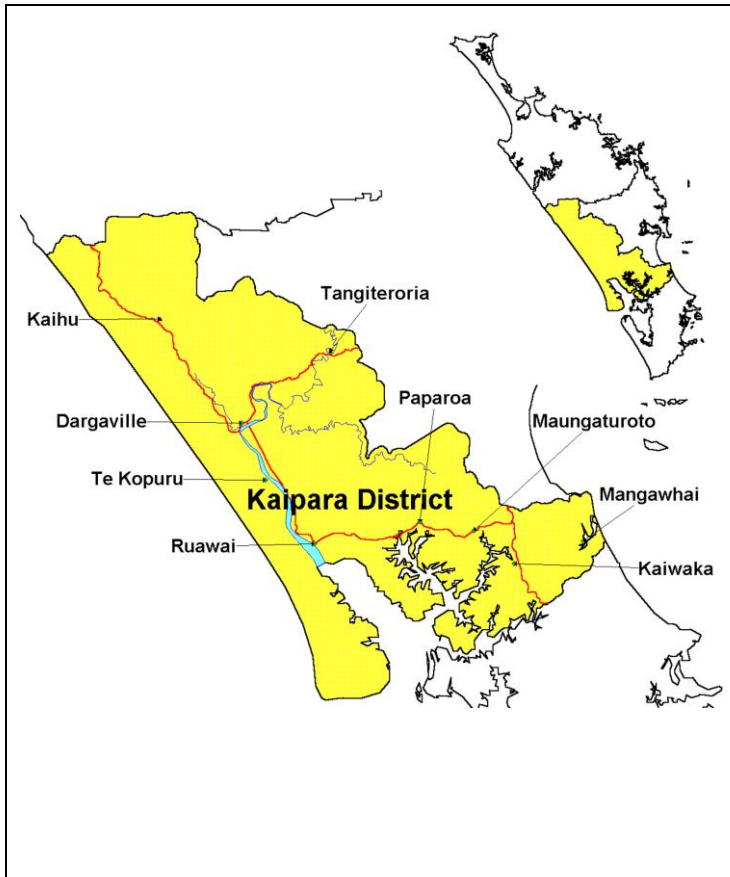


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Kaipara District



Stretching from coast to coast, Kaipara District is located at the entrance to Northland at the top of the North Island. Travelling from east to west, the Kaipara is a district of contrasts and spectacular scenery. Residents and visitors enjoy the magic of the east coast settlement of Mangawhai, the peacefulness of New Zealand's largest harbour – the Kaipara – and the wild beauty of the west coast beaches.

Other jewels of the District include the Northern Wairoa River – the largest river in Northland – and the numerous freshwater lakes dotted along the west coast. The most well known of these are the Kai Iwi Lakes located 34 kilometres north west of Dargaville.

Kaipara's economy has historically been based around pastoral farming and to a lesser extent horticulture and forestry. However, developments in tourism are growing in importance and there is a trend toward small mixed-use farm holdings. The District's rural nature, especially in the inland parts, is one of the charms residents are keen to preserve.

Kaipara District Council is the seat of local government for the District. Council's role is to provide local leadership and facilitate the delivery of services and activities that promote community well-being. Under the Local Government Act 2002, Council has a lead role in ensuring that the community's economic, social, cultural and environmental priorities are reflected in government agencies' and other organisations' planning and decision-making and that a co-operative approach is taken to achieving the community's vision for the future. The Mayor and ten Councillors also work to ensure that the voice of the Kaipara community is heard at the national level.

Mission Statement

We will work with the community to preserve our heritage, enhance our environment, and provide the best possible services and facilities to make Kaipara an excellent place to live.

Readers Guide

What is the Annual Plan?

This Annual Plan outlines Council's activities for the 2007/08 financial year. Council's role is to provide local leadership and facilitate the delivery of services and activities that promote community well-being. The Plan supports Council's ten year plan, *Kaipara's Future* the Long Term Council Community Plan (LTCCP) released in 2006, and identifies any changes or additions to the LTCCP. It outlines the community's expectations (community outcomes) and describes how Council, in partnership with Government agencies and other organisations, will work to achieve these. This Annual Plan also provides details of Council's budget.

What does the Annual Plan include?

Community Outcomes

In 2003 Council facilitated *Kaipara – Our Future – Together*. This provided the people of the Kaipara with an opportunity to have their say about the future of the district. The community's priorities are represented by the outcomes described later in this section. The Kaipara community outcomes were affirmed by the identification of the Northland community outcomes in 2005. This process also identified a number of possible indicators to help measure progress towards achieving the outcomes and to provide a basis for accountability of the Council and Government agencies to the community.

Activities

Council's work programme is divided into 12 significant activities. In order to provide continuity with *Kaipara's Future* Plan, a similar document format has been used.

In addition to details of Council activities, this Plan contains Prospective Financial Statements.

Where does the Annual Plan fit in the planning cycle?

This Annual Plan is year two of Council's long term plan, *Kaipara's Future - Working Together* 2006-16. *Kaipara's Future* Plan was Council's second LTCCP. The next review of the *Kaipara's Future* Plan will occur in 2009. In the intervening years Council continues to produce an annual plan detailing activity for the current year and including any changes from the *Kaipara's Future* Plan that may need to occur.

Elected Members

Cr Brian McEwing

Cr Neil Tiller

Cr Graham Taylor

Cr Ian Tiller

Cr Brian Burnett

Jack McKerchar
Chief Executive

Cr David Underwood



Cr Tom Smith

Cr Richard Alspach
Deputy Mayor

Cr Wendy Salter

Cr Julia Sutherland

Peter King
Mayor

Mayor's Introduction



I am pleased to introduce the 2007/2008 Annual Plan.

'*Kaipara's Future – Working Together*' the 2006 -20016 Long Term Council Community Plan (LTCCP) prepared in conjunction with the community and government agencies, set a clear direction and identified the community's expectations and priorities.

This document, in setting out the steps Council will be taking during 2007/2008 toward achieving the long term goals, reflects a continued focus on collaborative long-term planning.

The focus of the 2007/08 programme is on preserving the gains made over the last few years. The major challenge has been the impact of the higher than expected rise in construction costs. This means there is less funding available for other projects as Council has determined that the funding of the roading network is our most important long term issue.

Highlights for the 2007/2008 year include

- providing more commitment to community driven development initiatives through a new Community facilitator position
- listening to the community of recycling and litter issues, taking initial steps to actually do something
- continuing to maintain the improvements on the roading network.

This is the final year of the current term of Council. Elections will be held on 13 October 2007 and I urge you all to be giving thought to what type of leadership will produce the best results for Kaipara and who you would like to represent you on Council.

I take this opportunity to thank the Councillors, who have worked tirelessly on your behalf to provide responsible governance of the District, and the staff who are committed to providing a high level of service.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Peter King". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Peter King QSM

Mayor

Chief Executive's Summary



The 2007/08 Annual Plan shows the work programme and detail of the steps that will be taken this year toward meeting the long term goals, and is a supplement to *Kaipara's Future - Working Together*, the Long Term Council Community Plan (LTCCP) 2006/16. *Kaipara's Future - Working Together* provides a picture of Council's plans and proposals over the next 10 years, explains why Council is doing these things and what the cost is expected to be.

In developing this Plan we prepared a draft Plan, based on *Kaipara's Future - Working Together* which was used to consult with the community and other Council stakeholders.

Kaipara's Future - Working Together indicated that a rate increase of 6% was expected.

However, market pressure meant that Council's roading budget had to be increased by 11.4% to do the same amount of work as done last year. This required the General Rate to increase by 7.8% to fund the roading programme. This subsidised roading programme has been given highest priority. By trimming the Social Development budget and changing the method of delivering the Economic Development budget, meant the draft Annual Plan was published with a General Rate increase of 6.7%.

Through a series of public forums, meetings with Iwi, a submissions and hearing process, Council listened to what the community had to say. There were no submissions against the priority given to subsidised roading and that priority is carried forward to this Plan.

An interesting trend in this year's submissions was the number of community and other groups that made submissions seeking help from Council to achieve goals. They did not request financial assistance, they were seeking ways to utilise community resources and were asking Council to provide people resources. Council sees helping those that help themselves as a priority because it is believed this will produce sustainable outcomes. Council has responded to this.

Submissions

The key issues raised during the consultation and submission process were:

- Litter in Mangawhai
- Council working with communities
- Speeding on residential streets
- Parking in Dargaville business area
- Waste minimisation and recycling
- Funding Mangawhai Harbour restoration
- Otamatea Roding Development Contributions
- Specific Community by Community Concerns

Draft Annual Plan required General Rate Increase of 6.7%.

Public engagement confirmed Council's priorities.

Significant number of submissions seeking a person to help community groups.

Eight key issues raised by the public engagement process.

Chief Executive's Summary

Council Actions

After considering all the submissions Council has decided that the following will happen:

Council were able to act on 17 requests as well as include many others in its normal works programme.

- Work with Mangawhai community to combat the litter problem. \$14,000 allocated
- Appointment of a half time Community Facilitator. \$40,000 allocated
- Replace Ruawai Playground working with the Ruawai community. \$25,000 allocated
- Work with the community to complete the Matakoho Footpath from the School to the Museum. \$10,000 allocated.
- Enter into a recycling partnership with CBEC. \$9,000 allocated
- Continue working with other councils on GE. \$10,000 previously allocated
- Work with Pouto community on refuse. \$2,500 allocated
- Work with agencies and communities to protect Ripiro Beach. \$6,000 allocated
- Assist Mangawhai Domain. \$10,000 allocated
- Meet with community interests in Dargaville and Mangawhai to progress development of skateparks. Funding to be determined.
- Work with Te Kopuru School children to establish a bike track on Council's reserve.
- Work with Mangawhai mountain bike interests to develop track through Mangawhai Park.
- Information fridge magnets. \$2,000 allocated
- Upgrading work at Maungaturoto Library. Develop a plan and do some initial work. \$1,000 allocated
- Work with community to provide seating on Whakapirau Wharf. \$1,000 allocated
- Pahi Domain Society contribution to maintenance of toilet. \$2,000 allocated
- Work with Kaiwaka community and Transit New Zealand to achieve a safe pedestrian environment with access to the river.

Three specific projects included for consideration in the Roothing Minor Safety Works.

Council has also included the following projects in its Roothing Minor Safety Works programme for prioritising in terms of Land Transport New Zealand's funding rules.

- Traffic calming. Montgomery Avenue Dargaville and investigations into District-wide needs
- Various street lighting requests
- Safety footpaths in Mangawhai, Hokianga Road Dargaville and Station Road Dargaville (crossing railway lines adjacent to Houhanga Marae). Total budget \$60,000

Council will be working with seven named communities, as well as others.

Council will also be working with the Baylys Beach, Tinopai, Ruawai, Glinks Gully, Pahi, Paparoa, Mangawhai and others to help clarify priorities for each community and to develop plans to enable these priorities to be achieved.

Chief Executive's Summary

General Rate Increase

General rate
Increase now 7.5%
to fund community
requests.

As a consequence of these changes, and by using alternative funding sources wherever possible Council has kept the rate increase to 7.5%.

Council believes the support it received from its consultation process and the clearly identified District-wide needs that an increase of 0.8% above the draft Plan is acceptable. It will deliver benefits much greater than this to the community.

For further rating and funding details refer to "The Money" section later in this summary.

Elections

This is election year.

2007 is election year. As previously publicised the current 10 member Council did not meet the new legislation. The wards and number of Councillors must be set using only population as the criteria. This required a review of ward boundaries and the number of Councillors. The Council will now comprise of eight Councillors from three wards, and one Mayor elected at large. Two Councillors from the current Dargaville Ward, three Councillors from a new Otamatea Ward (existing Otamatea plus the area north of Matakoho, Paparoa, Maungaturoto) and three Councillors from the new West Coast/Central Ward (combining the West Coast and a slightly reduced Central Ward). There were no objections to this proposal when it was publicly notified. If you would like more information on this check the website www.kaipara.govt.nz or call us.

Council reduced by
two to eight
Councillors plus the
Mayor.

Now is the time to be considering whose hands you want at the helm of Kaipara leading it into the future. You should also consider if you can make a contribution and stand for election when nominations open on 27 July and close on 24 August 2007.

Roading

Maintenance a high
priority to ensure
recent gains are not
lost.

Over the past few years Council has made significant improvements to the roading network particularly in the unsealed maintenance. This is reflected in positive audit reports from Land Transport New Zealand and feedback from the community. Roothing maintenance continues to be Council's highest priority. It has necessitated some reductions in non-subsidised works and capital projects. Some of this reduction is due to Land Transport New Zealand being unable to fund all projects, especially seal extension, at this time.

Water and Wastewater

Protecting
community health
through water
standards.

We are continuing to manage water and wastewater services to protect the health of communities. New requirements of the Drinking Water Standards impose significant compliance costs on ratepayers in all schemes across the District.

During 2007/08 Council will start developing initial options for water supply schemes for Mangawhai and Kaiwaka communities, as identified in *Kaipara's Future Plan*.

Chief Executive's Summary

Harbour and Waterway Protection

Investigating community wastewater schemes to protect the harbours and waterways.

The coastal communities of Pahi, Whakapirau, Tinopai and Baylys Beach will be considering options for wastewater solutions to protect the harbour and waterways from pollution. Initial investigations have shown that the nature of these communities may make traditional reticulated systems unaffordable at this point. Council will be continuing to discuss options with these communities.

Resource consents obtained for EcoCare. Two appeals received which are hoped to be handled quickly.

Council has received its consents from the Northland Regional Council to build the EcoCare Wastewater System at Mangawhai. Two objections have been received, one from a property owner close to Mangawhai Park against the location of the treatment plant on that block of land. The second was against the use of the Brown Road property for disposal of the reclaimed irrigation water. This objection was also from a neighbour. We hope these appeals will be quickly dealt with by the Environment Court process thus enabling this much needed health and environmental protection project to be completed.

The District Plan Review

District Plan Review looks at how land is used in the District.

The review of the District Plan commenced in 2004/05. A district plan tells you what you can and cannot do with your property. Since the preparation of the first District Plan ten years ago, Kaipara has experienced significant change, particularly in eastern and coastal areas. The challenge is, through a review of the District Plan, to better manage growth while retaining the essential character that is Kaipara. The Plan will also be revised to reflect best practice and to take account of changed community expectations.

Development vision for 20 years and strong community engagement.

Initially Council decided on a limited scope for the Kaipara District Plan review. However, Councillors now see this as an important opportunity to implement a development vision for Kaipara District for the next 20 years. It also allows an opportunity to consult more comprehensively with the public on this important document.

We look forward to your participation.

Further consultation rounds have happened and more are planned for 2007 and 2008. This will be followed by notification of the proposed District Plan. We will be encouraging a high level of participation by the community and look forward to your involvement.

Community Planning

Supporting communities to achieve their aspirations.

We are continuing to support Community Outcomes and planning initiatives. We have joined with a broad range of agencies and groups to look at ways of doing things better, doing new things and doing things together. This has resulted in more informed decision-making by organisations that better promotes the priorities of the community.

Chief Executive's Summary

Council is partnering agencies in a wide range of projects.

We are looking to further contribute as a supporting partner to the Kaipara Youth Connections, Access to Services, Youth Employment, Kaipara District Council Cadetships, Economic Development Officer, Community Economic Development, Maori Economic Development, Kaipara Community Leadership Programme, A Healthy and Productive Kaipara Harbour, and Pouto – A Destination.

Biodiversity Fund

Continued support for projects that enhance biodiversity

Funds have been included to continue to provide financial support to projects that enhance or protect Kaipara's natural biodiversity. Community groups or individuals with a project that meets the criteria can receive up to 50% of the cost of the project. Applications for this fund are called for in January each year.

Heritage Fund

Heritage Fund popular and offered again.

The inaugural Kaipara Heritage Assistance Fund was well received by the community and Council has allocated a further \$10,000 for the coming year. The Fund, which aims to encourage people to preserve the district's historic sites, buildings and archaeological sites, will be open for applications in October.

We were very pleased to have been able to fully expend the Fund on such worthwhile projects in its first year. The six successful applicants received grants of between \$1000 and \$2500 for a range of projects including the exterior painting of three historic wooden buildings, weather proofing within the former Dargaville Post Office clock tower, the preparation of a conservation plan for Kakaraea Church (Gittos Memorial Church), and the restoration of the former Te Kopuru Hospital flagstaff memorial. All of the successful applications had the support of the New Zealand Historic Places Trust.

Building Control

New legislated process for Building Consents on track.

The level of building activity in the District is continuing its trend of a small increase in consent numbers and a more significant increase in the value of building work. Systems and processes are being enhanced as a leader-in to accreditation as a Building Consent Authority, which is 'on track' to take place in 2007/08. It is pleasing to note that we have had no claims for leaky buildings in this past year.

Waste Minimisation

Parawanui project reopening and new user pays recycling proposed.

The pilot programme for the Parawanui Road closed landfill site has the community working together with Council to beautify the area and discourage illegal dumping.

Litter Officers have been appointed, and further initiatives are being considered.

Chief Executive's Summary

The Money

The table below summarises the funding impacts of Council's decision after listening to the community:

The Money - Rating, Reserves Contribution Fund and Forestry Equalisation Fund

This explains how Council has decided, following consultation, to move rates and user charge levels, and spend from the Reserve Contribution and Forestry Equalisation Fund for 2007/08.

	Rates		%
Effective General Rate increase 7.5%	General Rate and Annual Uniform General Charge	Effective Increase	7.5
	Mangawhai Harbour Restoration Levy - \$40.00 pa to \$78.75 pa	Increase	96.9
	Other targeted rates	Increase	3.0
	Water Supply Charges		%
	As factored into <i>Kaipara's Future – Working Together</i>	Increase	3.0

Reserves Contribution Fund	\$
Reserve Management Plans	170,000
New reserve at Paparoa	108,000
Coastal reserves facilities upgrade	25,000
Swimming pontoon – Mangawhai Harbour	10,000
Improve Alamar Crescent – Reserve and Foreshore area, Mangawhai	36,000
Playground on Ruawai reserve land	25,000
Walkway at Matakohē	10,000
Picnic tables at Tinopai	1,000
Playground enhancement - Upper Wairoa Memorial Park	1,000
New reserve at Bayllys Beach	130,000
	516,000

Forestry Equalisation Fund	\$
Dargaville Pool	155,000
	155,000

Chief Executive's Summary

Finally.....

Thanks for taking
part. Council
needs your views.

I would like to thank everyone who participated in the process, whether coming along and talking to us at Open Forums, or making a written submission, or speaking to your submissions at the hearings. You have had an impact on the decisions made by Council. It is only through this involvement can Council know what you want. By knowing what you want Council can make much better decisions. I would also urge you to involve yourself in the District Plan Review process this year.

Thank you once again, and please keep telling us what you think.

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a large, stylized initial 'J' followed by a long, horizontal, slightly wavy line extending to the right.

Jack McKerchar
Chief Executive

Community Outcomes

Community Outcomes

What Are Community Outcomes?

Community Outcomes represent what people in the Kaipara value and how they want our community to be. In 2003 Council, in partnership with other government agencies and organisations, facilitated *Kaipara - Our Future - Together*. This process provided the people of Kaipara with the opportunity to have their say about the future of the District. The communities' priorities are represented by the following outcomes:

Kaipara Community Outcomes

Sustainable Economy

Kaipara District has a diversified and sustainable economy that supports the well-being of its communities and residents

Strong Communities

Kaipara District is built on strong communities where people have a sense of belonging and work together to shape their collective future

Safety and a good quality of life

Kaipara District is a safe place to live and raise a family, where people enjoy a good quality of life

Special character and healthy environment

Kaipara District is proud of and renowned for its beautiful environment and sound management of natural resources, where residents enjoy a clean, healthy environment

Purpose of the Community Outcomes Projects

For the first time in the Kaipara, a broad range of agencies have joined together to look at ways of doing things better, doing new things and doing things together. This has resulted in:

- More informed decision-making by organisations that better promotes the priorities of the community
- Better co-ordination and use of government and community resources within the Kaipara
- Stronger relationships between agencies, organisations and community

These relationships have been strengthened through the Community Outcomes Projects.

Youth

The Community Outcomes process identified gaps in services and opportunities available to youth in the District. Since that time agencies and organisations have been working together on a growing number of youth focused projects.

Community Outcomes

Kaipara Youth Connections (contributes to Strong communities; Safety and good quality of life)

A further 12 months of funding has been secured by project the leaders, Ministry of Social Development, to provide services to ensure at-risk school leavers are able to make a successful transition to training and employment. The funding supports a youth co-ordinator position based at Dargaville High School and extends Te Uri o Hau's youth development services.

Youth Employment (contributes to Strong communities; Safety and good quality of life)

A new joint project, initiated in 2006, involves Council and Work and Income New Zealand partnering to employ a Youth Employment Coordinator. The position has already shown some real results with most of the target group in the Dargaville area either in employment or training.

Kaipara District Council Cadetships (contributes to Sustainable economy; Good quality of life)

The Cadetship scheme, which arose from a regional initiative supported by the Mayoral Forum and the Northland Intersectoral Forum, aims to encourage young people throughout Northland with little or no work experience to gain employment skills and local government experience. Council continues to undertake this project in conjunction with all the Northland Councils, the Tertiary Education Commission and the Ministry of Social Development.

Dargaville High School Reserve Project (contributes to Strong communities; Safety and good quality of life, Special character and healthy environment)

This project, initiated by the Future Problem Solving students at Dargaville High School, seeks to transform an area of vacant Council owned land in Dargaville into a reserve. The aim of the project is to improve the area's recreational and environmental values for the benefit of the community and to provide an educational resource, while allowing for efficient stormwater drainage and flood control. The project is led by Dargaville High School with the support of Kaipara District Council and will progress over a number of years.

New Initiatives – Youth

Council has received a \$103,000 grant from the Youth Development Fund of the Ministry of Youth for an innovative project that will benefit local young people.

The project, Nga Totara Haemata o Kaipara (The Steadfast Trees of Kaipara), is aimed at developing young people to be the community leaders of the future. It will involve a group of eight to ten people from throughout the District who will participate in a one year programme tailored by a professional training provider to suit the range of skills and experience of the group.

Community Outcomes

Economic Development

This year will see a new approach to undertaking economic development in the Kaipara district. The approach has the support of all the key stakeholders – the Kaipara Development Agency (KDA), Te Uri o Hau, Te Roroa and Enterprise Northland. It will mean that Council will cease to use the KDA as its service delivery vehicle while at the same time strengthening its relationship with Enterprise Northland. Working collaboratively with other agencies under the umbrella of Community Outcomes, the new approach has the potential to secure an increase in resources to support economic development in the Kaipara.

Economic Development Officer

An Economic Development Officer to focus on Kaipara issues in a regional context has been employed by Enterprise Northland. To ensure a high level of awareness of Kaipara issues, this position, and others that may follow, will be supported by a mentor group comprising representatives from Council, Te Uri o Hau, Te Roroa, and the Kaipara business community. Accountability and reporting will be through both Enterprise Northland and Kaipara District Council.

Community Economic Development

Working in collaboration with the Ministry of Social Development and Enterprise Northland, funds have been secured for the establishment of a Community Economic Development position targeted at increasing employment, and therefore community wellbeing and resilience in communities throughout the Kaipara. The position will report to the Kaipara District Council. An appointment is imminent.

Maori Economic Development

This focus is designed to address the concerns of both Te Uri O Hau and Te Roroa that economic development delivered through the formal structures of local government and regional economic development agencies is not particularly benefiting Maori. Council is presently working with Te Puni Kokiri to secure funding for the position. Its establishment will create a group of three economic development officers working within Kaipara, the synergy from which should deliver greater benefits than three individuals could deliver. These people will also deliver additional networks into economic development in Kaipara which will raise awareness and create opportunities.

Strong Communities

Kaipara Community Leadership Programme (contributes to Sustainable economy; Strong communities; Good quality of life)

Council has formed a partnership with the Leadership Institute of New Zealand, 'Excellerator', which is a Charitable Trust established within the Business School of the University of Auckland. Kaipara was chosen for the Institute's inaugural Community Leadership Programme, the aim of which is to develop collective leadership capacity in the Kaipara.

Community Outcomes

Launched in January 2006 the 16 participants have met for residential workshops, peer meetings, council workshops and submissions, and worked together on community initiatives. The 18 month development process is due to finish and the focus is now on carrying that leadership momentum into the future and the wider community.

Environment

Pouto – A Destination (contributes to Sustainable economy; Strong communities; Special character and healthy environment)

Protection of the environment continues to be a key theme bringing agencies and the Pouto community together. The Department of Conservation has taken a lead role in projects around dune and habitat protection, signage and interpretation.

A Healthy and Productive Kaipara Harbour (contributes to Sustainable economy; Strong communities; Special character and healthy environment)

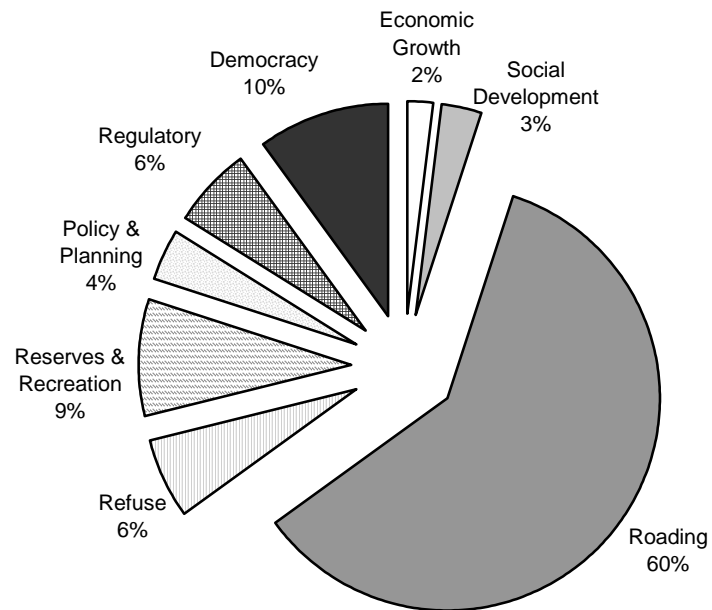
The Kaipara Harbour is the largest harbour in the Southern Hemisphere and has high ecological and cultural values. Increasing pressure is being placed on the Kaipara Harbour and its catchment from various land and harbour uses. Numerous organisations, statutory bodies and communities are involved in the management of the Kaipara Harbour. Its management is often complicated by the regional boundary located in the middle of the Harbour. Council is supporting a Te Uri o Hau led initiative towards Integrated Catchment Management of the Kaipara Harbour. A review of existing information held by all of the stakeholder organisations is presently underway. Funding from project partners has enabled Te Uri o Hau to recently appoint a project co-ordinator and initiate database and website design.

Future Initiatives:

A positive spin-off of organisations and community groups working collaboratively to progress Community Outcomes is that it provides opportunities for current activities to be co-ordinated and future project ideas to be discussed. At recent Community Outcomes Steering Group meetings opportunities to address issues of road safety, youth, leadership and the provision of services have been discussed.

How the General Rate is Spent

How the General Rate is Spent (Indicative Only)



The above analysis excludes targeted rate activities i.e. water, wastewater, stormwater and land drainage.

