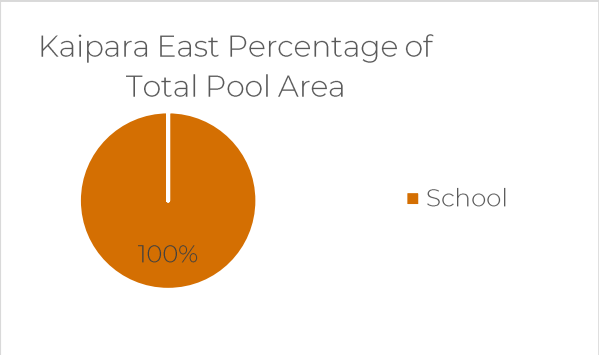
A community organisation (Swim Kaipara) is offering community swimming opportunities at the Otamatea High School Pool (see the case study in Section 9.1). The age of the pools and the lack of community access, particularly in the winter when there are no pools open in the area indicates this area is currently poorly serviced and has little variety in the pool space on offer.

Demand modelling indicates that additional pool space needs to be secured for this community, either through increased partnerships with existing school pools or through the development of new pool space. Any pool space secured needs to be able to cater for a range of uses, such as learn to swim, leisure, fitness and hydrotherapy.

Otamatea High School Pool

7.3.3 Kaipara East

Figure 7.5: Kaipara East FTE Pool Area Type



The Kaipara East area has the most limited level of pool provision in Te Tai Tokerau. This area is predominantly made up of Mangawhai and its surrounds. The Mangawhai Beach School pool is the only pool identified in this area. It was developed in 1981. There is no ongoing community access agreement for this pool.

There have been requests from the community to develop a community pool in the area. There may be an opportunity to gain access to the school pool in the short term, but this will not address the ongoing shortage of pool space in the area. Therefore, it is recommended that KDC investigates the feasibility of developing a community pool at Mangawhai. Consideration should be given to the provision of warm water, learn to swim and leisure water. It is noted that there may be wider infrastructure challenges to consider when investigating the feasibility of a pool in this area (reliable access to power and water).

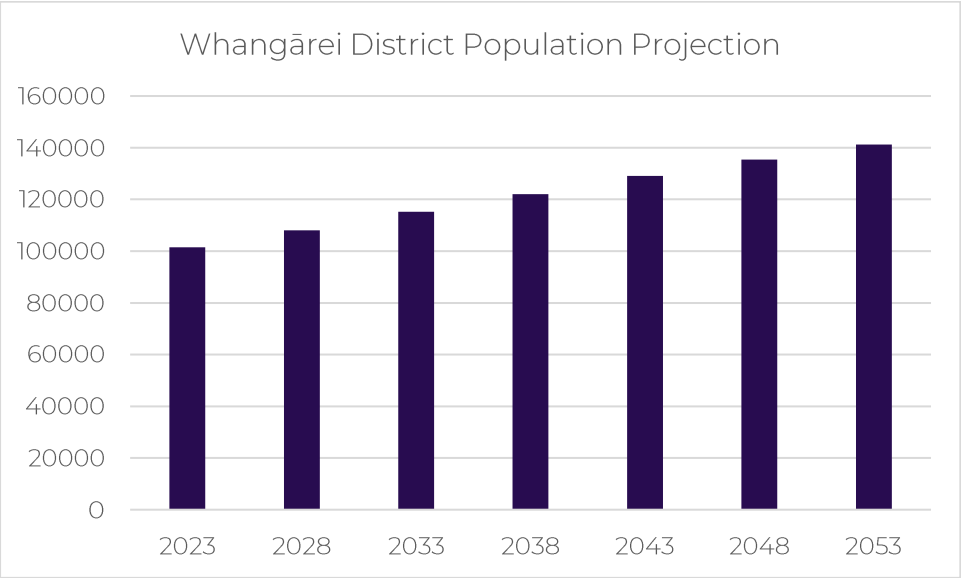
8 Whangārei District Aquatic Facilities Network

8.1 Whangārei District Community Profile

8.1.1 Whangārei District Population Projection

The population of the Whangārei district was 101,530 in 2023[24]. It is expected to increase by 39% (39,677 people) in the 30 years to 2053 to reach a population of 141,207.

Figure 8.1: Whangārei District Population Projection



[24] Demographic data for the Whangārei District was sourced from Infometrics High Projections

8.2 Whangārei District Pools Snapshot

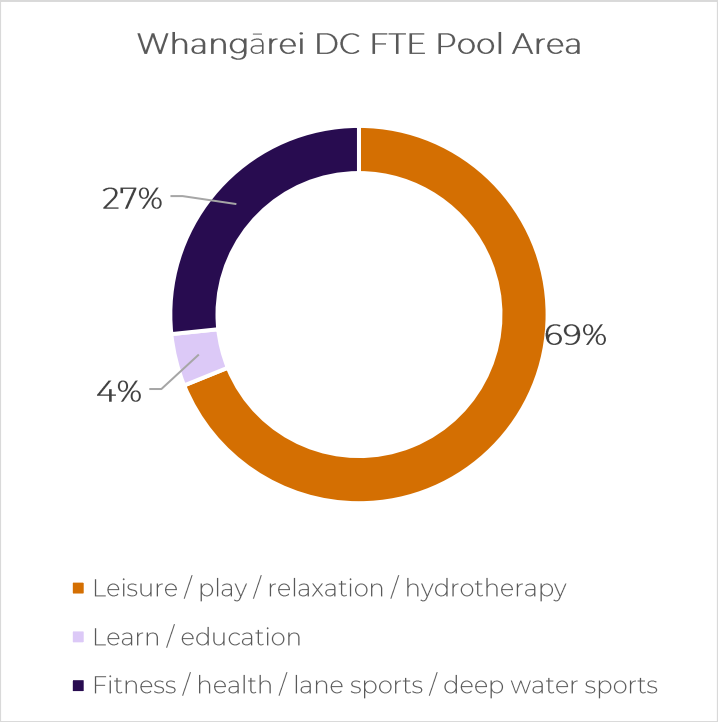
Whangārei District	
Total Pools	45
Total Pool Area	6071 m^2
1 Community Pool[25]	4%
43 School Pools	96%
% Total Pool Area School Pools	81%
44 Pools -Summer Only	98%
15 School Pools with Community Access	35%

8.3 Whangārei District Pools – Analysis of Supply and Demand

The Whangārei district has the largest shortfall of available pool space when compared to the modelled demand. The shortfall is projected to become greater with expected population increases.

[25] the Springfield Domain pool is also considered a community pool. However, the Springfield Domain pool is a former school pool which required a key to access.

Figure 8.2 Whangārei District Pool Area



The Whangārei district has a good supply of leisure-based water, with similar proportions to those recommended in the national guidelines. This is due to the extensions at the Whangārei Aquatic Centre which had a particular focus on leisure and hydrotherapy water.

There is a lower-than-required amount of learn-to-swim space identified (4% compared with national guidelines of 14%).

Table 8.1: Whangārei Aquatic Facilities Current and Projected Surplus/Deficit of Pool space

	Whangārei District
Total Pool Space (m^2)	6,365
Pool Space Available (for the community) (m^2)	1,194
Population (2023)	101,530
Total Pool Space (m^2) / 1,000 residents	63
Total Pool Space Surplus Shortfall (m^2 per 1,000 residents)	36
Pool Space Available (m^2) / 1,000 residents	12
Surplus / Shortfall of Pool Space (m^2) per 1,000 residents	-15
Surplus / Shortfall of Pool Space in 2023 (m^2)	-1,547
Projected Population (2053)	141,207
Projected 2053 Surplus / Shortfall Available Pool Area (m^2)	-2,618

8.3.1 Whangārei Aquatic Centre

The Whangārei Aquatic Centre (WAC) is the main aquatic complex in the Whangārei area and critical to the provision of aquatic-based sport in the wider region. It has had several additions to the original complex which was first constructed in 1962. The pool spaces include:

- A lap pool
- Teaching pool
- Hydrotherapy pool
- Leisure pool and Waterslide
- Toddlers pool
- An outdoor diving well.
- A spa pool.

The WAC is owned by Sport Northland. Some areas of the WAC are significantly aged, and action needs to be considered to future-proof or divest these components. The outdoor diving well, popular among rangatahi in the summer months, was developed in 1962. The diving well adds much-needed variety and challenge. It is one of only two diving wells in Northland. It has ongoing maintenance issues related to its age.

The lap pool is also an older asset that requires ongoing care and attention. This lap pool is supplemented by some lanes in the wave pool. However, without this lap pool, there is no suitable pool for competitive swimming in Whangārei, particularly in the winter months when other pools are closed.

Demand Pressures

Discussions with stakeholders did not reveal any significant demand pressures from organised, competitive sporting groups for lane space, that could not be met through re-programming.

It is noted that the hours of operation for the WAC are less than similar facilities in New Zealand. If demand is warranted, opening hours could be extended at the end of the day by an hour to accommodate any future demand pressures.

Location Challenges

The current WAC site has been identified as susceptible to flooding. Figure 8.3 below shows the identified extent of the flooding zone.

Figure 8.3: Flood Zone Around W.A.C. site

Impacts of climate change such as increasing adverse weather events and sea level rise bring into question the long-term suitability of the WAC for further development (noting that some mitigation could occur to reduce these risks). While ideally located in the central city area, being situated adjacent to the Hatea River places the WAC in a potentially vulnerable position.

Any significant future investment in this facility needs to be carefully considered against the potential long-term suitability of this site.

8.3.2 School Partnership Pools

There are existing community–school partnerships that see access over summer months to Tikipunga High School and Bream Bay College pools. These pools, with support from WDC and Sport Northland, are available during the summer months for community use and provide an alternative to the WAC.

The preferred approach to address the shortfall of water would be to gain more community access agreements with some of the larger school pool facilities[26]. Community access agreements can be secured in relatively short timeframes and inexpensively, when compared to developing new facilities. Given the expertise and expense required to operate a pool, there is an opportunity to incentivise these access agreements through the provision of technical expertise and financial incentives.

If access was gained to each school pool that was 20 metres or longer (an additional 7 school pools), the capacity of the aquatics network in Whangārei would increase by approximately a full-time equivalent of 600m^2 of pool space. However, it is also important to recognise the median age of these identified pools is 55 years old. This presents a challenge and an opportunity; some of these pools may be coming to the end of their useful life and WDC may see investment in some of these pools to future-proof them as strategic investment in the wider aquatics network.

[26] Smaller pools may be okay for younger children, but rangatahi and older tamariki seek slightly deeper water to play in.

9 Case Studies

The following case studies highlight some local aquatic projects that have been established to encourage greater participation in water skills and aquatic recreation.

9.1 Case Study - Otamatea Aquatics and Swim Kaipara – Moving a Pool into the 21st Century.

This case study highlights how the energy and enthusiasm of a person or group can re-ignite a community's passion for aquatic-based recreation and sport.

The Pool

The Otamatea High School pool is located 45 minutes' drive from the nearest publicly accessible aquatic centre (in Dargaville). The pool is a 6-lane 25m outdoor pool with varied depth from 1.1m to 1.6m. It has been well maintained by the school with new filters and pumps; however, it is not heated. It does have meters on both the power and water so that the usage of the pool can be separated from the rest of the school. There is decent poolside space with a grass bank next to the pool. There is the potential for vehicle access which doesn't go through the school, however, the space outside the pool for vehicles is currently very limited.

The History

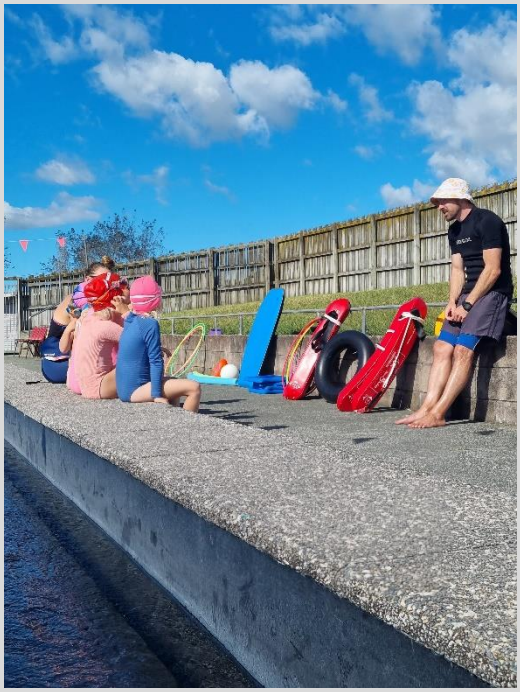
Ellen is a former NZ Representative Competitive swimmer who moved to a rural area in 2021 and discovered a lack of access to vital aquatic facilities and services in their area. They casually communicated to the community that they were available to give tamariki swimming lessons over the summer at the local school pool. Within a week they had over 60 children signed up for lessons and Otamatea Aquatics was born. This expanded to over 100 by the end of the summer so they also brought on and trained 3 additional swimming instructors. The second summer they had 140 children in lessons and trained a fourth instructor, with two of the instructors being local high school students.

The Project

Ellen identified that while a summer program provides benefits to the community it doesn't go far enough to provide the water safety education needed to keep our Tamariki safe in the water. Therefore, they reached out to Otamatea High School (OHS) to gauge its interest in a partnership to evolve their pool into a community facility that could be used year-round by not only the high school but also other local schools, community groups, a swim school and clubs. OHS was very receptive to the idea and is very interested to see how the concept can evolve.

How did this all begin?

When Ellen moved to Maungaturoto their stepdaughter was very keen to continue their swimming education and also just loved to go and play and be active in the water. They moved in May of 2021 and quickly realised that the closest community aquatic facility was in Dargaville, 45min drive away, and only open in the summer while the closest swim school was 30min away and a 2 lane 20m pool. Neither was appropriate for their daughter's level of swimming, never mind the logistical difficulties. Therefore, they felt that other whānau in the community would be in the same position.



What started with a Facebook post on the local community page about offering swimming lessons over the summer resulted in over 60 children signing up and Ellen needing to find/train more instructors to keep up with the growing demand. The majority of people accessing the services had never participated in formal aquatic education outside of the limited education through their school. While Otamatea Aquatics has continued to provide learn to swim and swim fit services over the past two summers, Ellen saw the limitation that existed with the current aquatic faculties in Kaipara. Swim Kaipara Community Trust (the Trust) was created because Ellen saw the need to develop appropriate aquatic facilities to be a community project and not a business one. They wanted to design a model where the aquatic facility is run by the community for the community.

The Formalities

There is currently a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between the Trust and OHS which covers current access and future participation in a collaborative project to renovate and manage the pool on the school's behalf. While the full details of the project have not yet been developed, the school Board of Trustees is very excited by the opportunity and is currently waiting for a plan to be presented to it.

At its crux, the relationship sees Swim Kaipara take on all operational responsibility for the facility including financials and health and safety. OHS will be able to use the pool for 50% of in-school hours for free (but would have to be scheduled time). Then the other 50% of in-school hours and all out-of-school-hours would be available for lane space rental to any other users such as businesses, clubs, and community members. A single Learn to Swim business will be appointed to operate out of the facility with specific contractual arrangements in place including priority lane bookings. It is envisaged that free community access will be available at specific times so that everyone has the ability to utilise the facility.

Future Plans

A full renovation is planned for the facility. This includes a roller cover, heating options, and a cover/structure that enables year-round access. New toilet/changing facilities, disabled access, pool equipment storage and an office/staff space will be needed. Additionally, improvements to the access and car park space, and finally spaces that make it a community hub such as seating, picnic tables and BBQ area will be required.

Operational Considerations

In terms of operation, it is envisaged that the Trust will have sole responsibility for the management and operation of the pool through a 10-year License to Occupy from OHS with a 10-year renewal with right of first refusal. The Trust will be responsible for the renovation project, as well as ongoing maintenance, all of the health and safety requirements of the facility and staffing of the facility. The Trust will engage with Otamatea Aquatics to be its swim school operator. This will be the main source of income for the Trust as Otamatea Aquatics is a for-profit business offering swimming lessons, swim fit, aqua aerobics etc. The Trust will also look for operational support from the local council which will enable the Trust to rent lane space to community groups and sports clubs for free as well as offering free community access.

Advice to Others

"Find a group of people who can help continue to push the project forward. Be very clear on expectations and outcomes with all parties involved. Do your best to understand your local council's formalities and processes so that you don't miss out on potential opportunities. While it is great to be disruptive sometimes you do also have to work within the bounds of an existing system (as frustrating as that may be)."

"Finally, don't be afraid to dream big. At the end of the day not having the right facilities available for your community could result in a water-based fatality that could be entirely preventable. Even if it just saves one life the risk and hard work will all be worth it."

9.2 Case Study – Whangaroa Community Pool

The Pool

The Whangaroa Community Pool is a partnership pool, located on the grounds of Whangaroa College. The complex is a 25 metre by 6 lane pool. It also includes a small toddlers' pool (with shade cover) for younger children to play in. There is a grassy bank on one side of the pool that is popular for those wanting to sit back and watch swimmers. The pool is open from October until March.

The pool is owned and operated by the Whangaroa Recreation and Community Centre Trust but is located on school land. The school provides water and energy costs in return for student access to the pool during term time. The pool is also used by other schools in the surrounding area for lessons, along with local school swimming sports.

The pool is open during the summer months and is lifeguarded by an enthusiastic team of 17 volunteer lifeguards, who are poolside at any time that the pool is in operation. The pool is the centre of activity in the summer months for the wider community. The Trust also offers learn to swim lessons.

The History

The Trust took over the pool in the 1980s when it became unaffordable for the school to operate it. The Trust identified the critical need the pool served in this remote community and worked hard to gain the support of FNDC as a key funder of the facility.

The Formalities

There is a Letter of Intent between the Trust and the School for access. The school has priority during school hours and the Trust takes over in the afterschool and weekend periods. The school pays for water and power while the Trust pays for chemicals, water testing and lifeguard training.

The FNDC makes an operational grant to the pool on an annual basis in recognition of this pool being the public facility for the Kaeo and surrounding area. Admission to the pool is $2 / person. This is not strictly enforced.

The Project

The Trust is in a transitional period, with many long-serving Trustees recently retired. The new Trustees have co-constructed a new vision for the pool "To provide positive, inclusive space to promote wellbeing hauora in the community". The Trust trialled swim lessons last year and these were very popular. This year the Trust is working with the College to train instructors and lifeguards through relevant NZQA credits. These trainees will work with experienced lifeguards and gain a deeper sense of belonging to the pool and community.

A master's swimming programme and a mini-lifeguard programme are also being explored for the coming season. A range of community events will also be introduced, including inflatables and water basketball. A yoga and swim session is also being offered in the coming season to encourage young mothers and others to get involved.

Operational Considerations

Operating an older-style community pool is challenging. While not short on volunteer effort to keep the pool operational for the community, the Trust is reliant on an operational grant from the FNDC and grants for one-off expenditure.

Kaeo is a remote community with the nearest publicly operated aquatic facilities approximately 45-60 minutes' drive away. The Trust is always looking for support to ensure it can pay for the pool operational and maintenance costs.

Future Plans

The Trust has a short-term maintenance programme. This includes:

- A community mural for the pool, designed by local school children.
- New shade covers and picnic tables.
- The Trust is also exploring how to make the facility more accessible with a hoist.
- 5m flags
- A platform for younger LTS
- Repainting the pool

In the long term the Trust would like to explore the covering of the pool.

Advice to Others

"Include a strong presence from the school on the Trust – either as part of the Trust or at the least as a working relationship with the school."

"Ensure a memorandum of understanding is regularly reviewed and updated. Having a really clear vision of what your pool is there for and the role people play."

10 Key Findings

Information from the previous sections reveals several key findings.

If all identified pool space was available for community use, there would be sufficient pool space to meet demand. However, a large part of the network of aquatic facilities are school pools with no or limited access to the wider community. The first strategy in addressing under-supply should be to optimise the existing network.

10.1 Importance of the School Pool Network

There is a heavy reliance on school pools in the Northland region. There is a much higher proportion of school pool provision in Northland when compared to the rest of NZ (83% vs 56% NZ). School pools play a critical role in complementing the community aquatic network, particularly in isolated and rural communities.

There is a particular importance to keep these pools operational due to the lack of community pools and the geographical isolation of many communities. These pools also allow water skills to be accessible and affordable and to be learned locally.

10.1.1 School Pool Survey – Summary (detail in Appendix 4)

All schools were surveyed for their feedback on school swimming pools and the role they play in their community. The following are findings based on responses received by 75 schools (of the 120 that were asked for comment).

75 schools completed the survey.

65 schools reported they had a school pool on their grounds which was operational.

92% of school pools are **not** covered by a shade cover or structure

58% reported school pools are open in **both** term time and the summer school holidays.

49% of schools reported the community had access to their school pool

The two biggest challenges identified for running a school pool were the cost of chemicals and maintenance of the pool.

41% of respondents were either unsure or thought it was unlikely their school pool would be operational in 15 years' time.

46% of schools indicated if they no longer had access to their school pool, swimming would no longer be taught at their school.

Water temperature rated as the greatest barrier for learners' willingness to participate followed by fear or a lack of confidence.

These results confirmed the importance of school pools and that there is significant pressure on this network of school pools to remain operational.

> *"School pools are a vital resource in ensuring that all tamariki have access to life-saving skills around water safety. They provide opportunities for communities to come together and celebrate children's achievements (swimming sports, triathlons, etc.) They also provide another sensory space for tamariki to meet their sensory needs. They are underfunded and often overlooked when considering key resources in our schools (especially in Northland)."*
>
> Survey Respondent

10.2 Accessibility

Feedback from regional stakeholders, survey responses and site visits highlighted the need to consider how the aquatics network in Northland can be more accessible. Parafed Northland utilises aquatic facilities for a number of programmes. Very few Northland facilities have ramp accesses and while hoists can offer access to water for people with disabilities, the hoist model can be an unnecessary singling out.

Other accessibility lenses should also be applied to aquatics, including:

- Ensuring aquatic facilities accommodate the needs of all genders through universal design principles or venue programming.
- Ensuring aquatic facilities accommodate all religions through universal design principles and/or programming such as offering women-only swim sessions, with female lifeguards and instructors in an area not visible to others.
- People in the local community can afford to access the facilities.
- As the population ages there will be increased demand for warm water types for therapy, fitness and leisure.

10.3 Ownership model

With the opening of Te Hiku Aquatic Centre, there are currently no council-owned aquatic centres in Te Tai Tokerau. This is a unique situation in Aotearoa.

Sport Northland Ownership

In 2001 Sport Northland took on the ownership of the Whangārei Aquatic Centre (WAC). It bought the WAC from WDC for a nominal fee. Sport Northland also took over ownership of the Bay of Islands Recreation Centre (2015) and then the Kauri Coast Community Pool (2018).

A key motivation for the WDC to divest ownership of the WAC at the time was to allow the pools under community ownership to apply for funds for major re-developments, and this tactic was successful[27]. Both the Bay of Islands Recreation Centre pool and the Kauri Coast Community Pool were purchased for a nominal fee to ensure ongoing community access to these centres was secured.

It is common practice to have management contracts for third-party organisations (commercial or not-for-profit) to operate facilities, less so to own the assets.

Sport Northland seeks grant funding to help with unbudgeted expenditure. This practice may create a negative opportunity cost for other programmes or services that Sport Northland apply to funders for support.

Operational and Maintenance Grants

Even though Sport Northland legally owns these assets, the respective Councils provide significant operational grants for each facility on an annual basis, along with grants for maintenance costs. In some instances, these subsidies have increased to take into account cost increases, in some instances they have not. This has placed increased pressure on Sport Northland to access other funds to maintain these pools[28]. In some instances, councils still set the fees and charges for the facilities, inferring a level of ownership.

Aquatic centres are a specialist facility requiring technical inputs that a regional sports trust may not always have access to. Sport Northland currently fills the role of owner and contract manager, as it procures facility management expertise from operators. Existing facility management contracts were in place when the transfers of ownership took place.

There appears to be deferred maintenance (often renewals for large pool plant items) at the pools owned by Sport Northland (and many of the school pools reported maintenance issues in the survey). There are significant financial and reputational risks that deferred maintenance costs will continue to increase and compound. Arguably health and safety issues may emerge, and this would place Sport Northland in a compromised situation. There is also a risk that Sport Northland cannot afford to operate the aquatic facilities and "walk away" from the assets, that are on council land (in a similar way to sports clubs no longer being able to afford to operate clubrooms on council land).

The ownership of these aquatic centres places significant liability on Sport Northland's financials. There is no depreciation accounted for these assets, therefore no money is being put aside for renewals.

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[27] $2.5m of the approx. $10.5m was secured from community funding.

[28] During interviews for this plan some examples of deferred maintenance were raised that have affected levels of service for some community groups.

Future Ownership Options

There are several options that can be considered around the future ownership of these assets:

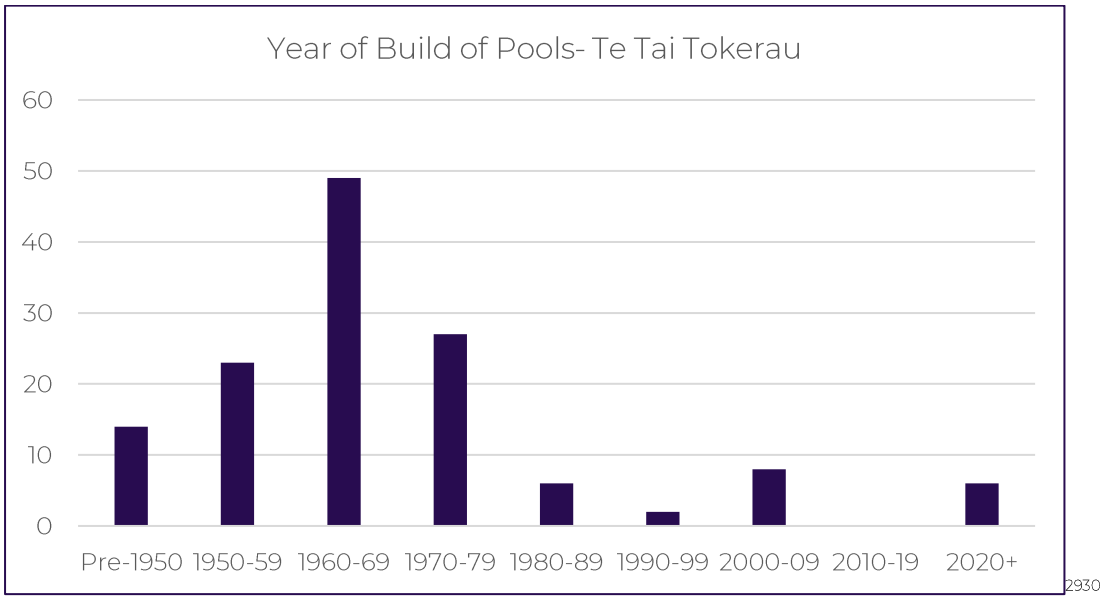
1. Sport Northland exiting pool ownership by selling the pools back to the relevant Councils; or,
2. Councils consider a council-controlled organisation model, potentially region-wide to own and manage the assets; or
3. Establishing a facilities-focussed Charitable Trust, with a focus on facility development, operations and management; or,
4. Sport Northland retains ownership but recruiting specialist aquatic facility asset management expertise, supported financially by the three councils.

There are some entities in New Zealand established to own community facilities. They have a primary purpose of community facility ownership and operation. Sport Northland (along with the local councils) would benefit from understanding the issues and opportunities associated with establishing a separate entity to own the aquatic facilities currently in their ownership.

10.4 Ageing infrastructure

The age of the aquatics network in Te Tai Tokerau was highlighted in the 2013 National Aquatics Strategy. Since that time there has been the development of several pools at the Te Hiku Sports Hub Aquatic Facility. However, the general trend remains, that the majority of aquatic assets in Northland are old, with approximately 85% being over 50 years old. This has implications when considering potential upgrades to existing pools and the impact any potential closures to older pools would have on the more isolated communities within Northland. The age of the existing network of facilities is arguably the biggest risk to the current network.

Figure 10.1: Age of Pools in Te Tai Tokerau



[29] Note: One facility may have 5 or 6 pools, such as Te Hiku Sports and Aquatics Facility.

[30] Source: Sport NZ Facility Planning Tool data. Some facilities have not listed the age and have not been considered in this calculation.

10.5 The Variety of Water Available

Given school pools are such a large part of the aquatic facilities network there is a lack of variety of pool spaces available for communities. School pools are a very homogeneous offering. Generally, they are traditional lane pools, with little variety in depth or temperature. This type of water does not necessarily meet the needs of the wider community and was the highest barrier to participation in the school survey undertaken as part of this plan due to the temperature of these pools usually being quite low.

The lack of leisure / warm water / relaxation water outside of the Whangārei area is stark. The new Te Hiku Pools will address some of this lack of variety, but there are still large parts of Te Tai Tokerau where pools are relatively one-dimensional.

10.6 The role of temporary facilities

Sport Northland owns two portable pools that are located at schools for water safety programmes. Both pools are at the end of their useful life. Portable pools can be problematic. They are not simple to transport and are generally best to be at a site for as long as possible to gain a return on the time and effort taken to transport, erect and operate the pool. They do have a role in situations where pools are lost to closure (or disaster)[31]

Decisions need to be made on whether relocatable pools are part of the future aquatic network.

[31] Temporary pools were an important part of the network of aquatic facilities after the 2010-2011 Christchurch and 2016 Waiau-Kaikoura earthquake sequences.

11 Conclusions and Recommendations

Kōkiri ai Te Waka Hourua (2021-2030) identified the opportunities to be gained from a collaborative approach to the provision of play, active recreation and sport opportunities in Te Tai Tokerau. This Aquatic Facilities Plan is an example of how the region can benefit from across-boundary planning.

The Plan has identified that there are a large number of school pools in Te Tai Tokerau and securing community access agreements to as many as possible is a key strategy for ensuring the community can participate in the aquatic activities of their choosing.

11.1 Conclusions

As the population continues to grow this will place further demand pressures on the limited supply of community aquatic facilities.

The Te Tai Tokerau aquatic facilities network is ageing and there needs to be a focus placed on understanding the medium to long-term condition of the network and putting in place strategies to retrofit, develop new or divest from certain aquatic facilities.

> The first strategy in addressing under-supply should be to optimise the existing network.

When considering any changes to the aquatics facility network it is important that modelling is not used in isolation from more localised, in-depth assessments of need along with an appropriate feasibility and / or business case process. The type of pool space developed and or re-purposed needs to reflect the demands of the community as the current network is over-supplied in fitness-based pools and undersupplied in learn to swim, leisure and warm water pools.

Recommendations for The Plan have been separated into region-wide and territorial area groupings. This indicates that there are many collaborative projects that can help create a more efficient and effective network, while also acknowledging that there are also local-level priorities that need to be addressed.

11.1.1 Regional Recommendations

Recommendations are provided with timeframes, either short-term (1-3 years), medium term (4-9 years), long-term (10 plus years) or ongoing.

Recommendation	Timeframe
• Sport NZ to continue to advocate to the Ministry of Education about the importance of school pools and the need to retain these pools.	Ongoing
• Sport Northland facilitate School Pool Workshops for schools to share the issues and challenges they have in operating pools and what solutions the schools have.	Short term
Any new partnership pools, re-developments or new facilities should consider: • The range of aquatic activities that whānau are interested in accessing. • Culturally appropriate naming that connects the facility to the area and people it is within.	Ongoing

Recommendation	Timeframe
• The wider facility area as a gathering place for whānau to come and recreate together. Any partnership pools, re-developments or new facilities should consider the findings and general trends identified in this report, including but not limited to: • Whole of life costs. • Appropriate measures to address environmental sustainability. • How any additions complement and support the network approach to the provision of aquatic facilities	Ongoing
Sport Northland and the relevant territorial authorities undertake an independent review to investigate the most effective long-term ownership model for aquatic facilities.	Short
Appropriate levels of funding support are provided by each council to support ongoing maintenance and renewals of community aquatic facilities. This funding needs to be indexed against inflation.	Ongoing
Sport Northland work with each council to identify suitable school pools that could enter into community partnerships to be available outside of school hours (such as the current partnership agreements in place at Whangaroa, Tikipunga. Otamatea and Bream Bay College).	Short
Consider how community–school partnership pools can meet the requirements of learn-to-swim programmes, given the under-supply of this type of space in community facilities.	Medium
Ensure the community-school partnership pools are accredited with *PoolSafe* to provide an independent quality assurance framework.	Ongoing
Sport Northland to work with the Ministry of Education and the three local authorities to facilitate a technical condition report and corresponding asset maintenance plan for the school pool network. These condition reports should be prioritised, based on relative accessibility to other aquatic facilities for each identified school.	Medium
Sport Northland to further develop the collaborative relationship with Water Safety NZ to ensure water safety programmes are accessible for all tamariki in Te Tai Tokerau.	Ongoing

11.1.2 Local Recommendations

Recommendations are provided with timeframes, either short term (1-3 years), medium term 4-9 years), long term (10 plus years) or ongoing.

Area / Facility	Recommendation	Timeframe
Far North District		

Area / Facility	Recommendation	Timeframe
Kaikohe	FNDC to investigate new community – school partnership pools to free up more space for community participation.	Short
Kaikohe	FNDC to investigate a new aquatic centre at Lindvart Park that would include a variety of water types including leisure / play / learn to swim and fitness water. An analysis should be undertaken on the community's ability to access various facility options (such as a year-round, indoor pool or a summer, outdoor facility)	Short
Bay of Islands	FNDC, in partnership with Kerikeri High School, to upgrade the community change facilities at the Kerikeri Pool.	Short
Bay of Islands	FNDC to look at the provision of additional space to meet the needs of the growing ageing population in the area, such as hydrotherapy and relaxation water.	Medium
Far North	FNDC to continue to invest in the existing school / community model at Kaeo. Sport Northland work with the Whangaroa Community Pool Committee to assist in accessing additional funds to help with the running of this pool.	Ongoing
Hokianga	FNDC to explore suitable school partnership/s to formalise community-wide access to swimming pool space in the wider Hokianga area.	Medium
	Kaipara District	
Kaipara West	KDC to secure ongoing community access to the Dargaville High School (DHS) pool for the months when the KCCP is closed, with a focus on learn-to-swim opportunities.	Short
Kaipara West	If ongoing community access to DHS cannot be secured, then KDC investigate the enclosing of the hydrotherapy and toddlers' pool spaces at the Kauri Coast Community Pool.	Medium
Kaipara Central	KDC to work with Swim Kaipara to secure ongoing community access to the Otamatea High School pool	Medium
Kaipara Central	KDC to work in partnership with Swim Kaipara to upgrade the Otamatea High School pool, including additional shelter and the possible covering of the pool.	Medium
Kaipara East	KDC to secure a community access agreement for the Mangawhai school pool.	Short
Kaipara East	KDC to undertake a feasibility study for a new pool at Mangawhai that would include water types that reflect this community, including warm water, learn to swim, fitness and leisure water. This study needs to reflect the infrastructure challenges in the	Short

Area / Facility	Recommendation	Timeframe
	Mangawhai area and potential developments in the surrounding aquatic network.	
	Whangārei District	
Whangārei	Sport Northland and WDC need to ensure that a formal, independent condition assessment of WAC is undertaken every third year and incorporated into a formalised asset management plan.	Short
	WDC and Sport Northland continue to work alongside Bream Bay College and Tikipunga High School to ensure seasonal pool access continues in addition to securing additional school pool partnerships to access more pool space for the community. Priority should be given to larger school pools in the city.	Ongoing
	If demand warrants it, opening hours at the WAC could be extended to help accommodate any future demand pressures.	Ongoing
	WDC to undertake a feasibility study for where additional community pool space in the Whangārei area should be planned for, with a particular emphasis on learn-to-swim / education pool space and additional warm water / leisure space. Should a feasibility study confirm the need for additional pool space in Whangārei, WDC to secure an alternative site for a new aquatic centre.	Medium
	Sport Northland work with WDC to understand the anticipated environmental risks associated with the current WAC site.	Short

12 Appendices

12.1 Appendix 1 Demographic Detail

12.1.1 Sub District Composition

Table 12.1: Far North Sub-Districts

Far North	Bay of Islands	Hokianga	Mid-North
Ahipara	Haruru	Hokianga North	Kaikohe
Herekino-Takahue	Kawakawa	Hokianga South	Lake Manuwai-Kapiro
Inlets Far North district	Kerikeri Central	Kohukohu-Broadwood	Maromaku
Kaeo	Kerikeri South	Mataraua Forest	Matawaia-Taumarere
Kaitaia East	Opua (Far North district)	Omahuta Forest-Horeke	Moerewa
Kaitaia West	Paihia	Waima Forest	Ngapuhi
Karikari Peninsula	Puketona-Waitangi	Waipoua Forest	Ohaeawai-Waimate North
North Cape	Puketotara		Okaihau
Oruru-Parapara	Rangitane-Purerua		Pakaraka
Peria	Riverview		
Rangaunu Harbour	Russell		
Rangitihi	Russell Forest-Rawhiti		
Taemaro-Oruaiti	Russell Peninsula		
Tangonge	Waipapa		
Taumarumaru			
Whakapaku			
Whakarara			

Table 12.2: Kaipara Sub-districts

West	Central	East
Kaipara Coastal	Ruawai-Matakohe	Mangawhai Heads
Dargaville	Otamatea	Mangawhai
Maungaru	Maungaturoto	Mangawhai Rural
	Kaiwaka	

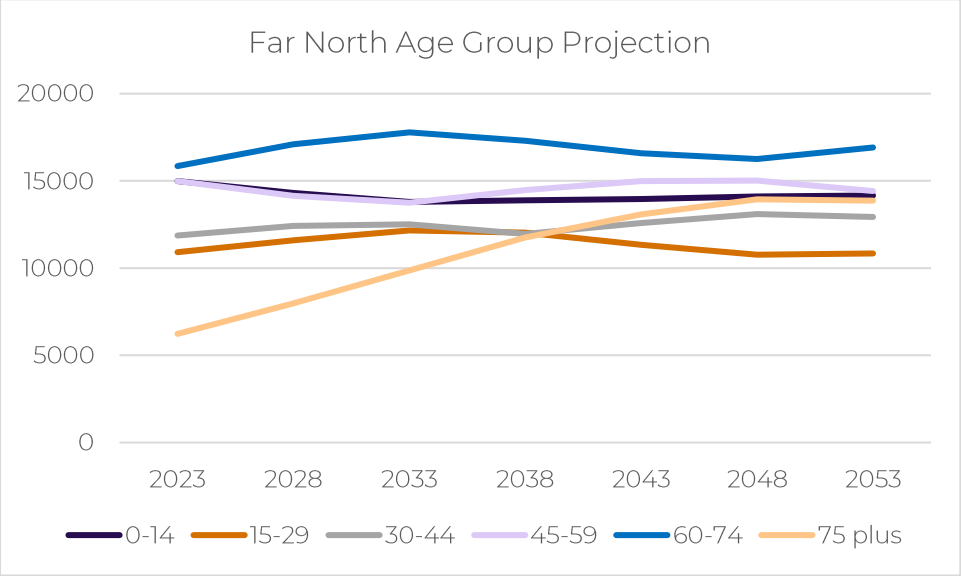
12.1.2 Far North Age Group Projections

The population of the Far North is projected to age over the 30 years to 2053. 92% of the growth in population (7,642 people) is expected in the group aged 75 years and over. The population of all other age groups is expected to see small changes in comparison to the 75 year plus group. The 30–44-year group and 60-74 groups are expected to increase by 9% and 7% respectively. All other age groups are expected to experience a small decline in their population.

Table 12.3: Far North Age Group Projections

	2023	2028	2033	2038	2043	2048	2053	Change 2023-2053	% Change 2023-2053
0-14	14989	14313	13793	13886	13958	14112	14154	-835	-6%
15-29	10917	11586	12159	12041	11326	10768	10846	-71	-1%
30-44	11868	12420	12503	11962	12576	13097	12924	1056	9%
45-59	14981	14145	13748	14465	14996	15017	14418	-563	-4%
60-74	15848	17104	17781	17295	16586	16247	16914	1066	7%
75 plus	6229	7978	9870	11760	13071	13943	13871	7642	123%
Total	74832	77546	79854	81409	82513	83184	83127	8295	11%

Figure 12.1: Far North Age Group Projections

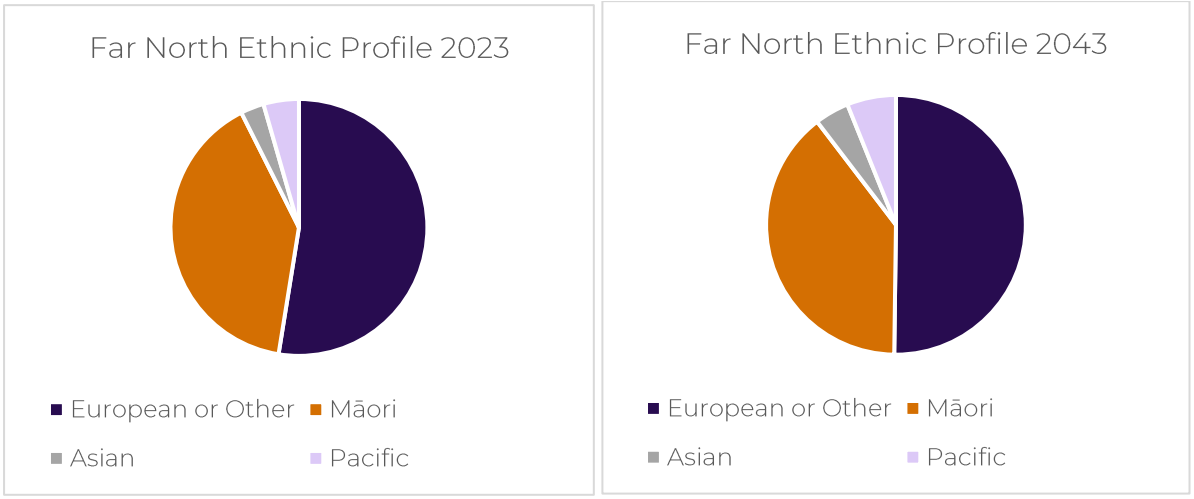


12.1.3 Far North Ethnic Profile

The population of the Far North district is expected to become increasingly ethnically diverse in the 20 years to 2043 as the populations of all ethnic groups increase[32]. It is expected that the population of those identifying as Asian, Pacific and Māori will increase by 81%, 71% and 23% respectively. At the same time the population of those identifying as European is expected to increase by 19%.

[32] Individuals can identify as more than one ethnicity so proportions may add to more than 100%.

Figure 12.2 and 12.3 Far North Ethnic Profile 2023 and 2043



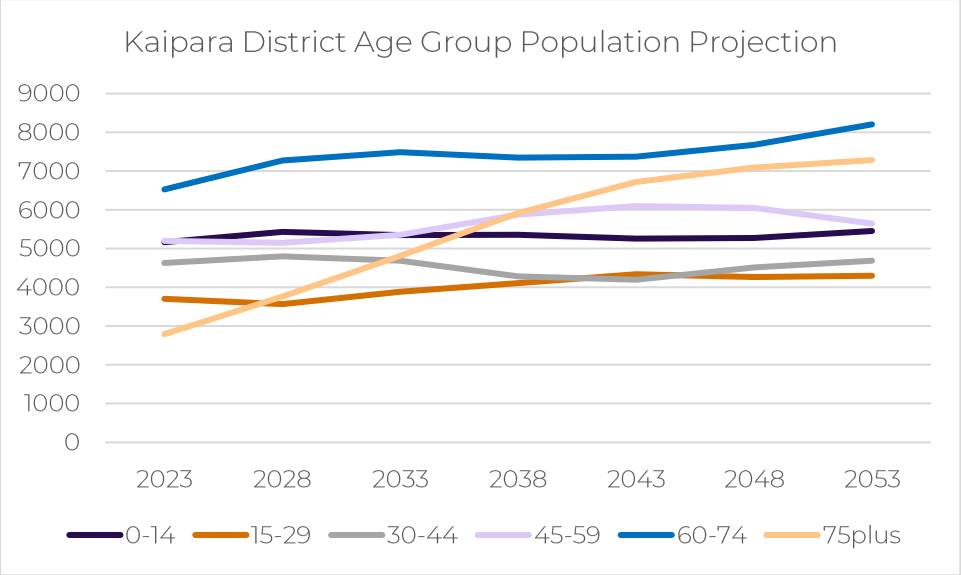
12.1.4 Kaipara District Age-Group Population Projection

The population of the Kaipara district is projected to age over the 30 years to 2053. The 60–74-year age group is expected to increase by 26% (1,678 people) while the population of the 75 plus age group is expected to increase by 161% (4,493 people). At the same time the younger age groups are expected to increase by between 1 and 16% (61 to 589 people).

Table 12.4: Kaipara District Age-Group Population Projection

	2023	2028	2033	2038	2043	2048	2053	Change 2023-2053	% Change 2023-2053
0-14	5165	5432	5347	5356	5257	5277	5453	288	6%
15-29	3708	3567	3885	4105	4338	4266	4297	589	16%
30-44	4630	4799	4689	4280	4196	4510	4691	61	1%
45-59	5203	5148	5356	5878	6097	6051	5645	442	9%
60-74	6526	7274	7485	7344	7367	7677	8204	1678	26%
75plus	2791	3762	4809	5913	6718	7087	7284	4493	161%
Total	28023	29982	31571	32877	33973	34868	35574	7551	27%

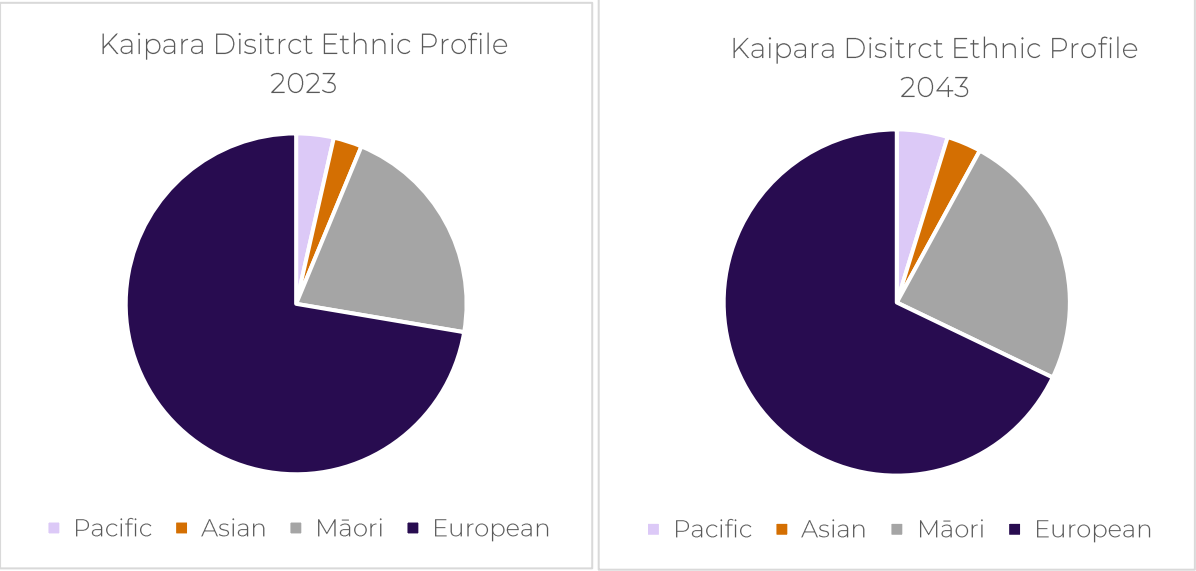
Figure 12.4: Kaipara District Age-Group Population Projection



12.1.5 Kaipara District Ethnic Profile

The populations of all ethnic groups in the Kaipara district are expected to increase in the 20 years to 2043[33]. The population of those identifying as Māori is expected to increase by 50% or 3,540 people and those identifying as European by 25% or 5,890 people. The number of people identifying as Pacific is expected to increase 78% or 913 people and Asian by 58% or 516 people.

Figures 12.5 and 12.6: Kaipara District Ethnic Profile 2023 and 2043



[33] Individuals can identify as more than one ethnicity.

12.2 Appendix 2 Inventory of Pools

Table 12.8: Far North District Pools

Name	Owner	Community Access	Facility Type	Seasonality[34]	Area of Pool (m2)
Ahipara School	Ministry of Education		Outdoor	Summer only	210
Awanui School	Ministry of Education		Outdoor	Summer only	48
Bay of Islands International Academy	Ministry of Education	Yes	Outdoor	Summer only	70
Bay of Islands Recreation Centre	Sports trust	Yes	Indoor	Year round	275
Broadwood Area School	Ministry of Education	Closed	Outdoor	Summer only	0
Herekino School	Ministry of Education	No	Outdoor	Summer only	52
Horeke School	Ministry of Education	No	Outdoor	Summer only	36
Kaeo Primary School	Ministry of Education	No	Outdoor	Summer only	132
Kaikohe East School	Ministry of Education	Yes	Outdoor	Summer only	52
Kaikohe Intermediate	Ministry of Education	No	Outdoor	Summer only	198
Kaikohe Swimming Pool	Ministry of Education	Yes	Outdoor	Summer only	366
Kaikohe West School	Ministry of Education	No	Outdoor	Summer only	68
Kaingaroa School	Ministry of Education	No	Outdoor	Summer only	36
Kaitaia Intermediate	Ministry of Education	No	Outdoor	Summer only	300
Kaitaia Memorial Swimming Pool	Council	Closed 2023	Outdoor	Summer only	456
Kaitaia Primary School	Ministry of Education	No	Outdoor	Summer only	48
Karetu School	Ministry of Education	No	Outdoor	Summer only	55
Kawakawa Primary School	Ministry of Education	No	Outdoor	Summer only	132
Kerikeri Primary School	Ministry of Education	No	Outdoor	Summer only	172
Kerikeri Swimming pool	Ministry of Education	Yes	Outdoor	Summer only	644
Kohukohu School	Ministry of Education	Yes	Outdoor	Summer only	120
Little Dippers Swim School	Private	Yes	Indoor	Year-round	90
Mangamuka School	Ministry of Education	No	Outdoor	Summer only	98
Mangonui School	Ministry of Education	Yes	Outdoor	Summer only	52
Maromaku School	Ministry of Education	Yes	Outdoor	Summer only	60
Moerewa School	Ministry of Education		Outdoor	Summer only	120
Motatau School	Ministry of Education	Yes	Outdoor	Summer only	175
Ngataki School	Ministry of Education	No	Outdoor	Summer only	52
Ohaeawai School	Ministry of Education	No	Outdoor	Summer only	250
Okaihau College	Ministry of Education	Yes	Outdoor	Summer only	250
Okaihau Primary School	Ministry of Education	Yes	Outdoor	Summer only	120
Opononi Area School	Ministry of Education	Yes	Outdoor	Summer only	300
Opua School	Ministry of Education	No	Outdoor	Summer only	52
Oromahoe School	Ministry of Education	Yes	Outdoor	Summer only	52
Oruaiti School	Ministry of Education	No	Outdoor	Summer only	90
Oturu school	Ministry of Education	No	Outdoor	Summer only	105

[34] Indoor pools are considered to be year-round facilities, outdoor pools are considered to be open in summer only.

Name	Owner	Community Access	Facility Type	Seasonality[34]	Area of Pool (m2)
Paihia School	Ministry of Education	No	Outdoor	Summer only	52
Pakaraka School	Ministry of Education	No	Outdoor	Summer only	52
Pamapuria School	Ministry of Education	No	Outdoor	Summer only	90
Paparore School	Ministry of Education	Yes	Outdoor	Summer only	52
Peria School	Ministry of Education	Yes	Outdoor	Summer only	52
Pukenui School	Ministry of Education	Yes	Outdoor	Summer only	150
Pukepoto School	Ministry of Education	No	Outdoor	Summer only	65
Rawene School	Ministry of Education	Yes	Outdoor	Summer only	150
Riverview School	Ministry of Education	No	Outdoor	Summer only	120
Russell School	Ministry of Education	Yes	Outdoor	Summer only	180
Taipa Area School	Ministry of Education	Yes	Outdoor	Summer only	154
Tautoro School	Ministry of Education	No	Outdoor	Summer only	76
Te hiku Aquatics Facility	Community Trust	Yes	Indoor	Year Round	627
Te Kura o Kao School	Ministry of Education	Yes	Outdoor	Summer only	225
Te Kura o Manganuiowae	Ministry of Education	No	Outdoor	Summer only	154
Te Kura o Omanaia School	Ministry of Education	No	Outdoor	Summer only	75
Te Kura o Waikare	Ministry of Education	No	Outdoor	Summer only	60
Te Kura O Waima	Ministry of Education	Yes	Outdoor	Summer only	120
Te Kura Taumata o Panguru	Ministry of Education	Yes	Outdoor	Summer only	200
Te Puna Wai (Pool)	Ministry of Education	No	Indoor	Year-round	250
TKKM 0 Taumarere	Ministry of Education	No	Outdoor	Summer only	132
Totara North School	Ministry of Education	No	Outdoor	Summer only	21
Umawera School	Ministry of Education	Yes	Outdoor	Summer only	52
Waiharara School	Ministry of Education	No	Outdoor	Summer only	52
Whangaroa Community Pool	Ministry of Education	Yes	Outdoor	Summer only	391

Table 12.9: Kaipara District Pools

Name	Owner	Community Access?	Facility Type	Seasonality	Area of Pool (m2)
Aranga School	Ministry of Education	No	Outdoor	Summer only	84
Arapohue School	Ministry of Education	No	Outdoor	Summer only	60
Dargaville High School	Ministry of Education	Yes	Indoor	Year round	154
Dargaville Primary School	Ministry of Education	No	Outdoor	Summer only	64
Kaihu Valley School	Ministry of Education	Yes	Outdoor	Summer only	132
Kaiwaka School	Ministry of Education	Yes	Outdoor	Summer only	48
Kauri Coast Community Pool	Sports Trust	Yes	Outdoor*	Summer only	950
Mangawhai Beach School	Ministry of Education	No	Outdoor	Summer only	56
Matakohe School	Ministry of Education	No	Outdoor	Summer only	72
Maungaturoto School	Ministry of Education	Yes	Outdoor	Summer only	154
Otamatea High School	Ministry of Education	No	Outdoor	Summer only	300
Paparoa School	Ministry of Education	Yes	Outdoor	Summer only	52
Pouto School	Ministry of Education	No	Outdoor	Summer only	78

Name	Owner	Community Access?	Facility Type	Seasonality	Area of Pool (m2)
Ruawai College	Ministry of Education	Yes	Outdoor	Summer only	300
Ruawai Primary School	Ministry of Education	No	Outdoor	Summer only	154
Selwyn Park School	Ministry of Education	No	Outdoor	Summer only	108
St Joseph's Catholic School	Ministry of Education	No	Outdoor	Summer only	72
Tangiteroria School	Ministry of Education	Yes	Outdoor	Summer only	132
Tangowahine School	Ministry of Education	No	Outdoor	Summer only	72
Te Kopuru School	Ministry of Education	No	Outdoor	Summer only	132
Tinopai School	Ministry of Education	No	Outdoor	Summer only	44

'* three different parts to this pool

Table 12.10: Whangārei District Pools

Name	Owner	Community Access?	Facility Type	Seasonality	Area of Pool (m2)
Bream Bay College	Ministry of Education	Yes	Outdoor	Summer only	300
Glenbervie School	Ministry of Education	Yes	Outdoor	Summer only	52
Hikurangi School	Ministry of Education	Yes	Outdoor	Summer only	108
Hora Hora Primary School	Ministry of Education	No	Outdoor	Summer only	52
Hukerenui School	Ministry of Education	Yes	Outdoor	Summer only	120
Hurupaki School	Ministry of Education	No	Outdoor	Summer only	75
Kamo High School	Ministry of Education	No	Outdoor	Summer only	363
Kamo Primary School	Ministry of Education	No	Outdoor	Summer only	114
Kaurihohore School	Ministry of Education	Yes	Outdoor	Summer only	36
Kokopu School	Ministry of Education	Yes	Outdoor	Summer only	75
Manaia View School	Ministry of Education	No	Outdoor	Summer only	41
Mangakahia Area School	Ministry of Education	No	Outdoor	Summer only	190
Matarau School	Ministry of Education	No	Outdoor	Summer only	52
Maungakaramea School	Ministry of Education	No	Outdoor	Summer only	56
Maungatapere School	Ministry of Education	Yes	Outdoor	Summer only	72
Maunu School	Ministry of Education	Yes	Outdoor	Summer only	36
Morningside School	Ministry of Education	No	Outdoor	Summer only	52
One Tree Point School	Ministry of Education	No	Outdoor	Summer only	90
Onerahi School	Ministry of Education	No	Outdoor	Summer only	72
Otaika Valley School	Ministry of Education	No	Outdoor	Summer only	52
Pakotai School	Ministry of Education	No	Outdoor	Summer only	52
Parua Bay School	Ministry of Education	No	Outdoor	Summer only	91
Pompallier Catholic College	Ministry of Education	No	Outdoor	Summer only	325
Poroti School	Ministry of Education	Yes	Outdoor	Summer only	52
Portland School	Ministry of Education	No	Outdoor	Summer only	72
Purua School	Ministry of Education	No	Outdoor	Summer only	56
Raurimu Avenue School	Ministry of Education	No	Outdoor	Summer only	78
Ruakaka School	Ministry of Education	No	Outdoor	Summer only	9
Springfield Domain	Other trust	No	Outdoor	Summer only	52
Tauraroa Area School	Ministry of Education	Yes	Outdoor	Summer only	154
Te Horo School	Ministry of Education	Yes	Outdoor	Summer only	36
Te Kura o Otangarei	Ministry of Education	No	Outdoor	Summer only	108

Name	Owner	Community Access?	Facility Type	Seasonality	Area of Pool (m2)
Tikipunga High School	Ministry of Education	Yes	Outdoor	Summer only	300
Tikipunga Primary School	Ministry of Education	No	Outdoor	Summer only	108
Totara Grove School	Ministry of Education	No	Outdoor	Summer only	108
Waiotira School	Ministry of Education	Yes	Outdoor	Summer only	52
Waipu School	Ministry of Education	Yes	Outdoor	Summer only	108
Whangārei Aquatic Centre	Sports trust	Yes	Indoor	Year Round	942
Whangārei Aquatic Centre	Sports trust	Yes	Outdoor	Summer only	143
Whangārei Boys' High School	Ministry of Education	No	Outdoor	Summer only	300
Whangārei Girls' High School	Ministry of Education	No	Outdoor	Summer only	300
Whangārei Heads School	Ministry of Education	Yes	Outdoor	Summer only	75
Whangārei Intermediate	Ministry of Education	No	Outdoor	Summer only	198
Whangārei School	Ministry of Education	No	Outdoor	Summer only	270
Whareora Hall	Don't Know	No	Outdoor	Summer only	0
Whau Valley School	Ministry of Education	No	Outdoor	Summer only	75

12.3 Appendix 3 Northland Aquatic Facility Modelling – Summary

Table 12.11: Northland Aquatic Facilities Current and Projected (2053) Surplus/Deficit of Pool space

	Total Pool Area m2	FTE Area m2	Population (2023)	Supply Total m2 per 1,000 Residents	Surplus / Shortfall Total m2 per 1,000 Residents	FTE m2 per 1,000 Residents	Surplus / Shortfall FTE m2 per 1,000 Residents	Surplus / Shortfall FTE m2(2023)	population (2053)	Surplus / Shortfall FTE m2 (2053)
Te Tai Tokerau	18830	3543	204385	92	65	17	-10	-1976	259908	-3475
Whangārei DC	6365	1194	101530	63	36	12	-15	-1547	141207	-2618
Kaipara DC (Central)	802	39	9038	89	62	4	-23	-205	10635	-249
Kaipara DC (East)	56	0	7339	8	-19	0	-27	-198	11720	-316
Kaipara DC (West)	2342	535	11646	201	174	46	16	221	13219	178
Far North (Bay of Islands)	2636	660	23278	113	86	28	1	32	28409	-107
Far North (Kaikohe and surrounds)	1787	136	17148	104	77	8	-19	-327	17994	-350
Far North (Hokianga and surrounds)	1031	82	7243	142	115	11	-16	-113	7124	-110
Far North (Kaitaia and surrounds)	3810	897	27163	140	113	33	6	163	29600	97

12.4 Appendix 4: Northland Aquatics School Survey – Responses

75 Respondents

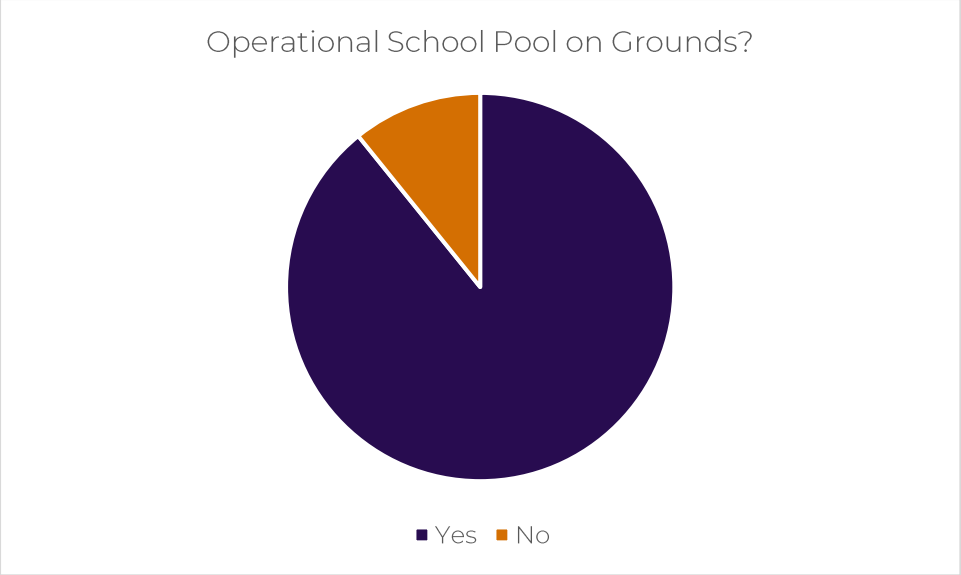
Respondent	Operational Pool? Yes/No
Dargaville Primary	
Motatau Kura	
Whangaroa Community Pool	
Whangaroa Community Centre and Recreation Trust Pool	
Glenbervie	
Onerahi	
Ruawai College	
Kaurihohore	
Kamo Primary	
Te Kura o Omanaia	
Pompallier Catholic College	
Poroti	
Bream Bay College	
Northland College	
Whangārei Girls' High School	
Kamo High School	
Kaiwaka School	
Hukerenui School	
Whangārei Heads School	
Maunu	
Maromaku School	
Umawera	
Mangamuka school	
Te Kura o Matihetihe	
Tikipunga High School	
Pukenui	
Rawene Primary School	
Maungaturoto Primary School	
Tikipunga High School	
Hikurangi	
Waima	
Herekino School.	
Raurimu Avenue School	
Onerahi School	
Oturu School	
Mangonui School	
Te Kura o Te Kao	
Awanui	
Tikipunga Primary School	
Kaikohe west	

Kamo Intermediate	No
Paparoa School	
Okaihau College	
Kaikohe Christian School	No
Maungatapere School	
TKKM o Kaikohe	No
Oromahoe	
Tautoro School	No but yes in the past
Kaikohe East	
Blomfield Special School	
Selwyn Park School	
Springbank School	No
Bay of Islands International Academy	
Motatau	
Waipu Primary School	
Otamatea Christian School	No
Tinopai	
Riverview School	
Kerikeri Primary	
St Francis Xavier Catholic School	No
Te Kura Kaupapa Māori o Taumārere	No but yes in past
Kokopu School	
Opua	
Okaihau College	
Russell School (Bay of Islands)	
Mangawhai Beach School	
Otamatea High School	
Dargaville High School	
Whangārei Boys High School	
Waiotira School	
Te Horo School 0176	
Whangārei Adventist Christian School	No
Arapohue	
Tangiteroria	

Q5 Does your school have a pool on the school grounds that is operational? 74 Respondents

Yes 65

No 9



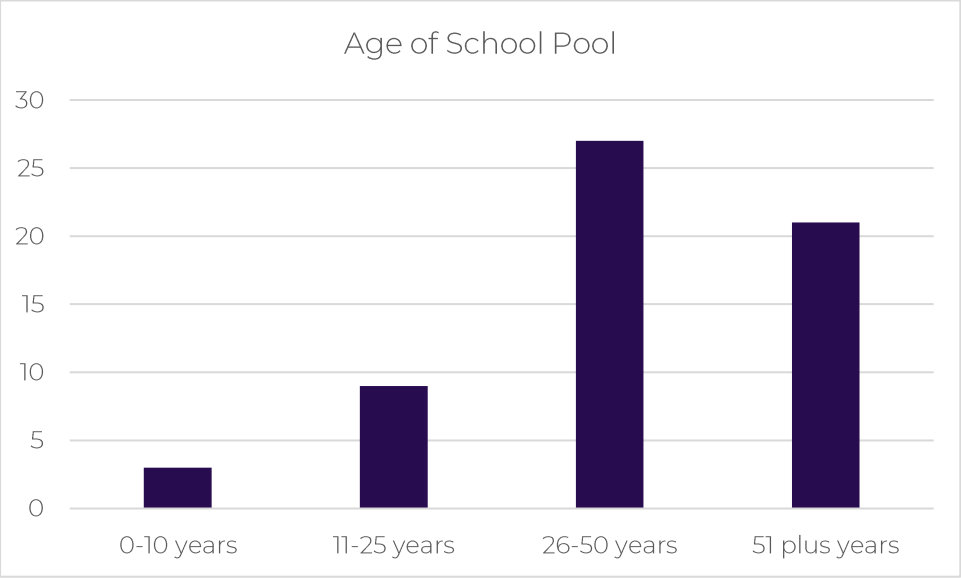
Q 6 Has your school had a pool in the past? 9 respondents

Yes 2

Q7 What aquatic facility do you use for basic aquatics in schools?

School	Facility Used
Kamo Intermediate	We don't have an aquatics programme. Swimming sports are held at Kamo High School.
Kaikohe Christian School	Northland College pool
TKKM o Kaikohe	NC Pool
Springbank School	Little Dippers and Kawakawa Pool
Otamatea Christian School	Public pools twice a year and the estuary once a year.
St Francis Xavier Catholic School	Whangārei Aquatic centre
Whangārei Adventist Christian School	Whangārei Aquatics centre

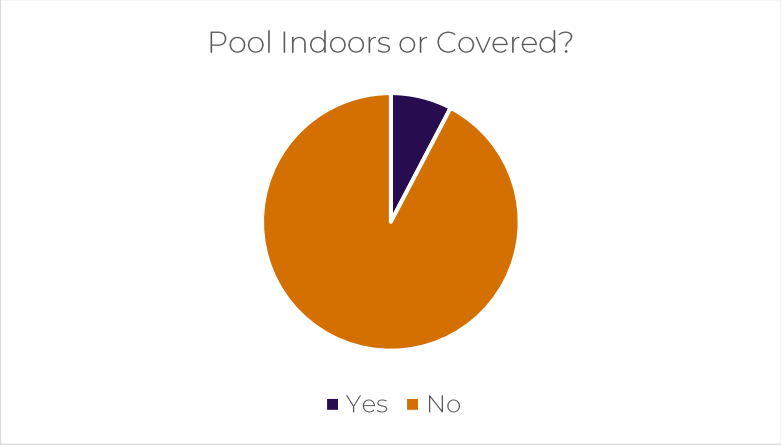
Q8 Approximately how old is your school pool? (60 Respondents).



Q9 Is your pool either indoors or covered by a shade or structure? (65 Respondents)

Yes 5

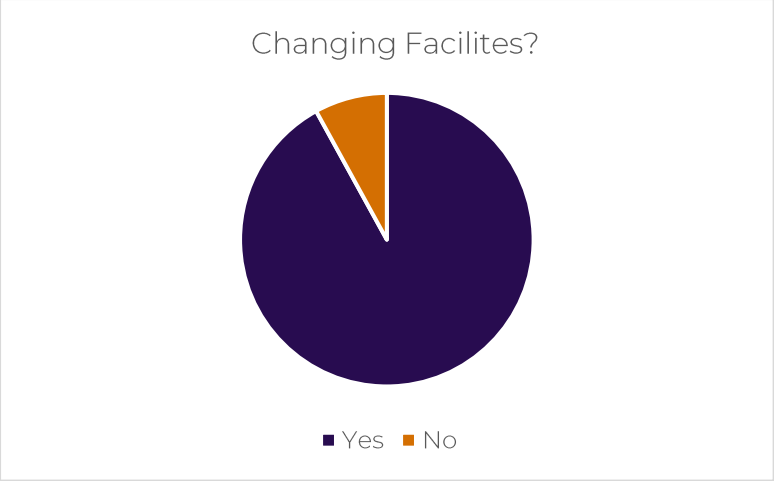
No 60



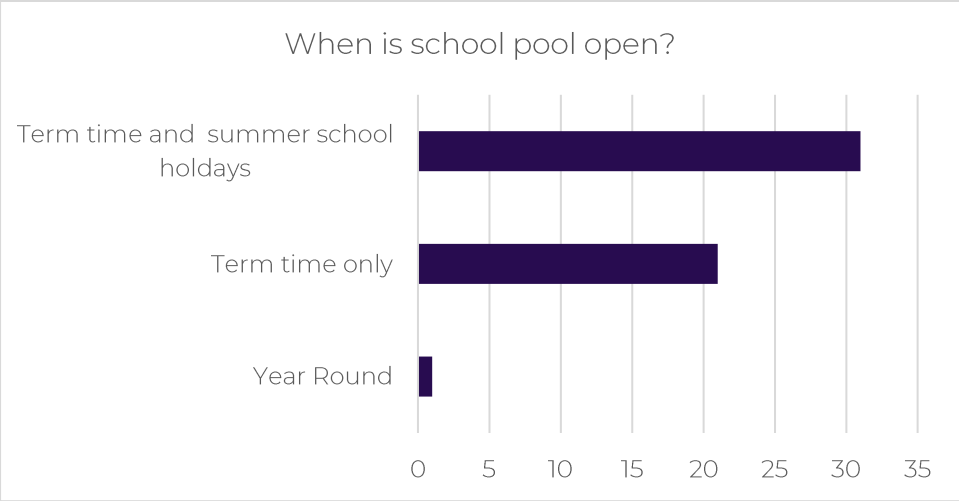
Q10 Are there changing facilities alongside the pool? 65 Respondents

Yes 60

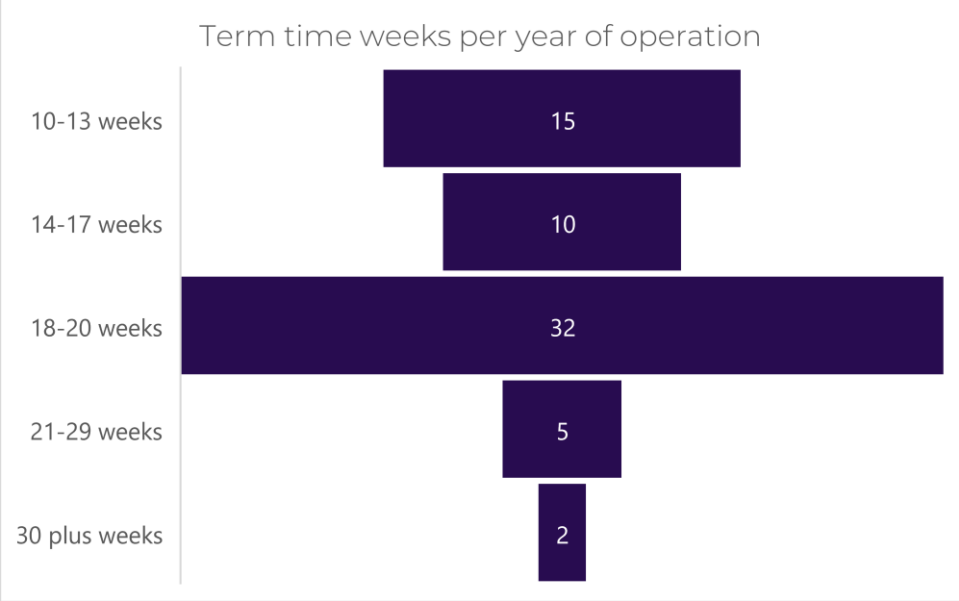
No 5



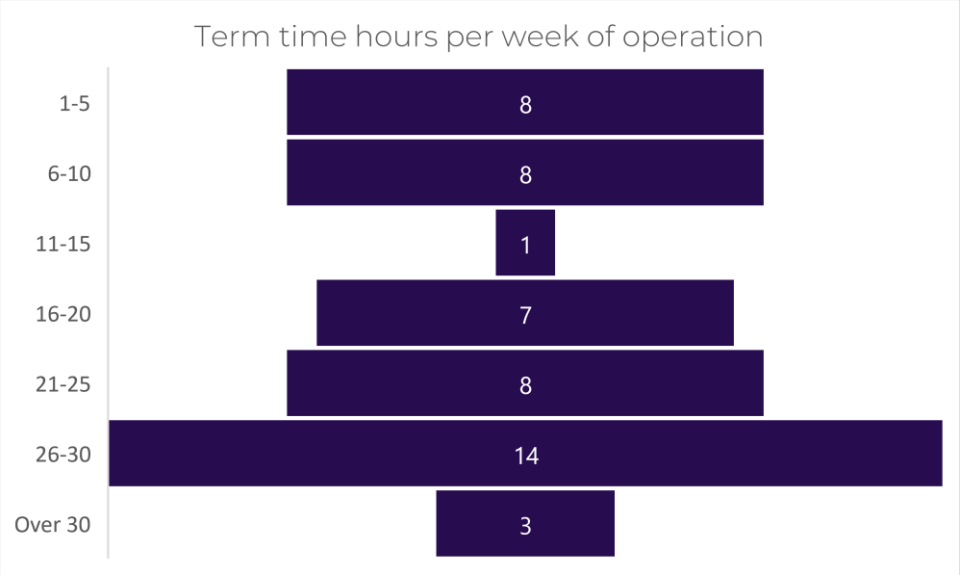
Q11) When is your school pool typically open each year? (53 Respondents)



Q 12) How many weeks per year is your school pool used in school time? (64 Responses).



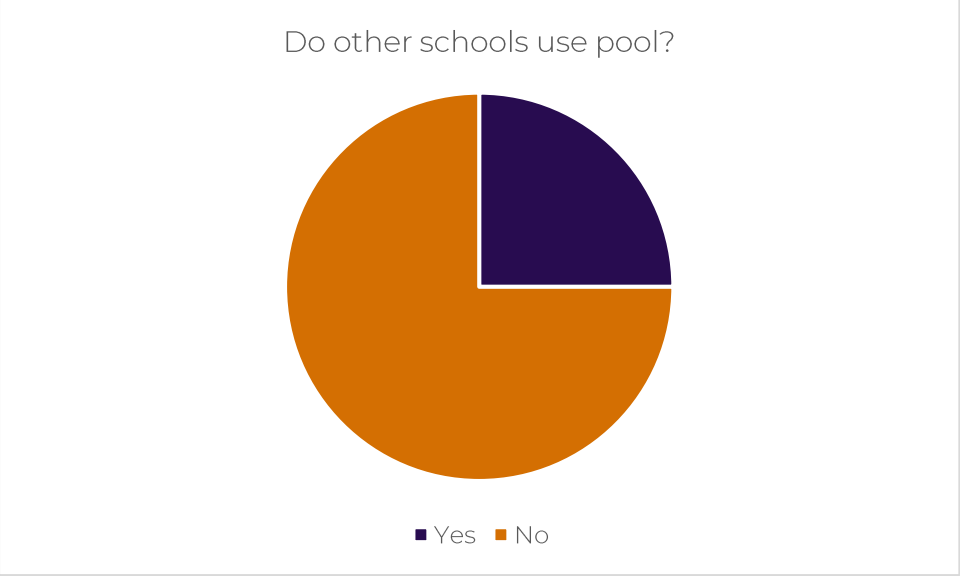
Q13) How many hours per week is your school pool used in school time? (64 Responses)



Q 14) Do other schools use your pool facility? (64 Responses)

Yes 16

No 48



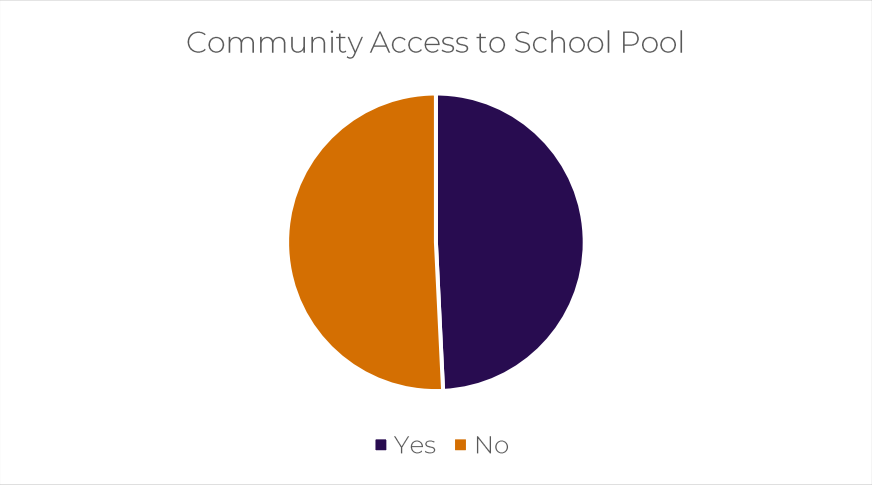
School	Other school use?	Name of other school(s)
Motatau Kura	Yes	Only during Sports day. We also have our local Kohanga who come to use it sometimes.
Whangaroa Community Pool	Yes	Four other primary schools
Whangaroa Community Centre and Recreation Trust Pool	Yes	Whangaroa College, Kaeo Primary, Matauri Bay, Hato Hohepa, Matauri Bay kura kaupapa
Ruawai College	Yes	We host Northern Wairoa Primary swimming each year for surrounding schools, Year 8 and below.

Kaurihohore	Yes	Sometimes other schools come to use our school pool for inter-school swimming events and practices. The after-school club run at our school by external providers also uses the pool.
Pompallier Catholic College	Yes	Maunu and Saint Francis
Northland College	Yes	Kaikohe Christian School, Te Kura Kaupapa Māori o Kaikohe
Kamo High School	Yes	Kamo Intermediate for their swimming sports
Kaiwaka School	Yes	Local Kura
Tikipunga High School	Yes	Totara Grove, TPS & Glenbervie once per year - swimming sports
Rawene Primary School	No	Sometimes we do have other local schools asking to use the pool, but we can only offer them a morning slot as this is all its available for
Maungaturoto Primary School	Yes	One School Global -Maungaturoto
Tikipunga High School	Yes	Glenbervie School, Totara Primary Tikipunga Primary
Te Kura o Te Kao	Yes	Pukenui, Ngataki, Te Hapua
Okaihau College	Yes	Okaihau Primary - Oscar After School Programme
Oromahoe	Yes	Blomfield satellite unit on our site
Blomfield Special School	No	We used to have an early childhood centre that used it last year, but they no longer do.
Russell School (Bay of Islands)	Yes	Occasionally visiting schools use it while in Russell

Q15) Does the community have access to your pool facility? 65 Responses

Yes 32

No 33



School pools with community access	Community Access		
	Weeks per year	Hours per week term time	Hours per week holiday time
Motatau Kura	30		
Whangaroa Community Pool	16-20	15-20	25
Whangaroa Community Centre and Recreation Trust Pool	20-24	250	250
Glenbervie	6	0	56
Kaurihohore	28	580	756
Poroti	20	14	6

School pools with community access	Community Access		
	Weeks per year	Hours per week term time	Hours per week holiday time
Bream Bay College	We applied for Lotteries funding. We received enough for the summer break - 8 weeks	0	10am to 5pm
Northland College	18	25	84
Kaiwaka School	16 weeks	34 hours	49 hours
Whangārei Heads School	12	28	36
Maunu	19-20	3.30-7pm weekdays & 10-7 in weekends, so 35.5hrs/week	10am-7pm daily incl public hols etc = 63hrs/week
Maromaku School	26	54	84
Umawera	25 weeks	35hours	200 hours
Tikipunga High School	19	12	36
Pukenui	20	30+	50+
Maungaturoto Primary School	Summer holidays, and term 1/4	After school hours	Open during summer holiday for any hours if they have a key.
Tikipunga High School	School holidays and after school		
Mangonui School	15	10	40
Te Kura o Te Kao	Summer Period December to February		
Paparoa School	16	280	504
Okaihau College	The pool is a community pool through the summer holidays. Unfortunately, we chose to empty it over summer as we could not afford to employ a lifeguard to ensure safety is complied with.	After school hours all week	All hours
Motatau	26	100	336

School pools with community access	Community Access		
	Weeks per year	Hours per week term time	Hours per week holiday time
Waipu Primary School	20 weeks approx.	22 hours	84 hours per week
Kokopu School	21	15	50
Russell School (Bay of Islands)	18	40	None
Waiotira School	24	36	84
Te Horo School 0176	Approximately 5 weeks	Approximately 5 weeks	Approximately 10hrs
Tangiteroria	Whole Time (Labour Weekend to Easter)	3.00 pm to 9.00 pm school days + weekends (50hrs pw)	9.00 am to 9.00 pm holidays (600+hours?)

Q 16) Please estimate how many weeks per year the community has access to your pool. 47 Responses (See table above)

Q 17) Please estimate how many hours the community has access to your pool per week during term time. See table above)

Q 18) Please estimate how many hours the community has access to your pool per week during holiday time. (See table above

Q19) Please explain the community's access arrangements, for example community group coordinates, keys are purchased for the season, school manages open hours.) (See table below) (27 responses)

School	Community Access Arrangements	Record Community Visits?	Records Available?
Motatau Kura	Keys are to be purchased by whānau for the season. Hours are set from approx. 8am - 8pm.	No	N/a
Whangaroa Community Pool	Via supervised times by local lifeguards. Times are coordinated by lifeguard team (volunteers)	Yes	N/a

School	Community Access Arrangements	Record Community Visits?	Records Available?
Whangaroa Community Centre and Recreation Trust Pool	We are a community pool, so that is our main focus. Volunteer lifeguards man the pool during opening hours.	Yes	Yes
Glenbervie	Keys are purchased for the season	No	N/a
Kaurihohore	Keys are purchased for the season from end of Term 3 until the end of Term 1. Many of those who purchase keys go onto the checking chlorine and cleaning roster. After-school care books an hour after school some days during term times. Once a family have a key, they have unlimited access unless the pool can also be booked for kids birthday parties by prior arrangement. This is managed by an office member who is also a grandparent - has family at the school.	No	
Poroti	Keys purchased for the season, Contract from Board stating guidelines and hours etc	No	N/a
Bream Bay College	Gold coin donation. Pool run by CLM pool funded via grant - some certainty would be good	Yes	No
Northland College	MoU with FNDC	No	N/a
Kaiwaka School	Keys are purchased and pool is open from 7am till 7pm	No	N/a
Whangārei Heads School	School families can pay for key code access for afterschool and weekends	No	N/a
Maunu	School pool keys offered to the school community.	No	N/a
Maromaku School	key holders sign a user agreement and pay a deposit. Pool is tested and cleaned every day.	No	N/a
Umawera	Community groups coordinate	No	N/a
Tikipunga High School	Agreement CLM, Tikipunga Community Trust and THS. Any data regarding community pool use is recorded by CLM and Tikipunga Community Trust. Sport Northland is present on Pool Committee along with WDC	No	N/a
Pukenui	Keys are purchased for the season. School manages cleaning and maintenance key holders are responsible for their children and supervision	No	N/a

School	Community Access Arrangements	Record Community Visits?	Records Available?
Maungaturoto Primary School	Keys are purchased from school office	No	N/a
Mangonui School	keys	No	N/a
Te Kura o Te Kao	The community (whānau) can access the school during non-school hours.	No	N/a
Paparoa School	Keys are available for hire from dec. Community sign an agreement to follow the school rules. School manages the health and safety and day to day upkeep	No	N/a
Okaihau College	Keys are purchased by the community	No	N/a
Motatau	Key are purchased for the season. Contract signed with keyholder, and they are responsible for people who use the pool.	No	N/a
Waipu Primary School	Keys are purchased for the season; school manages the pool - Rules for use.	No	N/a
Kokopu School	Keys are purchased for the season	No	N/a
Russell School (Bay of Islands)	Keys leased during term time; pool maintained by caretaker	No	N/a
Waiotira School	Keys are purchased for the season and there are set school pool opening hours	No	N/a
Te Horo School 0176	Only available to access when principal or teacher is home.	No	N/a
Tangiteroria	Keys purchased for the season	No	N/a

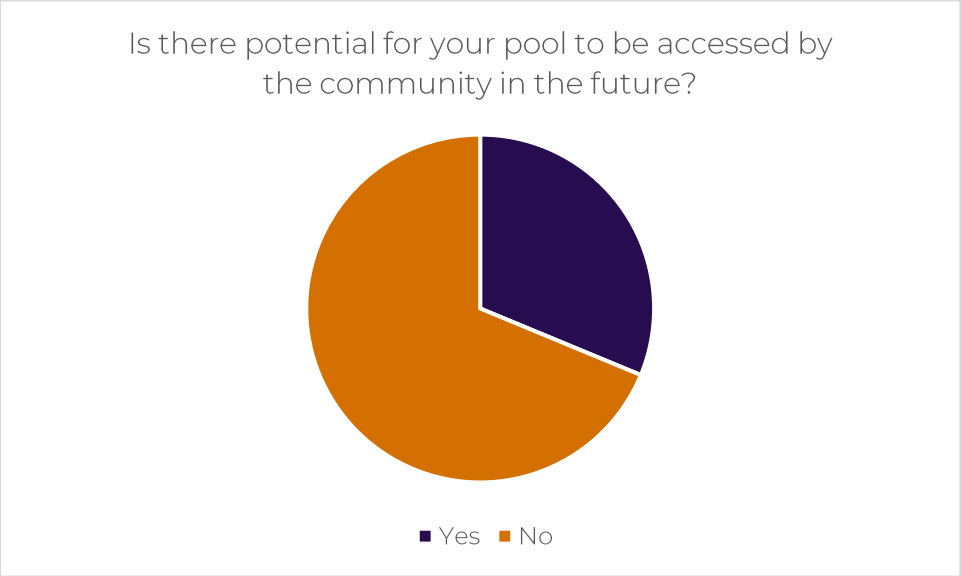
Q20) Do you record the community visits? (See table above)

Q21) If community visits are recorded is the data able to be shared with our project team? N/a

Q22) Is there potential for your pool to be accessed by the community in the future? (32 Responses)

Yes 10

No 22

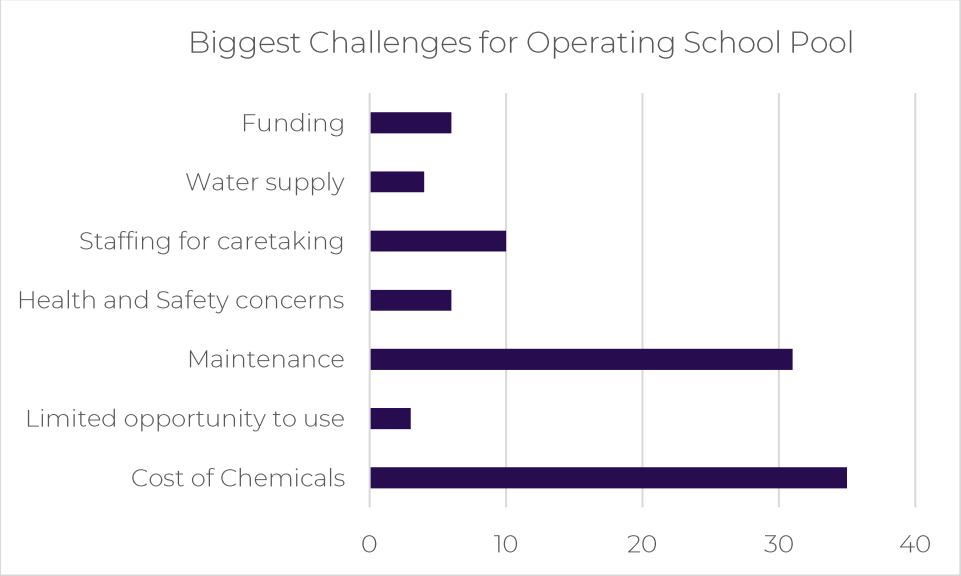


Q23) What external support (if any) may be required to assist wider community use? (23 Responses)

School	External Support
Onerahi	None - not considering this option
Ruawai College	Principal looked into independent contractors/outside agencies e.g., Community Leisure Management where a MoU is organised with their local council to operate school swimming pools during the summer break. We are more than happy for the pool to be used where an outside agency looks after it during the summer break times.
Kamo Primary	We have our after-school care programme use it.
Te Kura o Omanaia	We only have a small pool. Water restrictions most summer
Kamo High School	Health and Safety, Poor Guards, Help with cost of upkeep
Mangamuka school	Council - pool lifeguards
Te Kura o Matihetihe	Insurance and paid human resources to manage the pool being used by the community.
Rawene Primary School	Funding. Volunteers. Procedures are followed through
Hikurangi	Pool Caretaker
Herekino School.	Nothing that I can think of at the moment.
Raurimu Avenue School	Qualified Guards
Oturu School	Chemicals, pool cleaners
Oromahoe	Personnel for testing water and pool maintenance

School	External Support
Kaikohe East	School has a limit on daily number of swimmers, is only small and shallow
Selwyn Park School	Maybe swimming lessons after school and holidays if there was a teacher/tutor to take it.
Tinopai	We would need changing sheds and an external toilet. Plus, a community member prepared to undertake the daily testing and cleaning
Kerikeri Primary	There is a pool across the road that can be accessed by the community
Opua	We used to let whānau use it after school and in the holidays, but a few people ruined it for others. If it is used by the public, we understand that the water needs testing every day and possibly the need of a lifeguard? We aren't 100% sure of the ins and outs but it sounded too tricky for us, as a school, to manage.
Okaihau College	The Pool was open to the community until approx. 2020 (COVID) I believe the pool has been closed to the community due to health and safety concerns with no lifeguards.
Mangawhai Beach School	* An upgrade to the size and depth of the pool. * Financial assistance to cover the costs of servicing and maintaining the pool.
Whangārei Boys High School	Would need supervision in place for the pool and access as a locked facility.
Arapohue	Staff to supervise. Staff to treat and test pool to ensure it meets requirements to be open and in use.

Q 24) Biggest Challenges for Operating School Pool (57 responses) (Answers from “tabs”)



Q25) Do you have any long-term plans for the school pool?

School	Long term plans
Dargaville Primary	Heating and enclosing
Motatau Kura	We often have leaks in the pools so making sure these are fixed is ongoing - We have a new shade sail put in as the last one blew away in the storm, and concrete is being laid by our new outside shower.
Whangaroa Community Pool	To be powered by solar panels. Heated Retractable roof
Whangaroa Community Centre and Recreation Trust Pool	We have applied for some grants, and some businesses in the community have donated money to help us out. We have a vision - long and short term, which includes upgrading facilities, to long-term getting the pool covered for year-round use.
Glenbervie	No
Onerahi	To replace changing rooms and include toilet facilities
Ruawai College	Not that I know of.
Kamo Primary	Just had it painted $38k of work but have saved for that for 5 years
Te Kura o Omanaia	No. Just trying to keep the pool in a condition that it can be used
Pompallier Catholic College	Upgrade the changing areas and look for some heating
Poroti	Currently, pool is under repair with leaks. Have had leaks repaired, and it is about to be painted Got a grant from WDC to support these costs. Would like to upgrade pool changing facilities as they can be health hazard with birds. Toilet for pool is outside of the pool complex. As it was a pool built by the community, we want to keep it operational and have gone to great lengths to do so. Haven't had it opened for holidays and term time as it is too costly and losing too much water.
Bream Bay College	pool has been painted, changing rooms are being upgraded. to make it a real community pool it would need to be heated - approx. 50k and a full shade cover approx. $300k
Northland College	Currently upgrading pump shed but other projects on hold.

School	Long term plans
Whangārei Girls' High School	Unsure as I'm not responsible for the upkeep of our school pool
Kamo High School	It is a very old pool; we are maintaining it to working order
Kaiwaka School	Not at this stage
Whangārei Heads School	No - changing rooms and showers recently upgraded. Some R&M
Maunu	Upgrade including seating and shade was completed at the end of 2021. Changing sheds were upgraded in 2022
Maromaku School	As it is less than 3 years old, it is still working well. Having a 'salt water' pool would have been easier on the chemicals budget and to maintain. I am not sure why this was not an option as it was before my time here. The pool is well used and loved in both the school and community. We have a section of concrete that has been left to put in a patch of grass for people to sit on, but it has not been developed yet. My preference would be to have a low maintenance fake grass or soft surface to go in, but the Board of Trustees are adamant they want real grass.
Umawera	Changing room and fencing upgrade
Mangamuka school	Erecting a new fence and installing shade cloth.
Te Kura o Matihetihe	Swimming pool fences require stabilising
Tikipunga High School	Possible movement within structure of pool looking into engineer's report as to future viability of pool
Pukenui	Yes -
Rawene Primary School	Recently resurfaced the pool and brought new pump. We are looking to upgrade changing room facilities
Hikurangi	We just had the surface repainted. Overall goal would be to increase shaded area, and better security fencing
Waima	no
Herekino School.	I think the school does but I am the acting principal until term 4, when the principal returns from study leave.
Raurimu Avenue School	No

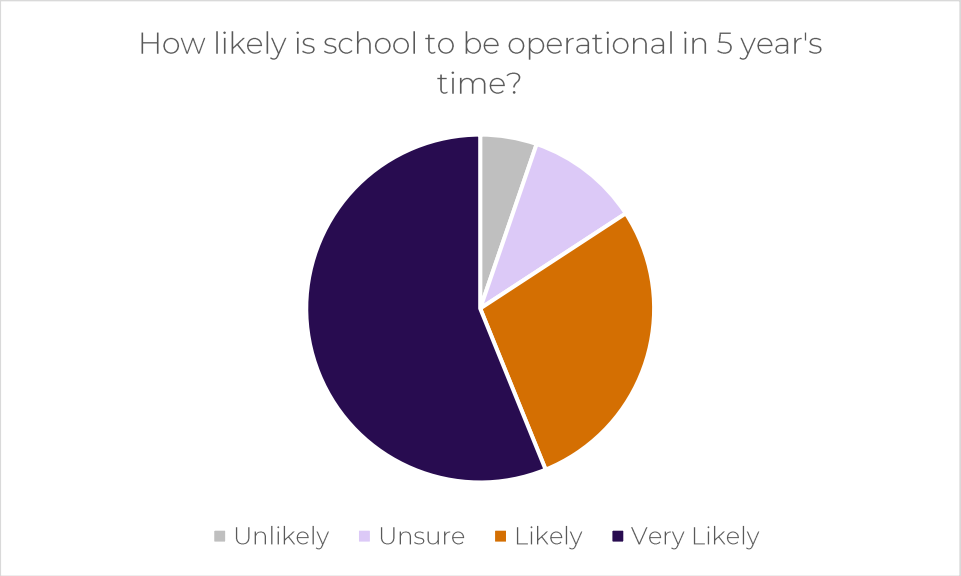
School	Long term plans
Onerahi School	Due to costs, we are focused on repair and maintenance. Our changing sheds will also need to be replaced soon.
Oturu School	It has only just been upgraded.
Mangonui School	It needs an overhaul, repaint, holes patched up.
Te Kura o Te Kao	As we are a small school, the cost to run the pool has been a huge burden. The school BOT keep this facility open to ensure the ability to teach swimming and water safety to our tamariki. This is important in our community as we are surrounded by waterways.
Awanui	upgrading sheds etc as part of the 5YA - we have quotes for repairs that need to be done
Paparoa School	We are looking at the possibility of getting a cover and redoing the concrete surrounds as they are broken.
Okaihau College	Upgrading the pool surface
Oromahoe	we need new and upgraded changing sheds
Kaikohe East	Not really, have explored ideas but too expensive and more priorities
Selwyn Park School	Not sure. The changing rooms will need upgrading at some point and the pump will always need maintenance
Motatau	Need a plan to upgrade or replace the existing fences, seating area, purchase a pool cover, enclose the pool to make it indoors, heat the pool, install solar panels to run the pumps.
Waipu Primary School	We have just repainted the pool and surrounds. We need to replace pumps, filters as necessary.
Tinopai	No
Riverview School	We built new changing sheds and fences about 10 years ago and these are all in very good condition. The pool has been leaking for at least 20 years. Various efforts have been made to repair this without success. We have to top up the water on a daily basis. To fix this problem the floor of the pool would need lifting and replacing, and we cannot afford this.
Kerikeri Primary	we would really like to have solar heating as the children find the pools too cold.

School	Long term plans
Kokopu School	Just been upgraded to fibreglass
Opua	A few years ago, we put a small expansion on the pool which was designed for the 5–6-year-olds. We need to repair the leak and repaint. The concrete surrounding the pool is in dire need of refreshing and expanding. We would love to get a shade/cover over it but that is WAY beyond our dreams. Our fence is getting shabby. We DO have solar water heater (black pipes on the roof) to help us keep the pool open for all of terms 4 and 1.
Russell School (Bay of Islands)	Changing shed upgrade
Mangawhai Beach School	There has been talk about upgrading the pool because it is not deep enough for our older students to be able to swim properly. We are limited by the ground space we have at school to upgrade and expand so project is on hold.
Otamatea High School	Looking at covering the pool
Whangārei Boys High School	No plans in place.
Waiotira School	Pool changing rooms are getting upgraded, new shade sails, new fencing
Te Horo School 0176	Lack of funding restricts aspirations.
Arapohue	We are about to begin resurfacing it,
Tangiteroria	Pool has recently been fixed, recoated and repainted. All running gear replaced (chlorinator/pump etc)

Q26) How likely is your school pool to still be operational in 5 years' time? (58 responses).

48 respondents said likely or very likely. (83%)

4 Unlikely/very unlikely (7%) and 6 unsure (10%),

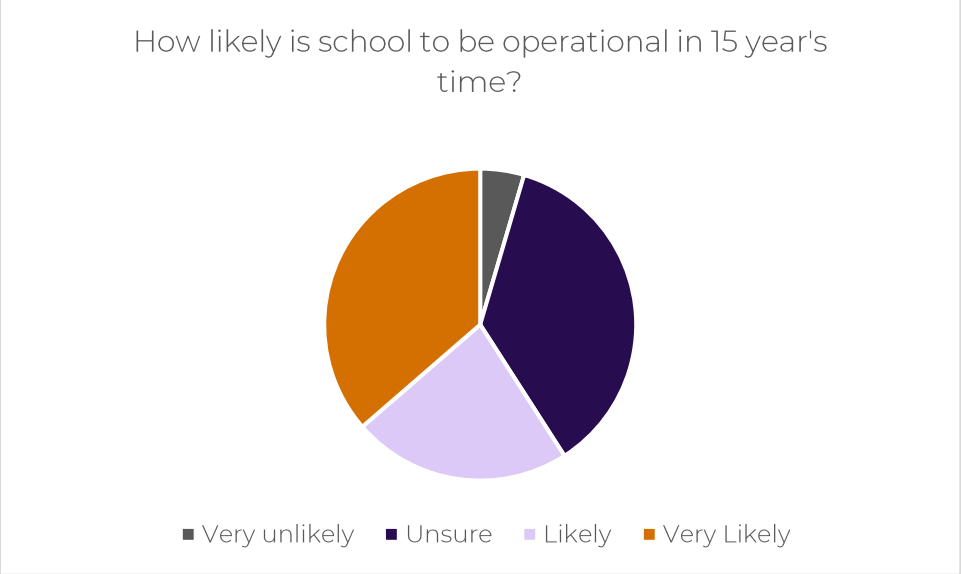


Q27 How likely is your school pool to still be operational in 15 years' time? (58 responses).

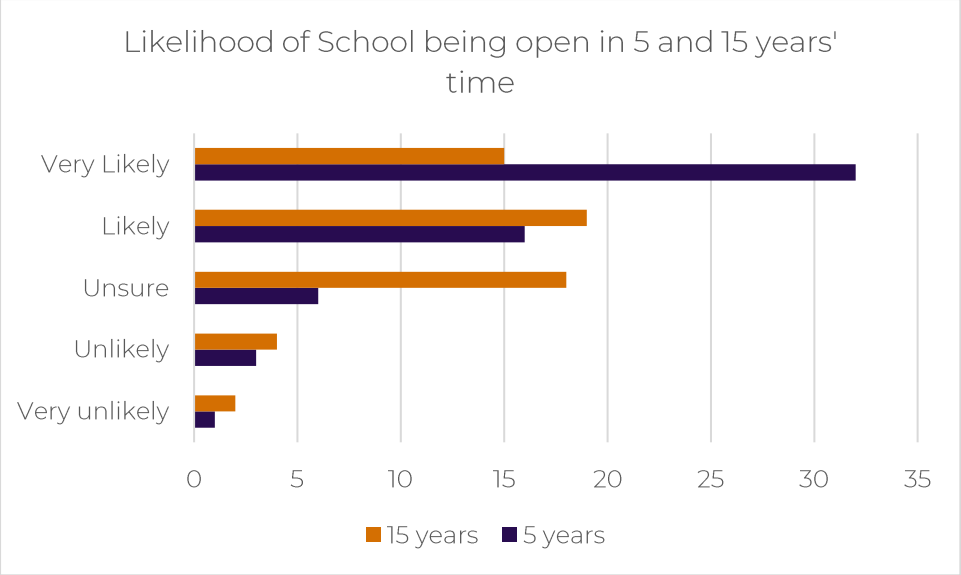
6 Unlikely/very unlikely (10%)

18 unsure (31%)

19 likely and 15 very likely (59%)



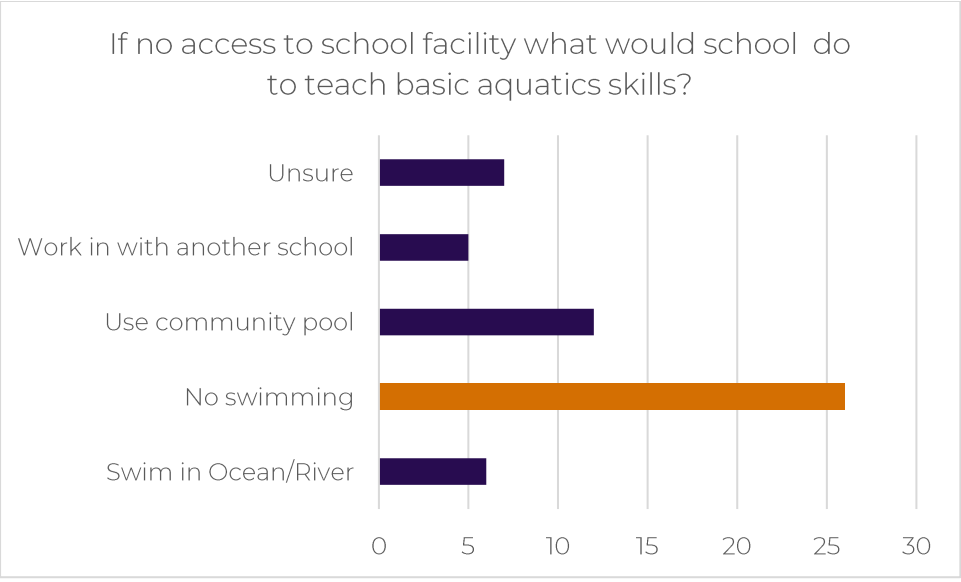
Q 26 and 27



Q28 Explain prediction about pool's operational life (51 responses) (Findings from theming of responses).

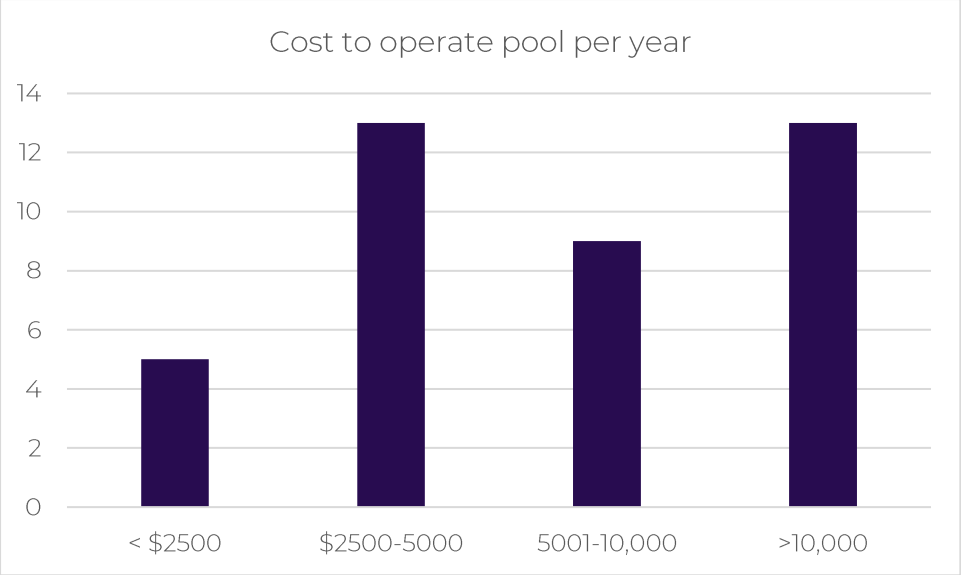
- 25 responses referred to the pool and learning to swim being a priority for the school, so the school was committed to maintaining the pool.
- 12 responses referred to the cost of running the pool being a factor.
- 10 responses referred to the age of the pool causing doubt about the ability to keep the pool open into the future. 2 responses noted their pool was either young or recently refurbished.

Q29) If you no longer had access to your pool facility, what would the school do to continue teaching basic aquatic skills? (54 responses). Answers from theming of responses.



Q30) How much does it cost to operate your school pool each year? (21 responses)

NB: this is a guide only. A few didn't provide info or didn't know. Some included caretaker's salaries. Most didn't.



Q31) How is the operation of your pool funded? (56 responses)

Nearly all referred to the school operational budget.

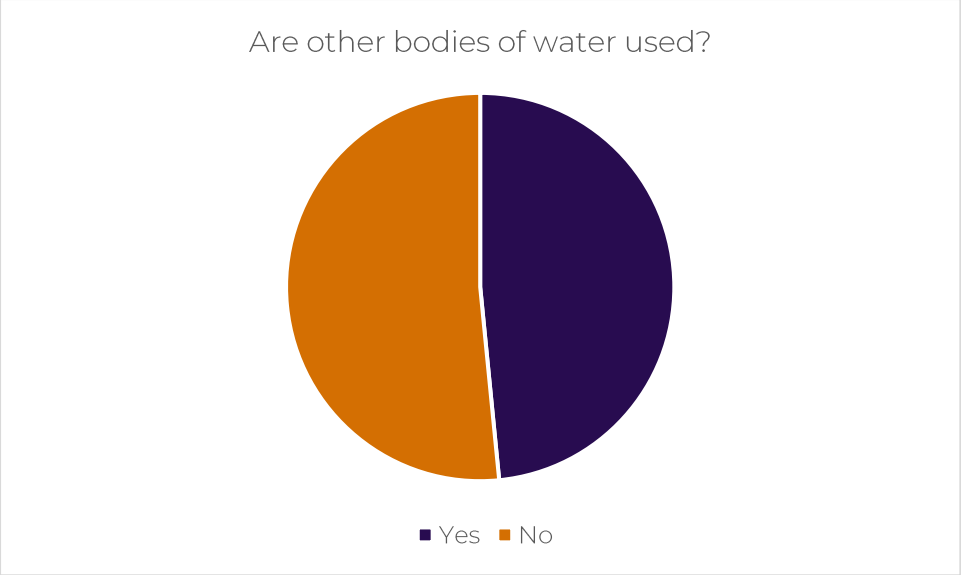
Q32) Obstacles for learners' willingness to participate (59 responses)

NB: 28 respondents said they didn't have any obstacles.

Q33 Any other bodies of water used as part of basic aquatic or general aquatic use? (64 responses)

Yes 31

No 33



Q34 – Other comments (themes below and comments follow).

- Teacher personal development
- Cost/funding (lots)
- Importance of learning to swim – many.
- Age of pool

"The students would eat me alive if we stopped swimming."

"We want to keep the pool operating. It's an important part of school life. If we could have better security, improved machinery and enhanced changing rooms we could make it more accessible to the public in our area of town."

"It would be great if school pools were funded with the number of fatalities in Northland. The school water safe programmes have been great to participate in over the years."

"We're fortunate to have our swimming pool as it's a great resource for our tamariki."

"School pools are a vital resource in insuring that all tamariki have access to life-saving skills around water safety. They provide opportunities for communities to come together and celebrate children's achievements (swimming sports, triathlons, etc.) They also provide another sensory space for tamariki to meet their sensory needs. They are underfunded and often overlooked when considering key resources in our schools (especially in Northland)."

"Any financial support to keep our school pool operating would be greatly appreciated. This is an asset to the teaching and learning of water safety for our area of Te Hiku."

"Teacher pd needs to happen somehow, many new teachers have never taught swimming when they arrive in a new position, and it can be a barrier for them More access for schools to experts would be great to encourage swimming across schools."

"We enjoyed being part of the water safe programme for over 5 years and found the sessions invaluable learning how to stay safe in the water, but also learnt how to swim."

"I applaud this drive to improve aquatic skills across all schools. Riverview has a firm commitment to this, and all children receive 3 instructional swimming lessons per week during the season, as well as taking part in the Water Safe programme."

"Pools are SO VERY important to ALL children. Our rate of drownings is so so high. We need pools to be part funded. We don't need anything swanky, just an operational pool, with equipment that isn't constantly breaking (to save money). Our roll is on average 110. The pool was opened in 1969 and it has enabled thousands of children to learn to swim over the years. It is an important part of all of our lives."

12.5 Appendix 5 Strategic Alignment – Further Information

12.5.1 Swimming New Zealand

Swimming New Zealand also has a national commitment to Water Safety and swimming education. They have an Education and Safety team who provide professional development to School teachers and through swim teacher education utilising AUSTSWIM courses and qualifications. They also support and partner with others around key initiatives such as Water Skills for Life.[35]

12.5.2 Recreation Aotearoa Resources

Insights: Aquatic Facility Design in the 21st Century (6 May 2019)

This paper provides a number of insights regarding international best practice and trends in aquatic facility design. Key considerations identified by Alex Head, Warren and Mahoney Architects include:

- The importance of 'the constant iterative improvement [in design] by taking lessons from home and overseas – and completing the feedback loop on what works'
- More Aquatic (and sports centres) are being designed as community hubs, bringing a holistic view and wellness activities alongside traditional pool and fitness offerings.
- Importance of inviting environments that encourage participation – facilities that offer places to eat, relax, play or be with others as well as swim and exercise appeal the most across age, gender, culture, ability and interests.
- Importance of the use of a universal design approach and also natural materials and lighting in design – accessible spaces that can be used in a variety of ways according to need.
- Importance of efficient, high-performance buildings - airtight, high-performance windows, good insultation
- Durable materials and components that minimise repairs and maintenance.
- Well located and with range of experiences including wellness features.

Insights: Retrofitting Facilities (February 2020)

This paper provides 2 case studies related to retrofitting or redevelopment of aquatic facilities. These types of case studies have relevance for Te Tai Tokerau with its aging network of existing pools.

At Berhampore School (Wellington) a pool that was previously unused for 8 years due to a lack of fundings for maintenance has been revitalised by:

- Initial partnership between School, Little Makos Swim School and Harbour City Water Polo Club
- Fundraising drive and community business support, including from NZ Community Trust and Wellington City Council's School Pools Partnership Scheme

[35] Information sourced and summarised from https://www.swimmingnz.org/water-safety-and-education

- Multi-stage development undertaken. Stage 1: created a working outdoor pool; stage 2 new pipes, filters and a retractable roof.

The pool is now used by schools all around South Wellington and beyond to minimise transport costs. Little Makos provide a lunchtime lifeguard and on Sunday's the local community enjoy free access to the pool.

The Stanmore Pool and Leisure Centre was enhanced through a partnership between Auckland Council and ANZ bank. A full facility renewal costing less than $4m was undertaken. The refreshed facility offers pools, a splash pad, a modern gym, four badminton courts, 2 basketball courts, a swim shop, café and early childhood education centre. The splash pad had over 25,000 visits in its first summer.

Pillar	Objectives:	Priorities:
Partnerships – Mana Orite	Partnerships with others	Strengthen the relationship with regional Ministry of Education representatives, state schools and state-integrated schools in the region to ensure early awareness of school facility development plans and advocate for community access partnerships. Improving community access to state school and state-integrated school facilities that provide mutually beneficial outcomes, avoid duplication of effort and investment, contribute to providing a District wide network of spaces and places for increased participation. Where community access to existing state school and state-integrated school facilities or the joint development or upgrading of new facilities will meet a demonstrated need then the parties (MoE, Sport Northland and the relevant District Council) will work collaboratively to support the development of specific partnership agreements. This may include agreements to support operations and maintenance of facilities in return for community access.
Programmes & Participation – Ngā whai wāhitanga	Quality opportunities for all.	Increase the ways that introductory water safety programmes are provided across the region. This should include exploring opportunities for vessel-based water education programmes that can be delivered through a partnership of water-based sport and active recreation groups. Seek resourcing to increase the availability of learn to swim programmes across the region, including for adults
Planning and Policy Whakamahere	Locally accessible facilities and opportunities	Facilitate the development of a Community and School Partnerships – Shared Use Policy. Such a policy will increase the use of school facilities for local community needs, supporting a hub and spoke approach to facility provision in the region.

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The strategy is also supported by district level plans and strategies (these are summarised in the local context section below

12.5.3 Far North Aquatic Feasibility Study

4.0 Aquatic Strategy Recommendations

Hierarchy and Rationalisation

(a) That FNDC establish a hierarchy of swimming pool provision, and rationalise existing swimming pool facilities, to provider fewer, higher quality facilities, this being the most cost-effective option for households and businesses in the Far North area.

The hierarchy will consist of:

- ***Kerikeri:** An indoor, heated 25 metre x 8 lane swimming pool complex, with 80m2 learners /hydrotherapy pool, lazy river and dive pool to meet the needs of the wider district (included in the 2015-2025 Long Term Plan at an estimated cost of $12-15 million).*
- ***Kaitaia:** An indoor, heated 80m2 learners/hydrotherapy pool and lazy river, and a 25 metre x 6 lane outdoor, swimming pool complex, with dive pool and toddlers play area to meet the needs of the Kaitaia community (included in the 2015-2025 Long Term Plan at an estimated cost of $6-8 million).*
- ***Kaikohe:** A new 25 metre x 6 lane outdoor pool, with dive pool at Northland College to meet the needs of the Kaikohe community (included in the 2017-2027 Long Term Plan at an estimated cost of $3-4 million).*

The strategy proposes that the regional facilities for Northland competitive swimming can best be met by:

- *Long-course events: To be accommodated at the 50 metre outdoor pool in Dargaville.*
- *Short-course events: Whangarei is best placed to develop a new 25 metre x 8 lane pool with seating for 1,000 people.*

Council-School Partnerships

(b) That wherever possible, FNDC negotiates council-school partnerships for location of swimming pools. The benefits of this approach may include being able to leverage additional capital, developing larger, more complex facilities and/or adding value to existing facilities, sharing ongoing operating and asset costs, gaining access to strategic sites, generating better operating synergies (school use during the day and community use outside of school hours), minimising unnecessary facility duplication, and being able to access the other partner's skills.[7]

(c) *That FNDC continue to support public access to schools pools such as Whangaroa College aligned with FNDC's vision to provide an appropriate quantity and quality of aquatic facilities to meet needs of residents.*

(d) *That FNDC establish a grants scheme to support public access to school swimming pools within the district, this being the most cost-effective option to achieve FNDC's vision for swimming pools.*

Pool Ownership

(e) *That "ownership" and responsibility for development of swimming pools should sit with FNDC (in partnership with a school), and not with a community or charitable trust, although the community should be fully encouraged and supported to contribute to the design, planning and funding to achieve FNDC's vision for aquatic facilities. This is to ensure that there is an appropriate provision for maintenance and renewal for the life of the assets and to ensure FNDC has full control of managing its risks.*

Fees and Charges

(f) *That FNDC ensures that fees for swimming pool entry, including school entry fees, reflect an appropriate level of ratepayer subsidy, now and in the future.*

Kaikohe

(g) *That FNDC negotiate a Memorandum of Understanding with Northland College for continued use of the college pool, this being the most cost-effective option for households and businesses in this community to achieve FNDC's vision for an appropriate quantity of aquatic facilities to meet needs of residents.*

(h) *That FNDC adopt a future long-term strategy to enter into a council-school partnership for a new outdoor pool on a site within the school that is more visible and accessible than the present site to achieve FNDC's vision for an appropriate quality of aquatic facilities to meet the needs of residents (provision in the 2018-2028 Long Term Plan).*

An indoor, heated pool is not recommended for Kaikohe because it is considered this would not be feasible, because the high capital and operational costs would not provide a cost-effective solution for households and businesses in this community or the wider FNDC area.

Kaitaia

(i) *That FNDC provides in the 2015-2025 Long Term Plan for development of a new indoor/outdoor pool in Kaitaia, which complements and does not compete with Te Puna Wai.*

(j) *That the Kaitaia Pool is closed because investing in maintaining this pool is not the most cost-effective long-term option for households and businesses in this community.*

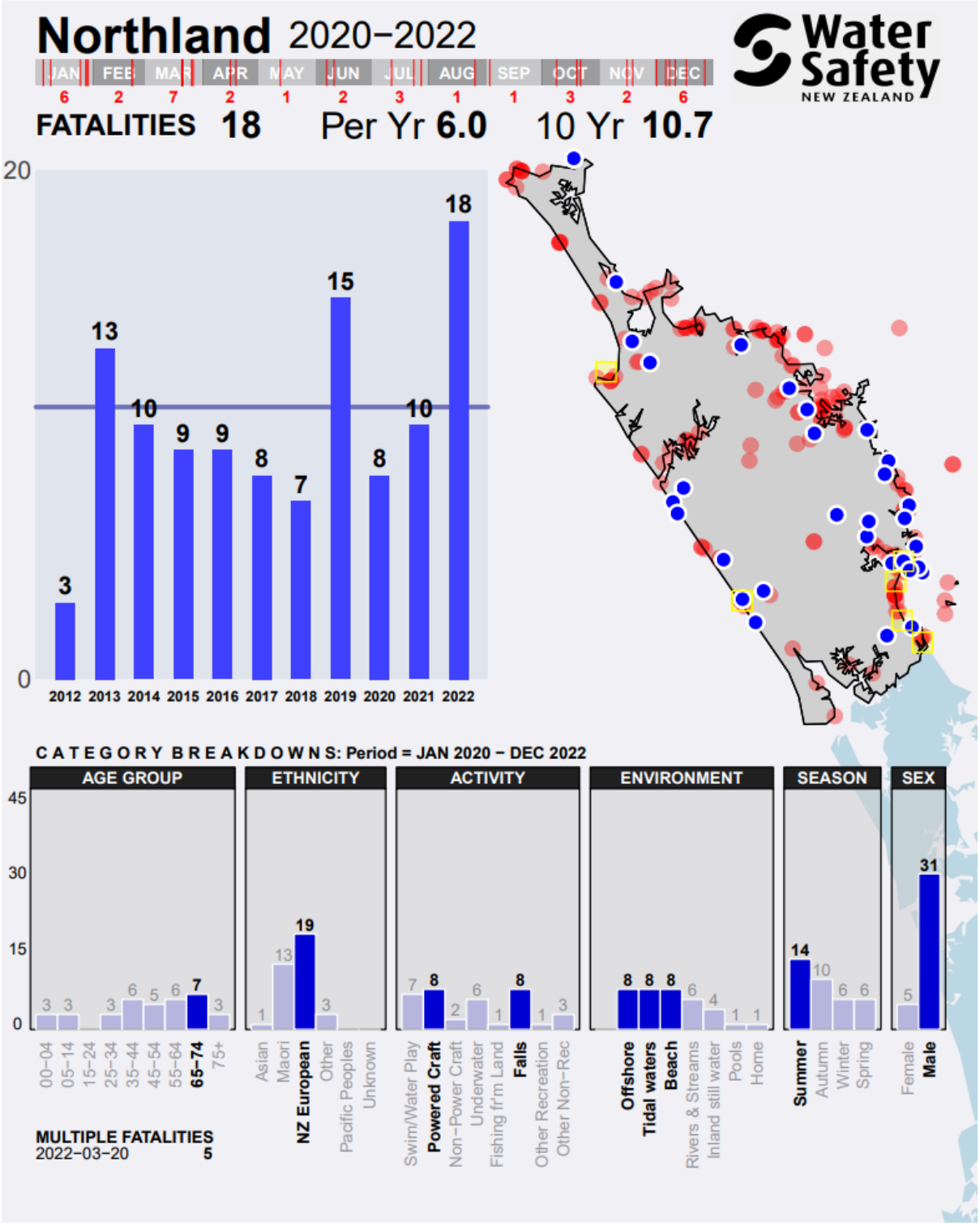
Kawakawa

(j) *That the Kawakawa Pool is closed to coincide with development of the Kerikeri swimming pool complex, because investing in maintaining this pool is not the most cost-effective long-term option for households and businesses in this community.*

Kerikeri

(k) *That FNDC provides in the 2015-2025 Long Term Plan for development of an indoor, heated swimming pool complex in Kerikeri to meet the needs of both local and the wider district for learn to swim, competitions and other aquatic activities, aligned with FNDC's vision of providing an appropriate quantity and quality of aquatic facilities to meet the needs of residents.*

12.6 Appendix 6: Northland Drowning Fatalities Statistics



12.7 Appendix 7 National Swimming Participation Insights[36]

The Sport and Active Recreation Profile which focussed on swimming was developed from findings from the 2013/14 Active New Zealand Survey. The Profile presented information about participation in swimming among New Zealand adults aged 16 years and over. Key insights were as follows:

Who?

Compared with all adults, more women and younger adults (under 40 years), more Māori but less Pacific, Asian, Indian and Chinese people participated in swimming.

Where?

Just under 8 out of 10 swimmers took part in swimming at one or more man-made facilities. The most common locations were at an indoor pool or aquatic centre (57%) or at an outdoor pool (29%). Around 6 out of 10 swimmers participated in/on natural settings in or on the sea (41%).

When?

Participants most commonly swum on one or two days a week while the summer months – December to February were the most popular months for swimming.

Why?

Adults went swimming primarily for enjoyment (80%) followed by fitness and health reasons (62%).

How?

Almost all swimmers (97%) participated on a casual basis either on their own or with others.

[36] Information for National Participation Insights was sourced from the Active New Zealand Survey Series, Sport and Active Recreation Profile: Swimming, 2013/14.

12.8 Appendix 8

12.8.1 Water temperature

The influence of water temperature is critical for the type of use of aquatic facilities. It is often not understood by non-pool users and even pool users are often only aware if the water temperature is suitable for their particular needs. **Error! Reference source not found.**6.1 demonstrates what t emperatures match various pool purposes.

Temperature by type of use, and aquatic facility/activity examples.

Water Temp.	Purpose	Examples
36-38°C	Relaxation	Destination hot pool facilities, and Council pool facilities. (Such as Te Waiariki Ngawha Springs)
32-35°C	Hydrotherapy	Council pool facilities, destination hot pool facilities, private trust-owned pools, retirement villages, and Health NZ therapy pools.
29-32°C	Learn / education	Private swim schools, and Council learn-to-swim facilities.
	Leisure / play	Zero-depth water play spaces, shallow leisure pools, wave pools, hydro slides, lazy rivers, and bombing pools, school pools[37]. (Such as the Whangārei Aquatic Centre wave pool)
26-29°C	Fitness / health	Council, community pool facilities, private trust-owned pools, hotel and commercial pool facilities, and some school pools.
25-28°C	Sport lanes / courts	Sports of: Swimming, Surf Lifesaving, Canoe Polo, and Triathlon. (Such as Kauri Coast Community Pool 50m Pool)
	Sport Depth 1 (2m-2.2m)	Sports of: Artistic Swimming, Water Polo, Underwater Hockey. Scuba Diving
	Sport Depth 2 (>2.2m) Deep water activities)	Sports of: Artistic Swimming, and Diving. Scuba Diving (such as Kerikeri Community Pool Diving Well)

The temperatures are not exclusive to the activities but more a guide for planning. For example, fitness / health swimming can occur in warmer water or cooler water but would not occur at the relaxation temperatures. Similarly, relaxation activity is unlikely to occur at the sport temperatures.

12.8.2 Water temperature and depth

Table 6.2 summarises the various categories of pools that can be offered for community use. It demonstrates the wide variety of types of spaces and uses for these spaces.

[37] School pools have been considered as both “Leisure / play” and “Fitness / health” purposes due to community access to the pools.

Aquatic Facilities – Types of Pools

Type of Water	Description
Relaxation:	To accommodate relaxation (spas or similar) - Pool water space for users to soak and relax.
Hydrotherapy:	To serve aquatic movement therapy and mobility needs. (Excludes specialist medical therapy needs). Pool water space for users to complete the range of motion activities. Depth appropriate.
Learn / education:	To enable development of water safety skills and swimming capability - pool water space for delivery of services in water skills capability. Depth appropriate to ability/ age.
Leisure / play:	To accommodate casual water play, and fun - pool water space and features that provide fun and safe aquatic experiences. Graduated challenge level to accommodate competence and confidence levels.
Fitness / health / lane sports:	To allow for aquatic activity for health and fitness outcomes - pool water space for aqua jogging, aerobics, reduced gravity walking, and lane swimming.
Deep water sports:	To accommodate competitive deep water aquatic training and competition - pool water space that has depth appropriate to perform the skills for the deep-water sport activities and sufficient area for the sport specifications.
Sport lane / court:	To accommodate more serious lane swimmers and competitive squad/ team training and competition - pool water space that has lanes and sufficient depth for dive entry and tumble turns.
Sport Depth 1 (2m-2.2m):	To accommodate competitive deep water aquatic training and competition - pool water space that has depth appropriate to perform the skills for the deep-water sport activities and sufficient area for the sport specifications for example Water Polo and Underwater Hockey.
Sport Depth 2: (>4m) Deep water activities)	To accommodate competitive deep water aquatic training and competition - pool water space that has depth appropriate to perform the skills for the deep-water sport activities and sufficient area for the sport specifications for example Artistic Swimming and Diving.
School	Generally, to accommodate access to pool water for fun and fitness – pool space is generally shallow depth, unheated and seasonal. Note: there are some notable exceptions to this in Te Tai Tokerau, including He Puna Wai (indoor) and Kerikeri Swimming Pool (includes a diving / manu pool).

12.8.3 Modelling Assumptions

To provide a realistic estimate of available space by purpose across Te Tai Tokerau there are several factors to consider. Based on the following factors a full-time equivalent (FTE) availability value has been estimated to determine the actual area of water by purpose.

- **Peak time pressure** for community access facilities – lane pools and learn-to-swim programme pools have peak times when the demand occurs. This has been identified as 6-

7.30 am and 3.30-8 pm for lane pools, and 9-12 am and 3.30-6 pm for learn-to-swim programme pools. If a pool is available for this period, it is determined as 100% FTE.

- Hydrotherapy pools are assumed to have their peak times during the day between 9 am and 5 pm. If a pool is available for this period, it is determined as 100% FTE.

- Seasonality – for pools that are outdoors. It is assumed that they are available for the summer months. Outdoor school pools are assumed to be available for use 25%[38] of the year, but not accessible to the community until after 3:30pm.

- Multiple use of spaces – where a pool space is used for multiple purposes the available space is spread across the percentage of time for each activity.

- Single use pools – where a pool is deemed single use the full FTE percentage is applied.

- All pools that are identified in the inventory are operational.

- All pools that are operational in 2023 will still be operational in 2053 (noting 56 school pools will be 75 years or older by this time).

- The availability of pools for community use remains the same as the 2023 benchmark information (no currently available pools stop offering community access and equally no other school pools allow community access). Existing pool spaces serve the same purpose.

[38] Sport New Zealand National Aquatic Facilities Strategy 2023 [DRAFT].