

Appendix B: Officer's Recommended Amendments to Description of the District

Note the below provisions represent the Section 42A Report Writing Officer's recommended amendments to the provisions of the Proposed District Plan, in response to submissions (with red underline used for new text and ~~red-strikethrough~~ for deleted text).

Description of the District

Kaipara Te Oranganui - Two Oceans, Two Harbours

Kaipara District has several features that set it apart from other districts. These features create constraints but also offer opportunities for the continued growth of our district.

The district is geographically extensive, and the roughly triangular district covers some 310,900 hectares, stretching from Waipoua Forest in the northwest to the south of Kaiwaka in the southeast. This extensive reach allows the district to lay claim to the phrase "Two Oceans, Two Harbours" with Kaipara Harbour and the Tasman Sea on the West Coast, and Mangawhai Harbour and the Pacific Ocean on the East Coast. The Northern Wairoa River bisects the district, which, along with its tributaries, flows into the northern end of the Kaipara Harbour draining a catchment area of 3650 square kilometres.

The Kaipara District has a diverse range of natural landscapes, including exposed coasts, sheltered estuaries, rivers, steep bush clad hills, riverside flats and rolling farmland. Natural features within the District include the broad Northern Wairoa River in the east, the narrow, shallow Kaihu River valley in the northeast, the substantial Ruawai Plains ('Ruawai Flats') in the southeast, the long, narrow, hilly Pouto Peninsula in the south, and the long sandy coastline in the west as well as Maunganui Bluff and Mt Tutamoe, the second highest peak in Northland. Dune lakes feature at Kai Iwi and Pouto and with a shoreline of 3500km, the Kaipara Harbour is the largest in New Zealand. Ecological features include kanuka/manuka shrubland, coastal flaxland, freshwater and estuarine wetlands, mangroves, and substantial areas of indigenous forests. Collectively, these varied landscapes and features contribute to the character and identity of the Kaipara District.¹

Kaipara is the southernmost district of Northland Region, placed between two large population centres, Whangarei, Northland's only city, and Auckland, New Zealand's largest city. The usually resident population of Kaipara District at the 2023 Census was 25,899 following strong growth between 2018 and 2023 of 13.2%.

Dargaville and Mangawhai are the two main service towns. Mangawhai has experienced rapid population growth in recent years. Other settlements include Maungatūroto and Kaiwaka. There are also many smaller settlements.

A large portion of the district is used for farming, forestry and agriculture while other major industries include manufacturing. Kaipara contains extensive areas of highly productive land supported by a mild subtropical climate.

¹ Forest and Bird [149.135], Transpower [FS100.35]