

# Natural Hazards

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.

## Natural hazards are natural processes that become a hazard when they have the potential to affect people, property, infrastructure or the wider environment.

The main natural hazards affecting Kaipara district are flooding, coastal hazards such as erosion or flooding associated with storms and sea level rise, land instability and wildfire. Other hazards such as tsunami and earthquakes/liquefaction can also occur. The risk of some natural hazards in Northland is likely to increase in the future due to climate change.

Council has responsibilities under the Resource Management Act, the New Zealand Coastal Policy Statement, and the Northland Regional Policy Statement (Northland RPS) to manage and minimise natural hazard risk to provide for the health and safety of our communities and the resilience of the infrastructure that services them. These documents require that the risks from natural hazards are not increased and, in some cases, specify design and performance requirements for new development.

The Draft District Plan seeks to manage natural hazards consistent with this high-level direction by enabling land use and subdivision in a way that recognises and manages natural hazard risks. Relevant hazards have been mapped on the Draft District Plan maps. This includes ensuring that new development is not placed in areas where it is susceptible to natural hazards to ensure the risks posed by natural hazards are recognised and appropriately managed. This includes not transferring hazard risks to other properties.

## What are we proposing?

While the natural hazards facing the district have not changed, the new natural hazards chapter is a significant revision of the equivalent chapter of the operative plan – in part reflecting the national and regional direction that was not present when the Operative Kaipara District Plan 2013 was prepared.

The plan takes a risk-based approach. Key aspects to this approach include:

- more stringent assessment and associated requirements for activities that occur in areas of natural hazard risk, particularly in high-risk natural hazard areas
- avoiding or limiting the location of activities within high-risk hazard areas, especially those that are vulnerable to natural hazard risks
- ensuring that the new infrastructure that needs to be located in hazard areas to service our communities is developed in a way that is resilient to natural hazards, and
- seeking to protect and enhance the natural systems (for example dunes) that help protect against natural hazards.

The natural hazards and coastal sections of the plan include rules that impose design requirements on sub-division and land development within mapped natural hazard areas or for these matters to be assessed through a resource consent process. Subdivision consents are also required to consider natural hazards at a site scale, for example land instability and related geotechnical matters.

A greater level of assessment and management will be required for subdivision and land use development within hazard areas. This will benefit the community in the long term by considering and addressing natural hazards at the outset so that new development does not increase natural hazard risks. The plan also aims to reduce existing hazard risks where there are opportunities to do so through re-development.

## How much is changing?



NOT MUCH

A LOT

# Natural Hazards Key FAQs



Kaipara te Orangahui

**KAIPARA  
DISTRICT**

Two Oceans Two Harbours

## What are the high-risk natural hazard areas in the plan?

The natural hazards chapter has identified the 1 in 10-year annual recurrence interval (ARI) flood plain area and the 50-year coastal erosion and flood inundation area as high-risk natural hazard areas. This is consistent with the Northland RPS and the Northland Regional Plan.

## What natural hazards are mapped in the plan?

The Northland Regional Council has mapped flood hazards (10, 50 and 100-year ARI although the 50 year is not used in the district plan) and coastal flooding hazard (50 and 100 years) across the Northland region. Coastal erosion risk (over 50 and 100 years) has also been mapped in selected areas. This mapping has been adopted in the plan. Details of this mapping can be found on the NRC website - <https://www.nrc.govt.nz/environment/river-flooding-and-coastal-hazards/natural-hazard-map-portal/>

### Ruawai/Raupo Drainage Area

The Regional Council is currently undertaking a detailed hydrodynamic mapping exercise for the Ruawai/Raupo drainage area. This will result in a 'bespoke' flood hazard model for this area. However, this mapping is currently not yet finalised and therefore is not included in the Draft District Plan.



## What activities are more vulnerable to natural hazards?

Under the Draft District Plan, residential dwellings, retirement villages, care centres and facilities, marae and similar activities are considered to be more vulnerable and less resilient to natural hazards.

## Is development prohibited in natural hazard areas.

No. The natural hazard provisions as proposed do not prohibit any activities in hazard areas, including high-risk hazard areas. However, the plan seeks to discourage new subdivision and development in high-risk hazard areas – particularly vulnerable activities. Development in high-risk areas would need to be supported by a detailed assessment of risks and how they could be mitigated in the long term.

## Summary

- The Draft District Plan includes a substantial redraft of the operative plan's natural hazards chapter.
- The new provisions for natural hazards give effect to changes in legislation and national direction and the comprehensive natural hazard provisions of the Northland RPS.
- The Draft District Plan has adopted a risk-based approach, that provides more stringent management of activities in high-risk hazard areas (1 in 50-year coastal inundation/erosion and 1 in 10-year river flooding) and activities that are more vulnerable to hazard risks.
- The Draft District Plan rules specify design and performance requirements and/or an assessment through a resource consent for land use and subdivision in mapped coastal inundation/erosion and river flood hazard areas.

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

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