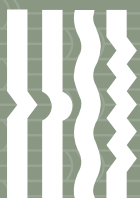




Pūrongo-ā-Tau

Annual Report 2024/2025





The Kirikiri inlet from Waihaua Marae
Photo: J Daw

Front Cover:
Eroding hillsides in the
Mangakāhia Valley

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Kupu Whakataki



A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Tame Te Rangi'.

Tame Te Rangi
Chair

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.

Ngā Aronga a te Pou Tātaki



Justine Daw
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.

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

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

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



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

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.

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.

An aerial photograph of a vast, rolling green valley. The landscape is characterized by undulating hills and valleys covered in vibrant green grass. A network of roads and tracks winds through the terrain. In the distance, more hills are visible under a bright blue sky with scattered white clouds. The overall scene depicts a healthy, restored natural environment.

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. (Kōkōpu)

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. (Tangitērōia)

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.

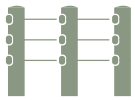
On-farm Economics

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



551 km

of fencing completed or contracted



Over

\$9.3 m

worth of sediment reduction
projects contracted



Over

23,000 ha

of land covered by sediment
reduction plans



Over

899 ha

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



Over

104,000 hrs

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

\$26 m

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

2.67 m

plants in the ground or contracted to plant

1,422 ha

planted, contracted to plant or regenerating into native forest

Over

1,000 km

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

Over

144,000 ha

are managed under KMR plans



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
of wetland



325 ha
of remnant forest



440 ha
of highly erodible land



A total area of
2,628 ha



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)

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.

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 ahuhenua land in Ōtamatea and Ōruawhoro, 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 continue 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 Whakatauirā 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.



“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.”

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



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 Brady 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 Hōteu 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.





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.

Debbie says, “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.

“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!”

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 Kaipapa 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.

Cushla says, “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.”



Ōruawhoro 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.





Arapãoa River



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



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

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 whakatauirā (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 Waioa 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)	120	167	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. We expect fewer new Plans over time, and more projects by landowners and groups with a Plan already in place.
	via Sediment Reduction Plans	90	154	
	via Tiaki FEPs	30	13	
	Projects completed with landowners / groups who already have a plan in place.	80	158	
	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
Funding¹	\$12,309,495.86	\$1,300.00²	\$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



**MINISTRY OF SOCIAL
DEVELOPMENT**
TE MANATŪ WHAKAHIATO ORA



TE URI O HUI
ENVIRONS



**THE FOREST
BRIDGE TRUST**
Ngāhere Whakawhiti
Protect. Enhance. Connect.



OEII **NATIONAL TRUST**
Ngā Kārauhi Ihapa - Forever protected



NEW ZEALAND
ASSOCIATION OF
RESOURCE
MANAGEMENT



TREES THAT COUNT
TE RAHI O TĀNE



WAI
CONNECTION
TATAI KI TE WAI



Mountains to Sea
Conservation Trust
Ngā Moutunga ki te Moana



**Conservation
Volunteers
New Zealand**



**Reconnecting
Northland**



Horticulture™
New Zealand
Ahumāra Kai Aotearoa

Memorandum of Understanding signatories



KAIPARA



TE URI O HUI
SETTLEMENT TRUST

Te Rūnanga



Ngāti Whātua

Northland
REGIONAL COUNCIL
Te Kaunihera ā rohe o Te Taitokerau

**Auckland
Council**
Te Kaunihera o Tamaki Makaurau



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.



Ministry for the
Environment
Manatū Mō Te Taiao

JOBS | **MAHI**
FOR NATURE | MŌ TE TAIAO



Te Kāwanatanga o Aotearoa
New Zealand Government

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