

Kaipara Moana Remediation Joint Committee Minutes

Rā Date:	Monday, 20 October 2025
Wā Time:	10.30am
Tauwāhi Location:	Online
Huihuinga Gathering	Tame Te Rangi (Chair), Te Rūnanga o Ngāti Whātua Amy Macdonald (Deputy Chair), Northland Regional Council (NRC) Debra Brewer, Ngā Maunga Whakahii o Kaipara Georgina Curtis-Connelly, Te Uri o Hau (10.39 am) Greg Sayers, Auckland Council (AC) (10.38 am) Jack Craw, Northland Regional Council John Blackwell, Northland Regional Council Taiāwhio Wati, Te Uri o Hau
Tae Mai In Attendance	Justine Daw, Pou Tātaki, Kaipara Moana Remediation (KMR) Emma Doré, Amo-Rautaki Pākihi, KMR Lisette Rawson, Amo-Rauora Koāwa, KMR Sophie Bone, PA to Pou Tātaki and Governance Support, KMR Marina Ford, Ringa Taki Hononga Mana Whenua Relations Advisor, KMR Dave McDermott, Nursery Specialist, KMR Duncan Kervell, Consultant, KMR Wes Patrick, Observer, Ministry for the Environment (MfE) Aoife Broad, Observer, MfE Callum Anderson, Digital Experience Support, NRC

The Chair declared the meeting open at 10.34am.

KARAKIA | WHAKATAU

TAHITAHİ | HOUSEKEEPING

A livestream declaration was provided by NRC Digital Rep, Callum Anderson, in alignment with the Privacy Act 2020.

NGĀ WHAKAPAHĀ | APOLOGIES (ITEM 2.0)

Moved (Connelly/Craw)

That the Joint Committee:

1. **Receive** the apologies from Mike Tana for non-attendance and Tracy Davis for late attendance.

Carried

Secretariat note:

Due to the Joint Committee meeting finishing ahead of schedule, Tracy Davis was unable to attend the meeting later as originally planned.

NGĀ WHAKAPUAKANGA | DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST (ITEM 3.0)

No interests were declared by the members.

NGĀ KŌRERO KUA WHAKAAEA | CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES (ITEM 4.1)

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

Moved (Craw/Blackwell)

Carried

JOINT COMMITTEE ACTION TRACKER (ITEM 5.1)

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

Moved (MacDonald/Blackwell)

That the Joint Committee:

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

Carried

Secretariat note:

All closed items on the Action Tracker will now be removed from the Tracker. One new item was raised, and this will be recorded as an open action in the Action Tracker for review at the next Joint Committee meeting.

JOINT COMMITTEE FORWARD WORKPLAN (ITEM 5.2)

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

Moved (Connelly/Sayers)

That the Joint Committee:

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

Carried

Secretariat Note:

The KMR induction planned for late November has been deferred given that the Joint Committee members from local government will not have been confirmed by that date. A new date for the induction will be proposed at the November Hui.

ANNUAL REPORT 2024-2025 (ITEM 6.1)

Report from Emma Doré, Amo-Rautaki Pākihi and Ben Hope, Ringa-Pārongo.

Moved (Craw/Connelly)

That the Joint Committee:

1. Receive the report 'Annual Report 2024-2025' by Emma Dore and Ben Hope, dated 20 October 2025.

Moved (Craw/Connelly)

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.

Carried

Secretariat Note:

Members agreed to move all three recommendations at once. Deputy Chair Macdonald commended KMR staff on the increased remediation and partnerships results, particularly given the economic challenges over the past year. Member Craw also acknowledged the Annual Report and congratulated staff on the KPI performance, especially for fencing which was an unambiguous measure of protection.

Member Craw noted the Auckland Council-sponsored next-generation environmental (turbidity) monitoring showcased in the Annual Report and asked if this monitoring data could be reported back to the Joint Committee when available. The Pou Tātaki informed the Committee that the research referred to in the Annual Report had generated some very early-stage monitoring datasets, but it was too early to present any clear results. That said, KMR recognised the importance of monitoring and reporting on water quality in the Kaipara Harbour and the waterways flowing into it, as discussed with the Crown in early 2025. At the November Joint Committee meeting, a presentation will be made by both Northland Regional Council and Auckland Council staff on recent environmental monitoring results. The Pou Tātaki reminded the Committee that councils (not KMR) had the formal responsibility for environmental monitoring of the Kaipara Harbour. At the same meeting, KMR's Duncan Kervell would also provide an update on the local case studies agreed through the Annual Work Plan process. These are intended to highlight the water quality benefits of taking action on farm with KMR support.

ANNUAL WORK PLAN 2025 – 2026 (ITEM 6.2)

Report from Emma Doré, Amo-Rautaki Pākihi and Ben Hope, Ringa-Pārongo.

Moved (Sayers/Brewer)

That the Joint Committee:

1. Receive the report 'Annual Work Plan' 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.

Carried

Secretariat Note:

Member Sayers sought clarification on the potential scope of changes to the Annual Work Plan that could be enabled through the Chair's delegation and asked about previous changes (if any). The Pou Tātaki clarified that other than minor changes (e.g. addition of footnotes to aid clarity, minor editorial corrections), no material changes had been made to any KMR Work Plan to date. As a general rule, the only material changes to the Work Plan would be in respect to the budget – this is because each final Annual Work Plan budget includes a calculation of funds carried over from the previous financial year. If the auditors found any material matters in respect of KMR's year-end financial position and associated carry-overs, then KMR would make consequential adjustments to the Work Plan budget.

The Pou Tātaki further clarified that as the auditors had just issued [that same day] a clean audit report for the 2024-2025 financial year upon Joint Committee adoption of the Annual Report, she was confident that no changes would be required to the Work Plan submitted for Joint Committee approval. This was the third clean KMR audit in three years. The Work Plan, signed by the Chair, would therefore shortly be submitted to the Ministry for the Environment as required under the Deed of Funding. Member Sayers congratulated the KMR team on the clean audit, noting this was an excellent reflection on their effort in managing the budgets and work programme.

Member Craw asked if the Risk Management table in the Annual Work Plan needed to be updated given several material changes to KMR programme settings since the draft Work Plan was endorsed by the Joint Committee in March. In particular, he asked whether the risks relating to the new KMR/DOC Community Agreement had been adequately reflected in the table. The Pou Tātaki agreed that KMR would review this, and amend the table content as needed to reflect relevant new risk mitigations.

UPDATE ON KMR OPERATIONAL SETTINGS (ITEM 6.3)

Report from Lisette Rawson, Amo-Rauora Kōawa, and Darren van Beek, Kaiārahi Whakaora Whenua Kōawa

Moved (Craw/Macdonald)

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.

Carried

Secretariat Note:

Member Blackwell noted that while poplars had a somewhat negative reputation, particularly following recent cyclones and floods, they could play a positive role in the landscape in the right location, and had performed well for sediment reduction in many areas in Northland. The KMR team acknowledged this perspective and indicated that following the proposed change, landowners and groups in the catchment who were interested in planting poplars would still be able to source these directly from the NRC nursery in Northland and from a nursery in Te Hana, Auckland.

However, two winters had demonstrated very low uptake of poplars by landowners and groups and high transaction and time costs for KMR relative to sediment remediation outcomes. When asked by Deputy Chair Macdonald about the landowner's experience, the KMR team observed that low landowner uptake was likely a reflection of the increased contract, project management and monitoring burden experienced when working with KMR compared to buying poplars directly from a nursery. Furthermore, given the current relatively low cost to the landowner of poplars (due to subsidised nursery prices), there was little incentive for the landowner to work with KMR.

APPROACH TO NATIVE PLANT ALLOCATIONS 2026 (ITEM 6.4)

Report from Lisette Rawson, Amo-Rauora Kōawa, and Darren van Beek, Kaiārahi Whakaora Whenua Kōawa

Moved (Macdonald/Sayers)

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.

Carried

Secretariat Note:

Deputy Chair Macdonald supported the approach proposed in the paper as a reasonable and fiscally responsible approach for KMR, and one which took into account the lessons from last season. While KMR had been clear there was no ongoing commitment to native plant pre-allocations, she noted the importance of clear and early communications from KMR to manage nursery expectations.

KMR Planting Specialist McDermott shared that as part of his annual spring visits he was currently meeting in person with nurseries to communicate the change and discuss how KMR can support nursery-led community engagement and project development. Now that nurseries had several years' experience of KMR planting projects, including demonstration that plant demand was either stable or increasing over time depending on location, the change was expected to have a low impact on most nurseries.

Member Blackwell noted that with farms now experiencing record prices for milk solids and drystock pastoral land generating more value as market prices bounced back there were likely solid opportunities for planting projects in winter 2026.

POU TĀTAKI REPORT (6.5)

Report from Justine Daw, Pou Tātaki

Moved (Connelly/Blackwell)

That the Joint Committee:

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

Carried

Secretariat Note:

The Pou Tātaki noted the focus of the November Joint Committee meeting would be on work underway to better understand the impacts of KMR work on the ground. Referencing Member Blackwell's earlier comment regarding improved on-farm economics, she agreed this would likely generate opportunities for KMR. Currently, KMR's partnership with Fonterra is delivering strong results and we expected the Cooperative Difference initiative to drive greater planting rates for carbon off-set in future. In addition, KMR has an effective working relationship with Beef + Lamb NZ, and KMR hoped to build on this. A pertinent example was the forthcoming field trip in Auckland hosted by Beef + Lamb NZ at which over 300 participants from the drystock sector were expected. KMR was presenting on partnership opportunities with the sector, and profiling a large-scale KMR planting project on the host farm.

Karakia Mutunga

Whakamutunga (Conclusion)

The meeting concluded at 11.29 am.