

Kaipara Moana Remediation Joint Committee Minutes

Rā Date:	Monday, 24 February 2025
Wā Time:	9.30am
Tauwāhi Location:	Bridgehouse Lodge, Warkworth
Huihuinga Gathering	Tame Te Rangi (Chair), Te Rūnanga o Ngāti Whātua Amy Macdonald (Deputy Chair), Northland Regional Council (Online) Georgina Curtis-Connelly, Te Uri o Hau Jack Craw, Northland Regional Council John Blackwell, Northland Regional Council Kerrin Leoni, Auckland Council Michael Tana, Te Rūnanga o Ngāti Whātua (Online) Michelle Carmichael, Auckland Council
Tae Mai In Attendance	Justine Daw, Pou Tātaki, Kaipara Moana Remediation (KMR) Lisette Rawson, Amo-Rauora Koāwa, KMR Ben Hope, Ringa-Pārongo, KMR Duncan Kervell, Contractor, KMR Galilee Miles, Pou Tohutohu/Advisor, KMR Marina Ford, Ringa Taki Hononga Mana Whenua Relations Advisor, KMR Lily Grace Lambert, PA to Pou Tātaki and Governance Support, KMR Emma Doré, Business Manager, KMR Patsie Karauria, Ministry for the Environment (MfE) (Observer) Fiona Kemp, Environs, Te Uri o Hau Victoria Kurupo, Environs, Te Uri o Hau Alyssce Te Huna, Environs, Te Uri o Hau

The Chair declared the meeting open at 9.45am.

KARAKIA TĪMATANGA / WHAKATAU

The Chair welcomed Patsie Karauria (Ministry for the Environment), Emma Doré (the new KMR Business Manager), and Mike Tana (the new Joint Committee member from Te Rūnanga o Ngāti Whātua).

NGĀ WHAKAPAHĀ | APOLOGIES (ITEM 2.0)

Moved (Curtis-Connolly/Craw)

1. That the apologies from Members Cherie Povey, Jane Sherard, Taiawhio Wati-Kaipo and Greg Sayers for non-attendance be received.
2. That the apologies from MfE representative Celia Solomon-Te Kani for non-attendance be received.

Carried

NGĀ WHAKAPUAKANGA | DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST (ITEM 3.0)

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

Secretariat note:

The Chair asked the Kaipara Maurikura to provide the appropriate template and information to the new Joint Committee member and staff member to ensure that declarations of interest could be recorded and managed as appropriate.

CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES (ITEM 4.1)

Report from Lily Grace Lambert, PA to Pou Tātaki and Governance Support

Moved (Craw/Curtis-Connolly)

That the Joint Committee:

1. *Confirm* the minutes of the KMR JC Meeting held on 21 October 2024 as a true and correct record.

Carried

JOINT COMMITTEE ACTION TRACKER (ITEM 5.1)

Report from Lily Grace Lambert, PA to Pou Tātaki and Governance Support

Moved (Blackwell/Carmichael)

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

Carried

JOINT COMMITTEE FORWARD WORKPLAN (ITEM 5.2)

Report from Lily Grace Lambert, PA to Pou Tātaki and Governance Support

Moved (Curtis-Connolly/Carmichael)

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

Carried

Secretariat note:

The Pou Tātaki discussed the proposed induction of new KMR JC Members and new Kaipara Maurikura staff in March. A placeholder date had been indicated but this would likely move to accommodate availability.

The Pou Tātaki noted that the KMR JC must meet in October, irrespective of local government election timeframes (or quorum), to review and endorse the draft KMR Annual Report which was required for tabling to the Minister for the Environment by 31 October. The KMR JC would also have to meet once quorum could be achieved following the local government elections in November to formally receive the Annual Report.

The Pou Tātaki noted that a further induction of new Members was indicatively planned for November following the local government elections, alongside an optional field trip, but that that date was also subject to diary availability of new Members.

In response to a question, the Pou Tātaki further clarified that the Chair and Member Blackwell were proposed to meet in Wellington with Minister Simmonds and Minister Hoggard in April, although no date had been confirmed as yet. She agreed that should Ministers visit KMR in the catchment, wider invitations to local leaders, MPs and Uri would be made.

DRAFT SIX MONTH REPORT (2024–2025) (ITEM 6.1)

Report from Galilee Miles, Pou Tohutohu/Advisor – Monitoring and Evaluation

Moved (Blackwell/Craw)

1. That the report 'Draft Six Month Report (2024-2025)' by Galilee Miles, Pou Tohutohu/Advisor – Monitoring and Evaluation and dated 31 December 2024 be received.

Carried

Secretariat note:

Member Carmichael asked if the KPIs for nature-based employment included contractors such as local fencing and planting contractors. The Pou Tohutohu confirmed that this employment was included, but work undertaken by groups or landowners as part of the required co-funding contribution was not included.

The Pou Tātaki further clarified that the reporting in the 6 Month Report focused on reporting against the standard KPIs that contractually must be reported to the Crown, and noted that these were largely activity and output measures. As would be demonstrated later in the meeting, KMR was adding and reporting other metrics as data and resources allowed in order to demonstrate the impact of the activity/outputs.

The Deputy Chair acknowledged the KMR team for the report and the excellent results for the 6 months under review.

In response to a question by the Chair about more disaggregated and local reporting on projects – such as those shown in KMR's Our People stories – the Pou Tātaki agreed that these stories brought to life KMR's work and its many benefits in the community and to the environment. Our Annual Report, website, social media and wider media regularly shared these stories. Internally, KMR also monitoring in our digital (GIS-based) system local project coverage and noted that it was very evenly distributed across the Kaipara Moana catchment, which was pleasing. Unless an area was heavily forested already, KMR was most likely working in it to support landowners and groups to take action.

Member Tana asked if KMR could take guidance from TARIT / Te Arawa River Iwi Trust on real-time monitoring of the rivers within the Kaipara Moana catchment. The Pou Tātaki noted that environmental monitoring was specifically excluded from the funding contract with the Crown as this was a statutory Council function. KMR had nonetheless received some free-of-charge monitoring support within the Moana itself from commercial and research partners such as Spark, Phathom and the University of Auckland. The Pou Tātaki further noted that she would seek to resume earlier conversations with both Councils about environmental monitoring in the Kaipara harbour, particularly NRC whose monitoring had been delayed for various reasons.

Moved (Blackwell/Craw)

2. That the report 'Draft Six Month Report (2024-2025)' document (Appendix One) be approved in principle
3. That the power to given to the Chair and Deputy Chair to approve a final draft of the Six-Month Report for provision to the MfE, with the Pou Tātaki also delegated to make minor editorial changes prior to submission if required.

Carried

Kōrero Tuku Iho –Reference Rōpū Membership Item (6.2)

Report from Marina Ford, Ringa Taki Hononga , and Victoria Kurupō, Environs Kōrero Tuku Iho Project Lead

Moved (Carmichael/Blackwell)

1. That the report 'Kōrero Tuku Iho –Reference Rōpū' by Marina Ford, Ringa Taki Hononga , and Victoria Kurupō, Environs Kōrero Tuku Iho Project Lead and dated 24 February 2025 be received.

Secretariat note:

In response to an offer from Member Craw to connect the Kōrero Tuku Iho team up with the NRC Freshwater Team who were also working on the Poutō lakes, the project team confirmed they were working closely with the NRC team.

Member Blackwell noted that Penny Smart & Chris Biddle had excellent knowledge of the lakes and recommended that the Kōrero Tuku Iho team might also want to connect with them, as well as drawing on previous scientific work undertaken with NRC support.

Member Carmichael asked about the makeup of the Reference Rōpū membership and suggested it could be beneficial to have a range of local knowledge and connection with local communities. The presenters confirmed there is a range of local representatives, in line with the Terms of Reference. It was noted that non-Māori landowners in the community will also be able to offer local narratives through this project. The Deputy Chair asked how KMR governors can best speak to the connection between the Kōrero Tuku Iho project and KMR's sediment focus. The Pou Tātaki noted that at present KMR was driven by scientific risk assessments, enabled spatially via Mātai Onekura, KMR's digital platform. There was an opportunity through the project to strengthen the local and cultural narratives and use these to better inform KMR investment opportunities in future. The Pou Tātaki offered to send around brief background on the the Kōrero Tuku Iho project for governors to use as needed [Complete].

The Pou Tātaki also reminded the members that each of the three whakatauirā would gather local narratives and perspectives in support of KMR's primary objective to reduce sediment entering the Kaipara Moana, while informing a 'blueprint' for local restoration that can be widely used across the catchment by Kaipara Uri, iwi/hapū, marae, whānau and communities.

Member Curtis-Connelly acknowledged the work the Kōrero Tuku Iho team are undertaking, acknowledging there are still papakāinga right on the Kaipara harbour with families that previously used the sea as a traditional food basket.

Member Tana provided video examples of culturally-based stories from Parirau Marae [These were provided to the Joint Committee Members in the meeting, forwarded to the project team, and played over the lunch-break for information].

Carried

Moved (Curtis-Connelly/Craw)

2. That the recommended membership of the Kōrero Tuku Iho Reference Rōpū be approved.
3. That the revised Terms of Reference for the Reference Rōpū be approved.

Carried

Secretariat note:

Member Carmichael noted that the Reference Rōpū membership was mainly comprised of representatives with Uri connections to the Kaipara Moana, and asked was there an intent for the remaining three members to cover the catchment more broadly, i.e. span wider community interests. The Chair responded that in line

with the Terms of Reference the membership was not intended to be representative in that way, but rather to reflect skillsets, expertise and experience in the kaupapa carried out through the Kōrero Tuku Iho project.

The Chair also noted there was also a need to accommodate those who live outside the Kaipara Moana catchment but who also have links to the Moana, as well as the local people and communities. He further noted that there had never been, however, any intent to ensure representation of special interest groups in the project, and that everyone was free to respond to the current Call for Expressions of Interest.

The Deputy Chair acknowledged the contribution of the former Joint Committee Member Virginia Warriner, and noted the value of her ongoing contribution to KMR through the Kōrero Tuku Iho project.

Pou Tātaki Report (Item 6.3)

Justine Daw, Pou Tātaki and Duncan Kervell, KMR Land Management Specialist, gave a presentation which provided an overview of KMR activity in 2024, signalled the strategic direction of the year ahead, and presented information on recent, fine-scale GIS analysis to support improved impact reporting. The presentation informed discussion related to the Pou Tātaki report, and ranging more broadly.

Moved (Carmichael/Curtis-Connelly)

1. That the report 'Pou Tātaki Report', by Justine Daw dated 24 February 2025 be received.

Carried

Secretariat note:

On improved impact monitoring, Duncan Kervell confirmed in response to a question that it was anticipated that every six months KMR would update the datasets. The data presented reflected 2.5 years of KMR activities (a lag from presented 3 year KPI results due to the manual nature of the analysis required).

Member Craw asked if there were any baseline monitoring data available on KMR's environmental outcomes (e.g. sediment levels in Kaipara Moana). The Pou Tātaki noted that sediment was known as a long-term contaminant -in other words, because of high degrees of natural variation, it would take some years before there was a statistical ability to demonstrate changes in sediment levels in Kaipara Moana. That said, there is unequivocal research findings that demonstrate that the actions supported by KMR delivery contribute to significant, cumulative and enduring environmental benefits (including freshwater and marine water quality, valued species abundance and population health, and ecosystem extent and condition, among others).

The Pou Tātaki noted that she would resume ongoing conversations with both Councils about environmental monitoring for sediment in Kaipara Moana. She reminded Members that the Crown had also commissioned a report to identify how to optimise both sets of regional monitoring to support statistically-meaningful monitoring of Kaipara Moana.

Member Tana asked to better understand the way KMR collects and presents monitoring data (pointing to some good local examples led by iwi/hapū), to which the Pou Tātaki agreed this was an important aspect of the forthcoming induction.

Member Carmichael asked that other opportunities for other research to feed back into understanding of the Kaipara Moana be considered.

The Members gave acknowledgement of the presentation and report, and thanked the Pou Tātaki for the quality and thoughtfulness of the strategic overview presented.

Karakia Mutunga

Whakamutunga (Conclusion)

The meeting concluded at 1.20pm.