

DISTRICT-WIDE MATTERS

Public Access

General Overview

We are reviewing and updating our current District Plan – looking ahead to the next 10 to 15 years. The Kaipara District Plan is essentially the ‘rule book’, which is applied to manage development, activities and the environment within the district.

The District Plan influences the future shape and feel of our district, which is why it's important for Kaipara communities to be informed and get involved. Its purpose is to protect our environment, historic locations and cultural tāonga for future generations, through sustainable management of our resources, while supporting our communities to develop and grow.

We're seeking input on the Proposed District Plan from Monday 28 April to Monday 30 June 2025.

How much is changing?



NOT
MUCH

A LOT

Access to and along the coast and waterways is especially important to many of us.

This value is reflected in the requirements of the Resource Management Act 1991 (RMA) and the New Zealand Coastal Policy Statement 2010 (NZCPS). These requirements require councils to enable public access to and along the coastal marine area, lakes, and rivers to be maintained and enhanced as a matter of national importance.

Public access to inland areas can provide opportunities to explore and experience the District's natural environment. Public access in urban environments is usually provided through walking and cycling opportunities, which allow for connectivity to open spaces and town or village centres.

Walking and cycling opportunities may be part of the district's roading network or part of other trails, including walkways, cycleways and bridleways (for horse riding) that are generally located on public land. In some cases, these are situated within esplanade reserves or esplanade strips, along a coastline, lake edge or river.

The Proposed District Plan supports the creation and connection of new walkways, cycleways, and bridleways to ensure new developments, particularly residential subdivisions, have continuous links to existing public access networks.

What are we proposing?

In addition to the requirements in the RMA to provide esplanade reserves and access strips, we are identifying Esplanade Priority Areas on the map to encourage additional public access to be created. This will direct where new public access should be created when new subdivision and development is enabled. Esplanade Priority Areas are

identified and mapped as a new feature in the Proposed District Plan.

We are also incentivising subdivision opportunities where this creates public access through a reserve lot, through the subdivision rules in the General rural zone.

How much is changing?

This is a new initiative and therefore a moderate change.

Public Access Key FAQs

What if my property has an identified esplanade priority area? Do I need to do anything?

If an esplanade priority area is shown on your property, you don't have to do anything. If you wish to create legal access over it, you can:

- a. Apply for a subdivision, which would connect to other properties over time, forming public access along the coast, rivers, or streams.
- b. Discuss how this can be achieved with Council.

Summary

- Identified Esplanade Priority Areas are a new tool in the Proposed District Plan to encourage and promote connectivity to existing public access.
- The esplanade reserves can be created via a subdivision application to Council or by negotiation with landowners.



**We'd love to hear
your views:**

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