

Greetings from the Mayor

Spring has well and truly sprung. I don't know about you but I have really been enjoying the recent switch to daylight savings and the longer light we have in the evenings. With the warmer, drier weather increasing, our roading teams are ramping up activity around roading improvements and road renewal programmes on our district's roads. I have been pleased to see the work of our new roading contractor whenever I have been out and about.

Our teams are also busy working through the last of the recovery repairs, the most serious and complex ones left to do. These repairs sit outside the standard maintenance work of our roading contractor, and are programmed through the next two years.

Coming up, look out for consultation next month on our Revenue and Financing Policy. The Revenue and Financing Policy sets out how we fund our operating and capital expenditure. We are proposing to make some changes to how certain services and activities are funded and want to know what you think. One of the topics that came up during consultation for the Long Term Plan 2024—2027 was feedback around our rating system and elected members agreed that this would be something we could look more closely at.

One of the key changes we are looking to consult on includes the proposal to change the way we calculate the general rate. We will be asking if you support a change from using land value (LV) to capital value (CV). We are also considering equalising the capital expenditure costs of our stormwater system. Lots to think about here. Consultation is planned for next month (November), and it's important that we have your feedback. In one way or another, it affects everyone in our community.

Look out for more details on the KDC website.



Craig Jepson
Mayor Kaipara District



Boost for recovery and resilience

A suite of recovery and resilience projects already underway in the district have been given a boost from the Government's Cyclone Recovery Capability Fund. The Fund is set up to support councils in accelerating recovery efforts following the severe weather events of 2023.

The five projects benefiting are:

- Increasing the Beach Road culvert, part of Dargaville's flood defense system
- Building a 500m earth stopbank on the upstream side of the Awakino railway to stabilise the bank
- Repairing four sections of the stopbanks/flood walls that are protecting Dargaville township from flooding by the Northern Wairoa and Kaihu rivers
- Increasing the bund height of the Dargaville wastewater treatment plant, helping to prevent it from flooding
- Cleaning the Awakino River mouth to improve water flow in high rain events (with NRC)

These projects are planned for completion by the end of June 2025.

TIF-funded projects underway

Work to extend the Baylys Beach boardwalk began in August and is coming along, with piling work underway. Completion is planned before summer and will improve connectivity between the beach, the new toilet facilities and the wider Baylys Beach residential area.

At Pahi, construction of the new toilets has started, including excavation for a holding tank and installation of two water tanks, with the toilet block to be moved onsite shortly.

Work on Hubert Linnell Reserve (Rangiora Road park/reserve area) is also progressing, with parking, lighting, and a turnaround area under development. Concrete has been poured, and road excavation to the boat ramp has started. Completion is on track for summer. These projects are funded from the Tourism Infrastructure Fund (TIF) administered by the Ministry of Innovation and Employment (MBIE).

Representation Review

We recently consulted on new representation arrangements for Kaipara. Thank you to everyone who provided feedback on the initial proposal.

In mid-October hearings and deliberations were held. Elected members will consider the feedback before confirming the representation arrangements for at least the 2025 elections.

You can find out more at kaipara.govt.nz/repreview



REPRESENTATION REVIEW 2024

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

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Accessibility strategy

There is now a Regional Accessibility Strategy, a joint-effort by all four councils in Te Tai Tokerau Northland.

Council staff worked together with residents from across Northland to identify how we can improve accessibility and the experiences of people with access needs. The strategy provides shared values, vision and actions to help us make Te Tai Tokerau more inclusive and accessible.

Find out more at nrc.govt.nz/accessiblenorthland



How to pay your rates

The easiest way to pay your rates is to make regular payments 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. You won't have to remember to pay your bill and there's no need for you to contact the bank or 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



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Eftpos at our office.

Find more information at kaipara.govt.nz/rates

You can contact our friendly revenue team on phone 0800 727 059 or email

revenue@kaipara.govt.nz if you need assistance.