



**Kaipara  
District  
Plan Review**

**AUGUST 2021**

**Kaipara District Plan Review  
Discussion Document Summary**



## **HISTORICAL HERITAGE, SITES AND AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE TO MĀORI, AND NOTABLE TREES**

### **BACKGROUND**

The Kaipara District has a wealth of historical buildings, landmarks, notable trees and sites and areas of significance to Māori.

Provisions related to the protection of historical heritage, sites and areas of significance to Māori and notable trees need to be included in the new District Plan.

#### **Historical Heritage**

Many of the Kaipara District's sites are also considered to be of national importance and have protection as registered buildings or sites with Heritage New Zealand Pouhere Taonga under the Heritage New Zealand Pouhere Taonga Act 2014.

Section 6(f) of the Resource Management Act requires local authorities to protect this historic heritage from inappropriate subdivision, use and development.

#### **Sites and areas of significance to Māori**

Historical and archaeological sites, ancestral lands, waterways, wāhi tapu and other taonga are significant to Māori.

Numerous pa sites, terraces, pits and middens are

present along the coasts, and further inland in some areas as the Kaipara District was one of the first areas settled by Māori in New Zealand. These sites and areas need to be protected from damage or destruction as a result of subdivision, use and development of land.

The Heritage New Zealand Pouhere Taonga Act 2014 provides legal protection for all archaeological sites in New Zealand, and any activities seeking to damage, modify or destroy an archaeological site needs to be authorised by the New Zealand Historic Places Trust.

#### **Notable Trees**

To be considered notable and worthy of protection, trees need to be identified and evaluated using the Standard Tree Evaluation Method (STEM) developed by Ron Flook in 1996. This assessment method is widely accepted and has been adopted by the New Zealand Institute of Horticulture and the NZ Arboricultural Association.

Trees (or stands of trees) with a score of 150 or greater under STEM were considered suitable to be included in the Operative District Plan as notable trees (subject to landowner consent to their inclusion).



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### KEY ISSUES

#### Historical Heritage

- The only sites that are protected in the Operative District Plan are those which already have protection through Heritage New Zealand (HNZ) under the Heritage New Zealand Pouhere Taonga Act 2014.
- A number of heritage homes and buildings across the District which are not listed with HNZ are potentially at risk of modification or removal and have no protection afforded to them through the District Plan. For instance, there are a number of villas in Dargaville which may be considered for inclusion in the District Plan due to the heritage, amenity, and community values associated with them.

#### Sites and areas of significance to Māori

- The current provisions relating to sites and areas of significance to Māori are not aligned with current best practice in terms of involving iwi and hapū in identifying sites that are culturally significant.
- There needs to be more recognition and protection of sites and areas of cultural and historical significance in the District Plan.

#### Notable Trees

- A review of the existing list of notable trees in the District Plan is needed.
- The review also needs to consider whether the existing STEM score number of 150 is still the most appropriate score to use when deciding whether a tree can be considered notable.

### THINGS TO THINK ABOUT

*The content of a district plan ranges from fulfilling legal requirements made by Central Government and regional councils to proposing specific provisions that meet the needs of our District and its communities. This list includes any changes required to meet legal obligations as well as some ideas Council wants to explore further with our communities.*

- The District Plan must include provisions to protect and maintain historical heritage sites, sites and areas of significance to Māori, and

notable trees. This may include provisions related to undertaking minor works on heritage buildings or trimming notable trees.

- Proposed earthworks and disturbance activities close to sites and areas of significance to Māori needs to be carefully managed to ensure adverse effects are appropriately managed. The new provisions are likely to include triggers for cultural assessments to be undertaken by Mana Whenua to ensure they are appropriately consulted.