

Memorandum

To: Anna Turner - Barkers
CC: KDC Planning Team
From: KDC Parks Asset Management Team
Date: 26 March 2026
Subject: Methodology – Esplanade Priority Areas, Proposed District Plan

The purpose of this memo is to provide guidance on how Kaipara District Council identified the esplanade priority areas showing in its proposed district plan (as of 20 March 2026)

Esplanade priority areas are areas of land, not currently in public ownership, adjoining the coast, rivers or streams which Council has identified as having potential for future acquisition as reserves for public access.

The areas currently showing in the proposed district plan have been identified by council staff through a process informed by several formal reports and in-house mapping exercises.

The reports included:

- [Kaipara District Council spatial plans \(2020\)](#)
- District Plan Open Space Review (Xyst, 2021)

The in-house mapping exercise considered the content of the above reports and other local knowledge. The areas identified in the proposed district plan are esplanade locations in the vicinity of existing popular reserves that logically extend and enhance these areas around the relevant river or marine area. These areas would enable public access to or along any sea, river, or lake or enable public recreational use of the esplanade reserve or esplanade strip and adjacent sea, river, or lake, where the use is compatible with conservation values in alignment with the purpose of esplanade reserves and esplanade strips under Section 229 of the RMA.

The exercise prioritised areas that ostensibly:

- completed existing esplanade or open space networks
- formed part of proposed or existing walking and cycling trails
- reconnected townships and other community settlements with river or coastal connections
- were needed to create access links.