

PRESS RELEASE – AROHATIA TE TAI AO

We all love our backyard, right?! An innovative independent public consultation is underway to gauge Northlanders' hopes and fears for the future of our Taiao (natural environment).

Tania McInnes, Project Lead and Chair of Te Rūnanga Papa Atawhai O Te Tai Tokerau (Northland Conservation Board) says 'with all that is happening at the moment, it is super timely to be having this conversation on our aspirations for the future of our taiao.'

The initiative, which is endorsed by the Minister of Conservation, Kiritapu Allan, recognises that whether we consciously think about it or not, we are all affected by the health and well-being of our backyard. Tania states 'many of us grew up loving (arohatia) our 'Northland' or have chosen to live here because of the beauty of our natural environment (our taiao). Many of us also remember an environment that is a little different to the one we have now and not in a good way.'

'Often, we don't consider the impacts of change on Papatūānuku. Even though we wouldn't be here without her. We eat from her, inhale her, swim in her, heal from her, walk on her, build on her, the list goes on.' Tania said.

They are looking for Northlander's (particularly rangatahi) to share their views on this, so that a community voice can be clearly articulated to local leaders and central government, ensuring that people's aspirations are clearly captured in strategy and planning.

Te Rūnanga Papa Atawhai O Te Tai Tokerau/Northland Conservation Board is championing this Kaupapa. It will run in two stages. The first is an online survey, which takes about 10 minutes, asking people to share their views. In the new year, focus groups will drill down on the findings. A draft report is due in March 2022 with a final report to be signed off in April 2022.

'Ultimately, this is about the legacy we leave for our children's children. Currently it isn't looking to good.'

Example of the promotion encouraging people to share their voice:



Stage one of the campaign launches 10th November and closes on 14th December 2021.

Further details at <https://www.arohatiatetaiao.kiwi/>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/arohatiatetaiao>

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