



Kaipara te Oranganui

KAIPARA DISTRICT

Two Oceans Two Harbours

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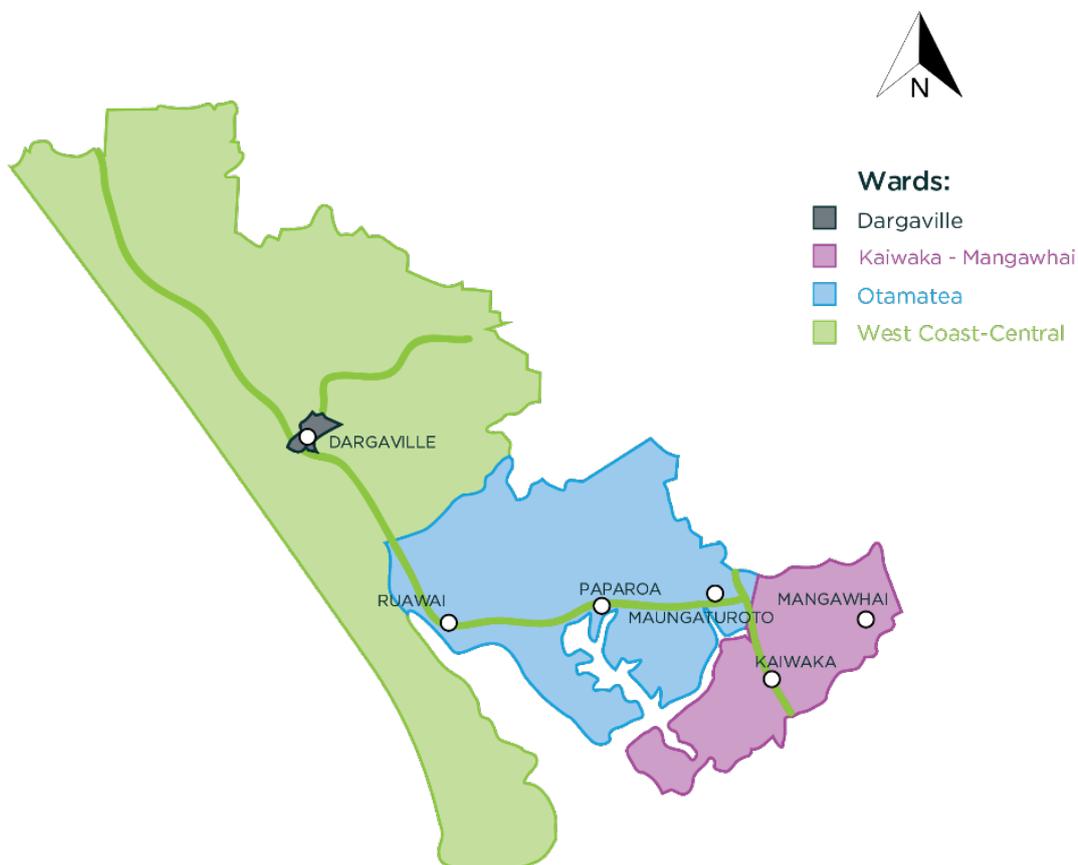
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April/May 2019

Kia ora

Making real progress for Kaipara District, autumn is the season for the largest amount of roadworks, heavy-metal laying and grading of roads in Kaipara. Expect to see lots of activity on our roads. So, keep safe and patient, for there may be delays as you go. **Getting on with business**, in recent weeks we've had the sod-turning and earthworks have begun for Mangawhai Central, the largest ever development in Kaipara District. I regard this as a coming of age project for Kaipara District which has its 30th anniversary this year. It's also a key sign of growth and confidence in this fastest-growing District in the North Island, and Council is working closely with the developers as things take shape with this large-scale project.

The form and shape of the next Kaipara District Council has been finalised and confirmed by the Local Government Commission. The four ward scheme decided by Council last year, following a rigorous **Representation Review** process, was confirmed in early April as the best way forward for representation of citizens around the Council table in Kaipara. This means there will be eight Councillors (the same number as now), but in a new look model of two in each ward. Simple, logical and taking into account growth in the east of Kaipara District, there will be a new Kaiwaka-Mangawhai Ward, along with an Otamatea Ward from Brynderwyn to Tokatoka, a Dargaville Ward and a West Coast-Central Ward which is the old Hobson County area. We'll all be voting along these lines in October 2019, and any potential candidates for the Council election will take special note from here.



Also of special note, in addition to the **Kaipara Kickstart** Provincial Growth Fund projects announced in early February (\$27 million for roading, wharves and growing the kai (food) in Kaipara), recently an announcement was made of a PGF-funded **water storage project** in Kaipara. This Northland Regional Council-led project proposal has been developed in partnership with Kaipara District Council and promises additional water storage in the Kaihu Valley northwest of Dargaville. Future water demands are forecast to increase in this growing district, so water will be a key to future development planning.

Helping set the future direction for development of Kaipara District is the **District Plan Review** currently underway. Community meetings and consultations have been gathering information about our values and targets for Kaipara District, showing the way for what's important and where we're headed. The experts at these meetings are the community people with their local knowledge, commitment to making the place and passion for the Kaipara. Council officers are bringing together this knowledge for a bright and forward-focused Kaipara District Plan that will set us up right for this fastest-growing District in the North Island.

Shaping up and making real progress is how I'd describe what's happening across Kaipara District this season. I'm really enjoying serving as Mayor of Kaipara District at this special time when we're setting direction, building momentum and getting on with the job for the future of this place. And what a great place, filled with so many bright tomorrows. Enjoy yours.

Nga mihi nui

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Dr Jason Smith".

Dr Jason Smith

Mayor of Kaipara District

P.S. **Kaipara Citizens Awards** call for nominations - opens 01 June 2019. Remember that the kumara doesn't say how sweet it is; our modest Kaipara citizens won't put themselves forwards and will need to be nominated by other people. Criteria are available at www.kaipara.govt.nz/citizens