



Kaipara te Oranganui

**KAIPARA
DISTRICT**

Two Oceans Two Harbours

 42 Hokianga Road
 Private Bag 1001,
 Dargaville 0340
 Northland
 New Zealand

 p 09 439 3123
 p 0800 727 059
 f 09 439 6754
 e council@kaipara.govt.nz

January 2019

Kia ora

Starting at the beginning of the new calendar year gives us all a chance to scan the horizon before diving in. From this distance it all looks fine between these two oceans and two harbours of Kaipara district. But there are some interesting things in the water.

Kaipara the growth district

Making a bit of a splash in news reports in late 2018, Kaipara district has 3.1% annual population increase, the largest growth rate for any non-city district in the North Island of New Zealand. We welcome new-comers making the smart choice to join us and celebrate together the good times ahead for Kaipara which is now really in the swim and ahead of the tide.

For Council, the Kaipara growth story – trending across 2018 and into what we can see on the near horizon through 2019 - really could be a whale of a tale. Growth is great but also presents challenges. On the ground now, **growing pains** are very evident. Building consents and resource consents for development in Kaipara are flowing in faster than new staff can be employed to process them. With rapid growth at the same time as there is a shortage of planners, for the time being the processing of resource consent and planning consent applications is slower than any of us would like. Not content with this situation, please be aware Council is leaving no stone unturned to improve this situation both in terms of the way we operate and the way we can pursue talent to join our Kaipara team, but this is taking time.

Popularity of Kaipara district means we're also expecting to land a handful of very large subdivision developments and estate projects. Biggest of these is expected to be Mangawhai Central with hundreds of residential sites, large retail precincts, a retirement village, proposed supermarket, possibly a school. This will mean a super-sized demand for Council services.

All told, this whale of a tale about growth will be one to watch in 2019, on a scale we've not seen here before. Kaipara District Council will be managing and supporting real growth to meet the needs of our rapidly expanding, thriving Kaipara community. We're not letting this one get away.

Also out there with our name on it in 2019, and proving to be elusive for Kaipara District Council since its March 2018 launch, will be extra support from the Government's **Provincial Growth Fund**. As part of the Northland "surge" region it's particularly disappointing Kaipara has not been successful to date with any project applications to this \$3billion fund. With keen focus, in 2019 it's hoped Kaipara will land projects from this fund to give the place a boost and help us step up as part of the "surge" region rather than be left out beyond the break in a surf region.

In summary, the tide is coming in for Kaipara district. Whether we're catching waves, making a whale of a tale or landing a big one, there's a lot going on between Kaipara district's two oceans and two harbours in 2019. It's going to be a whopper of a year.

Nga mihi nui

Dr Jason Smith, Mayor of Kaipara District