

Kaipara District Plan Review

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.

Kaipara is the fastest growing rural district in the North Island.

Kaipara District Council is now reviewing its current District Plan. The District Plan controls where activities and development can be located and how land can be used and developed. The Kaipara District Plan lays the foundation for all land use decisions within the district.

There are several opportunities for a strong agricultural district that is experiencing a unique period of growth. Equally, there are some challenges we face, including planning for growth and development while protecting primary production areas and Kaipara’s unique natural environment. We must also adapt to the changing climate.

Since adopting the Operative Kaipara District Plan 2013, the National Planning Standards have prescribed new rules for the district plan content and structure. This means our new Draft District Plan looks different from the current District Plan.

In some areas we are proposing significant change, while other things are largely staying the same.

Why review the District Plan?

The Operative Kaipara District Plan became operative in 2013. Our district has changed since then and minor tweaks and revisions that have been made since then have not kept pace with the rate of development and change. The current plan is outdated and no longer fit for purpose.

The new District Plan must also be updated to reflect national policies that have come into force since 2013, such as the National Policy Statement on Freshwater Management 2020 and the National Planning Standards. Additionally, the Regional Policy Statement (2016) requires multiple changes to the Operative Kaipara District Plan 2013.



What are we proposing?

The District Plan will affect everyone living or working in Kaipara. We’ve prepared an Exposure Draft of the District Plan for you to consider whether we are heading in the right direction. Your feedback on the proposed changes and key issues will help shape the plan before it begins the formal notification and consultation process.

We’ve prepared fact sheet summaries to give you an overview of each key topic before diving into the draft Plan.

If you are interested in finding out more, we are running a range of events in July, online and in person.

Check out our website for more information.

You can email districtplanreview@kaipara.govt.nz at any time with District Plan questions.

You can provide feedback on the Draft District Plan until Friday 29 July 2022.

How much is changing?



NOT MUCH

A LOT



Do the rules in the Draft District Plan apply?

No, the Draft District Plan has no legal effect. Continue to refer to the Operative Kaipara District Plan 2013 until the new District Plan is notified.

Is this the last chance to give feedback on the District Plan review?

No, we encourage you to give feedback on this early draft as it will enable us to refine the Proposed District Plan.

There will be a further opportunity to make submissions after the Proposed Kaipara District Plan is released in 2023. At that time you will have an opportunity to highlight your views before a hearings commission and can appeal decisions to the Environment Court.

Summary

- The Draft District Plan has been developed to help you consider whether we are on the right track before we start the statutory process and adopt a notified plan for consultation.
- We have developed 22 Factsheets across key topics in the Draft District Plan to provide a general overview and help you understand which areas you might want to look into in more detail.
- We have planned a range of face to face and online engagement events that you can attend to find out more, ask questions and decide whether you want to provide a submission.
- The feedback period closes Friday 16 September 2022.

