

Greetings from the Mayor

I welcomed the recent funding announcement by the Minister for Regional Development, Hon Shane Jones, aimed at providing a resilient water supply for Dargaville's future generations. The Te Tai Tokerau Water Trust has secured the funding to construct, operate, and maintain a new 22km pipeline from its Te Waihekeora reservoir at Redhill to Dargaville. As part of the same work, Council will partner with the Trust to enhance the stopbank from Dargaville to Te Kōpuru by increasing both its height and width.

Security of supply for the west side of the district has been an ongoing issue for successive councils and staff have investigated various improvement options over the years, all solutions having significant costs. The pipeline, once built, will provide Council the opportunity to access a more consistent and reliable water supply, and there is huge potential for both the pipeline and enhanced stopbanks to lift the local economy, particularly through the irrigation of high value horticulture crops.

As our district grows, its infrastructure must also evolve, to keep up with the needs of an expanding population. Council funds infrastructure projects through a combination of rates, central government grants, and development contributions from developers. To keep pace with the needs of our growing

communities, we are currently reviewing our Development Contributions Policy. An update will help us strike a balance between development and sustainability, and we look forward to seeking your feedback later this year.

Right now, we are consulting on a number of important issues, including a targeted rate for museums and the future delivery of water services. Soon we will release our Proposed District Plan for feedback. The plan is designed to be "simple and enabling," reducing unnecessary red tape while fostering growth and protecting the special places that make Kaipara unique. Now is the time to share your thoughts—let us know what we've got right and where you think changes can be made.

You can find more information about these consultations both in this newsletter and online. Your input is vital in shaping the future of our district.



Craig Jepson
Mayor Kaipara District



Get your rates by email

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Receive your rates bill via email by heading to kaipara.govt.nz/rates-by-email



Kaipara District Plan approved for public notification

Our Proposed Kaipara District Plan will be available for your feedback from Monday 28 April 2025 until Monday 30 June 2025. The Plan is a GIS driven E-Plan that is easy to use and navigate.

The District Plan serves as Kaipara's 'rule book' for managing land use, development, and the natural environment.

Information can be found at kaipara.govt.nz/kaipara-district-plan-review or stay up to date by subscribing to our district plan e-newsletter.



Have your say

We want your input to help make some important decisions on the future delivery of Kaipara water services, a targeted rate to support museums and our fees and charges for the coming year.

A targeted rate for museums

Before we adopt the Annual Plan for 2025/2026, we are asking for your feedback about a targeted rate collected on behalf of three of the district's museums – Mangawhai Museum, Kauri Museum and Dargaville Museum.

We're keen to know whether or not you support a targeted rate. Any targeted rate for these museums would be in addition to our average 8.9% rates increase for the coming year and would mean an update to our Revenue and Financing Policy.

What's next for Kaipara water services?

Under the Local Water Done Well legislation, all councils around New Zealand have been tasked by the Government to consider how they can best provide water services in the future, by joining up with others or on their own. Regardless of what service delivery model is chosen, councils will need to meet new economic, environmental, and water quality regulatory requirements.

We're after your feedback on three options:

- A multi council-controlled organisation that would look after our wastewater and drinking water supply
- Stick with an in-house model that would continue to look after all three water services (wastewater, drinking water and stormwater)
- Shared service arrangement with one or more councils

Fees and Charges

We're seeking community feedback on our proposed fees and charges for 2025/2026. Most fees will rise by 2.2% to match inflation. Key proposed changes include an increase in the permit fee for keeping more than two dogs (\$84 to \$180 – note: this is a one-off charge), and the temporary road closure fees.

Some fees and charges are set by statute, like the new MPI Domestic Food Business Levy.

Any changes to fees and charges will be effective from 1 July 2025.

Feedback for each topic is open until 11.59pm Wednesday 7 May 2025. Find more information and how to have your say online at kaipara.govt.nz/haveyoursay or by dropping into council offices or the Mangawhai or Dargaville Library.

2025 local elections

Local elections are held every three years. This is a chance for residents and ratepayers of Kaipara District to vote for a mayor and elected members to represent them.

The next local elections are coming up and will be held by postal vote from 9 September to 11 October 2025.

2025 LOCAL ELECTIONS KEY DATES



NOW
Voting
enrolment opens



APRIL
Enrolment details
arrive by post



4 JULY
Candidate
nominations open



11 JULY
Exclusion period cannot
change from Māori roll



1 AUGUST
Candidate
nominations close



6-8 AUGUST
Candidates announced



9 SEPTEMBER
Voting open – special
voting begins



11 OCTOBER
Voting closes at 12 noon



18 OCTOBER
Results confirmed

Electoral system

In 2023 Council agreed to introduce the First Past the Post (FPP) electoral system which means the candidate(s) with the most votes are elected.

Who will I be electing?

You will be able to vote for a mayor, and the councillors for the ward you live in. You will also be able to vote for your representative on the Northland Regional Council and a binding poll on whether to keep or remove the Northland Regional Council Māori constituency.

Who can vote?

To vote in the Kaipara District Council 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 rates in the Kaipara District.

How do I enrol to vote or update my details?

As a resident you can enrol to vote if you are 18 years or older, a New Zealand citizen or permanent resident or have lived in New Zealand continuously for 12 months or more at some time in your life.

Check you are enrolled to vote and update your details at **vote.nz** or scan the QR code. Enrolment forms are also available at Mangawhai and Dargaville council offices, Dargaville, Mangawhai, Paparoa, Maungatūroto and Kaiwaka Libraries or you can call 0800 36 76 56.

Enrol to vote before Friday 1 August to receive voting papers. After this date a special vote is required. You can enrol until 10 October 2025.



Do you live in one area and pay rates on a property in another area?

You may qualify to vote in both areas at the local authority elections in October 2025.

Voting is a way to have your say on what happens in your local community. This information is designed to help you. It notes who you can contact to enrol, and ways you might qualify to vote.

There are two types of electors

Residential electors – If you are registered to vote on the electoral roll, you are automatically enrolled to vote in local authority elections. You will receive a voting document so that you can vote by post.

Ratepayer electors – You may also be eligible to enrol as a non-resident ratepayer elector in a council district if both of these apply:

- you are on the district valuation roll and pay rates in the council district
- the address where you are registered as a parliamentary elector is outside that council district.

Your eligibility to enrol or be nominated as a ratepayer elector may also depend on your individual circumstances as determined by criteria in the Local Electoral Act 2001 and its regulations.

An organisation can nominate one of its members or officers to vote on its behalf

If a firm, company, trust, corporation, society partners, joint tenants and tenants in common collectively pay rates on a property in a council district, one of the group may be nominated to be the ratepayer elector. The person nominating and the nominated person must be registered as parliamentary electors at addresses outside the council district where the property is located.

You can only enrol once

You can only enrol, or be nominated to enrol, once in a council district, no matter how many properties you own in that council district.

New ratepayer electors

If you think you may be eligible to enrol or to nominate someone as a ratepayer elector, get an enrolment form for ratepayer electors from the local council where you pay your rates. The electoral officer will be able to help you with your application.

If you want further information, please scan the QR code or visit votelocal.co.nz/information-for-voters/ratepayer-roll



Enrol now – the Ratepayer Electoral Roll closes on 1 August 2025

Are you thinking of standing for council?

Nominations for the mayor and councillors open on Friday 4 July 2025 and close at 12 noon on Friday 1 August 2025. Nomination papers will be available from Friday 4 July from our customer service centres, from the electoral officer, and at 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.