

September 2012

To all Kaipara District Council residents and ratepayers

As you are aware, Commissioners have been appointed by the Minister of Local Government to govern the Kaipara District until October 2015. Through this letter, we want to:

- introduce ourselves to you,
- advise you of the tasks in front of us, and
- advise how you can make contact with us.

We are very keen to secure your support. Unless we work together, our ability to resolve the issues facing us all will be more costly and much more difficult. We would like to finish our work ahead of the timetable set out by the Minister so that Kaipara can get back on a sustainable footing as soon as possible.

We know that in looking ahead, we will also have to look back. We know that some of the decisions made in the past may need revisiting, and possibly repairing. We acknowledge the work that is being done by the Office of the Auditor General into the Mangawhai community wastewater scheme and accept that that issue will also require our attention.

The task ahead

We took up our role in early September. We were given only a few days notice of our appointment and have been busy reading reports and meeting people. We will have many more people to talk to and consult with as the process goes on. Currently, we are focusing on understanding the scope of the challenges ahead as quickly as possible.

The goal that we are charged with is clear. We are to govern the Council in a way that stabilises and then strengthens the Council organisationally and financially. In doing so, we must comply with

the Local Government Act 2002 and other statutes which impose duties and obligations upon Council.

The timetable

While we essentially assume the responsibilities of previously elected councillors, we also work under the specific requirements of the Minister. He has charged us with ensuring Council is ready for elections to take place in October 2015. This means that elections will not be held next year. While the elected councillors remain in office, they no longer have any powers, perform any function or receive any payment.

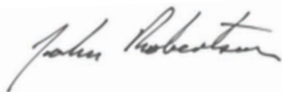
The challenges

We have some significant challenges ahead. There are important issues to resolve and the more quickly we resolve them, the better.

Most of the issues are of a financial or legal nature. We cannot promise to 'fix' everything quickly, or in the way some people might wish us to. We will need to make calls on where costs and benefits lie and on matters of fairness and equity. As the governing body, Commissioners must follow due process and then finally make decisions based on what we believe is in the best interests of ratepayers.

We thank you for the support you have shown so far and expect and hope to meet many of you personally in the months ahead.

Sincerely



John Robertson
Chairman of Commissioners

A place to start

In one of their final resolutions prior to the appointment of Commissioners, elected Councillors adopted a 2012-2022 Long Term Plan. The Plan sets out Council's service and capital investment intentions for the next 10 years, and indicates how things will be funded. If Councillors had not adopted the Long Term Plan and set rates for this year, the Council would not be able to pay its bills and run the District.

The Plan strikes the rates for the year ending 30 June 2013. If you are a ratepayer, you will be receiving a bill shortly.

We recognise that some people have concerns about the Long Term Plan and we will ensure that those concerns are heard. We are determined to test the Plan on your behalf to ensure it is financially sustainable. If it is not, we may need to make amendments to it. If so, that process will involve consultation with ratepayers.

At this stage however, the Plan provides Commissioners with a place to start from.

Your Commissioners

The Minister has appointed Commissioners with a depth of relevant experience. They are:



John Robertson, QSO, Chairman.

John has public sector experience as a former Member of Parliament and a former Mayor of Papakura, and Chair of Infrastructure Auckland. He is an accredited member of the Institute of Directors, is a Chartered Accountant and a professional director.



Richard Booth

Richard is a Whangarei-based horticulturalist and farmer, with considerable experience in the dairy industry and as a director. He is chair of Delta Produce and the Northland Dairy Development Trust, and the farmer representative on the Northland Regional Council Environmental Committee.



Colin Dale, CNZM, JP.

Colin was CEO at Manukau City Council for more than 20 years. He served as a Director of Housing NZ for five years and as Acting CEO for the Far North District Council and the Local Government Commission for periods of time. He was a member of the Lottery Grants Boards Community Committee and is currently Convenor of the Auckland Sport and Recreation Reference Group and Advisor to Watercare Services on Iwi relationships. Colin's family have a home in Mangonui.



Peter Winder

Peter is a former CEO of the Auckland Regional Council, Director of Transport at the Auckland Regional Council, and CEO of Local Government New Zealand. He is a director of McGredy Winder & Co, advisers to local and regional government authorities.

To contact us

To contact the Kaipara District Council, you should call 09 439 3123, or e-mail council@kaipara.govt.nz

To contact the Commissioners, please contact the Council or email commissioners@kaipara.govt.nz

Should you wish to communicate with Chairman John Robertson, please contact the Council or e-mail John at jrobertson@kaipara.govt.nz.