



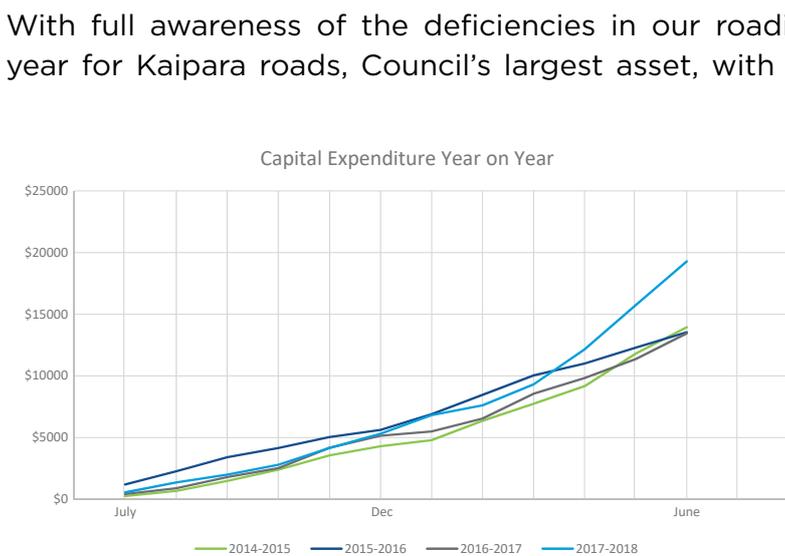
Kia ora

Exceptional times for Kaipara District Council make the year summarised in its Annual Report 2017/18 a document the likes of which you'll never see again. After the longest local council commission period in New Zealand's history it is the first normal Annual Report from a full year of an elected Kaipara District Council since 2011. The Kaipara Commission started in 2012 and concluded in late 2016, part-way into the 2016/17 year. So the Annual Report marks a clear moment and a return to business-as-usual, though one highlighted with some very unusual and extraordinary events.

Three chief executives and two mayors in one year, in addition to a restructuring of the senior executive team, made 2017/18 truly exceptional for its multiple leadership changes at the centre of Kaipara District Council. Rather than a period of damaging turbulence, paralysing instability or stuttering negativity, these changes have energised the organisation and successfully set it up for stability ahead.

Kaipara District Council arrived at 30 June 2018 in better shape than it had been for years, having among other achievements completed its first Long Term Plan overseen by elected members and adopted within statutory timeframes since 2009. Elected members together selected a new Chief Executive to lead the council forward and Louise Miller hit the ground running in late September, a few weeks ago. A new breeze is blowing around the organisation already.

Capital spend targets met

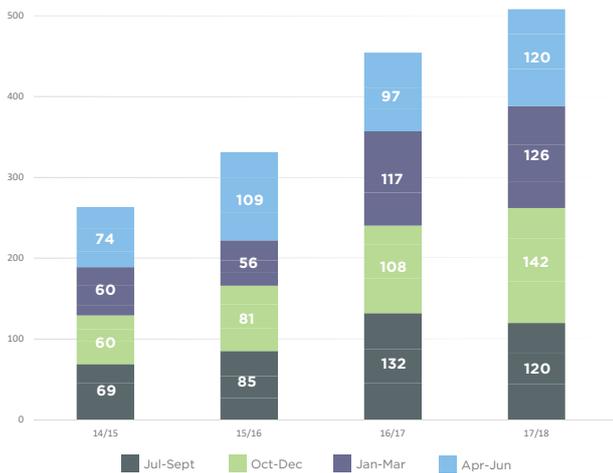


With full awareness of the deficiencies in our roading network, new targets were set last year for Kaipara roads, Council's largest asset, with the highest capital works spend for six years. The March Rates Newsletter included a graph of the predicted capital works spend forecasting a significant increase from recent years. This chart shows the actual capital spend achieved. 100% of the budgeted roading spend occurred in the 17/18 year, as we continue to drive hard for a safe, efficient and resilient road network in Kaipara District. Our foundations are becoming stronger; we're getting on with the job.

Resource Consents doubling for Kaipara growth

Growth across Kaipara District can be measured in many ways, but one of the best is to look at resource consent trends. The chart below shows that total resource consent applications received in Kaipara have doubled in the last four years. This is a growth district and we're shaping

Resource Consents Received



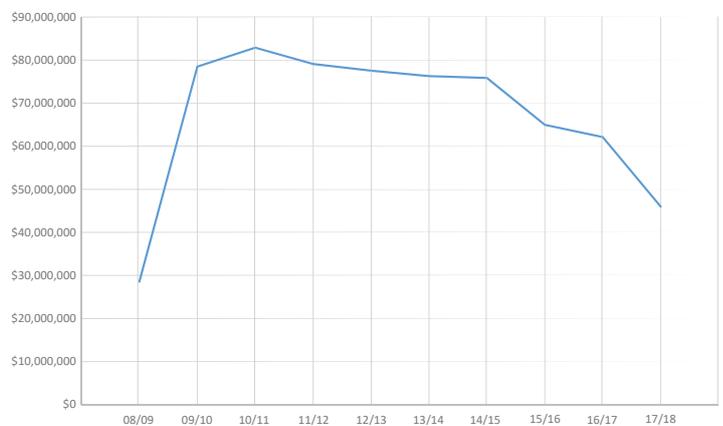
a council that's responsive to new investment. There's clear frustration inside council and from the community that too few planning staff are on hand to process all these new consent applications. Council has been advertising for planners, in a competitive market where there's high demand from all councils around New Zealand. As a matter of utmost urgency we're recruiting in this space, but with consent applications increasing the pressure is high and your patience is appreciated. Rest assured we're working hard to keep meeting the needs of a growing district, and are open for business.

Debt levels reducing

Solid financial management of Kaipara District Council has seen debt levels drop from their highs of \$82m to \$46m at the end of June 2018. The belt-tightening of recent years and the debt reduction programme council has in place are increasingly lifting the fortunes of the place. This is another positive headline, signalling the turnaround for Kaipara District.

The combined effect of these highlights above shows that Kaipara District is stepping away from a troubled chapter in its past and is rapidly moving into a brighter future. I hope you see this as clearly as I do.

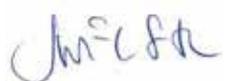
Public Debt Levels



Back in February I reminded people not to count their chickens before they're hatched and encouraged local submissions to the proposed chicken farm. The strong civic engagement, pride and commitment to Kaipara that's been shown by the community on this subject was really encouraging. Kaipara voices have been heard loud and clear. The proposal has been declined and Kaipara's path toward sustainable economic development will need to include other, different ideas. I look forward to hearing them, too, as we go on.

Moving ahead, part of our brighter future is the Kaipara District People's Panel which is a new initiative for your voice to be heard better by council. I found examples of this down-country and am delighted to introduce it to the north. Please go to www.kaipara.govt.nz/panel for more information and take a moment to sign up. The more of us who join the People's Panel the better it will be. I'm hoping for at least 1,000 members from across Kaipara; together let's make it another exceptional forward step in a season of exceptional events for Kaipara.

Ngā mihi nui


 Dr Jason Smith
Mayor