

What's been happening in Kaipara

Many of these projects have been made possible with the support of Kānoa – Regional Economic Development & Investment Unit and Waka Kotahi NZ Transport Agency.



Kaiwaka Footbridges officially opened



Work started on Kaihu Valley Trail



Number 5 plastics can now go in your yellow recycling bag



Poutō Road phase 1 sealing completed



Mangawhai shared path work is progressing



First crops harvested at Kaipara Water demonstration sites



Kia ora from the Mayor

Even lower expectations for KDC rates in the 2022-23 Annual Plan year, commencing 1 July, are now firmly on the cards as Council gets closer to its June finalisation of what will be in the Annual Plan. In the last 12 months, the rates prediction has shifted up and down:

- LTP June 2021 projected rates increase for 22/23 = 7.13%
- December 21 briefing direction = 8.76%
- December 21 Council decision = 7.57%
- March 22 briefing indication = 7.13% with staff soon to complete the financial forecast for current financial year to assess starting point and hopefully positive impacts on next Annual Plan (and the general rate) in June 2022.

Since December Councillors and I have continued to seek further cost-savings and reductions in the forecast rates increases, noting that there are many staff vacancies at present and costs are different after two years of officers mainly working from home during the Covid Pandemic Response period. But rates affordability remains a priority for us, no matter the season.

When it comes to rates increases, it's not as simple as picking a number and then trying to back-fill what services Council may or may not deliver to fit. Government continues to make new regulations which councils must comply with, with new costs to be met by ratepayers. A current example is that from July the new water regulator Taumata Arowai will be in place. After July, meeting different standards, for example paying for the addition of fluoride to drinking water supplies, which the Government has decided rather than District Health Boards, will be forced onto ratepayers. There's no way Council can avoid those imposed costs, and factors like this add up to a forecast 17.74% targeted rate increase for people connected to Kaipara District Council water supplies. Eye-watering, but largely beyond Council's control. Council is doing everything it can to reduce costs while meeting standards and maintaining service level expectations across the entire Council business, including our excellent teams for Resource and Building Consents plus the District Plan Review people having been crying out for for our rapidly growing Kaipara. This is a real balancing act, especially in the current inflationary environment. In the next few months there will hard considerations made for the Annual Plan 2022/23 ahead, with decisions in June, and any rates changes will be part of this. Expect further reductions.

Some things go down while others go up. On track for completion in March, April and May are the following key projects:

- Kaiwaka Footbridges official opening
- Waipoua River Road sealing project completion
- Pouto Road Phase One sealing project completion
- Northland Regional Council's completion and opening of their new building in Dargaville, shared workspace for their Regional officers and our Kaipara officers
- The release of the new Draft Kaipara District Plan.

As a Council that's getting things done, it's pleasing to see real results and delivery of projects Kaipara people want. The season may yet bring more ups and downs, but together that's how we're growing a better Kaipara.

Ngā mihi,

Dr Jason Smith
Mayor of Kaipara District

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Time to review Kaipara's District Plan

District Plans must be reviewed at least every 10 years to ensure that they remain 'fit for purpose' and respond to the changing needs of the district. Kaipara started our review last year and we expect it to take around two years to complete.

Our district has experienced unprecedented growth in the last 5 years. The current District Plan is outdated and does not give effect to new national and regional planning and policy guidelines.

Additionally, we now have a set of district-wide Spatial Plans for Kaipara, which set out the long term (30 year) strategic direction for our district. Key aspirations within these documents (such as new housing and development areas and environmental protection) need to be incorporated into District Plans to make them a reality.

What is a District Plan?

A District Plan is the Council's statutory tool, or rulebook, for managing subdivision and development across the District. Every Council is required to have a District Plan.

A District Plan is the set of rules and guidelines that determine what people can do with their land or resources. It defines, for example, where it is appropriate to build, and where it is not, how high buildings can be, and how close to the boundary they can go. It determines whether your land can be used for industry, commercial activities, rural or town housing. It also guides us on what is important to protect, like outstanding natural landscapes, historic sites or trees.

The Council uses the District Plan as a tool for guiding development and investment in a district and to ensure that infrastructure is aligned with land use planning.

Why do we need a District Plan?

A District Plan enables communities to share a space, without having their enjoyment of that space unduly affected by others. By designating areas for specific use, such as industry, or low-density housing, people know what they can do, and what they can expect their neighbours to do.

The Plan lists the types of activities that are permitted (without needing to apply to Council for a Resource Consent) as well as those activities for which you do need to apply for a Resource Consent.

When you apply for a Resource Consent, our planners will refer to the District Plan to determine if your activity is appropriate and what environmental conditions may need to be attached to the consent.

Get involved

The District Plan affects everyone who lives in Kaipara and we've created plenty of opportunity for you to have input in the development of the new plan.

You may already have provided input into the Kaipara District Spatial Plans. These are strategic guiding documents that lay a foundation for the District Plan. Last year we also sought feedback on key questions our District Plan needs to cover. These were outlined in the suite of District Plan 'Discussion Documents'.

In June and July you will have opportunity to give feedback on a draft District Plan. The Council will review the feedback and use it to prepare the Proposed District Plan. The Proposed District Plan will be formally notified and you will have another opportunity to submit on the Plan then.

Local government elections will be held by postal vote on Saturday 08 October 2022. Now is the time to get ready – whether that's making sure you're enrolled to vote, checking your enrolment details are up-to-date, or preparing to stand as a candidate.

Key Dates

Nominations open	Friday 15 July
Nominations close	12 noon Friday 12 August
Delivery of voting packs	from Friday 16 September
Close of voting	12 noon Saturday 08 October
Official results announced	Thursday 13 October to Wednesday 19 October

Who will I be electing?

You will be able to vote for the Mayor, and the Councillors for the ward you live in. If you are on the Māori Electoral Roll you will vote for your representative in the Te Moananui o Kaipara Māori Ward, instead of your local Councillors.

You will also be able to vote for your representative on the Northland Regional Council.

There will be no district health board elections in 2022.

Who can vote?

To vote in the KDC's local government elections you must be on the Māori or General Electoral Roll and either:

- Live in Kaipara
- Own a property in Kaipara
- Or live outside of Kaipara but pay KDC rates.

Introducing a new Māori Ward

Kaipara will have one Māori Ward (Te Moananui o Kaipara) for the Local Election 2022, with one Māori Ward Councillor elected district-wide.

Māori wards establish areas where only those on the Māori Parliamentary electoral roll vote for the candidates in that ward. The aim of Māori wards is to ensure Māori are represented in local government decision-making.

Enrol now for Local Elections 2022

If you are eligible and are voting in an election for the first time, you must enrol to vote by Friday 12 August 2022. You can enrol to vote online at www.vote.nz Enrolment forms are also available at all NZ Post shops, or you can call 0800 36 76 56.

If you are already enrolled to vote, you can check that your details are up to date at www.vote.nz

If you live outside Kaipara, but pay rates here, you can enrol to vote using the Enrolment Form for Ratepayer Electors available at www.kaipara.govt.nz/local-elections or you can call 0800 922 822.

Stand for Council

Nominations for the Mayor and Councillors open on Friday 15 July 2022 and close at 12 noon on Friday 12 August 2022. Nomination papers will be available from Friday 15 July from Council's Customer Service Centres, from the Electoral Officer, and at www.kaipara.govt.nz/local-elections

To stand in any ward, you must be a New Zealand citizen and your name must be on the Parliamentary Electoral Roll (anywhere in New Zealand) to be a candidate in these elections.

A candidate standing for election in a Māori ward does not have to be of Māori descent or on the Māori Roll. You will need to be nominated by two people whose names appear on the Māori Roll within Te Moananui o Kaipara Māori Ward.

Vote in Local Elections 2022

Election day is Saturday 08 October 2022 with voting closing at 12 noon. Postal voting starts on Friday 16 September 2022.

We'll be communicating with you about how to vote closer to when voting packs are sent out.

