



Kaipara te Orangahui • Two Oceans Two Harbours

Submission on Proposed Kaipara District Plan

Form 5 Submission on publically notified proposal for policy statement or plan, change or variation

Clause 6 of Schedule 1, Resource Management Act 1991

To: Kaipara District Council - District Plan Review

Date received: 30/06/2025

Submission Reference Number #:121

This is a submission on the following proposed plan (the **proposal**): Proposed Kaipara District Plan

Submitter:

Amanda (Mandy) Harris

Contact person and address for service:

Amanda (Mandy) Harris
1947 State Highway 1 Kaiwaka 0573
New Zealand

Electronic address for service: mandy@flirtmedia.co.nz

Attachments:

waste water kaiwaka submission.pdf

waste water kaiwaka submission.pdf

I wish to be heard: No

I am willing to present a joint case: No

Could you gain an advantage in trade competition in making this submission?

- No

If you have answered yes to the above question, are you directly affected by an effect of the subject matter of the submission that:

(a) adversely affects the environment; and

(b) does not relate to trade competition or the effects of trade competition
- **Yes**

Submission points

Point 121.1

Address:

State Highway 1, Kaiwaka

Submission:

Kaiwaka wastewater treatment pond is failing and polluting our waters. attached letter for submission on provision

Relief sought

attention to the issue

Submission on the Proposed Kaipara District Plan
Re: Inclusion of a Kaiwaka Wastewater Treatment Scheme Provision

Submitter: Mandy (Amanda) Harris

Date: 30 June 2025

To the Kaipara District Council,

I submit that the Proposed District Plan must include a specific provision for the Kaiwaka Wastewater Treatment Scheme, addressing the urgent need for modern, climate-resilient infrastructure to support the town's growth and safeguard public and environmental health

Relevant Plan Chapters and Gaps

The following chapters of the Proposed District Plan should be amended to include wastewater infrastructure provisions:

- Infrastructure and Services Chapter: Add a policy requiring staged wastewater upgrades in Kaiwaka aligned with zoning changes.
- Urban Growth and Development Chapter: Include infrastructure capacity as a prerequisite for new development approvals.
- Natural Environment Chapter: Recognise the degraded state of the Kaiwaka River and the role of wastewater in its decline.

Urgent Need for Infrastructure Provision

The existing council-managed wastewater treatment pond in Kaiwaka is degraded and no longer fit for purpose. It lacks the capacity and resilience to manage current flows, let alone the increased load anticipated from proposed zoning changes. The Plan's omission of any infrastructure upgrade contradicts its own growth objectives and exposes the community to escalating environmental and health risks.

Climate Change and Public Health Impacts

Climate change is intensifying rainfall and flooding events, leading to frequent overflows and leakage from the treatment pond into the Kaiwaka River. This contamination poses serious risks to:

- Aquatic ecosystems, including native fish and invertebrates sensitive to nutrient and pathogen loads.
- Public health, through exposure to waterborne pathogens and degraded recreational water quality.
- Māori cultural values, where mahinga kai and awa health are integral to identity and wellbeing.

Contradiction Between Zoning and Infrastructure Planning

The Proposed District Plan promotes higher-density residential and commercial development in Kaiwaka's town centre, yet fails to provide for the infrastructure necessary to support this growth. This disconnect undermines the principles of integrated planning and sustainable development. Without a wastewater upgrade, the zoning changes risk becoming unimplementable or environmentally damaging.

Interim Low-Cost Measures and Global Precedents

While a full upgrade is staged in the Long-Term Plan (LTP), the District Plan should enable interim, scalable solutions that reduce environmental harm and build resilience. These include:

- Constructed wetlands, which use native vegetation and microbial processes to treat effluent naturally. For example, El Salvador and Vietnam have implemented low-cost wetland systems that remove over 90% of pollutants.
- Decentralised anaerobic digestion systems, which are compact, energy-efficient, and suitable for small communities.
- Community-scale modular treatment units, as used in parts of rural New Zealand, which can be expanded as demand grows.

These systems are cost-effective, environmentally sound, and can be integrated into a staged upgrade strategy.

Policy Recommendation: Infrastructure Catalyst Role

To ensure delivery, the District Plan should assign a designated Council Infrastructure Representative tasked with:

- Facilitating public-private partnerships (PPPs) to attract investment in wastewater infrastructure.
- Engaging with central government, including Kāinga Ora and the Infrastructure Acceleration Fund, to align wastewater upgrades with housing development.
- Coordinating community engagement to ensure transparency and local support.

Conclusion

The Kaiwaka community cannot be expected to absorb growth without the infrastructure to support it. The degraded council-managed treatment pond is a known risk, and climate change is compounding its failure. The District Plan must include a provision for a Kaiwaka Wastewater Treatment Scheme, supported by interim green infrastructure and a clear governance mechanism to deliver long-term solutions.

Thank you for considering this submission.

Sincerely,
Mandy Harris