



Do you support an annual targeted rate collected on behalf of three of the district's museums?



Kaipara ki Orangohai
KAIPARA
DISTRICT
The Ocean, The Harbours

Annual Plan 2025/2026

Consultation Document



What is an Annual Plan?

An Annual Plan outlines the activities, services and capital projects we will deliver, and how we will fund them for the coming financial year. It also highlights any changes from the Long Term Plan (LTP).

This year elected members agreed that we would stay in line with our LTP projections and stick with an average rates increase of 8.9% (after 1% growth) for the 2025/2026 financial year. This means there are no significant or material changes from what we outlined in Year 2 of the LTP 2024 – 2027.

We often talk about averages when we talk about rates increases. Rates can actually vary a lot depending on where you live and your property value.

The Annual Plan 2025/2026 is expected to be formally adopted at the end of June, and new rates will take effect from 1 July 2025.

Before then, we are asking for your feedback on a proposed targeted rate collected on behalf of three of the district's museums – Mangawhai Museum, Kauri Museum and Dargaville Museum.

Any targeted rate for these museums would be in addition to our average 8.9% rates increase, and would mean an update to our Revenue and Financing Policy.

**WE WANT YOUR
FEEDBACK**

**You can make a submission
on the museums targeted
rate from Monday 7 April until
11.59pm Wednesday 7 May 2025.**

See the back of this document for a list of the ways you can have your say.

What is a targeted rate?

Targeted rates are rates charged to particular communities or groups of ratepayers, or where the revenue being collected is for a specific activity or service. Targeted rates show as a separate line item on your rates invoice.

We already collect a number of different targeted rates. Some examples of our targeted rates include a fixed targeted rate for all ratepayers for parks and libraries, our wastewater supply targeted rate for all those on council wastewater supply networks, and our land drainage targeted rates which are collected for those properties within a land drainage scheme.

Council also collects a number of targeted rates on behalf of other groups and organisations. Some examples include the rate collected for the Mangawhai Harbour Restoration Society Inc and the rate collected for the Dargaville Community Development Board for CCTV in Dargaville.

Accountability

When we collect money from ratepayers on behalf of an organisation or group, it's important that there is some monitoring and accountability on where the money is going.

All of the organisations we collect on behalf of are registered as charitable trusts. The groups report their finances annually, and our finance team review their accounts to ensure funding is being spent appropriately.

The future intention is that groups or organisations will also be required to report to council in a public presentation forum every three years.

Because these targeted rates are collected on behalf of another group, they do not have any impact on council accounts, including our debt levels.

Background

We have three main museums in Kaipara District.



Mangawhai Museum



Kauri Museum (in Matakōhe)



Dargaville Museum

Back in 2024, we asked whether the community supported a targeted rate collected on behalf of the Mangawhai Museum, who had approached Council for a targeted rate to assist in the ongoing funding of the museum and to repay the historic loan they owed. Had the rate been collected, it would have come from the Mangawhai area (same area as the Mangawhai Harbour Restoration targeted rate).

After listening to community submissions on the Long Term Plan 2024 – 2027 and considering all information, elected members agreed not to collect the targeted rate. Instead, elected members directed staff to investigate potential future funding support for three of the district's museums – Mangawhai Museum, Kauri Museum and Dargaville Museum as part of the Annual Plan process for this year.

We recognise that museums play an important role in our district, through education and the preservation of our cultural heritage, and their contribution to local economic growth. Many councils in New Zealand provide funding to museums through their annual budgets, either by funding them as part of council operations, an annual grant, or as a local or district-wide targeted rate.

As part of this process council staff have analysed the accounts of each museum to understand their financial situations.

We know each of the museums face operational challenges, and some capital building cost challenges. In particular, Mangawhai Museum and Kauri Museum are at risk of becoming financially unsustainable due to their operating costs.

You can view the three museums latest financial statements, which are publicly available on the council meeting agenda for December 2024, on our website at kaipara.govt.nz

Question:

Do you support an annual targeted rate collected on behalf of three of the district's museums?

OPTION 1



COUNCIL'S PREFERRED OPTION

No, do not introduce a museums annual targeted rate

Note: While there would be no targeted rate under this option the \$100,000 loan owed to Council by Mangawhai Museum is written off.

This is council's preferred option because:

We're conscious of adding more financial burden on our communities at this point in time, with inflationary pressures, a strained economic environment, and costs of living high. We are still recovering from the 2023 extreme weather events and Cyclone Gabrielle. Council considers that collecting a targeted rate could be an option to be revisited when the situation improves, through the next LTP 2027 – 2037.

All museums need increased funding to continue to operate, but there is also an onus on these community organisations to raise funds from the community and utilise volunteers.

While there would be no targeted rate for this option, Council would write-off the historic loan the Mangawhai Museum has. Neither the Kauri Museum or the Dargaville Museum have debt owed to council. If we don't write-off the Mangawhai Museum loan, the debt will still be recognised on the Mangawhai Museum financial statements and will impact their ability to access other funding or loans and further develop and implement their strategic plan.

The Mangawhai Museum is unable to afford loan repayments and it is clear from the investigations undertaken with the museum, and from our auditors (Deloitte) that the debt will not be able to be repaid without this additional financial support. We have already budgeted to cover this one-off cost.

If we don't write off the loan, we are still required to recognise the loan as doubtful debt. This has the same financial implications for Council.

OPTION 2

Yes, introduce a museums targeted rate collected across the district (\$185,000 shared equally by the three museums at \$14 per rateable property per year)

This option has each museum receiving an equal amount of \$61,667 per year.

Note: Under this option the \$100,000 loan owed to Council by Mangawhai Museum is also written off as their share from the targeted rate is not enough to support the loan repayment and ongoing operations.

This would provide some financial support to the three museums, but not as much as what they have requested in their joint proposal.

We have not included a museums targeted rate in our modelling for our projected rates increase for the reasons outlined in Option 1, so a \$14 targeted rate collected on behalf of the museums would be in addition to the 8.9% average rates increase.

OPTION 3

Yes, introduce a museums targeted rate collected across the district (\$267,000 shared equally by the three museums at \$20 per rateable property per year)

This option is the joint proposal from the museums, with each receiving an equal amount of \$89,300 per year paid out in quarterly grants.

Note: Under this option the \$100,000 loan owed to Council by Mangawhai Museum is also written off as their share is not enough to support the loan repayment as well as its ongoing operations.

The museums have said that this amount would reduce financial uncertainty and ensure that each museum has the resources to maintain operations during periods of economic downturn.

The proposed amount follows the methodology of Whangārei District Council and the relative amount they currently gather and distribute to Whangārei museums.

We have not included a museums targeted rate in our modelling for our projected rates increase for the reasons outlined in Option 1, so a \$20 targeted rate collected on behalf of the museums would be in addition to the 8.9% average rates increase.

OPTION 4

Yes, introduce a museums targeted rate collected across the district (\$185,000 total with specified amounts - Mangawhai Museum \$100,000, Dargaville Museum \$27,000 and Kauri Museum \$57,000, at \$14 per rateable property per year)

This option has each museum receiving different amounts.

Note: Under this option the \$100,000 loan owed to Council by Mangawhai Museum is not written off and instead repaid over a term.

These calculations were based on staff analysis on the financial statements of the three museums. Staff assessments determined that this would be the minimum required to support each of these organisations on an annual basis and provide some financial surety.

We have not included a museums targeted rate in our modelling for our projected rates increase for the reasons outlined in Option 1, so any targeted rate collected on behalf of the museums would be in addition to the 8.9% average rates increase.

Options 2, 3, and 4 would mean an update to our Revenue and Financing Policy.



Fees and charges 2025/2026

At the same time, we are consulting on our fees and charges for the coming year.

Find out more in our proposed fees and charges document, online at kaipara.govt.nz/feesandcharges

Museums targeted rate Submission form



Submissions close at 11.59pm Wednesday 7 May 2025.

There are a number of ways you can share your thoughts.

- Online (recommended) at kaipara.govt.nz/annualplan
Or head straight there with this QR code
- Fill out this form and deliver to any council office
or library across Kaipara District
- By email at haveyoursay@kaipara.govt.nz
- By post at
Annual Plan feedback
Kaipara District Council
Private Bag 1001
Dargaville 0340



Please enter your details below.

Please ensure you provide appropriate contact details so we can contact you easily if you wish to speak to your submission. Emails are our preferred form of communication.

First name (s): _____ Last name: _____

Are you submitting as an individual or on behalf of an organisation?

Individual Organisation/iwi/business

Organisation/iwi/business name: _____

Street number: _____ Street name: _____

Town: _____ Email: _____

Contact phone number: _____

Are you a ratepayer and/or resident of Kaipara District? Yes No

Would you like to speak to your feedback at a hearing? Yes No

Hearings for the Annual Plan will be held in May 2025.

Submission form continued over page.



Question: Do you support an annual targeted rate collected on behalf of three of our district’s museums?

Please select:

- Option 1** No, do not introduce a museums annual targeted rate.
COUNCIL’S PREFERRED OPTION

- Option 2** Yes, introduce a museums annual targeted rate collected across the district (\$185,000 shared equally by the three museums at \$14 per rateable property per year)

- Option 3** Yes, introduce a museums annual targeted rate collected across the district (\$267,000 shared equally by the three museums at \$20 per rateable property per year)

- Option 4** Yes, introduce a museums annual targeted rate collected across the district (\$185,000 total with specified amounts - Mangawhai Museum \$100,000, Dargaville Museum \$27,000 and Kauri Museum \$57,000, at \$14 per rateable property per year)

Comments: _____

Please note all feedback is considered public under the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987. Your name and feedback may be published and made available to elected members and the public. Your contact details will not be made public.





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