



Kaipara te Oranganui

**Kaipara
District**

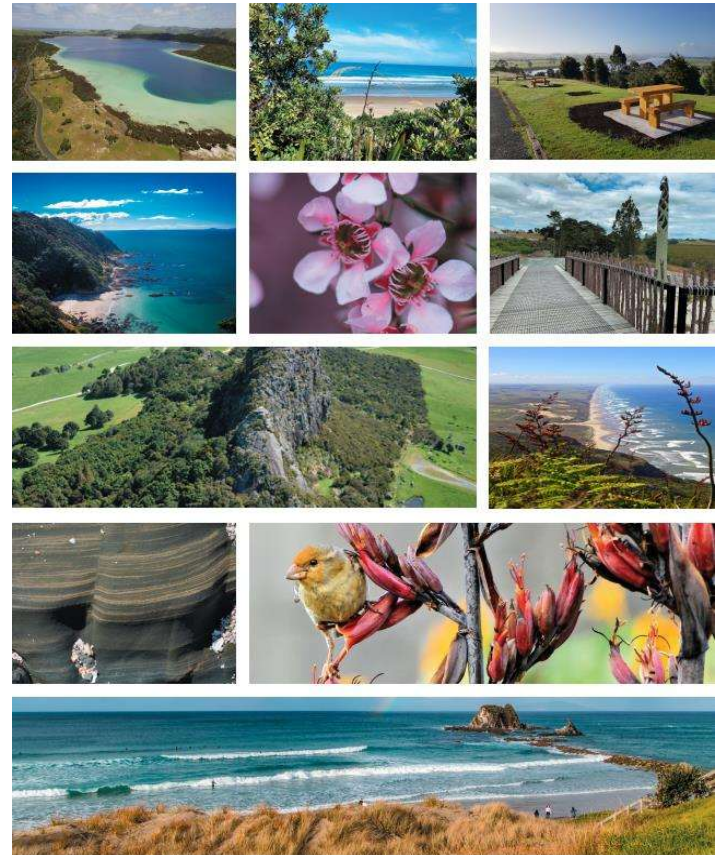
Two Oceans Two Harbours

Proposed Kaipara District Plan Hearings

Hearing 9: Renewable Electricity Generation Chapter – 24 March 2026

Renewable Electricity Generation (REG) chapter

- REG Chapter aims to achieve a balance between enabling REG activities in the Kaipara District while managing the adverse effects of those activities
- 15 primary submitters (125 primary sub points) and 5 further submitters (108 further sub points) on the REG Chapter
- Many submitters broadly supportive of the REG Chapter as notified
- However, three key themes raised in submissions:
 - Requests for amendments to make the provisions more enabling and improve workability
 - Concerns that the provisions are too enabling and do not adequately protect sensitive environments
 - Need for alignment with the amended National Policy Statement for Renewable Electricity Generation 2011 (**amended NPS-REG**)



Statutory context

Key national direction is the amended NPS-REG

- Was being consulted on during the submission period for the PDP
- Came into effect on 15 January 2026 – obligation to give effect NPS-REG “*as soon as practicable*” which is achievable through PDP process
- Stronger direction than 2011 version to better recognise and provide for the national significance and national, regional and local benefits of REG
- Amended NPS-REG includes more specific and directive policies on:
 - Recognising and providing for operational and functional need of REG activities to be in particular environments and locations (Policy C)
 - Protecting existing REG assets from adverse effects of new activities, including avoiding reverse sensitivity effects (Policy D)
 - Enabling and managing the effect of REG activities on the environment (Policy F)
 - Enabling the efficient operation and maintenance of existing REG assets (Policy G)
 - Enable consenting, upgrading and repowering of existing REG assets (Policy H)
- **Does not** include specific direction to manage adverse effects of REG activities on environments and values provided for under section 6 of the RMA - needs to be read alongside national, regional and district policy documents managing these values

Key recommendations in section 42A report

- Retain overview text and notes to clarify that other Part 2 (District-wide matters) PDP Chapters apply to REG activities
- Amend five REG related definitions and introduce a new definition of “ancillary REG activities ” to better align with the amended NPS-REG
- Amend all four objectives and seven of the ten REG policies to better align with the amended NPS-REG, while still including Kaipara specific direction
- Recommend deleting REG-P6 as serves no useful purpose
- Introduce new policy REG-PX to confirm that an assessment of alternative sites is not required to demonstrate operational or functional need to be in particular location or environment
- Recommend amendments to a number of rules:
 - Include “Any effects on indigenous fauna and ecosystems” as a matter of discretion in REG-R1, REG-R3, REG-R4, REG-R5, REG-R6 and REG-R7
 - New permitted condition in REG-R5 (Freestanding small scale wind turbines) requiring that the turbine is set back at least 200m from any Significant Bird Area – Critical Bird Habitat mapped in the Northland Regional Plan
 - Amend REG-R8 (Large-scale REG activities) -from a discretionary to a restricted discretionary activity

Outstanding issues in evidence

Issues raised	Recommendation in s42A addendum
REG-O3 – DOC requesting clearer direction on what appropriately managing adverse effects means, Northpower requesting consistent wording in title	No change to objective but recommended amending title
REG-P2 – Northpower requesting inclusion of ‘repair’ for consistency with REG-R2	Repair not used in NPS-REG, remove ‘repair’ from REG-R2 for consistency
REG-P4 – DOC requests that wording from clause 2 of Policy F in the NPS-REG is included in full, and delete the words “ensuring that the adverse effects are avoided, remedied or mitigated”	Unnecessary for clause 2 of Policy F to be repeated in full – no change
Matters of control/discretion – DOC requests replacing “indigenous fauna and ecosystems” with “ecosystems and indigenous biodiversity”	Agree – recommend amending REG-R1, REG-R3, REG-R4, REG-R5, REG-R6, REG-R7 and REG-R8 accordingly
REG-R7 (community-scale REG activities) – Northpower requests a tiered permitted/restricted discretionary activity status based on zone, DOC supports retaining the controlled activity status (DOC)	Retain controlled activity status on the basis this appropriate balance and reinstate matters for control as notified (error)
REG-R8 (large-scale REG activities) – Northpower requests that non-compliance with wind farm noise standard should be discretionary, DOC preference retaining overall discretionary activity status rather than restricted discretionary	No change – non-compliance with wind farm standard more aligned with current district plan practice
REG-R9 (upgrading and repowering) – Northpower requests max height limit more permissive for solar farms (3m increase rather than 10%), DOC requests limits on number upgrades/repowering over life of PDP to manage incremental effects	Recommend amending max height limit for solar farms, do not recommend limits on number of upgrades/repowering as not economically feasible



Questions?