

Press Release

25 February 2014

Kaipara District Council Commissioner Moves On

Kaipara District Council Commissioner, Colin Dale, today advised Council of his resignation with effect from Wednesday 26 February 2014.

“Commissioner Dale has taken up a role as Acting Chief Executive with the Far North District Council. This is a significant role for him and will take all of his time until a new appointment is made,” says Chair of the Commissioners, John Robertson. “We have all enjoyed working with Commissioner Dale and are sorry to have him leave the team. However, we understand his reasoning and wish him the best with his new role.”

Mr Robertson says that Council faced serious issues on a number of fronts at the time of the appointment of the four Commissioners. They have, in his view, carried out their duties well together and have been able to relatively quickly restore confidence in the Council.

He reports that the Council is now financially sustainable. The Council organisation under Chief Executive Steve Ruru and his management team has lifted its performance. Community engagement is good, led initially by Commissioners, but now being transferred to staff with the backing of Commissioners.

The team of four Commissioners applied considerable time to Council matters in their first eighteen months, including to the proposing of the Validation Bill, the Auditor-General's Inquiry and, recently, the Judicial Review hearings. However, as the executive has been strengthened and the Council has greatly improved its performance and capabilities, they have been able to reduce the amount of time involved in a number of areas.

Upon their appointment, each Commissioner was assigned key areas of responsibility. Commissioner Dale has considerable skills in terms of community and iwi relationship development and this became his "portfolio" of focus. Mr Robertson says that although his leadership in this area will be missed, the remaining Commissioners are confident they can pick this up, assisted by an executive which now has capability in this area.

“There is no doubt in my mind that the decision by the Minister to appoint four Commissioners in September 2012 was the correct one. The organisation was hugely stretched and the issues Council faced were many and complex. Today, the organisation is much more robust and the historic issues are well understood,” says Mr Robertson.

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