



Kaipara te Oranganui

**KAIPARA
DISTRICT**

Two Oceans Two Harbours

09 June 2017

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Dear Charles

Te Kopuru Wastewater Scheme

Thank you for coming in to visit and raising with me your issues related to the Te Kopuru wastewater scheme. I have had a look at some of the numbers you presented and am comfortable with the way Council has handled these matters. For example comparing administrative costs is difficult when some of your comparative numbers relate to a time in Council's history when it was actually borrowing money for operational expenditure. Under that scenario costs will always look lower.

One of the challenges I have in this role is working through the lack of a common treatment in many areas of our activities, wastewater being one. Ideally in the upcoming long term planning process we can identify what fair treatment is for projects and then gradually work communities to a common end point. Communities will obviously have input into this process.

I am far from convinced looking back 40 years and "grandfathering" provisions back then is either relevant or helpful. It would be close to impossible to operate a Council on that basis.

I am very concerned about affordability of rates and other charges in communities where some residents struggle financially to make ends meet. You may be aware rates relief is available in a number of these circumstances. If it would assist, Council staff could have a day at Te Kopuru assisting residents with applications in this regard. If you think this would be helpful please contact Sean Mahoney smahoney@kaipara.govt.nz or 09 439 3602 in that regard and it will be arranged.

Yours faithfully

Greg Gent
Mayor