

Greetings from the Mayor

A significant month for Kaipara District. The consultation document for the Long Term Plan 2024 – 2027 is out and outlines our proposed plans to recovery — a roadmap for Kaipara. The direction for the next three years affects all of us who live in this beautiful district, so now is the time to share your thoughts and speak up for Kaipara.

When we first commenced the long term plan preparations, we did not foresee the severe weather events which would cause major damage to roading and other infrastructure, saddling us with millions in recovery costs. Combined with significant pressure from compounding inflation and interest rates means we have more work to do and less money to do it with. For example, over the past three years the cost of building bridges has shot up by 38%, while wastewater systems have increased by 30% and roads and water supplies have jumped by 27%.

The resilience, quality and dependability of our roading network, the infrastructure most significantly impacted by the weather events, is a key priority for this Council. In addition to dealing with recovery repairs, we are taking a forward-thinking approach to find better ways of doing things. Smarter, cheaper, faster comes to mind. Recently, Council commissioned an independent report to consider options around the way roading and transport services are provided in our district. This work is ongoing. Council has also decided to put our roading and maintenance contract out to the open market to ensure we have an up-to-date contract that will deliver best value for money and allow our contractors to deliver high quality work for our district.

We are also using this time to catch up and plan for the future, supporting our vibrant communities and advocating for our district at every opportunity. We will be taking full advantage of external funding where we can.

Kaipara's economy, particularly our farmers and growers, have been hard hit both by weather and recessive economic conditions. This has flow on effects to our small and medium businesses reliant on a stable regional economy. As a responsible Council, we must take these economic conditions into account, and we have been working hard to set rates to the minimum possible. During the Long Term Plan consultative process and all the way up to adoption of the Long Term Plan (planned for late July), we will continue to investigate ways we can make further inroads to reduce costs.

Submissions close Saturday 4 May. Get involved and tell us what you think about any part of the plans we have.

Speak up for Kaipara and let's shape our future together.



Craig Jepson
Mayor Kaipara District



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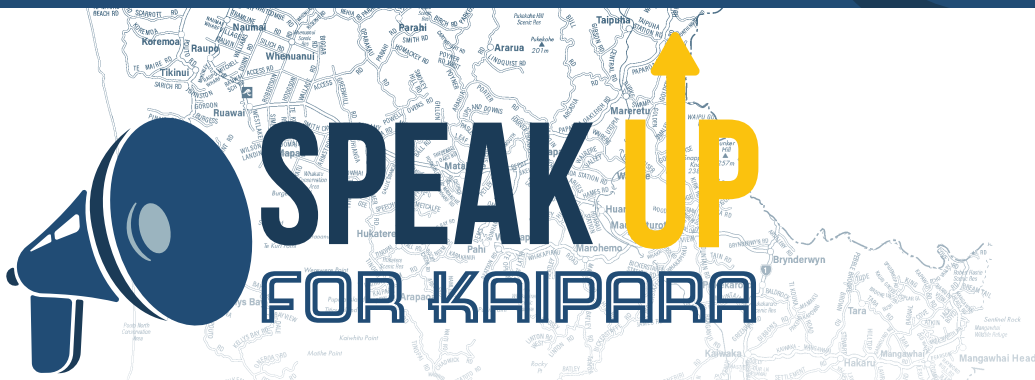
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Council's Long Term Plan (LTP) sets the strategic direction and work programme for the years ahead. It outlines the services we will provide, the projects we will undertake, the cost of doing this work, how it will be paid for and how we will measure our performance. Our LTP also incorporates a range of financial policies.

Now's the time to speak up about what you think Council should be doing over the next three years. It's important we hear from you so that your views can inform our decisions.

READ THE CONSULTATION DOCUMENT

The consultation document is available online at kaipara.govt.nz/ltp or at any Kaipara District Council office or library across the Kaipara District.

It contains information about some key topics we need your feedback on. We've also included highlights from the infrastructure and financial strategy, and links to further supporting information.

You can give feedback on anything in the consultation document or any of the accompanying source documents or policies.

CHECK YOUR PROPOSED RATES

You can check what your proposed rates will be for the 2024/2025 year using our online rates property search calculator.

HOW TO MAKE A SUBMISSION

There are a number of ways you can share your thoughts:

- Online submission form, available at kaipara.govt.nz/ltp
- PDF form at the back of the consultation document (also available online)
- Paper forms from any of our offices or libraries
- Drop in sessions where you can speak to an elected member and someone is available to help you complete your submission. These are all listed online at kaipara.govt.nz/ltp

It's easiest to complete your submission online. If you prefer to complete your submission on paper you can deliver it to any Kaipara District Council office or library across the Kaipara District, or post it to Kaipara District Council Long Term Plan submissions, Private Bag 1001, Dargaville 0340.

Make sure you submit your feedback by 11.59pm, Saturday 4 May 2024.

YOUR NEXT RATES INVOICE

Once the Long Term Plan is adopted and rates are confirmed, any rates rises will take effect on 1 July. Because the Long Term Plan will be adopted a month later than usual on 31 July, your first rates invoice will be delayed until mid August. This will mean that the 1st instalment won't be due for payment until 20 September. The remaining invoices for the year will fall due on the usual dates, being 20 Nov, 20 Feb and 20 May.