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# Consultation Document

## Engineering Standards

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Kaipara District Council would like to hear your views on a proposal to update our **Engineering Standards**.

**Key dates:**

**Submission period**                      Wednesday 10 June 2026 to Friday 10 July 2026

**Decision of Council**                      Wednesday 26 August 2026

## Proposal

<b>This Consultation Document includes:</b>	<b>Page</b>
Introduction	2
Reasons for the proposal and how we got here	3
What we are proposing	4
Tell us what you think	5
Submission form	6

## Introduction

The Kaipara District Council (KDC) Engineering Standards (ES) sets out the recommended processes and standards to be followed for the provision of infrastructure whenever any development project is undertaken within the district. The ES recognizes that KDC and other network operators will become the owners and operators of roads and other infrastructure, which are created and vested in the land development process.

It is important that KDC and the community have confidence that the infrastructure and associated systems are competently designed and constructed in a manner which ensures that they are fit for purpose and can be expected to last well into the future, while not restricting innovation and appropriate alternative design solutions

KDC has chosen to adopt, as its ES:

- the majority of the Whangārei District Council's Engineering Standards (WDC ES)
- and the transport chapter of CoLAB's Regional Infrastructure Technical Specifications (RITS).

Before finalising these Engineering Standards we want to know your views.

## Reasons for the proposal and how we got here

A Working Party was established by Council on 27 September 2023 to work with staff to review the 2011 KDC Engineering Standards (ES), with the intention to update and modernise them to align with KDC's vision and fulfil future development requirements.

The Working Party's work culminated with Council approving (on the 24th of September 2025) the progression of "hybrid" ES for KDC, incorporating the Transportation section of the Regional Infrastructure Technical Specifications (RITS) version 1, and the Whangarei District Council's Engineering Standards, 2022 for the remaining chapters (General, Site Development, Stormwater, Wastewater, Water Supply, Public Spaces and Utilities), with modifications to suit the local context and to facilitate innovation. The draft "hybrid" ES were presented at a Council briefing on 1 April 2026.

Feedback on the draft ES was sought from Elected Members and Kingston Infrastructure, a technical advisor on the former Working Party. This feedback has assisted in making further refinements to the draft ES, to ensure they provide flexibility and innovation while providing a degree of certainty with recommended standards for assets to be vested in Council.

The draft Engineering Standards have been written to facilitate innovation and provide Council with greater discretion to facilitate growth, reflects modern practice, the local context and Council's vision.

## What we are proposing

KDC has chosen to adopt, as its ES:

- the majority of the Whangārei District Council’s Engineering Standards (WDC ES)
- and the transport chapter of CoLAB’s Regional Infrastructure Technical Specifications (RITS).

Some modifications to these standards are also proposed for their use in the Kaipara District and to provide a degree of flexibility in considering alternative design solutions. These are set out in Part 3 of the KDC ES: “Supporting notes and specific technical requirements” and highlighted in the RITS Transport and WDC Chapters documents by a red cloud shown below:



The WDC ES has the benefit of being a widely used standard in Northland. Consistency with the Kaipara District’s northern neighbour has benefits for users of the standards. The RITS transport chapter is considered to more appropriate than the transport chapter of the WDC ES, for the building of roading and associated infrastructure within the Kaipara District. This approach reflects Council’s desire to facilitate growth and achieve the vision of “Kaipara – the place to be”.

The Council does not wish to restrict innovation in how infrastructure is provided. Accordingly, the Council may, at its sole discretion, approve alternative designs provided it is satisfied that the alternative designs will achieve an equivalent function, and performance incorporating optimised whole of life outcomes, against the recommended standards specified in the engineering standards. The ES set out “recommended standards” with Council having the discretion to consider alternative design solutions.

KDC seeks long term solutions to the provision of appropriate infrastructure. KDC welcomes collaboration with developers to address impacts on down-stream catchments and to future proof the Council’s asset network taking into account strategic asset development plans.

Tools to facilitate growth may include the use of development agreements, financial contributions, and consent conditions providing for staging of infrastructure.

## Tell us what you think

### How to give us your feedback

You can submit your feedback in writing before 5pm Friday 10 July 2026.

### Written submissions

You can provide us with a written submission. There are a few options for how you can do this:

- Online** Complete this form online: [www.kaipara.govt.nz/haveyoursay](http://www.kaipara.govt.nz/haveyoursay)
- In person** Drop your submission form to either Council office - 32 Hokianga Road, Dargaville or The Hub, 6 Molesworth Drive, Mangawhai
- By mail** Send your submission to:  
Submission for the Engineering Standards  
Kaipara District Council, Private Bag 1001, Dargaville 0340
- Email** Email us at: [haveyoursay@kaipara.govt.nz](mailto:haveyoursay@kaipara.govt.nz)

### What will happen with your feedback?

All feedback received will be reviewed and analysed.

Council will then deliberate on all the information provided and make a final decision on the proposed policy, which will then be presented to Council for adoption in August.

## SUBMISSION FORM – Engineering Standards

**Thank you for taking this opportunity to comment, we welcome your feedback.**

For an online version of this feedback form, see [www.kaipara.govt.nz/haveyoursay](http://www.kaipara.govt.nz/haveyoursay)

### Please enter your details below

First name(s): \_\_\_\_\_ Last name: \_\_\_\_\_.

Postal address: \_\_\_\_\_

Mobile: \_\_\_\_\_ Other phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

I am writing this submission:  as an individual  on behalf of an organisation

Organisation name: \_\_\_\_\_

### Tell us in writing

Be sure to get your written comments to us by **5pm Friday 10 July 2026**. You can provide your comments on the next page and follow the instructions below on how to get them to us or choose one of the ways listed below to make your submission.

### How to get your feedback to us

**Online** Complete this form online: [www.kaipara.govt.nz/haveyoursay](http://www.kaipara.govt.nz/haveyoursay)

**In person** Drop your submission form to either Council office - 32 Hokianga Road, Dargaville or The Hub, 6 Molesworth Drive, Mangawhai

**By mail** Submission for the Engineering Standards  
Kaipara District Council, Private Bag 1001, Dargaville 0340

**Email** Email us at: [haveyoursay@kaipara.govt.nz](mailto:haveyoursay@kaipara.govt.nz)

### Join Kaipara District People's Panel!

As a member you will be asked periodically to complete short surveys, as well as to participate in other consultations Council is undertaking in the future.

I would like to join the People's Panel:  Yes  No



