

Greetings from the Mayor

Our new Long Term Plan (LTP) 2024–2027 sets out a bold new vision for Kaipara District, Kaipara – the place to be!

This vision is underpinned by five key community outcomes: prosperous economy, affordable living, dependable roading, vibrant communities and healthy environment. The related budgets and work programmes set the direction and timeframe for the achievement of these outcomes.

Early engagement and consultation determined that a key priority for Kaipara ratepayers and residents is dependable roading. In the lead up to finalising the LTP, Council has made three key moves in this space. Firstly, Council has engaged Downers as a new lead road maintenance contractor. Secondly, this new contract requires 40 percent of the maintenance work to be carried out by local contractors. Thirdly, we have got out of the Northland Transportation Alliance (NTA), and brought our roading staff back in-house. I am looking forward to seeing tangible roading maintenance improvements.

Our community is feeling the pressure of a cost of living crisis, price escalations, high interest rates and an economic downturn. We heard from our ratepayers about their need for rates affordability. I committed to getting rates increases to below 9%. Through the hard

work of staff and elected members we have smoothed average annual rates increases of 8.9% (after growth) across the three year LTP period. This ensures a more affordable approach than having significant rates increases in individual years, whilst still maintaining core services and work programmes.

Despite the current economic challenges, Kaipara District is achieving growth and prosperity. Our strategic location on the doorstep of Auckland, affordable land accessibility, and diverse natural assets enhance its appeal as an attractive destination for residents, investors and businesses. We are actively promoting Kaipara as a district which is cost competitive and has sensible simple consenting and planning rules.

We are focused on the future. I know that together we can all make Kaipara – the place to be!



Craig Jepson
Mayor Kaipara District



Read the Long Term Plan 2024–2027 on our website at [kaipara.govt.nz](https://www.kaipara.govt.nz)

How have my rates changed?

On average, rates have gone up by 8.9% (after growth) for the 2024/2025 year. That means around half of people will experience a change of more than that and half will experience a change of less than that.

Your rates are made up of two components.

General rates

General rates are shared throughout the district, depending on the value of your land. A fixed amount known as the Uniform Annual General Charge (UAGC) is also charged to all properties. This pays for general services such as road maintenance. This year, the UAGC has changed from \$800 to \$725 including GST.

Targeted rates

These rates are paid by some people, depending on where you live or the specific services you receive. Targeted rates may be based on land value or they may

be a fixed amount. Examples of targeted rates that are based on land value are land drainage areas, such as Raupō Drainage, or stormwater. These are listed on your rates invoice. When rates are fixed, everyone who pays the targeted rate pays the same amount. Some examples are the Dargaville or Ruawai CCTV rate, Mangawhai Harbour restoration rate, and rates for wastewater services.

This year there is also a new targeted rate that you will see on your invoice, the Parks and Libraries Targeted Rate. Previously, this has been paid for through general rates, which means that the charge to ratepayers varied depending on the value of your land. As part of the long term plan discussions, Council agreed that every ratepayer would pay the same amount, regardless of land or capital value for your property.

Council also agreed to separate the CCTV targeted rate between the Ruawai and greater Dargaville areas that it used to collect as one rate on behalf of the Dargaville Community Development Board.

What affects the rates that you pay

Council work programme

Many services we provide are paid for by rates. The volume of work, and the cost of it, affects the total amount we collect. Most of the work we do is necessary to keep services, such as roads, water and wastewater systems, working. Generally, this work cannot be deferred. A small part of our budget, such as the grants we provide or the parks we manage, are important to help our communities thrive. When setting rates, elected members carefully balance the benefit of the service against the cost to ratepayers.

External funding

To minimise the cost to ratepayers, we look for alternative funding sources, such as government grants, wherever possible. Projects like Rangiora Road park upgrades, Pahi toilet, and the Mangawhai shared path are all supported by central government funding. The emergency road repairs we are completing this year as a result of extreme weather events will be supported by a higher NZ Transport Agency subsidy.

Property value

Some rates are based on the value of your land, when compared with other land values in the district. Legislation requires that valuations must be reviewed every three years to help set local body rates.

Updated values have been prepared for all properties in the district by independent valuers Quotable Value (QV) on behalf of Council. Since the last valuation in 2020, the average increase in land value across the district is 55%. Residential land values have risen by an average of 70%.

The new valuations which show the value of land in Kaipara has increased do not increase revenue for the Council. The new valuations will reallocate or redistribute the rates between ratepayers, depending on how their property value has changed in relation to the average change of the district.

Read more on new rating valuations for Kaipara at qv.co.nz.

Get your rates by email

Receiving your rates invoice by email means you will have it right where you need it when it comes to paying online and it won't get lost in a pile of papers. Getting your rates by email also saves you money, because it saves us money.

If you don't have access to emails, we're happy to keep posting invoices, but if you are connected, give it a try!

Northland Regional Council rates

Your invoice includes rates for Northland Regional Council (NRC). Note that NRC have increased their rates this year by 15.94%, or \$81.20 increase per average rate bill. These are collected by KDC on behalf of NRC. Find out more at nrc.govt.nz.

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 if you need a hand, or go to kaipara.govt.nz/rates.

Rates rebates

The Rates Rebates Scheme provides a rebate for low-income earners who were paying rates for the home they were living in on 1 July 2024. The maximum rates rebate is \$790.

The 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 earn more than the income threshold.

Find out more

- Online at kaipara.govt.nz, search word 'rates'
- By visiting council offices in Mangawhai or Dargaville
- By phoning 0800 727 059

To get your rates invoice by email go to kaipara.govt.nz/rates-by-email

