

Sites and Areas of Significance to Māori

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.

Sites and areas of significance to Māori (SASMs) include historical and archaeological sites, ancestral lands, waterways, wāhi tapu and other taonga. There are numerous pa sites, terraces, pits and middens across the district.



These sites and areas need to be protected from certain land use activities, and inappropriate development so their cultural and historic heritage values are not compromised.

Under the Resource Management Act 1991, Council is required to protect SASMs, and we have worked with our Mana Whenua partners to identify SASMs in the Draft District Plan. Sites identified to date are found in Schedule 3 of the Draft Plan. No ‘hard boundaries’ around scheduled sites or areas have been determined as Council envisions that the correct boundaries will be determined by further engagement between private landowners and kaitiaki of those SASMs, including up until the new District Plan is notified.

What are we proposing?

The provisions take a balanced approach between protection and land use around these sites and areas. Proposed changes include:

- Providing greater acknowledgement of, and protection for, Sites and Areas of Significance to Māori.
- Protecting Mahinga Kai (food gathering) areas and wāhi tapu sites for future generations to enjoy.
- No ‘hard boundaries’ or ‘buffer areas’ placed around sites or areas.
- More direction and clarification regarding the Council’s consultation and engagement expectations with Tangata Whenua/Mana Whenua regarding the scheduled sites and areas.

How much is changing?



NOT
MUCH

A LOT

Why doesn't the map show a perimeter around the site/area?

The Draft District Plan does not have a hard perimeter around identified sites/areas identified in the Schedule. This is because Council encourages consultation with affected mana whenua about the site/area so they can work together to further understand the specific site/area and the cultural significance of it which will form part of the resource consent application to Council.

How do I know who the affected Tangata Whenua/Mana Whenua are?

A map and contact details of the Iwi Authorities contained within the Kaipara District Council boundaries can be found in the Tangata Whenua/Mana Whenua Chapter. The map shows the Iwi Authorities who have Treaty settlement legislation and whose rohe/tribal areas have been determined. These are your first points of contact, or Council staff will assist.

What are the most restrictive rules regarding a site/area of significance to Māori?

The most restrictive rules contained in the chapter are around the resource use or land use activity that affects mahinga kai and wāhi tapu. The proposed rules restrict use for these sites and areas because of the cultural significance associated with them.

Can I still submit a site or area to be put on the schedule?

Yes, contact districtplanreview@kaipara.govt.nz to find out how.



Summary

- Sites and areas of significance to Māori have cultural and historical importance requiring protection by all natural and physical resource users under the RMA 1991.
- Council is required to protect Sites and Areas of Significance to Māori in the District Plan.
- The Draft District Plan includes a chapter and schedule with provisions and identified sites.
- SASM provisions take a balanced approach between protection, land use and development.
- You can submit a site or area of significance for assessment by contacting districtplanreview@kaipara.govt.nz.