

Greetings from the Mayor

It's busy times here at Kaipara District Council and we are eager to get cracking this new year.

It's been good to have a December of dry and sunnier weather. With the arrival of the summer months this has enabled roading maintenance and repair to be fully undertaken. Repair work on some of the more severe damage from the extreme weather events made significant progress in December – with Bob Taylor Road fully open again last month for the first time since Cyclone Gabrielle. Crews also worked hard to fix Devich Road bridge and open Mangawhai Road to two temporary lanes before Christmas, just in time for the holiday traffic. Roading teams have worked on the western and eastern local detour routes in anticipation of the increased traffic from the SH1 Brynderwyns closure in late February (these works fully funded by NZTA). Once again, we appreciate your patience as we get through these more complex repairs. Keep up to date with the ongoing weather event road repairs on our website.

With a new government, major changes are afoot. At the end of last year, we received three letters from relevant ministers, announcing the repeal (or imminent repeal) of legislation that directly affect this council and our district:

- A new direction for water services delivery, repealing the previous government's water services legislation (Three Waters). This has a major impact on the work we are doing on our draft Long Term Plan for 2024/2027 and staff are now adjusting to accommodate this, 'adding' water services back into our budgets and work programmes. In recognition of the major impact Government has offered options to extend deadlines for councils for their long term plans. Kaipara District Council is proud to be part of Communities 4 Local Democracy

and will always advocate for local decision making to be retained within the communities it affects. We have also been clear that reform for water services is desperately needed, and that we are facing significant challenges with our waters infrastructure, an issue faced by many other councils around the country. So we look forward to what the new coalition government's 'Local Water Done Well' brings us.

- A new land transport rule, which has put a hold on the work carried out on the Kaipara sections in Northland's Regional Speed Management Plan. Elected members have asked staff to report back to a council meeting in February, so we can decide on the next steps here.
- Lastly, the repeal of the Natural and Built Environment Act and the Spatial Planning Act. The Government has said the second phase will be amending the RMA to make it easier to consent new infrastructure.

We will keep you updated as to what all of this means for Kaipara residents and ratepayers.

As you can see, there is plenty of work going on, even though council meetings don't return until February.

Onwards and upwards.



Mayor Craig Jepson
Kaipara District



Check it's alright before you light

Head to [checkitsalright.nz](https://www.checkitsalright.nz) before lighting any fires. Keep an eye out for fire ban signs.

As we go to print, fireworks are banned at Ripiro Beach until further notice. The ban encompasses Aranga Beach, Omamari, Baylys Beach, and Glinks Gully - the Ripiro Beach area. It will also extend along the coast from Maunganui Bluff in the north, around the southern tip of Pouto Peninsula to Pouto Point, then inland two kilometres from the water's edge. Head to [checkitsalright.nz](https://www.checkitsalright.nz) for the latest information on fireworks bans in Kaipara.

Get your rates by email

Receiving your rates invoice by email means you will have it right where you need it when it comes to paying online and it won't get lost in a pile of papers. There are also some serious savings to be made by switching to receiving your rates invoice by email. Getting your rates by email saves you money, because it saves us money.

To get your rates invoice by email go to kaipara.govt.nz/rates-by-email



If you don't have access to emails, we're happy to keep posting invoices, but if you are connected, give it a try!

Pay by Direct Debit

The easiest way to make 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.

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

SH1 Brynderwyn temporary closures

At the end of last year, New Zealand Transport Agency - Waka Kotahi confirmed State Highway 1 (SH1) over the Brynderwyn Hills will close in early 2024 to allow them to complete essential recovery and enabling works.

The key dates for this closure are:

- 26 February 2024 – close SH1
- 28 March 2024 – reopen SH1 for Easter travellers
- 3 April 2024 – close SH1 until works are completed.

This section of road is well used by locals, visitors and transporters, so we appreciate these works may impact you. You can sign up for updates about these works and see more information at nzta.govt.nz/sh1-brynderwyn-hills

Receive live alerts, calendar reminders and notices

Antenno is a free mobile app that we use to send updates about road closures, water outages, when your rubbish needs to go out, community meetings, consultations, and much more!

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 water saving tips

Here are some water saving tips for to help you conserve water!

1. Turn the tap off while you're brushing your teeth.
2. If your household uses tank water, check around the tank for any leaks and keep an eye on your water tank levels.
3. Put mulch on your garden to keep the soil moist. Mulching can prevent up to 70% of water loss through evaporation.
4. Catch water while you're having a shower. You can use it on your garden – just don't pour it on your fruit and vegetable plants.
5. In the kitchen, catch water in a jug or bottle while you're waiting for it to run hot. You can put it in the fridge to drink later.

For those on town supply, Council staff continue to closely monitor water levels and will be directing water restrictions if necessary.

Head to bewaterwise.org.nz for more water saving tips.