

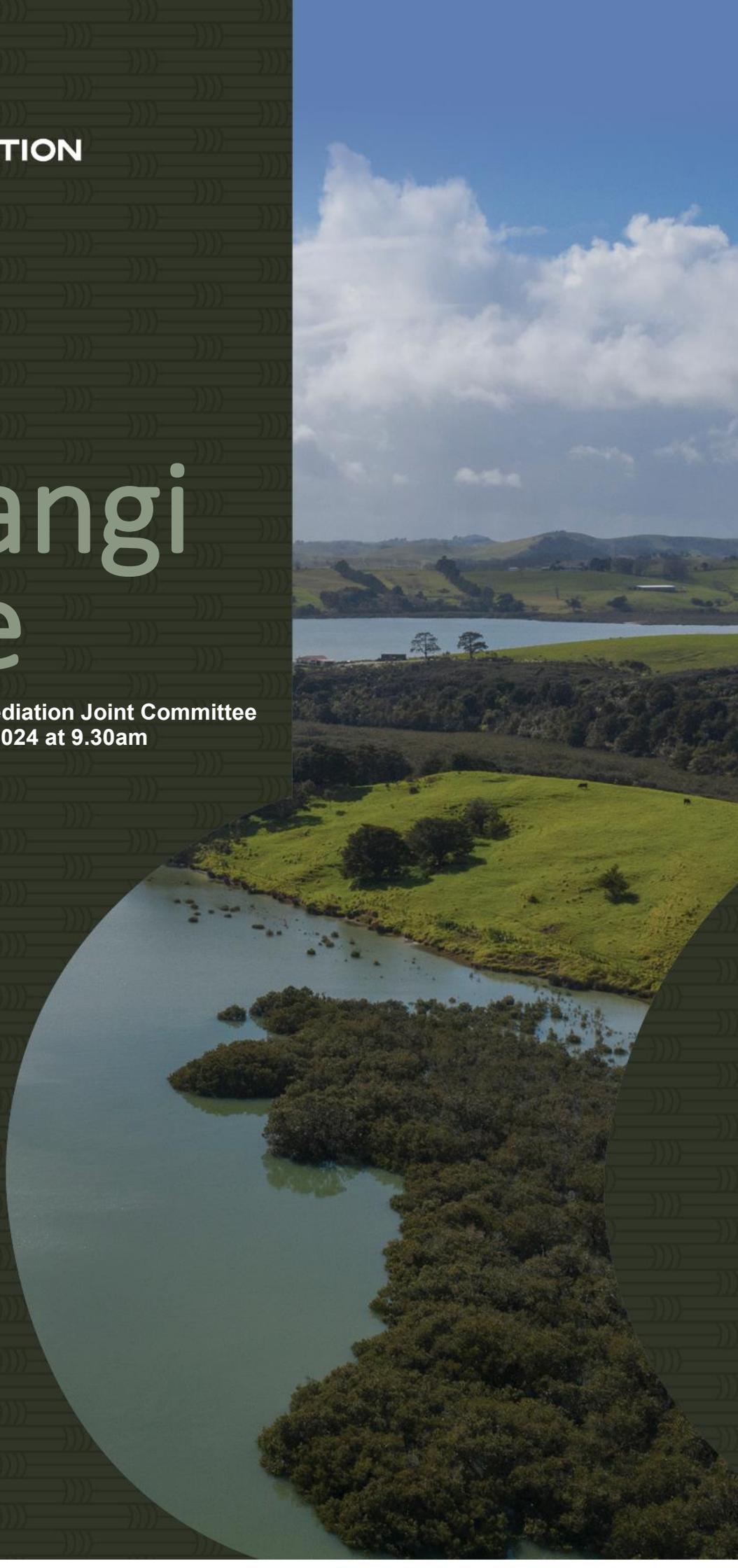
Agenda

Rārangi Take

Kaipara Moana Remediation Joint Committee
Monday 21 October 2024 at 9.30am



kmr.org.nz



Kaipara Moana Remediation Joint Committee Agenda

Rā Date:	Monday, 21 October 2024
Wā Time:	9.30am
Tauwāhi Location:	Online - Microsoft Teams
Ngā Mana whakahaere Members	Tame Te Rangi (Chair), Te Rūnanga o Ngāti Whātua Amy Macdonald (Deputy Chair), Northland Regional Council Cherie Povey, Ngā Maunga Whakahii o Kaipara Georgina Curtis-Connelly, Te Uri o Hau Greg Sayers, Auckland Council Jack Crow, Northland Regional Council Jane Sherard, Ngā Maunga Whakahii o Kaipara John Blackwell, Northland Regional Council Kerrin Leoni, Auckland Council Michelle Carmichael, Auckland Council Taiāwhio Wati, Te Uri o Hau Virginia Warriner, Te Rūnanga o Ngāti Whātua

The Quorum for the Joint Committee is:

- a) 7 members of the 12 Committee members, and;
- b) At least 1 member each from Auckland Council and Northland Regional Council, and;
- c) At least 2 members from Kaipara Uri (unspecified from which entities).

Recommendations contained in the agenda are NOT decisions of the meeting. Please refer to minutes for resolutions.

For any queries regarding this meeting, please contact Kaipara Moana Remediation via the website <https://kmr.org.nz/contact/>

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TITLE: Confirmation of Minutes – July 2024

Kaituhi Pūrongo | Lily Grace Lambert, PA to Pou Tātaki and Governance Support
Report Writer

Te Kaupapa | Purpose

This paper serves to receive the minutes of the KMR Joint Committee meeting held in July 2024.

Whakataunga | Recommendations

That the minutes of the Kaipara Moana Remediation Joint Committee meeting held on 29 July 2024 be confirmed as a true and correct record.

Ngā Tāpiri | Attachments

Attachment 1: Joint Committee Hui Minutes (July 2024)

Kaipara Moana Remediation Joint Committee Minutes

Rā Date:	Monday 29 July 2024
Wā Time:	10.30am
Tauwāhi Location:	Warkworth Town Hall, 2 Alnwick Street, Warkworth, 0910
Huihuinga Gathering	Tame Te Rangi (Chair), Te Rūnanga o Ngāti Whātua Amy Macdonald (Deputy Chair), Northland Regional Council Jack Craw, Northland Regional Council John Blackwell, Northland Regional Council Georgina Curtis-Connelly, Te Uri o Hau Greg Sayers, Auckland Council Michelle Carmichael, Auckland Council Virginia Warriner, Te Rūnanga o Ngāti Whātua
I Tae Mae In Attendance	Justine Daw, Pou Tātaki, Kaipara Moana Remediation (KMR) Ben Hope, Ringa-Pārongo, KMR Lisette Rawson, Amo-Rauora Kōawa, KMR Sophie Bone, PA to Pou Tātaki and Governance Support, KMR Stephanie Versteeg, Amo-Rautaki Pākihi, KMR Ilka Pelzer, Kaitātari Matua, Ministry for the Environment (MfE) (Observer)

The Chair declared the meeting open at 10.35am.

Karakia Tīmatanga and Whakatau (Item 1.0)

Ngā whakapahā | Apologies (Item 2.0)

Moved Curtis-Connelly/Blackwell

1. That the apologies from Members Cherie Povey, Kerrin Leoni, Jane Sherard, and Taiāwhio Wati for non-attendance be received.

Carried

Introduction of Supplementary Paper

Report from Justine Daw, Pou Tātaki

Moved (Curtis-Connelly/Blackwell)

1. That as permitted under section 46A(7) of the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987 the Joint Committee receive the following tabled report:
 - Kōrero Tuku Iho Chair Vacancy.

Carried

Ngā whakapuakanga | Declarations of Conflicts of Interest (Item 3.0)

It was advised that members should make declarations item-by-item as the meeting progressed.

Secretarial note: Member Warriner noted her intent to recuse from item 6.4 due to a perceived conflict of interest.

Confirmation of Minutes - May 2024 (Item 4.1)

Report from Sophie Bone, PA to Pou Tātaki and Governance Support

Moved (Macdonald/Curtis-Connelly)

That the Joint Committee:

1. Confirm the minutes of the Kaipara Moana Remediation Meeting held on 6 May 2024 as a true and correct record.

Carried

Joint Committee Action Tracker (Item 5.1)

Report from Sophie Bone, PA to Pou Tātaki and Governance Support

Moved (Craw/Blackwell)

1. That the report 'Joint Committee Action Tracker' be received.

Carried

Joint Committee Forward Workplan (Item 5.2)

Report from Sophie Bone, PA to Pou Tātaki and Governance Support

Moved (Warriner/Macdonald)

1. That the report 'Joint Committee Forward Workplan' be received.

Carried

Secretarial note:

A correction was noted to be made in the Forward Workplan. Member Crow asked about the September Field Trip, and the Pou Tātaki provided indicative information on what was planned.

Committee and Executive Interests (Item 6.1)

Report from Sophie Bone, PA to Pou Tātaki and Governance Support

Moved (Curtis-Connelly/Carmichael)

That the Joint Committee:

1. Note the paper 'Committee and Executive Interests', by Sophie Bone, PA to Pou Tātaki and Governance Support, dated 29 July 2024.
2. Request that Joint Committee Members provide advice of any new or changed interests to those shown in Attachment 1.

Carried

Secretarial note:

A number of updates were noted by Members. These will be added to the Interests Register.

Indicative Year End Results (Item 6.2)

Report from Stephanie Versteeg, Amo-Rautaki Pākihi and Galilee Miles, Kaitohutohu – Monitoring and Evaluation

Moved (Sayers/Blackwell)

That the Joint Committee:

1. Receive the report 'Indicative Year-End Results for 2023-2024' by Stephanie Versteeg, Strategic Business Manager and Galilee Miles, Advisor – Monitoring and Evaluation, dated 29 July 2024.
2. Note that audited year-end results for Year 4 of Kaipara Moana Remediation (KMR) are due to be submitted to the Ministry for the Environment by 31 October 2024.
3. Note the preliminary, unaudited Year 4 year-end results presented in this report, which will be communicated to Ministry for the Environment and others, as relevant.
4. Note that the preliminary, unaudited Year 4 year-end results indicate that KMR has met all of its Key Performance Indicators (KPIs), barring one metric (land area covered by new plan) which, while a valid measure, does not reflect activity by returning landowners/groups, nor the value – environmentally or culturally – of the projects supported by KMR grants.

Carried

Secretarial Note:

Members congratulated KMR staff on the excellent year-end results. Member Carmichael asked whether returning landowners had been delayed by weather damages, economic downturn or other factors. KMR staff confirmed that was the situation in some cases, however we welcomed landowners and groups continuing projects with KMR on a multi-year basis.

The Member also sought clarification on the correlation between project activity as reported and environmental outcomes on the ground. The Pou Tātaki clarified that as sediment was a 'decadal contaminant' it would take years if not decades to statistically demonstrate meaningful reductions in sediment levels in the harbour. Nonetheless, there was clear scientific evidence that the actions funded via KMR grants would deliver a material and cumulative benefit when undertaken at scale across the catchment. This was why the modelling work underpinning Tātaki Wai was also important – using scientifically validated modelling outputs, KMR will be able to demonstrate the expected outcomes from our investments.

MfE Observer Ilka Pelzer elaborated that as the Jobs for Nature Key Performance Indicators were national – i.e. they applied across all Jobs for Nature projects – KMR was welcome to add its own indicators, and had begun to do so. In time, KMR would be able to draw on both scientific and cultural inputs to develop and investment strategy to optimise outcomes from the programme.

Pou Tātaki Report (Item 6.3)

Report from Sophie Bone, PA to Pou Tātaki and Governance Support

Moved (Craw/Curtis-Connelly)

That the Joint Committee:

1. Receive the report 'Pou Tātaki Report', by Justine Daw dated 29 July 2024.

Carried

Secretarial Note:

Members and staff discussed Trees That Count (TTC)'s contribution to KMR of over 90,000 free trees, and how they helped some groups to meet KMR's co-funding requirements. All TTC trees are locally sourced, from KMR accredited nurseries within the appropriate ecological district.

Members and staff further discussed how landowners and groups were supported when unable to meet the KMR co-funding requirements through third-party contributions, their own time and/or materials. It was acknowledged that times were financially very tight. As a voluntary programme, in which landowners and groups had to contribute up to half of the project value, KMR was therefore expecting a relatively flat year. The most recent independent survey of landowners and groups working with KMR confirmed that many of those working with us would like to take additional action but were unable to due to financial constraints.

Member Warriner asked about the Field Advisor training Key Performance Indicator, and whether it was possible to identify how many FAs were from local hapū. The Pou Tātaki responded that KMR did not report specifically on that as FAs did not always identify their affiliations, but we estimated that the figure was approximately one third.

Deputy Chair Macdonald asked about the strategic opportunities for third-party co-funding, noting the Pou Tātaki's experience in the philanthropic space, and encouraged creativity in finding new ways to secure co-funding. The Pou Tātaki responded that there were several third-party opportunities in the pipeline, some of which were in confidence and some of which were dependent on future policy settings. It was acknowledged that KMR's digital tools were a significant enabler in securing new revenue.

Kōrero Tuku Iho Chair Vacancy (Item 6.4)

Report from Justine Daw, Pou Tātaki.

Moved (Macdonald/Craw)

That the Joint Committee;

1. Receive the report 'Kōrero Tuku Iho Chair Vacancy' by Justine Daw dated 29 July 2024.

Moved (Macdonald/Sayers)

2. Note that in May 2024 Willie Wright was appointed as Interim Kōrero Tuku Iho Reference Rōpū Chair in his capacity as KMR Mana Whenua Relations Lead;
3. Note that with Willie's retirement from the Mana Whenua Relations Lead role, the Kōrero Tuku Iho Interim Reference Rōpū Chair role is now vacant;
4. Acknowledge and thank Willie Wright for the significant and enduring contribution that he has made to KMR through its development and establishment phase; and
5. Agree to appoint the KMR Joint Committee Chair to the role of Interim Reference Rōpū Chair to strengthen connection between the Rōpū, Joint Committee and KMR Maurikura; and ensure effective delivery of the Kōrero Tuku Iho project in line with Joint Committee decisions.

Carried

Secretarial note:

Chair Te Rangi and Member Warriner recused themselves for this paper to manage actual or perceived conflicts of interest.

The first recommendation to receive the paper was moved, before a brief recess from 11.55am – 12.05pm.

The Pou Tātaki provided an overview of the tabled paper. As one of KMR's two foundations, effective delivery of Kōrero Tuku project was critical to KMR's overall success. She explained that there were two primary drivers for the change sought: the need for KMR to operate in alignment with the previously agreed Terms of Reference for the Kōrero Tuku Iho project, and the need to demonstrate delivery in this critical area, which had been rated as 'amber' by the Crown given the delays to date.

MfE Observer Ilka Pelzer confirmed that the tight Crown Funding environment was driving agencies to carefully monitor high-value programmes like KMR, and encouraged the Joint Committee to take actions that would support a move to a 'green' rating.

Staff reminded Members of the previously agreed report-back deadlines for the Kōrero Tuku Iho project relating to a plan for engagement, update on the first Whakatauirā, and a process to confirm final membership of the Reference Rōpū by February 2025.

Acting Chair Macdonald noted that in other local government contexts it was not unusual for the Governing Body Chair to also be Chair of a sub-committee or similar. The Member encouraged other Members to support the paper's recommendations as a way to move the project into delivery, while acknowledging that wider discussion on the Kōrero Tuku project would be held via scheduled report-backs. She reminded Members that the proposal was to fill the newly vacant Interim Reference Rōpū Chair role in a timely way, and noted that William Wright would remain on the Interim Rōpū in a private capacity.

Members spoke with one voice about the incomparable contribution of William Wright to IKHMG and now KMR, working for decades for the restoration of the harbour. The Joint Committee expressed significant gratitude and noted the desire to acknowledge and celebrate his contribution in an appropriate way. The Pou Tātaki agreed that KMR Maurikura staff would seek a suitable opportunity to do this as soon as practicable.

Correspondence (Item 7.1)

Report from Sophie Bone, PA to Pou Tātaki and Governance Support

Moved (Blackwell/Curtis-Connelly)

Correspondence received.

Carried

Karakia Mutunga

Whakamutunga (Conclusion)

The meeting concluded at 12.56.

TITLE: Joint Committee Action Tracker

**Kaituhi Pūrongo |
Report Writer** Lily Grace Lambert, PA to Pou Tātaki and Governance Support

Rāpopototanga Matua | Executive summary

Following each Hui, the Joint Committee Action Tracker is reviewed and updated. The Action Tracker records actions still to be resolved from previous Joint Committee meetings and serves as a transparent record of progress against committed actions.

Whakataunga | Recommendations

1. That the report 'Joint Committee Action Tracker' be received.

Ngā Tāpiri | Attachments

Attachment 1: Joint Committee Action Tracker – October 2024

¹KMR Joint Committee: Action Tracker

Item	Action	Who	Due	Status	Comments
6 May 2024					
Kōrero Tuku Iho (Item 6.2)	That KMR report back on progress in implementation of the Kōrero Tuku Iho project, including engagement, representation on the Reference Rōpū, and progress in the initial case study. A proposal for a second case study will be submitted by 30 June 2025.	Environs Te Uri o Hau on behalf of KMR	November 2024 February 2025 June 2025.	Open	Further updates are scheduled.
21 February 2022					
Catchment Reference Groups (Item 6.2)	That a report-back on progress to establish the Catchment Reference Groups be provided to the Joint Committee	Reconnecting Northland on behalf of KMR	February 2025	Open	Timing of this report-back depends on progress in the draft Deed of Settlement for Wai 303. In the meantime, a pilot is being progressed in the Mangakāhia sub-catchment.
15 November 2021					
KMR Freshwater Management Tool (Item 5.1)	That KMR develop a long-term agreement with Auckland Council (Healthy Waters) for hosting, operation and maintenance costs associated with KMR's Freshwater Management Tool [Tātaki Wai]	Stephanie Versteeg / AKL Council	October 2024	Open	Timing for this report-back depends on finalisation of the KMR FWMT tool (Tātaki Wai). A draft Agreement is under development.

Note: Closed items will be removed from the table once they have been sighted by the Joint Committee.

¹ This refers to the Ngāti Whātua Treaty Claim which has a component relating to the Kaipara Moana Body.

TITLE: Joint Committee Forward Workplan

**Kaituhi Pūrongo |
Report Writer** Lily Grace Lambert, PA to Pou Tātaki and Governance Support

Rāpopototanga Matua | Executive summary

This report tables to the meeting an indicative Joint Committee Forward Workplan, which sets out a high-level view of expected discussions and papers to be tabled over the calendar year 2024. It serves as a helpful record for both the Kaipara Maurikura and the Joint Committee and will be refreshed for each Joint Committee Hui.

Whakataunga | Recommendations

1. That the report 'Joint Committee Forward Workplan' be received.

Ngā Tāpiri | Attachments

Attachment 1: Joint Committee Indicative Forward Workplan 2024

KMR Joint Committee: Indicative Forward Workplan 2024

Meeting	Standing items	Briefing / Workshop	Field Trip / Other
26 February	6 Month report Programme Rephasing	Freshwater Farm Plans	
8 April	Kōrero Tuku Iho		Field Trip (Cancelled by Host)
6 May	Draft Annual Work Plan Kōrero Tuku Iho	Digital Tools	Field Trip
29 July	Committee and Executive Interests Indicative Year End results		
9 September			Field Trip
21 October	Annual Report Meeting Dates 2025		
25 November	Audit Letter Kōrero Tuku Iho	Skills development / Training	

TITLE: Annual Report (2023-2024)

**Kaituhi Pūrongo |
Report Writer** Stephanie Versteeg, Amo-Rautaki Pākihi

Te Kaupapa | Purpose

This report tables for Joint Committee approval the draft final Kaipara Moana Remediation (KMR) Annual Report for 2023-2024.

Rāpopototanga Matua | Executive summary

The Kaipara Moana Remediation (KMR) Deed of Funding requires the preparation of an Annual Report for submission to the Ministry for the Environment (MfE) by 31 October each year.

The 2023-2024 KMR Annual Report has been drafted and audit is underway. An Audit Report will be signed following the Joint Committee's approval of the Annual Report.

KMR staff recommend the Joint Committee approve the final draft Annual Report for submission to MfE. We also recommend delegation to the Chair the power to approve any changes to the Annual Report (for example, to respond to any feedback from the Ministry), with the ability for the Pou Tātaki to also make minor editorial changes prior to publication, if required.

This approval will enable KMR to provide the Annual Report to the Ministry for the Environment by 31 October and to publish a final designed copy on the KMR website.

Whakataunga | Recommendations

That the Joint Committee:

1. *Receive* the report 'Annual Report (2023-2024)', by Stephanie Versteeg dated 21 October 2024.
2. *Approve* the final draft of the Annual Report 2023-2024 for provision to the Ministry for the Environment.
3. *Delegate* to the Joint Committee Chair power to approve the final Annual Report, with the ability for the Pou Tātaki to make minor editorial changes prior to publication if required.

Horopaki | Background

Under the KMR Deed of Funding, the Joint Committee must submit an Annual Report to the Ministry for the previous financial year by 31 October, or by a later date if this is agreed in writing by the MOU signatory parties. The Deed of Funding also requires submission of an Audit Report to the Ministry.

Tātari me ngā tūtohu | Analysis and Advice

Annual Report requirements

Section 4.2 of the KMR Deed of Funding sets out what is required in each Annual Report. It requires detail on project activity, funding received, and expenses paid. It also provides an opportunity to communicate key messages about the programme, acknowledge successes and challenges, and signal future direction and priorities.

Audit Report

An Audit Report is also required to be submitted to the Ministry. At the time of writing, an independent auditor is completing an audit of the 2023-2024 financial year. Auditors will finalise the Audit Report once they have confirmation of the Joint Committee's approval of the Annual Report. Once the Audit Report is signed, KMR will circulate this to the Joint Committee for information.

Finalising the draft Annual Report and delegations to the Chair

Staff recommend that the Joint Committee approve the draft Annual Report for provision to the Ministry for the Environment.

It is also recommended to delegate to the Chair the final approval of the Annual Report, with the ability for the Pou Tātaki to make minor editorial changes prior to publication if required. Any changes are likely to be minor, and delegation of the ability to make editorial changes to the Pou Tātaki avoids the need for the Chair to approve the report a second time if typographical and other minor matters need attention.

Annual Report publication

The Annual Report is formatted in a manner consistent with the KMR brand and identity, and the previous year's report, with appropriate illustrations and modest production values. We are proposing a primarily digital publication, with a small print run of hard copies.

Considerations

1. Aromātai whāinga haumi mō te oranga | Wellbeing Investment objectives and assessment

Provision of an Annual Report to the Ministry is a requirement under the KMR Deed of Funding. KMR's Annual Report sets out the programme's financial and activity-based reporting and progress on key performance indicators with the Ministry. As KMR matures, it is also an opportunity to set out the programme's broader impact on its wellbeing investment objectives.

2. Ngā ritenga take pūtea | Financial implications

There are no financial implications of approving the Annual Report. Its preparation and audit are covered by KMR's general operating budget.

3. Ngā hiranga me ngā hononga | Significance and Engagement

In relation to section 79 of the Local Government Act 2002, the decisions arising from this report are considered to be of low significance when assessed against Northland Regional Council's significance and engagement policy. This does not mean that this matter is not of significance to tangata whenua and/or individual communities, but that the Joint Committee is able to make these decisions without undertaking further consultation or engagement.¹

4. Ngā tūraru me ngā mauru | Risks and mitigation

The Annual Report provides transparency and accountability to the work of the programme, and assurance to programme partners on performance.

5. Ngā urutau huringa-ā-rangi | Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation

KMR will do a small print run of our Annual Report on recycled paper using sustainable inks to minimise the environmental and climate footprint of this publication.

¹ This Joint Committee operates under the Local Government Act which requires a significance and engagement policy (which identifies when matters require special consultation with tangata whenua and the community) and to have regard to that policy when making decisions. As the administrative support for the Joint Committee is provided by the Northland Regional Council, it is that Council's Significance and Engagement Policy that will apply to Joint Committee decision making.

Ngā Tāpiri | Attachments

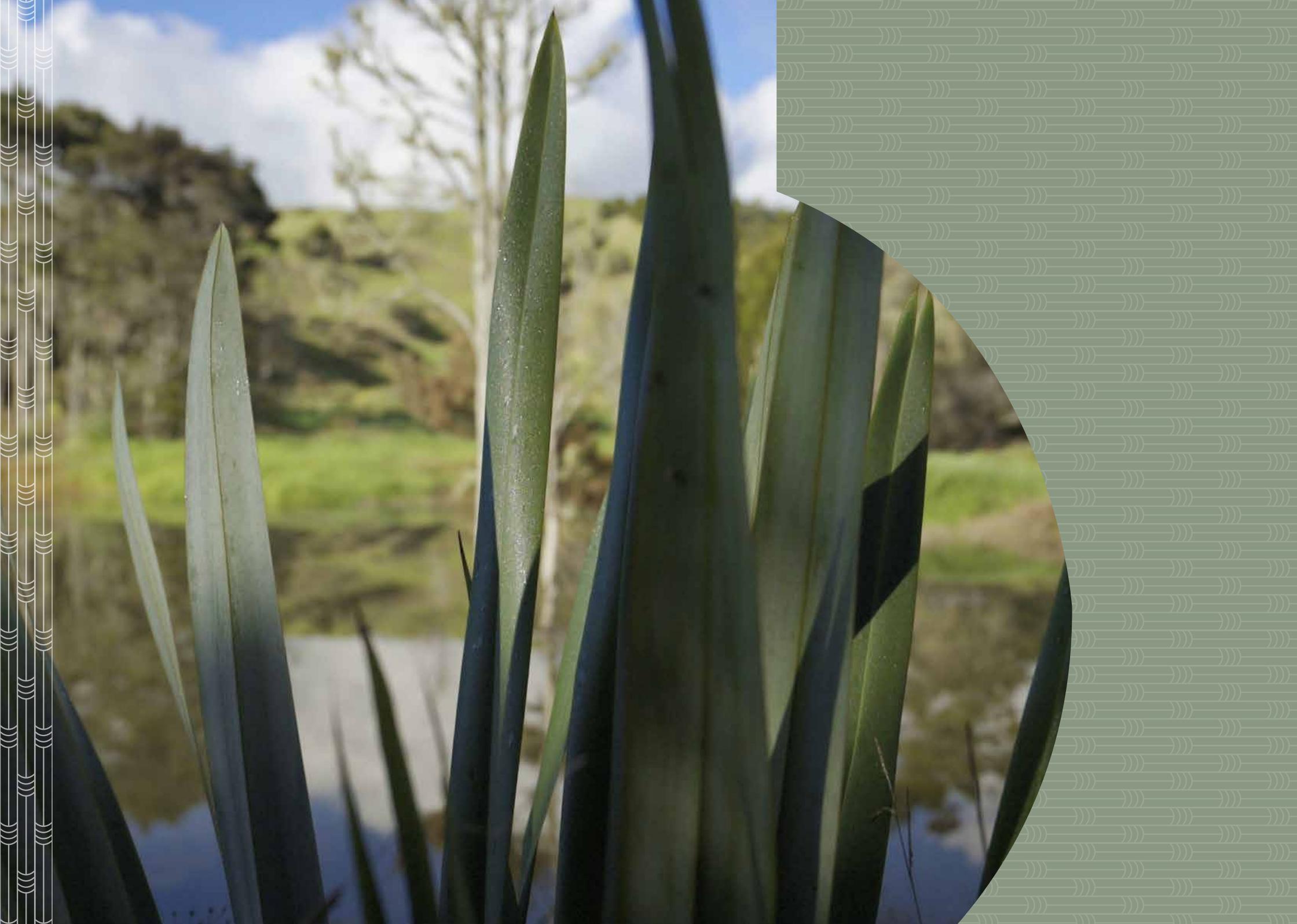
Attachment 1 – Draft final Annual Report (2023-2024)



Pūrongo-ā-Tau

Annual Report 2023/2024





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Kupu Whakataki

Chair's Foreword



Tame Te Rangi
Chair

21 October 2024

KMR supports sediment reduction projects across the length and breadth of the Kaipara Moana catchment, from the headwaters of each river system through to the shores of the Moana itself. This recognises that it does not matter where the projects take place – the benefits of a healthy, thriving Moana are shared by all.

As an environmental granting programme, KMR contracts directly with landowners – farmers, land managers, whānau, hapū, trusts and other landholders – as well as with catchment and community groups. This 1-to-1 relationship is important because each landowner or group must match the KMR investment with a co-funding contribution of their own. Everyone in the catchment wins when others take action on the land to reduce sediment losses to nearby streams, rivers, estuaries, and coastal waters.

At the time of writing, KMR is investing through its Whenua Whānui Fund in 75 projects which are largely led by Kaipara Uri and other tangata whenua. Such projects help unlock the valuable knowledge of diverse groups around the catchment to restore the mauri of Kaipara Moana. They also build important connectivity between local communities and their waterways.

As a *Jobs for Nature* programme, KMR invests significantly in people, as well as places. Local communities and those living in rural areas benefit most from KMR activities – from the purchase of trees through local nurseries to job creation that supports local, whānau and hapū businesses, to employment of Kaipara Uri and other tangata whenua to work alongside landowners and groups. KMR's investment in skills development also delivers lasting benefits. To date, KMR has supported training for 173 people, developing expertise that will endure a lifetime. Last year alone, 117 people were trained with KMR support, many of whom were rangatahi.

I stand behind these results while recognising that the Kōrero Tuku Iho project led by Kaipara Uri must be an ongoing focus to ensure that cultural and local perspectives and narratives inform KMR's future direction.

In closing, I am humbled that KMR's leadership as a regional and national exemplar was recognised in 2023-2024. KMR was showcased for our work in the community at the Ballance Farm Environment Awards in both Auckland and Northland, and was one of only a handful of environmental initiatives invited to present at a national Ministerial Conference at Waitangi. However, success is not the work of an individual, but the work of many – *Ehara taku toa i te toa takitahi, engari he toa takitini.*

Ngā Aronga a te Pou Tātaki



Justine Daw
Pou Tātaki

Pou Tātaki Foreword

On 30 June 2024, KMR celebrated the milestone of being fully operational for two and a half years.

I'd like to personally thank our many landowners, kaitiaki, catchment and community groups, the KMR signatory parties, our strategic partners, suppliers and nurseries and the Kaipara Maurikura for helping KMR to reach this milestone in such good heart.

Only by working collaboratively has KMR been able to achieve the significant results outlined in this Annual Report. KMR has continued to meet our performance targets and deliver positive outcomes for communities, Kaipara Uri and other tangata whenua, and the primary sector through our growing investment in local projects.

The 2023-2024 year saw KMR reach some important milestones – in May, we received the 1,000th Expression of Interest from landowners and groups wanting to work with us. In June, for the first time, our projects in the sheep and beef sector overtook the value of those in the dairy sector, reflecting progress in bringing drystock landowners into the programme. And, at the time of writing, KMR is very close to contracting our 2 millionth tree.

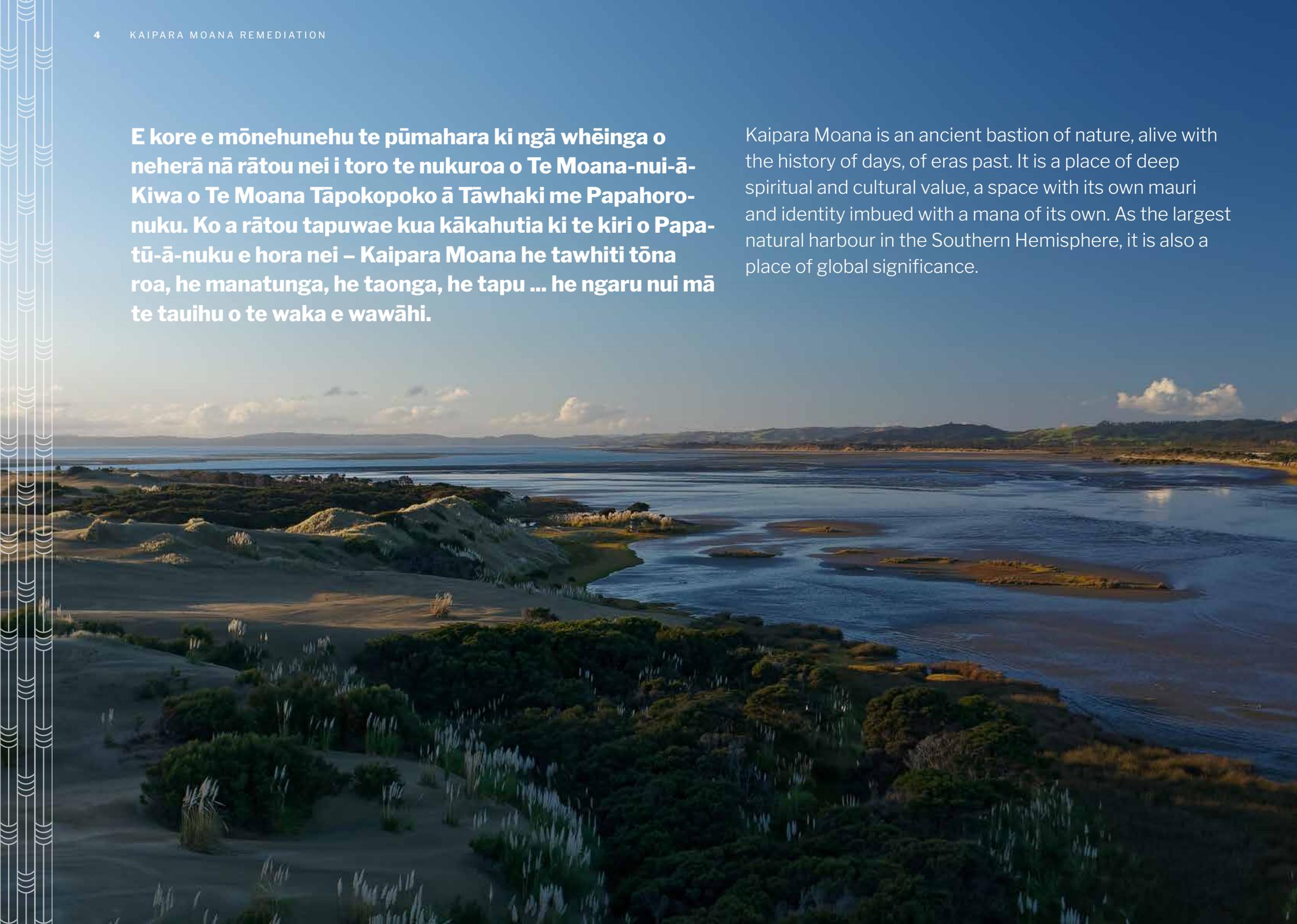
During the year, we also expanded from a waterways focus to systematically investing in projects across the full landscape. This allowed KMR to accelerate our sediment reduction efforts across the catchment and support a much greater diversity of landowners, groups and projects. The projects KMR now invests in – to restore wetlands, fence off rivers and streams, plant trees and regenerate forest on erosion-prone land – deliver wide benefits including greater connectivity between communities and local waterways, thriving biodiversity and resilience to extreme weather events.

Just as importantly, KMR provides invaluable support to local people and communities. Not only do our investments support a myriad of local and often rural jobs, KMR also plays a critical role in cost-effectively building nature-facing expertise, skills and nature-based career pathways. Through our on-the-ground project oversight, mentoring and training, KMR supports a growing number of hapū, whānau, catchment groups and community groups. We freely share advice, templates and guidance to ensure that projects are delivered successfully and efficiently, and that groups can take action right away.

Come and join us to protect this very special place!

E kore e mōnehunehu te pūmahara ki ngā whēinga o neherā nā rātou nei i toro te nukuroa o Te Moana-nui-ā-Kiwa o Te Moana Tāpokopoko ā Tāwhaki me Papahoronuku. Ko a rātou tapuwae kua kākahutia ki te kiri o Papatū-ā-nuku e hora nei – Kaipara Moana he tawhiti tōna roa, he manatunga, he taonga, he tapu ... he ngaru nui mā te tauihu o te waka e wawāhi.

Kaipara Moana is an ancient bastion of nature, alive with the history of days, of eras past. It is a place of deep spiritual and cultural value, a space with its own mauri and identity imbued with a mana of its own. As the largest natural harbour in the Southern Hemisphere, it is also a place of global significance.



Ko ā mātou Mahi

Our Work

As Aotearoa's largest harbour system, the Kaipara Moana includes 6,000km² of catchment spanning Auckland and Northland regions and 8,110km of waterways flowing into the harbour. The Moana has deep environmental and cultural value, with many taonga species and some of the rarest ecosystems in New Zealand, including sand dunes, seagrass, and freshwater and estuarine wetland ecosystems. As the nursery for much of New Zealand's snapper fishery, the Kaipara Moana also has major economic and recreational value.

However, high sediment levels have put this at risk. Decades of deforestation and land-use intensification have degraded the catchment. Today, less than 10% of original native forest and 5% of wetlands remain, leading to a seven-fold increase in average annual soil erosion and associated sediment washing into the Moana (~700,000 tonnes). Over 800km² of the catchment is considered Highly Erodible Land.

Sediment is the critical contaminant in the catchment: it can carry harmful nutrients, pathogens affecting human health, and heavy metals. In high concentrations, such contaminants can make people and animals unwell and water quality unsuitable for swimming, drinking or mahinga kai (food gathering). The significant impacts of sedimentation on the Moana are well-documented, with studies showing that species and habitats are smothered, leading to ecological losses.

The historic 9 October 2020 signing of the Kaipara Moana Remediation (KMR) Memorandum of Understanding between the Ministry for the Environment and Ngā Maunga Whakahii o Kaipara, Te Rūnanga o Ngāti Whātua, Te Uri o Hau, Northland Regional Council and Auckland Council was a symbol of a joint commitment by the Crown, Kaipara Uri and Regional Councils to protect, restore and enhance the mauri of Kaipara Moana.

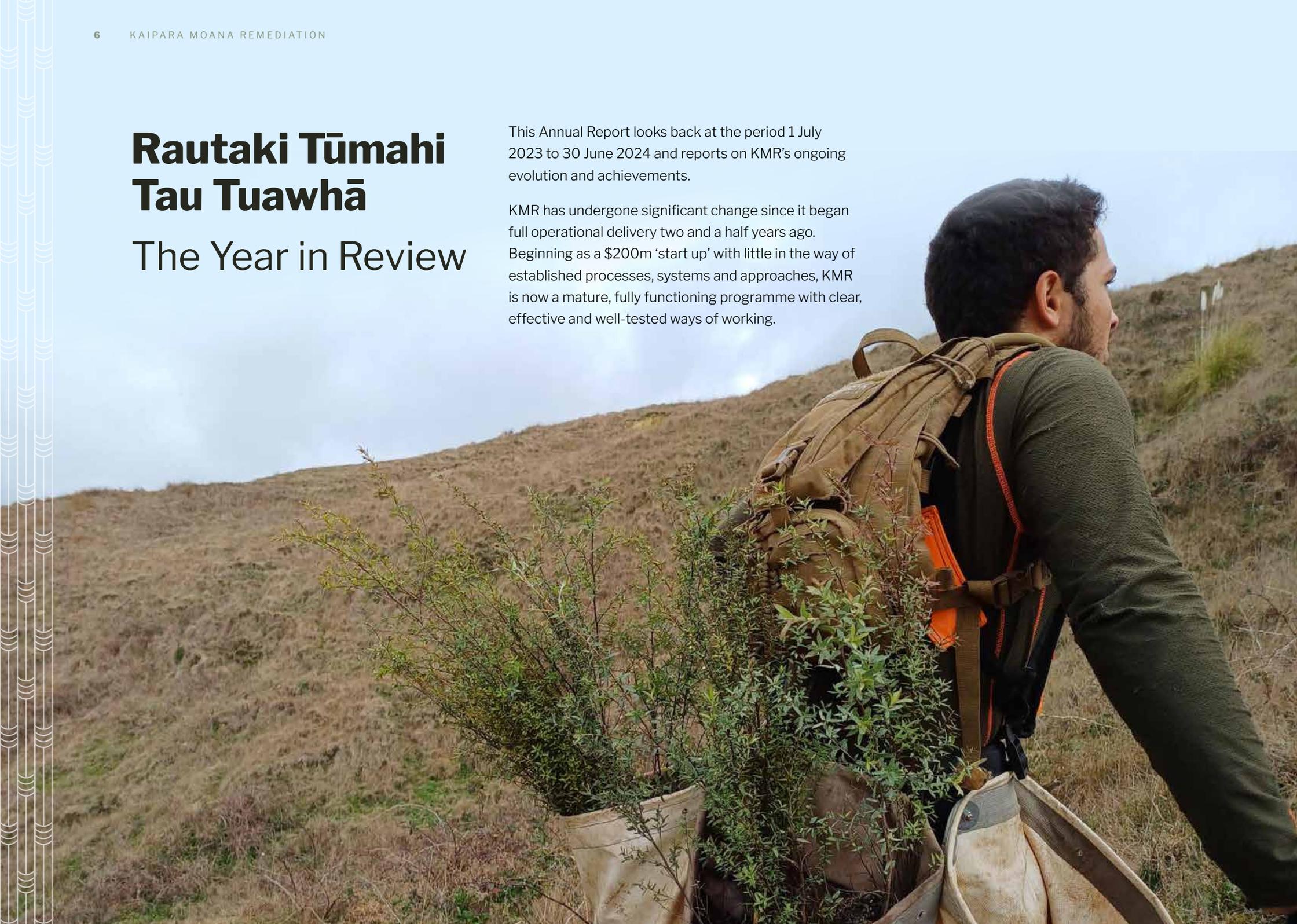
Kaipara Moana Remediation (KMR) was then established, a decade-long programme to protect and restore the mauri of the Kaipara Moana. KMR is a \$200m programme, comprising \$100m from the Crown through a Deed of Funding, matched by \$10m each from Northland Regional Council and Auckland Council, as set out in each region's Long Term Plan (LTP). A further \$80m of remediation activity is budgeted to be sourced in various ways from landowners, industry, community and philanthropic organisations. Such an approach recognises that widespread action across the catchment is needed to restore the Kaipara Moana, while reflecting that for every dollar of Crown funding, a matched contribution is required.

Rautaki Tūmahi Tau Tuawhā

The Year in Review

This Annual Report looks back at the period 1 July 2023 to 30 June 2024 and reports on KMR's ongoing evolution and achievements.

KMR has undergone significant change since it began full operational delivery two and a half years ago. Beginning as a \$200m 'start up' with little in the way of established processes, systems and approaches, KMR is now a mature, fully functioning programme with clear, effective and well-tested ways of working.



A year of transformation

As part of this transition, a number of significant changes occurred in 2023-2024:

- Following a review by the Crown, KMR was extended from a 6-year to a 10-year programme in line with the founding Memorandum of Understanding
- KMR expanded from a primary focus on waterways to reducing sediment losses across the full landscape, embedding a systematic approach to hill country projects and diversifying our grant investments accordingly
- Several business transformation initiatives were completed, fully transitioning KMR operations from manual, paper-based methods to digital approaches.

The year also saw an evolution in KMR's operating model: In just two and a half years, KMR has gone from supporting 35 landowners and groups (October 2020) to 736 (31 August 2024), with a further 88 landowners and groups working with field advisors to scope potential remediation projects. To manage this uplift, KMR increased the number of external delivery partners. In parallel, we increased KMR's internal focus on project oversight, grants management and programme monitoring and reporting, as well as increasing mentoring and training for our on-the-ground field advisors to ensure effective, consistent support for our landowners and groups.

Excellent performance against targets

Efforts to revitalise the mauri of the Kaipara Moana continued to scale up rapidly across the 6,000km² Kaipara Moana catchment. The results speak for themselves, with KMR's new investments in erodible hill country projects accelerating programme delivery and uptake.

The 2023-2024 results are KMR's best year-end results to date, with the metrics that achieved the target falling between 117%-383% of the target set. All metrics included, the median was 133% of target. KMR met all of our primary Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) for the year, exceeding targets for:

- The number of new landowners and groups working with KMR;
- The number of landowners and groups taking repeat action with KMR support;
- Freshwater restoration (number of trees planted on riparian, lake or wetlands margins; area planted; and length of fencing)
- Soil conservation on erodible hillsides (number and area of trees planted), and
- Nature-based employment and training.

Only one secondary KPI (the land area covered by the new KMR Plan) was not met, with 70% of the target achieved. The measure does not capture the level of activity by returning landowners and groups – those undertaking works each year, which was higher than anticipated – nor the environmental or cultural value of the projects supported by KMR grants. The result also reflects a growing number of group-led or community-led projects on small areas of land (e.g. on riverbank margins, school lands or public reserves) supported by KMR's Whenua Whānui Fund as well as smaller farms, including lifestyle blocks, working with KMR.



Surveys validate direction

Two independent surveys of the landowners and groups working with KMR also confirmed high levels of satisfaction with our engagement, support and approach to granting. The most recent, larger and more comprehensive of the two surveys gathered feedback from landowners and groups who had been through the full process of working with KMR, from expression of interest through to final project payment. Initiated by the Ministry for the Environment and conducted by the University of Waikato, the 2024 survey results were extremely pleasing, continuing to benchmark KMR very highly compared to norms for similar (voluntary) programmes:

- The vast majority of those surveyed 'agreed' or 'strongly agreed' that their interactions with KMR were positive (88%) and their questions were answered adequately (86%).
- The vast majority of those surveyed found it 'easy' or 'very easy' to obtain the information (81%) or advice (83%) they needed from KMR.

The survey confirmed that KMR are effectively engaging with and supporting those taking action on the ground, and that we are working in the right areas to improve programme responsiveness and delivery. However, the survey paints a sobering picture of the financial headwinds facing our landowners and groups, which KMR cannot readily resolve.

Face-to-face engagement remains key

Most of the landowners and groups working with KMR learnt about us through word-of-mouth or in-person interaction (more than 70%) or via the media or a newsletter (~18%). With this in mind, KMR continued to host or attend a range of in-community events, including field days and other primary sector forums, kanohi ki te kanohi engagements on marae and through our Kaipara Uri partners, community planting days, nursery open days, presentations and public webinars.

KMR Navigators, a diverse group of landowners and groups around the catchment, also helped KMR demonstrate large-scale or innovative practices in reducing sediment losses from the land. As part of their role, the Navigators are increasingly active in leading communication and engagement with others in their community, sector or iwi/hapū on KMR's behalf, hosting open days, farm visits, public talks, hui wānanga and planting projects that engage local communities.

To support the delivery of tailored communications and in-community engagement, KMR continued its partnerships with Kaipara Uri, Fonterra, Kaipara AgriSolutions, The Forest Bridge Trust, The QE National Trust and Trees That Count. We also developed new partnerships with Wai Connection to create and support new catchment- and community- groups and Conservation Volunteers NZ to host community planting days on KMR's behalf. You can read more about our work with CVNZ on page 33 of this document.

With three times as many sheep and beef farmers in the Kaipara Moana catchment as there are dairy farmers, KMR hit an important milestone in May 2024, when the value of projects in the sheep and beef sector overtook those in the dairy sector for the first time. This reflects a real focus on engaging with drystock farmers and promoting KMR via sectoral and professional forums. We also engaged local veterinarians and other rural professionals to communicate directly with their customers and members.

A growing focus on capability-building

As a *Jobs for Nature* programme, KMR has a dual focus on supporting people into jobs. In the last year, we created over 103,000 hours of new work, a year's full-time work for over 66 people. Over KMR's life, we have created more than 294,000 hours of work (equivalent to a year's full-time work for more than 180 people). In addition, as of 30 June 2024, a further 70,000 hours of new work was already committed in contracts for the new financial year, bringing the total new work generated or contracted by KMR to over 364,000 hours.

We have also invested significantly in people with a focus on growing local and often rural expertise. This year 117 people undertook training supported by KMR. This means that, to date, KMR has supported training for 173 people, many from local iwi/hapū, including 57 people as KMR Field Advisors.

An ongoing focus for KMR has been to develop nationally relevant qualifications and career pathways. Through our collaboration with the New Zealand Association of Resource Management (NZARM), KMR piloted the development and roll-out of two national training courses to support our Field Advisors to obtain qualifications as Freshwater Farm Planners in future. Both courses applied Te Ao Māori and 'Western' science approaches to demonstrate complementary ways of understanding erosion risk in the landscape and potential pathways to mitigate this.

Ongoing headwinds

Despite KMR's excellent delivery over the year, landowner participation in KMR continues to be challenged by the lasting impacts of adverse weather, the increased cost-of-living, and difficult market conditions. As an example, the July 2024 Federated Farmers' Farm Confidence Survey indicated only 27% of farmers made a profit in the first part of 2024, with over two-thirds assessing general economic conditions for farms as poor.

The continued uncertainty around policy direction has also affected landowner's willingness to engage with KMR until the operating environment is clear. KMR continues to work closely with central and regional government to understand likely directions and how we can support our landowners and groups in the future.





Maurikura Matomato

Thriving Maurikura

The Kaipara Maurikura is the operational unit that leads the delivery of KMR activities with an agreed headcount of 14 full-time equivalent staff (FTE).

For a variety of reasons including office space constraints, KMR has never reached the agreed headcount, and operated in 2023-2024 with an average head count of 11.725 FTE. In part this is because in December 2023 the headcount dropped to reflect the decision by all Maurikura staff to trial a 9-day fortnight, allowing greater work-life balance and a more flexible approach to managing workload pressures and sustaining well-being.

At the end of the financial year, KMR's Mana Whenua Relations Lead William Wright MNZN retired from KMR after decades of environmental mahi to protect the Kaipara Moana catchment. His work is the foundation that underpins KMR's direction and kaupapa, and we acknowledge his immense contribution and service.

KMR Field Advisor Tahiroa Bishop also returned to working with his hapū, accepting a promotion to provide project leadership in a predator control programme. During the year, KMR welcomed Luke Greenfield as a KMR Field Advisor. Luke has family links to Aranga, Northland, and brings with him years of land management experience and a passion for on-farm sustainability.

KMR's design intent means we will continue to scale up across the catchment and support a growing number of landowners and groups until the programme ends. By Year 10, over 1,000 landowners and groups are projected to be taking action under KMR co-funded Plans, with many of them expected to undertake multiple projects over a number of years. This will require the Maurikura to have a greater internal focus on project oversight. At the same time, despite cost-of-living increases, we must continue to reduce operating costs in line with our financial modelling.

A major focus in 2023-2024 was therefore on achieving efficiencies in delivering KMR activities. In part, this reflected the challenge of maintaining the delivery of core services to a growing number of landowners and groups without increasing headcount.

We continued to invest this year in Maurikura staff training and development. This included ongoing support for te reo skills development, training in wetlands identification and protection, on-the-job learning on KMR's digital tools, and KMR Field Advisor staff joining others to benefit from personalised capability assessment and training offered through our partnership with NZARM.

Mana Kawenga, Mana Tātaki me te Hanga Mahere

Governance, Management & Planning

The Joint Committee comprised 12 members representing the KMR MOU signatories:

Ngā Maunga Whakahii o Kaipara (2 members)

Te Uri o Hau Settlement Trust (2 members)

Te Rūnanga o Ngāti Whātua (2 members)

Northland Regional Council (3 members)

Auckland Council (3 members)

The Joint Committee appoints a Chair from the Kaipara Uri members (Tame Te Rangi), and a Deputy Chair from the council members (Amy Macdonald).



KMR Joint Committee members and representatives from the Ministry for Environment at the signing of the programme extension in November 2023.

Governance

The KMR Joint Committee continued to provide governance direction and decision-making to KMR, as set out in the Memorandum of Understanding. In line with local government settings, all Joint Committee Hui agendas and minutes were made available publicly on the KMR website and posted online. All Hui were open to the public.

In-person Joint Committee Hui continued to facilitate engagement with haukāinga and local communities, and better share information about KMR, its aims and grant funding opportunities. In line with KMR's MOU, we moved to quarterly governance meetings with our Joint Committee in the 2024 calendar year.

In Year 4, the Joint Committee held ten meetings (six decision-making hui and four workshops or briefings). Four hui were held on marae, one hui was held at a community venue and, due to road closures, one hui was held online and livestreamed.

As part of their work, the Joint Committee undertook several field trips to visit KMR projects on the whenua and meet with landowners and groups taking action with KMR's support.

In May 2024, we were privileged to host Hon. Andrew Hoggard, Associate Minister of Agriculture and for the Environment, at the Dill farm in the Kaipara Hills, Auckland. Stephen and Clare Dill have been working with KMR for several years, most recently to retire a large area (40 hectares) of highly erodible land that was devastated during the weather events of 2023. The visit was an opportunity to demonstrate the extent of local flood damage and how KMR's work supports farmers to improve overall farm resilience through nature-based solutions.



▲ KMR staff (Duncan Kervell), KMR governor Jane Sherard (Ngā Maunga Whakahii o Kaipara), and farmers Clare and Stephen Dill discuss opportunities from large-scale native planting with Minister Hoggard.

Management and planning

In November 2023, KMR completed a detailed rephasing review with the Ministry for the Environment, allowing us to extend our work through to 2031. This extension aligns with the original vision set out in the Memorandum of Understanding and reflects information about the sediment reduction work completed to date, current and likely future economic headwinds for landowners and groups in the catchment, and recognition of the long-term effort needed to achieve KMR's environmental outcomes.

As KMR is a voluntary programme, the willingness of individual landowners and groups to engage and contribute time and resources is critical to the delivery of sediment reduction projects. Our work is largely dictated by seasonal cycles and can be significantly disrupted by weather events. Property location, whether the landowners and groups wish to do the project work themselves or outsource it, and the timing of project work on the land directly affect supplier, contractor and nursery demand and supply requirements, as well as how KMR manages workflows relating to the administration of grants and associated contracts.

In order to sustain effective programme oversight and financial management as KMR scales up, we reviewed and improved several key elements of our operations. This involved seeking feedback from landowners, groups, suppliers and nurseries, and led to a raft of minor improvements, increased technical training and greater levels of project oversight.

We also strengthened our project planning and management approaches, including through new functionality in KMR's digital tools. In sum, this has allowed KMR to better support, monitor and report on the cadence of seasonal works in KMR co-funded projects.

Risk management

Through the standard risk register and project management processes, risks to KMR delivery are actively reviewed and mitigated. These include risks that co-funding obligations are a barrier to landowner or group participation, risks relating to managing expectations that KMR can invest in, or support needs, beyond sediment reduction, and the risk that programme modelling assumptions are lower than anticipated – for example, delays in clarifying freshwater farm plan policies continue to slow landowners' willingness to engage with KMR until policy settings are clearer.

Other significant risks that are more difficult to mitigate include continuing cost-of-living and market headwinds which affect landowner and community participation, significant weather events that impede project leaders from participating in the programme and delay or damage sediment reduction project works, and other disruptions (such as road closures) that impact on project timeframes, all of which can affect the timing and cost of projects.

Tukunga Kaupapa Programme Delivery

Accelerating sediment reduction

From the start, KMR has supported sediment reduction projects near waterways. This remains an important focus for KMR given that rivers and streambanks are a major source of sediment loss from the land into the Kaipara Moana, particularly in the Auckland region.

From September 2023, KMR has invested in a wider range of projects across the landscape, accelerating our scale-up and ability to reduce sediment. This significantly accelerated KMR's ability to scale up and support a larger number of landowners and groups across the catchment. A key focus for winter 2024 has therefore been supporting the appropriate treatment of steep, erodible hill country where there is a high risk of sediment loss to waterways.

KMR can now coinvest in:

- Planting of native species in riparian and coastal margins and on erosion-prone hillsides
- Assisted native forest regeneration on erosion-prone hillsides

- Planting of (non-weedy, non-pine) exotic species (e.g., to support continuous cover forestry) on erosion-prone hillsides, where appropriate and with appropriate setbacks from waterways, fences and other infrastructure

- Space planting of poplars on erosion-prone hillsides.

Areas of steep land with exposed soil or evidence of active erosion are prioritised for treatment, in particular, if this land drains directly into a waterway or the Kaipara Moana itself. This can include land affected by floods, storms and Cyclone Gabrielle.

During the year, KMR also fine-tuned its process to support winter planting, as well as continuing to set and meet planting targets to support our accredited nurseries. This delivered excellent planting results, with KMR reaching its one millionth tree milestone in July 2023 and coming close to reaching its second millionth tree milestone within the same financial year.

Given the scale of KMR's work across 6,000km² and two diverse regions, partnerships continued to underpin KMR's programme delivery. KMR's ongoing strategic partnerships with Fonterra, The Forest Bridge Trust and Environs Te Uri o Hau (on behalf of Kaipara Uri) have been key to ensuring effective outreach to the diverse and often remote communities whom KMR supports.

The year also saw continued collaboration with the Queen Elizabeth National Trust (QEII) to protect remnant forests, and early progress in developing a collaboration with Te Tumu Paeroa to unlock greater potential from Māori land.

Our partners draw on their existing relationships, networks and forums to engage landowners, communities and iwi/hapū groups to develop sediment reduction plans and work with them to oversee the delivery of the associated projects.

Our partnership with Fonterra continues to go from strength to strength. Since its inception, the KMR / Fonterra Partnership has delivered 354 Tiaki (Farm Environment) Plans and associated projects. To date, Fonterra Sustainable Dairy Advisors have worked with dairy farmers to develop and deliver projects with ~244 kilometres of fences and planting of 94,000 trees across the catchment. Dairy farmers have also delivered additional fencing and planting working directly with KMR. As a result of the partnership, dairy farmers make up 52% of KMR's completed plans (with drystock being 34%, and the remainder being a variety of land uses or community-based plans).





Supporting our landowners, groups and suppliers

Throughout the year, ongoing adverse weather – particularly high levels of rainfall and resulting boggy and slippery on-farm conditions and localised flooding – delayed many of our landowners and groups undertaking projects. Ongoing weather-related road closures (including State Highway 1) also compounded logistical challenges and increased project costs throughout the year.

Our partnership with Trees That Count was one of several initiatives by KMR to offer additional support to landowners and groups working with us. Reducing the cost of planting, making it more affordable to undertake KMR projects and achieving the necessary matched co-funding was a game-changer for many landowners and groups, particularly those taking action under the Whenua Whānui Fund. In June 2024, KMR became the largest delivery partner in New Zealand for Trees That Count, putting over 92,000 donated trees in the ground.

For a second year, KMR invested in a workforce development initiative to support KMR-accredited contractors and nurseries, many of which are affiliated with Kaipara Uri and other tangata whenua groups. Through the initiative, KMR identified and supported a number of projects around the catchment at a stage of readiness where they could successfully plant pre-purchased nursery plants and trees that would otherwise have gone to waste. The initiative aligns with KMR's dual focus on jobs as well as nature-based outcomes.

We also continued to collaborate with QEII National Trust and the Auckland Council Biodiversity Focus Area programme to protect and sustain the conservation values of remnant forests on farms, lowering the cost of fencing and regeneration projects for the landowner.

Growing people

As a *Jobs for Nature* investment, KMR has a dual focus on supporting people into jobs and upskilling them. By 30 June 2024, two and a half years into operational delivery, 28 local businesses and 19 nurseries were accredited as KMR suppliers, resulting in new work in local communities and tangible economic benefits in rural and often remote areas of the catchment.

This year, KMR provided training to 18 local KMR Field Advisors to work with landowners to develop Sediment Reduction Plans. In total, we have trained 57 people as Field Advisors, including from local iwi/hapū, women, career-changers and young people.

All of KMR's contracted Field Advisors are actively mentored and supported through a Community of Practice, with significant investment in training and development, including on KMR's digital tools. Our experience is that, typically, our younger Field Advisors are naturally geared to navigate digital ways of working, and we anticipate that, through the use of our digital platforms, KMR can act as an important gateway to developing greater technical skills and employment pathways for interested rangatahi.

Seven KMR Field Advisors are registered participants in the new national NZARM Capability Assessment Tool for farm and land management advisors. Through the Tool, our Field Advisors will receive a tailored capability profile, including a training needs assessment, which will be supported by KMR through our skills and capability development investments.

KMR's commitment to workforce development is shared with the Ministry of Social Development (MSD), with whom KMR signed a Memorandum of Understanding in December 2021. Through this partnership, KMR and MSD continued to jointly fund a Kaitiaki Employment Advisor based with Kaipara Uri. The position engages with rangatahi and facilitates entry into nature-facing employment. In the last year alone, Kaipara Uri trained 85 people via a number of relevant training courses, from SiteSafe and PlantPass training to relevant cultural training.

Te Hangarau

Digital Tools

As KMR continues to scale up across the catchment, innovation to enhance efficiency, maintain accuracy and support investment in line with our MOU objectives is an important focus.

Early in the establishment of KMR, it was identified that digital systems will play an important role in scaling of landowner engagement and remediation investment. These systems will help landowners, groups, communities, KMR staff, Field Advisors and Kaitiaki to understand their local context and identify and prioritise sediment reduction projects. In other words, our digital tools will enable KMR to target and scale our engagement and investment. The digital tools will also enable KMR to both capture and generate insights at a catchment and sub-catchment scale, and to model the impact that investment is achieving.

Investment to date in KMR's digital systems and underpinning scientific datasets has enabled a highly accurate understanding of sediment risk through improved identification and mapping of highly erodible land, wetlands and river systems. This investment enables digital sediment reduction planning, prioritisation of investment and modelling of impact over time.



▲ Drawing on fine-scale scientific information, KMR's digital tools enable Field Advisors to identify areas of high sediment risk across the landscape and target KMR projects to mitigate it.

Mātai Onekura

Whenua Planning Tool

KMR's digital sediment reduction planning tool, Mātai Onekura, is now fully operational. It provides an end-to-end platform to manage sediment remediation projects from expression of interest through to post-project monitoring. Over its first year of use, Mātai Onekura has proven to be an extremely powerful tool. A major benefit of the tool is that it guides decision-making and automates many aspects of KMR's work, enabling us to effectively support hundreds of landowners across the catchment to deliver remediation projects. KMR staff, Field Advisors and delivery partners use it to identify land with high sediment risk, prepare sediment reduction plans to unlock KMR grant contributions, map and cost projects, review proposed project design, and monitor project progress and payments.

Mātai Onekura's rich spatial tooling, which includes LiDAR-derived datasets to help identify areas of high sediment risk, means KMR Field Advisors can build an understanding of key features and sediment risk at a property before going onsite. Not only does this allow Field Advisors to identify cost-effective priorities for sediment reduction projects and focus their conversations with landowners, but the spatial capture of projects will be used in future by Tātaki Wai to inform and optimise decision making on the ground.

Tātaki Wai

Water Quality Catchment Model

In collaboration with Auckland Council, KMR is building a water quality catchment model, Tātaki Wai, to target investment at key sources of erosion and increase the speed, effectiveness, and efficiency of its actions across the catchment of the Kaipara Moana.

Tātaki Wai is based on open-source models developed by the United States Environmental Protection Agency which have been used globally to support water management decision-making across a wide range of pollutants, catchment conditions, and management scenarios. Both models used are process-based, continuous models able to forecast the effects of different land use patterns and management interventions on short-term pollution events and long-term water quality. The key relationships between land characteristics, land use, meteorological events, and environmental response are well established, while the conceptual model underpinning the design of Tātaki Wai has been assessed by an independent expert panel to confirm it provides a sound basis to support decision-making in the Kaipara Moana catchment. Tātaki Wai is close to finalisation, tailoring modelling to the Kaipara Moana context using local and nationally available datasets (e.g., state of environment monitoring, physiographic layers, land cover and land use layers, local climate station and virtual climate station networks).



Tātaki Wai will support farm adviser and landowner action-planning, leading to the development of targeted, evidence-based 'sediment reduction plans' that cost-effectively deliver KMR's vision. Tātaki Wai's design will also allow KMR to forecast the effect of actions in sediment reduction plans and adaptively manage ongoing investments. Importantly, this enables us to project the impact of KMR co-funded actions on the Moana many years and sometimes decades before these effects are likely to be observable.

Tātaki Wai will also enable an understanding of investment opportunities across the landscape. Together with the outputs of the Kōrero Tuku Iho project (see page 41) Tātaki Wai will inform the development of a KMR investment strategy that both supports locally-driven projects that meet KMR criteria and targets projects in high-risk areas. An outcomes-led, spatially targeted investment approach will ensure KMR investment delivers timely and cost-effective sediment reduction, consistent with wider values embedded in the programme's founding MOU.

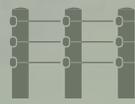
Ngā Mahi Rauora, Ngā Whiwhinga

Year 4 results at a glance

In 2023-2024, KMR worked with landowners and groups across the catchment to deliver:



Over
1.25 m
plants in the ground or
contracted to plant



475.34 km
of fencing completed or contracted



Over
\$8.5 m
worth of sediment reduction
projects contracted



Over
31,000 ha
of land covered by sediment
reduction plans



Over
581 ha
of land planted, contracted to plant
or regenerating into native forest



Over
103,000 hrs
of work created – equivalent to full
time work for more than 66 people



342
new sediment reduction
plans and return projects

Life to date results at a glance

Since it began, KMR has delivered the following results (as at 30 June 2024):



Jobs & Skills

Training support for

175

participants, many from local iwi/hapū

Creation of over

294,000

hours of new work – a year's work for over 180 people

Over

\$18.4 m

in sediment reduction project value



Engagement & Participation

1,011

landowners/groups have expressed interest in KMR

693

co-funded plans have been developed with landowners/groups

A further

83

plans are in development



Nature & Resilience

Over

1.88 m

plants in the ground or contracted to plant

691 ha

planted, contracted to plant or regenerating into native forest

Over

800 km

of fencing completed or contracted – the same distance as from Cape Rēinga to Napier

Over

129,000 ha

are managed under KMR plans

Pārongo me ngā Hononga

Communications & Engagement

As a voluntary programme, KMR works hard to build awareness of what funding and other support we can offer to landowners and groups across the catchment. Ultimately, KMR must contract with a landowner or a group that has the landowner's permission to work on their land. Landowner engagement and participation are therefore critical to KMR's ongoing success.

Sharing KMR stories

Throughout the year, KMR continued to develop and share profiles of a diverse set of landowners, groups, partners, suppliers and nurseries to highlight the sorts of projects KMR supports and inspire others to take action. Some of these stories can be found in the next section of this report.

On average, we publish a KMR profile or story in the media every week. KMR was featured in a wide variety of media channels, from small, local newspapers in rural areas, to national television and major platforms such as Stuff & NewsHub, to regional radio, to specialist publications such as the Apiarists' Advocate, Dairy Exporter and Fonterra's Hotwire magazine.

Traditional media campaigns were run to raise awareness of winter planting and a social media presence was deepened to create more inclusive avenues for communication, particularly among younger members of the community. Growth on Facebook and LinkedIn is continuing to rise, creating a network of people across not only New Zealand but around the world who are interested in our mahi.

KMR published a monthly Pānui digital newsletter and continued to spread the word through a variety of pamphlets, brochures and gate signs. If you're driving through the catchment, keep an eye out for our distinctive 'K' logo.

Sharing our own journey

This year, KMR was honoured to share our own story as the recipient of the Ballance Farm Environment Award - Catchment Group Award in both Auckland and Northland.

Following the change in government, we also presented our journey and showcased our achievements to date through a Briefing to Incoming Ministers. In response, in February 2024, the Pou Tātaki was invited to present at the BlueGreens National Conference in Waitangi, highlighting how KMR activities support local aspirations, voluntary environmental action, and local employment and capability-building. Our presentation also demonstrated how KMR's use of scientific information and datasets ensures that we cost-effectively target investment in areas and activities that deliver the greatest benefit.



▲ KMR staff, Joint Committee representatives, programme partners and the Ministry for the Environment at the Ballance Farm Environment Awards.

Primary sector outreach

This year saw a continued focus on engaging with primary sector organisations and groups as KMR scaled up from the waterways to the hill country. We worked with a number of agencies to share information through their networks and communications channels, including at in-person events such as Field Days, A&P Shows, conferences, training days and awards evenings. Our on-the-ground Field Advisors also played a key role in engaging landowners word of mouth across the fence-line continues to be an important communication channel in rural communities.

We also ran several webinars, including with Fonterra, targeted at rural professionals. These included specialist webinars on KMR's approach to planting and soil conservation in erodible hill country. These short format presentations were recorded and can be found on KMR's YouTube channel and website.

Enhancing mana

KMR is founded on the notion of landowners of all types taking action across the catchment to protect and restore the mauri of the Kaipara Moana. Tangata whenua participation is equally central to KMR's outcomes and recognises the unique perspectives and kaitiakitanga contributions that iwi/hapū can offer to reduce sediment flows into the Moana, both as landowners as well as tangata whenua.

Led by our Mana Whenua Relations leader and Pūtohu-Hononga Hapū and Hāpori / Community and Hapū Engagement Advisor, KMR engaged through the year with 53 Kaipara Uri groups, governance entities, iwi, hapū, marae, whānau and other mana whenua groups in the catchment. Much of the engagement has focused on the various freshwater projects that are in train or development, supported by KMR's Whenua Whānui Fund scheme.

For a second year, KMR undertook a Kaitiakitanga Planting initiative, offering trees to the marae in the catchment to support their role as guardians of the taiao. A third of the 39 marae in the Kaipara Moana across the catchment took us up on the offer during the year. Further KMR trees were also planted at events observing Matariki, with school/kura groups, at the newly refurbished marae and to support whānau planting days.

Sharing best practice

Throughout the year, KMR continued to share best practices with other groups and programmes, in line with our role as a system leader and innovator. We hosted a Partnership Forum to bring together partners, practitioners and groups taking action under the Whenua Whānui Fund, presented at various national conferences and regional forums, shared knowledge at local events, and engaged with other restoration projects on lessons learnt.

We also supported the launch of Tūhono Taiao, a national digital platform created for Jobs for Nature projects and programmes to share their resources. KMR has uploaded some of our underpinning documents (such as our Planting Guide), templates and other information that may be of value to others taking environmental action, both in the catchment and in other parts of New Zealand.



▲ KMR staff (Griffin Hope) sharing information at a community open day.



▲ KMR staff mentor and train the Field Advisors who work closely with landowners and groups to develop sediment reduction projects.



Ō Tātou Tāngata

The People of KMR

Everyone KMR works with has a story about the Kaipara Moana, whether they be kaitiaki, landowners or tamariki. With every individual, there is a connection to the Moana, be it through whakapapa, being on the land for generations, or a more recent connection with those inspired to live near and on the harbour.

KMR's focus is on what we can do to improve the harbour and that includes acknowledging the connections communities, landowners and kaitiaki have with the Moana. We also acknowledge the incredible work that began many years before the programme began, and which continues with KMR support as people strengthen their ties to the Kaipara Moana and the whenua.

These stories are from some of the people of the Kaipara Moana catchment, sharing their hopes and aspirations with us.

Whangaripo landowner leaving a legacy

Te Whio farm is in the Whangaripo Valley near Matakana and has been in the Petrie family since 1919. It is now run as a Family Trust and managed day-to-day by the Farm Manager, who oversees 1,000 breeding ewes (over 1,300 sheep in total) and around 320 cattle.

The 433-hectare farm (325 hectares effective) is a mix of steep hill country complete with bluffs and iconic waterfalls cascading down to fertile flat land on the valley floor which is interwoven with stunning wetlands and waterways draining from the hills down into the Kotekote Stream.

Marie Petrie took on the farm after her husband Donald passed away in 2016. Donald had worked tirelessly on the farm from the day he left school in 1956, carrying on the legacy of his father Lennox, who had purchased the land in 1919. Marie says Te Whio has been on the journey of restoring its waterways for some years now.

Walking over the land or driving past on the main road, their efforts to fence and plant up wetlands and main waterways are inspiring for anyone to see. It was back in 2022 when Te Whio first teamed up with The Forest Bridge Trust and KMR to fence off the remaining waterways and wetlands on the flats, while also developing plans to plant them with natives to reduce streambank erosion, reduce water flow during floods and increase biodiversity.

In total, 6.6km of new fencing now protects 4km of waterways and wetlands, and 8,610 natives will be planted by the end of winter 2024.



Once this is achieved, the aim is to retire the steepest of the farm's hill country and return it to forest cover as a way of mitigating the risk of land slipping and ensuring a healthy, resilient farm for another century to come.

"Initially a wetland was fenced and planted with riparian plants and trees and some drains fenced only. KMR has just accepted an application from Te Whio to help finance more work on fencing waterways and planting a wetland," says Marie.

In essence, KMR makes the process very easy for the landowner. "As long as the work is agreed and meets standards, they reimburse us for half of the expenses. They also provided sound advice on reducing sediment and protecting the land".



▲ Peter Wilson (PolBionix) and KMR staff (Justine Daw) with some of the biodegradable pots being trialled by nurseries that supply KMR projects.

Removing plastics from KMR's supply chain

Wilson & Ross has collaborated with Scion, a Crown Research Institute, to develop a bio-based biodegradable nursery container which will offer an alternative to the estimated 350 million plastic pots produced by New Zealand nurseries annually.

The creator of the product, Peter Wilson, says PolBionix is a bio-based biodegradable garden container for native seedlings. That passion for native rehabilitation and revegetation began when he first started working with Te Uri o Hau and Te Ārai Native Nursery in 2016. The pots are made from bio-polymers and a bio-filler, with the bio-polymers made from sustainably grown sugarcane, cassava and corn.

“What that means is PolBionix biodegrades in mild environments, like in soil and under home composting conditions, and because PolBionix biodegrades and does not disintegrate there are no residual micro-plastics,” says Peter.

“PolBionix is the result of four years of research in collaboration with Crown research institute Scion, and funding support from Callaghan Innovation and Auckland Council's Waste Minimisation Fund. I am really excited to be rolling these biodegradable pots out with Te Ārai Nursery, KMR and Auckland Council.”



▲ Brandon and Kiri Edwards are leading a KMR 'Navigator' project at their Northland farm on the slopes of Huruiki.

Ngāherehere o Huruiki

Brandon and Kiri Edwards are passionate about their land and sharing the natural beauty and spirituality of it with others. Huruiki is their whenua and the whenua of wider iwi and hapū.

The views from the maunga are as impressive as its history. It is surrounded by natural springs, some of which feed into the Kaipara Moana and from which kōhu is drawn to the water, often cloaking the area in mist.

Ngāherehere o Huruiki is the whānau's reforestation project aimed at restoring the native forest and unique ecosystem of Huruiki, enhancing the mauri within the forest, addressing biodiversity degradation and improving water quality.

The project has planted 60,000 native trees over 20 hectares to date, with an aim to plant more native trees over an additional 100 hectares. Kaipara Moana Remediation worked with the Edwards to support a 2023 project to plant 5,500 trees and complete 400m of fencing on the land.

Says Kiri and Brandon: "One of our things is bringing people back to the land with whānau days to help fill some of the gaps in their identities."

It is also a beautiful and peaceful environment to raise their three children.

The pair say they never bought the 350 hectares to farm commercially. Only 80 hectares is suitable for grazing their 60 Aberdeen Angus breeding cows and offspring. And while not an organic farm, they do not use chemicals.



"Te ao Māori is our farming philosophy. We aim to find an equilibrium with nature where we don't need inputs. Where we co-exist with nature sustainably and don't need to top anything up."

Tangowāhine Valley navigator

James Parsons and Travis Pymm are among the first farmers in Tangowāhine Valley to partner with Kaipara Moana Remediation to help reduce sedimentation and siltation in the Kaipara Moana.

In fact, James is heading up a KMR Navigator project and is spreading the word to encourage their neighbouring pastoral farmers in the valley to get on board to take advantage of the KMR funding opportunity and look after the land at the same time.

Through a KMR Navigator project investment, James has formed a Tangowāhine Catchment group which will provide field advisory, leadership and co-ordination services to the Tangowāhine catchment, and bring farmers in the valley together to develop plans for farmers to access KMR funding support.

James is keen for Tangowāhine farmers to join him in taking action on the land. “Fencing off waterways is the right thing to do. There are two immediate benefits. On our farm, for example, it gives us more paddock subdivisions and better grazing management. In some places, we have put fences 20 metres back from the stream banks to create a more direct fence line excluding cattle.

“Our vision is to get a community of interest going. There are 25 to 30 pastoral farmers in Tangowāhine and it would be great to get them all on board with KMR,” says James.



▲ Farm Manager Travis Pymm is keen to get all of the Tangowāhine Valley farmers involved in playing their part to fence off waterways and eroding gullies.



▲ KMR and Fonterra have been working with dairy farmers across the catchment to make the process as easy as possible.

Leadership and partnership in action

A partnership between Fonterra and KMR is paying dividends with hundreds of Northland and Auckland dairy farmers in the Kaipara Moana catchment working hard to improve the health of the harbour.

Fonterra Farm Source Northland's Regional Head Mike Borrie says it is a pleasure partnering with KMR. "We are making good progress in ensuring KMR grants are reaching local Fonterra dairy farmers to make a real difference on farm and support them to reduce sediment flowing to the Kaipara Harbour," says Mr Borrie.

Nestlé is the largest food and beverage supplier in the world and Fonterra's largest customer. In August 2023, Nestlé announced it would no longer offset embedded carbon emissions in its supply chain.

As a result, Fonterra will soon need to ensure that the milk product ingredients it supplies to Nestlé are already carbon-neutral.

In response, in December 2023, Fonterra announced a farm-level carbon emissions reduction target. Overall, it is estimated that around 8% of Fonterra farmer emissions can be offset via new tree planting on farms, including around wetlands, rivers and streams, and on erosion-prone land.

Supporting kaitiaki in the north

The Waitere Powell whānau lead a project on their recently purchased 80 hectare Whakapara property, supported with a KMR Whenua Whānui Fund grant.

Marcus Powell and Denise Wedding are co-founders of WithIN NATURE Charitable Trust, an organisation that works to foster cultural preservation, embrace sustainable practices and cultivate thriving ecosystems by educating rangatahi.

They are working in collaboration with KMR to improve the land through regeneration. Their property will act as a demonstration site for further WithIN NATURE projects on other properties in the Kaipara Moana catchment. There is a desire to bring back the rongoā species and use locally sourced plants from the local nursery.

KMR was able to reflect these goals in the Sediment Reduction Plan that was developed for the project, with Whakapara Marae supporting the planting of over 3,000 stems sourced from a local nursery.



▲ Marcus, Denise, and whānau are working with Whakapara Marae to lead a Whenua Whānui Fund project.





▲ Tania and Innes have big plans for work on their farm to reduce sediment losses into the Hakaru River.

“We have always been interested in conservation, and this work fits with Fonterra’s environmental plans.”

KMR partnerships deliver results

Kaiwaka couple Tania Dropulich and Innes Anderson are encouraging fellow sheep, beef and dairy farmers to partner with KMR and give the environment a boost.

Together, they run a 211-hectare dairy farm milking 500 cows, alongside a 250-hectare sheep and beef unit where they finish 200 dairy-beef cross annually, along with 500 lambs.

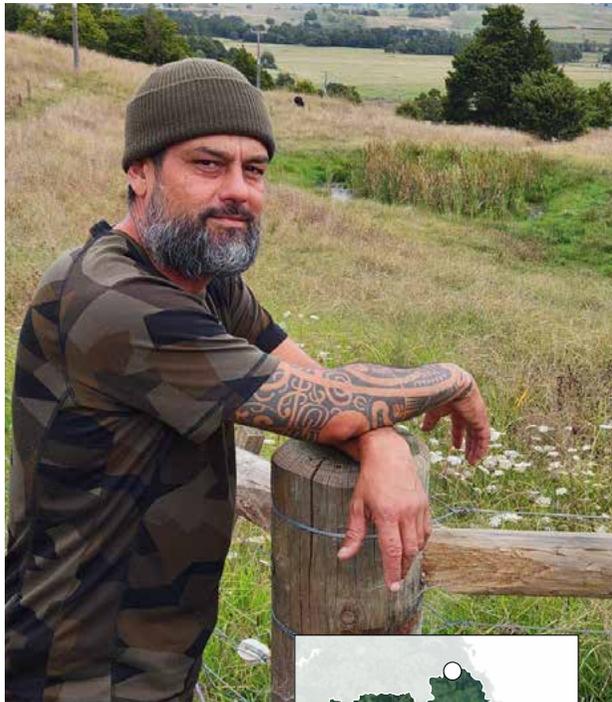
Much of the farm is highly erodible and steep. Sediment generated from the farm during high rainfall can impact the adjacent Cook Creek that flows down to the Hakaru River, which then flows into the Tōpuni River, the Ōruawharo River and then into the Kaipara harbour.

Having already accessed KMR support for 1.1km of fencing, almost 5000 native plants were put in the ground in the winter of 2024.

Tania and Innes also plan to restore two wetlands on their property and are grateful for the support from KMR, The Forest Bridge Trust and Fonterra to bring their restoration project to life, simply because they weren’t sure where to start or what projects to prioritise.

“I would definitely encourage farmers to get on board with KMR and to access their expertise and advice,” says Innes.

The pair are clearly passionate in their leaning towards nature. “Doing this work aligns with our values. We have always been interested in conservation, and this work fits with Fonterra’s environmental plans. We hope that if people can see us putting this kind of energy into the farm, then it might inspire others to do the same,” the pair say.



▲ Hone Waiomio is revitalising ancestral land in Akerama with support from KMR's Whenua Whānui Fund.



Revitalising the whenua

Hone Waiomio is on a mission to honour his Koro by revitalising the whenua on which his elders once walked. His hard work and dedication are clear to see in the way he is bringing 6 hectares alive at Akerama, near Ruapekapeka.

Revitalising a degraded puna and small creek running into the Paiaka Stream, the Ngāruawāhine Stream, and then the Waiotū is a focus. Hone says due to the stock having access to the creek and bush block for decades, there is some bank erosion which he plans to reverse.

Hone hopes neighbouring farmers and fellow custodians of land in the Kaipara Moana catchment feel similarly driven to look after the land and do their best to keep waterways clean by fencing them off and planting those areas in natives.

He urges people to partner with KMR and take advantage of the environmental expertise and guidance on offer – not to mention the funding assistance and the journey it takes people on.

In total, Hone is caring for just over 5 hectares and he is proud of what he has achieved in a relatively short time. It is less than two years since he and his family moved on to the land.

Almost 500 metres of fencing has been completed and planting is underway in 3,330m² of riparian, lake and wetlands areas. A pond laden with raupō and fed by a puna is now surrounded by a mix of natives which will help improve water quality over time.

“KMR has been awesome to work with and I would encourage landowners within the Kaipara Moana catchment to get on board and take advantage of the funding and guidance available – especially those people and community groups able to benefit from the Whenua Whānui Fund.”

He is also passionate about the use of rongoā from the bush, food sources from the bush and maximising the natural productivity of biodiversity.

Hone says he and his whānau are not just local kaitiaki but also mana whenua, with roles in the Akerama Marae community.

“I would encourage landowners within the Kaipara Moana catchment to get on board and take advantage of the funding and guidance available.”

Tāporapora community working to restore connections and the land

The team behind the Tāporapora Land and Coast Care Group are acutely aware of the importance of their mahi to care for, and re-plant, around 800 hectares across Manukapua – Ōkahukura, on the shores of the Kaipara Harbour.

“Our goals are to foster the manu (birds) of Manukapua through wetland restoration, pest management, pest plant eradication, and re-planting our taonga species, education and active kaitiakitanga,” says Leane Makey.

Leane says the team behind the mahi have created a raranga organisation that whakapapa to various whānau and hapū of the Kaipara and beyond.

“We are landowners, doctors, researchers, agricultural and horticultural farmers, teachers, fishers, kaumatua, kaitiaki, and much, much more,” says Leane.

They first began working with KMR in 2023 when they planted 22,556 native trees and grasses – with half of those provided by Trees That Count – but Leane says they have been doing this mahi for a long time.

“This is an inter-generational kaupapa and the key to collaborating and problem-solving to restore the health and mauri of the Kaipara Moana is through self-determination, local determinism, and capacity. We need the support by agencies, politicians, law and lore, institutions and KMR, iwi/hapū, industry to do these things,” says Leane.



▲ Leane and Earle lead the committed team at Tāporapora Land and Coast Care Group.

Manukapua and the Ōkahukura reserve opposite Manukapua on the mainland hold spiritual, historical and cultural significance to Ngāti Whātua.

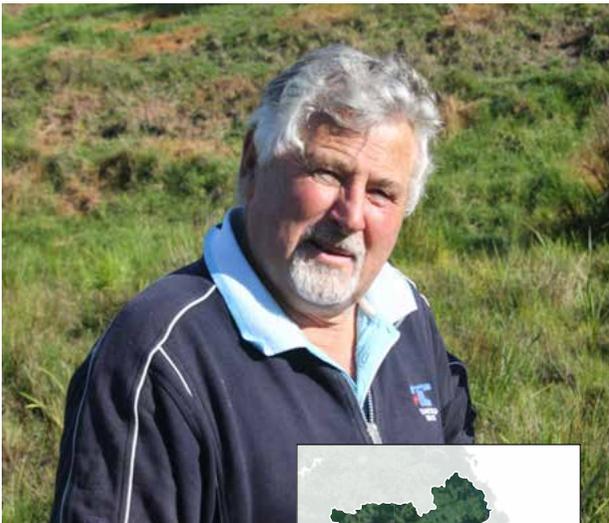
“This is the birthplace of Ngāti Whātua and we as mana whenua and community want to respect and value this in fostering the return and protecting the manu (birds),” says Tāporapora Land and Coast Care Group Chair, Earle Wright.

“It’s all about whanaungatanga, connections, between manu, people, our repo and awa and ngāhere. That’s all we do. Re-establish those connections.”

Farmers and community looking after the land

A successful run of three planting days was managed by Conservation Volunteers NZ (CVNZ) in 2024, with planting days held at Kaukapakapa and South Head.

Most recently, representatives from CVNZ and KMR teamed up with landowners Richard and Tanya Wilson, to plant 3,200 natives along the banks of Te Kuru Stream, which flows into Kaukapakapa River.



▲ Ross Webber is planting over 20,000 stems on his South Head farm.

Richard and Tanya's lifestyle block was hammered by flooding during Cyclone Gabrielle in 2023 and they have since been on a mission to remove willows from Te Kuru Stream to improve water flow, while also planting appropriate native plants on both sides of the stream to protect the banks from erosion and slow future floodwaters.

CVNZ Regional Manager Kiri Huddleston says it was an inspiring day, "Our collaboration supports the KMR project – which is amazing! – to get more volunteers on the ground at every planting day," says Kiri.

"We are stoked to be able to help out and add our expertise to such a huge initiative as KMR. Our kaupapa as an organisation is about empowering people to be kaitiaki for nature and guardians of a healthy and sustainable environment and inspiring them to keep making a difference by managing and protecting our environment. This really aligns with KMR's kaupapa, too," says Kiri.

The planting day took place on World Oceans Day to highlight the importance of taking action on the land to protect our seas, as well as clearly show the positive impact the KMR programme is having on the health and mauri of the Kaipara Moana.

The second community planting day location was with landowners Ross and Eleanore Webber who have been advocates of protecting the Kaipara Harbour for decades. The husband and wife team were pleased to add another 3661 stems to their latest project with the help of CVNZ and KMR. In total, the Webbers will plant 20,061 sedges, rushes, plants and trees in partnership with KMR on their 200 hectares (135 hectares fully effective) beef breeding unit.

"The people at KMR are awesome. They have been fizzing to get in here and get planting. We need to get more people on board with KMR because the more of this sort of work we all do, the better off our environment will be in the long term and that's great for our communities," says Ross.

"Decades ago, I was given the opportunity to be the guardian of this farm which was very humbling. Eleanore and I have worked hard since then to fence off waterways and wetlands and gradually plant them out. This partnership with KMR is very special as it gets us closer to completing what we set out to do.

"We have a 29 hectares QEII National Trust covenant which dates back 20 years and the area we have planted with KMR support has also had QEII support in the form of deer-proof fencing to keep feral deer away from the natives.

We have made a point of fencing off any parts of the farm we deemed uneconomic, so we have around 15 blocks on the farm protected and planted with natives, which totals 40 hectares. With KMR we will end up with another 10 hectares on top of that."

"We have made a point of fencing off any parts of the farm we deemed uneconomic."



▲ A Matariki planting on the Mangakāhia River, completed with the support of KMR, the communities of Pakotai and Parakao, Te Aroha Marae & Reconnecting Northland.

Kaitiakitanga planting

KMR once again supported local nurseries and enabled whānau and hapū to take leadership in reducing sediment from the land washing into the Kaipara Moana.

Through the 2024 Kaitiakitanga initiative, KMR offered a koha of locally sourced trees for planting on marae and other whenua Māori near waterways and on steep erodible hillsides.

A number of the 39 marae in the Kaipara Moana catchment across Auckland and Northland took KMR up on the opportunity to receive plants, rushes and sedges and work with their people to get them into the ground this winter.

In its second year, the Kaitiakitanga initiative was supported by KMR's network of 19 accredited nurseries and co-funding partners, and aimed to ensure tangata whenua can play their part in protecting and restoring the mauri of Kaipara Moana.

KMR is keen to see more marae act as hubs to share trees with their community as well as knowledge about the grant funding and other support KMR can offer. KMR's dedicated Whenua Whānui Fund looks to harness and reflect aspirations from groups and collectives of all types. So much of KMR's mahi can be attributed to strong local leadership and projects that reflect community priorities on the ground.

Through its Whenua Whānui Fund, KMR is supporting a growing number of diverse group-led projects across the catchment.

The projects KMR invests in – to restore wetlands, fence off rivers and streams, plant trees and regenerate forest on erosion-prone land – deliver much wider benefits. These include kotahitanga, greater connectivity between communities and their local waterways, thriving taonga species, and increased resilience to extreme weather events.



▲ The impacts of Cyclone Gabrielle and other extreme weather events in 2023 have significantly affected farming in the catchment.

Cyclone Gabrielle recovery

The 506 hectare Dill Farm, owned by Stephen and Clare Dill in the Kaipara Hills (North Auckland) was severely affected by Cyclone Gabrielle and other 2023 storms.

The Dills hosted KMR and the Associate Minister of Agriculture and for the Environment, Hon. Andrew Hoggard, to see their hard work to mitigate the resulting landslides.

The landowners showed the Minister and the KMR team a 40 hectare area of slipped and highly erodible hillsides, which is being planted with ~91,000 native trees through KMR support. The plants chosen for the planting – mostly mānuka, kānuka and tī kōuka (cabbage trees) – are well suited to keeping soil on steep, eroding slopes.

The visit highlighted that KMR projects to plant trees and regenerate forest on erosion-prone land also bring a variety of wider benefits and opportunities. Planting slipped areas increase resilience to future extreme weather and reduces climate change risks on-farm, and native planting enhances local biodiversity and seed sources.

The discussion with the Minister was far-reaching and highlighted the potential for biodiversity market opportunities from large-scale native planting, as well as how KMR's smart digital systems could verify biodiversity- and carbon-positive projects in future.

Clare and Stephen have a vision for the future of their land and KMR is proud to be able to support it. “With land this steep it presents a lot of challenges, so it’s been good to have Kaipara Moana Remediation behind us, just to give us advice and help us along the way,” said Clare.

“We’re creating a place that is the right thing to do for the generations to come.”

Healing the land

Aucklanders Sarah Welch and Yvonne New have been after a bush block within easy driving distance from Auckland for many years.

When they couldn't find one, they bought a 62 hectares of grazable grass hill country at Whakapirau, near Maungatūroto, and began planting pockets of natives to protect waterways, wetland areas and erodible hillsides.

With the help of on-farm manager Jackie Nairn, and through a partnership with KMR and additional guidance from KMR-accredited supplier Rural Design, strong progress is being made to heal the land – with Sarah, Yvonne and Jackie working hard on their environmental vision.

Because it has taken several generations to remove the bush from the land, the efforts of several generations will be required to sustainably bring it back. But Sarah believes everything is well on track for what can accurately be described as a legacy project.

The first year of planting in winter 2022 saw 27,000 natives planted, while 30,000 were put in the ground in 2023, with 1-metre spacing between plants near waterways and 2-2.5m spacings on the hillsides. Jackie says the progress of late could not have happened without the funding and planning from the passionate and knowledgeable KMR team. She says that input has been a gamechanger and working with KMR and Rural Design has been amazing.

Following Cyclone Gabrielle, there were numerous new slumps and slips and they were attended to with extensive native planting in June 2023.



Sarah says it is exciting to see how well the trees are growing after only two years. “I feel proud of what we have done so far. Jackie has good planning knowledge and was keen to move to the country, so it is perfect to have her manage the land.”

Yvonne says she enjoys being among nature on the farm: “Seeing the trees growing and the bird life is exciting. And my brother recently found kōura in the stream. Every time

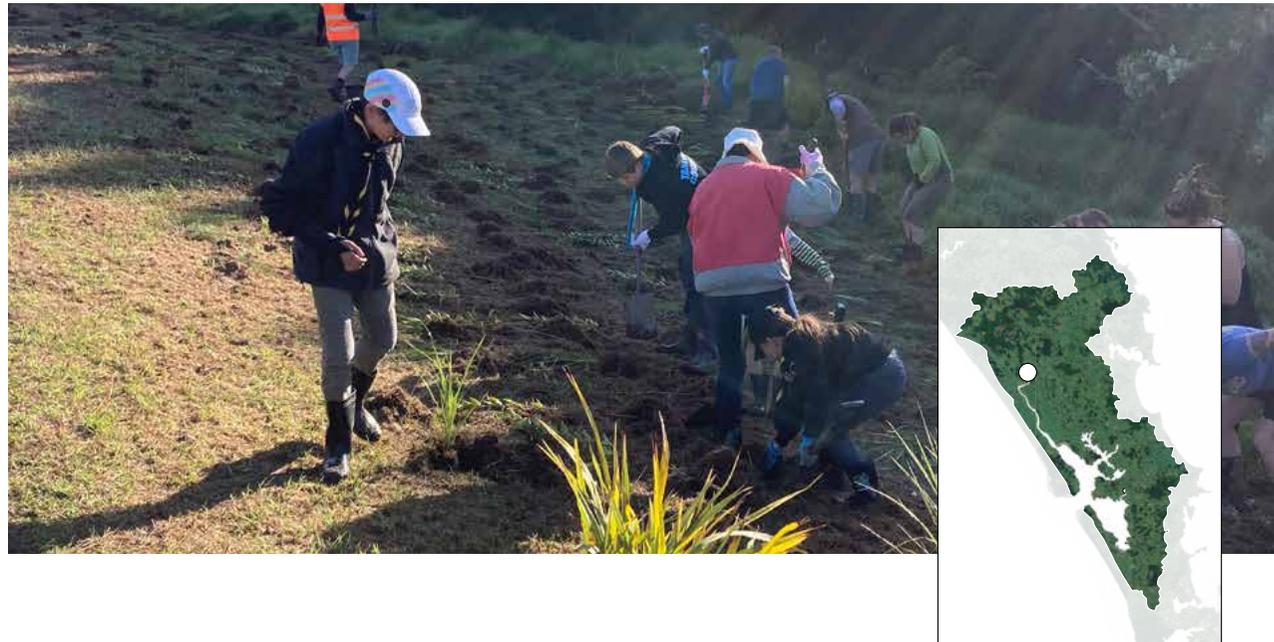
we go up there, we see something new and different. KMR has been amazing and has supported us to do a lot more than we would have otherwise. It’s a fantastic project and I am pleased to be part of it. In a climate emergency, the one thing we can do is plant trees to hopefully do our bit.”

Restoring a regionally significant wetland

“Hugely successful”, is how Kauri Coast Operations Manager, Stephen Soole describes the blessing and planting day at Te Kuihi Reserve on Hoanga Road near Dargaville. The planting day was a project jointly supported by DOC and KMR, with donated trees supplied by Trees That Count.

KMR welcomed the opportunity to support DOC, hapū and the local community to commemorate International Day for Biodiversity by helping the community protect the regionally important wetland near the Reserve. While KMR’s focus is on reducing sediment flows into the Kaipara Moana, planting trees helps valued species to return and thrive.

In total, 40 members of the community - ranging from 4 years old to over 80 - took just 90 minutes to plant over 1,500 trees. DOC followed up this successful day with further planting at the wetland to build on this remarkable local community effort.





King Charles III Coronation planting

Working with Trees that Count, KMR collaborated to support the He Rā Rākau Titapu – King Charles III Coronation Planting initiative, part of the Coronation gift from the New Zealand Government to King Charles. As part of this initiative, KMR and Whangārei District Council planted 7,000 stems near the Hikurangi Sports ground on the banks of the Mangawhero Stream, north of Te Kamo. In time, these native trees will help to improve water quality, create precious habitats for native species and control erosion.

Nation-wide, KMR has recently become the largest recipient of Trees That Count trees, with over 92,000 trees donated through a strategic partnership with KMR.

Trees That Count Regional Advisor Paul Quinlan says KMR are to be congratulated for running such a successful and professional programme over the past two years. “Planting is such an inherently positive activity. It’s really about trying to change the future for the better. Along the way, you make all of these connections with people and organisations which builds communities as well. Trees That Count is proud to be partnering with KMR to make a positive difference to our environment.”

“Planting is such an inherently positive activity. It’s really about trying to change the future for the better.”

Three-way partnership creating new training and employment pathways

A two-year partnership between Kaipara Moana Remediation, Ministry for Social Development and Te Uri O Hau Environs has uplifted a number of Kaipara Uri, including many rangatahi. Last year alone, the partnership trained 65 people and led to 64 people gaining full-time employment over the past two years.

Thanks to the work of Employment Coordinator Kaitiaki Kim Wallace and her passionate team, Te Uri O Hau Environs has run a number of training modules essential to protecting and restoring the mauri of Kaipara Moana - everything from kauri dieback identification and management, controlled substances licencing, driver licencing, GIS mapping, light utility vehicle usage, GrowSafe standards, first aid and te reo me ōna tikanga.



▲ With the support of KMR and MSD, Kim has played a leading role in supporting local rangatahi into workforce-based training and employment.



▲ KMR Field Advisors on farm, extending their classroom learning and translating it into the landscape.

With MSD support, Environs has collaborated with KMR to provide employment opportunities for whānau living in the Kaipara Moana catchment - or who simply wanted to move back to their whenua in the catchment.

“I grew up on the Kaipara. So I really understand the devastation of our taonga - the Kaipara Moana – and like so many of us, I am determined to change that. I love what KMR represents and hope that by working together we can find a solution to the problem.”

Key to that is the work Kim undertook in hiring workers and finding self-employed people to maintain the KMR workforce.

A whānau effort in Pīpīwai

Hohipere Williams says being back on whānau land in Pīpīwai after growing up elsewhere in Aotearoa is immensely fulfilling.

Hohipere and her whānau are gradually moving back to establish papakāinga and be guardians of their whenua, while continuing farming, albeit from a te ao Māori perspective.

“It’s awesome that our mokopuna see the need to keep the water clean. Making sure we have healthy awa for our tuna and all of our taonga species is so important,” says Hohipere.

Working with the support of Te Kaitiaki o Ngā Uri e Whā Whānau Trust and Kaipara Moana Remediation, priorities to reduce sediment washing into waterways have been identified, starting with fencing on both sides of the Pātūtahi river. Fencing will also protect forest remnants on nearby hills and allow them to regenerate.

This initial work will reduce streambank erosion and sediment flows from steep slopes, help stabilise a recent slip and create areas for future native planting.

“Our whānau and hapū intend to exercise kaitiakitanga by revegetating all of the river margins on the whenua and influencing nearby whānau and landowners to do the same.”



▲ Hohipere is working on whānau land in Pīpīwai to protect the river and restore remnant forest blocks.



Ngā Arotahi Anamata

Looking Ahead

Sustaining scale-up while managing costs

KMR's design intent means we will continue to scale up across the catchment and support a growing number of landowners and groups until the programme ends. By Year 10, over 1,000 landowners and groups are projected to be working with KMR under a co-funded Plan, with many of these landowners and groups taking action through multiple – and in many cases annual – KMR projects.

As KMR supports a growing number of landowners and groups, there is a growing challenge to match the seasonal cadence of work with appropriate resourcing throughout the calendar year. The programme will increasingly need greater capacity and flexibility to respond to seasonal 'peaks'.

Not only is the overall number of landowners and groups increasing, so too is the level of oversight required from the Maurikura. In KMR's early start-up phase, the majority of KMR's new landowners were dairy farmers and so were largely managed by Sustainable Dairying Advisors through the KMR/Fonterra partnership and via associated FarmSource accounting arrangements. With three times as many drystock farmers in the Kaipara Moana catchment as dairy farmers, the direct time invested by the Kaipara Maurikura in supporting primary sector landowners is expected to continue to grow. As the number of groups supported under the Whenua Whānui Fund grows, we are also seeing a similar increase in required time investment.

In the near term, KMR will have to evolve the mix of contractors, casual staff and in-house capacity and capability needed to meet seasonal demands as we continue to scale up, while effectively managing the programme costs. Reducing operating costs in line with our financial modelling is even more important now that KMR has been extended to operate through to February 2031.

Navigating the changing operating environment

KMR continues to operate in a strategically unclear operating environment, with ongoing uncertainty in the areas of farm plans, freshwater and RMA reforms, biodiversity settings and emissions trading regimes, all of which will have material impacts on KMR's long term success and ability to recruit, retain and support landowners and groups.

As legislative, policy and regulatory changes firm up, KMR continues to engage with decision-makers about our experience, and what we have learnt. We also need to understand the forthcoming changes in order to chart KMR's strategic direction in response to them. This function is particularly important as we move into developing a KMR Investment Strategy to target KMR investment and ensure KMR can capitalise on innovation opportunities, including in respect of philanthropic and other impact investment.

Freshwater farm planning

KMR currently offers free planning support and on-farm advice to manage sediment risk, and co-funding for eligible projects. Sediment is a key contaminant of freshwater, coastal and marine environments in the Kaipara Moana catchment and harbour, and will undoubtedly be a critical part of the catchment context under a revised freshwater farm plan system. The sediment reduction planning and projects landowners are undertaking with KMR's support are well aligned to the expected direction of freshwater farm planning regulations and are likely to assist farmers to meet obligations under revised regulations, once the government's review of these is complete and the system is live in the Kaipara Moana catchment.

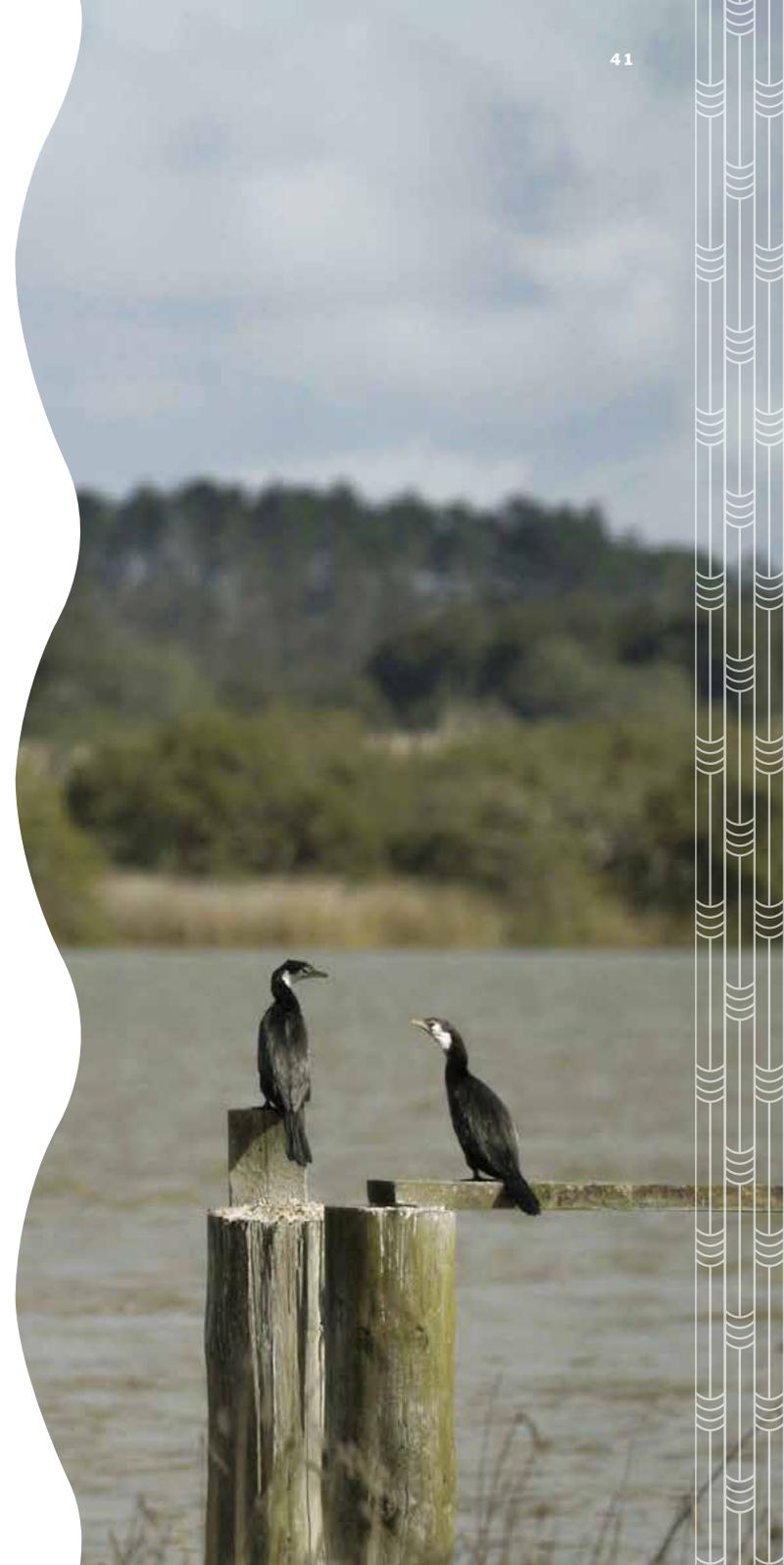
We are closely monitoring the government's work programme to review the freshwater farm plan system. Once the intended changes are clear, KMR will revisit decisions about when and how to best align with the refreshed system.

Kōrero Tuku Iho

KMR's Kōrero Tuku Iho (Mātauranga Māori) project seeks to gather stories, memories, histories, values, and a deeper understanding of the whenua, awa and moana. It provides a pathway for Kaipara Uri, iwi, hapū, marae, and whānau to explore their stories, memories, histories, values, and understanding of the natural world and places of significance associated with the Kaipara Moana catchment as inspiration for the reduction of sedimentation. Through this process, Kōrero Tuku Iho will enable these communities to contribute to the regeneration and protection of the mauri of the Kaipara Moana.

Kōrero Tuku Iho is expected to also bring to the surface aspirations for the retirement of land, seed bank opportunities, targeted planting of taonga species in appropriate places, growth of rongoā species for food and medicinal purposes, along with alternative land uses that protect the waterways while also generating new revenue. A key output of Kōrero Tuku Iho will be exemplary methods for integration, as relevant, of tikanga tiaki and mātauranga Māori into sediment remediation activities across the Kaipara Moana catchment.

During the year, an Interim Reference Group of Kaipara Uri members, pūkenga (specialists) and others with expertise in cultural understanding and practice developed a project methodology and an initial whakatauirā (case study) to begin the project. As one of the two foundational strategies that underpin KMR, Kōrero Tuku Iho will ultimately ensure that cultural and local perspectives and narratives inform KMR's future direction.



Investment strategy

Currently, KMR operates on a 'first in, first out' and 'on demand' model of investment, working with willing landowners and groups in a voluntary programme.

There is no explicit competition for funding through set funding rounds, with all projects meeting KMR criteria approved for funding. This is an appropriate setting for now. Similar large-scale initiatives (for example, the Waikato River Authority) took the same approach in the first few years of operations. As results from the Kōrero Tuku Iho (Mātauranga Māori) project emerge, and the Tātaki Wai accounting framework is operationalised, these will inform the development of a more targeted investment strategy. This strategy will also respond to future legislative, policy and regulatory settings as these are confirmed.

In the meantime, KMR is participating with the Jobs for Nature Secretariat in a Benefits Case Study, which is expected to demonstrate the scale of both early and subsequent benefits to accrue from KMR investments.

Future opportunities

Globally, New Zealand's highest value markets are setting increasingly stringent environmental standards, driven by shareholder and customer demands. Through our work, KMR is supporting New Zealand's primary sector to successfully respond.

KMR's project investments not only strengthen rural resilience to extreme weather, they also help farmers meet industry and market standards through the establishment of forest cover on hillsides and planting on riparian margins. Using KMR's smart digital tools, our projects can be verified, and the area of planting validated. This opens the way for on-farm carbon sequestration and biodiversity benefits to be recognised, including through co-investment in projects by third parties.

Third-party contributions are part of the \$80m in matched funding contributions required under the KMR Deed of Funding. They can reduce barriers to - and the costs of - landowners and groups taking action through KMR. This year, we continued to support KMR landowners to work with The Nature Conservancy and Auckland Council to progress potential future opportunities from 'blue carbon' sequestration in saltmarsh areas. At the time of writing, we are also in the early stages of progressing a technology-led pilot to better quantify the carbon sequestration potential within the harbour itself.

However, clarity around government policy frameworks is needed to unlock these opportunities. In the meantime, KMR has signed up to the national Recloaking Papatūānuku initiative which aims to reforest and restore 2.1 million hectares over the next 10 years, and the Pou Tātaki participated in the New Zealand Ministerial delegation to the inaugural Global Nature Positive Summit in October 2024. KMR has also engaged with emergent market-led initiatives such as Toha, a digital public infrastructure to measure environmental actions and support impact investment at scale for local restoration projects.





Mahere Mahi ā Tau Annual Work Plan (Year 4)

Remediation grants and partnerships

This year, landowners and groups of all types worked with KMR, enabling a significant amount of KMR grant funding for sediment remediation (reduction) projects to be contracted and disbursed across the Kaipara Moana catchment.

Actuals represent the amount that has been paid after on-farm sediment reduction works are completed and signed off. Landowner contributions are counted when the works are completed or signed off.

Uptake has continued steadily, exceeding the year's KPI for new Plans. As expected, there has been a significant increase this year in the uptake of second or third-year projects by returning landowners/groups.

KMR Field Advisors who either contract directly to KMR or through our delivery partners such as Environs and The Forest Bridge Trust, as well as Sustainable Dairy Advisors with Fonterra, work closely with landowners and groups to develop Plans that identify sediment reduction priorities and unlock co-funding to support implementation of agreed projects. KMR co-funding is typically equivalent to 50% of the estimated market value of the project.

In addition to grant payments made this year, \$5.47m in total project value (grant value plus landowner/group contribution) was contracted with landowners/groups but not yet verified as complete nor paid out by 30 June. The budget for committed works will carry over into 2024-25 for payment once these works are confirmed as completed.

Outputs from this investment are summarised in the table of Year 4 results.

Budget				Actual			
Crown	Council	Landowner / Other	Total	Crown	Council	Landowner / Other	Total
\$5,120,000.00	\$557,000.00	\$3,919,000.00	\$9,596,000.00	\$4,509,449.39	\$43,660.80	\$3,936,724.00	\$8,489,834.19



Capability and workforce development

By year-end, KMR had 21 Field Advisors working alongside landowners to develop high-quality Sediment Reduction Plans and to support the delivery of remediation projects. Throughout the year, KMR Field Advisors were supported through an active KMR Field Advisor Community of Practice.

Through KMR's Memorandum of Understanding with NZARM, two training courses were delivered as professional development for Kaipara Maurikura staff, KMR Field Advisors and programme partners. Further work continues with NZARM to develop and deliver further training and professional development for Field Advisors.

In total, KMR supported the training of 117 people, including a variety of external courses that helped the individuals achieve NZQA micro-qualifications.

A Kaitiaki Employment Coordinator hosted by Kaipara Uri, co-funded by KMR and the Ministry of Social Development, continued their work directly with local rangatahi and job seekers, connecting them into nature-based employment and training opportunities.

This year saw ongoing engagement with and support for KMR's 19 accredited native plant nurseries across the catchment. This included the technical review of planting plans and coordination with nurseries to ensure native planting projects are matched with high quality, eco-sourced, site-appropriate plants.

A partnership with Te Ārai Native Nursery continued. A small satellite nursery on the Poutō Peninsula was developed with KMR supporting some project engagement and management costs. The satellite nursery is located in a sensitive eco-district in the catchment, for which seed and nursery supplies are currently very limited and for which specific (and in many cases unique) plant types are required.

				Budget					Actual
Crown	Council	Landowner / Other	Total		Crown	Council	Landowner / Other	Total	
\$717,000.00	\$343,000.00	\$-	\$1,060,000.00		\$717,917.52	\$255,656.49	\$-	\$973,574.01	

Communications and engagement

A large number of engagements with landowners and groups have occurred over the past year. KMR's community engagement staff, Field Advisors, and Navigator project leads have hosted, jointly hosted and attended numerous events. These include:

- planting days (e.g. the Hoanga wetland planting, CVNZ plantings, Mangakāhia River Planting),
- community events (e.g. community meetings in the Tangowāhine valley and Kaipara Hills, a 'hotspot' hui for the Ōruawhoro river system, Nursery Open Days in Kaukapakapa and Poutō, MPI Rural Roadshows, Mangakāhia River Community hui, and others),
- on-farm open days (e.g. events hosted by Navigator project leads, a DairyNZ-hosted farm visit, on-farm field visits for the KMR board, a Ministerial delegation and other dignitaries), and

- sector events (e.g. the Ballance Farm Environment Awards, Beef+Lamb NZ events, Arapohue, Helensville and Warkworth A&P shows, FMG forum, Northland Field Days, National Field Days, rural professional forums, and others).

Kanohi ki te kanohi engagements were also held with over 53 different groups, including outreach about the Whenua Whānui Fund with iwi/hapū, marae, Settlement Trusts and whānau. Engagement is focused on understanding local aspirations, and the opportunities for KMR to co-fund remediation projects.

KMR hosted one Partnership Forum during the year to share good practices, bring our delivery partners together and celebrate delivery under the Whenua Whānui Fund. We elected not to host a second scheduled Partnership Forum in the first part of 2024 due to SH1 closures.

KMR also focused through the year on connecting with and communicating KMR opportunities to primary sector, NGO and community-facing organisations including Wai Connection, EnviroSchools, Te Tumu Paeroa, the QEII National Trust, FMG, Kaipara AgriSolutions, Rural Support Trust, Fonterra, Agri Women's Development Trust, Beef and Lamb NZ, Northland Inc and others.

While landowners/groups mostly learn about KMR via word of mouth, media stories, website profiles and social media posts also contribute to awareness. KMR was profiled in both digital and print media numerous times during the year, as well as in articles in industry, subscription and paywalled journals and digital newsletters.

Budget				Actual			
Crown	Council	Landowner / Other	Total	Crown	Council	Landowner / Other	Total
\$90,000.00	\$90,000.00	\$-	\$180,000.00	\$90,000.00	\$76,695.31	\$-	\$166,695.31

Programme marketing

KMR must develop and publish marketing and information materials (e.g. brochures) to raise awareness of KMR and the grant support we offer.

This has included: postcards and A5 landowner marketing material, landowner fence signage (placed on state highways and public thoroughfares to increase awareness), and co-branded flags for use by our delivery partners.

Budget				Actual			
Crown	Council	Landowner / Other	Total	Crown	Council	Landowner / Other	Total
\$10,000.00	\$10,000.00	\$-	\$20,000.00	\$10,000.00	\$9,974.73	\$-	\$19,974.73

Kaipara Maurikura

Over the year, KMR employed 11.725 full-time equivalent staff, including one secondee. Business, administration, and other systems continue to be refined to deliver at scale and ensure that the governance needs of the Joint Committee are effectively serviced.

Budget				Actual			
Crown	Council	Landowner / Other	Total	Crown	Council	Landowner / Other	Total
\$231,000.00	\$1,871,000.00	\$-	\$2,102,000.00	\$231,000.00	\$1,590,775.87	\$-	\$1,821,775.87

Governance

In Year 4, the Joint Committee held ten meetings, six decision-making Hui and four workshops/briefings. All meetings but two were held in person on various marae around the catchment, both in Auckland and in Northland. One Hui was held digitally and was live-streamed due to road closures, and one workshop was run online.

Budget				Actual			
Crown	Council	Landowner / Other	Total	Crown	Council	Landowner / Other	Total
\$-	\$100,000.00	\$-	\$100,000.00	\$-	\$64,352.66	\$-	\$64,352.66

Programme monitoring and evaluation

The in-house resource was used to initiate the design of the monitoring regime for projects two years after their completion to verify individual project delivery and develop a statistically robust view of overall programme performance.

KMR's Theory of Change was updated to reflect agreed investment types and strengthen the foundation for developing indicators and methods to measure short-term and medium-term impacts. We expect to make further progress on this work in early 2025.

Budget				Actual			
Crown	Council	Landowner / Other	Total	Crown	Council	Landowner / Other	Total
\$-	\$50,000.00	\$-	\$50,000.00	\$-	\$-	\$-	\$-

Work programme rephasing

The programme was rephased and extended to 10 years. Grant Thornton consultants updated KMR's financial model to support this piece of work.

Budget				Actual			
Crown	Council	Landowner / Other	Total	Crown	Council	Landowner / Other	Total
\$30,000.00	\$-	\$-	\$30,000.00	\$30,490.17	\$-	\$-	\$30,490.17

Digital tools - system development and maintenance

There was significant work this year to deliver the water quality accounting framework, Tātaki Wai. This will deliver outputs that enable analysis to support KMR's investment strategy and help us to model the impact of KMR's investment. At the end of the year, the tool was close to completion, with the remaining budget rolled over into the new financial year.

Mātai Onekura, KMR's digital farm planning and grant funding tool, is

now fully operational and being used to support sediment reduction planning, and the delivery of remediation projects and grant funding at scale. Minor improvements were made to system functionality during the year, and investment in ongoing mentoring and training on the tool.

The contract to deliver an indicative wetlands layer for the catchment was completed.

Budget				Actual			
Crown	Council	Landowner / Other	Total	Crown	Council	Landowner / Other	Total
\$698,000.00	\$522,000.00	\$-	\$1,220,000.00	\$696,120.78	\$270,943.02	\$-	\$967,063.80

Kōrero Tuku Iho (Mātauranga Māori) strategy development and implementation

Kōrero Tuku Iho is an important foundation for KMR, which will support kaitiakitanga and kaupapa-based narratives and practices to support sediment reduction efforts.

This year the purpose and structure of the Reference Rōpū, and criteria for place-based whakatauirā (case studies) to enable tangata whenua-led contributions to restoring Kaipara Moana were agreed.

The first whakatauirā was also confirmed, with a plan in place to deliver this over the next year. However, progress has been deeply impacted by the bereavement of whānau members to two integral members of the Kōrero Tuku Iho project team.

Budget				Actual			
Crown	Council	Landowner / Other	Total	Crown	Council	Landowner / Other	Total
\$835,000.00	\$-	\$270,000.00	\$1,105,000.00	\$73,100.02	\$-	\$-	\$73,100.02

New partnerships and opportunities

Several strategic partnerships continued over the year to increase the benefit from KMR investment and reduce costs to KMR and landowners. Partnerships included Trees That Count, MSD, the QEII National Trust, the NZ Association of Resource Management (NZARM),

the Biodiversity Focus Area programme led by Auckland Council, Spark, Phathom Sensors, Wai Connection, Conservation Volunteers NZ, Coastal People Southern Skies Centre of Research Excellence, and many others.

KMR also progressed several third-party opportunities, including opportunities for carbon market support for landowners. We maintained a watching brief on biodiversity market opportunities and informal (grey) markets for environmental restoration.

Budget				Actual			
Crown	Council	Landowner / Other	Total	Crown	Council	Landowner / Other	Total
\$25,000.00	\$25,000.00	\$-	\$50,000.00	\$26,839.45	\$26,839.45	\$-	\$53,678.90

Year 4 Total

Budget				Actual			
Crown	Council	Landowner / Other	Total	Crown	Council	Landowner / Other	Total
\$7,756,000.00	\$3,568,000.00	\$4,189,000.00	\$15,513,000.00	\$6,384,917.33	\$2,338,898.33	\$3,936,724.00	\$12,660,539.66

Key Performance Indicators

The table below provides more information about the Year 4 results compared to the Key Performance Indicators in the Year 4 Annual Work Plan:

KMR Activity	Total Year 4 target	Year 4 Actuals	Comment
Number of new Farm Environment Plans	180 Plans	210 new Plans , were created. Additionally, 132 returning landowners/groups (i.e. those who were already working with KMR) contracted to undertake additional projects.	KMR Sediment Reduction Plans (SRPs) and return project contracts are focused on sediment reduction outcomes. Under KMR's partnership with Fonterra, Tiaki Farm Environment Plans are developed for dairy farmers.
Area covered by Plans	45,000ha	31,594 hectares of land was newly covered by a Plan.	In total, more than 129,000 hectares are now covered by Plans. 70% of this target was achieved. The KPI was set in March 2023 taking into account the land size and relative sectoral mix of landowners/groups taking action at the time. In practice, the average size of properties with new Plans (at 150 hectares) has been smaller than expected. This reflects an increase in smaller farm blocks working with KMR, as well as group or community-led projects on small areas of land.
Fencing	350km	475.34 kilometres <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 225.50 kilometres signed off as completed • 249.84 kilometres committed 	Fencing activity continues to steadily grow, with KMR now having supported more than 805 kilometres since its inception as of 30 June 2024. Regulatory requirements are likely to play a role in driving this level of fencing.
Native planting near waterways, wetlands and the coast	120ha 600,000 native plants	160 hectares of planting 801,871 native plants of which 436,913 were signed off as completed and 364,958 were committed for planting in winter 2024.	Over KMR's life to date as of 30 June 2024, more than 1.32 million native plants have been planted or committed for planting in waterway-adjacent areas.
Highly erodible hill country	200ha	421 hectares of highly erodible hill country. This includes 65 hectares signed off as completed and 356 hectares committed for planting or regeneration. 449,442 plants , of which 147,723 were signed off as complete, and 301,719 were committed for planting in the winter of 2024.	In the winter of 2023, KMR first supported the treatment of highly erodible hill country, and Year 4 saw activity in this area begin to significantly scale up. Year 4 activity includes 177 hectares of native planting and 212 hectares of native regeneration, as well as a 32 hectares of silvopasture and alternative exotic afforestation with non-weedy, non-pine species.
Jobs Number of people-hours worked	80,000 hours of work (~51 FTE)	103,652 hours of work (~66 FTE) were completed in Year 4. Sediment reduction projects generating the equivalent of a further 70,000+ hours of work (~45FTE) were committed to in contracts with landowners/groups. Some of this work will have taken place over the winter planting season but will not yet have been confirmed by KMR as completed.	At the end of June 2024, over 285,000 hours of work have been completed over KMR's life to date.
Training Number of people undertaking training	30 people trained	117 people trained	Training included KMR Field Advisor Training, te reo and tikanga courses, NZARM hosted training, NRC Wetlands Course, external training supported by the Kaitiaki Employment Coordinator role and training provided by KMR delivery partners.

Rāpotopoto Ahupūtea

Financial Summary 2023-2024

	Cash contributions				In kind contributions			Total expenditure	
	MfE	MfE Other*	Councils	Landowners / Other	Total cash contributions	Council	Landowners / Other		Total in kind expenditure
Total funding	11,226,000.00	50,700.00	1,127,446.57	283,141.61	12,687,288.18				
Workstream expenditure									
Programme Delivery - Remediation Grants and Partnerships	5,227,366.91	-	286,757.25	-	5,514,124.16	12,560.04	3,936,724.00	3,949,284.04	9,463,408.20
Engagement and Partnership	100,000.00	-	86,670.04	-	186,670.04	-	-	-	186,670.04
Kaipara Maurikura	231,000.00	-	463,729.16	-	694,729.16	1,127,046.71**	-	1,127,046.71	1,821,775.87
Governance, Planning and Reporting	30,490.17	-	41,757.65	-	72,247.82	22,595.01	-	22,595.01	94,842.83
Digital Tools System Development & Maintenance	646,120.78	50,000.00*	221,693.02	-	917,813.80	49,250.00	-	49,250.00	967,063.80
Strategy and Opportunities	99,939.47	-	26,839.45	-	126,778.92	-	-	-	126,778.92
Total expenditure	6,334,917.33	50,000.00	1,127,446.57	-	7,512,363.90	1,211,451.76	3,936,724.00	5,148,175.76	12,660,539.66
Funding carried over to 2024/25	4,891,082.67	700.00	-	283,141.61	5,174,924.28				

NOTES:

Funding represents any cash contributions from Councils and MfE and interest on cash held in the bank.

*Funding to map adverse weather impacts (no co-funding required).

**This figure incorporates a refund to NRC to reconcile the agency's in-kind contribution to KMR.

Tātari Agreed Procedures Report

In order to comply with the relevant clauses of the KMR Deed of Funding, Deloitte Limited was engaged to undertake an agreed procedures engagement in relation to particular aspects of the project’s funding sources and expenditure. This report has been provided to the Ministry for the Environment as required by the Deed.

Partnerships



MOU signatories



Ngā Tūtohu Acknowledgments

KMR would like to thank everyone who has supported and contributed to our work this year.

In particular, we would like to acknowledge the many landowners, farmers, land managers, whānau, kaitiaki, hapū, community groups, catchment groups, schools and others around the catchment who have worked with us to take action.

We would like to especially thank KMR's MOU signatory parties, strategic and commercial partners, and all of the KMR-accredited nurseries, contractors and suppliers, as well as the many Kaitiaki, Field Advisors and Sustainable Dairy Advisors working out in the community and on the whenua.

The KMR team would like to acknowledge the ongoing support and wise guidance from our governors. Our thanks to Chair Tame Te Rangi, Deputy Chair Amy Macdonald, Cherie Povey, Georgina Curtis-Connelly, Greg Sayers, Jack Crow, Jane Sherard, John Blackwell, Kerrin Leoni, Michelle Carmichael, Taiāwhio Wati and Virginia Warriner.

KMR would also like to thank foundation employees William Wright MNZM and Tahiroa Bishop who were instrumental in the establishment phase of the Kaipara Moana Remediation and have now returned to work for their hapū.

Lastly, we recognise and thank the Ministry for the Environment and the Jobs for Nature programme as KMR's primary funders, as well as Northland Regional Council and Auckland Council for their co-funding contributions.



Ministry for the
Environment
Manatū Mō Te Taiao

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Te Kāwanatanga o Aotearoa
New Zealand Government

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TITLE: Update on KMR operational settings

Kaituhi Pūrongo | Stephanie Versteeg, Amo-Rautaki Pākihi,
Report Writers Darren van Beek, Kaiārahi Whakaora Whenua Koawa

Te Kaupapa | Purpose

This report provides an update on winter 2024 planting season and key lessons learnt. It sets out some updates to KMR settings, in particular the KMR price schedule used to cost projects and determine grant value.

Rāpopototanga Matua | Executive summary

A successful 2024 planting season has concluded and KMR has supported increased planting activity in riparian margins and erodible hill country across the catchment. KMR has reviewed key operational settings and considers they are fit for purpose for the coming season, with only minor operational improvements needed.

In line with good practice, KMR has also updated the annual price schedule that is used to estimate the cost of KMR projects and determine the KMR grant value. Keeping prices fair and reflective of local market conditions is important for landowner and group participation. Price updates have been informed by market feedback and are broadly in line with levels of on-farm inflation over the last 2 years.

Whakataunga | Recommendations

That the Joint Committee:

1. *Receive* the report 'Update on KMR operational settings' by Steph Versteeg and Darren van Beek, dated 21 October 2024.
2. *Note* that following a successful winter planting season, KMR has reviewed key grant settings and considers they are fit for purpose for the coming season, with only minor operational improvements needed.
3. *Note* that in order to enable early planning of sediment reduction projects, KMR is beginning to engage on winter 2025 planting with programme partners, suppliers, landowners and groups.
4. *Note* that the KMR price schedule has been updated, as per the established process, and is being applied to projects approved from 1 October 2024.

Horopaki | Background

Winter 2024 planting season was KMR's third as a fully operational programme, and our first supporting the full range of mitigations endorsed by the Joint Committee in spring 2023.

Following a very successful 2024 planting season, KMR has reviewed core operational settings and is planning for the coming year. This has included seeking informal feedback from accredited nurseries, contractors, delivery partners, Field Advisors, landowners and groups, and undertaking an internal review of the 2024 planting season. This feedback and review activity informs this paper, as well as the accompanying paper on nursery allocations for winter 2025.

Tātari me ngā tūtohu | Analysis and Advice

KMR co-funds a range of activities that deliver erosion control and sediment reduction. Summer is the core time of year to fence to exclude stock from waterways and also to plan and prepare for winter planting. KMR needs to make any core improvements to policy settings ahead of summer activities.

Winter 2024 was a successful planting season, though barriers to greater scale persist

The 2024 winter planting season has built upon KMR's previous two winters' work, taking on board previous lessons relating to managing native plant orders and supporting planting project delivery.

KMR contracted just under 750,000 native plants for planting in winter 2024 (note: the planting season falls over two financial years). This total is an increase on the 2023 planting season. This winter, 155 planting projects were contracted with landowners and groups, ranging in size from a school planting of 50 plants up to 90,000 plants over 40 hectares on a steep, highly erodible sheep and beef farm. Around three-quarters of native planting projects were under 5,000 stems. In total, winter 2024 projects will deliver an estimated 93 ha of protection of riparian, wetland and coastal margins, and protection of 133 ha of erodible hill country.

Even with a contribution from KMR, the time and cost of planting and managing the establishment of native forest is a barrier for many landowners and groups. This year, 12 projects comprising 60,000 plants, received additional support from third parties (such as Trees That Count and Conservation Volunteers New Zealand), which reduced costs for landowners and groups. We are continuing to explore other avenues to bring down costs in winter 2025.

Supporting natural regeneration to native forest is a lower cost option for areas with suitable conditions including sufficient native seed source and a commitment to ongoing management of an area. At the time of writing, 216 ha are being assisted to regenerate into native forest. This involves weed control and supplementary native planting if necessary to complement natural processes. This is a lower cost per hectare to landowners/groups and KMR than native planting, and we are working to build awareness, capability and good practice around this option.

It was our first winter supporting space planting of poplars, with nearly 400 poplar poles and 5,000 poplar wands contracted for planting in erodible hill country. No (non-pine) exotic afforestation projects were contracted for planting in 2024, but some projects are in the pipeline for next winter. We expect demand for these projects to steadily increase as awareness grows, and they can form a valuable role in the landscape alongside other actions to reduce sediment.

KMR staff observation is that landowners and groups are committing to the work that they can afford, relative to other priorities, in what is a tough economic environment – prices have risen significantly over the last two years and margins are tight for many farms. These cost pressures and, to a lesser degree, seasonal challenges faced by landowners are the biggest constraints on greater uptake of KMR grant funding.

Unclear and uncertain policy settings for fresh water, carbon and biodiversity, as well as limited awareness of existing stock exclusion rules and regulations, further slows uptake while landowners wait to understand what activities on farm will be required from a compliance or industry standard point of view.

Refining KMR's operational cadence over the next 12 months

The KMR team has run an internal review of winter 2024 planting. Feedback this year suggests that systems are scaling in a way that enables us to deliver an increasingly responsive and consistent service to landowners and groups. As the Joint Committee will recall, this assessment has been validated through two independent surveys of landowners and groups taking action with KMR. There are also (known) areas where we can continue to refine and improve our systems. Key areas of focus coming out of the review of winter 2024 include:

Early promotion and engagement

Sediment reduction projects can require significant lead time for decision making and planning.

This year, we have encouraged landowners and groups to 'get in early' and have had clear 'soft' milestones (deadlines) throughout the season to encourage early planning and project development. This has benefited our operational cadence and we will continue this approach as we move into 2025.

To promote summer fencing and winter 2025 planting, continued engagement with landowners and groups remains a top priority, including working through partner and other affiliated networks (e.g. nurseries, accredited suppliers etc). We are further increasing communications and engagement to raise awareness and target new landowners and groups. Our engagement statistics tell us that the vast majority of new landowners and groups hear about KMR through word-of-mouth recommendations or face to face engagement, with public media playing a smaller but still important role.

Growing capability, good practice and a customer-centred service

An internal review of KMR's grant settings suggests that they are fit-for-purpose and only minor operational improvements are needed (for example, to ensure we have an efficient approach to supporting small poplar projects).

Nonetheless, we are continuing to refine our processes to support our Field Advisors and partners including nurseries, suppliers and delivery partners. For example, under KMR's tuakana-teina approach, expert field advisors provide mentoring and support for those earlier in their advisory career. Priorities include ensuring all KMR co-fundable sediment remediation activities are well understood and appropriately promoted, and supporting proactive and effective project management of KMR projects to ensure best outcomes from the investment.

Price schedule review - ensuring project prices reflect market conditions

In August and September, staff reviewed the KMR price schedule. This is an annual process, and is the fourth such review since 2022, the most recent being a narrowly scoped review of spot spray prices and the inclusion of 7 wire and batten fencing costs in April this year.

The purpose of the review was to ensure that KMR prices are fair and reflect local market conditions. These prices are used to estimate the value of a KMR co-funded project, and to determine KMR's contribution to the project. Providing an accurate estimate of project value encourages participation in KMR projects. We acknowledge that there will always be 'overs and unders' in KMR prices, both due to natural variations in pricing across the geography of the catchment and as KMR prices do not set market rates.

As in previous years, the pricing review involved seeking feedback from Field Advisors, Sustainable Dairy Advisors, and accredited KMR preferred suppliers, drawing on anecdotal feedback and reviewing market data on pricing including inflation.

Beef + Lamb's on farm inflation data shows a 10% increase in on-farm costs in 2021-2022, 16% in 2022-2023 and 2.8% in 2023-2024. The increase in KMR's prices since 2022 are consistent with wider trends in on-farm costs.

Through the review process, KMR received specific feedback about the higher costs of native planting projects that are small and/or on difficult sites, and have made two changes to address this:

- For both site preparation and post-planting maintenance, an additional rate has been included in KMR's pricing schedule to reflect the costs of spot spray (weed control) on difficult sites and/or for small planting projects.
- For planting, we have also clarified that the 'moderate' rate is the baseline for pricing small (<2,500 stem) native planting projects. This is because too many previous projects were 'pricing up' planting projects to the 'difficult terrain' price, as the moderate rate had been set too low against real world prices.

Other changes to the KMR pricing schedule are summarised below:

- Site preparation prices for blanket spray and aerial spray have increased by an average of 3% (average of 9% since 2022).
- Maintenance prices for blanket spray and aerial spray have increased by an average of 2% (an average of 18% since 2022).

- All fencing prices have increased, on average by 18% (an average of increase of 24% since 2022). There was a more significant increase to the price of moderate difficulty fencing (as per our comment above, 'pricing up' was occurring as our moderate rates were too low). We expect moderate difficulty fencing will now be used relatively more often.
- Providing a single flat rate for plant freight (removing the lower rate previously used for large projects, given that economies of scale do not readily exist).

All prices are applicable to KMR projects approved after 1 October, and we expect to undertake a light touch review again in Spring 2025, as per normal practice.

Considerations

1. Aromātai whāinga haumi mō te ora | Wellbeing Investment objectives and assessment

KMR's grant settings are designed to support the primary objective of sediment reduction, while supporting KMR's wider investment objectives. KMR staff assessment is that operational settings specifically the updated price schedule support programme objectives and reflect good practice in erosion control and sediment reduction, sustainable growth in landowner participation and responsible funds management.

2. Ngā ritenga take pūtea | Financial implications

This paper has no financial implications as updates to the price schedule are provided for in the KMR remediation budget.

That said, it is important to note that updates to the KMR price schedule have increased the unit cost of some co-fundable sediment reduction activity (e.g. the average cost per metre of fencing). This effectively reduces the overall levels of remediation that can be achieved over the life of the programme. While inflation is already taken into account in programme modelling, recent inflationary pressures have been higher than assumed in initial modelling. However, it is critical that KMR maintains a fair estimate of market prices, as this ensures that KMR provides a fair estimate of project value, ensuring that KMR grants are attractive for landowners and reducing barriers to participation for Whenua Whānui Fund groups, in line with KMR's commitment to equity.

3. Ngā hiranga me ngā hononga | Significance and Engagement

In relation to section 79 of the Local Government Act 2002, the decisions arising from this report are considered to be of low significance when assessed against Northland Regional Council's significance and engagement policy. This does not mean that this matter is not of significance to tangata whenua and/or individual communities, but that the Joint Committee is able to make these decisions without undertaking further consultation or engagement.¹

4. Ngā tūraru me ngā mauru | Risks and mitigation

As set out in the Annual Work Plan, KMR has a variety of mitigations to minimise risk from the KMR sediment reduction plan development process. This includes a mitigation to ensure KMR grant pricing reflects real-world costs.

5. Ngā urutau huringa-ā-rangi | Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation

This Joint Committee paper does not have wider climate change mitigation and adaptation implications. Operational settings that enable KMR investment to support tree planting will enhance climate change resilience and adaptation, and increase carbon sequestration that supports climate change mitigation.

¹ This Joint Committee operates under the Local Government Act which requires a significance and engagement policy (which identifies when matters require special consultation with tangata whenua and the community) and to have regard to that policy when making decisions. As the administrative support for the Joint Committee is provided by the Northland Regional Council, it is that Council's Significance and Engagement Policy that will apply to Joint Committee decision making.

Appendix 1: KMR Schedule of Prices as at 1 October 2025

Key:

- Price has increased.
- New line item or guidance.

Kaipara Moana Remediation (KMR) Schedule of Prices

The following tables provide the schedule of prices that Field Advisors use to estimate the total value of a remediation project and KMR’s financial contribution to the project. KMR’s financial contribution to a project is 50% of the estimated total project value for Landowner grants and 70% for Whenua Whānui Fund grants.

This price schedule is used to estimate KMR’s contribution to a project – it is not intended to set market rates, and the actual value of the works may be more or less than the estimated project value.

Note: All prices are exclusive of GST, and subject to change (including but not limited to an annual price review).

Table 1. KMR Schedule of Prices

Service	Site Preparation (Includes labour, herbicides, machinery)	\$ Per m ²
Knapsack	Easy spraying/Easy Accessibility (e.g. Short pasture)	\$0.25
Knapsack	Moderate Spraying/ Moderate Accessibility (e.g. Knee-deep kikuyu/weeds)	\$0.30
Knapsack	Difficult Spraying/ Difficult Accessibility (e.g. Black berry, gorse)	\$0.35
Spray Unit	Easy spraying/Easy Accessibility (e.g. Short pasture)	\$0.11
Spray Unit	Moderate Spraying/ Moderate Accessibility (e.g. Knee-deep kikuyu/weeds)	\$0.17
Spray Unit	Difficult Spraying/ Difficult Accessibility (e.g. Black berry, gorse)	\$0.20
		\$ Per plant
Spot Spray	(Not expected to be used in large scale >4ha Hill country planting)	\$0.50
Spot Spray Difficult	(Not expected to be used in large scale >4ha Hill country planting) Recommend for use in small (<2500 stems) planting projects	\$0.60
		\$ Per Ha
Aerial Spraying (Heli/Drone)	Generally, only used in large scale >4ha Hill country planting	\$460

*KMR does not fund removal of larger woody species (e.g. willows, pines etc.)

* Difficulty is decided by KMR Field Advisor in conjunction with the landowner(s). Difficulty is assessed on accessibility/terrain of the project site, weed type and difficulty of weed removal.

*Knapsack use will be approved only by exception due to the cost differential.

	Plant cost	\$ Per plant
	<10,000 stems	\$2.10
	10,000 – 25,000 stems	\$1.90
	>25,000 stems	\$1.70

*KMR generally aims to use 0.5L and/or 50 cell grade plants for planting projects.

	Freight (Delivery of plants to property)	\$ Per plant
	Flat rate applied to all planting projects	\$0.11

*Freight pricing varies widely. This is an estimate for the KMR to provide a financial contribution towards delivery costs.

*It is usually the landowner's responsibility to arrange freight of plants with the nursery.

	Planting	\$ Per plant
	Easy Planting	\$1.20
	Moderate Planting Recommend using in small (<2500 stems) planting projects	\$1.50
	Difficult Planting	\$1.80

*KMR's plant spacing differs based on the landscape - please refer to the KMR Plant Guide.

*KMR generally aims to use 0.5L and/or 50 cell grade plants for native planting projects.

*Difficulty is decided by KMR Field Advisor in conjunction with the landowner(s). Difficulty is assessed on accessibility/terrain of the project site.

Service	Maintenance Spraying (Includes labour, herbicides, machinery)	\$ Per plant
Per plant release	(Not expected to be used in large scale >4ha Hill country planting)	\$0.50
Per Plant release Difficult	(Not expected to be used in large scale >4ha Hill country planting) Recommend for use in small (<2500 stems) planting projects	\$0.60
		\$ Per m ²
Spray unit	Blanket spraying (Using appropriate herbicide)	\$0.17
		\$ Per Ha
Aerial Spraying (Heli/Drone)	Generally, only used in large scale >4ha Hill country planting	\$460

	Assisted Natural Regeneration projects	\$ Per Ha
Initial Control Phase	Generally applied in first application to 'knock down' initial weed burden to assist natural regeneration	\$1,000
		\$ Per Ha
Maintenance Control phase	Subsequent maintenance to promote further natural regeneration (can be applied over multiple years)	\$800

*KMR can fund up to 3 years of weed control for assisted natural regeneration. The KMR Field Advisor can provide advice. It is expected there will be evidence of existing native regeneration, without mature infestation of woody weed species.

*This pricing is a flat rate, with any further costs will be at the landowner's expense.

Fencing Difficulty	Fencing (Including labour, materials, machinery)	\$ Per M
Easy		\$10.50
Moderate		\$14.50
Difficulty		\$19.00
Easy	1 Wire	\$11.50
Moderate		\$17.00
Difficulty		\$23.00
Easy	2 Wire	\$13.50
Moderate		\$20.00
Difficulty		\$26.50
Easy	3 Wire	\$16.00
Moderate		\$22.50
Difficulty		\$29.50
Easy	4 Wire	\$18.50
Moderate		\$28.00
Difficulty		\$37.00
Easy	5 Wire	\$20.50
Moderate		\$30.25
Difficulty		\$40.00
Easy	6 Wire	\$25.00
Moderate		\$34.00
Difficulty		\$43.00
Easy	7 wire (No Battens)	\$34.00
Moderate		\$38.50
Difficulty		\$46.00

*Difficulty of fencing is decided by KMR Field Advisor in conjunction with the landowner. Difficulty is assessed on accessibility of fencing machinery, terrain, and complexity of fencing (e.g. quantity of turns in fence).

*Note: Please refer to KMR standards for average post spacing and the type of posts used for fencing.

	Troughs & Gates	\$ Per item
Troughs	Up to a maximum of 5 (Refer to KMR criteria)	\$1,200
Gates	Up to a maximum of 5 (Refer to KMR criteria)	\$350

*Troughs are only funded for areas where a KMR project excludes animals from a drinking water source (Speak to a KMR Field Advisor for clarification). KMR can fund up to 50% of the cost for a maximum of 5 troughs if deemed necessary.

*Note: Fittings and labour are provided in kind by the landowner(s).

*Gates are funded only to ensure that if animals do manage to get into the fenced off area, the landowner can safely remove them. KMR can fund up to 50% of the cost for a maximum of 5 gates, if deemed necessary.

	Exotic Planting	\$ Per Ha
	Exotic Afforestation (non pine, non weedy species) Minimum 1,100 stems per Ha Flat rate per Ha for site prep, planting, maintenance and freight	\$1,500

	Poplar Planting (Winter 2024 price – price for Winter 2025 to be confirmed in March)	
Poles (60-90mm) inc. Sleeve	Price incl. plant + labour + sleeve	\$37.50
Poles (60-90mm) excl. Sleeve	Price incl. plant + labour	\$30.00
Wands inc. Sleeve	Price incl. plant + labour + sleeve	\$16.70
Wands excl. Sleeve	Price incl. plant + labour	\$6.70

TITLE: Approach to native plant allocations (2025)

**Kaituhi Pūrongo |
Report Writer** David McDermott, KMR Nursery Lead

Te Kaupapa | Purpose

This report seeks endorsement for how KMR will allocate native plant orders across nurseries for the winter 2025 planting season.

Rāpopototanga Matua | Executive summary

Winters 2023 and 2024 have provided valuable lessons for KMR's approach to managing native plant orders and planting project delivery, highlighting the ongoing challenges and opportunities from working with accredited nurseries, contractors, delivery partners, landowners and groups in a voluntary programme subject to weather and other disruptions. A recent review of Winter Planting 2024 (see accompanying report) has informed the approach recommended in this paper.

We recommend a slightly revised approach to support native planting in winter 2025 with a view to KMR continuing to scale up native revegetation for erosion control and sediment reduction in the Kaipara Moana catchment. With the revised approach, the KMR team is confident of the ability to collectively build on previous winters' efforts while managing financial risk.

Whakataunga | Recommendations

That the Joint Committee:

1. *Receive* the 'Approach to native plant allocations (2025)' report by David McDermott, KMR Nursery Lead, dated 21 October 2024.
2. *Note* that following a review of winter 2024 operational settings, an improved approach has been identified for allocating native plant orders to nurseries.
3. *Endorse* the recommended revised approach to allocating native plant orders to nurseries for the 2025 planting season.

Horopaki | Background

Ahead of both winter 2023 and 2024 planting seasons, KMR pre-ordered native plants from our accredited nurseries. For 2024 planting season, 475,000 plants were pre-allocated across 18 nurseries:

- 12,500 plants from each of 10 small nurseries
- 25,000 plants from each of 4 medium nurseries
- 62,500 stems from each of 4 large nurseries.

This pre-allocation helped secure sufficient supply of standard native revegetation species for native planting projects. This reduced the risk of running out of plants during the planting season, which happened with some species in winter 2022. Pre-ordering helped accredited nurseries to plan, and supported KMR delivery in a commercial market.

As a voluntary programme, pre-ordering risks KMR having excess plants at the end of the season if a nursery's allocation is not sold to KMR landowners (usually due to lack of landowner-led projects in their area). While under-allocated plants can create some operational & logistical challenges, they also support marketing and engagement efforts, and create new community connections and support (e.g. through donating plants to marae and other community-facing projects).

Through our recent review of winter 2024, KMR staff have identified there is a higher risk that a nursery's pre-allocated plants are not sold to a KMR project when the nursery is unable to:

- Supply a sufficiently diverse range of native plant species and/or
- Provide plant delivery as part of their service and/or
- Meet KMR plant quality standards (due to disease incidence, poor growth or other factors).

At the end of the 2024 season, KMR purchased 22,974 plants through the KMR pre-allocation that under-allocated nurseries were not able to sell on the open market. While this is a small amount by comparison to the overall total, we are looking to reduce this number in future.

By winter's end 2024, KMR had successfully allocated all of the un-allocated plants to projects and, where possible, captured the landowner's in-kind contribution in planting them (meaning we still captured a 'matching contribution', which is important for KMR's funding model). Notably, all the under-allocated plants were in the northern part of the catchment, due to lower numbers of KMR landowners planting in that area, likely due to economics. Typically, we have observed higher planting rates in the Auckland region.

Tātari me ngā tūtohu | Analysis and Advice

An equitable and prudent approach to securing plant supply

Following both internal review and some external engagement, KMR continues to endorse a nursery allocation approach for native plants that is:

- **Landowner centred** – effective, streamlined and customer-centred
- **Planful and proactive approach** so that risks are managed
- **Early, consistent and clear communications** so expectations are shared
- **Building capability** – we are inclusive and work together to deliver good quality
- **Building scale** – effective programme delivery, operational workflow and resourcing enables us to meet landowner expectations, growing demand across the year and meet peak season demand
- **Fostering good practice** – our annual nursery accreditation review enables KMR to address plant quality, eco-sourcing and other supply issues with our accredited nurseries.

Approach to native plant pre-allocation for 2025 planting season

As in earlier years, KMR intends to pre-allocate native plants for winter 2025 planting. We have proposed a target of 467,500 native plants to be purchased from 16 of KMR's accredited native nurseries.

To maintain an inclusive approach and manage the financial risk to KMR of pre-ordering plants that are a high risk of not being allocated, staff recommend creating a category for nurseries that are newly accredited and/or have very limited species options and/or historic issues with plant quality. These accredited nurseries would not receive a pre-allocation but would be promoted (marketed) by KMR and could still supply KMR projects if requested by a landowner or group, subject to meeting KMR plant quality standards.

We therefore propose the following native plant pre-allocations in 2025 across the 20 accredited KMR nurseries:

- No plants from 2 limited-supply nurseries
 - No plants from the new 2 nurseries which will generate projects for KMR without receiving a pre-allocation
 - 12,500 plants each from each of 7 small nurseries
 - 25,000 plants each from each of 5 medium nurseries
 - 62,500 plants each from each of 4 large nurseries (with an additional 5,000 plants allocated to Te Ārai Native Nursery (TANNL) for the Waikāretu marae 'satellite' nursery).
- = 467,500 native stems**

We do not recommend pre-allocating more native plants than this total, given uncertainty in the species composition and location of orders in a fully voluntary programme such as KMR, and given the very real logistical challenges of matching demand to supply across nine eco-districts.

KMR staff consider the level of pre-allocation to be prudent and realistic. It is a 2% reduction compared to the 2024 pre-allocation, but this does not mean that KMR is aspiring to plant fewer trees – quite the reverse. However, we need to be prudent about managing financial exposure from the pre-allocation commitments. This is particularly important given current economics on farm.

The reduction in the total allocation above is due to maintaining 2024 levels of pre-allocation for each nursery category, but shifting two small nurseries into the New/Limited Supply category (which has no pre-allocation associated with it).

NEW/LIMITED SUPPLY	SMALL (1 FTE)	MEDIUM (4-8 FTE)	LARGE (12+ FTE)
No allocation	12,500 stems each	25,000 stems each	62,500 stems each
BABYLON COAST GARDENS	CRAIG MCNAUGHT	FOREST FLOOR	KAURI PARK NURSERIES
NZ RIVERWOOD	MIRO AGRI	MANGAWHAI NATIVES	RURAL DESIGN
WAIPOUA FOREST TRUST	TE OREWAI NURSERY	TE TOA WHENUA (TE ROROA)	SCRUB GROWERS
KIWICAN	NATURES VISION	KAIPARA COAST PLANT CENTRE	TE ARAI NATIVE NURSERY*
	TAWA ROAD	WAIMARIE NURSERY	
	REFOREST		
	ŌTAMATEA HARBOUR CARE		
No allocation	87,500 stems	125,000 stems	250,000 stems

Table 1: Pre-allocation of seedling orders based on nursery size

As in previous years, nurseries have been grouped by size, based on Full Time Equivalent staff, and pre-order quantity is determined by this grouping. All allocated plant purchases are subject to KMR plant quality standards.

It is important to note that:

- NZ Riverwood & Babylon Coast are in the New/Limited Supply category due to having limited species available in 2024. If the diversity of their stock increases, then they will receive a pre-allocation as a small nursery.
- Waikāretu Marae nursery has been set up as a satellite nursery to TANNL in line with the KMR Nursery Strategy and MOU investment objectives. The Waikāretu Marae nursery pre-allocation is additional to the TANNL pre-allocation in Table 1. We currently anticipate a pre-allocation to Waikāretu of 5,000 plants in 2025, subject to total nursery stock numbers (which are yet to be confirmed).
- The total number of pre-allocated native plants excludes a contribution of 30,000 donated trees from Trees That Count, which will be allocated to priority projects. As in previous years, this allocation is expected to be met through the KMR partnership with TANNL.

Next steps and risk mitigations

The KMR Nursery Lead expects to undertake a review before Christmas in order to confirm (or modify) the nurseries and allocations shown in Table 1 for the 2025 season. If the situation changes as a result of this process, we will adjust plant numbers per nursery in line with the principle of equity (as we did last year when nursery circumstances changed).

Where nurseries surpass the pre-allocation total, KMR will prioritise plant orders to under-allocated accredited nurseries where possible in line with our equity principle.

While there remains a risk that KMR does not sell all these pre-allocated plants in the 2025 season, through our recent review and external engagements we have identified some key mitigations to effectively manage this risk. Mitigations include:

- Ongoing, clear communication with nurseries about KMR's 'pipeline' of demand to fulfil the pre-allocation, and conversely the demand for nursery plants from the open market.
- Offering a contribution of native plants for each marae in the catchment at the start of the season, sourced from nurseries in areas where demand for native planting projects is traditionally lower.
- Providing donated trees to Whenua Whānui Fund projects or contingency projects on qualifying public land, with peoples' time to prepare, plant and maintain the planting site providing (close to) a matching contribution.

Considerations

1. Aromātai whāinga haumi mō te ora | Wellbeing Investment objectives and assessment

KMR's grant settings are designed to support the primary objective of sediment reduction, while supporting KMR's wider investment objectives. KMR staff assessment is that the revised operational settings support programme objectives, sustainable growth in landowner participation, equitable participation of native plant nurseries, and responsible funds management.

2. Ngā ritenga take pūtea | Financial implications

This paper has no financial implications as a KMR contribution to planting projects is already provided for in the KMR remediation budget.

3. Ngā hiranga me ngā hononga | Significance and Engagement

In relation to section 79 of the Local Government Act 2002, the decisions arising from this report are considered to be of low significance when assessed against Northland Regional Council's significance and engagement policy. This does not mean that this matter is not of significance to tangata whenua and/or individual communities, but that the Joint Committee is able to make these decisions without undertaking further consultation or engagement.¹

4. Ngā tūraru me ngā mauru | Risks and mitigation

As set out in this paper, KMR has a plan in place to minimise any financial risk associated with pre-allocating plants and not being able to commit these to KMR landowners through a variety of (well-tested) mitigations, as well as our usual SRP development process.

5. Ngā urutau huringa-ā-rangi | Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation

This report does not have wider climate change mitigation and adaptation implications although planting trees through KMR investment supports climate change resilience, and increases carbon sequestration.

¹ This Joint Committee operates under the Local Government Act which requires a significance and engagement policy (which identifies when matters require special consultation with tangata whenua and the community) and to have regard to that policy when making decisions. As the administrative support for the Joint Committee is provided by the Northland Regional Council, it is that Council's Significance and Engagement Policy that will apply to Joint Committee decision making.

TITLE: Joint Committee Meetings 2025

Kaituhi Pūrongo | Lily Grace Lambert, PA and Governance Support
Report Writer

Te Kaupapa | Purpose

This report proposes a suite of KMR Joint Committee meeting dates for the 2025 calendar year. The dates avoid the governance meeting days of the agencies represented on the Joint Committee, as well as public holidays and school holidays.

Rāpopototanga Matua | Executive summary

This report provides a high-level view of the proposed Kaipara Moana Remediation (KMR) Joint Committee meetings in 2025, as well as possible timing for KMR Field Trips.

A Forward Workplan will be tabled at the first Joint Committee Hui in 2025 to outline the expected standing agenda items for the year.

Whakataunga | Recommendations

That the Joint Committee:

1. *Receive* the 'Joint Committee Meetings 2025' report by Lily Grace Lambert and Justine Daw dated 21 October 2024.
2. *Adopt* the indicative dates for Joint Committee meetings in 2025 (Attachment 1), noting that these dates may be used for various Joint Committee meeting types, including Hui, Workshops, Briefings and Field Trips.
3. *Advise* Kaipara Maurikura staff as soon as practicable of any scheduling conflicts.
4. *Note* that KMR may host additional online Joint Committee meetings if required to make any unforeseen but time-urgent decisions.
5. *Note* that, as in 2024, KMR may still need to pivot planned in-person Joint Committee meetings to online meetings (livestreamed to maintain transparency), in response to weather events, venue closures and/or roading closures.

Horopaki | Background

The Terms of Reference for the KMR Joint Committee set out in the KMR Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) specify that the Joint Committee should meet 'quarterly or as determined by the Joint Committee.'

In the current Local Government term, Mondays remain the most suitable day for meetings of the KMR Joint Committee as they have the least conflict with Northland Regional Council, Auckland Council and other organisational commitments of Joint Committee Members.

Tātari me ngā tūtohu | Analysis and Advice

As in 2024, we are proposing quarterly Hui in 2025 in line with the KMR MOU, supplemented by workshops, briefings and field trips. We are also planning an induction for any new Members following the local government elections, noting that the proposed date may need to move to reflect circumstances. We are aware that we may also need to run an earlier induction for any change in Kaipara Uri representation on the Joint Committee, and we will arrange suitable dates for this. In 2025, we are also planning to formally include KMR Joint Committee representatives in an optional end of year stakeholder event.

We propose that Joint Committee Hui and Field Trips continue to be hosted on marae and in communities, including by those taking action with KMR support (e.g., by Navigator project leaders, delivery partners, Whenua Whānui Fund project leaders, catchment group leaders) to allow for greater participation and engagement, and to hear from particular segments of the increasingly diverse landowners and groups participating in the programme.

The Kaipara Maurikura may elect to host additional online Joint Committee meetings, as required, to facilitate time-urgent decision-making. As required, and as occurred once in 2024, KMR may also need to pivot planned in-person Joint Committee meetings to online meetings (livestreamed to maintain transparency), in response to weather events, venue closures and/or roading closures.

In 2025, we propose to continue to operate Joint Committee meetings as open to the public as a default, in line with good practice. We expect to continue to run a mix of Hui (decision-making meetings), Workshops (which allow the Kaipara Maurikura to test ideas and seek early direction on forthcoming matters for decision) and Briefings (which allow an open forum for presentations to the Joint Committee and Members' discussion of items not yet ready to be tabled for decision).

Considerations

1. **Aromātai whāinga haumi mō te oranga | Wellbeing Investment objectives and assessment**

As a people-focused Jobs for Nature programme, KMR has a focus on transparency, accessibility and participation. Meeting in person regularly throughout the year promotes connection and authentic discussion between staff and governors, and also enables the voice of local landowners, whānau, and communities to be heard. The inclusion of online meetings supports flexibility and a realistic approach to the hybrid working environment of many of KMR's partners and stakeholders.

2. **Ngā ritenga take pūtea | Financial implications**

A moderate but real time and cost investment is required to support in-person meetings, with an understanding that the time of stakeholders and the community is valuable, as is the shared experience and exchange of views. While KMR encourages carpooling, the inclusion of online meetings will support low-cost and time-effective participation, as well as recognising the hybrid working environment of many of our stakeholders.

3. **Ngā hiranga me ngā hononga | Significance and Engagement**

In relation to section 79 of the Local Government Act 2002, the decisions arising from this report are considered to be of low significance when assessed against Northland Regional Council's significance and engagement policy. This does not mean that this matter is not of significance to tangata whenua and/or individual communities, but that the Joint Committee is able to make these decisions without undertaking further consultation or engagement.¹

4. **Ngā tūraru me ngā mauru | Risks and mitigation**

None foreseen. KMR's meeting types and schedule has been well tested.

5. **Ngā urutau huringa-ā-rangi | Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation**

This Joint Committee paper does not have significant climate change implications, other than that quarterly meetings reduce KMR's travel-related greenhouse gas emissions (in line with NRC's carbon reduction commitments) as well as community greenhouse gas emissions incurred by travel to meetings.

¹ This Joint Committee operates under the Local Government Act which requires a significance and engagement policy (which identifies when matters require special consultation with tangata whenua and the community) and to have regard to that policy when making decisions. As the administrative support for the Joint Committee is provided by the Northland Regional Council, it is that Council's Significance and Engagement Policy that will apply to Joint Committee decision making.

Ngā Tāpiri | Attachments

Attachment 1 - KMR Joint Committee Meeting Dates 2025

Attachment 1 - Joint Committee Meetings 2025

Month	Date	Meeting type
February	Monday 24/2	Hui
March	Monday 24/3	Partnership Forum / Potential Field Trip (Optional)
April	Monday 7/4	Hui (Online/Wellington TBC)
July	Monday 28/7	Hui
September	Monday 15/9	Potential Field Trip (Optional)
October	Monday 20/10	Hui*
November	Monday 17/11	Induction (For new Members only)
November	Monday 24/11	Hui (TBC) / Stakeholder Event (Optional)

*As in 2022, due to the required timing of submission of the draft final KMR Annual Report to the Crown, we propose to manage the impact of the Local Government elections by continuing to work to the standard Annual Report process and timeframes. Following Crown review, we propose that the final KMR Annual Report be submitted for Joint Committee approval at the next possible Hui (24 November TBC), or, if local government nomination confirmation timeframes do not align to this date, via an extraordinary online Hui (date to be determined to achieve quorum).

TITLE: Pou Tātaki Report

**Kaituhi Pūrongo |
Report Writer** Justine Daw, Pou Tātaki

Te Kaupapa | Purpose

This report provides a brief update to the Kaipara Moana Remediation (KMR) Joint Committee on progress in key elements of KMR delivery.

Rāpopototanga Matua | Executive summary

This month we table to the Joint Committee the latest KMR Annual Report. It is a compelling read, and highlights the ongoing scale-up and performance of the programme.

Since we last reported in July, KMR has been focused on delivering an excellent winter of planting. In parallel, we have deepened and widened landowner and community engagement. Increasingly, KMR's outreach is led by Navigator projects and other strategic partners across the catchment.

Despite economic headwinds, the latest Key Performance Indicators continue to demonstrate solid uptake across the catchment, with KMR's investments in erodible hill country driving the uplift.

Whakataunga | Recommendations

That the Joint Committee:

1. Receive the report 'Pou Tātaki Report', by Justine Daw dated 21 October 2024.

Tātari me ngā tūtohu | Analysis and Advice

Programme Performance

The programme-life-to-date Key Performance Indicators as at 30 September 2024 – which reflect programme delivery 2¾ years into full operational delivery – demonstrate continued progress in scaling up, driven in part by KMR's investments in erodible hill country driving growth:

Jobs & Skills

- Training support for 171 people, many from local iwi/hapū
- New work created in rural communities – a year's work for >180 people (30 June 2024 data)
- Over \$18.9m in sediment reduction project value, sustaining local, nature-based employment

Engagement & Participation

- 1081 landowners/groups have submitted an Expression of Interest to KMR
- 738 co-funded project plans have been developed with landowners
- A further 96 Plans are in development
- 76 projects led by hapū, marae, whānau, community, catchment groups or other collectives

Nature & Resilience

- >1.91 million plants in the ground or contracted to plant
- 773 hectares planted, contracted to plant, or regenerating into native forest
- 830km of fencing completed or contracted (the same distance from Cape Rēinga to Taranaki)
- >130,000 hectares are managed under KMR co-funded plans

Communications and Engagement

We have recently undertaken a range of senior-level engagements to update parties, partners and stakeholders on KMR's progress and performance, using the year-end results as an entrée to signal the multiple benefits that KMR is delivering, and our role in the system as a whole. This includes a range of Ministers and Ministers' offices (*see the accompanying reply from the Minister for the Environment*). Feedback has been very positive, with comments noting KMR's reputation as a professional, high-performing initiative that is delivering meaningful results on the ground.

At the invitation of Auckland Council, we also presented on KMR to the Land Managers' Special Interest Group (a Regional Council / Unitary Authority senior grouping). This engendered excellent discussion and sharing of lessons learnt as councils grapple with the new operating environment in respect of freshwater policy and planning.

Since we last reported, KMR has also undertaken a wide range of engagement and community-facing events associated with winter planting activities. While too numerous to itemise, key KMR engagements include presentations and engagement opportunities at two AgFirst/Northland Inc primary-sector facing events (Dargaville, Whangārei), an on-farm visit with Joint Committee, Fonterra staff and farmers in Riponui, supporting planting events at two large, marae-led plantings (Ōtamatea, Ōruawharo), a community conservation meeting in Te Hana, and a nursery event hosted (Te Toa Whenua/Te Roroa, delivery of the Kaitiakitanga trees to marae across the catchment, and social media engagement through both Conservation Week and the Annual Bird of the Year Competition.

We continue to regularly produce a wide range of compelling stories that are picked up by various media outlets showcasing the efforts of landowners and groups across the catchment. Highlights include a profile on a University of Auckland PHD Student undertaking research in Ōruawharo (featured in technological and digital technology magazines), a write up by MadeCurious on the impact of their Digital Tool build, and a feature story on a mother daughter duo both working with KMR Landowners (through KMR and Fonterra) and two feature stories in OurAuckland (post Governing Body meeting and a Rodney Local Board feature). Diverse landowners and groups seeing themselves in our stories makes it more likely that they will take action with KMR support.

Our regular (on average weekly) media stories are complemented by regular KMR Pānui, which continue to deliver better than average 'open' rates, and continued audience growth. Scheduled webinars continue to communicate the support KMR can provide, with the next planned webinar in October focusing on the specific support to farmers that KMR can provide across the landscape.

Future settings

Positioning for impact investment

With the support of MfE, DOC and the *Jobs for Nature* Secretariat, the Pou Tātaki will participate in the New Zealand delegation to the inaugural Global Nature Positive Summit in October. At the Summit, we will showcase KMR's delivery to date, including a Benefits Case Study which demonstrated the scale and diversity of benefits to accrue from the Crown's investment in KMR.

The scale of KMR's impacts and operations, the independent validation and assurance that our digital tools provide, and our business model that invests in locally led action are important to this future positioning.

IP ownership into the future

At the July 2024 Hui, the governors asked what would happen to KMR's digital tools and other IP should Kaipara Moana Body not be established by the time KMR is scheduled to end in 2031. The legal advice we received on this matter was clear – in that case, as now, KMR's IP would continue to be held jointly by the parties that are signatory to the Memorandum of Understanding that established KMR. This would include Te Roroa, if it were a party to KMR at that time.

On the basis that by 2031 there will have been some custom of the parties accessing and using the commonly owned IP for their own purposes, joint ownership would not entitle any party to restrict or veto use by any other party, nor use the IP against the interests of another party.

Further, the legal recommendation was that if it seemed likely that KMB would not be established ahead of 2031, the parties should develop a further agreement to manage termination of KMR, assuming that the programme ends in 2031 as currently scheduled. Such an agreement would need to address any employment matters (*note: these are already provided for in individual Kaipara Maurikura employment contracts*), the distribution of IP (and any other assets, should there be any), and what to do about any actual or potential liabilities (should there be any).

For the avoidance of doubt, KMR operates now to the shared IP model that underpins the MOU and has re-phased the programme so as to ensure that the programme can close off as planned in 2031, should that be required as per the current contract with the Crown.

Lastly, the legal advice pointed to the commitments set out in the underpinning MOU between the parties. Any breach of the agreements in the MOU would continue to be managed via formal dispute between the parties, in line with the dispute resolution mechanisms in the MOU itself.

Financial performance

The unaudited year-to-date financials shown in Table 1 over page continue to show that KMR is continuing to scale up at pace, as indicated by the value of total Programme Expenditure (Activity).

Table 1 shows financial payments made to 31 August 2024, rather than project activity completed.

KMR has contracted or committed an additional \$4.4m worth of projects as at 31 August 2024, some of which will be completed but not yet paid out. This reflects the lag between landowners contracting to undertake sediment reduction projects, completing projects, KMR arranging project review and sign-off, landowners submitting invoices, and KMR paying invoices.

Table 1: KMR Financials

KMR Financials (31 August 2024)

Funding contributions¹²

MfE	4,891,083	
MfE other	-	
Northland Regional Council (NRC)	700	
Auckland Council (AC)	-	
Interest earned	313,202	
Subtotal (Funds available)	5,204,985	
Less KMR expenditure (Activity incl. Grants)	1,226,110	
Funds Remaining	3,978,875	

Co-funding (Matching Contributions)

NRC in kind labour	13,045	
NRC in kind Opex costs	197,888	(incl. salaries)
AC in kind labour	2,710	
AC in kind Opex costs	-	
Landowners / Other contributors	587,170	

¹ Figures are rounded to the nearest dollar

² Totals in this section include some carry-overs of funding from previous years (Programme to Date figures). Otherwise, all figures are current financial Year to Date.

Subtotal (Co-funding expenditure)	800,813
Total Programme Expenditure (Activity)	2,026,923

Joint Committee Grant Interests

In line with advice from the Office of the Auditor-General, we provide a transparent overview below of the KMR grant-related interests that are relevant to LAMIA Act (local government legislation that pertains to the financial interests of elected members, and others sitting on local government committees, such as KMR’s Joint Committee). We note that the OAG has made a ruling in respect of KMR which recognises that Members of the KMR Joint Committee have been appointed to the Committee on a representative basis i.e. due to their roles in their iwi/hapū.

Table 2: Joint Committee Grant Interests

Who	Grant type	KMR Grant (excl. GST)	Status	Nature of Interest
Georgina Curtis-Connelly & Taiawhio Wati (Trustees for Taipuha Farms)	Landowner Grant	Project 2 (2024) \$12,692	Approved by KMR. The project is on hold until advised by Trustees.	Taipuha Farms is a subsidiary of the Te Uri o Hau Settlement Trust. Any potential financial benefit from this environmental restoration grant (e.g. in terms of future land use value) would accrue to all beneficiaries of the Te Uri o Hau Trust. The OAG has provided a ruling to KMR that iwi/hapū membership does not constitute a LAMIA conflict.

Hon Penny Simmonds

Minister for the Environment
Minister for Tertiary Education and Skills
Associate Minister for Social Development and Employment



PS-COR0681/CORM-2951

26 September 2024

Justine Daw
Pou Tātaki
Kaipara Moana Remediation
justined@kmr.org.nz

Dear Justine,

Thank you for your letter of 22 August 2024 sharing results from the two and half years to July 2024 for the Kaipara Moana Remediation Programme (KMR).

I appreciate your effort to update me on KMR's most recent achievements. KMR's core objective is to halve sediment in the harbour over the next 100 years. I note the programmes' activities include planting, fencing, wetland protection and restoration, and that modelling indicates these interventions should lead to significant sediment reduction over time. KMR is getting close to two million trees planted or contracted to plant this winter. Congratulations on this significant milestone.

KMR's success so far is heartening for the people in the region, our economy, and the environment. I understand the programme uptake is voluntary, and it is a testament to your work and the work of your team to have come this far in just over two and a half years of delivery. Your exemplar remains the flagship investment at the Ministry for the Environment, and I will continue to pay close attention to its progress.

I look forward to seeing the impact of meaningful reduction in sediment in future years.

As the Minister for the Environment, I am proud of the steps this Government is taking to improve environmental outcomes for all New Zealanders, and together with local partners I know that we can achieve this. Thank you again for your letter and the work you have undertaken.

Kind regards,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'P. Simmonds'.

Hon Penny Simmonds
Minister for the Environment