**Te Mahere ara o Te Hiku o te Ika: the Far North Trails Plan**

In the *far* Far North of Aotearoa lies a gem of our recreational cycle network: The Pou Herenga Tai Twin Coast Cycle Trail. Far North District Council’s trails plan included the rest of the district on the success of walking and cycling trails beyond those that live near Pou Herenga Tai. Alike to implementing change in our urban communities, we too needed to sell the ‘why’ of investment. Being clear about the benefits, the need for trails and types of infrastructure needed was critical.

As always, showcasing examples of the local success of trails was really valuable with establishing social license in the community. For example, the story of Te Kura Kaupapa Māori o Kaikohe using the existing trail for educational uses beyond the physical – providing a pathway to Mātauranga Māori (knowledge) – to learn about te taiao (the natural world), significant cultural sites, stories from the past. These helped to show the benefits of trails to the community AND tourism (building on the immense domestic appetite for recreational cycle trails).

Te Hiku o te Ika (the Far North) has a vast number of gravel roads with a low volume of vehicles across the geographically large area. The focus of the trails plan evolved to highlight and utilise these quiet roads as they provided an opportunity for developing a comprehensive safe network without purchase of land. This presentation summarises the process of identifying 540 segments of trails infrastructure in the Far North to short-listing eight concept routes across the rohe (district) for implementation.