

A message from the mayor

As we begin the new financial year, I know many households and businesses across Kaipara are continuing to feel the effects of rising living costs. That's why affordability was front of mind as council worked through the Annual Plan and budget for 2026/2027.

In May, I raised a notice of motion to look for further savings and reduce the impact on ratepayers. As a result, the average rates increase for this year is now 3.9% across the district (after growth).

While any rates increase is challenging, this outcome reflects a conscious effort to ease pressure on households while continuing to deliver the services and infrastructure our communities expect. Council has worked hard to strike a balance between affordability today and investing in the assets that will support our district now and into the future.

I am genuinely excited about so much of our work this year, not least the major investment we continue to make in our roading network. We know reliable roads are essential for everyday life, whether it's getting to work, taking children to school, connecting communities, or supporting local businesses.

That's why we continue to prioritise roading, with funding set aside for major resilience projects to speed up improvements across the district and make the most of external funding. This sits alongside our broader works programme and ongoing maintenance work.

We also have a \$54 million capital works programme planned. This is delivering growth infrastructure, renewing essential assets, and improving the services we provide to our communities. These are long-term investments in our district's future, and they're critical to supporting a growing and resilient district.

Kaipara is making solid progress, and there's real momentum behind us. With a clear direction and our communities alongside us, we're well placed to keep building a district that works for everyone.



Jonathan Larsen
Mayor of Kaipara District



Your rates invoice will look a little different

We've rolled out a new layout for rates invoices, to make them easier to understand. You'll now find separate rates assessments

for Kaipara District Council and Northland Regional Council, while instalment amounts and due dates are shown on the front page.

Northland Waters set to take over water services in 2027

From 1 July 2027 Northland Waters will take over responsibility for drinking water and wastewater services across the Far North, Whangārei and Kaipara districts.

Jointly owned by the three district councils, Northland Waters is being established as a dedicated, region-wide water services

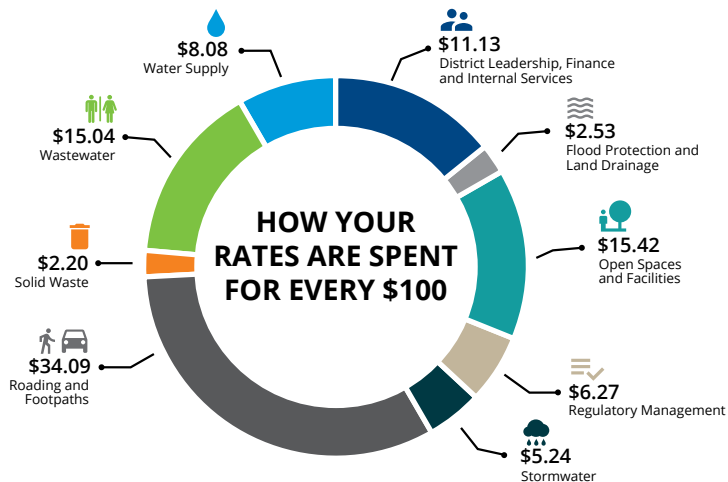
organisation in response to the Government's Local Water Done Well reforms.

Northland Waters will deliver these services on behalf of the councils while retaining public ownership and local accountability, and providing opportunities to achieve efficiencies for ratepayers over time.

What's been happening in Kaipara

How have rates changed?

On average, rates have increased 3.9% (after growth) for the 2026/2027 year.



This table shows overall council expenditure. Some of these rates do not apply to all ratepayers, such as water supply.

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 like road maintenance.

Targeted rates

These rates are charged 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 assessment. When rates are fixed, everyone who pays the targeted rate pays the same amount. Some examples are the Dargaville CCTV rate, Mangawhai Harbour restoration rate, and rates for wastewater services.

Simplifying Local Government

Central government is looking at changing how councils are set up across New Zealand, including the option of combining district and regional councils into single unitary authorities. This is a once in a generation change to local government that will shape how Northland communities are served, represented, and heard for decades to come. Kaipara District Council has joined a Northland-wide Local Government Reform Elected Member Steering Group, which brings together elected representatives from all four councils across Northland to provide regional leadership and oversight of work exploring how local government could be organised in the future.



Stay updated on local government reforms at kaipara.govt.nz/slg



Changes to rates rebates

The rates rebate scheme has been updated for 2026/2027, with changes to both the income thresholds and maximum rebate amount.

Key changes are:

- The maximum rates rebate will increase from \$805 to \$830.
- The income threshold for SuperGold Cardholders will increase from \$45,000 to \$46,400.
- The income threshold for other ratepayers will increase from \$32,210 to \$33,210.