

A message from the Mayor

January is a time for fresh beginnings, and it's a good opportunity to share how we are progressing towards our vision of Kaipara – the place to be!

At the district level, our Long Term Plan 2024–2027 outcomes continue to guide us: a healthy environment, a prosperous economy, vibrant communities, dependable roading, and affordable living. Over the past year, we've advanced the proposed District Plan, which introduces new zoning that helps us carefully manage growth in high-demand areas like Mangawhai, while allowing for subdivision in western parts of the district. At the same time, we are protecting higher class land to safeguard Kaipara's critical primary production industry. It is about keeping the right balance of enabling managed growth while protecting what sustains us.

On a regional level, collaboration with our Northland neighbours is strengthening our ability to deliver for our residents and ratepayers. Northland Water Done Well is progressing plans to deliver wastewater and water services for all of Northland via a new council-controlled organisation (CCO) by July 2027. Two councillors and the mayor of each district have recently formed an elected member steering group to oversee the establishment of the CCO.

At the national level, government has announced a major review of local government, including proposals that could eventually abolish regional councils. Northland's Mayoral Forum (made up of the region's three district mayors and the

Northland Regional Council Chair) has welcomed the opportunity for discussion, noting the current structure has been in place for more than 35 years. All four councils are united in ensuring that any reform delivers real benefits for our communities and reflects what is best for Northland. We will keep you updated as this progresses.

Other recently announced legislative reform will see the Resource Management Act 1991, which prescribes key council functions, repealed and replaced with two new Acts – a Planning Act and a Natural Environment Act. NZTA also recently announced the much anticipated preferred route for the Northland Corridor motorway from Te Hana to Whangarei. Progress is being made with the Warkworth to Te Hana section of the motorway, with construction to commence in late 2026, adding to our district's appeal by bringing four lanes right to Kaipara's doorstep.

I am confident Kaipara is well positioned for 2026 and beyond. With your support, we will continue to deliver on the outcomes of our Long Term Plan, making sure our district really is the place to be — not only for today's residents but for generations to come.



Jonathan Larsen
Mayor of Kaipara District



Proposed District Plan




Proposed District Plan hearings are underway. For more details about hearings you might be involved in or further information on the progress of the Proposed District Plan, visit kaipara.govt.nz/district-plan-review.



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 one of our offices)

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

Rates rebates

Did you know you could get up to \$805 off your rates bill? Ratepayers who own their own home that they were living in on 1 July 2025 and have a low income, may be eligible for a government rates rebate on their rates bill.

The Department of Internal Affairs threshold for a rebate is \$32,210 per year and \$45,000 for SuperGold cardholders, but 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
- Visit the Mangawhai or Dargaville council office
- 0800 727 059

SuperGold cardholders

If applying in person, please bring your card and for applications by mail or email, include a copy of the name and signature side of your card for verification.

Water saving tips

Hot days, thirsty gardens, and busy households – summer puts extra pressure on water supplies. Every drop counts, so here are some simple ways to help conserve this precious resource.

- Turn the tap off while you're brushing your teeth.
- If your household uses tank water, check around the tank for any leaks and keep an eye on your water tank levels.
- In areas on town supply, help us out by reporting any leaks or unusually wet ground in dry weather.
- Put mulch on your garden to keep the soil moist. Mulching can prevent up to 70% of water loss through evaporation.
- 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.
- 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.



CHECK IT'S ALRIGHT BEFORE YOU LIGHT

Keep an eye out for fire ban signs. Head to checkitsalright.nz before lighting any fires.