

# Kia ora from the Mayor

“Billion Dollar Council” is a label which a few years ago no-one would have expected could be applied to Kaipara District Council anytime, let alone anytime soon. Now, following careful management of finances, infrastructure assets and growth, we’re forecast to reach that value of Council community assets within the next ten years. This may come as a pleasant surprise for some people. It’s worth celebrating how we’ve all come a long way together for this place, and the journey ahead which is even more exciting.

We’ve now charted our next ten years, which we’ve called “Growing a Better Kaipara” because that’s exactly what we are doing. Our Long Term Plan 2021-2031 is filled with projects for investment in roading, waters, climate change, recycling and programmes for sustainable growth. Ahead we’ve got an ambitious schedule of capital works to improve many areas of life in Kaipara. They’ll be funded more by external sources and less by rates. Thank you to those who gave us feedback on our LTP proposals. Your comments about what’s important have guided the decisions we made. We also included some further community projects raised in the feedback. You can find out all we have planned together for the coming years in the Long Term Plan on [kaipara.govt.nz](http://kaipara.govt.nz)

We’re starting off with a “steady-as-she-goes” approach to balancing rates increases and maintaining service levels for our community. Over the last few years our residential

rates increases have dropped below the average for all Councils in New Zealand. The average Kaipara general rates increase is now at 5.1% for 2021-2022. Meanwhile, we’ve reduced debt from \$83million in 2011 to \$50million now. The last decade of efforts by local ratepayers and the Council have us on the right track.

There are some areas of uncertainty ahead too. Government’s Three Waters reform, the Resource Management Act reform, Future of Local Government reform, and the recently announced proposals by Waka Kotahi NZTA for Kaipara roading levels of service to be reduced are all things we’re watching closely. They may change costs for ratepayers in future, but we cannot see that far yet. As we go forward we’ll keep you updated with new information as it comes to hand.

Finally, as we start the new Council business year period, welcome to the new-look rates newsletter. It’s intended to help you keep up with what’s happening with Council around your place. You’ll see there’s plenty more going on than before, as we’re growing a better Kaipara.

Nga mihi

Dr Jason Smith  
Mayor, Kaipara District



## How have my rates changed?

On average rates have gone up by **5.1%** for the 2021-2022 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. Some rates may even decrease by a small amount.

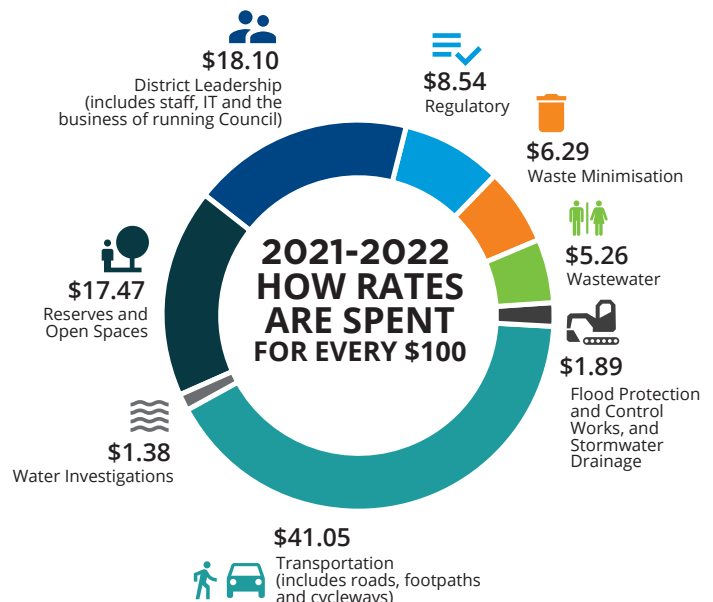
**Your rates are made up of two components.**

## 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 Raupo Drainage or storm water. These are listed on your rates invoice. When rates are fixed, everyone pays the same amount. An example is the Dargaville and surrounds CCTV rate, Mangawhai Harbour restoration rate and rates for wastewater services.

## General rates

These rates are shared throughout the district, depending on the value of your land. A fixed amount of \$764 is also charged to all properties as the Uniform Annual General Charge. This pays for general services such as road maintenance, district leadership and reserves and open spaces. For the first year of the LTP, this is how general rates are spent per \$100.



# What affects the rates that I 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 the Council needs to 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, the Council looks for alternative funding sources, such as government grants, wherever it can. Projects such as the Mangawhai Shared Path and the current upgrade to the unsealed road network are all funded through the government.

Some projects, such as Kaipara Kai, the Kaihu Valley Trail, and Kaipara Wharves, are only made possible through external funding.

## Property value

Some rates are based on the value of your land, when compared with other land values in the district. Land values were updated on 1 September 2020 and will affect the proportion of rates you pay. If your property value has gone up more than the average (17.5%) the proportion of rates you pay, based on land value, will increase.

If you think of the Council's rates as a pie, the size of the pie does not get any bigger as a result of the revaluation. However, your slice of the pie may get bigger or smaller depending on how your property value has changed in relation to the average change for the district.

Read more about the revaluation at [kaipara.govt.nz/reval](http://kaipara.govt.nz/reval)

## Equalising water and wastewater rates

The Council sought feedback on its proposal to charge the same fee for all properties connected to town water supply or those connected (or capable of connecting) to the wastewater network as part of its Long Term Plan 2021-2031 consultation. The proposal was supported.

The costs of providing and maintaining drinking water and wastewater services will be shared across all those connected within the district. This will reduce fluctuations

in costs when major works are needed. It particularly benefits those on small systems, where few people currently share the costs, or older systems, which are likely to need more maintenance. Over time, we expect the costs of managing all systems will even out.

The change for those connected to the Te Kopuru wastewater scheme will be phased in over three years.




## Northland Regional Council rates

Your invoice includes rates for Northland Regional Council (NRC). These are collected by KDC on behalf of NRC.

## 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. 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
-  Credit card online or
-  Eftpos at our office.




We cannot accept cheques as our bank no longer process them.

You'll find more information at [kaipara.govt.nz/rates](http://kaipara.govt.nz/rates)  
You can contact our friendly team by phone 0800 727 059 or email [revenue@kaipara.govt.nz](mailto:revenue@kaipara.govt.nz) if you need a hand.

## Rates rebates

The Rates Rebates Scheme provides a rebate of up to \$665 for low-income earners who were paying rates for the home they were living in on 1 July 2021.

Find out more

-  Online at [govt.nz](http://govt.nz), search word 'rates'
-  By visiting Council offices in Mangawhai or Dargaville
-  By phoning 0800 727 059