

Topic 5 - Targeted rate – Mangawhai Museum

Recommendation | Ngā tūhunga

That Kaipara District Council:

- a) Approves a targeted rate of \$20 incl GST for the Mangawhai Museum to those residents in the mapped area for MHRS, as provided in the consultation document
- b) Requests council staff investigate potential future funding support for the other key museums in the District (Kauri Museum, Dargaville Museum) as part of the 25/26 Annual Plan.
- c) Notes that this future investigation (at b) could include the Mangawhai Museum funding.

These recommendations do not change what was proposed in the Long Term Plan 2024-2027 Consultation Documents.

Introduction:

Kaipara District 'Roadmap to Recovery' Long Term Plan 2024-2027 Consultation Document said:

Option 1 Introduce a targeted rate collected on behalf of Mangawhai Museum (\$20 per year)

Option 2 Do not collect a targeted rate on behalf of Mangawhai Museum (status Quo)

The Mangawhai museum requested that Council collect a targeted rate for their museum as this would;

- Support the museum which provides a wide range of benefits to residents and visitors
- Offer the potential to be able to borrow for future capital works
- Fund necessary maintenance
- Ensure the viability of the museum
- Potentially reduce/eliminate the costs or existing ratepayers to visit the museum

Targeted rate – Mangawhai Museum

Submissions are summarised below:

Respondents had various opinions about the Mangawhai Museum. Some believed that it should receive funding through subsidies, rates relief, or other measures, while others were tired of subsidising ventures. Some respondents suggested that the targeted rate for the museum should be extended to other museums in the district, while others recommended a general rate for all ratepayers.

Observations for ratepayers/residents impacted by the rate:

Among those who live in the proposed rate area, 54.3% agreed to introduce a targeted rate, while 41.9% did not want to collect a targeted rate.

Kaipara District Council, Long Term Plan 2024—2027, Summary of submissions

Should we collect a targeted rate on behalf of the Mangawhai Museum?	Do not know	Do not live in proposed rate area	Live in proposed rate area	Total
Do not collect a targeted rate	57.1% 8	50.5% 56	41.9% 44	47% 108
Introduce a targeted rate	21.4% 3	34.2% 38	54.3% 57	42.6% 98
Do not know	21.4% 3	15.3% 17	3.8% 4	10.4% 24

Table 9: Should we collect a targeted rate on behalf of Mangawhai Museum? Sorted by targeted rate area.

Points raised from submission relating to Mangawhai Museum

Specific views are:

- Te Uri O Hau supports a targeted rate for the Mangawhai museum.
- The Kauri Museum supports Mangawhai museum targeted rate for repaying the loan but wants Council to meet with all three key museums to look at funding and support that can be made available through Council. Specifically, that within the next 12 months KDC convenes joined-up meetings with representatives from all three community museums in the Kaipara District - Dargaville Museum, the Kauri Museum (Otamatea Kauri and Pioneer Museum) and Mangawhai Museum. The purpose of these meetings would be to work together exploring funding pathways with Council as aligned with the Kaipara Arts, Culture and Heritage Strategy. This would be a re-set and these proposed meetings would serve to establish a forward-thinking approach to ongoing sustainability funding for all three cultural institutions, with the aim of incorporating these plans into the Kaipara District Council Annual Plan for 2025/2026 and future LTPs.
- Mangawhai Matters reject collecting a \$20 per year targeted rate for the Mangawhai Museum. While supportive of the museum, they believe funding should come from KDC's general rates budget, similar to subsidies for Dargaville facilities for which the service is unique to Dargaville (Dargaville library and Dargaville pool), rather than an additional charge solely for Mangawhai ratepayers. If this were to occur it would mean the museum would receive a grant from Council and that general rates would increase.

Options and Assessments

Option One - Charge a targeted rate of \$20 to Mangawhai ratepayers.

This is the recommended option.

This would give the museum \$103,600 per annum based on the number of ratepayers in the identified area. The targeted rate would be used to contribute to operations including loan repayments to Council. This is an extra charge on the Mangawhai ratepayers as the other district museums are not supported.

Consultation proved the Mangawhai ratepayers want to support the museum. The Dargaville and Kauri Museums recognised that all museums have limited funding in these economic times and want to be considered in the future for Council funding.

Option Two – Status quo - No targeted rate

This would make the overall rates more affordable as there would be no rate charged.

The museum has indicated that they are unable to raise funds to repay their loan and they are finding it difficult to survive in this economic climate. The problem for the Mangawhai Museum would not be solved.

Option 3 – Rate as part of general rate and provide funding through annual budget.

Most Councils in NZ fund museums to some extent through their annual budgets. This is by way of funding them as part of Council operations, or by way of grant, or as proposed by our Council as a local targeted rate. Council would need to consider other museums in the area and consider providing funding for all. Council has already had the Kauri Museum present to a meeting advising Council that operating is challenging and there is also the Dargaville museum to consider if Council is to cover museum expenditure in the general rate. Council is mindful that all museums do need increased funds but there is also an onus on these community organisations to raise funds from the community and utilise volunteers. Arguments for collecting funds as a general rate are valid when compared with the Dargaville Pool however this could be reconsidered when Council considers any potential future contributions to the Dargaville Museum and Kauri Museum.

Impact of recommendation on the LTP (financial and non-financial)

The recommendation means Mangawhai ratepayers will be charged \$20 for the museum and be able to help fund its operations and its loan (30 years). Council will meet with the museum and finalise terms of repayment of the loan to Council as previously, the museum had no means to fund this repayment of principal.

This will also provide the other museums an opportunity to put their position forward for funding and for staff to look at their sustainability and bring back any further proposals for the following year.

Fit with Long Term Plan

The recommendation is consistent with the Long -Term Plan 2024-2027 in that a targeted rate is proposed to be charged. There was support for funding the museum and the targeted rate is the appropriate tool.

Policy Implications

The Revenue and Financing policy will need to be updated to reflect the final decision of Council to show Council has considered affordability of all its ratepayers and the input from the consultation on the CD.

Conclusion drawn:

This is an appropriate way to help fund the Mangawhai museum which was supported through the consultation responses. To ensure equity amongst the three key museums in the Kaipara, it is important to discuss further funding opportunities as part of the next Annual Plan.