

Energy, Infrastructure and Transport

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 our initial draft ahead of the statutory process, scheduled to commence in mid-2023. This Draft District Plan does not have any ‘legal weight’ and the Operative District Plan must continue to be relied upon.

How much is changing?



NOT MUCH

A LOT

Well-functioning infrastructure is critical to the health, wellbeing, and economic development of our district.

Infrastructure includes the water that comes out of our taps, the roads we drive on, the electricity wires that light our homes and the wires that allow us access to the internet.

Infrastructure is important for safety and infrastructure needs are typically much higher in urban areas than in the rural areas.

Water, wastewater, and stormwater is usually provided by Council as part of a public network. The transport network has footpaths, sealed roads and cycleways lit by streetlights and enables us to get around safely. Providing electricity and communication is not a Council function, but the service providers must be aware of the District Plan requirements.

By comparison, any new development in the rural areas needs to provide its own water supply through tanks or bores. Wastewater disposal and stormwater are also managed on site. The transport network in rural areas is also different to urban environments where roads are often gravel with large grass berms and no streetlights.

What are we proposing?

There are three proposed chapters that address distinct aspects of infrastructure.

Renewable electricity generation

This chapter sets out the provisions for generating electricity from renewable sources such as solar, wind, and water. While the district has abundant sources of solar and wind generation potential, there is limited existing renewable generation in the district. Electricity generation can be at a small scale, such as solar panels on the roof of a house or loads of electricity generated on a wind farm. This chapter enables the smaller scale electricity generation or a single wind turbine on a site without

needing a resource consent. Larger scale electricity generation structures such as solar or wind farms will require a resource consent to manage any adverse effects.

Transport

Kaipara’s transport network is being progressively extended and improved to provide for Kaipara’s increasing population growth and development. It is essential that people and goods can be moved safely and efficiently within the district, as well as on the state highway and rail networks. The transport chapter enables new roads to be built, provided they comply with the Kaipara District Council’s Engineering Standards 2011. The transport chapter also sets rules for ensuring there is enough parking and that access onto roads is safe.

Infrastructure

The infrastructure chapter provides for all other forms of infrastructure not covered in the transport or renewable electricity generation chapters.

The chapter aims to ensure that new development is appropriately serviced for infrastructure through road access, electricity connections, access to the telecommunications network, water services and waste removal. The infrastructure chapter manages how existing infrastructure and new infrastructure networks can operate. Smaller infrastructure will not require a resource consent, but larger structures, or those located in sensitive areas, will need a resource consent to address any adverse effects.

How much is changing?

There are new and improved provisions for renewable energy generation and the look and feel of the chapter is different with moderate to significant improvements 6/10.

Presently the Kaipara District Council Environmental Engineering Standards 2011 are still applicable, but these are being reviewed and will be updated prior to notification of the new District Plan.

Energy, Infrastructure and Transport Key FAQs

Can I erect a solar panel or a wind turbine to generate electricity in my yard?

Yes, the rules enable small scale electricity generations structures without needing a resource consent. You can put solar panels on your roof, or a single wind turbine attached to your roof so long as it meets the size limits. A free-standing wind turbine is permitted in the rural zones, but a resource consent will be needed in urban areas.

Will wind farms and solar farms require consent?

Yes, these larger operations and structures will need a resource consent to address any adverse effects such as flicker, noise, landscape, and reflection.

When I build a new house or development, what will I need to provide for vehicles within my site?

New development must comply with the standards for:

- traffic generation
- parking
- accessible parking
- parking dimensions
- onsite manoeuvring and queuing
- loading bays
- loading ramps.

The number and type of facilities will depend on the activity you are undertaking.

Have the parking requirements changed?

No, the parking requirements have remained largely the same as the Operative District Plan.

What about electric vehicle charging stations?

With the increasing use of electric vehicles, we have enabled freestanding charging stations in the road corridor and the commercial and industrial zones. There are no limits where the charger is part of a building or for private use such as having a charging unit in your garage.

Have the traffic generation numbers changed for various activities?

No, the traffic generation numbers of each zone for various activities have remained largely the same as the Operative District Plan. A new number has been included for the Maungatūroto Fonterra Dairy Factory to match its resource consent.

What are the types of things considered to be infrastructure?

Infrastructure includes any network and pipes that serve more than one property. It can include pipes to carry gas or water, or lines that carry electricity or telecommunications. It also includes structures for transport such as roads, walkways or cycleways.

It does not include rural pipes and lines when they are on-farm services and do not serve the public or a group.

Why are there so many more rules in the chapters compared with the Operative Plan?

Infrastructure includes a wide range of structures which carry an equally broad range of materials such as water, electricity, and gas. To provide clarity, there are specific rules for the following structures:

- amateur radio
- electricity distribution
- telecommunications and radio communications
- liquid fuels and gas networks
- meteorological
- national grid
- water, wastewater, and stormwater.

How are the three waters managed for subdivisions?

It is important that subdivisions can be serviced for water, wastewater, and stormwater. Urban sites will need to connect to Council's reticulated network, but rural sites manage water, wastewater, and stormwater on their own sites. The rules make sure that each new site has appropriate services.

The Three Waters Reform has no relationship with the District Plan.

Summary

- The structure has changed with the provisions for renewable electricity generation, transport, and infrastructure all being brought together into one location in the District Plan which is easier to follow
- Small-scale renewable electricity generation is encouraged
- Larger scale solar and wind farms and hydro electricity generation will require a resource consent
- The transport provisions are largely the same as the Operative District Plan such as parking requirements and traffic generation
- Infrastructure is recognised as being important for the health, wellbeing, and economic development of the district
- Small-scale infrastructure is enabled
- Larger structures or those in sensitive locations will need a resource consent
- There is an emphasis on coordinating development and subdivision with appropriate infrastructure.

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

Freephone: 0800 727 059

Email: districtplanreview@kaipara.govt.nz

www.kaipara.govt.nz