



# LOCAL BODY ELECTIONS 2019 MANIFESTO

The Kāpiti Coast District is a great place to live, work and play. Unprecedented opportunities for growth present our local and regional Councils with a unique set of challenges over the next three years.

The Kāpiti Coast Chamber of Commerce has identified three key areas of focus for the 2019 Local Body Elections; Fostering an 'Open for Business' Council, Delivering Better Infrastructure for Kapiti, and Smarter Economic Development. This Manifesto outlines why these priorities matter, and outcomes we would like to see for Kāpiti and our local businesses.

You can read more at [www.kapitchamber.org.nz/localbodyelections](http://www.kapitchamber.org.nz/localbodyelections)



The Kāpiti Coast District Council has an 'Open for Business' Policy, focusing on improving outcomes for local businesses and to make it easy to do business in Kāpiti.

A Chamber survey in 2018 revealed more than 70% of local business surveyed didn't believe the Council was 'Open for Business', or didn't know.

For the last 18+ months, the Chamber has been working with a number of businesses, across a range of sectors who all encounter problems when interacting with the Council, citing a lack of transparency, flexibility and an unwillingness to engage.

With bricks and mortar businesses liable for separate Commercial Rates from 2019, the forthcoming review of Council and its processes, and the ongoing issues between business and Council, we want Mayoral and Councillor Candidates to put in place practical steps, offer proactive solutions and foster stronger relationships with business owners to create a District which is truly "Open for Business".

### OUTCOMES WE WISH TO SEE

1. KCDC has a clear internal and external understanding of what 'Open for Business' means, which is evident through its interactions with the business community.
2. KCDC demonstrates transparency and accountability on spending funded by Commercial Rates, potentially through quarterly reporting to businesses or KPI's.
3. Senior Leadership Teams with KCDC and Councillors incorporate an 'Open for Business' approach as part of all policy decisions, putting businesses at the heart of key Council policies.



The Kāpiti Coast District has unprecedented opportunities for growth, with Transmission Gully due to open next year, and the Peka Peka to Ōtaki Expressway in 2021.

However, the Chamber believes the decisions to reduce the Ōtaki to Levin Expressway to two lanes, and remove the interchange from Peka Peka will have a decades-long impact on the region.

Improved connections to the south of Kāpiti will encourage population growth, and increased pressure on local roads particularly Waikanae north, impacting on both local communities and businesses.

Early research indicates the opening of the Expressway delivered an economic return to the District, with an increase in day-trippers to Kāpiti and spending in key areas like Kapiti Landing.

The Chamber wants the new Council to commit to funding infrastructure required to connect the communities in Te Horo and Peka Peka to an interchange; and to actively lobby the Government, on behalf of the community to re-instate four lanes between Ōtaki and Levin.

### OUTCOMES WE WISH TO SEE

1. KCDC commits to funding infrastructure required to connect residents to a Peka Peka interchange (removing barriers at a national decision-making level) and lobby NZTA and the Government to re-instate the interchange.
2. KCDC actively lobbies Government for four lanes north of Otaki.
3. The Council actively plans and supports financially local infrastructure to meet the long-term needs of our community



A cohesive approach to Kapiti's economic development is lacking. Without an agreed plan and key deliverables, our community has no direction or goals to support a stronger economy, which encourages business growth and higher wages.

Along with a lack of long-term vision, there are two particular areas of concern - supporting our tourism sector, and our town centres.

If we are to make the most of better connections to our capital city (and its visitors) we need a SMART plan in place to grow our tourism sector.

Kāpiti's town centres face a unique set of challenges, as the Expressway opens, it will take fewer people past them. The Chamber believes our five town centres from Paekākāriki to Ōtaki need individual plans and better support from Council if they are to thrive and grow, and become key focal points for the communities in which they're centred.

### OUTCOMES WE WISH TO SEE

1. KCDC sets aside an agreed separate budget for tourism development and promotion.
2. Each of Kapiti's town centres has an individual development plan and agreed goals.
3. KCDC has an agreed set of KPI's it reports on quarterly in regards to Economic Development Goals.

