

## Media Release

25/06/2020

### Free online talk on current and future crop suitability in the Kaipara District

An online talk with NIWA, Plant & Food Research, and Manaaki Whenua – Landcare Research will present valuable climate and soil research for the district’s landowners. The talk is hosted by the Kaipara District Council, and is the second in an online series sharing analysis completed as part of the Kaipara Kai project, one of four Kaipara Kickstart projects funded by the Provincial Growth Fund.

*Current and future crop suitability in the Kaipara District – Understand the research* is scheduled for Thursday 09 July, 7pm. The speakers, Nava Fedaeff of NIWA, Brent Clothier of Plant & Food Research, and Malcolm Mcleod of Manaaki Whenua – Landcare Research, completed a climate and soil investigation for six key crops in the Kaipara District.

Some of the key results the speakers will discuss include: the different soil types in Kaipara District, the current climate of the area, the suitability of six horticultural crops, and the projected climate changes for the District.

This presentation follows another held earlier this month on productive land use, which has now been seen by close to 800 people. That session presented research by Coriolis on new crop types, animals and aquaculture opportunities, and commercial and financial analysis for local landowners. The presentation can be found on the Kaipara District Council YouTube channel.

Mayor of Kaipara District, Dr Jason Smith, sees the research undertaken as transformative for the people of Kaipara.

“The value of this extensive research into the Kaipara climate and our future crop growing is immense. There are huge opportunities for people in Kaipara to draw greater value from their land use, and the research undertaken by these experts will arm landowners with support and knowledge.” says Mayor Smith.

The Council is inviting questions to be submitted ahead of the talk. People can email their questions to [KickStart@kaipara.govt.nz](mailto:KickStart@kaipara.govt.nz). You can find the Topo-climate Summary Report and the Plant & Food Supplementary Report on the KDC website via [kaipara.govt.nz/kickstart/kai-for-kaipara](http://kaipara.govt.nz/kickstart/kai-for-kaipara).

### Details on how to attend the online talk:

The talk will be livestreamed on the Kaipara District Council Facebook page. Anyone can attend. You do not need a Facebook account to view the video. Go to [facebook.com/watch/KaiparaDistrictCouncil/](https://facebook.com/watch/KaiparaDistrictCouncil/) for 7pm on 09 July, where you will see the video stream appear. The stream will commence a few minutes before the 7pm start time.

The talk will also be recorded and available to watch on the Council YouTube channel later.

**About Kaipara KickStart**

The Provincial Growth Fund, NZTA and Kaipara District Council have allocated \$28.24 million (announced on 3/2/2019) and \$0.74 million (announced on 31/1/2020) to invest in Kaipara's economic growth and community wellbeing. The Kaipara KickStart programme consists of four interlocking projects. They are; Kaipara Roads, Kaipara Wharves, Kaipara Kai, and Kaipara Water. Further details can be found via [kaipara.govt.nz/kickstart](http://kaipara.govt.nz/kickstart).

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