

# Greetings from the Mayor

Progress on council projects in the last month of the year saw the boardwalk extension for Baylys Beach finished, providing safe and accessible passage from the carpark to the beach; new, clean, modern toilets opened at Pahi; and Hubert Linnell Reserve opened at the end of Rangiora Road in Kaiwaka, with a concrete carpark and dedicated boat trailer parking, improved access, lighting, a vehicle turnaround area, and a public toilet. These projects support our communities and visitors and are made possible with support from the Tourism Infrastructure Fund (TIF).

There's plenty happening on our local roading network too. 'Tis the season for roadworks, as crews take advantage of the warmer drier weather and ramp up their activities – it has been impossible to miss them recently. Work on the slip remediation programme continues, and before the break we agreed additional funding be allocated to upgrading specific sections of unsealed roads – improving stormwater runoff, addressing flooding hotspots, and increasing the overall resilience of our network. You can keep up to date with all the work happening via the monthly roading report published on the council website.

Consultation closed on the proposed changes to the Revenue and Financing Policy in mid-December and we had more than 170 of you provide feedback. Thank you to everyone who submitted. We will be considering all submissions and listening to those who requested to speak to their feedback next month.

This first part of the year is geared up to be an especially busy time for Council. We're getting on with making Kaipara the place to be.



**Craig Jepson**  
*Mayor Kaipara District*



## Local Water Done Well

Central Government is implementing the Local Water Done Well programme announced in 2023, which paves the way for services and assets to be retained by council while offering new options for delivering water services and funding water infrastructure.

Council has discussed three potential options; a shared services arrangement with single or multiple councils; a combined Northland council-controlled organisation or sticking to status quo.

We still have work to do to land on the best possible outcome for ratepayers and residents. Part of this includes community consultation. We will be asking for your feedback on the options in the first part of this year. You can find more information about Local Water Done Well on our website.

## Proposed District Plan

District plans direct how we change, develop, and use our environment, as well as how we protect and safeguard it for future generations. We are continuing to make progress on the Proposed District Plan, which is currently in its development stage.

The Proposed District Plan is expected to be open for public submission in early 2025 once Council approves the plan for public notification. At that time, you'll be able to submit your views and have opportunities to be a part of the process.

## Get your rates by email

Wanting to go paperless?

Receive your rates bill via email by heading to [kaipara.govt.nz/rates-by-email](https://kaipara.govt.nz/rates-by-email)



## Milestone upgrade for flood protection

A new floodgate at Canal G in Te Kowhai is expected to be finished in the first part of this year. Once completed, the floodgate protects horticultural land and State Highway 12, a vital arterial route. It will also minimise the need to raise 30km of stop banks alongside the canal.



## How to pay your rates

The easiest way to make regular rates payments is by direct debit. You can make your payments weekly, fortnightly, monthly, quarterly or annually. We can help you set the direct debit up and do all the administration for you. There's no need for you to adjust your payments when rates change, we'll give you plenty of notice and adjust your payments annually.

You can also pay using:

- Bill payment
- Credit card online or
- Eftpos at our office.

You can contact our friendly team by phone **0800 727 059**, email [revenue@kaipara.govt.nz](mailto:revenue@kaipara.govt.nz) if you need a hand, or go to [kaipara.govt.nz/rates](http://kaipara.govt.nz/rates).

## Check it's alright before you light



Keep an eye out for fire ban signs. Head to [checkitsalright.nz](http://checkitsalright.nz) before lighting any fires.

Water restrictions are in place in some parts of the district. Council staff continue to closely monitor water levels and will be directing further water restrictions if necessary.

## Top water saving tips

1. Turn the tap off while you're brushing your teeth.
2. If your household uses tank water, check around the tank for any leaks and keep an eye on your water tank levels.
3. In areas on town supply, help us out by reporting any leaks or unusually wet ground in dry weather.
4. Put mulch on your garden to keep the soil moist. Mulching can prevent up to 70% of water loss through evaporation.
5. Catch water while you're having a shower. You can use it on your garden – just don't pour it on your fruit and vegetable plants.
6. In the kitchen, catch water in a jug or bottle while you're waiting for it to run hot. You can put it in the fridge to drink later.

## Rates rebates

Did you know you could get up to \$790 off your rates bill?

Ratepayers who own their own home, that they are living in on 1 July 2024 and have a low income, may be eligible for a government rates rebate on their rates bill.

Department of Internal Affairs current threshold for a rebate is \$31,510 per year. You may still be eligible for a rebate even if you are above the income threshold.

## Find out if you are eligible

- [Kaipara.govt.nz/rates](http://Kaipara.govt.nz/rates)
- Visit the Mangawhai or Dargaville council office
- 0800 727 059

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