KAIPARA MOANA REMEDIATION

Agenda

Rārangi Take

Kaipara Moana Remediation Joint Committee
Monday 20 October 2025 at 10.30am

kmr.org.nz

Kaipara Moana Remediation Joint Committee Agenda

Rā | Date:	Monday, 20 October 2025
Wā | Time:	10.30am
Tauwāhi | Location:	Online – Microsoft Teams
Ngā Mana Whakahaere | Members	Tame Te Rangi (Chair), Te Rūnanga o Ngāti Whātua Amy Macdonald (Deputy Chair), Northland Regional Council Debra Brewer, Ngā Maunga Whakahii o Kaipara Georgina Curtis-Connelly, Te Uri o Hau Greg Sayers, Auckland Council Jack Craw, Northland Regional Council John Blackwell, Northland Regional Council Michael Tana, Te Rūnanga o Ngāti Whātua Taiāwhio Wati, Te Uri o Hau Tracy Davis, Ngā Maunga Whakahii o Kaipara

The Quorum for the Joint Committee is:

a) 6 members of the 12 Committee members, and;

b) At least 1 member each from Auckland Council and Northland Regional Council, and;

c) At least 2 members from Kaipara Uri (unspecified from which entities).

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

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

KARAKIA | WHAKATAU

TAKE | ITEM **Page**

TITLE:	**Confirmation of Minutes – July 2025**
Kaituhi Pūrongo | Report Writer	Sophie Bone, PA to Pou Tātaki and Governance Support

Te Kaupapa | Purpose

This paper serves to receive the minutes of the KMR Joint Committee meeting held in July 2025.

Whakataunga | Recommendations

That the minutes of the Kaipara Moana Remediation Joint Committee meeting held on 28 July 2025 be confirmed as a true and correct record.

Ngā Tāpiri| Attachments

Attachment 1: Joint Committee Hui Minutes (July 2025)

Kaipara Moana Remediation Joint Committee Minutes

Rā | Date:	Monday, 28 July 2025
Wā | Time:	2pm
Tauwāhi | Location:	Kāpehu Marae, Sills Road, Mititai, Arapohue
Huihuinga | Gathering	Tame Te Rangi (Chair), Te Rūnanga o Ngāti Whātua Amy Macdonald (Deputy Chair), Northland Regional Council Debra Brewer, Ngā Maunga Whakahii o Kaipara Georgina Curtis-Connelly, Te Uri o Hau Jack Craw, Northland Regional Council John Blackwell, Northland Regional Council Michelle Carmichael, Auckland Council Taiāwhio Wati, Te Uri o Hau Tracy Davis, Ngā Maunga Whakahii o Kaipara
Tae Mai | In Attendance	Justine Daw, Pou Tātaki, Kaipara Moana Remediation (KMR) Lisette Rawson, Amo-Rauora Koāwa, KMR Ben Hope, Ringa-Pārongo, KMR Marina Ford, Ringa Taki Hononga Mana Whenua Relations Advisor, KMR Lily Grace Lambert, PA to Pou Tātaki and Governance Support, KMR Victoria Kurupō, Environs, Te Uri o Hau Alyssce Te Huna, Environs, Te Uri o Hau

The Chair declared the meeting open at 2.05pm.

KARAKIA | WHAKATAU

TAKE | ITEM

TAHITAHI | HOUSEKEEPING

NGĀ WHAKAPAHĀ | APOLOGIES (2.0)

Moved (Macdonald/Curtis-Connelly)

That the Joint Committee:

1. **Receive** the apologies from Member Michael Tana for non-attendance.
2. **Receive** the apologies from Members Greg Sayers and Kerrin Leoni for non-attendance due to technical issues at the Joint Committee venue. Both were scheduled to attend the meeting online, but were unable to do so due to problems with internet connectivity.

Carried

NGĀ WHAKAPUAKANGA | DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST (3.0)

Member Michelle Carmichael declared her professional connection with the Tinopai Resource Management Unit, the project leaders of one of the proposed Kōrero Tuku Iho case studies recommended for investment under agenda item 6.2. The Member has no financial interests in respect of the decision and will not benefit from it in any way but wished to be transparent about her connection in other forums with the project leader through her unpaid community work.

NGĀ KŌRERO KUA WHAKAAEA | CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES (4.1)

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

Moved (Curtis-Connelly/Craw)

Carried

JOINT COMMITTEE ACTION TRACKER (5.1)

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

Moved (Macdonald/Blackwell)

That the Joint Committee:

1. **Receive** the report 'Joint Committee Action Tracker'.

Carried

JOINT COMMITTEE FORWARD WORKPLAN (5.2)

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

Moved (Craw/Davis)

That the Joint Committee:

1. **Receive** the report 'Joint Committee Forward Workplan'.

Carried

Secretariat Note:

Member Carmichael noted the timing of the Local Goverment elections in respect of the late October Joint Committee Hui and asked if the Kaipara Maurikura could circulate a draft Annual Report to the present Joint Committee membership for early, informal review and comment by Members who were familiar with the work undertaken in the year under review. The Pou Tātaki was agreeable to this proposal on an informal basis, and agreed to circulate an early draft to the Joint Committee membership via email in late September or early October. However, these timeframes meant that the draft to be circulated would not be fully complete and may not include the audited financials.

ANNUAL WORK PLAN 2025-2026 (6.1)

Report from Justine Daw, Pou Tātaki presenting on the Annual Work plan (2025-2026).

Moved (Craw/Carmichael)

That the Joint Committee:

1. **Receive** the report 'Annual Work Plan 2025-2026' by Justine Daw and Emma Doré, dated 21 May 2025 (Attachment 1).

Moved (Curtis-Connelly/Wati)

2. **Note** the final Annual Work Plan budget for the 2025-2026 financial year totals $17.210 million (total programme value, including the value of co-funding) excluding GST.

Carried

Secretariat Note:

Member Macdonald asked about the additional investment to pilot on-farm monitoring and noted the importance of clear communications about KMR's position on investing in other (more generalised) environmental monitoring. The Pou Tātaki agreed that this clarity was important, as KMR was piloting a one-off purchase in the current financial year of a small number of SHMAK monitoring kits to develop quite specific case studies. The case studies would aim to demonstrate the environmental benefits of taking action on the land much earlier than would otherwise be the case by spatially correlating stream health monitoring to whole-farm-system boundaries. The case studies and associated on-farm monitoring were expected to continue over some years, once appropriate locations had been identified through GIS analysis, but the investment was at this stage a one-off. It was up to the Crown and KMR to discuss expectations for the case studies, and any further investments in SHMAK kits, as part of the next cycle of annual work planning (late 2026). In the meantime, KMR would continue to work to the Deed of Funding parameters which did not support project funding for environmental monitoring.

Member Blackwell asked whether KMR was likely to be spoilt for choice or scrambling to find suitable monitoring sites on farm. The Pou Tātaki responded that at this stage it not clear given that geospatial analysis had yet to be undertaken. In addition, the Crown would have some perspectives on what case studies they would like to see developed. A number of issues would need to be worked through in any case relating to case study selection (land use type, soils, farm system, KMR project type, length of duration working with KMR, etc) and data collection (frequencies, reporting methods, data storage and data sharing) in what were a voluntary and unpaid set of case studies.

KŌRERO TUKU IHO (6.2)

Report from Marina Ford, KMR Mana Whenua Relations Advisor, and Victoria Kurupō, KMR Environs Kōrero Tuku Iho Project Lead.

Moved (Davis/Brewer)

That the Joint Committee:

1. **Receive** the report titled 'Approval of Kōrero Tuku Iho Whakatauira' by Marina Ford and Victoria Kurupō dated 28 July 2025.

Moved (Davis/Brewer)

1. **Approve** a total KMR investment of $86,240 (excluding GST) from the Whakatauira Fund to support the proposed *Nāu te rourou, nāku te rorou, ka ora ai te iwi* case study, subject to clarifications on the scope of KMR funding support via the contracting process.
2. **Defer** a decision on the proposed *Te Whakaoranga o Mangatū Awa* case study to a later date.

Secretariat Note:

In respect of the Nāu te rourou, nāku te rorou, ka ora ai te iwi case study, Members Macdonald and Wati asked about the risks relating to the project's reliance on third party funding to deliver overall project outcomes, and project team capacity and capability. The Pou Tātaki agreed that there were some risks relating to delivery of the wider project outcomes, particularly those that were dependent on third party funding and the activities proposed for within the harbour itself. That said, KMR was comfortable making an investment in the activities within scope of its own funding, as per the submitted project plan and budget, as they aligned with KMR investment objectives and were independent of other funding (i.e. could stand alone if necessary). To manage expectations, KMR would make it clear through the contracting process that (i) KMR would only fund KMR-eligible activities within the agreed budget allocation and (ii) that irrespective of third party funding levels, the contract would require delivery of the identified KMR-funded deliverables on a 'stand-alone' basis.

In respect of the proposed Te Whakaoranga o Mangatū Awa case study, the Chair raised a potential resource consent matter relating to the geographical area covered by the case study. As per existing policy, KMR cannot make a contribution to any activities that are required as part of a resource consent, and should therefore not approve investment in project activities that another party may be required to fund. For that reason, a motion was tabled by Member Davis, seconded by Member Brewer, to amend the recommendations to the Joint Committee to reflect the decisions as shown above. These amendments were carried by the Joint Committee.

Decisions on the Te Whakaoranga o Mangatū project were therefore deferred until a later meeting to ensure time for further investigation of the resource consent matter.

COMMITTEE AND EXECUTIVE INTERESTS (6.3)

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

Moved (Macdonald/Wati)

That the Joint Committee:

1. **Note** the paper 'Committee and Executive Interests', by Lily Grace Lambert, PA to Pou Tātaki and Governance Support, dated 28 July 2025.

Carried

Secretariat Note:

A number of Joint Committee interests were noted for amendment and these would be made by the Kaipara Maurikura via intersessional process.

POU TĀTAKI REPORT (6.4)

Report from Justine Daw, Pou Tātaki, to provide the Kaipara Moana Remediation (KMR) Joint Committee on progress in key elements of KMR delivery.

Moved (Curtis-Connelly/Carmichael)

That the Joint Committee:

1. **Receive** the report 'Pou Tātaki Report', by Justine Daw dated 28 July 2025.

Carried

Acknowledgements

The Chair acknowledged the local government representatives on the Joint Committee Members who are standing again at the forthcoming elections and wished them all the best on behalf of the Joint Committee and Kaipara Maurikura.

The Chair also acknowledged the contribution of Member Michelle Carmichael who will not be standing again at the local government elections, and who will therefore be finishing her role on the Joint Committee in October. Other Joint Committee Members endorsed the Chair's acknowledgement and added their voices in recognising Member Carmichael's commitment to and support for KMR and its work. Her regular presence at the Joint Committee meetings, constructive questions to the KMR team, and wise counsel to the Pou Tātaki were particularly appeciated.

The Chair concluded by acknowledging the contribution of Ministry for Environment observer on the Joint Committee, Celia Solomon-Te Kani, and wished her every success in her next role.

Karakia Mutunga

Whakamutunga (Conclusion)

The meeting concluded at 3.05pm.

TITLE:	**Joint Committee Action Tracker**
Kaituhi Pūrongo | Report Writer	Sophie Bone, PA to Pou Tātaki and Governance Support

Rāpopototanga Matua | Executive summary

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

Whakataunga | Recommendations

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

Ngā Tāpiri | Attachments

Attachment 1: Joint Committee Action Tracker – October 2025

KMR Joint Committee: Action Tracker

Item	Action	Who	Due	Status	Comments
6 May 2024					
Kōrero Tuku Iho (Item 6.2)	That KMR report back on progress in implementation of the Kōrero Tuku Iho project, including engagement, representation on the Reference Rōpū, and progress in the initial case study. A proposal for a second case study will be submitted by 30 June 2025.	Environs Te Uri o Hau on behalf of KMR	July 2025	Closed	A decision on a second case study was made at the July Hui. Contracting is in train. A further (third) case study may be presented for consideration in line with July Hui decisions once there is greater clarity on a related resource consent.
21 February 2022					
Catchment Reference Groups (Item 6.2)	That a report-back on progress to establish the Catchment Reference Groups be provided to the Joint Committee	Reconnecting Northland on behalf of KMR	TBD	Closed	This item will be closed due to the direction of draft Deed of Settlement for Wai 303.[1]
15 November 2021					
KMR Freshwater Management Tool (Item 5.1)	That KMR develop a long-term agreement with Auckland Council (Healthy Waters) for hosting, operation and maintenance costs associated with KMR's Freshwater Management Tool [Tātaki Wai]	Auckland Council	TBD	Closed	This item will be closed. A draft Agreement has been developed. Through the usual Annual Work Planning process, KMR may elect to update and use Tātaki Wai as the business need arises.

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

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

TITLE:	**Joint Committee Forward Workplan**
Kaituhi Pūrongo | Report Writer	Sophie Bone, PA to Pou Tātaki and Governance Support

Rāpopototanga Matua | Executive summary

This report tables to the meeting an indicative Joint Committee Forward Workplan, which sets out a high-level view of expected discussions and papers to be tabled over the calendar year 2025. It serves as a helpful record for both the Kaipara Maurikura and the Joint Committee and will be refreshed for each Joint Committee Hui.

Whakataunga | Recommendations

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

Ngā Tāpiri | Attachments

Attachment 1: Joint Committee Indicative Forward Workplan 2025

KMR Joint Committee: Indicative Forward Workplan 2025

Meeting	Hui (Standing Items)	Briefing / Workshop	Field Trip / Other
24 February Hui	6 Month Report Kōrero Tuku Iho		
24 March		Induction for new Members (19 March)	Partnership Forum/Field Trip (Optional)
7 April Hui (Online)	Draft Annual Work Plan Kōrero Tuku Iho DOC Community Agreement		Meetings with Senior Officials/Ministers
28 July Hui	Annual Work Plan Kōrero Tuku Iho Interests	Haukāinga session	
20 October Hui (Online)	Annual Report Winter Planting 2026 Operational Policy Settings		
29 October			Field Trip (Optional)
24 November Hui	Audit Report Meeting Dates 2026	Induction for new Member(s)	Field Advisor Awards

TITLE:	**Annual Report (2024-2025)**
Kaituhi Pūrongo | Report Writer	Emma Doré, Amo-Rautaki Pākihi & Ben Hope, Ringa-Pārongo

Te Kaupapa | Purpose

This report tables the Kaipara Moana Remediation Annual Report (2024-2025) for adoption by the KMR Joint Committee.

Rāpopototanga Matua | Executive summary

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

The 2024-2025 KMR Annual Report has been drafted, and audit is underway. An Audit Report will be signed following the Joint Committee's approval of the Annual Report.

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

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

Whakataunga |Recommendations

That the Joint Committee:

1. Receive the report 'Annual Report (2024-2025)', by Emma Doré dated 20 October 2025.
2. Adopt the final draft of the Annual Report 2024-2025 for provision to the Ministry for the Environment.
3. Delegate to the Joint Committee Chair power to approve the final Annual Report, with the ability for the Pou Tātaki to make minor editorial changes prior to publication if required.

Horopaki | Background

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

The 2024-2025 KMR Annual Report has been drafted, and audit is underway. Due to the timing of the local government elections, a draft final version of the Annual Report was circulated to the Joint Committee members in September for any informal feedback. Several helpful comments were received and clarifications sought, and minor changes were made as a result. In addition, subsequent proofing of images, captions and numbers have resulted in minor editorial changes.

Tātari me ngā tūtohu | Analysis and Advice

Annual Report requirements

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

Audit Report
An Audit Report is also required to be submitted to the Ministry. At the time of writing, an independent auditor is completing an audit of the 2024-2025 financial year. Auditors will finalise the Audit Report once they have confirmation of the Joint Committee's approval of the Annual Report. Once the Audit Report is signed, KMR will circulate this to the Joint Committee for information.

Finalising the draft Annual Report and delegations to the Chair
KMR staff recommend that the Joint Committee adopt the draft Annual Report for provision to the Ministry for the Environment.

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

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

Considerations

1. Aromātai whāinga haumi mō te oranga | Wellbeing Investment objectives and assessment
Provision of an Annual Report to the Ministry is a requirement under the KMR Deed of Funding. KMR's Annual Report sets out the programme's financial and activity-based reporting and progress on key performance indicators with the Ministry.

2. Ngā ritenga take pūtea | Financial implications
There are no financial implications of approving the Annual Report. Its preparation and audit are covered by KMR's general operating budget.

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

4. Ngā tūraru me ngā mauru | Risks and mitigation
The Annual Report provides transparency and accountability to the work of KMR, and assurance to programme partners on performance.

5. Ngā urutau huringa-ā-rangi | Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation
KMR will do a small print run of our Annual Report on recycled paper using sustainable inks to minimise the environmental and climate footprint of this publication.

Ngā Tāpiri | Attachments

Attachment 1 – Annual Report (2024-2025)

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

KAIPARA MOANA REMEDIATION

Pūrongo-ā-Tau

Annual Report 2024/2025


The Kirikiri inlet from Waihaua Marae
Photo: J Daw

Front Cover:
Eroding hillsides in the
Mangakāhia Valley

Contents

Kupu Whakataki

Chair's Foreword

On 30 June 2025, Kaipara Moana Remediation celebrated the milestone of being fully operational for three and a half years.

In that time, nearly 1,000 landowners and groups across the length and breadth of the catchment have engaged with KMR to develop a plan to protect and restore the Kaipara Moana, the largest natural harbour in the Southern Hemisphere, and a place of global importance. Many of our community have completed their first project with KMR, and some are progressing project two, three or even four. To all of you working with KMR, both new and returning, I thank you for your commitment.

The diversity of landscapes, soils, climate, ecosystems, native forests, farming systems, waterways, landowners, groups, community aspirations and KMR projects across the catchment is truly astonishing. In part, this reflects the sheer size of the Kaipara Moana catchment. It also reflects the complex inter-relationships between people and place. As such, I am very proud of the progress over the year to develop place-based case studies through the Kōrero Tuku Iho project. At the time of writing, two case studies are in train to help develop a 'blueprint' that will better enable local perspectives to inform restoration and regeneration activities across the catchment.

While significant work remains to be done, the value of KMR is now well demonstrated. An independent cost-benefit analysis has shown that the return on the Crown's investment in KMR is nearly $4 for every $1 invested, and that most of this value is economic – support for local jobs, local purchase of materials, and sustained primary production.

The projects KMR invests in – to restore wetlands, fence off rivers and streams, plant trees, and regenerate forest on erosion-prone land – also deliver wider benefits, including greater connectivity between communities and local waterways, thriving biodiversity and resilience to extreme weather events.

In closing, I would like to acknowledge the ongoing support of government Ministers, local Members of Parliament, councils and programme partners. I'd also like to acknowledge several departing board members and thank them for their contributions to KMR. To the new board members, welcome, and I look forward to another productive year ahead.

Tame Te Rangi
Chair
20 October 2025

Ngā Aronga a te Pou Tātaki

Pou Tātaki Foreword

With the support of our many partners, KMR continues to build momentum as New Zealand's largest harbour restoration initiative, and one of the largest catchment groups in the country.

Despite early drought conditions and continued economic constraints within the drystock sector, KMR met all of our performance targets for the year. We also achieved a number of other important milestones – in May 2025, Kaipara Moana Remediation surpassed 2.5 million plants and trees and 1,000km of fencing – the same distance as from Cape Rēinga to Wellington. In just 3.5 years, through the retirement of erosion-prone land and regeneration of nature, these and other activities supported by KMR, have protected over 1,500km of river and stream banks, 45km of coastline and close to 300 hectares of vulnerable wetlands.

As a voluntary initiative, KMR relies on the goodwill and hard work of those taking action on the land. From the headwaters of the catchment to the estuaries and wetlands close to the harbour, every restoration project – however small – is a collective investment in the taonga that Kaipara Moana is for us now and into the future.

That is why I am so thrilled that KMR was one of only four initiatives from New Zealand to have been nominated for the Earthshot Prize 2025 – everyone working with us can be very proud of this international recognition. KMR was also honoured to win the Environmental Action in the Community Award at the 2025 Kaipara District Environmental Awards. Such nominations and awards reflect KMR's ongoing excellence, as well as our systematic use of scientific datasets and digital tools to identify and prioritise actions that will deliver the greatest environmental benefits.

Following a strategic and structural refresh, I am confident that KMR is well positioned for the future. As a recognised leader in the system, KMR will play an important role in ensuring that the unique conditions in Northland and Auckland are well understood and represented as freshwater and catchment management evolves in future.

Justine Daw
Pou Tātaki

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 Papahoro-nuku. Ko a rātou tapuwae kua kākahutia ki te kiri o Papa-tū-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 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.

Looking West to the Kaipara Harbour mouth. (Tāporapora Peninsula, Tāpora)

Ko ā Mātou Mahi
Our Work

As Aotearoa's largest harbour system, the Kaipara Moana includes 6,000km^2 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). Half of the catchment is erosion-prone. One eighth of the land - over 800km2 of the catchment - is considered Highly Erodible Land.

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

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

KMR was then established, a decade-long initiative to protect and restore the mauri of the Kaipara Moana. KMR is a $200m initiative, comprising $100m from the Crown underpinned by 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

KMR is very proud of the results presented in this Annual Report for the period 1 July 2024 to 30 June 2025. The achievements shown reflect the ongoing efforts and leadership of KMR staff, governors, founding agencies, funders, programme partners, accredited nurseries and suppliers, and the growing number of participating landowners and groups across the Kaipara Moana catchment.

Continued excellent performance

Throughout the year, KMR continued to deepen our focus on delivering a mosaic of tailored projects across the landscape, from the water's edge to the ridgeline. Our technical experts worked closely with landowners and groups to ensure that the projects we invested in focus on the most effective – and cost-effective – actions and areas on the land.

In 2024-2025, KMR met all of its Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) for the year and significantly exceeded targets for:

- The number of new landowners and groups joining KMR;
- The number of landowners and groups undertaking further projects 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.

Year-on-year, our results continue to scale up, reflecting that we continue to expand our offering to a growing number of landowners and groups, and that we have broadened support for projects on steep, eroding hill country.

Community planting day, jointly hosted by KMR and Conservation Volunteers NZ. (South Head)

Pleasingly, KMR reached a number of milestones during the year, including reaching our 2 millionth plant or tree in December 2024, and our 1,000th landowner or group in early 2025. By 30 June 2025, KMR had supported the planting of more than 2.67 million plants and trees over the life of the programme and more than 1,000km of fencing to protect waterways and steep, eroding hillsides – more than the distance from Cape Rēinga to Wellington.

Demonstrated return on investment

In recognition of our role as a national exemplar, KMR was profiled by the Jobs for Nature Secretariat in a Benefits Case Study supported by an associated Technical Report. Both reports are available via the Ministry for the Environment website. Cost-benefit analysis is a widely accepted methodology for assessing the relative merits of public-good projects such as KMR.

Together, the reports evaluate the impact of Crown and other investments in KMR and provide a cost/benefit analysis of the many benefits and value delivered by KMR. The reports found that for every $1 invested in KMR, $3.94 in benefits are expected (a Benefit-Cost Ratio of nearly four to one) and that KMR will have 'paid its way' by approximately August 2025. While KMR is seen as an environmental initiative, the reports demonstrate that the primary value generated from KMR is economic (i.e. via support for local jobs, local purchase of materials, and sustaining fishery export earnings).

Further awards and recognition

During the year, KMR was named on the 'Next95' list – a national list recognising disruptive innovation and transformational leadership in environmental sustainability. KMR was also recognised at the 2025 Kaipara District Environmental Awards, winning the Environmental Action in the Community Award. This Award recognises individuals or groups who show leadership in collaboration within the community to improve the environment. KMR was also one of only four initiatives from New Zealand to have been nominated for the Earthshot Prize 2025 – everyone working with us can be very proud of this international recognition.

At the end of 2024, in recognition of our success in scaling up local environmental action, KMR became the top recipient nationally for donated trees from our partner Trees That Count. Most of these gifted trees were used to support Whenua Whānui Fund projects, reducing costs to the community and barriers to working with KMR.

Ongoing system leadership

As the largest harbour restoration initiative in New Zealand and one of the largest catchment groups in the country, KMR plays a critical leadership role. We freely share advice, templates and guidance to ensure that projects are well-scoped and can be delivered successfully, and that landowners and groups have the support they need to take action right away. Our support also means that farmers and community-led groups focus their efforts on the actions that deliver the greatest environmental outcomes.

Sharing KMR's experience and learning is a key element of how we demonstrate system leadership. At the 2024 National Freshwater Conference, we showcased KMR's valuable role supporting emergent community- and farmer-led groups (unlike in other parts of the country, very few of these groups are operational in the Kaipara Moana catchment). KMR's unique approach means that we can engage and support groups to rapidly form, provide a science-led plan that targets actions to activities and areas on the land which will deliver the greatest environmental benefits, and support project leaders to take action right away. Feedback indicates that KMR's support means that these groups start taking action significantly earlier than they would otherwise have done, avoid reinventing any wheels (saving scarce time and resources), and undertake projects that will achieve the greatest benefits.

During the year, we also briefed over 20 catchment groups throughout the country on our work, presented to several Regional Council Special Interest Groups and shared insights with other parts of the wider Local Government sector.

The Pou Tātaki participated in the New Zealand delegation to the inaugural international summit on financing nature-based solutions. The Australian meeting progressed global and local thinking on environmental markets and capital flows to accelerate investment in nature restoration.

Strengthening future career pathways

As a Jobs for Nature programme, KMR continues to have a dual focus on supporting people into jobs. In the last year, we created over 104,000 hours of new work, a year's full-time work for over 67 people. Over KMR's life, we have created more than 398,000 hours of work (equivalent to a year's full-time work for more than 256 people). In addition, as of 30 June 2025, a further 79,000 hours of new work were already committed in contracts for the new financial year, bringing the total new work generated or contracted by KMR to over 477,000 hours.

We continue to invest in skills development, supporting initiatives that grow local and often rural expertise. This year, 47 people undertook training supported by KMR.

This means that, to date, KMR has supported training for 218 people, many from local iwi/hapū, including 57 people as KMR Field Advisors working alongside landowners and groups taking action on the land.

A continued focus over the year was to progress nationally relevant qualifications and career pathways. Through our collaboration with the New Zealand Association of Resource Management (NZARM), KMR supported our Field Advisors to participate in a national Capability Assessment Tool, a personalised tool to develop an independent online profile of their skills, capabilities, and expertise in 13 areas of land and resource management, and identify areas where there is an opportunity to expand skills and knowledge of relevance to forthcoming Freshwater Farm Planning qualifications.

A year of internal consolidation

Following a period of significant policy, investment and tools transformation, over the past year KMR has focussed internally on bedding in the changes, consolidating our behind-the-scenes corporate processes, and evolving our organisational footprint to be future-focussed. During the year, KMR moved premises to join The Orchard, a shared workspace in Whangārei. This shift opened wider connectivity with primary sector and regional development agencies, and is already bearing fruit.

KMR also restructured in the year under review, evolving our capability and capacity to ensure it is fit-for-purpose into the future. A core component of the structural change was ensuring that KMR had the right capacity and capability to provide effective assurance of our project investments now that we have grown from working with 35 landowners and groups to working with over 1,000.

Sustained headwinds

Despite KMR's excellent delivery over the year, landowner and group participation in KMR continues to be challenged by cost-of-living pressures, difficult primary sector market conditions for drystock farmers, particularly sheep farmers, and concerns about drought conditions on farm in late 2024 and early 2025.

Uncertainty around resource management and freshwater policy direction also continues to affect landowner's willingness to engage with KMR until the operating environment is clearer. KMR continues to engage actively with central and regional government to understand likely directions and how we can best support our landowners and groups into the future.

River restoration. (Whangaripo Valley)

Maurikura Matomato

Thriving Maurikura

The Kaipara Maurikura leads the delivery of KMR activities, with an agreed head count of 14 full-time equivalent staff (FTE).

Over the year, the Kaipara Maurikura operated with an average headcount of ~12 FTE. This was below the agreed headcount due to KMR's ongoing commitment to flexible working arrangements for staff to manage workload pressures and sustain well-being, coupled with a conservative approach to hiring.

Over the course of the year, we welcomed three babies into the Kaipara Maurikura and were privileged to support their parents as they focussed on their new whānau. We also welcomed four new staff members into the Maurikura to cover parental leave and vacant roles, as well as a new Mana Whenua Relations Advisor to strengthen local engagement and participation in KMR's Whenua Whānui Fund.

In January 2025, KMR relocated its offices to The Orchard, a shared working space in Whangārei. The new office has greater flexibility in terms of seating to accommodate our workforce, enhancing well-being, health and safety, and enabling more effective team-based collaboration.

During the year, KMR leadership undertook a capability review to ensure that KMR could continue to maintain delivery of core services to a growing number of landowners and groups within agreed headcount. This resulted in several structural changes, including building team-based approaches to manage workload peaks, including those caused by seasonal activities and staff leave.

We also increased organisational focus on and capacity in project oversight, and financial management and assurance – both are critical functions now that KMR has scaled up from an original 35 landowners and groups to over 1,000, many of whom will work with KMR over a period of years to deliver multiple projects. The structural review also ensured KMR can continue to manage operating costs in alignment with financial modelling.

KMR continued to invest during the year in Kaipara Maurikura staff training and development. This included ongoing support for on-the-job learning to use KMR's digital tools, and some KMR Field Advisor staff undertaking personalised capability assessment and training via our partnership with NZARM. In addition, during the year we worked to strengthen health and safety practices and tools for our Field Advisors, who often travel long distances to undertake KMR work in rural and sometimes remote locations with poor cellphone connectivity.

During the year, KMR worked to strengthen health and safety practices for our people and the people working with us. (Helensville)

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).

Northland MP Grant McCallum visiting a KMR project on the Pye farm (Kōkopu)

Governance

The 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 the year under review, the Joint Committee held six meetings (four decision-making hui, one briefing, and one project site visit). Two hui were held on marae, two hui were held at a community venue, and one hui was held online and livestreamed.

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

In September 2024, the KMR Joint Committee visited the Roberts farm in Riponui to better understand how Fonterra suppliers worked with KMR as part of their Tiaki Plan process. The field trip deepened Joint Committee insights into dairy sector priorities and the practicalities of applying for KMR funding and celebrated KMR's partnership with Fonterra, which continues to go from strength to strength.

Northland MP and co-Chair of the Blue Greens, Grant McCallum, joined Joint Committee members on a KMR field trip in December 2024. The Maungatūroto farmer was able to see first-hand how KMR accelerates voluntary environmental action on the ground as part of a tour of Rob and Mandy Pye's Kōkopu beef farm at Ruatangata West, near Whangārei. During the visit, the farming couple showed the visitors the project activities supported by KMR. This included extensive native plantings to reduce erosion-prone areas on the farm, as well as extensive fencing to retire the planting areas.

Throughout the year, we have continued to engage with and host Ministers, local MPs, local government leaders, senior programme partners and government officials to share the value and impact of KMR as we head into our fourth year of operational delivery.

Management and Planning

As KMR is a voluntary programme, the individual landowner and group's willingness 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 affects 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 improve effective programme oversight and financial management as KMR scales up, we reviewed and improved several key elements of our operations. This involved migrating Fonterra project records into KMR's digital system, with appropriate safeguards and permissions. We also strengthened our project reporting, including financial reporting, drawing on KMR's digital tools, which now contain a complete record of KMR-funded plans and projects

Risk Management

Through 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 some landowner and community participation, and weather conditions such as drought that reduce willingness to undertake planned planting activity, and other disruptions (such as the continued road closures in Northland on some main routes) all of which can impact project timeframes.

During the year, KMR also undertook a peer review by science provider Manaaki Whenua Landcare Research to test our use of an indicative sediment risk layer to spatially target risk areas on-farm. The review confirmed that the dataset and KMR's approach to use was valid, particularly given the ground-truthing that occurred as projects went through the design and approvals process.

Tukunga Kaupapa
Programme Delivery

While the year under review was primarily one of consolidation for KMR as we continued to scale up, we nonetheless designed and rolled out several new initiatives to accelerate sediment reduction outcomes on the ground and drive greater uptake in the community. While there remains significant uncertainty in KMR's operating environment, we also evolved some programme settings on a no-regrets basis to prepare for forthcoming directions in farm planning and catchment group leadership.

Deepening support across the landscape

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

The year under review was the first which KMR systematically made investments to support projects for the treatment of steep, erodible hill country. While planting of natives on erosion-prone hillsides was operationalised in winter 2023, other treatments took longer to confirm market-based pricing and investment criteria. In winter 2025, KMR rolled out additional support for assisted native forest regeneration and planting of appropriate (non-weedy, non-pine) exotic species to achieve continuous cover forestry on erosion-prone hillsides, with appropriate setbacks from waterways, fences and other infrastructure. This broadening of KMR's offerings from the coastal margins to the ridgelines has enabled us to continue to scale up action on the ground, despite the emerging drought conditions in late 2024 and early 2025.

During the year, KMR continued to fine-tune our process to support winter planting, as well as continuing to set and meet planting targets to support accredited nurseries. We reached our two and a half millionth tree in May 2025.

Expanding KMR's offering to horticulture

KMR has traditionally worked on pastoral land – land which is typically prone to erosion. However, the catchment includes a number of horticultural landowners who also experience sediment loss.

In early 2025, KMR announced a new partnership with Horticulture New Zealand (HortNZ) to develop and roll out a programme to build resilience in the Northland/Te Tai Tokerau kūmara industry. The industry was severely impacted by Cyclones Hale and Gabrielle in 2023. The partnership, which was supported by the Growing Change project, piloted a project to support kūmara growers in the Northern Wairoa sub-catchment to achieve best management practice on the land.

With a focus on fencing and native planting to restore local waterways, the pilot supported growers to meet the requirements of the NZ Good Agricultural Practice (NZGAP) Environment Management System and forthcoming freshwater farm plans.

As part of the project, local leaders from the Raupō drainage district and Kaipara District Council were involved in peer reviewing the design of planting projects. Reducing sedimentation is an important part of protecting drainage schemes, reducing maintenance costs and ensuring they can operate as planned during high rainfall.

Evolving partnerships key to success

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

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 delivery of the associated projects.

The year saw increased collaboration with the Queen Elizabeth National Trust (QEII) and the Auckland Council Biodiversity Focus Area programme to protect and sustain the conservation values of remnant forests, lowering the cost of fencing and regeneration projects for the landowner.

With dairy platforms covering 23% of the catchment, the KMR/Fonterra Partnership remains an important contributor to KMR's long-term goal of halving sediment flows into the harbour. During the year, Fonterra migrated to systematically use KMR's digital tool, Mātai Onekura, to design and record projects delivered through the KMR/Fonterra partnership. Last year alone, the Partnership supported ~100km of new fencing to protect waterways and retire steep, eroding hillsides and gullies, and ~54,000 native trees and plants.

Strengthening cultural and local perspectives

The Kōrero Tuku Iho project represents the cultural and local dimensions of KMR. One of its two foundational strategies, the project aims to empower Kaipara Uri, iwi/hapū, marae and local communities to contribute meaningfully to the restoration of the Kaipara Moana through the sharing of stories, memories, histories, values, relationships with the natural world, and culturally and locally significant sites within the catchment.

The project centres on supporting three locally-led case studies that can be used to develop a guiding framework for others right across the catchment to use to integrate local perspectives and culturally-grounded environmental restoration approaches into sediment reduction projects. During the year, a first case study on the Poutō Peninsula was progressed centring on dune lakes and their role in food production and gathering as inspiration for local hapū and the community to take action to reduce sediment flows from the land into the nearby harbour.

Strengthening the voice of catchment groups

As one of New Zealand's largest catchment groups, KMR already freely shares our approach, tools, templates and insights with other like-minded groups. However, with the creation of the Aotearoa New Zealand Catchment Collective, came the opportunity to more efficiently share KMR practice and also learn from other groups involved in similar work. We therefore joined the Collective in May 2025 and look forward to working further with its leadership and members.

Positioning KMR successfully into the future

During the year, 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. Through the nomination process for the Earthshot Prize 2025, we held early-stage discussions with both global and local organisations to explore potential investment pathways into the future. While we will maintain this engagement in the coming year, most of the opportunities under discussion will ultimately be dependent on the final shape of government frameworks and policy settings.

The West Family Partnership, with support from AgFirst, showcased the economic impact of KMR work (Tangiteroria).

The economics of KMR

Return on investment

In March 2025, an independent report evaluated the impacts of KMR delivery using well-tested cost/benefit valuation methodology. Key findings of the report are that:

- KMR is expected to return around $423 million in total benefits
- For every $1 invested through KMR, $3.94 is generated - a return on investment of almost 4 to 1
- The primary value generated from KMR is economic – such as support for local jobs, local purchase of materials, and sustaining primary production.

On-farm economics

The West Family Partnership, a family-run 403 ha farm on medium hill country in Northland, undertook a transformative sediment reduction project in collaboration with Kaipara Moana Remediation. The project targeted erosion-prone areas and native bush remnants, leading to significant improvements to water quality, farm infrastructure, and land management systems.

Scope of project

Retirement of **9.45 hectares** of ecologically sensitive land across two priority areas

Installation of **2.45 km** of fencing, subdividing one large pasture paddock into five smaller paddocks and adding a laneway, to better protect sensitive land

Fencing and protection of two wetlands, totalling **0.45 hectares**

Results & Benefits

Economic

Improved grazing efficiency ($12,800/year in increased pasture income), and opening the way for future biodiversity credits

Environmental

Reduced sediment loss, enhanced biodiversity, and stronger resilience to climate impacts

Operational

Better stock flow, time savings (~24 hrs/year), improved animal welfare, and reduced stress for farmers, dogs and stock.

Financial Overview

Total investment

$62,925

Revenue uplift

$14,000

Benefit-to-cost ratio

22%

Estimated payback period

4.5 years

Ngā Mahi Rauora, Ngā Whiwhinga
Year 5 results at a glance

In 2024-2025, KMR worked with landowners and groups across the catchment to deliver the following results:

Over
1.71m
plants in the ground or contracted to plant

551km
of fencing completed or contracted

Over
$9.3m
worth of sediment reduction projects contracted

Over
23,000ha
of land covered by sediment reduction plans

Over
899ha
of land planted, contracted to plant or regenerating into native forest

Over
104,000hrs
of work created – equivalent to full time work for more than 67 people

325
new sediment reduction plans and return projects

Over its life to date, KMR has delivered these results (as at 30 June 2025):

Jobs & Skills

Training support for
218
participants, many from local iwi/hapū

Creation of over
398,000
hours of new work – a year's work for over 256 people

Over
$26m
in sediment reduction project value

Engagement & Participation

1,321
landowners/groups have expressed interest in KMR

682
co-funded plans have been developed with landowners/groups

A further
132
plans are in development

Nature & Resilience

Over
2.67m
plants in the ground or contracted to plant

1,422ha
planted, contracted to plant or regenerating into native forest

Over
1,000km
of fencing completed or contracted – the same distance as from Cape Rēinga to Napier

Over
144,000ha
are managed under KMR plans

*Full KPI results can be found on page 48.

Ōtakanini Tōpū

In just 3.5 years, through retirement of erosion-prone land and regeneration of nature, KMR projects have protected:

1,533 km
of river and stream banks

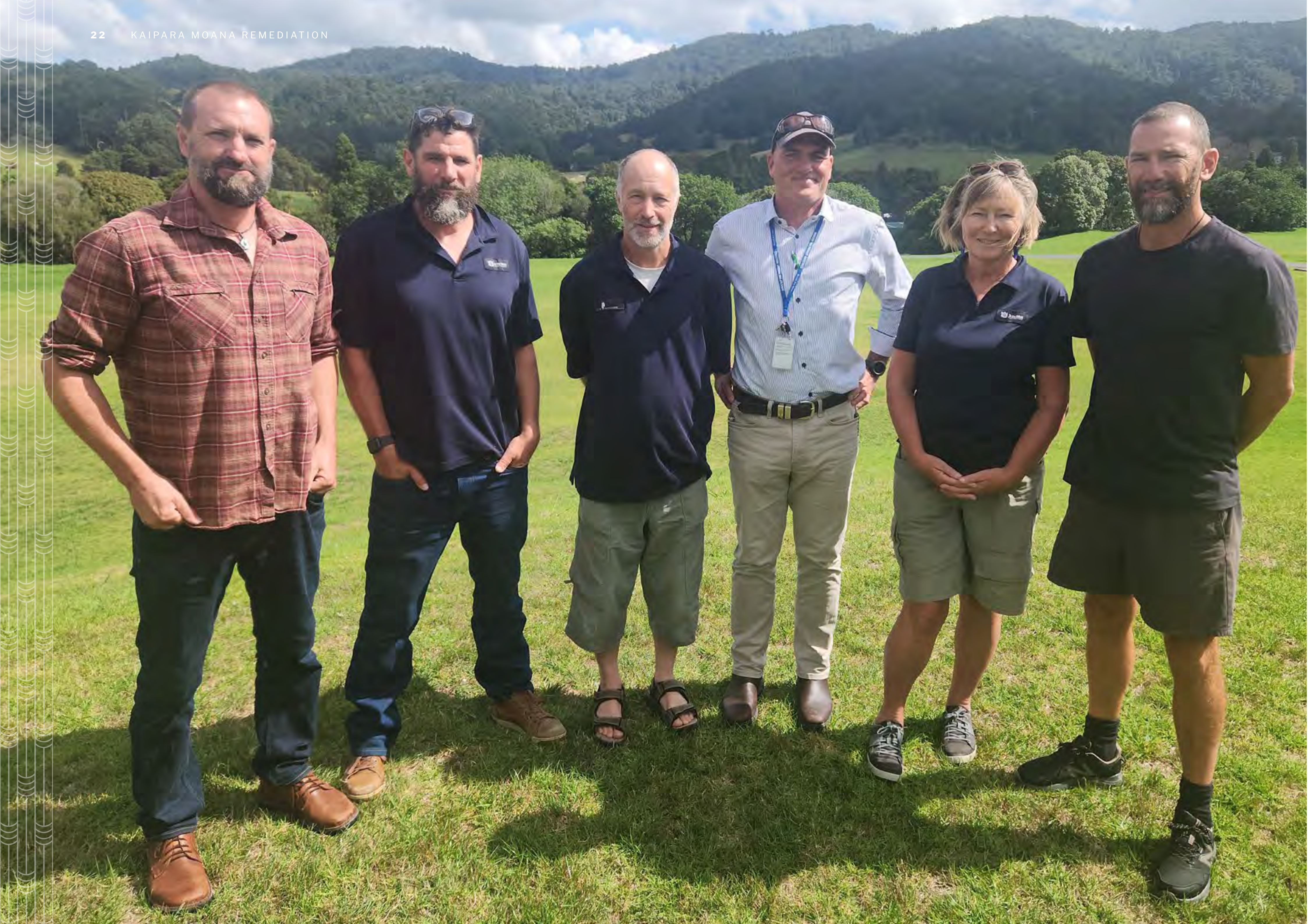
45 km
of coastline

297 ha
hectares of wetland

325 ha
hectares of remnant forest

440 ha
hectares of highly erodible land

A total area of
2,628 ha



Pārongo me ngā Hononga
Communications & Engagement

As a voluntary programme, KMR must work hard to build awareness of the support we can offer to landowners and groups across the catchment. Ultimately, KMR must contract directly with a landowner or a group to deliver sediment reduction outcomes on the ground. Effective engagement and recruitment are therefore critical to KMR's ongoing success.

As the number of landowners and groups working with KMR increases, our communications and engagement strategy has evolved. This is because research shows that more than three-quarters of the landowners and groups joining KMR have heard about us through face-to-face engagement, conversations with people they trust in the community, and by reading about people like themselves who are working with KMR.

Through a collaboration with the Ministry of Primary Industries (Te Uru Rākau), KMR shared our technical expertise on large-scale planting natives with a range of rural professionals and primary industry partners. (Whangārei)

Digital engagement

Our regular digital newsletter is the primary means of sharing information and opportunities with the many programme partners, landowners and groups working with us. This is widely read, with over 3,000 recipients and growing.

In late 2024, we refreshed the KMR website so that it offers the functionality users require, including the ability to quickly understand if any given address is in the Kaipara Moana catchment. An enhanced resources section on the website also supports those looking to learn more about how KMR, or download our guidance documents, online tools and templates.

During the year, we also produced two short videos explaining KMR's Landowner Grant and Whenua Whānui Fund. The videos summarise the eligibility criteria for the two funds, how to make an application, and what the subsequent process is.

In mid-2025, we started using an SMS-based system to directly follow up with KMR project leaders in an easy-to-respond format. This messaging format is particularly useful to deliver tailored messages to landowners and groups about the status of their contract or project, and enable more effective grants administration capability.

Sharing KMR stories

Throughout the year, KMR continued to develop and share profiles 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.

During the year, traditional media campaigns were run to raise awareness of winter planting and KMR's social media presence was deepened to create more inclusive avenues for communication, particularly within younger members of the community. KMR's Facebook and LinkedIn presence has grown, creating a network of people across not only New Zealand but around the world who are interested in our work.

Primary sector outreach

Throughout the year, KMR undertook a wide range of engagement with the primary sector industry and the farming community. Major engagements included presentations at two AgFirst and Northland Inc. events, participation and presentations at farm forestry workshops, open farm days, a field trip at one of our Fonterra farmers in Riponui, two planting days on ahuwhenua land in Ōtamatea and Ōruawharo, outreach at the Northland Field Days, Helensville A&P show and Warkworth A&P show, and participation at the Balance Farm Environment Awards, among others. Our on-the-ground Field Advisors also played a key role in engaging landowners – conversations across the fence-line continues to be an important communication channel in rural communities.

The year also saw an ongoing focus on working through our primary sector partner organisations and groups. We worked with agencies such as FMG, Perrin Ag, Rabobank, Beef+Lamb NZ and Te Tumu Paeroa to share information directly with members and client networks through their established communications channels.

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 Advisor and Pūtohu-Hononga Hapū and Hāpori / Community and Hapū Engagement Advisor, KMR engaged throughout the year with a large number of Kaipara Uri groups, governance entities, iwi/hapū, marae, whānau and other tangata whenua groups in the catchment. Much of this engagement focussed on freshwater projects in train or under development, supported by KMR's Whenua Whānui Fund.

In addition, wide engagement was undertaken in support of KMR's Call for Expressions of Interest for the Kōrero Tuku Iho Whakatauira Fund to empower Kaipara Uri, iwi/hapū, marae, whānau and local communities to contribute meaningfully to the restoration of the Kaipara Moana through case studies.

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 in March 2025 to bring together partners, practitioners and groups to discuss resilience in the face of complex and evolving challenges, presented at several national conferences and regional forums, and shared KMR practice with like-minded restoration projects across the country.

Throughout the year, we also attended the BlueGreens Conference 2025, presented at the National Freshwater Conference in Wellington and participated in the New Zealand ministerial delegation to the Global Nature Positive Summit in Australia.

As one of the country's largest catchment groups, KMR technical experts and leaders also briefed ~20 other catchment groups across New Zealand.

In February 2025, KMR hosted senior officials from the Ministry of Primary Industries and Ministry for the Environment to discuss our approach to larger scale native afforestation, soil conservation on erosion-prone land, KMR's use of sediment reduction plans (precursors to freshwater farm plans) and the impacts of our work in protecting vulnerable areas on the landscape.

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.

Through regular training and mentoring, KMR upskills our team of Field Advisors and shares technical knowledge. (Kaiwaka)

"Our on-the-ground Field Advisors play a key role in engaging landowners – conversations across the fence-line continue to be an important communication channel in rural communities."

Ō Tātou Tāngata
The People of KMR

Everyone KMR works with cares about protecting and regenerating their local land and waterways. Many of our farmers, kaitiaki, land managers and community members also have a strong connection to the Kaipara Harbour itself.

Through our investments, KMR empowers and enables these diverse communities, landowners and kaitiaki to take action on the land to restore the health and wellbeing of the Kaipara. In doing so, we often find ourselves supporting and strengthening community and cultural connections to local places.

The following stories are from some of the people KMR has worked with during the year. We thank them for sharing their projects and aspirations with us.

Bringing whānau back together

Sonny Henare is loving his time back on the whānau whenua at Pīpīwai and is very enthusiastic when he speaks of his desire to protect and nurture the land and do his forebears proud with the help of KMR's Whenua Whānui Fund.

Sonny is working closely with his whānau from Aotearoa and Australia to fence parts of the 28-hectare property to protect existing natives and waterways – the Kaikou and Mangataeore awa. Part of that work is removing fences in floodplains and putting them higher up on the land to be clear of flood risk. Further native plantings will be worked in among existing native stands.

So far, almost 1.5km of five-wire fencing has been completed, with Sonny's Uncle Robert Henare and another Uncle, Atawhai Henare, joining with other whānau at various times over the summer to help with the fencing. In fact, Robert flew back from Australia for a few weeks to get the project moving and ultimately help protect the Kaikou awa from cattle grazing in it.

"I heard about KMR funding, and I thought it might be an opportunity for us. Working in the waterways around here, I realised collectively - as a valley - we should all be doing this," says Sonny.

"As a whānau, we are doing what we can, particularly as we gradually, as individuals, move back to the land."

He wants to get to the stage where his whānau can use their whenua to show what is possible and help others see how they can turn these farms around by working to protect waterways.

"We are committed to beginning work to plant natives in 2026, once all the fencing is completed," says Sonny.

"As a whānau, we are doing what we can, particularly as we gradually, as individuals, move back to the land."

Growing the next generation of freshwater farm planners

As part of KMR's training and mentoring to support fit-for-purpose on-farm advice, a cohort of KMR Field Advisors came together at a workshop at Rural Design, one of KMR's accredited nurseries. The focus of the workshop was to upskill in the technical aspects of preparing for – and maintaining – planting projects near waterways and on steep, erodible hillsides.

KMR specialists and expert accredited suppliers ensured the workshop was highly successful. The training covered both technical skills development and hands-on learning through field visits to plantings of different ages and to see first-hand various plant survival challenges.

This type of training is central to KMR's commitment to upskilling a cohort of 50 future freshwater farm planners across the catchment. These skills are critical for good environmental outcomes and to support forthcoming government policy.

During the KMR workshop, Rural Design Director Heath Worsfold reflected on the importance of working together to achieve outcomes.

"Working with a community of practice is increasingly important, which is why we are always keen to collaborate, share our learnings and learn from others in KMR. Between us all, there is so much knowledge and experience to draw on without reinventing things unnecessarily. One size does not fit all when you are dealing with different landscapes and soil types," says Heath.

A similar approach was adopted by KMR to support a workshop on native trees and forests organised by the Ministry for Primary Industries' Te Uru Rākau near Whangārei in March 2025. KMR staff gave keynote presentations on the insights and learnings since KMR's establishment. This was warmly welcomed by Te Uru Rākau's Forest Service Advice team. Susan Moore-Lavo acknowledged that KMR experts could offer clear, science-based information to landowners wishing to plant native species for a range of purposes, ensuring that they do so at lower cost and with higher survival rates.

Leaving an environmental legacy recognised with regional award

Rob and Mandy Pye are clearly passionate about caring for Mandy's Kōkopu family farmland at Ruatangata West, near Whangārei. Partnering with KMR has taken that care at Māngere Falls Farm to a whole new level as the couple strive to play their part in reducing sedimentation and siltation in the Kaipara Moana, while leaving a legacy for their children and others in the future.

The couple have raised their three children on their Kōkopu farm, and the Mangere River has been part of this. They have swum, kayaked, played and fished it. And the health of the river and the waterways that feed into it are important to them.

Along the way, they have fenced off 9.5km of steeper land, wet areas, drains and rivers to protect them from cattle, while planting well over 16,000 natives – also in partnership with KMR.

Rob and Mandy have been working with KMR for many years now. "It is exciting to see the difference we are contributing. The project has only enhanced non-effective land and contributed to the beauty and health of the environment around us. We have hosted two school planting days and enjoy encouraging the next generation to think likewise," says Rob.

The Pye's 260-hectare beef unit (245ha effective) borders the Mangere River and Wairua River, which both feed into the Kaipara Moana. In conjunction with a 75-ha run-off, the couple finish 500-600 bulls and steers annually.

Rob says it is important to the family to farm sustainably and with a strong environmental plan. "We know the animals we produce have come off a farm with an environmental focus, and this is a great story for the consumer."

"KMR are great to work with. They listen and work with the challenges we have. The connections they have with local nurseries and contractors make getting projects completed much easier. It is about starting and creating a plan, and I would urge other farmers to get on board with KMR as it allows you to achieve a lot more, much faster".

Rob and Mandy's efforts were rewarded at the 2025 Ballance Farm Environment Awards, where they were named the Northland Regional Champions.

Ōtakanini Tōpū shareholders caring for the whenua

Farm manager Jeff Bradly is looking forward to a winter planting session with many of Ōtakanini Tōpū Incorporation's 1,000-plus shareholders.

He is also keen to showcase more of the 1560ha sheep and beef unit at South Head, near Helensville, and let shareholders know about ongoing development and improvement plans for the block.

During the spring and summer months, the Incorporation's focus has been on fencing to protect sacred areas of the maunga, erodible hillsides and waterways.

Jeff says around 1.2km of seven wire post and batten fencing has been completed, and in partnership with KMR, the aim is to plant around 2,000 natives across four sites in winter '25 – all areas which lead from the farm down to the Kaipara Moana itself.

The whole Ōtakanini Tōpū team understand implicitly the challenges of farming in the area, and they are committed to the KMR kaupapa of restoring the environment for the benefit of the Kaipara Moana.

Having grown up on a neighbouring farm, which Jeff now owns, he has a good grasp of the local challenges due to weather events like Cyclone Gabrielle, which did some major damage to the Ōtakanini Tōpū block, including washing off a substantial amount of soil from the rolling landscape.

The repair of that land will begin with planting natives by Ōtakanini Tōpū's farm staff and shareholders. It is the start of a multi-year fencing and planting programme to help reduce siltation from the farm into the Kaipara and create a legacy for generations of tamariki and rangitahi.

Collaboration to support kūmara industry

In February 2025, Horticulture New Zealand (HortNZ) and KMR announced a partnership to build resilience across the Northland kūmara industry.

The pilot programme has seen the organisations working together to support kūmara growers in the Northern Wairoa catchment to achieve best management practice on the land and restore local waterways. It has included both fencing and native planting projects.

The partnership centres on kūmara growers who are participating in the HortNZ Growing Change project.

Kate Scott, chief executive of HortNZ, said the project's focus was on supporting growers to increase resilience while also reducing impacts from growing operations.

"We identified an opportunity to establish a partnership with KMR as part of the Growing Change project. KMR's goal of assisting primary sector landowners in the Kaipara Moana catchment to reduce sediment loss from the land by up to 50 per cent aligns tightly with the Growing Change objectives.

As part of the collaboration, local leaders from the Raupō drainage district and Kaipara District Council were involved in peer reviewing the design of planting projects. Reducing sedimentation is an important part of protecting drainage schemes, reducing maintenance costs and ensuring they can operate as planned during high rainfall.

Technology and generosity helping KMR to monitor change

Efforts to protect and restore the mauri of the Kaipara Moana have received a boost thanks to the generosity of Spark IoT (Internet of Things) and Phathom, an innovative local New Zealand company.

Spark IoT and Phathom are providing the connectivity and technology which, along with the backing of KMR and the University of Auckland, is making it possible for research leader Anne-Fleur van Leeuwen to focus her PhD on the effects of river sediment and nutrient dispersal in the Kaipara Moana.

That work began in August 2024 with a project at Port Albert wharf on the Hōteo river mouth, on the edge of the Ōruawharo estuary arm.

Phathom designs and manufactures Turbidity and Total Suspended Solids sensors for real-time sediment monitoring, says Phathom Sales Manager Emma Ford.

“Our technology comes from our specialised dairy instrumentation, Quadbeam. We developed Phathom as a passion project in response to huge sediment spills and a lack of accountability. Same technology, with easier communication, low power and lower cost.

“We love to stay true to our roots and get involved in community initiatives like KMR, using our technology to assist their work. If we can help measure sediment in the beautiful Kaipara, we can take accountability for improving its health in the future.”

In the meantime, Spark IoT provided a Captis solar-powered data logger that uses Spark’s Cat-M1 IoT network. The logger is connected to the Phathom sensor to ensure water quality readings are collected at 15-minute intervals and sent to the cloud daily for a more immediate, granular and cost-effective analysis.

Philippe Boulanger, Spark IoT Growth Lead, says IoT and other high-tech solutions are a natural enabler in helping communities to better understand and manage the health of our waterways.

Anne-Fleur says she is pleased to have the technology in place and monitoring underway.

She believes estuaries have a powerful filtering effect, which cleanses river water of sediments and nutrients prior to it entering the open ocean, helping ensure a thriving estuarine and marine ecosystem.

She hopes her research will provide new knowledge to better identify areas affected by river sediments, and how this may change with climate change and on-land restoration efforts.

“A rewarding part of my role is to re-visit the farms and sign off the finished projects. Whether it was a big or small project, the farmers are always proud of their efforts and often keen to get stuck into the next project!

Women on a mission to heal the Kaipara

Mother and daughter duo Debbie and Bridget Johnson are playing their part in improving on-farm environmental performance in the Kaipara Moana catchment.

Debbie is a KMR Field Advisor and mentor to other KMR Field Advisors, while also working with farmers to support KMR projects. Along with her husband Sam, Debbie runs 40 cattle and 17 sheep on a lifestyle block on the outskirts of Te Kamo.

In the meantime, Bridget is one of a team of five Fonterra Sustainable Dairying Advisors (SDAs) in Northland who offer specialised environmental advice to support farmers to achieve best farm management practices, stay ahead of water quality and emissions regulations and optimise on-farm efficiency.

Says Debbie: “Being a Field Advisor allows you to work with some amazing landowners, to offer advice and, with the KMR funding, help them achieve environmental outcomes, which often also help with stock management and welfare.

“My roles since university have all included working with farmers and landowners on their land. It is my passion and I am enjoying mentoring new field advisors into such a rewarding field of work. Similarly, the work I do with landowners is about establishing a trusted relationship and understanding their motivation.

Debbie says it is important to understand that every landowner and property has different situations, motivations and long-term goals. Field Advisors aim to make the KMR process as easy as possible to achieve those goals.

As for Bridget, she recognises all farmers are at different stages, so once the minimum standard has been reached, it’s about working at their pace and offering support where they need it.

“Since KMR was developed, we have worked alongside the KMR team to unlock opportunities for Fonterra dairy farmers.

“Sediment is a key water quality issue on Northland farms, so sediment control is an important environmental focus. With KMR, it is an amazing opportunity to not only give advice on water quality but to also help farmers achieve their goals through stock exclusion and native planting projects.

“A rewarding part of my role is to re-visit the farms and sign off the finished projects. Whether it was a big or small project, the farmers are always proud of their efforts and often keen to get stuck into the next project!

Whakapara Marae restoring the local awa

Whānau at Whakapara Marae are pleased to have the support of KMR's Whenua Whānui Fund to plant natives and help restore the local awa.

Whakapara Marae elders Te Raa Nehua and Dale van Engelen have been working together on resource management around the marae and in the Puhipuhi area for a number of years, and both were pleased to link with KMR.

The Marae's resource management plan highlights the need to restore the awa - sometimes known as the Waimā Stream - that runs below the marae, and to plant native trees for future generations.

And Te Raa says that is exactly why they have partnered with KMR, to put another part of that plan firmly in action – ultimately for the benefit of rangatahi and tamariki.

"Last year we contacted KMR about planting and regenerating natives on the marae for future generations, as well as stopping flood damage. We planted over 4,200 trees and grasses last winter near the marae and down to the banks of the awa," the pair say.

"We are now in the process of releasing those plants so they can flourish well clear of the kikuyu and other pest species that would otherwise suffocate them. We rely on volunteers to do this, and also have Department of Corrections workers helping, along with a local spray contractor.

As well as KMR, Te Raa says they also work with Ngā Kaitiaki o Ngā Wai Māori to try to restore tuna to the awa.

"We have been doing elver releases in the awa in and around Puhipuhi and other areas for well over a decade now," says Te Raa, who adds that they are focussed on building relationships with local farmers and other groups.

"As a child, I remember we would swim in the awa, our families would gather there. The men and boys would go tuna spearing, the rest would build a fire and prepare potatoes and tītī to wait for the freshly caught tuna to be cleaned and put in a big pot for a boil up," says Dale.

"Last year we contacted KMR about planting and regenerating natives on the marae for future generations as well as stop flood damage. We planted over 4,200 trees and grasses last winter near the marae and down to the banks of the awa,"

Caring for land essential to farming success

Riponui dairy farmers Grae and Lou Roberts want to leave their land better than how they found it.

So they have teamed up with KMR and Fonterra to begin a journey of fencing off waterways and planting riparian margins on farm with natives.

Almost 6,000 trees into their journey, the couple who farm on the edge of the Hikurangi Swamp say they can't wait to see the growth progress on the 1.29ha plantation area in the next few years.

"Where we have planted is one of our favourite parts of the farm. There are some lovely stands of native trees - including a QEII National Trust covenant - and we see value in planting more areas because that will increase the quality of waterways over time," say Grae and Lou.

While the planted area is a fraction of their 250-hectare dairy unit, it is a great start to their partnership with KMR, where there is a natural synergy given Grae and Lou's desire to do right by the environment through application of well-thought-out farming practices.

Despite being busy milking a 700-strong herd and raising a young family, sustainability and environmental values are at the heart of their operation, which is why they have also invested heavily in cutting-edge effluent management.

They are immensely appreciative of being able to partner with KMR and Fonterra.

"Our aim is to have a well-run farm that looks after our family and with strong stands of native trees which people will recognise as a nice farm. There are plenty of good farmers around here who have already been doing what we have just done, so we are just trying to do our bit".

Fonterra Sustainable Dairy Advisor, Mike Mitchell, has also been working closely with the Roberts and says they have demonstrated a clear commitment and consistent improvement – traits important to Fonterra.

"Grae and Lou are putting in a big effort to do things right. Working with KMR has been seamless. It goes from on the ground discussions about priorities, to action on farm in line with those priorities. Fencing and planting of this scale is rewarding for everybody," says Mike.

Boost to kaitiakitanga

The Whatitiri Resource Management Unit is looking forward to an enduring and reciprocal relationship with KMR.

Having already partnered with KMR to repair and stock-proof 755m of fencing, the Unit's focus is on possible next steps, such as riparian weed control and the planting of appropriate native species at the Waipao Springs – also known as Porotī Springs.

Whatitiri Resource Management spokeswomen Meryl Carter and Sarah Rewi are helping lead the relationship with KMR.

"Our hapū have been driving the restoration of the springs for over 20 years. We are so grateful to follow in the footsteps of so many kaitiaki," they say.

"These waters are a sacred taonga to our hapū, sustaining us spiritually, culturally, and physically for generations. Mana whenua have long been kaitiaki of the Porotī springs and hold it in very high significance.

"Our connection to Waipao is deep and enduring. Flowing from the womb of Whatitiri maunga, these waters are our life force (mauri), historically used for drinking, healing, and providing kai like watercress and kēwai.

"This spiritual and ecological relationship is documented through oral history and research, so restoring Kaipara Moana cannot succeed without healing these sacred spring heads as Waipao is a major input to the Wairua and Wairoa Rivers, which ultimately feed the harbour."

Sarah is currently studying a PhD at Waipapa Taumata Rau, The University of Auckland, and she is using the Waipao Springs as a key part of the PHD.

"The project is centred around the aspirations of our people and revitalising the mauri of our ancestral waters. My training is as a terrestrial ecologist and Kaupapa Māori scientist and with these skills, I am focusing on groundwater-dependant ecosystems and how they can improve the quality of our waters," says Sarah.

"Scientific and mātauranga Māori knowledge align in showing that restoring native vegetation along waterways significantly improves water quality. Invasive weeds often dominate riparian zones, outcompeting native species and failing to stabilise banks or filter runoff effectively. Their presence allows sediment and nutrients—especially nitrogen and phosphorus from farming activity—to enter waterways unchecked, contributing to algal blooms, low oxygen, and habitat loss."

Sarah says native riparian species like tī kōuka, upokotangata, and wīwī play a vital role in filtering contaminants, shading streams to reduce temperature, and providing habitat for native aquatic species.

"Studies across Aotearoa show that where these plants are well-established, they act as natural buffers, reduce E. coli levels, and increase biodiversity. However, these benefits are only realised when initial weed removal is done thoroughly—otherwise, new plantings are quickly overwhelmed."

Progressive dairy farmers showing the way

Planting 4,300 natives near waterways and wetlands is common sense for Tomarata dairy farmers Matt and Cushla Smith.

With the guidance of Fonterra Sustainable Dairy Advisor Ben Herbert, the couple have fenced off 0.5-hectares and planted 4400 natives on their 118-hectare farm in partnership with KMR.

They had previously fenced and planted two hectares themselves, so doing more to help develop their farm with KMR assistance made sense.

"KMR is a great resource to tap into for partial funding to enable you to protect waterways and restore native bush," says Cushla.

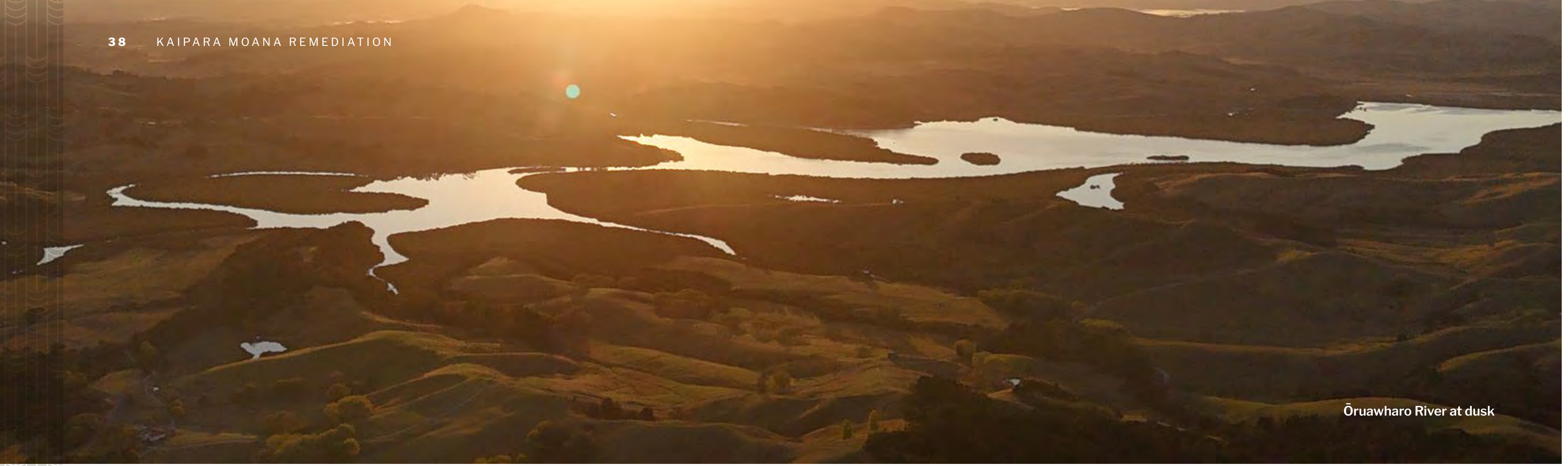
"For us, it enables equity growth and creates more manageable paddocks. Retiring risk-prone, non-productive areas that stock previously had access to has been a no-brainer over the years, and it has had no adverse impact on production," says Matt.

Matt and Cushla's aim has always been to plant natives on their farm. With many others in their valley doing their bit, even small actions on farm can add up fast to help restore the health and mauri of the Kaipara Moana.

Says Cushla: "Next on the list of projects on the farm is fencing off and planting 8,000 natives in a wetland, which will further reduce risk to stock and create greater ease of paddock and pasture management".

"Ideally, our goal is to leave the land in a better state than we found it, whether it's for our kids or someone else – that way we know we have done our bit," says Matt and Cushla.

"KMR is a great resource to tap into for partial funding to enable you to protect waterways and restore native bush,"



Ōruawharo River at dusk

Ngā Arotahi Anamata
Looking Ahead

Over the past year, in line with our strategic intent, KMR focussed as a priority on:

- Engaging and supporting a growing number of landowners, groups and communities to participate in KMR
- Testing and refining KMR's operating model, and right-sizing our capability and capacity to allow us to be successful into the future, and
- Continuing to deliver locally-relevant projects that restore riparian and coastal margins, regenerate wetlands and re-forest eroding hillsides while protecting ecosystem remnants and supporting climate resilience in vulnerable communities.

Accordingly, KMR deliberately prioritised the use of third-party co-funding to reduce the costs of taking action for landowners and groups. This choice reflected the ongoing economic constraints faced by many landowners and groups across the catchment, particularly in the drystock sector.

While reducing barriers to participation will always remain a strategic driver in line with our founding MOU, KMR will increasingly position in the year ahead to:

- Attract greater co-investment to support both project costs and contribute to programme costs
- Capitalise on forthcoming policy shifts that are likely to incentivise native sequestration (viz. expected future changes in carbon market settings, Freshwater Farm Plans and, potentially, biodiversity credits).
- Develop new commercial and philanthropic partnerships to unlock proven opportunities.

KMR's smart digital systems provide a live administrative record of projects across the catchment. As such, the system provides spatially-explicit assurance about project scope and progress. This ability to instantly verify and report on project delivery, combined with our compelling mission to protect and restore a globally significant harbour, ensures that KMR will be well placed to unlock emerging opportunities. While many of the opportunities are still some time away, over the next year KMR's focus will be on continuing to build the requisite foundations for the future.

Opportunities are crystallising

While KMR continues to operate in a strategically unclear operating environment, recent announcements about policy and legislation in respect of farm plans, freshwater reforms and emissions trading indicate the broad direction of policy settings that will affect landowner willingness to work with KMR. In addition, there are encouraging early signals about the intent to develop a national framework to facilitate biodiversity credits in future.

KMR currently offers 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 that landowners are undertaking with KMR's support are well aligned with 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 work programme to revise the freshwater farm plan system, and once intended changes are clear, KMR will review early design decisions about when and how to align with the refreshed system.

Our partnership with Horticulture New Zealand (HortNZ) also extends our support from pastoral landowners to growers across the catchment. While our focus to date has been on working with the Northland kūmara sector to meet freshwater farm plan requirements in line with industry standards, the second stage of the partnership is expected to broaden to include tree and vegetable crops, and extend into the Auckland region.

In parallel, international market and consumer drivers are now starting to clarify. 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. As one example, through KMR's ongoing strategic partnership with Fonterra, we will play a role in supporting landowners to participate in Fonterra's new Cooperative Difference incentive which rewards milk suppliers for offsetting carbon emissions on-farm, including through planting (native sequestration). The initiative is expected to drive greater uptake of KMR services and projects from dairy farmers (~25% of our target customer base) and will help us continue to scale KMR's impact in line with our investment outcomes.

Advancing Kōrero Tuku Iho

The Kōrero Tuku Iho project is going from strength to strength, with the first case study on the Poutō Peninsula making good progress. Following an open Call for Expressions of Interest, a second case study on the Hukatere Peninsula was approved in July 2025 to reduce sediment through land-based restoration and mātauranga Māori and use the revival of kūtai (mussel) sites to further support the health of the Kaipara Harbour. The second case study is a holistic collaboration involving several entities, and reflects KMR's commitment to enabling new economic value creation from our investments where possible. At the time of writing, a third case study is under consideration. The project focuses on place-based learning to support wetland and streambank restoration on the Mangatū River in Auckland.

Over the coming year, we expect to see significant progress in the development and implementation of 'mauri plans' through each case study. These plans will lay the groundwork for the development of a blueprint – a template that will ultimately ensure that landowners and groups working to protect the Kaipara Moana across the length and breadth of the catchment can effectively integrate local perspectives and aspirations in restoration work on the ground.

Boosting protection of waterways

With seven major river systems in the Kaipara Moana catchment, there are over 16,220km of river and stream banks, which directly influence sediment loss into the Kaipara Moana. There are also over 800km of vulnerable coastline that can also contribute sediment directly into the harbour. These riparian and estuarine margins effectively function as the 'last line of defence' to stop overland flows of sediment from entering waterways and flowing into the Kaipara Harbour, and as such, they remain an important focus for KMR's work. Reflecting the importance of these margins to our mission and vision, KMR has agreed in principle to a formal partnership with the Department of Conservation to protect riparian and estuarine margins that are administered by DOC in the Auckland portion of the catchment. Under the Agreement, neighbouring landowners and groups will work directly with KMR to access our funding to plant native plants and trees to protect the DOC-administered marginal strips. The projects will also ensure greater resilience to the increasing frequency and intensity of flooding events that affect these waterways.

To give a sense of the potential size of benefit of this partnership, DOC administers around 45km of rivers, streams, wetlands and coastal margins in the Auckland region that are potentially eligible for KMR support, totalling 53,000 hectares.

Demonstrating the benefits

Given the high degree of natural variability in sediment levels in waterways, it will take many years to demonstrate statistically that the projects KMR invests in are making a difference to water quality in the Kaipara Harbour. While environmental monitoring remains a core function of regional councils and unitary authorities, KMR has agreed with the Crown that we will develop case studies to highlight to communities the relatively short timeframes in which environmental benefits can be seen as a result of taking action with KMR support.

By spatially correlating stream health monitoring to whole-farm-system boundaries, the case studies aim to demonstrate at a local level the environmental benefits of KMR projects in terms of river- and stream- water quality. While the science is clear on the benefits of protecting and regenerating riparian margins, KMR will be able to communicate to communities what farmers on the land are seeing first-hand in water quality improvements much earlier than would be the case if we waited for the ten-yearly environmental monitoring in the harbour itself.

Over the coming months, KMR will work through case study selection (ideally selecting for a range of land use types, soils, farm systems, KMR project types, and length of duration working with KMR) and data collection methods (including frequency of sampling, reporting methodology, data storage and data sharing arrangements, among others) in what will be a voluntary set of case studies.

Arapāoa River

KMR works at landscape-scale, supporting landowners to protect and regenerate special areas across the farm (South Head)

Mahere Mahi ā Tau Annual Work Plan (Year 5)

Remediation grants and partnerships

A large and growing number of landowners and groups worked with KMR during the year, unlocking KMR grant funding for sediment remediation (reduction) projects across the Kaipara Moana catchment.

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

Participation in KMR has continued to grow steadily, exceeding the year's KPIs for both new Plans and new projects.

KMR Field Advisors either contract directly to KMR or work through our delivery partners, such as Te Uri o Hau Environs and The Forest Bridge Trust. Through KMR's partnership with Fonterra, Sustainable Dairying Advisors support dairy farmers in the catchment to access KMR support.

All of these advisors work closely with farmers, other landowners and community 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 the value of the KMR grants paid out during the year and shown in this table, a further $7.1m of projects were contracted with landowners or groups but not verified as complete nor paid out by 30 June. Budget for these committed projects has carried over into 2025-26 for payment once the projects have been confirmed as completed.

Outputs from this investment are summarised in the table of Year 5 results on page 48.

Budget				Actual			
Crown	Council	Landowner / Other	Total	Crown	Council	Landowner / Other	Total
$6,436,759.00	$587,796.00	$5,011,840.00	$12,036,395.00	$4,823,774.23	$432,723.67	$3,371,874.40	$8,628,372.30

Capability and workforce development

Throughout the year, KMR employed 19 part-time Field Advisors working alongside farmers, other landowners and groups to develop high-quality Sediment Reduction Plans and support the delivery of sediment remediation projects.

KMR Field Advisors were mentored and supported in their skills development via an active KMR Field Advisor Community of Practice. This included fortnightly technical support sessions and continuous tuakana-teina mentoring relationships.

In addition, through KMR's Memorandum of Understanding with NZARM, two tailored technical training courses were held for KMR staff, Field Advisors and programme partners. Work continues with NZARM to develop and deliver further training and professional development for KMR Field Advisors.

To date, KMR has supported the training of 218 people, including via recognised courses that enabled participants to achieve NZQA micro-qualifications.

This year saw ongoing engagement with and support for KMR's 20 accredited native plant nurseries across the catchment. This included technical support, review of planting plans, and coordination with nurseries to ensure native planting projects could be supplied with high-quality, eco-sourced, site-appropriate plants.

Budget				Actual			
Crown	Council	Landowner / Other	Total	Crown	Council	Landowner / Other	Total
$352,145.00	$340,876.00	-	$693,021.00	$254,512.29	$252,470.32	-	$506,982.61

Communications and engagement

As KMR reaches more of the landowners and groups in the catchment, communications about KMR increasingly take place through peer-to-peer engagement. This is particularly so for farmers who tend to share practice via informal discussion 'across the fence-line' and through primary sector forums.

Likewise, with more and more landowners and groups taking action with KMR support over several years, communications and engagement are channelled through their trusted KMR Field Advisor, with whom they have worked in previous projects.

As communities around the catchment become increasingly aware of KMR and what we offer, our communications and engagement have shifted over time to focus more on the benefits of taking action through KMR projects – for example, we developed a case study to demonstrate the economic and on-farm benefits of working with KMR.

Increasingly, KMR's engagement and communications in the community have become more targeted and tailored to specific audiences and interests.

These include:

- Planting days (e.g. public wetland planting day, volunteer plantings days on farm, school plantings, and Whenua Whānui Fund events)
- Community events in the Tangowāhine valley, Kaipara Hills, Awarua and the Mangakāhia River sub-catchment
- Open days hosted by accredited KMR nurseries
- Rural Roadshows hosted by the Ministry of Primary Industries
- On-farm open days (e.g. events hosted by KMR's Navigator project leaders, a Beef & Lamb-hosted farm visit, among others), and
- Sector-led events (e.g. the Ballance Farm Environment Awards Beef+Lamb NZ outreach, Helensville and Warkworth A&P shows, Northland Field Days and rural professional forums).

Face-to-face engagements were also held during the year with over 53 different groups, including hapū, marae, trusts and whānau, to outline opportunities through. KMR's Whenua Whānui Fund.

During the year, KMR hosted an annual Partnership Forum alongside our partners, The Forest Bridge Trust, to bring programme partners and stakeholder organisations together to share good practice. A particular focus for the Forum was resilience, reflecting the ongoing economic and weather-related pressures in the catchment. The topic allowed KMR to discuss how it supported community and rural resilience through its project grants, local employment and accreditation of local businesses.

KMR also focussed throughout the year on communicating KMR opportunities through our many community-facing partners, including Wai Connection, Enviroschools, Te Tumu Paeroa, the QEII National Trust, the Rural Support Trust and others.

Media stories, website profiles and social media posts continue to play an important role in raising awareness of KMR's work and grants. KMR was profiled in both digital and print media numerous times during the year, as well as in industry publications and sectoral subscription and paywalled journals and digital newsletters.

			Budget				Actual
Crown	Council	Landowner / Other	Total	Crown	Council	Landowner / Other	Total
$94,500.00	$90,000.00	-	$184,500.00	$65,816.63	$90,000.00	-	$155,816.63

Programme marketing

KMR maintains a relatively small budget to update and re-print information materials to raise awareness of KMR and highlight the support we can offer. This includes brochures on our grants and co-branded flags for use by our delivery partners at community and primary sector events.

			Budget				Actual
Crown	Council	Landowner / Other	Total	Crown	Council	Landowner / Other	Total
$10,000.00	$15,000.00	-	$25,000.00	$6,000.00	$14,587.12	-	$20,587.12

Kaipara Maurikura

Over the year, KMR employed an average of 11.725 full-time equivalent staff. A growing focus of the team is to effectively manage the rapidly increasing number of project grants, and provide effective reporting and other assurance that the portfolio of KMR grants investments is well-monitored and managed. Accordingly, several core business and administration systems were refined throughout the year. Staff also continued to ensure that the governance needs of the Joint Committee were effectively serviced.

			Budget				Actual
Crown	Council	Landowner / Other	Total	Crown	Council	Landowner / Other	Total
$510,491.00	$1,451,167.00	-	$1,961,658.00	$440,316.84	$1,400,000.00	-	$1,840,316.84

Governance

In Year 5, the Joint Committee held six meetings: four decision-making Hui, one workshop/briefing and one field trip. All meetings but two were held in person at various locations around the catchment in both Auckland and Northland. Two Hui were held online. Two inductions were held for new Joint Committee members, one in Auckland and one in Northland.

			Budget				Actual
Crown	Council	Landowner / Other	Total	Crown	Council	Landowner / Other	Total
$50,000.00	$10,000.00	-	$60,000.00	$35,119.14	$10,060.96	-	$45,180.10

Digital tools - system development and maintenance

Mātai Onekura, KMR's digital farm planning and grant funding tool, continued to be used to deliver spatially accurate and risk-focussed sediment reduction plans, and the monitoring and oversight of associated remediation projects and grant funding.

Further minor improvements were made to system functionality during the year to reduce complexity, improve usability and accuracy, and reflect changing investment criteria. Investment was also made in ongoing mentoring and training on the tool.

The project to develop the initial stage of a water quality accounting framework, Tātaki Wai, was completed during the year. In future, this can be calibrated for KMR to re-model the impact of KMR grant investments.

			Budget				Actual
Crown	Council	Landowner / Other	Total	Crown	Council	Landowner / Other	Total
$197,911.00	$214,825.00	-	$412,736.00	$94,684.73	$153,178.35	-	$247,863.08

Kōrero Tuku Iho strategy development and implementation

The Kōrero Tuku Iho project provides a pathway for Kaipara Uri, iwi/hapū, marae, whānau and communities to explore local perspectives and cultural narratives as inspiration for the reduction of sedimentation into the Kaipara Harbour.

During the year, the project's Reference Rōpū identified the investment criteria for three place-based whakatauira (case studies) to inform the development of a 'blueprint' for local restoration that can be widely used across the catchment in support of KMR's objectives.

A first case study was progressed on the Poutō peninsula, using a te ao Māori approach to restoring the health and well-being of the Kaipara through the revitalisation of traditional food sources and ecosystems.

A call for Expressions of Interest to host a further two case studies opened in February 2025 and closed on 1 April 2025. The Reference Rōpū recommended a further two case studies in June for Joint Committee consideration in July 2025.

			Budget				Actual
Crown	Council	Landowner / Other	Total	Crown	Council	Landowner / Other	Total
$260,190.00	$260,190.00	-	$520,380.00	$111,878.16	$111,878.16	-	$223,756.32

Investment strategy, monitoring and evaluation

During the year, several initiatives were progressed to better articulate the benefits of KMR activities and investments. This included drawing on Tātaki Wai outputs to model on-the-ground environmental impacts to support KMR's nomination for the Earthshot Prize 2025. In addition, KMR provided data for and peer-reviewed a third-party independent cost-benefit analysis. A draft economic analysis was also commissioned and completed in draft form to articulate the on-farm economic impacts of participating in KMR project activities.

			Budget				Actual
Crown	Council	Landowner / Other	Total	Crown	Council	Landowner / Other	Total
$70,000.00	-	-	$70,000.00	$4,670.96	-	-	$4,670.96

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, the QEII National Trust, the NZ Association of Resource Management (NZARM), the Biodiversity Focus Area programme led by Auckland Council, Wai Connection and Conservation Volunteers NZ.

KMR also progressed several third-party opportunities, including finalising and implementing a new partnership with Horticulture NZ focussed on kūmara growers in the Northern Wairoa area.

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	$16,706.33	$16,706.34	-	$33,412.67

Year 5 Total

			Budget				Actual
Crown	Council	Landowner / Other	Total	Crown	Council	Landowner / Other	Total
$8,006,996.00	**$2,994,855.00**	**$5,011,840.00**	**$16,013,691.00**	**$5,853,479.31**	**$2,481,604.92**	**$3,371,874.40**	**$11,706,958.63**

Key Performance Indicators

The table below provides more information about the Year 5 results compared to the Key Performance Indicators in the Year 5 Annual Work Plan:

Focus Area	Key Performance Indicators	Year 5 target	Year 5 achieved*	Notes
Sediment reduction plans and projects	Farm Environment Plans (FEPs) completed (total) via Sediment Reduction Plans via Tiaki FEPs	**120** 90 30	**167** 154 13	KMR Sediment Reduction Plans (SRPs) and associated projects focus on sediment reduction outcomes. Through KMR's partnership with Fonterra, Tiaki Farm Environment Plans are used to support dairy farmers to participate in KMR.
	Projects completed with landowners / groups who already have a plan in place.	**80**	**158**	We expect fewer new Plans over time, and more projects by landowners and groups with a Plan already in place.
	Area covered by Plans	**16,250 ha**	**23,275 ha**	
Freshwater restoration	Native planting near waterways, wetlands and the coast	**600,000 plants**	**840,552 plants**	The **840,552 native plants** included 509,487 which were signed off as planted, and 331,065 which were contracted to plant in winter 2025.
	Area of native planting near waterways, wetlands and the coast	**120 ha**	**168 ha**	The **168 hectares** include both the area planted and the area contracted for winter planting.
Protection of vulnerable areas	Length of fencing	**250 km**	**551 km**	The **551 km** of fencing includes both fencing signed off as constructed and fencing contracted for construction. In 3.5 years of operations, KMR has supported more than 1,000 km of fencing.
Other soil conservation measures	Area protected through planting, afforestation or native regeneration on erodible hill country	**200 ha**	**899 ha**	The **899 hectares** include 398.4 hectares signed off as completed and 500.7 hectares contracted for planting or native regeneration.
	Planting on erodible hill country	**n/a**	**878,235 plants / trees**	
Jobs and skills	Work created through KMR projects	**60,000 hours (39 FTE)**	**104,720 hours (67 FTE)**	In 3.5 years of operations, KMR has created over **398,000 hours** of new work – a year's work for over **256 people**. A further **79,000 hours** of new work have been committed in contracts.
	People undertaking training	**40**	**47**	Training included Field Advisor Training, NZARM-hosted training, and external training provided by various delivery partners.

Rāpotopoto Ahupūtea

Financial Summary 2024-2025

	Cash contributions					In-kind contributions			
	MfE	**MfE Other**	**Councils**	**Landowners / Other**	**Total cash contributions**	**Council**	**Landowners / Other**	**Total in kind expenditure**	**Total expenditure**
Funding[1]	**$12,309,495.86**	**$1,300.00[2]**	**$1,235,315.27**	**$606,177.83**	**$14,152,288.96**				
Workstream expenditure									
Programme Delivery - Remediation Grants and Partnerships	$5,078,286.52		$680,393.99	$32,762.40	$5,791,442.91	$4,800.00	$3,339,112.00	$3,343,912.00	$9,135,354.91
Engagement and Partnership	$71,816.63		$104,587.12		$176,403.75				$176,403.75
Kaipara Maurikura	$440,316.84		$190,601.31		$630,918.15	$1,209,398.69		$1,209,398.69	$1,840,316.84
Governance, Planning and Reporting	$35,119.14				35,119.14	$10,060.96		$10,060.96	$45,180.10
Digital Tools System Development & Maintenance	$94,684.73		$131,148.35		$225,833.08	$22,030.00		$22,030.00	$247,863.08
Strategy and Opportunities	$133,255.45		$128,584.50		$261,839.95				$261,839.95
Total expenditure	**$5,853,479.31**	**-**	**$1,235,315.27**	**$32,762.40**	**$7,121,556.98**	**$1,246,289.65**	**$3,339,112.00**	**$4,585,401.65**	**$11,706,958.63**
Funding carried over to 2025/26	**$6,456,016.55**	**$1,300.00**	**-**	**$573,415.43**	**$7,030,731.98**				

NOTES:
[1] Funding includes cash contributions from the Crown via MfE, Councils and third parties as well as interest on cash held in the bank
[2] Funding for KMR to support the launch of Tūhono Taiao, a national website to share catchment-related information. This MfE revenue does not have to be matched.

Tātari Agreed Procedures Report

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

Partnerships

Memorandum of Understanding 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 specially 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 Field Advisors, Kaitiaki and Sustainable Dairy Advisors working out in the community, on farm and on the whenua.

The KMR team would also like to acknowledge the ongoing support and wise guidance from our governors. Our thanks to Chair Tame Te Rangi, Deputy Chair Amy Macdonald, Debra Brewer, Georgina Curtis-Connelly, Greg Sayers, Jack Craw, John Blackwell, Kerrin Leoni, Michelle Carmichael, Mike Tana, Taiāwhio Wati and Tracy Davis.

Our thanks and gratitude also go out to Virginia Warriner, Cherie Povey and Jane Sherard, who retired from the Joint Committee during the year and whose work was integral to the foundations of KMR.

During the reporting period, KMR farewelled foundation staff Steph Versteeg and Karina Marsom, who were instrumental in developing the soil conservation strategy and policy settings for KMR's digital tools, and Sue-Anne Moo, who helped establish KMR's contracting processes. They leave a deep strategic and operational legacy, and we wish them the very best in the future.

We also farewelled Ilka Pelzer and Celia Solomon-Te Kani, our key contacts within the Ministry for the Environment. We thank them both for their generosity, good humour and the long hours they put in to support KMR, particularly in the establishment period. We wish them both every success in their new roles.

As always, 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 significant co-funding contributions.

Lastly, we acknowledge the ongoing encouragement and support from a wide range of local Elected Members and Members of Parliament, portfolio Ministers and Associate Ministers of the Crown.

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TITLE:	**Annual Work Plan (2025-2026)**
Kaituhi Pūrongo | Report Writer	Emma Doré, Amo-Pākihi | Business Manager

Te Kaupapa | Purpose

This report tables for information the final Kaipara Moana Remediation (KMR) Annual Work Plan for 2025-2026, subject to audit.

Rāpopototanga Matua | Executive summary

This paper:

- Tables for information KMR's Final Annual Work Plan (2025-2026) which will be submitted following audit to the Ministry for the Environment (MfE) for review and approval, as per the requirements of the KMR Deed of Funding.
- Summarises changes to KMR's Draft Annual Work Plan (2025-2026) submitted to the Joint Committee in May 2025 and approved at that time for submission to the Crown.
- Seeks approval for delegation to the Joint Committee Chair to approve the Final Annual Work Plan if needed, following audit and MfE review.

Whakataunga |Recommendations

That the Joint Committee:

1. *Receive* the report 'Final Annual Work Plan (2025-2026)', by Emma Doré dated 20 October 2025.
2. *Note* the unaudited Final Annual Work Plan budget for the 2025-2026 financial year which totals $19.288 million (total programme value excluding GST).
3. *Delegate* to the Joint Committee Chair power to approve the Final Annual Work Plan, following any changes due to audit or MfE feedback.

Horopaki | Background

The Kaipara Moana Remediation (KMR) Deed of Funding with the Ministry for the Environment (MfE) requires the KMR Joint Committee (Joint Committee) to prepare an Annual Work Plan for each Financial Year of the programme and submit this draft to MfE for review and approval.

Note that the MfE can request any reasonable modifications to the Annual Work Plan within 20 working days from submission.

This report summarises key elements of the Final Annual Work Plan for the 2025-2026 financial year (Attachment 1). The final KMR budget for financial year is $19.288 million in total programme budget value (i.e. including cash and in-kind contribution value), an increase of $2.078 million from the Draft Annual Work Plan.

The key changes from the Draft Annual Work Plan submitted in May can be summarised as follows:

	Draft Annual Work Plan			Final Annual Work Plan			Change
	Crown	Council/ Other	Total	Crown	Council/ Other	Total	
Remediation Grants and Partnerships	6.951	6.129	**13.080**	7.888	7.071	**14.959**	Due to increased contracted remediation and partnership contracts.
Capability & Workforce Development	0.272	0.272	**0.544**	0.270	0.270	**0.540**	Roll over was less than estimated in the draft
Communications and Engagement	0.149	0.036	**0.185**	0.149	0.036	**0.185**	No change
Programme Marketing	0.010	0.015	**0.025**	0.010	0.015	**0.025**	No change
Kaipara Maurikura	0.583	1.688	**2.271**	0.583	1.583	**2.166**	Due to a decrease in the Maurikura costs
Governance	0.050	0.010	**0.060**	0.050	0.010	**0.060**	No change
Digital tools	0.188	0.172	**0.360**	0.194	0.178	**0.372**	Due to an increased roll over
Kōrero Tuku Iho	0.300	0.250	**0.550**	0.398	0.448	**0.846**	Higher roll over of KTI from previous year
New Partnerships and Opportunities	0.025	0.025	**0.050**	0.025	0.025	**0.050**	No change
Programme Monitoring & Evaluation	0.077	0.008	**0.085**	0.077	0.008	**0.085**	No change
Grand Total	**8.605**	**8.605**	**17.210**	**9.644**	**9.644**	**19.288**	Increase of 2.078m in Final AWP

Tātari me ngā tūtohu | Analysis and Advice

Funding sources for the budget

As a reminder, the Annual Work Plan costs will be met through a combination of Crown grant funding, cash and in-kind contributions by councils, and landowner/group and third-party contributions.

A key requirement in the Deed of Funding is for Crown contributions over the life of the programme to be matched (i.e. at least one-to-one) by 'other' contributions, which include council, landowner, and other third-party contributions (e.g. from industry, philanthropic interests and community). Supported by MfE, KMR has taken the approach of achieving this matching requirement in each financial year to provide a consistency of approach and ensure the Crown retains confidence that funding obligations are being met across the life of the programme. In line with current practice, the Final Annual Work Plan sets out a proposed apportionment of funding sources for each project area.

The estimated split in the Final Annual Work Plan budget is shown in Table 1 below:

Table 1: Estimated funding split by sources FY2025-2026

Source	$ million	%
Auckland Council and Northland Regional Council	$3.432	17.79
Industry/NGO/Other	$0.065	0.34
Landowners/Groups	$6.147	31.87
Maximum Crown contribution	$9.644	50.00
Total	$19.288	100

As per the KMR Memorandum of Understanding, Auckland Council and Northland Regional Council are committed to deliver financial contributions (through cash and/or in-kind contributions e.g. staff time and expertise, or use of council facilities) to KMR. Northland Regional Council contributes steadily throughout the year through payment of KMR staff salaries and charges under a Service Level Agreement for corporate service support. KMR invoices councils for any additional contribution needed to achieve the programme's 'matching requirement'.

Once MfE has been provided with the KMR audited Annual Report 2024-2025 (by 31 October) and approves the Final Annual Work Plan, we will invoice in November for the remaining Crown contribution for this financial year.

Considerations

1. Aromātai whāinga haumi mō te oranga | Wellbeing Investment objectives and assessment
Provision of an Annual Work Plan to the Ministry for the Environment is a requirement under the KMR Deed of Funding. Each year, KMR's Work Plan sets out the projects, deliverables and Key Performance Indicators to be achieved, and the associated budget and funding sources for these.

2. Ngā ritenga take pūtea | Financial implications
There are negligible financial implications from the Final Annual Work Plan as it effectively serves to draw down on previously agreed Crown funding allocations. KMR's annual budget was set using the Draft Work Plan, and changes to the Final Work Plan have already been communicated to the Ministry for the Environment to feed into the annual October baseline update process.

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

4. Ngā tūraru me ngā mauru | Risks and mitigation
The Annual Work Plan provides transparency and accountability to KMR's work, and assurance to programme partners, funders and co-funders on expected delivery and cost structures. The Annual Work Plan also identifies programme risks and mitigations. These are carefully monitored and managed across the year, in line with usual KMR project management approaches and leadership team review and assurance processes.

5. Ngā urutau huringa-ā-rangi | Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation
A greater degree of sediment reduction is anticipated during the year than originally forecast, including the establishment and regeneration of forest cover and restoration of wetlands, all of which deliver climate sequestration benefits.

Ngā Tāpiri | Attachments

Attachment 1 – Final Annual Work Plan (2025-2026)

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

Kaipara Moana Remediation

Annual Work Plan

2025-2026

Undertaken by

the Kaipara Moana Remediation Joint Committee

1 Contact details

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2 Programme overview

Kaipara Moana Remediation Programme

Kaipara Moana Remediation (KMR) seeks to protect and restore the mauri of the Kaipara Moana, with an aim to halve sediment losses into the harbour over the long term.

As of 30 June 2025, KMR has completed three and a half years of full operational activity. This Plan and its associated Key Performance Indicators therefore draw on operational and financial data over this period. Activity during the first 18 months of operations was focussed on waterway-focused activities (viz. fencing off and planting land near waterways (rivers, streams, wetlands, and the coast itself)). From December 2022, KMR began to support some native planting in erodible hill country and from September 2023, part way through Year 4, KMR began to promote a wider set of project investments to reduce sediment across the landscape through implementation of a Soil Conservation Strategy, one of KMR's two Foundational Strategies.

KMR has modelled uptake by landowners in 2025-26 (Year 6), but we have limited operational data for new activities and therefore the modelled uptake – and associated KPIs (Key Performance Indicators) and budget - are uncertain. Likewise, as KMR's second Foundational Strategy (Kōrero Tuku Iho, the project which enables the cultural dimension of KMR to be implemented) is in development, the figures in this Work Plan reflect estimates rather than well-tested numbers.

The Work Programme set out in this Plan is moderately aspirational, reflecting both KMR's intent to deliver ongoing scale-up of the programme, while recognising that there is now higher uncertainty in the programme about landowner uptake due to extended policy uncertainty facing landowners in the operating environment, drought settings, and ongoing cost of living pressures.

As with the previous financial year, we have included the provision of indicative ranges for delivery in 2025-2026, reflective of the continued uncertainty in the operating environment (due to weather, uncertain policy directions, economic headwinds and constraints on landowner capacity) as well as the relative newness of hill-country sediment remediation activities, for which it is more difficult to set delivery targets. The upper bound of each

range reflects KMR's aspirations for delivery, with the lower bound reflecting more realistic (moderate) key performance indicators that KMR is expected to meet under the *Jobs for Nature* reporting system. As KMR remains a voluntary programme - and given limited regulatory drivers - the proposed Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) remain an estimate of what the programme *could* achieve during Year 6 given best estimates and data available to date in the programme. Ranges have been set taking into account: • Programme delivery to date and what we expected to achieve by 30 June 2025 (mid-way through our second planting season with extended investment settings in the hill country). • Differing levels of certainty about uptake of different remediation activities. For example, larger-scale hill country activities have only been offered for two planting seasons, and there is continued uncertainty about the degree to which landowners will adopt hill country activities and/or substitute riparian activities with hill country activities). • The Grant Thornton model that informed the programme rephasing and sets out estimated annual deliverables across each year of a 10-year programme. • Landowner/group feedback and programme experience that ongoing inflationary pressures, poor returns in the drystock sector, drought conditions, as well as ongoing uncertainty around freshwater and NZETS policy settings are influencing (reducing) programme uptake and the size of KMR projects.	
Programme duration	10 years (2020/21 – 2030/31)
Total cost	$200,000,000
Total Crown contribution	$100,000,000 (subject to conditions)

3 Environmental compliance

Please complete this section for any statutory permissions or consents that you require in this financial year.

Do you require any statutory or non-statutory permissions to complete activities set out in this Annual Work Plan? *For example, resource consents, planning consents, or landowner permissions?*	☐ Yes ☒ No *If yes, which permission(s) are required? Have you applied for these? If so, when is a decision expected? (If date of decision is unknown, please provide a comment.)*

4 Project key tasks/activities for 2025/26

Work programme	YEAR 6 Projects	Key outputs	YEAR 6 Estimated budget ($ million) Crown contribution	Other (Council, Landowner, Partner) Contribution	TOTAL Budget
Programme delivery - sediment reduction			***8.158***	***7.341***	***15.499***
Programme delivery – sediment reduction	**Remediation grants and partnerships** Grants funding to landowners and groups across the Kaipara Moana catchment. Funding is delivered direct to landowners through KMR's Landowner Grants Scheme and to groups (for example, community groups, catchment groups, marae) through the Whenua Whānui Fund (WWF). This funding provides for: • Preparation of Sediment Reduction Plans and KMR projects. These identify priority works to reduce sediment and act as funding agreements to undertake these. • A KMR 'contribution' to the cost of works, at 50% of estimated project value for Landowner Grants and up to 70% of estimated project value for Whenua Whānui Fund projects, with the landowner or group covering the balance through cash or in-kind contributions, or via other third-party contributions. • A contribution to engagement, education, project management and administration	Uptake of Sediment Reduction Plans/projects and the quantum of individual landowner/group spend per property depend directly on several external factors (such as economics, weather and central and regional government policy settings), as well as the success of KMR's engagement strategy, landowner/group willingness and capacity to engage, and the rate at which Plans/projects are completed by KMR and our delivery partners in the 2025-26 financial year. Outputs identified below are modelled estimates and will be subject to change: • Between 100-140 new Sediment Reduction Plans or Tiaki FEP/grant agreements. • Further projects contracted with 100-300 landowners/groups who are already working with KMR.	7.888	7.071	14.959

	costs, if relevant under Whenua Whānui Fund projects. • Support for ‘Navigator projects’ led by landowners/groups who are sharing their projects and experience in leading sediment remediation projects. It also supports delivery through sediment remediation partnerships with: • Kaipara Uri, a key delivery partner, supporting engagement to drive uptake and projects among harder-to-reach mana whenua groups. • Fonterra, who develops Tiaki Farm Environment Plans (FEPs) and associated projects on KMR’s behalf • Other delivery partners including The Forest Bridge Trust, supporting engagement and delivery of SRPs/projects. • Three Catchment Reference Groups in the Mangakāhia, the Wairua and the Hōteo river systems, which are intended to enable mana whenua not represented by Kaipara Uri entities to assess and fund remediation projects ($0.100m).[1] The budget also includes the value of contracted sediment remediation grants and the matching landowner/group contributions carried over from Year 5 ($5.350m).	• Between 13,500-30,000 hectares of new land area covered by new Sediment Reduction Plans or Tiaki FEP/grant agreements. • Between 300-550 km of new fencing built or under contract to be built. • Between 120-160 ha of planting in riparian, coastal, wetland or lake margins completed or under contract to be completed • Between 370-1360 ha of afforestation or space planting outside of riparian and wetland areas completed or under contract. • Between 350,000-1,700,000 plants planted in highly erodible hill country outside of riparian and wetland areas completed or under contract. Remediation works outputs (i.e. kms of fencing) are tracked from when a Sediment Reduction Plan is agreed with a landowner, until projects included in the plan are signed off as completed. Remediation projects often span financial years. Final payment and landowner			

[1] KMR continues to commit to an investment of $1.16m p.a. for three Catchment Reference Groups. Should additional funding be required, we will seek a formal change to the Annual Work Plan and associated budget.

	Some of this budget will roll over into Year 7, reflecting newly contracted remediation grants and matching landowner contributions that are not completed until the following financial year.	contribution will occur when remediation works are signed off as completed. Workforce development and FTE outputs are modelled based on assumptions about remediation works outputs.			
Programme delivery – sediment reduction	**Capability and Workforce Development** A range of activity to support KMR to build technical advisory capability, and implement the Kaipara Moana Nursery Strategy, the Employment Strategy and the Soil Conservation Action Plan. This includes: • Providing strategic and technical advice on tree species for unique challenges on land or to support sediment reduction activities. • Continuation of a strategic partnership with Te Ārai Native Nursery, professional development, training and mentoring support via a community of practice for KMR Field Advisors, including in partnership with the New Zealand Association of Resource Management (NZARM). • Other initiatives as required to support workforce development, training and mentoring as required to develop Freshwater Farm Planners into the future.	Continuation of the programme of work with accredited nurseries in the catchment and ongoing partnership with Te Ārai Native Nursery. Continuation and expansion of a programme of professional development and a community of practice for KMR Field Advisors. Workforce initiatives with a focus on developing workforce capability and capacity to implement sediment remediation projects and future Freshwater Farm Plans.	0.270	0.270	0.540

Engagement and Partnership			***0.159***	***0.051***	***0.210***
Engagement and Partnership	**Communications and Engagement** KMR's communications and engagement is directed at reaching landowners and groups across the catchment to drive uptake of KMR grants, in line with programme KPIs and expectations of wide participation, as well as a targeted number of activities to keep founding partners, delivery partners and stakeholders informed. Activity will include: • Forums with senior industry, NGOs, community, iwi/hapū and practitioners across the Kaipara Moana Catchment to share information on remediation opportunities, funding, resources and relevant insights from KMR delivery. • Engagement in the community, including on marae, at events, field days and open days, as well at sector and community forums. • Publicising the work the KMR is doing to landowners and groups not yet working with KMR, and potential commercial/philanthropic partners, including through regular media outreach, video content and campaigns.	An annual forum for landowners, groups and KMR partners to share information and best practice and provide updates about KMR. Regular on-farm, community-based and on-marae engagement, either in person or held through online mediums. Regular e-newsletters, website/news updates, social media posts, and print/media coverage. Publication of updated information materials and brochures, either in print format or via digital channels.	0.149	0.036	0.185

Marketing	**Programme marketing** This workstream will promote and publicise the work the KMR is doing, with a focus on informing landowners, groups and potential partners of the opportunities available through KMR, and profiling people taking action with KMR support, in order to better reach target groups.	Advertising and paid promotional content. Creation of marketing collateral (e.g. signage, event banners, branded plant guards) to promote the programme.	0.010	0.015	0.025
Thriving Maurikura			***0.583***	***1.583***	***2.166***
Thriving Maurikura	**Kaipara Maurikura** The Kaipara Maurikura is the operational vehicle for KMR. It is established as a business unit within the Northland Regional Council, until such time as the Kaipara Moana Body is established under statute. The Kaipara Maurikura currently employs 10.8 full-time equivalent (FTE) staff who fulfil the leadership, engagement, communications, project management, technical leadership, strategic, governance and administrative roles required to deliver KMR's work programme. This budget area includes all costs for office space, IT and telecommunications, vehicles, health and safety, human resources, professional development, and financial, audit and other administrative support costs, delivered via a Service Level Agreement with Northland Regional Council. This budget area also includes a contingency budget (only if needed) for the Pou Tātaki for consultants, legal advice and sundries of $140,000.	Delivery of programme-level KPIs. Timely delivery of required reporting outputs to the Ministry for the Environment: • Quarterly reporting on Jobs for Nature indicators • Six monthly report • Annual report • Annual independent financial audit	0.583	1.583	2.166

Governance, Planning and Reporting			***0.050***	***0.010***	***0.060***
Governance, Planning and Reporting	**Governance** The Kaipara Moana Remediation Joint Committee costs including Kaipara Uri member fees, venue hire, catering, koha, travel and other associated costs. Note – Kaipara Maurikura staff provide administrative support for the Joint Committee (budgeted for separately under Thriving Maurikura above).	Effective KMR governance through the Kaipara Moana Remediation Joint Committee. This centres on 4 formal meetings each year (some online) but may support additional meetings as required to meet quorum (given the timing and impact of the Local Government Act elections in 2025).	0.050	0.010	0.060
Digital Tools			***0.194***	***0.178***	***0.372***
Digital Tools	**System development and maintenance** Continued maintenance and a small budget for minor improvements of KMR's digital farm planning platform Mātai Onekura. Carry-over of remaining budget for Tātaki Wai, KMR's water quality accounting framework.	Delivery of maintenance and minor improvements to KMRs digital tools.	0.194	0.178	0.372
Strategy and Opportunities			***0.500***	***0.481***	***0.981***
Strategy and Opportunities	**Kōrero Tuku Iho project** Kōrero Tuku Iho is the cultural dimension of KMR and one of its two foundations. The project will provide an avenue for Kaipara Uri and mana whenua not represented by Kaipara Uri entities to express priorities for sediment reduction. Kōrero Tuku Iho will use place-based case studies to capture articulation of te ao Māori values and aspirations of relevance to KMR,	Ongoing oversight of the project, including development of a blueprint for how KMR can integrate considerations of cultural priorities (e.g. culturally important areas, culturally significant native species, traditional methods for reducing sediment) across the Kaipara Moana catchment (i.e. beyond the areas covered by the case studies – see below).	0.398	0.448	0.846

	develop a cultural framework for wider use across the catchment, and use kaitiakitanga in action to work towards restoring the health, wellbeing, and mauri at specific, culturally important locations.	Development of three case studies in total, with the first case study continuing in 2024-2025, and the second established in 2025-2026.			
Strategy and Opportunities	**New Partnerships and Opportunities** Ongoing development of opportunities with third parties that will deliver near-term benefit to KMR landowners. These opportunities will focus on reducing the cost to the landowner of KMR remediation activity, thereby increasing fund accessibility. Opportunities will also reduce the pressure on the KMR budget, allowing KMR to reach more landowners/groups, and supporting progress towards KMR's investment objectives.	Establishment of one new partnership to bring in third party funding to reduce sediment reduction costs for landowners/groups and KMR.	0.025	0.025	0.050
Strategy and Opportunities	**Investment strategy, monitoring and evaluation** Refresh of KMR's investment strategy to reflect programme experience, any insights from scientific outputs and/or models, and the Kōrero Tuku Iho framework, and set the foundations for developing a targeted investment approach to deliver on KMR's four investment objectives. Continue and expand programme monitoring and evaluation, including improvements in tracking the impact towards KMR investment objectives.	Continue scoping a multi-year investment strategy. Scope the development of further monitoring against investment outcomes.	0.077	0.008	0.085

5 5 Funding Overview

Please provide details of all organisations that are contributing cash to the project (this excludes in-kind costs such as donations of time, equipment etc for this financial year). Please identify whether these contributions are confirmed or pending. If pending please provide an estimation on when you expect these funds to be confirmed.

Funding parties	Contribution ($ million)	Funding confirmed or pending
Auckland Council/ Northland Regional Council	$3.432	Confirmed.
Industry/NGO/Other	$0.065	Additional contributions could be developed under new partnerships.
Landowners/Groups	$6.147	Pending as outcome of remediation work completed through Sediment Reduction Plans and related grants funding.
Crown contribution for the year (maximum)	$9.644	This includes funding carried over from the 2024-25 financial year.
Total value (cost) of KMR activity for the year	$19.288	This includes funding carried over from the 2024-25 financial year

Note: Landowner/group contributions will only be recorded once works are confirmed as completed. As there is lag between contracting and completion of remediation activity, and planting occurs through the winter months which span financial years, works will often be completed (and a landowner's/group's contribution recorded) in the following financial year.

6 Contribution to Indicators (KPIs)

The Kaipara Moana Remediation funding is part of the Government Jobs for Nature Programme. This programme has specific targets and indicators for that will be used to track the impact of the programme. You will report on progress towards your targets over the life of your project. Delete the Metrics and/or Focus Areas that are not relevant to your project

Note – These indicators will be refined as FY2025-26 progresses and as KMR grants funding is taken up by landowners and groups. There is significant uncertainty on the speed and level to which grants funding will be taken up. Assumptions will be reviewed as better data based on direct engagement with landowners is available.

Focus Area	Metric (Delivered in reporting period)	Six-month target range	Total (12 month) Year 6 target range	J4N KPI
Engagement and Participation	Number of new Project plans or new Farm Environment Plans completed (total): • *Number of new Plans* • *Number of new Projects by returning Landowners and Groups*	100-220 • *50-70* • *50-150*	200-440 • *100-140* • *100-300*	**100**
	Area covered by new Farm Environment Plans (ha)	8,125-15,000	16,250-30,000	**16,250**
Nature and Resilience	Length of new fencing constructed (km)	150-275	300-550	**300**
	Total trees/plants planted • *Number of trees/plants planted in riparian, lake, or wetlands areas* • *Number of trees/plants planted in highly erodible hill country*	475,000-1,250,000 • *300,000-400,000* • *175,000-850,000*	950,000-2,500,000 • *600,000-800,000* • *350,000-1,700,000*	**600,000**
	Area protected through planting or native regeneration (ha) • *Area protected by riparian, lake, or wetlands planting (ha)* • *Area protected by afforestation, space planting or biodiversity planting in highly erodible hill country (ha)*	185-680 • *60-80* • *125-600*	370-1360 • *120-160* • *250-1200*	**120** **250**
Skills and Jobs	Number of people-hours worked	30,000-40,000 (19-26 FTE)	60,000-80,000 (39-51 FTE)	**60,000 (39 FTE)**
	Number of people undertaking training	20	40	**40**

*Bold values indicate required J4N indicators

7 Risk management

Provide a brief description of the major risks to the project achieving the tasks and activities in this financial year. Include consideration of potential barriers that may pose a risk to the success of the project. Where possible give an indication of the likelihood and significance of the risk and any mitigation strategies to be included in the project.

Potential risk *Identify the potential risk to your project (for example, project not completed on time, unpredictable events such as weather, lack of resource commitment, time and cost estimates too optimistic, unexpected budget cuts, stakeholders changing requirements after the project has started, risks to the industry or sector to which the organisation belongs).*	**Level of risk** *Low, medium or high.*	**Impact on project** *Describe the impact the risk would have on the project (for example, misunderstandings, duplication of work, incomplete work).*	**Consequence on project** *Minor, moderate or severe.*	**Strategy to mitigate** *Describe the process you will use to minimise and manage the risk (for example, project manager monitors functional roles to ensure enough time is allocated to complete each task/activity and the project as a whole).*
Strategic risks - Changing operating environment				
1. Political or investor support for KMR wanes	Low	KMR is a long-term programme and waning support may reduce landowner certainty about support for activity and compromise ability to achieve programme goals.	Severe	• Ongoing senior-level engagement, including Ministerial engagement and with government officials • Induction for new JC members planned • Attendance at the Blue-Greens Forum • Possible Ministerial field trip to KMR project site • Ongoing regular engagement with MfE, as primary funder and Councils as co-funders • Ongoing senior-level participation and presentation at relevant external events • Communications refresh and external engagements showcasing KMR progress and achievements • Ongoing programme reporting, validation and assurance activity to maintain confidence • Marketing of recent successes (e.g. EarthShot Awards)

2. Policy changes and/or uncertainty reduce uptake of KMR services	High	Reduced uptake would compromise programme objectives. As KMR can support landowners to meet coming regulatory requirements, this would also slow achievement of regulatory objectives.	Moderate	• Engagement with policy and planning processes • Ongoing KMR Landowner Grants and Whenua Whānui Fund engagement and delivery • Ongoing development and delivery of programme partnerships / third party contribution to incentivise uptake • Ongoing delivery of Sediment Reduction Plans until Freshwater Farm plans roll out • Watching brief on KMRs role in a Freshwater Farm Plan operating context
3. Economic downturn and/or adverse events (e.g. weather events, labour force constraints) reduces uptake of KMR grants and slows works	Medium (↓)	Reduced landowner uptake would compromise delivery of programme objectives.	Moderate	• Deepening of programme partnerships / third party contribution to incentivise uptake • Tailored marketing with third party networks to promote opportunities • Regular pricing reviews to ensure appropriate market rates • Mātai Onekura planning tool allows more proactive monitoring and support for Field Advisors • Ongoing project management approaches to both reduce project delays and allow flexibility for changing landowner circumstances
Reputational risks - KMR delivery does not meet expectations				
4. KMR is slow to make available investments, and/or the quality of delivery of services is poor	Low (↓)	Programme reputation and stakeholder confidence in KMR's ability to deliver is undermined, which further limits KMR's influence and effectiveness. Low quality of services impacts on longer-term objectives.	Moderate	• Demonstrated delivery by KMR • Ongoing marketing and communications of our achievements to date • Strengthened Field Advisor training, development and mentoring • Ongoing KMR work programme development and prioritisation • Proactive, regular oversight of project and plan development and delivery, using digital tool functionality • Ongoing quality assurance, review and audit processes • Programme planning based on updated modelling and actual uptake for improved forecasting and programme assurance

				• Watching brief on changing best practice and actual costs of interventions
Reputational risks - KMR brought into disrepute				
5. KMR staff or contractors improperly use KMR funding or other resources	Low	KMR integrity and brand are compromised.	Moderate	• Deepening KMR induction and onboarding of contractors • Digital processes and internal review provide greater transparency and assurance of project and grant activity • Privacy and security settings enabled through digital tools • NRC financial controls/audits including fraud controls • Proactive monitoring of OAG-defined and other potential conflicts of interest, both direct and indirect • Programme reporting and review by MfE to maintain confidence • KMR accreditation and ongoing quality assurance and review processes • KMR contract management and grant auditing processes
Relational risks – KMR partnerships are not honoured				
6. KMR fails to demonstrate the intent of the founding MOU	Low	Misalignment with intent erodes trust, confidence and relationship amongst KMR, partners and communities.	Moderate	• Joint Committee papers provide comment on alignment to MOU investment objectives • 'No surprises' communications of key matters to Joint Committee members via the Chair • Regular engagement with senior partner representatives • Partnership Forums and in-community hui and meetings • Engagement with environmental arms of Kaipara Uri and other iwi/hapū groups in the catchment • Regular engagement with MfE / Ministers and local government as investors and key stakeholders • Progress on Kōrero Tuku Iho Project • Pilot Catchment reference group process beginning
7. KMR fails to engage with groups in the catchment who are not represented by Kaipara Uri.	Low (↓)	Perception that KMR is taking a narrow tribal view rather than a catchment perspective. This could impact negatively on	Moderate	• Mana Whenua Relations Advisor continues to engage • Ongoing engagement with non-Kaipara Uri iwi/hapū groups in the catchment • Joint Committee Haukāinga sessions

		relationships and settlement processes.		• Whenua Whānui Fund available to marae, Māori trusts, ahuwhenua landholders and iwi/hapū within the Kaipara Moana Catchment • Kōrero Tuku Iho project progressing • Other groups represented on Kōrero Tuku Iho reference group • Navigator projects include Mana Whenua groups • Field Advisor training and accreditation available to all • Partnership Forum and Community Hui open to all • Support for establishment of Catchment Reference Groups or equivalent to coordinate local remediation projects
Wellbeing, safety and health risks				
8. H&S risks to staff, partners, contractors, sub-contractors and communities are not adequately managed	Low	Potential impact on the health and safety of staff, partners, contractors, sub-contractors and communities if risks are not appropriately identified and managed.	Moderate	• Office shift completed • Ongoing KMR Health and Safety assurance, vetting and support for Field Advisors and contractors • Maurikura Health and Safety buddy system • NRC Health & Safety Policies and Processes, including for contractors and sub-contractors • NRC new system roll out • KMR preferred supplier and nursery accreditation processes • Progressing SiteWise accreditation and audit programme • Ongoing Field Advisor mentoring and training

8 Conflicts of interest

Describe any known conflicts of interest (actual or potential) that may arise during this financial year and steps you will take to manage them.

Perceived or actual conflicts of interest are managed through adherence to NRC's Management of Interests Policy and by a clear separation of governance and operational decision-making. KMR Maurikura ensures contractual arrangements are made on a commercially defensible basis, and in alignment to agreed KMR criteria.

KMR management manages any actual or perceived conflicts of interest through the use of transparent registers of interests and public records of governor and KMR staff grant interests, in alignment with OAG rulings relating to KMR. In addition, KMR uses independent evaluators/experts to inform all accreditation processes and peer review processes that lead to investment decisions (e.g. Sediment Reduction Plan approvals).

All financial decisions indicate how the expenditure aligns with the Investment Objectives of KMR, as set out in the KMR Memorandum of Understanding, including Manaaki Tangata (Human Capital) and Tātai Hononga (Social Capital) investment objectives.

Declaration

This declaration must be completed by the chair of the joint committee.

As a duly authorised representative of the organisation:

- I declare that to the best of my knowledge, the information contained in all sections of this Annual Work Plan, or supplied by us in support of our Annual Work Plan is complete, true and correct.
- I declare that I have the authority to sign this Annual Work Plan and to provide this information.
- I understand that information presented to the Minister for the Environment and Ministry for the Environment is subject to disclosure under the Official Information Act 1982.

Name	Tame Te Rangi	
Position	Chair, Kaipara Moana Remediation Joint Committee	
Signature *By typing your name in the space provided you are electronically signing this Annual Work Plan.*		Date

TITLE:	**Update on KMR operational settings**
Kaituhi Pūrongo | Report Writers	Lisette Rawson, Catchment Remediation Manager, and Darren van Beek, Kaiārahi Whakaora Whenua Kōawa

Te Kaupapa | Purpose

This report sets out some updates to KMR operational settings, in particular the KMR price schedule used to cost projects and determine grant value.

Rāpopototanga Matua | Executive summary

Following a successful year of investing in sediment remediation projects, KMR has undertaken our annual review of key operational settings and considers they are largely fit for purpose for the coming season. Only two operational policy changes are recommended:

- A relatively significant change to native plant pre-allocations (*see the accompanying paper on native plant allocations for 2026 which recommends no pre-allocations*)
- A minor change to plant species able to be supported through KMR planting projects (we are recommending no further KMR support for poplar poles or wands).

In line with annual practice, KMR has also reviewed the annual price schedule that is used to estimate the cost of KMR projects and determine the KMR grant value. Keeping prices fair and reflective of local market conditions is important for landowner and group participation. However, a recent report has highlighted a slightly negative on-farm inflation figure for the year ending June 2025, and an outlook of negligible cost pressures due to the economic cycle. We therefore recommend no change to pricing at this time, with a further review to be undertaken by 1 October 2026.

Whakataunga |Recommendations

That the Joint Committee:

1. Receive the report 'Update on KMR operational settings' by Lisette Rawson and Darren van Beek, dated 20 October 2025.
2. Note that KMR has undertaken a review of key operational policy settings and considers they are largely fit for purpose for the coming season, with only two operational improvements recommended (see also the accompanying paper Approach to native planting pre-allocations 2026).
3. Approve the removal of poplar species from the KMR species list due to low uptake, high transaction costs for this type of project, and practical difficulties in supplying to Auckland-based landowners and groups.
4. Note that the KMR price schedule has been reviewed and current prices will be retained, with a further review to be undertaken by 1 October 2026.
5. Note that engagement is already underway with programme partners, nurseries, suppliers, landowners and groups to facilitate early planning of KMR projects next year.

Horopaki | Background

2025 was KMR's fourth as a fully operational programme, and our second winter supporting the full range of mitigations endorsed by the Joint Committee in spring 2023.

Following a very successful winter 2025 planting season, during which KMR delivered the highest number of trees/plants to date, we have reviewed core operational settings for the coming year. This included seeking informal feedback from accredited nurseries, contractors, delivery partners, Field Advisors, landowners and groups, and undertaking an internal review of the 2025 planting season. This feedback and review activity informs this paper, as well as the companion paper on native plant pre-allocations for 2026.

KMR co-funds a range of activities that control erosion and reduce sediment. Summer is the primary time of year to fence to exclude stock from waterways and steep eroding country, and also to plan and prepare for the following winter planting. KMR therefore needs to make any improvements to operational policy settings ahead of summer, hence this report and its timing.

Tātari me ngā tūtohu | Analysis and Advice

Review of winter planting 2025

Overall performance

Winter 2025 was KMR's most successful planting season yet, with total plant numbers contracted sitting at 766,704 stems - a slight increase on 2024 figures (764,084 stems). This winter saw a more diverse suite of stems contracted, including a second year of poplar wands and poles, and a first year of non-wilding, non-pine exotics approved by the Joint Committee.

KMR contracted 705,304 native plants for planting in winter 2025 (note: the planting season falls over two financial years). This was a decrease of 58,780 plants/trees (stems) on the 2024 planting season, probably due to a combination of ongoing economic challenges and some landowners/groups electing to seek to diversify on-farm income through their projects with KMR. This winter, 172 native planting projects (up from 155 in 2024) were contracted with landowners and groups, ranging in size from 625 stems up to 59,000 stems over 20 hectares on a steep, highly erodible sheep and beef farm. Around 80% of native planting projects were under 5,000 stems. In total, winter 2025 projects will deliver an estimated 231ha of protection (80 ha of riparian, wetland and coastal margin protection, and 151ha of erodible hill country protection.

Observations and lessons learnt

The 2025 winter planting season built upon KMR's previous three winters' work, reflecting previous lessons relating to managing native plant orders and supporting planting project delivery. However, barriers to greater scale persist.

Even with a contribution from KMR, the time and cost of planting and managing the establishment of native forest is a barrier for many landowners and groups. This winter, 11 projects comprising 40,400 stems received additional support from third parties (such as Trees That Count and The Forest Bridge Trust's Bridge Builder scheme) which reduced costs for landowners and groups. We are continuing to explore other avenues to bring down costs in winter 2026.

Opportunities for further native regeneration projects

Supporting natural regeneration to native forest remains a lower cost option for areas with suitable conditions (viz. sufficient native seed source and a commitment to ongoing management of an area). At the time of writing, 695ha are being assisted to regenerate into native forest. This involves weed control and supplementary native planting if necessary to complement natural processes. This is a lower cost per hectare to landowners/groups and KMR than native planting, and we are working to build awareness, capability and good practice around this sediment mitigation option.

Low uptake of exotic species

It was KMR's second winter supporting space planting of poplars, with 170 poplar poles and 460 poplar wands contracted for planting in erodible hill country. These numbers were very low – even less than the first year of supply – and reflect a myriad of factors, including that landowners and groups working with KMR tend to aspire to larger projects; the large majority of those working with us prefer native species; poplars are highly cost-effective and landowners in

Northland can generally procure poplars more easily by working directly with NRC; and landowners in the Auckland region have not had a recent history of poplar supply and planting.

For KMR staff and Field Advisors, poplar projects are small, complex, time-consuming and costly compared to the degree of sediment reduction achieved. Given the ongoing low uptake, high transaction costs for this type of project, and the practical difficulties and costs in supplying poplars to Auckland-based landowners and groups (we must freight them from the NRC nursery), KMR staff recommend we remove poplars from the list of species that we support under grant.

We also saw very low rates of exotic afforestation projects. Only five exotic afforestation projects were contracted and four projects consisting of 56,000 stems were planted in winter 2025. KMR staff observation is that landowners and groups are committing to the work that they can afford, relative to other priorities, in what is still a tough economic environment – prices have risen significantly over the last few years and margins remain tight for many farms despite lifts in dairying returns and some sign of recovery in the drystock sector. These cost pressures and ongoing NZETS (carbon) policy uncertainty (see below) are the biggest constraints to greater uptake of exotic afforestation opportunities.

Future outlook

Large-scale native and exotic afforestation will continue to play a valuable (albeit likely niche) role in the landscape alongside other actions to reduce sediment. Some landowners and groups are already planning for exotic afforestation projects next winter, as a way to diversify on-farm revenue, and we expect demand for these projects to increase as awareness of KMR support for these projects grows.

However, late 2024 changes to NZETS settings, ongoing uncertainty in policy settings for fresh water and biodiversity, as well as confusion about stock exclusion rules and regulations in light of central government decisions to roll-back or pause policies and plans, has slowed uptake of large-scale projects. While many landowners will wait to understand what activities on farm will be required from a compliance or industry standard point of view before taking action, we expect that KMR's main grants – supporting projects to retire steep, eroding gullies, protect and plant up waterways, and protect and restore wetlands – will continue apace.

Price schedule review

In September, staff reviewed the KMR price schedule. This is an annual process, and is the fifth such review since 2022. The most recent review was a narrowly scoped review of spot (weed control) spray prices and the inclusion of 7 wire and batten fencing costs in April this year.

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

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

However, a recent Beef +Lamb NZ report has highlighted a slightly negative (0.6%) on-farm inflation figure for the year ending June 2025, and other commentators have provided an outlook of negligible cost pressures due to the economic cycle. We therefore recommend no change to KMR pricing at this time, with a further review to be undertaken by 1 October 2026.

Considerations

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

KMR's grant settings are designed to support the primary objective of sediment reduction, while supporting KMR's wider investment objectives. We assess that the recommended operational settings and pricing continue to support our wider investment objectives as intended.

2. Ngā ritenga take pūtea | Financial implications

This paper has no financial implications as updates to the price schedule are provided for in the KMR remediation budget. The recommendation not to increase KMR prices at this time also demonstrates appropriate fiscal management.

3. Ngā hiranga me ngā hononga | Significance and Engagement

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

4. Ngā tūraru me ngā mauru | Risks and mitigation

As set out in the accompanying Annual Work Plan, KMR has a variety of mitigations to minimise risk from the KMR operational settings. This includes a mitigation to ensure KMR grant pricing reflects real-world costs insofar as possible.

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

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

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

TITLE:	**Approach to native plant allocations (2026)**
Kaituhi Pūrongo | Report Writer	David McDermott, KMR Planting Specialist

Te Kaupapa | Purpose

This report seeks approval for how KMR will allocate native plant orders across nurseries for the winter 2026 planting season.

Rāpopototanga Matua | Executive summary

Winters 2023-2025 have confirmed the success of KMR's approach to managing native plant orders and planting project delivery. Winter 2025 was KMR's best planting season yet, and this confirms that accredited nurseries, contractors, delivery partners, landowners and groups are fully familiar and comfortable with our processes.

A recent review of operational policy settings (see accompanying paper) has informed the approach recommended in this paper. We recommend discontinuing native plant pre-allocations for the 2026 planting season. Under the revised approach, the KMR team is confident that we can continue to build on previous winters' planting efforts while supporting accredited nurseries.

Whakataunga | Recommendations

That the Joint Committee:

1. Receive the 'Approach to native plant allocations (2026)' report by David McDermott, KMR Planting Specialist, dated 20 October 2025.
2. Note that following a review of winter 2025 operational settings, we recommend a change to the native plant pre-allocations to reflect KMR's mature operational settings.
3. Approve the discontinuation of native plant pre-allocations to nurseries for the 2026 planting season.

Horopaki | Background

In KMR's inaugural planting season (2022), the combination of rapid mobilisation and the late confirmation of projects resulted in accredited nurseries experiencing shortages of certain native plant species. To mitigate this risk, the Joint Committee approved a pre-allocation of 400,000 native plants from accredited nurseries for the 2023planting season, and 500,000 for the 2024 planting season.

For the 2025 planting season, 467,500 plants/trees (stems) were pre-allocated across 16 nurseries:

- 12,500 stems from each of 8 small nurseries
- 25,000 stems from each of 4 medium nurseries
- 62,500 stems from each of 4 large nurseries.

Four accredited nurseries did not receive an a KMR allocation, due either to limited species availability or the lead-in time needed to recover from previous plant quality concerns.

In past winters, KMR's pre-allocation commitment has helped secure sufficient supply of standard native revegetation species for native planting projects. It reduced the risk of running out of plants during the planting season, helped accredited nurseries to plan and supported KMR delivery in a commercial market.

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

Through post-planting reviews in both winter 2024 and 2025, KMR staff identified there is a higher risk that a nursery's pre-allocated plants are not sold to a KMR project when the nursery is unable to:

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

At the end of the 2025 planting season, KMR had purchased 26,300 plants through the KMR pre-allocation that under-allocated nurseries were not able to sell on the open market. While this is a small amount by comparison to the overall total, we are looking to manage the costs of this to the programme in future. Notably, all the under-allocated plants were in the northern part of the catchment, due to lower numbers of KMR landowners and groups planting in that area, likely due to constrained sector returns and associated economic conditions. Typically, we have observed higher planting rates in the central and southern parts of the catchment.

By winter's end 2025, KMR had successfully allocated all 26,300 un-allocated plants to projects and, where possible, captured the landowner's in-kind contribution in planting them (meaning we still captured a 'matching contribution', which is important for KMR's funding model). However, the cost of unallocated plants in winter 2025, purchased by KMR, was $49,970. This adds to similar unmatched costs to KMR in 2023 and 2024, which – in the longer term to 2031 – is not sustainable given KMR's matched funding requirements.

Tātari me ngā tūtohu | Analysis and Advice

Approach to native plant pre-allocation for the 2026 planting season

Unlike in previous years, KMR is recommending that we do not pre-allocate native plants for the winter 2026 planting season. Pre-allocations from accredited nurseries were an important support during the programme's rapid scale-up, but the ongoing cost of purchasing unallocated plants is not sustainable within KMR's current funding model.

Looking ahead, the programme is well-positioned to avoid shortages. By maintaining a strong operational cadence —confirming the majority of planting projects, and therefore nursery orders, during summer and autumn—KMR can ensure supply well in advance of winter. This approach significantly reduces the risk of the plant shortages experienced in 2022.

KMR will also continue proactive engagement with accredited nurseries throughout the seasons. These ongoing connections will help landowners and groups link with KMR grant opportunities and access locally grown plants, supporting both community outcomes and nursery viability.

Note that this change to pre-allocations will not affect the provision of donated plants by programme partners such as Trees That Count (17,000 stems in 2026, TBC). As in previous years, this allocation is expected to be met through the KMR partnership with TANNL.

Next steps and risk mitigations

The KMR Planting Specialist expects to undertake a visit to each KMR-accredited nursery before Christmas in order to communicate winter 2026 settings to the nurseries and the KMR decision on allocations.

We appreciate that some of the KMR accredited nurseries may not be happy with the decision to change our operational settings. KMR has never committed to ongoing pre-allocations, and we have been open to our nurseries in previous years of the cost to KMR of unmatched plants/trees.

Considerations

1. Aromātai whāinga haumi mō te oranga | Wellbeing Investment objectives and assessment
KMR's grant settings are designed to support the primary objective of sediment reduction, while supporting KMR's wider investment objectives. KMR staff assessment is that the revised operational settings sustain intended programme objectives, as well as support landowner/group participation, the equitable participation of native plant nurseries, and responsible funds management.

2. Ngā ritenga take pūtea | Financial implications
This paper proposes a reduced cost exposure to KMR for winter planting 2026 (and likely beyond).

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

4. Ngā tūraru me ngā mauru | Risks and mitigation
The proposed policy setting will reduce overall risk and costs to KMR by ensuring that the programme can match Crown funding contributions as required under its Deed of Funding.

5. **Ngā urutau huringa-ā-rangi | Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation**
This report does not have wider climate change mitigation and adaptation implications although planting plants/trees through KMR investment supports climate change resilience, and increases carbon sequestration on the land.

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

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

Te Kaupapa | Purpose

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

Rāpopototanga Matua | Executive summary

This month, in accompanying papers, we table to the Joint Committee:

- The unaudited Annual Report 2024-2025 for approval to submit to the Crown.
- The revised 2025-2026 Annual Work Plan for approval to submit to the Crown.
- An overview of changes to operational policy settings, for approval.
- An overview of changes to nursery settings, for approval.

In this paper, we also provide a brief update to the Joint Committee on programme delivery during the last quarter, including:

- Work to advance KMR's articulation of impact beyond KPI reporting, including the results of a recent economic case study and a new project to develop local on-farm case studies to demonstrate water quality improvements due to KMR projects.
- Commencement of a pilot in Auckland to 'recloak' marginal strips administered by DOC near waterways.

Whakataunga |Recommendations

That the Joint Committee:

1. Receive the report 'Pou Tātaki Report', by Justine Daw dated 20 October 2025.

Tātari me ngā tūtohu | Analysis and Advice

<u>Winter Planting 2025</u>

KMR has essentially completed its winter planting activity for this year. While some smaller planting projects will continue well into spring, all of the larger planting projects which include professional planting and project management support have now been completed.

At the time of writing, this winter saw KMR's largest planting effort yet, with 766,704 stems plants and trees contracted, a slight increase on 2024 (764,084 stems). The large majority of these were natives. The two accompanying operational reports provide more information on winter planting 2025, and proposed policy settings for winter 2026, for which we are already planning.

In mid-September, KMR worked three of our smaller accredited nurseries (Te Toa Whenua, Ōtamatea Harbour Care and Waimarie) to promote community planting and raise awareness of KMR and what it offers. This also supported the nurseries by enhancing outreach in 'dry' areas in the catchment where planting activity has been significantly lighter than average.

<u>KMR Performance (Life to Date)</u>

As at 30 September 2025, 3¾ years into operational delivery, KMR has delivered the following results on the ground:

<u>Nature & Resilience</u>

- 2.78 million plants in the ground or contracted to plant this winter

- 1,544 hectares planted or contracted, or regenerating into native forest
- Over 1,065 km of fencing completed or contracted – the same distance as from Cape Rēinga to Island Bay!
- Over 149,000 hectares managed under KMR plans.

Jobs & Skills
- 424,000 hours of new work – a year's work for over 272 people
- >$28 million invested in restoration projects
- 51 local businesses and nurseries accredited to supply KMR
- 247 people trained and mentored, many from local iwi/hapū, to advise on project design and delivery.

Participation
- 1,358 landowners/groups have expressed interest in KMR
- 900 plans completed with landowners/groups
- 117 more plans in development
- 116 projects led by hapū, marae, community groups, catchment groups and other collectives.

Impact monitoring and reporting

The information shown above reflects the formal KMR Key Performance Indicators, as required under the Deed of Funding with the Crown. We will continue to report monthly on these indicators, and this information is then made available on the KMR website. However, as the indicators are largely activity and output metrics, a priority conversation with the Crown over the last few months has been how to better assess the benefits on the ground from KMR investment.

While the Crown continues to expect Auckland Council and Northland Regional Council to undertake and report on periodic (outcomes) monitoring of sediment levels both within the Kaipara harbour and the waterways flowing into it in line with current State of Environment reporting requirements, KMR has also taken steps to better articulate the benefits from the Crown (and other) investment:

1. We participated in the **independent Benefits Case Study** (published in March 2025 and previously summarised in this report) which evaluated the cost/benefits of KMR delivery using well-tested cost/benefit valuation methodology. Key findings of the report were that:
    - For every $1 invested through KMR, $3.94 is generated (primarily returned to the local economy and national economy) - a return on investment of almost 4 to 1.
    - The primary value generated from KMR is economic (i.e. via support for local jobs, local purchase of materials, and sustaining primary production).

2. In July 2025, KMR also received an independent economic analysis of a typical farm system taking action with KMR support, which highlighted the economic benefits and return on investment of retiring unproductive areas on farm:
    i. The West Partnership, a family-run 403 ha farm on medium hill country in Northland, undertook a transformative sediment reduction project in collaboration with KMR. The project targeted erosion-prone areas and native bush remnants, leading to significant improvements to water quality, farm infrastructure, and land management systems.
    ii. Scope of project:
        - Retirement of 9.45 hectares of ecologically sensitive land across two priority areas
        - Installation of 2.45 km of fencing, subdividing one large pasture paddock into five smaller paddocks and adding a laneway to better protect sensitive land
        - Fencing and protection of two wetlands, totalling 0.45 hectares
    iii. Results & Benefits
        - Economic: Improved grazing efficiency ($12,800/year in increased pasture income), and opening the way for future biodiversity credits

- Environmental: Reduced sediment loss, enhanced biodiversity, and stronger resilience to climate impacts
- Operational: Better stock flow, time savings (~24 hrs/year), improved animal welfare, and reduced stress for farmer, dogs and stock.

iv. Financial Overview

- Total investment: $62,925
- Revenue uplift: $14,000
- Benefit-to-cost ratio: 22%
- Estimated payback period: 4.5 years

3. KMR has also undertaken a sophisticated fine-scale impacts assessment drawing on its digital system, Mātai Onekura. At 30 June 2025, 3½ years into delivery, through retirement of erosion-prone land and regeneration of nature, KMR projects have protected:
   - A total area of 2,628 hectares
   - 1,533km of river- and stream-banks
   - 45km of coastline
   - 297 hectares of wetland
   - 325 hectares of remnant forest
   - 440 hectares of highly erodible land.

4. KMR has also begun work to develop a small number of environmental condition case studies across both Northland and Auckland portions of the Kaipara Moana catchment to demonstrate the benefits from taking action on farm with KMR support. The case studies will undertake freshwater monitoring on selected discrete farm systems that mirror micro-catchment boundaries. This monitoring will be able to demonstrate the localised benefits (impacts on freshwater quality) of taking action with KMR support much earlier than currently the case by spatially correlating stream health monitoring to whole-farm-system boundaries. This is because sediment is what is known as a long-term contaminant, given that it can take decades to demonstrate statistically meaningful improvements within the Kaipara harbour itself. The case studies and associated on-farm monitoring are expected to continue over some years, once appropriate locations had been identified through GIS analysis. A number of issues will need to be worked through relating to case study selection (land use type, soils, farm system, KMR project type, length of duration working with KMR, etc) and data collection (frequencies, reporting methods, data storage and data sharing) in what will be a voluntary and unpaid set of case studies.

KMR / DOC Community Agreement

As previously discussed and agreed with the Joint Committee, KMR has been working with DOC to reach agreement on the scope, roles and implementation requirements for a pilot in Auckland to 'recloak' marginal strips administered by DOC near waterways.

On 1 October, the Pou Tātaki and Alex Rogers, Director Operations, Tāmaki Makaurau Auckland signed a Community Agreement for the Auckland region.

The Agreement makes it easier for landowners and groups with neighbouring land to take action to protect 53,000 hectares of marginal strips near waterways administered by the Department of Conservation (DOC) in the Auckland part of the Kaipara Moana catchment. Through the Agreement, KMR will provide funding support for voluntary projects to restore up to 45km of riverbanks, streambanks, wetland margins and coastal margins, thereby reducing sediment flows into the Kaipara Harbour. Other benefits of native riparian planting include restoring habitats for valued species, healthier places to swim and recreate, and greater resilience to storms and floods.

Under the Agreement, KMR supports landowners and groups to plan projects, access our grant funding and expertise to plant suitable natives on neighbouring marginal strips, and maintain the planted areas through weed control. DOC ensures the planned work is appropriate and safe.

All projects under the Agreement must meet specific KMR and DOC criteria and follow specific Health and Safety requirements.

We will keep the Joint Committee apprised of how the pilot is progressing. It is intended that KMR and DOC will review the pilot after winter planting next year, with a view to tweaking operational settings if needed to improve the process.

As per previous Joint Committee direction, KMR and DOC intend to extend the pilot into the Northland region once both parties are comfortable that the process and resources needed to run the Agreement are fit-for-purpose and right-sized.

Financial performance

The year-to-date financials shown in Table 1 below show that KMR continues to scale up at pace, as intended, indicated by the value of total Programme Expenditure (Activity).

The Table shows financial payments made to 30 September 2025, rather than project activity completed.

KMR has contracted or committed an additional $6.3m worth of projects as at 30 September 2025, some of which will be completed but not yet paid out. This reflects the lag between landowners/groups contracting to undertake sediment reduction projects, project completion, KMR arranging project review and sign-off, landowners/groups submitting invoices, and KMR paying invoices.

Table 1: KMR Financials (Year to date, as at 30 September 2025)

KMR Financials to 30 September 2025

Funding Contributions	**30 September 2025**
MfE	6,456,017
Other funding	168,538
Northland Regional Council (NRC)	-
Auckland Council (AC)	-
Interest earned	441,739
Subtotal (Funds available)	**7,066,293**
Less **KMR expenditure** (Activity incl. Grants)	**1,673,720**
Less other funding allocated	66,566
Funds Remaining	**5,326,007**
Co-funding (Matching Contributions)	
NRC in kind labour and Opex costs (incl. salaries)	316,476
AC in kind labour and Opex costs	6,660
Landowner / Other contributors	1,405,065
Subtotal (Co-funding expenditure)	**1,728,201**
Total Programme Expenditure (Activity)	**3,401,921**

<u>Joint Committee Grant Interests</u>

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

Table 2: Joint Committee Grant Interests

Who	Grant type	KMR Grant value	Status	Nature of Interest
Deb Brewer	Whenua Whānui Fund	$17,318.00 (excl GST)	Most of the project has been completed. Some of the remediation work will move to Project 2 (yet to be developed)	As Chair of the Te Kia ora Marae, Kakanui, Deb Brewer has an interest in this grant. Any potential financial benefit from this environmental restoration grant (e.g. in terms of future land use value) would accrue to all beneficiaries of the Marae trust. The OAG has provided a ruling to KMR that such a role does not constitute a LAMIA conflict.