

Kia ora,

Maintaining focus on **core activities** of Kaipara District Council has been a priority through 2020, a year of many challenges. Through exceptional droughts, floods and pandemic alerts, lockdowns and border closures between Kaipara District and Auckland, we've carried on doing what's needed to be done. Kaipara District Council was reported by the NZ Herald as the first council in the country to hold a meeting online under the new pandemic laws. KDC was also a finalist in recent awards between 110 New Zealand Councils and council organisations for introducing Microsoft Teams - a new software system which meant the staff could continue working from home and connecting efficiently with each other while in lockdown and beyond.

For most of the last decade it would have been difficult to imagine Kaipara District Council being acknowledged for smart information technology investments. We've proven ourselves to be a cool little Council that's light on its feet, seeking new efficiencies while maintaining service levels and getting on with the job.

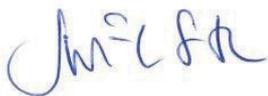
In recent weeks announcements have been made by Government to fund a number of Kaipara District Council infrastructure projects. The Kaihū Valley trail, unsealed roading network, Kaiwaka bridges, stop banks and drainage, and Mangawhai shared path are to benefit from these infrastructure funds. Following on from the Kaipara Kickstart projects already underway (wharves, roads, Kaipara kai), these extra steps are an outstanding boost to the Kaipara community. The projects are expected to bring short term employment and long-lasting benefits for the region, supporting tourism, securing land productivity and improving travel.

The direction of travel of the new **2021-2031 Kaipara District Long Term Plan** has been taking shape. It's a season for sharpening pencils over budgets, assessing projects and working out what infrastructure needs to be addressed sooner rather than later. We'll soon be at events in the community listening and talking to you, sharing ideas with informal processes before we incorporate those ideas into the Draft Long Term Plan which will go for consultation in February/March 2021.

With a weather eye on Central Government's stated intention to remove from Councils across New Zealand their core water infrastructure, (that's all the pipes and systems for drinking water, waste water and stormwater, called "**The 3 Waters**"), we are working with what we know towards the Long Term Plan. At present for Councils it's a bit like flying a plane while it's being dismantled. Rest assured we're doing our best for Kaipara District and will keep the community fully informed of what's proposed for these community-owned assets for which Kaipara locals and ratepayers alone have paid.

With a different kind of weather-eye we are also watching closely the **dry ground conditions** across Kaipara through this spring, after a winter when the normal rains did not happen. Farmers and growers are concerned, and tank water users are already alert to water conservation for the summer which feels as if its already upon us. It will pay to consider now your water conservation habits for the season ahead, starting early if the drought looms large for us in Kaipara again. Go carefully in these changing times.

Ngā mihi nui



Dr Jason Smith
Mayor

Projects completed July to September 2020

1. Kaihu Water Take Construction to secure pipework for the Dargaville/Baylys Water network
2. Kai Iwi Lakes/Taharoa Domain – area wide removal of pest plants and implementation of pest plant plan, alongside pest animal cull.
3. Waihue Road, Baylys Coast Road, Parore West Road, Awakino Road rubbish clean up – rubbish a waste removal from roadside
4. Pou Tu o Te Rangi – Pest plant removal, clearance and implementation of pest plant plan
5. Baylys Beach Boardwalk starts construction from carpark to toilet block
6. Dargaville Pontoon works begin



We've also awarded over \$250,000 in grants and funds for a variety of community led projects covering youth sports, the arts and creative communities, and community wellbeing projects.

We've held webinars about various Kaipara Kai projects, including climate and food production, and adopted some Spatial Plans which will contribute to our review of the District Plan.

The libraries have also hosted their popular School Holiday Programmes and made reusable masks for people that need them most.