



Kaipara te Orangaauhi

**KAIPARA
DISTRICT**

Two Oceans Two Harbours

42 Hokianga Road,
Private Bag 1001,
Dargaville 0340, Northland,
New Zealand
P 0800 727 059
P +64 9 439 7059
E info@kaipara.govt.nz
www.kaipara.govt.nz

Kia ora,

The year since I started at Kaipara District Council has been packed with change, foundation building, investment and preparation ... and there's a lot more to come!

Kaipara is very quickly becoming a place people want to live, work and play, with the recent Census 2018 showing our district is experiencing the largest population growth in Northland. We're preparing for growth by planning ahead to manage it and make the most of the opportunities it offers.

In the year ahead we'll be asking for your input into how we prepare our towns for the future. Our spatial planning will determine where we locate new housing, industry and commercial areas over the next three to 30 years. This will serve as a foundation for an updated district plan, which contains new rules for land use and development. It will also ensure our high-value fertile land remains available for food production.

Three Kaipara KickStart projects are underway: improving roads across Kaipara; using wharves for water-based transport in Kaipara Harbour; and using our district's productive soils and bountiful sea for high-value agriculture and aquaculture that is environmentally sustainable and supports our economy. These projects lay the foundations for better business, more connected communities and safer roads in our district. Central government's Provincial Growth Fund is supporting Kaipara KickStart as an investment in the stability and potential of Kaipara as a district. As we continue the work that funding allows, we're in for some great things ahead.

As always, roading is a key component of the work we do. Last year we graded 2,000 kilometres of our district's roads, resurfaced 51 kilometres of sealed roads, and metalled 43.2 kilometres of unsealed roads, as well as continuing the rollout of LED streetlights. Our roads will continue to be an area of focus for us. We've also made significant progress throughout the year in other infrastructure areas like water and parks. Road safety, water quality, and protecting our shared environment are at the forefront of these decisions to ensure your rates are spent in ways that benefit the community now and the future communities of Kaipara.

In addition to improving infrastructure, we're providing even better customer service. Our new website makes it easier to find information, and we've achieved a marked improvement in our dropped call rate and call waiting times for our customers. As a result, we've seen confidence and satisfaction with Council grow by seven per cent, and we're working to lift it even higher.

You've told us that dog control is an area where you'd like to see better service, so we're bringing dog, noise and parking control in-house by the end of 2019. This means we'll have more flexibility to improve these services and deliver a more robust, proactive approach.

Couple this with our work helping communities to grow and improve, with over \$300,000 awarded to various community groups through our various funds and grants, and we're helping to grow thriving communities day by day.

One of the most satisfying aspects about being involved in Council activities is the diversity of our work and seeing how our teams make a positive difference to the lives of our residents.

We're making great progress, and I look forward to working with our new council in the year ahead. We welcome in the mayor and councillors elected for the next three years at the inaugural council meeting on 25 October.

You can find our full Annual Report, where we detail what we've completed in the last year, on our website www.kaipara.govt.nz.

Ngā mihi,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Louise Miller', enclosed in a light grey rectangular box.

Louise Miller
Chief Executive