



Kaipara te Oranganui

**KAIPARA
DISTRICT**

Two Oceans Two Harbours

Kia ora,

'Water' will be a word to watch in 2021, as far as Kaipara District Council is concerned. To start with, low river flows mean water restrictions are in place for our largest reticulated town supply to Dargaville and Baylys Beach. Across the District, low household water tanks keep water carriers busy, delivering drought-defying supplies one house at a time. Council has secured funding for a new tanker filling station in Maungaturoto, to improve speed of delivery and increase efficiency of water carriers servicing large parts of Kaipara District. The best tip for now is to conserve water, keep your gutterings clean and to be water-wise through the summer. Expect to see dusty cars, one of the hallmarks of summer, here.

Before Easter Council is expecting to be told what the central government proposals for Three Waters Reform will mean for Kaipara District. This is about drinking water, wastewater and stormwater assets, three core parts of Council business. Far-reaching in scope and scale, early indications are that these proposals will signal significant change ahead for ownership and management of these assets, and therefore change for local government across New Zealand.

At the same time throughout February and March, public consultation will be taking place on the proposed Kaipara District Council Long Term Plan 2021-31. This is your chance to get involved and influence how your rates are spent over the next 10 years. Council has been advised by central government to proceed with this key future planning document as if no changes to the Three Waters had been proposed. We are getting on with business, planning now for the future needs of the community, including water.

Longer term prospects from dams of the Tai Tokerau Water Trust, proposed in the west of the district, would mean large-scale water storage capacity, and a secure water supply, which Kaipara has never had before. Alongside the Trust, Council through its Kaipara Kai and Kaipara Water projects, which includes the Kaipara Kai Hub, has encouraged water use and horticulture irrigation systems. The first irrigator in Kaipara District has been installed to help show new ways with water, and a trial is underway for irrigation from small water supplies, the results of which will be applicable across Kaipara. Being water wise for future horticulture and use of Kaipara's great soils is important too.

The 30-year future vision for Kaipara District's growth and development was adopted by Council in December 2020, after months of consultation with the community. The *Kaipara District Spatial Plan 2050 - Ngā Wawata 2050 - Our Aspirations* is the first time future growth expectations and aspirations for Kaipara District have been brought together, charting a vision and a direction for every community and settlement in the entire place. It will be a 'living document' - which means it is built to be updated with future information such as climate change or sea level rise. It can be found at www.kaipara.govt.nz/spatial

Love them or loathe them, the gravel roads of Kaipara District remain a key feature of the place. Remember this summer season to keep your following distances safe, keep your windows clean and keep speeds down on loose gravel. Grading of the roads doesn't start again until the autumn. Go safely, and well in 2021.

Ngā mihi

Dr Jason Smith
Mayor