

## Greetings from the Mayor

Over the last few months the new Council has been busy getting its feet under the table and across all the issues of the district. Back in November Council agreed on the committee structures for the next three years, many of which remain the same from the previous triennium. To enhance economic growth throughout our district we have introduced an Economic Development Committee.

Now that we have higher temperatures it is a busy time for roading construction. You can check progress via the monthly report, available on the KDC website. Roading is one of the key issues that comes up time and time again as part of my conversations with communities. I am committed to progressively reviewing and improving the quality and value we receive from our roading contractors.

Kaipara District has a huge rural roading network and a comparatively small ratings base. We maintain around 1,570km of formed roads (456km sealed and 1,114km unsealed), as well 353 bridges and 88km of footpaths and walkways. Council relies heavily on Waka Kotahi NZ Transport Agency to subsidise maintenance, renewal and capital projects for our roading assets. With increasing labour and supply costs, sealing a road these days can sit anywhere in the region of \$800,000-\$1,000,000 plus GST per kilometre. That's the equivalent of a 2 percent rates rise for every household per km.

Council does not receive a subsidy to seal new roads and as a consequence we do not undertake new seals, unless they are either sealed by developers as part of their development or privately funded by local ratepayers and/or residents, or if external funding is sourced. This was the case of Poutō Road for example, where the project to seal approx. 10km of the road was largely paid for by PGF funding from Kānoa – Regional Economic Development & Investment Unit.

We are also battling cost increases of around 13.5 percent. Staff are working hard to complete our agreed work programme while keeping a lid on the rising costs. It is a difficult situation. We want the best for our district. KDC is always looking for innovative ways to fund road improvements, as seen when Council sourced PGF funding from Kānoa – Regional Economic Development & Investment Unit to improve our unsealed roads, and invest in research and technology for future work. I, along with the rest of the Council, continue to fiercely advocate for external funders like central government to improve our roads at every given opportunity.

Council meetings reconvene in February. Some things to look out for in the first part of 2023:

- Completion of Poutō wharf, and work on the Kaihu Valley Trail, two key infrastructure projects supporting a water transport network and invigorating tourism.
- Information on the upcoming Annual Plan 2023/2024 and major projects planned for the coming year. Early engagement will begin soon to see where we need to invest for the next Long Term Plan 2024–2034.

Goodbye for now,



**Mayor Craig Jepson**  
Kaipara District

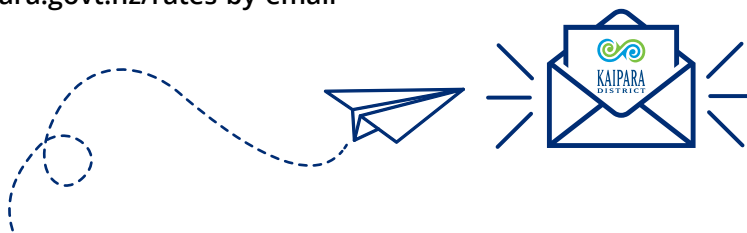


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We cannot accept cheques as our bank will no longer process them. You'll find more information at [kaipara.govt.nz/rates](http://kaipara.govt.nz/rates) You can contact our friendly team by phone 0800 727 059 or email [revenue@kaipara.govt.nz](mailto:revenue@kaipara.govt.nz) if you need a hand.

## Receive live alerts, calendar reminders and notices

You can receive updates about road closures, water outages, when your rubbish needs to go out, community meetings, consultations, and much more when you download the Antenno app!

Getting connected is easy:

- Search 'Antenno' on Google Play or the App store and download
- Open Antenno, go to 'Your places' at the bottom of your screen, and then use the + to add places you care about, home, work, school, favourite sportsground etc.
- Make sure your Antenno notifications are switched on, and you'll get alerts on your home screen. That's it!

Antenno will let you know when something relevant to your chosen place(s) happens or is coming up.

You can also use the Antenno app to tell us about something that needs fixing, or report something directly to us. Just click on 'Report it' (bottom right-hand corner) to tell us about it.



# TOP TEN WATER SAVING TIPS



*Kia ora Kaipara visitors, welcome to our beautiful district*

*Northland and Kaipara can suffer from pretty severe droughts, particularly in these summer months. Check out these water-saving tips to help our households conserve water.*

**Before your visitors arrive it's a good idea to:**

- Check for leaks and dripping taps. This could also be in your outside areas – check for patches of green grass on your lawn, or sinks that are wet first thing in the morning.
- Mulch your garden. Mulching can prevent up to 70% of water loss through evaporation.
- Put a 4min timer in the shower to help your guests time their showers. Buy a kitchen timer or ask your guests to set a stopwatch on their phone.
- If you're on a water tank – check your tanks are full and you have a water delivery booked ahead of time.
- Use the half-flush system on your toilet, or reduce the flush-water quantity by displacing water in the cistern with a part-filled bottle or a brick.



*More tips and water levels for your local area can be found at [bewaterwise.org.nz](http://bewaterwise.org.nz)*

**Tips for visitors:**

- Turn off the tap while brushing your teeth, washing your hands, or shaving.
- Take fewer, shorter showers. Get yourself wet then turn off the tap to soap up, and turn it back on to rinse off.
- Put a bucket in your shower to catch water. You can use this for your gardens, indoor plants, and to clean your car or boat (depending on restriction levels, hoses, sprinklers and waterblasters etc are banned during summer).
- Flush the toilet less often.
- Store a bottle of drinking water in the fridge to help avoid running more water than you need if you like drinking cold water.