

Press Release

05 December 2013

Law provides clarity on rates

Kaipara District Council Commissioners say the passing of a Local Bill in Parliament last night is an important step in helping the District move forward.

The Bill, which was sponsored by MP for Northland Mike Sabin, passed its third reading in Parliament yesterday. When enshrined in law, it will fix technical errors made when former Kaipara District Councillors set rates between 2006 and 2012. The services the rates paid for were still supplied.

Chair of Commissioners John Robertson said Members of Parliament from both sides of the House had carefully considered an extremely complex range of covered issues in the Bill. The final vote was 112 to 8.

He thanked Mike Sabin and Members of the Select Committee for their diligence.

“We now have absolute clarity around a number of fundamental issues, particularly on the issue of rates. It is very clear now that ratepayers in Kaipara who receive services from the Council should and must pay their way.”

Mr Robertson said the number of people withholding rates was steadily dropping. Out of around 13,000 ratepayers, less than 1,000 were still disputing their rates demands. The disputed rates were worth around \$3.5 million. Non-payment of these rates had forced major roading projects in the Kaipara district to be put on hold or delayed.

Council has yet to formally consider the issues of whether or not rate payments would incur penalties.

Ends

For more information contact Barbara Ware on 09 439 3123