

Activity – Infrastructure – 4Waters

Recommendation | Ngā tūhunga

That the Kaipara District Council:

- a) Notes the feedback from the community.
- b) Requests that staff investigate the Paparoa wastewater issues raised in the submissions and engages with the effected property owners to assess the possibility of a wastewater solution and report back to Council in September 2024.

Introduction:

Submitters were invited to provide feedback on all the Long Term Plan (LTP) source documents.

This report on 4Waters consists of

- 1) wastewater
- 2) water supply
- 3) stormwater
- 4) flood protection and land drainage.

Wastewater

With 17 wastewater submissions, most want KDC to invest in wastewater maintenance and odour control. 1 respondent considers that additional funding to what is budgeted is required to improve the performance and consent compliance of Kaipara District's wastewater treatment plants.

Some are questioning the deferral of funds from the Mangawhai wastewater treatment plant with significant population growth forecast, the need for continued compliance, and to ensure environmental sustainability. Concerns were raised regarding wastewater leakage into the Mangawhai estuary, and one respondent suggested KDC should systematically test for leaks and repair them over the next three years.

Odours are also affecting residents in Dargaville from two central pumpstations which is not pleasant for residents and tourists. KDC are aware of this, and work is underway to address the known issues, anticipated to be completed mid-winter.

Comments were received on treated wastewater being discharged into the Northern Wairoa River from the Dargaville and Te Kopuru treatment plants. Future plans exist for these two plants to move from being pond-based systems, and to consider new locations.

Paparoa community want KDC to continue collaborating with them on options for a communal wastewater system.

Being largely rural, many properties have their own septic system onsite however it has been broached that new developments build self-contained wastewater systems within their development parameter. This would be reviewed by the Sustainable Growth and Investment team.

Water supply

Of the 20 submissions there is keenness to invest in maintaining a clean water supply and promote uptake of home water tanks.

Integrated into the submissions were concerns about the costs and maintenance of current water supply solutions, the need for water connections to promote economic growth and attract businesses, the importance of climate resilience and adaptation planning, and the impact of water supply on access to healthy housing.

KDC continues to collaborate with other agencies/organisations to enable efficiencies and/or economies of scale on potable water over the District, and with NRC on the health of our waterways and lakes.

Stormwater

There were 12 submissions, all calling for the need to invest in and maintain stormwater infrastructure – drains, outlets, culverts, floodgates, gutters. Responsibilities do cross over KDC teams i.e. roadside infrastructure is the Roding team.

Specific issues were raised such as the Glinks Gully culvert which was exacerbated by Gabrielle and a work programme is now in place; Mangawhai Sailrock Drive and surrounds where recovery works are progressing; and various culverts and outlets across the District which are part of an inspection system and routine maintenance, for which KDC are expected to be back on track with alongside the recovery work over the next 12-18 months.

As well, water sensitive design is considered in planning now and requirements are being included in the Engineering Standards currently under revision.

Support has been received on Stormwater Catchment Management Plans as an essential tool in planning and managing stormwater within catchment areas.

Flood protection and drainage

13 of the 16 submissions called for KDC to improve flood planning, and 3 want investment and maintenance in stopbanks to safeguard from inundation over populated areas, wastewater treatment plants, farms, and crops.

There were also concerns about the lack of planning to reduce future flooding and disappointment with the Council's response to the Mangawhai Road slip.

TOPIC

Submissions are summarised below:

Wastewater

17 submissions call for investing in wastewater maintenance and odour control for

- Mangawhai Wastewater Treatment Plant (WWTP)
- Dargaville Treatment Plant
- Te Kopuru Treatment Plant
- Pump stations at riverside Gardens and Victoria Reserve
- Build a communal wastewater system at Paparoa
 - There is planned work at all plants to improve current operations, disposal quality and odours, some of which is underway already.
 - KDC has committed to continue working with the Paparoa community affected on how to get best outcome for these properties.

4 submissions were directly related to Mangawhai WWTP requesting Council continue investigation of disposal options, ensuring capacity is maintained, and there is no impact to flora and fauna. 1 opposes deferral of any work here as it will increase the risk of consent non-compliance, particularly given rapid population growth in the area and increasing wastewater volumes.

Staff response

There are multiple threads of work planned at the Mangawhai WWTP to continue refinement of the network and disposal methods with the \$8,198m budget over LTP 2024-2027 years.

Utilising the treated disposal purposely has been recommended, and discussions with the Mangawhai Gold Course are ongoing, however a further sense of urgency is requested by the Club for irrigation, application of both WWTP disposal and stormwater.

Staff response

- KDC continue to collaborate with the Club and monitor saturation capacity for potential disposal irrigation at the golf course to supplement Brown Road disposal, in preparedness for growth.
- At Council Meeting 29 May 2024 Council approved the redirection of Better Off and Transition Funding. An additional \$800k of funding has been directed towards the Mangawhai Gold Course subsurface irrigation project in year 2025-26 of the LTP.

1 submission also suggested new larger developments, within the consenting process, have self-contained wastewater, costs to be negotiated with Council.

Staff response

- This is part of the planning and consent process, in alignment with the District Operative Plan.

Water supply

12 submissions want KDC to invest in and maintain a clean water supply, expand the existing storage facilities, add more communities to a reticulated system, and continue with leak detection to prevent water loss.

Staff response

- The future years beyond this recovery driven LTP do consider the expansion of potable water supplies.
- Council will continue to assess the network according to age, condition, and expected growth, and plan works accordingly.
- \$9,221m has been allocated to water supplies in the LTP 2024-2027 years, largely to the Maungaturoto Treatment Plant upgrade and water main, and various upgrades and renewals to water mains in Dargaville and surrounds.

Increasing the supply of Waiatua Dam on the west coast was suggested by 1 respondent, then discounted by another reasoning KDC minimise risk and develop a business plan to partner with Kaipara Water Scheme in Te Waihekeora reservoir at Redhill. NRC also encourages KDC to provide for the capital cost to connect to this scheme and opposes any further delay in resolving Dargaville's water supply issue noting there are social and economic costs associated with inaction. Another is concerned that some people in Kaihu don't have access to a clean water source.

Staff response

- This feedback will be included as in the assessment of options.
- Currently \$1m has been allocated to upgrade Waiatua Dam and connect to the raw water main.

1 respondent would like fluoridation of our water supplies.

Staff response

- At this stage fluoridating water supplies is not proposed.

An additional 4 submissions recommend KDC promote the uptake of home water tanks for extra water store for home use.

Staff response

- Council supports the use of private water tanks.

4 submissions called for KDC to invest in and maintain water bodies and rivers.

Staff response

- KDC continue to collaborate with NRC and relevant agencies on the health of our waterways and lakes, especially around wastewater discharge and debris traps in the stormwater network.

Stormwater

All 12 submissions would like further investment in stormwater – drains, outlets, culverts, floodgates, roadside gutters.

Staff response

- Along with the proposed roading budget, there is \$11,128m allocated across the District to stormwater over the LTP 2024-2027 years for firstly recovery projects, plus repairs, renewals and improvements including growth projects.

Some specific locale issues raised in the submissions include:

Staff response

Marina Drive, Glinks Gully

Staff response

- Increased maintenance to clear the sand has been scheduled.

Sailrock Drive and other areas of Mangawhai

Staff response

- There is future work planned alongside the retirement village development for Sailrock Dr, Northcoast pond and the egress from there to the estuary. Recovery and other works are progressing in Eveline Street, Breve Street and Robert Street.

And 1 submission suggested water sensitive design, which is being incorporated into our Engineering Standards.

Flood protection and land drainage

13 submissions were received to improve flood planning and increase annual maintenance on drains, floodgates and stopbanks. NRC supports a collaborative approach to reassessing responsibilities of ownership management and controls for drainage districts, river systems and harbours.

Staff response

- The infrastructure assets are within roading, stormwater, parks, and land drainage activities therefore maintenance and funding programmes are managed across teams. Land drainage assets and maintenance is coordinated with the relevant drainage district, and as per the Infrastructure Strategy these will be fully reviewed through this LTP period and forward maintenance plans developed.

Concern has been raised on flooding impacts to Dargaville and Te Kopuru wastewater treatment plants.

Staff response

- There is a project underway to heighten the bunds around the Dargaville ponds using the actual modelled information from the flood events to determine height and extent.
- The Dargaville to Te Kopuru stopbank is fully designed and consented with some construction already complete. This will continue as funds (including external funds) allow.

One respondent requested work be completed on riverbanks along SH14 to stop flooding.

Staff response

- KDC are working with NRC to assess, investigate, and determine the most effective river management options using aerial footage, LiDAR analysis and flood modelling. Collaboration with other agencies has been recommended in all 4Waters activities on options and opportunities, assessment and regulation, to collaborate and share intel, plus potential investment streams.

Options and Assessments

Most of the submissions covered areas where either works is planned, commenced or the funding is not available in the LTP, and will be assessed and considered in future LTPs.

Fit with Long Term Plan

The recommendation is consistent with the LTP 2024-2027 consulted on.

Policy Implications

There are no policy implications.

Conclusion drawn:

It is proposed to investigate the Paparoa wastewater issues raised in the submissions and engage with the effected property owners to assess the possibility of a wastewater solution and report back to Council in September 2024.

At Council Meeting on 29 May 2024 Council approved redirection of the Better Off and Transition Funding to support Local Water Done Well. This decision aligns with the many submissions in favour of increased investment in 4Waters. The redirected Better Off and Transition funding of \$3,248,500 will deliver increased investment to:

- Water systems renewals (Debt funded) - replace Council funding of \$500,000 with remaining funds and provide additional funding of \$100,000.
- Maungaturoto Treatment Plant upgrade (Debt funded) - replace Council funding of \$1,500,000 with remaining funds and provide additional funding of \$100,000.
- Wastewater systems renewals (Additional funding) of \$248,500.
- Mangawhai Golf Course subsurface irrigation (Additional funding) of \$800,000.

As well, \$500,000 of the Better Off and Transition Funding will be retained for the purpose of transitioning to the Local Waters Done Well model.

The Northern Regional Council made broad submissions on the lack of investment, deferral of works and seeking a collaborative approach to river management. Council is aware of its infrastructure requirements, and we take investment in infrastructure seriously. This has been demonstrated when including its investment needs into the Three Waters Entity A Asset Management Plan (AMP). As shown in the figure 1, Council required \$600m over 10 years and what is affordable regrettably in this LTP is \$32m. This is far from what is required. The solution to the shortfall in investment for KDC is some form on neighbouring Council(s) collaboration, where scale can offset the investment needs.



Figure 1

Attachments | Ngā tapiritanga

	Title
A	Summary of Submissions