



Kaipara te Orangahui

**KAIPARA
DISTRICT**

Two Oceans Two Harbours

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Kia ora,

Getting on with the job around Kaipara is the spirit of the season. For a small Council like Kaipara, which does not have investments or shareholdings in ports or airports, revenue comes mainly from rates. In the current period of economic uncertainties Kaipara District Council has fewer uncertainties than other councils may have. There is no 'budget hole' to fill. We've built our plan accordingly.

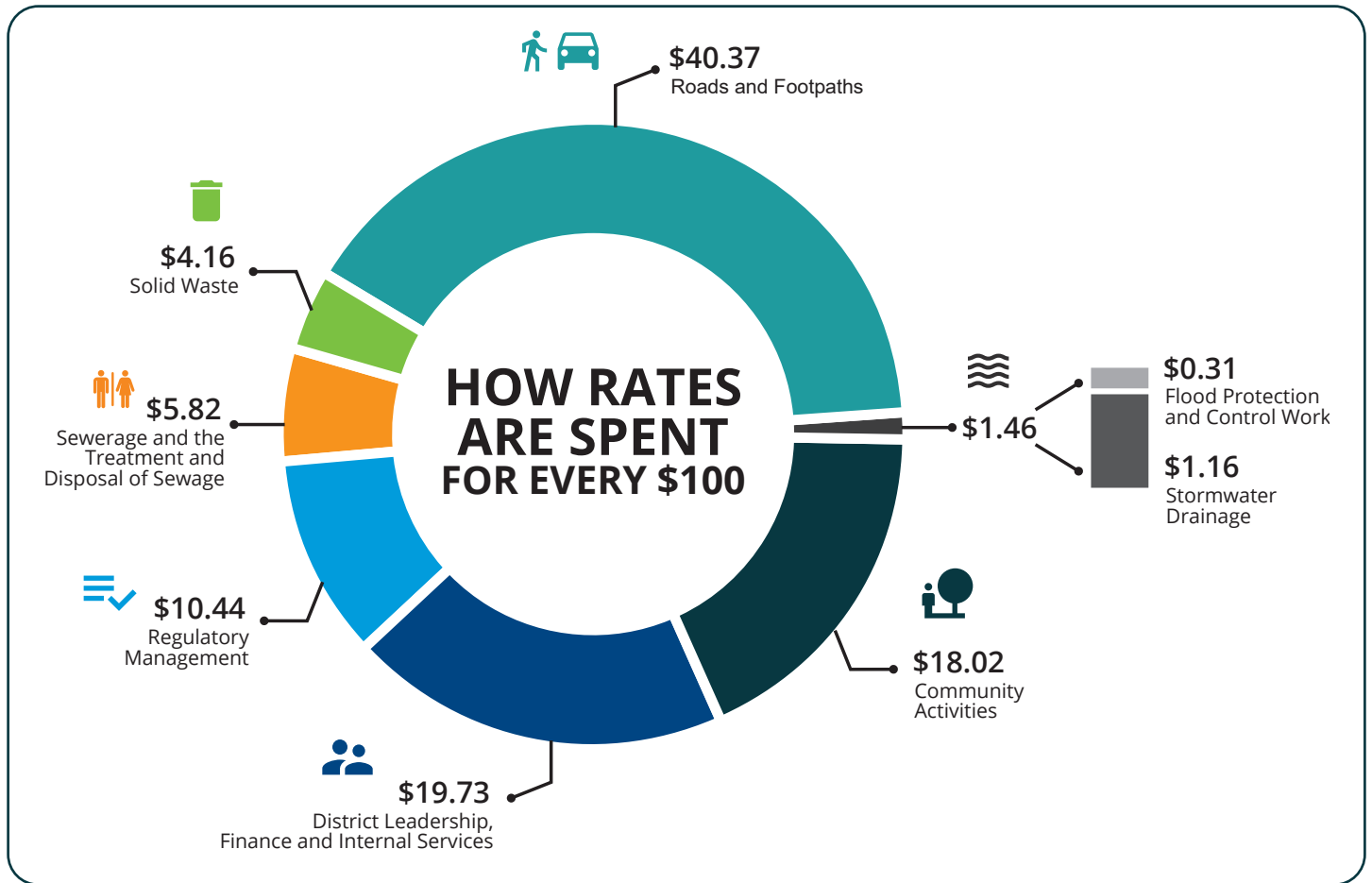
In December 2019 Kaipara District Council set its predicted average rates rise for the Annual Plan 2020/21 at 5.45%. In rapid response to the COVID-19 pandemic and economic forecasts this number was substantially revised downwards to 3.97%, set to maintain service levels of Kaipara District Council. While this may be a larger number than neighbouring councils, any comparison between councils will always be flawed because the exact situation for each council is unique. Each council makes its decisions for the current and future residents of its own place. With the fastest growing rural district in the North Island Kaipara has no choice but to keep forward-investing in growth. With a chequered past for its road network KDC chooses to continue investing in roading. Any rates increase less than 3.97% would certainly have meant worse roads for Kaipara people. At a time when so much progress has been made that would set Kaipara back years. Depreciation of assets is included here, rather than avoiding that cost and setting KDC up for a larger 'catch-up' bill in the future. This council has painfully learned that lesson in the past, and we don't want to repeat such a deferral of economic realities. Kaipara District Council chooses to maintain a staff which in recent years has been increasing services for Kaipara people; they're needed to be on their game for the journey ahead. There is much to be getting on with.

Smart new technology investments that makes Council more efficient and improves service levels have been a priority and the fruits of this are now showing. Kaipara District Council staff can access documents stored "in the cloud" from anywhere, rather than being fixed at one desk. That's particularly important for Kaipara where there are three office sites, plus COVID-19 work-from-home options. These investments made it possible for KDC staff to continue working and customer service levels to be maintained during the COVID-19 lockdown period. In coming weeks there will be further exciting Information Technology announcements, including the District Plan being online and searchable. It will be possible for you to hover over a digital map of your property and then be linked to the exact chapters of the District Plan relevant to your property. There will also be a new tool where you will be able to take a photo on your phone of (say) a pothole and then upload it via an app directly to the Council roading team who will log the problem and its location, set the team into action to check it. There's also the suite of new crop and Kaipara land use documents for growers and landowners under the Kaipara Kai project – perfect winter reading. For these developments and more please familiarise yourself with the new Kaipara District Council website **www.kaipara.govt.nz**.

There's much to see here that's bright and new. That's how we're getting on with the job and helping Kaipara rise strong. Kia kaha Kaipara!

Nga mihi nui

Mayor Dr Jason Smith



Some of our planned projects for 2020-2021

Road Works - Sealed		\$4,028,084
Road Works - Unsealed		\$2,250,000
Water Supply Upgrades		\$760,000
Stormwater Drainage		\$296,000
Wastewater Schemes		\$1,900,000
Treatment Plant Upgrades		\$650,000
Local Parks and Reserves		\$280,000
Wood Street Redevelopment		\$400,000

Important Dates

All rates, with the exception of water charges for metered properties, will be payable in four equal instalments due on:

- Instalment 1
20 August 2020
- Instalment 2
20 November 2020
- Instalment 3
20 February 2021
- Instalment 4
20 May 2021

Projects for 2020-2021

Alongside a broad capital works programme, Kaipara District Council are also focusing on supporting recovery post COVID-19, improving existing infrastructure services across the Kaipara, various projects under the Kaipara Kickstart programme (Provincial Growth Fund), implementing a number of Government funded infrastructure projects and continuing the work around the District Plan review, alongside the Mangawhai Community Plan implementation.

Rates Rebates

Rates rebates for 2020-2021 are now open. You can find the form for this year online via www.govt.nz or via either of the Council offices. Applications have to be with Council by June 30 2021.