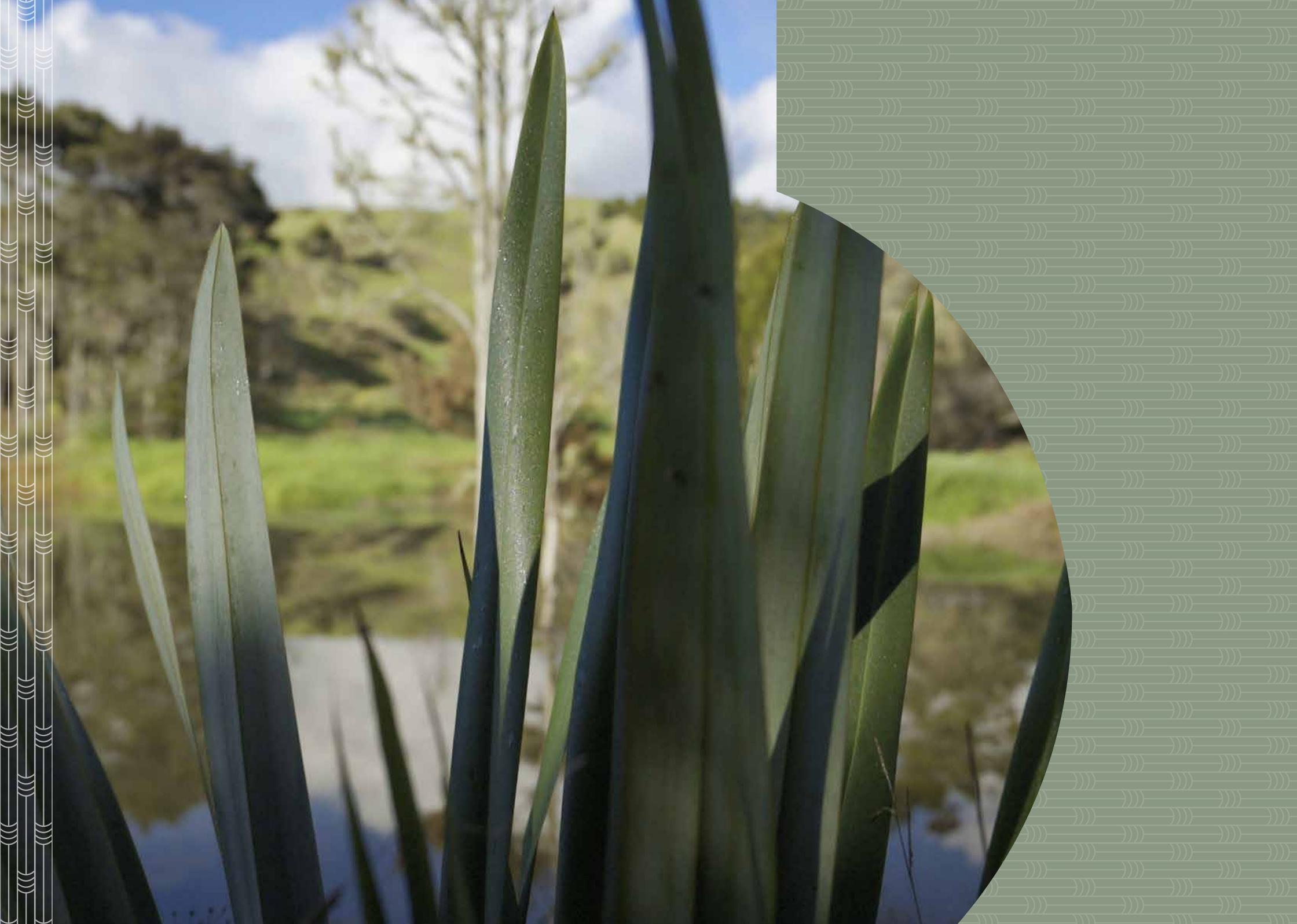




# Pūrongo-ā-Tau

## 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.

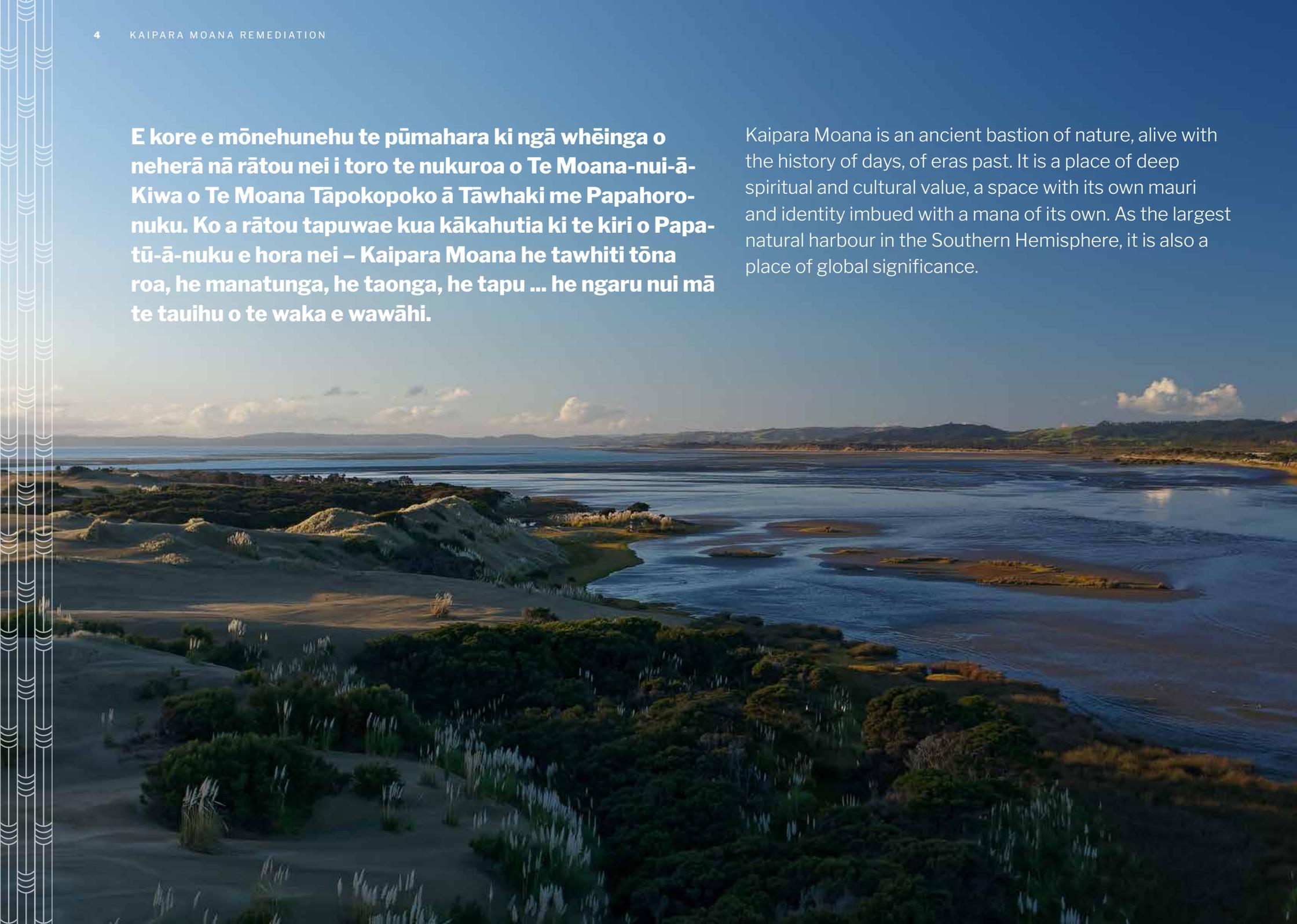
During the year, we also expanded from a waterways focus to systematically investing in projects across the full landscape. This allowed KMR to accelerate our sediment reduction efforts across the catchment and support a much greater diversity of landowners, groups and projects. The projects KMR now 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 6,000km<sup>2</sup> 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 800km<sup>2</sup> 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.

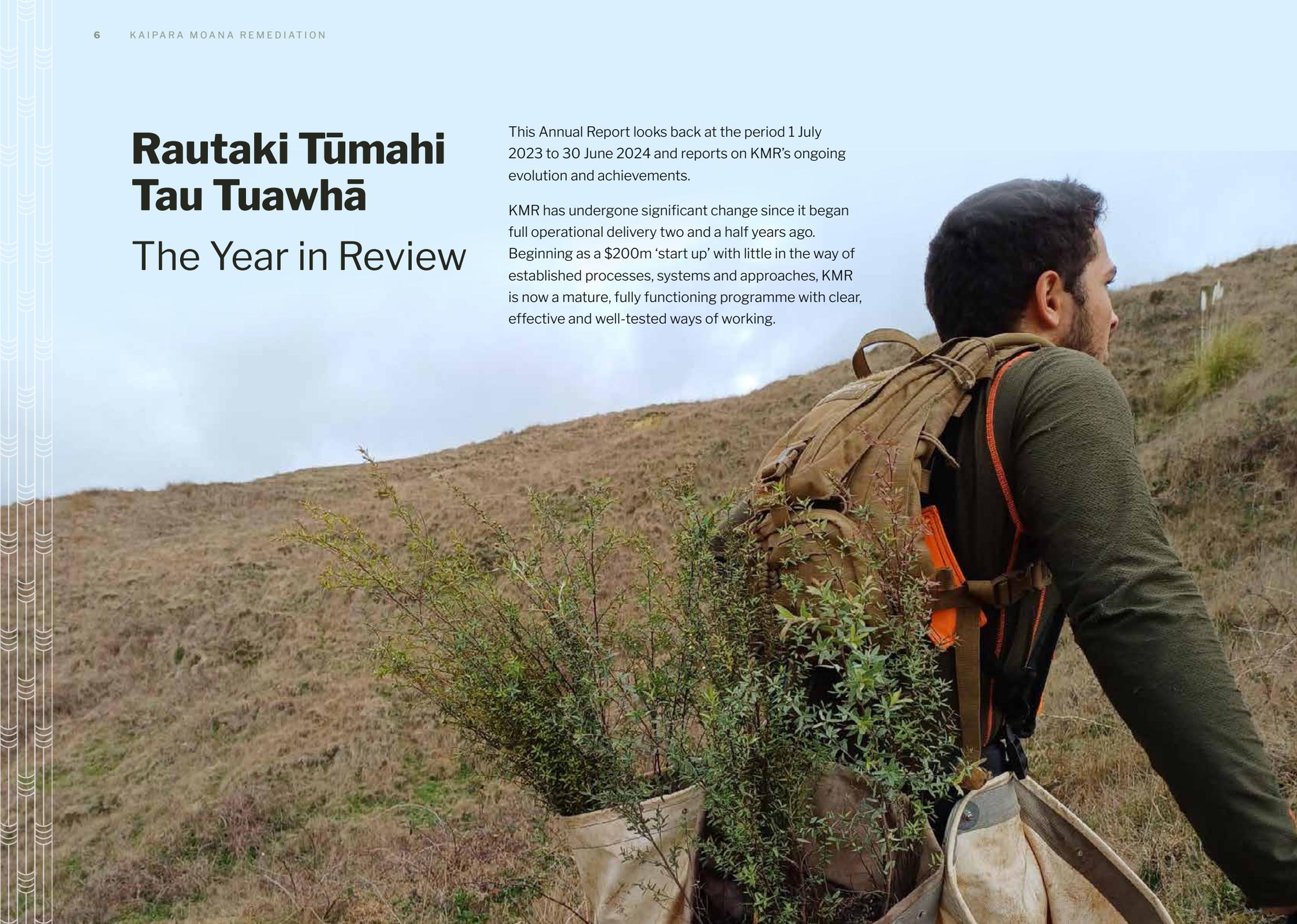
Kaipara Moana Remediation (KMR) was then established, a decade-long programme to protect and restore the mauri of the Kaipara Moana. KMR is a \$200m programme, comprising \$100m from the Crown through a Deed of Funding, matched by \$10m each from Northland Regional Council and Auckland Council, as set 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 6,000km<sup>2</sup> 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 6,000km<sup>2</sup> 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.

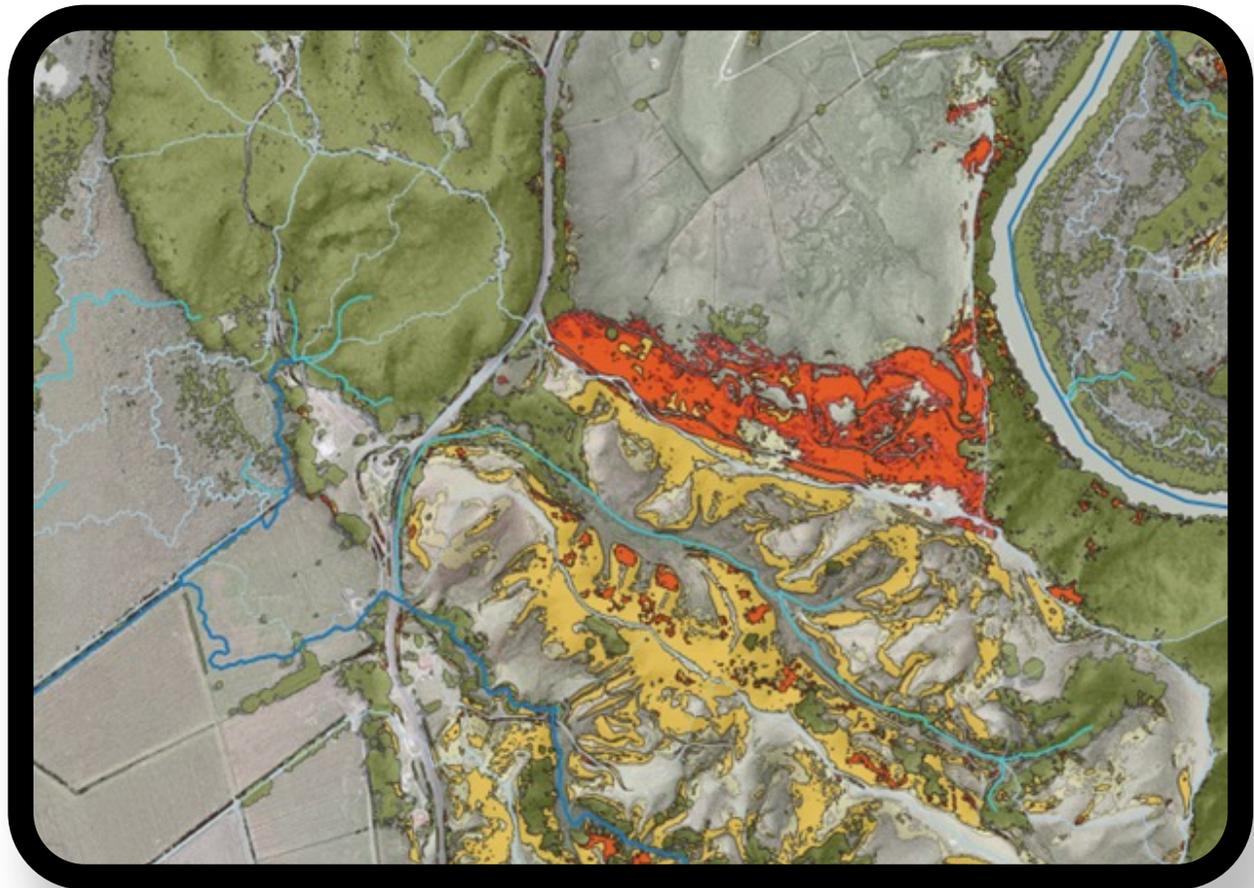
# Te Hangarau

## 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:



## 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.

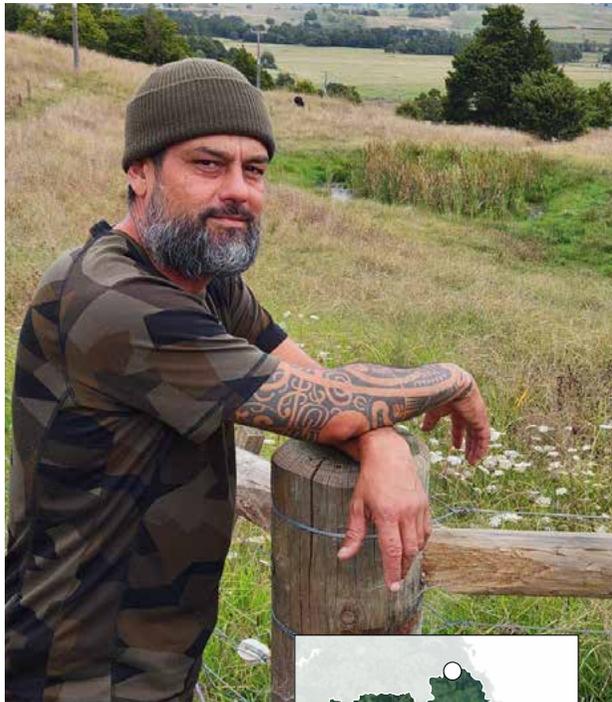
Much of the farm is highly erodible and steep. Sediment generated from the farm during high rainfall can impact the adjacent Cook Creek that flows down to the Hakaru River, which then flows into the Tōpuni River, the Ōruawharo River and then into the Kaipara harbour.

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 3,330m<sup>2</sup> 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.

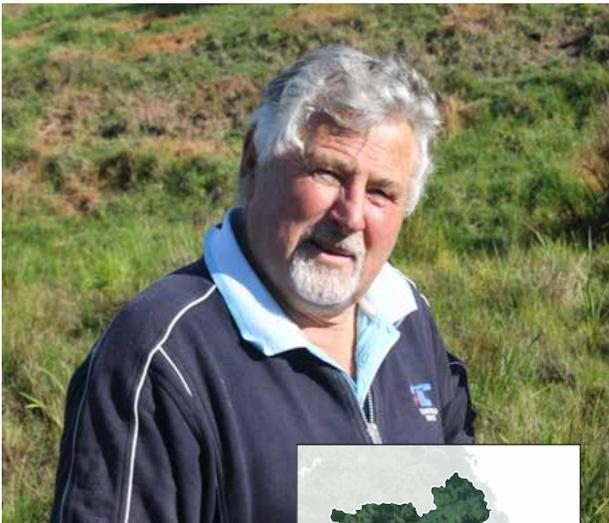
“This is the birthplace of Ngāti Whātua and we as mana whenua and community want to respect and value this in fostering the return and protecting the manu (birds),” says Tāporapora Land and Coast Care Group Chair, Earle Wright.

*“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.

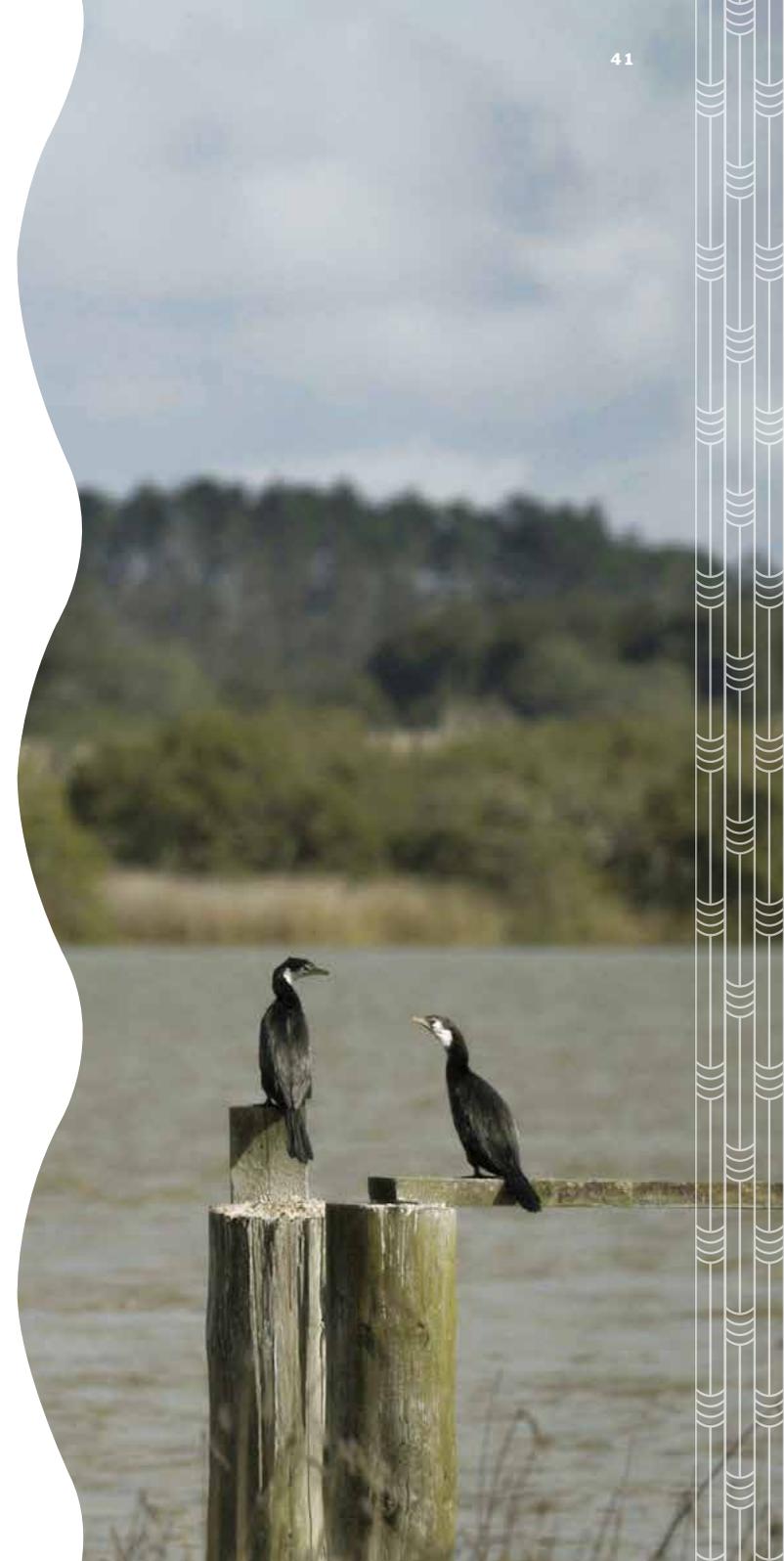
We are closely monitoring the government's work programme to review the freshwater farm plan system. Once the intended changes are clear, KMR will revisit decisions about when and how to best align with the refreshed system.

### **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
<b>\$7,756,000.00</b>	<b>\$3,568,000.00</b>	<b>\$4,189,000.00</b>	<b>\$15,513,000.00</b>	<b>\$6,384,917.33</b>	<b>\$2,338,898.33</b>	<b>\$3,936,724.00</b>	<b>\$12,660,539.66</b>

# 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	<b>210 new Plans</b> , were created. Additionally, <b>132 returning landowners/groups</b> (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	<b>31,594 hectares</b> 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	<b>475.34 kilometres</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>225.50 kilometres signed off as completed</li> <li>249.84 kilometres committed</li> </ul>	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	<b>160 hectares of planting</b> <b>801,871 native plants</b> 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	<b>421 hectares of highly erodible hill country.</b> This includes 65 hectares signed off as completed and 356 hectares committed for planting or regeneration.  <b>449,442 plants</b> , 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	<b>80,000 hours of work</b> (~51 FTE)	<b>103,652 hours of work</b> (~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	<b>30 people trained</b>	<b>117 people trained</b>	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
<b>Total funding</b>	<b>11,226,000.00</b>	<b>50,700.00</b>	<b>1,127,446.57</b>	<b>283,141.61</b>	<b>12,687,288.18</b>				
<b>Workstream expenditure</b>									
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
<b>Total expenditure</b>	<b>6,334,917.33</b>	<b>50,000.00</b>	<b>1,127,446.57</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>7,512,363.90</b>	<b>1,211,451.76</b>	<b>3,936,724.00</b>	<b>5,148,175.76</b>	<b>12,660,539.66</b>
<b>Funding carried over to 2024/25</b>	<b>4,891,082.67</b>	<b>700.00</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>283,141.61</b>	<b>5,174,924.28</b>				

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.



**Te Kāwanatanga o Aotearoa**  
New Zealand Government

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