

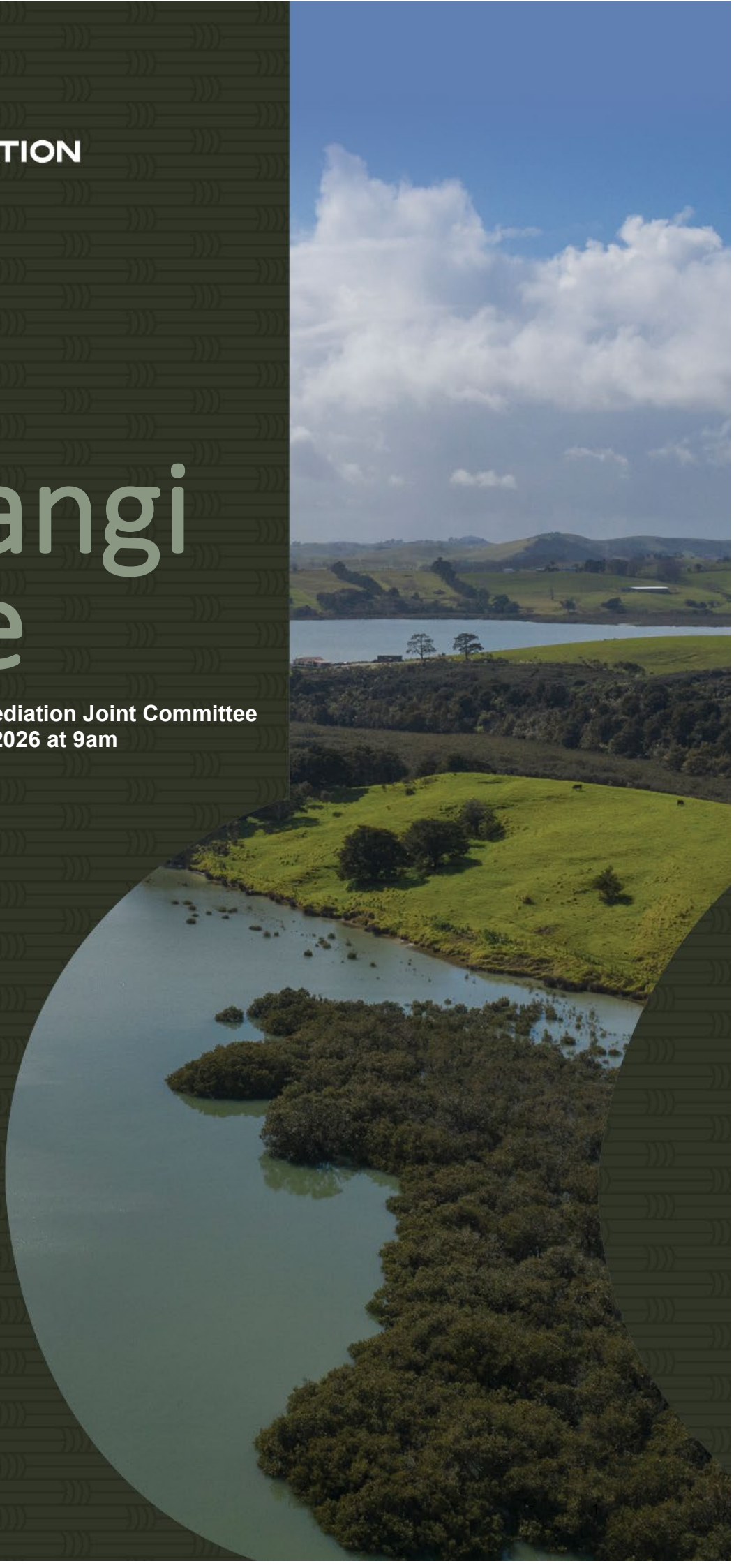
Agenda

Rārangi Take

Kaipara Moana Remediation Joint Committee
Monday 19 October 2026 at 9am



kmr.org.nz



Kaipara Moana Remediation Joint Committee Agenda

Rā Date:	Monday, 19 October 2026
Wā Time:	9am
Tauwāhi Location:	Parirau Marae, 87 Tana Road Mata Kohe 0594
Ngā Mana Whakahaere Members	Tame Te Rangi (Chair), Te Rūnanga o Ngāti Whātua Debra Brewer, Ngā Maunga Whakahii o Kaipara Georgina Curtis-Connelly, Te Uri o Hau Greg Sayers, Auckland Council Guy Wishart, Auckland Council Ivan Wagstaff, Auckland Council Jack Craw, Northland Regional Council John Blackwell, Northland Regional Council Kelly Retimana, Te Uri o Hau Michael Tana, Te Rūnanga o Ngāti Whātua Pita Tipene, Northland Regional Council Tracy Davis, Ngā Maunga Whakahii o Kaipara

The Quorum for the Joint Committee is:

- a) 6 members of the 12 Committee members, and;*
- b) At least 1 member each from Auckland Council and Northland Regional Council, and;*
- c) At least 2 members from Kaipara Uri (unspecified from which entities).*

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

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

KARAKIA | WHAKATAU

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TITLE: Confirmation of Minutes

Kaituhi Pūrongo | Moana Fraser | PA to Pou Tātaki and Governance Support
Report Writer

Te Kaupapa | Purpose

This paper serves to receive the minutes of the KMR Joint Committee meeting held in July 2026.

Whakataunga | Recommendations

That the minutes of the Kaipara Moana Remediation Joint Committee meeting held on 27 July 2026 be confirmed as a true and correct record.

Ngā Tāpiri | Attachments

Attachment 1: Joint Committee Hui Minutes (July 2026)

Kaipara Moana Remediation Joint Committee Minutes

Rā Date:	Monday, 27 July 2026
Wā Time:	10.30am
Tauwāhi Location:	The Orchard, 35 Walton Street, Whangārei
Huihuinga Gathering	Tame Te Rangi (Chair), Te Rūnanga o Ngāti Whātua John Blackwell (Deputy Chair), Northland Regional Council Debra Brewer, Ngā Māunga Whakahii o Kaipara Greg Sayers, Auckland Council (AC) Guy Wishart, Auckland Council Ivan Wagstaff, Auckland Council Kelly Retimana, Te Uri o Hau Mike Tana, Te Rūnanga o Ngāti Whātua
Tae Mai In Attendance	Emma Doré, Amo-Rautaki Pākihi, KMR (Acting Pou Tātaki) Lisette Rawson, Amo-Rauora Koāwa, KMR Sophie Bone, PA to Pou Tātaki and Governance Support, KMR Natalie Jarufe, Ringa-Pārongo, KMR Moana Fraser, KMR (Observer) Duncan Kervell, Consultant, KMR

The Chair declared the meeting open at 10.32am.

KARAKIA | WHAKATAU

TAHITAHİ | HOUSEKEEPING

Moana Fraser, a KMR observer was introduced to the Joint Committee. Moana is coming in as parental leave cover for the PA to Pou Tātaki and Governance Support

NGĀ WHAKAPAHĀ | APOLOGIES (ITEM 2.0)

Moved (Blackwell/Brewer)

That the Joint Committee:

1. Receive the apologies from Members Georgina Curtis-Connelly, Jack Crow and Pita Tipene and note the absence of Member Tracy Davis.

Carried

Secretariat Note:

The Chair also noted apologies from Observers Jonathan Gibbard (NRC) and Aoife Broad (MCERT).

NGĀ WHAKAPUAKANGA | DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST (ITEM 3.0)

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

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

Moved (Tana / Blackwell)

1. That the minutes of the Kaipara Moana Remediation Joint Committee meeting held on 20 April 2026 be confirmed as a true and correct record.

Carried

JOINT COMMITTEE WORK PROGRAMME (ITEM 5.1)

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

Moved (Wagstaff / Sayers)

That the Joint Committee:

1. Receive the report 'Joint Committee Work Programme' by Sophie Bone, PA to Pou Tātaki and Governance Support, dated
2. Note the Joint Committee Action Tracker – July 2026 (Attachment 1) and Joint Committee Forward Workplan - 2026 (Attachment 2).

Carried

COMMITTEE AND EXECUTIVE INTERESTS (ITEM 6.1)

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

Moved (Sayers / Blackwell)

That the Joint Committee:

1. Note the paper 'Committee and Executive Interests', by Sophie Bone, PA to Pou Tātaki and Governance Support, dated 27 July 2026.
2. Request that Joint Committee Members provide advice of any new or changed interests to those shown in Attachment 1.

Carried

Secretariat Note:

Member Sayers reflected that KMR operates at a senior and, at times, ministerial level, while remaining focused on practical outcomes. He noted that, from a governance perspective, it has been rewarding to see the programme's impact and to receive feedback that KMR is making a difference.

Chair Te Rangi shared kōrero on the importance of understanding the relationships between multiple landowners, and noted that recent pānui examples show the value of discussions across property boundaries. He also referred to the importance of leadership in engaging with remediation at both regional and local levels, noting that practical local examples help demonstrate the influence and change landowners can make. He emphasised that KMR can support landowners to discuss real options across boundary fences, regardless of wider political influences.

Member Tana said it was an honour to be involved in KMR, particularly on returning home and seeing the opportunity the programme provides to enable people to make change. He reflected that the scale of KMR provides a strong platform for change. He acknowledged the previous Pou Tātaki Justine Daw for providing such clarity and purposeful direction.

SIGNED ANNUAL WORK PLAN (2026/2027) (ITEM 6.2)

Report from Emma Doré, Acting Pou Tātaki

Moved (Wishart / Retimana)

That the Joint Committee:

1. Receive the report 'Signed Annual Work Plan 2026-2027' by Emma Doré, dated 27 July 2026.
2. Note the Signed KMR Annual Work Plan 2026-2027 (Attachment 1)
3. Note the final Annual Work Plan budget for the 2026-2027 financial year remains unchanged and totals \$21.006 million (total programme value, including the value of co-funding, excluding GST).

Carried

Secretariat Note:

Acting Pou Tātaki Emma Doré noted that engagement with the Crown funding representatives had been different this year due to the transition to MCERT and possible staff changes. Additional detail had been provided in the Work Plan to support handover and advocacy through the transition.

Member Sayers asked about new personnel, how the changes were landing, and the relationship with MCERT. Emma advised that Aoife Broad remained the key contact and continued to maintain a strong relationship with KMR, with continuity preferred through further expected personnel changes. She also noted increased interest from finance staff in KMR's digital systems and their potential commercialisation, with the intellectual property sitting with KMR rather than the Crown.

Members discussed whether Governor support may be needed to maintain Crown relationships through the transition. The Chair emphasised the importance of protecting the value built since 2020, maintaining a positive approach within shifting political landscapes, and supporting the incoming Pou Tātaki.

Member Tana noted the need for clarity on planning and expectations for years seven to ten, including the entity and operational planning beyond the 10-year programme cycle.

Members agreed there would be value in holding a workshop with the incoming Pou Tātaki to brief him on KMR's history, current direction and strategic context, and to support early planning and work programme development. Member Tana also noted the opportunity to draw on the incoming Pou Tātaki's relationships in the rohe.

PARTNER COUNCIL REPORTING REQUESTS (ITEM 6.3)

Report from Emma Doré, Acting Pou Tātaki

Moved (Blackwell / Brewer)

That the Joint Committee:

1. Receive the report 'Partner Council Reporting Requests' by Emma Doré, dated 27 July 2026.
2. Note that year-to-date quarterly KPIs are currently internally collected but not currently reported publicly.

3. Note that KMR currently provides brief monthly reports to NRC on life-to-date KPIs, and Impact and Outcomes Monitoring.
4. Adopt the Member Party Reporting Framework, provided below.

Carried

Secretariat Note:

Members discussed the need for reporting to remain consistent across partners.

Acting Pou Tātaki Emma Doré noted that council partners were seeking more information from KMR to support budgets, outputs and delivery, and that reporting requests were increasing. She advised that the proposed framework would make some information public that had not previously been reported, and that the same standard of reporting would be provided to Uri entities to support equity.

Members discussed the purpose, frequency and risks of additional reporting, including whether quarterly information could create a misrepresented sense of delivery due to seasonal peaks and troughs or be misused. Emma advised that requests from councils related to remediation activity rather than finances, and were intended to demonstrate the value of their investment. Members generally agreed that quarterly reporting to all parties appeared acceptable and sufficient.

Chair Te Rangi emphasised that reporting should cover KMR activity across the total catchment, rather than be defined by arbitrary regional boundaries, when the focus should stay on the outcome for the entire Moana and catchment. Emma suggested quarterly catchment-wide KPI reporting for all parties, supported by six-monthly delivery reporting with region-specific information where needed. Member Retimana asked whether the same area-specific data could be made available for Te Uri o Hau and Emma agreed that she would discuss facilitating this request with the Maurikura Operations team. At the request of members, Emma also confirmed she will clarify the existing monthly reporting arrangement with NRC and any related agreement.

UPDATE TO KMR JOINT COMMITTEE MEMBERS ALLOWANCE POLICY (ITEM 6.4)

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

Moved (Retimana / Tana)

That the Joint Committee:

1. Receive the report 'Update to the KMR Joint Committee Members Allowance Policy' by Sophie Bone and Emma Doré, dated 26 July 2026.
2. Note that KMR has undertaken a review of the policy settings and considered that they were no longer fit for purpose, so are proposing a number of recommended changes to be approved.
3. Note that this policy is applicable to the Kaipara Uri Members of the KMR Joint Committee only, as Council Members are remunerated by their own respective authorities.
4. Approve the changes to the policy as set out in the Analysis and Advice section below.
5. Endorse the amended policy (Attachment 1), to come into immediate effect.

Carried

Secretariat Note:

Chair Te Rangi noted that the policy and criteria had been established from the outset. KMR was not seeking to interfere with how signatories manage remuneration, but that an established system was already in place.

CABINET DECISION ON VOTING RIGHTS (ITEM 6.5)

Report from Emma Doré, Acting Pou Tātaki

Moved (Tana / Wagstaff)

That the Joint Committee:

1. Receive the report 'Cabinet Decision on Voting Rights' by Emma Doré, dated 27 July 2026.

2. Note the current Cabinet decisions and anticipated legislative process, including the proposed amendments to restrict voting rights and quorum participation for non-elected members of council committees.
3. Note the correspondence items in Attachments 1, 2 and 3.
4. Confirm support for future actions that may be required to seek an exclusion from the proposed amendments to preserve the existing joint governance arrangements pending enactment of future Kaipara Moana settlement legislation.
5. Provide advice on contingency governance arrangements should an exclusion not be granted.

Carried

Emma Doré advised that letters had been sent to Ministers and acknowledged, with further advice pending. Members supported KMR's proactive approach and discussed the anticipated six-month exclusion process. If early exclusion is not granted, KMR will apply through the formal process while continuing business as usual. Members considered future governance arrangements, including legal advice and alternative entity structures should an exemption not be granted. The preferred outcome remains transitioning KMR to a post-settlement entity, although other options may need to be explored depending on the timeframe. Concerns were raised about maintaining partner and council participation under any new structure. Emma noted participation is expected to be embedded in the Kaipara Moana Framework Agreement (2014). The Chair emphasised KMR's origins as a partnership between local government, the Crown and Uri, and highlighted the Crown's commitment through Wai 303 to establish a Kaipara Moana body. Members agreed it was prudent to understand legal and governance options while awaiting Crown decisions. Members discussed obtaining legal advice, with support to be sought from Auckland Council's legal team. It was suggested that the Chair, staff and Auckland Council Members discuss the options further.

COMMUNICATIONS AND ENGAGEMENT STRATEGY UPDATE (ITEM 6.6)

Report from Natalie Jarufe, Communications and Governance Lead

Moved (Wishart / Sayers)

That the Joint Committee:

1. Receive the draft update to Kaipara Moana Remediation programme's Communications and Engagement Strategy 2027 – 2029.
2. Provide high-level feedback on draft update to Kaipara Moana Remediation programme's Communications and Engagement Strategy 2027 – 2029.

Carried

Secretariat Note:

Natalie Jarufe described the paper, a breakdown of the data analysis, inception and that insights from the Maurikura and Field Advisors would continue to inform the strategy.

ENGAGEMENT AND FUTURE OPPORTUNITIES SUMMARY (ITEM 6.7)

Report from Galilee Miles, Kaitohutohu / Advisor Monitoring and Evaluation

Moved (Blackwell / Retimana)

That the Joint Committee:

1. Receive the report 'Engagement and Future Opportunities Summary' by Galilee Miles and Duncan Kervell, dated 27 July 2026.

Carried

Secretariat Note:

Duncan Kervell briefed the paper provided by Galilee Miles who wasn't able to be present.

KMR Engagement: Progress and Future Opportunity (Verbal Presentation) – Duncan Kervell

Secretariat Note:

Duncan Kervell presented analysis of landowner engagement data, including landownership types, property sizes and current engagement activity. Members discussed opportunities to better target engagement, particularly for larger landholdings and areas that may be subject to development. Staff outlined existing communications and field advisor approaches, including efforts to group eligible landowners where appropriate. Members supported a more tiered, outcome-focused approach, with greater emphasis on achieving environmental impact through engagement of the largest remaining eligible land areas. Discussion also covered engagement retention, programme performance measures and the role of landowners using alternative management approaches such as Halter technology.

KŌRERO TUKU IHO – WHAKATAUIRA DELIVERY UPDATE (ITEM 6.8)

Report from Lisette Rawson, Amo-Rauora Koawa – Operations Manager

Moved (Sayers / Wishart)

That the Joint Committee:

1. Receive the 'Kōrero Tuku Iho – Delivery Update' report by Lisette Rawson, dated 27 July 2026.
2. ~~Note that the delivery of a third case study will no longer be pursued, due to lack of landowner agreement, tangata whenua capacity and resource constraints.~~

The motion and recommendations were amended, as discussion before this hui identified the opportunity to further explore a third case study, with a new locality and available personnel.

3. Note that the delivery of a third case study will continue to be pursued.

Carried

Secretariat Note:

Lisette Rawson advised that discussions would be held with Ngā Maunga Whakahii o Kaipara to explore whether the third case study could still be progressed. She noted that the expression of interest may be moved to another location, and that success would depend on having the right personnel available. She advised that KMR could begin those conversations and, if the case study was able to be reignited, the aim would be to do so before the end of the calendar year. Emma advised that the work remained within the established budget.

POU TĀTAKI REPORT (ITEM 6.9)

Report from Emma Doré, Acting Pou Tātaki

Moved (Wagstaff/ Wishart)

That the Joint Committee:

1. Receive the report 'Pou Tātaki Report', by Emma Doré dated 27 2026.

Carried

Secretariat Note:

Member Sayers asked about the handover process and capacity to support the incoming Pou Tātaki. Member Tana reiterated the value of holding a workshop or handover session to help settle key matters.

Karakia Mutunga

Whakamutunga (Conclusion)

The meeting concluded at 2.45 pm.

TITLE: Joint Committee Action Tracker

**Kaituhi Pūrongo |
Report Writer**

Moana Fraser | PA to Pou Tātaki and Governance Support

Rāpopototanga Matua | Executive summary

The Joint Committee Action Tracker and Forward Workplan are maintained to support oversight of actions, upcoming meetings, papers and decisions.

These documents are updated regularly and presented at each Hui to provide a transparent record of progress and keep the Joint Committee informed.

Whakataunga | Recommendations

That the Joint Committee:

1. Receive the report 'Joint Committee Work Programme' by Moana Fraser, PA to Pou Tātaki and Governance Support, dated 19 October 2026
2. Note the Joint Committee Action Tracker – October 2026 (Attachment 1) and Joint Committee Forward Workplan 2026 (Attachment 2).

Ngā Tāpiri | Attachments

Attachment 1: Joint Committee Action Tracker – October 2026

Attachment 2: Joint Committee Forward Workplan 2026

KMR Joint Committee: Action Tracker

Item	Action	Who	Due	Status	Comments
27 July 2026					
Kōrero Tuku Iho	Report back on a possible Auckland based Kōrero Tuku Iho case study.	Relevant KMR Joint Committee members Lisette Rawson	October	Open	TBC
Letter from Tame to Auckland Council	Requesting legal support regarding the voting right changes legislation	Tame Te Rangi Emma Dore Auckland Council JC Members	October	TBC	TBC – May be an appendix to correspondence paper
Uri – Te uri o Hau rohe reporting?	Explore rohe specific reporting	Emma Dore Lisette Rawson	October	?	TBC
Query monthly reporting to NRC	Emma tasked to query the agreement with NRC for monthly KMR Reporting	Emma	October	Closed	Adjustment to reporting requirement has removed need for monthly reporting

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

KMR Joint Committee: Indicative Forward Workplan 2026

Meeting	Hui (Standing Items)	Briefing / Workshop	Field Trip / Other
Feb 12		Induction for New Members	
Feb 23	Draft 6 Month report Kōrero Tuku Iho update		
April 20	Draft Annual Work Plan		
June 25			Partnership Forum (Optional)
July 27	Committee and Executive Interests Kōrero Tuku Iho update Communications and Engagement Strategy Update		
October 19	Annual Report Annual Work Plan		
November 16	Audit Assurance Report Meeting Dates 2027		Field Trip

TITLE: Final Annual Work Plan (2026-2027)

Kaituhi Pūrongo |
Report Writer Emma Doré, Amo-Pākihi | Business Manager

Te Kaupapa | Purpose

This report tables for information the final Kaipara Moana Remediation (KMR) Annual Work Plan for 2026-2027, subject to audit.

Rāpopototanga Matua | Executive summary

This paper:

- Tables for information KMR's Final Annual Work Plan (2026-2027) which will be submitted following audit to MCERT for review and approval, as per the requirements of the KMR Deed of Funding.
- Summarises changes to KMR's Draft Annual Work Plan (2026-2027) submitted to the Joint Committee in April 2026 and approved at that time for submission to the Crown.
- Seeks approval for delegation to the Joint Committee Chair to approve the Final Annual Work Plan if needed, following audit and MCERT review.

Whakataunga | Recommendations

That the Joint Committee:

1. *Receive* the report 'Final Annual Work Plan (2026-2027)', by Emma Doré dated 19 October 2026.
2. *Note* the unaudited Final Annual Work Plan budget for the 2026-2027 financial year which totals \$22.662 million (total programme value excluding GST).
3. *Delegate* to the Joint Committee Chair power to approve the Final Annual Work Plan, following any changes due to audit or Ministry for Cities, Environment, Regions and Transport (MCERT) feedback.

Horopaki | Background

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

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

This report summarises key elements of the Final Annual Work Plan for the 2026-2027 financial year (Attachment 1). The final KMR budget for financial year is \$22.662 million in total programme budget value (i.e. including cash and in-kind contribution value), an increase of \$1.656 million from the Draft Annual Work Plan.

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

	Draft Annual Work Plan			Final Annual Work Plan			Change
	Crown	Council/ Other	Total	Crown	Council/ Other	Total	
Remediation Grants and Partnerships	8.701	7.823	16.524	9.598	8.831	18.429	Due to increased contracted remediation.
Capability & Workforce Development	0.321	0.289	0.610	0.285	0.253	0.538	Roll over was less than estimated in the draft
Communications and Engagement	0.145	0.036	0.181	0.145	0.036	0.181	No change
Programme Marketing	0.006	0.009	0.015	0.006	0.009	0.015	No change
Kaipara Maurikura	0.574	1.711	2.285	0.574	1.611	2.185	Due to a decrease in the Maurikura costs
Governance	0.030	0.030	0.060	0.030	0.030	0.060	No change
Digital tools	0.229	0.209	0.438	0.229	0.209	0.438	No change
Kōrero Tuku Iho	0.384	0.368	0.752	0.356	0.324	0.680	Roll over was less than estimated in the draft.
New Partnerships and Opportunities	0.025	0.025	0.050	0.025	0.025	0.050	No change
Programme Monitoring & Evaluation	0.088	0.003	0.091	0.083	0.003	0.086	Roll over was less than estimated in the draft.
Grand Total	10.503	10.503	21.006	11.331	11.331	22.662	Increase of 1.656m in Final AWP

Tātari me ngā tūtohu | Analysis and Advice

Funding sources for the budget

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

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

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

Table 1: Estimated funding split by sources FY2026-2027

Source	\$ million	%
Auckland Council and Northland Regional Council	\$3.481	15.36
Landowners/Groups	\$7.850	34.64
Maximum Crown contribution	\$11.331	50.00
Total	\$22.662	100

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

Once MCERT has been provided with the KMR audited Annual Report 2025-2026 (by 31 October) and approves the Final Annual Work Plan, we will invoice in November for the remaining Crown contribution for this financial year.

Considerations

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

Provision of an Annual Work Plan to the Ministry for Cities, Environment, Regions and Transport (MCERT) is a requirement under the KMR Deed of Funding. Each year, KMR's Work Plan sets out the projects, deliverables and Key Performance Indicators to be achieved, and the associated budget and funding sources for these.

2. Ngā ritenga take pūtea | Financial implications

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

3. Ngā hiranga me ngā hononga | Significance and Engagement

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

4. Ngā tūraru me ngā mauru | Risks and mitigation

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

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

Significant remediation activity is expected this year, in line with agreed performance measures, supporting climate change mitigation activities.

Ngā Tāpiri | Attachments

Attachment 1 – Final Annual Work Plan (2026-2027)

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

Kaipara Moana Remediation Programme

Final Annual Work Plan

for FY 2026/2027

Undertaken by

The Kaipara Moana Remediation Joint Committee

Official information and privacy

Official Information Act 1982

Important: Information presented to the Minister for the Environment or the Ministry for the Environment is subject to disclosure under the Official Information Act 1982 (OIA). Certain information may be withheld in accordance with the grounds for withholding information under the OIA. Further information on the OIA is available at www.ombudsmen.parliament.nz.

Information held by the Minister or the Ministry may have to be released under the OIA in response to a request from a member of the public (or any other body) for that information. If you wish to provide sensitive information to the Minister or the Ministry which you do not want released, it is recommended you consult with the Ministry as to whether the information is necessary for the application, and whether there may be grounds in the OIA for withholding the information. For instance, if release of the information would disclose a trade secret or be likely to unreasonably prejudice the commercial position of the person who supplied or who is the subject of the information, then there may be grounds to withhold the information. If an OIA request relating to your application is received, the Ministry will endeavour to contact you to discuss it, and what the implications of releasing your information are.

The grounds for withholding information must always be balanced against consideration of public interest that may justify release. Although the Ministry does not give any guarantees as to whether information can be withheld under the OIA, it may be helpful to discuss OIA issues with the Ministry in advance if information provided with an application is sensitive.

Privacy Act 1993

Important: The Ministry for the Environment (Environment House, 23 Kate Sheppard Place, Wellington 6011) may collect, use, hold or disclose personal information for the purpose of assessing eligibility and suitability for Public Waterways and Ecosystem Restoration Fund funding. Individuals have the right in accordance with the Privacy Act 1993 to request access to and correction of their personal information. While the provision of personal information is not mandatory, failure to provide requested information could lead to a delay in considering the application or a decline of the same.

Instructions

This Annual Work Plan provides a detailed breakdown of the interventions to be undertaken in each year of the project. Annual Work Plans are developed prior to the commencement of each financial year during the life of the project.

While completing this template, please be aware that payment of any Kaipara Moana Remediation Programme monies in subsequent Financial Years will be withheld until the Ministry has approved the Annual Report submitted for this Financial Year.

Complete this Annual Work Plan template by fully completing all sections.

Email this completed draft work plan to your assigned analyst. They will review it and advise you if there are any issues that need to be addressed, or if there are any outstanding questions.

1 Project details

Check that the information below about your project is correct, and update this as required.

Project name	Kaipara Moana Remediation Programme
Project purpose	The Kaipara Moana Remediation (KMR) Programme seeks to protect and restore the mauri of the Kaipara Moana, with an aim to halve sediment losses into the harbour over the long term.
For how many years has this project been granted funding, and what year is the project currently in?	The project has been approved for 10 years and is in year 7.

2 Programme Overview

Kaipara Moana Remediation (KMR) seeks to protect and restore the mauri of the Kaipara Moana, with an aim to halve sediment losses into the harbour over the long term. The Deed of Funding spans the period of 2021 to 2031, and as at 30 June 2026, KMR has completed four and a half years of full operational activity. KMR is underpinned by two foundational strategies, The Soil Conservation Strategy, and Kōrero Tuku Iho:

KMR's Soil Conservation Strategy:

Activity during the first 18 months of operations targeted waterway-focused activities, namely fencing off and planting land near waterways, rivers, streams, wetlands, and the coast itself. From September 2023, KMR implemented a Soil Conservation Strategy, promoting a wider set of project investments to reduce sediment across the landscape with the new addition of planting options for highly erodible hill country. This enabled a targeted investment in erosion and sediment reduction in highly erodible areas, supporting greater participation in the programme.

Kōrero Tuku Iho:

Kōrero Tuku Iho is the foundational cultural strategy for Kaipara Moana Remediation. Building on mātauranga, kōrero tuku iho-based environmental management methods and profiles of the whenua, the project will use a small number of whakatauirā (case studies) to develop a methodology that can be applied across various Kaipara uri, iwi, hapū, marae and whānau communities. The whakatauirā will support practical sediment remediation activities inspired by local perspectives, including kōrero tuku iho and tikanga tiaki (customary practices).

This Work Plan for 2026/2027, its associated Key Performance Indicators (KPIs), and the budget draws on operational and financial data for this period. However, the programme continues to evolve, and uptake of services may vary year to year, reflecting landowners' financial constraints and broader economic or political conditions. This creates variability in activity uptake and requires programme flexibility to respond to external changes and opportunities as they arise.

In FY 26/27, a key consideration is that over 80% of estimated eligible catchment landowners have now engaged with KMR, and a Sediment Reduction Plan has either been developed or is in the process of being developed, which limits the scope for growth in participation from new landowners (estimates are based on the 2023 Grant Thornton Model). Accordingly, a focus for this year is additional projects with existing landowners. These additional projects within existing landowner boundaries will support delivery outcomes but will not increase the area KPI measure, as landowner boundaries are counted only once at the time of the first remediation project. However, Nature and Resilience KPIs for KMR, such as fencing and planting, will continue to increase with these additional projects.

The Key Tasks and Activities set out in section 6 of this Plan are moderately aspirational, reflecting KMR's intent to deliver ongoing scale-up of the programme, while recognising that we may be approaching the phase in our programme modelling (per the Indicative Business Case and Grant Thornton Model) where uptake from new landowners will begin to plateau. KMR also recognises that there will be a concurrent increasing volume of remediation works already under contract that will need to be supported through to completion, and funds dispersed. Large scale properties often have the capability to undertake larger Projects, producing higher KPI results, but KMR will be targeting specific catchment areas this financial year, some of which are more populated with smaller (lifestyle) blocks which are constrained by their size in the amount of Nature and Resilience KPIs that they can achieve, but are important in maintaining equity in a voluntary programme across the entire catchment.

As with the previous financial year, we have included indicative delivery ranges for FY 2026/2027. The upper bound of each range reflects KMR's delivery aspirations, while the lower bound reflects more realistic (moderate) Key Performance Indicators that KMR is expected to meet under the *Jobs for Nature* reporting system.

As KMR remains a voluntary programme with limited regulatory drivers, the proposed Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) remain an estimate of what the programme *could* achieve during Year 7 given best estimates and data available to date in the programme.

Ranges have been set taking into account:

- Programme delivery to date and what we have achieved by 30 June 2026

- The uncertainty about landowners' remediation choices amid rising operational costs and increasing severe weather events, notably whether hill country measures will be prioritised over riparian activities.
- The Grant Thornton model that informed the programme rephasing and sets out estimated annual deliverables across each year of a 10-year programme.
- Landowner/group feedback and programme experience that ongoing uncertainty around regulatory policy settings are influencing (reducing) programme uptake and the size of KMR projects.

3 Contact details for this project

Check that the contact information below is correct, and update this as required.

Recipient's main contact (name and organisation)	Emma Doré, KMR	Ministry's main contact	Aoife Broad
Role in the organisation	Acting Pou Tātaki		
Email address	emmad@kmr.org.nz	Email address	Aoife.Broad@mfe.govt.nz
Phone	027 4323603	Phone	027 602 2433
Postal address	c/o Northland Regional Council Private Bag 9021 Whangārei Mail Centre Whangārei 0148	Postal address	PO Box 10362 Wellington 6143
Physical address	c/o The Orchard Level One, 35 Walton Street Whangarei 0110	Physical address	8 Willis Street, Wellington Central New Zealand

4 Project team

Provide details of your project team and confirmation of their availability for the duration of the project. Please provide details for your project manager in the first row.

Name	Organisation	Role in project	Phone	Email
Emma Doré	KMR	Acting Pou Tātaki/Business Manager	027 432 3603	emmad@kmr.org.nz
Lisette Rawson	KMR	Amo - Rauora Kōawa/Catchment Remediation Manager	027 303 2735	lisetter@kmr.org.nz

5 Environmental compliance

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

Do you require any statutory or non-statutory permissions to complete activities set out in this Annual Work Plan?

For example, resource consents, planning consents, or landowner permissions?

☐ Yes

☒ No

If yes, which permission(s) are required? Have you applied for these? If so, when is a decision expected? (If date of decision is unknown, please provide a comment.)

KMR does not undertake work on landowners' properties. Landowners obtain their own contractors directly. Where KMR requires access to inspect sites / works completed before providing reimbursement through the agreed grant amount, this forms part of the grant Contract issued to and signed by the landowner.

6 Project key tasks/activities for this financial year (2026/2027)

Work Programme	YEAR 7 Project tasks/activities	Deliverables and outputs	YEAR 7 Estimated budget (\$ million)		
			Crown contribution	Contribution from external sources (Council, Landowners, Partners)	TOTAL Budget
Programme delivery – sediment reduction			\$9.883	\$9.084	\$18.967
Remediation Grants & Partnerships	Grants funding to landowners and groups across the Kaipara Moana catchment. Funding is delivered directly to landowners through KMR’s Landowner Grants Scheme and to groups (for example, community groups, catchment groups, marae) through the Whenua Whānui Fund. This funding provides for: - Preparation of Sediment Reduction Plans and KMR projects. These identify priority works to reduce sediment and act as funding agreements to undertake these. - A KMR ‘contribution’ to the cost of works, at 50% of estimated project value for Landowner Grants and up to 70% of estimated project value for Whenua Whānui Fund projects, with the landowner or group covering the balance through cash or in-kind contributions, or via other third-party contributions. - A contribution to engagement, education, project management and administration costs, if relevant under Whenua Whānui Fund projects. - Project funding to engage and support catchment groups and/or collectives.	KMR will provide annual copies of the following documents to the Ministry: 4 blank examples of grant contract templates. - PDF of the Sediment Reduction Plan process steps undertaken through our digital system. - Sediment Reduction Plan criteria guidance for Field Advisors. KMR will provide quarterly: 4 sample photographs of completed planting and fencing projects. Please note that outputs identified below are modelled estimates and will be subject to change: - Between 100-140 new Sediment Reduction Plans or Tiaki Farm Environment Plans /grant agreements. <i>Note: Development of</i>	\$9.598	\$8.831	\$18.429

		<i>Sediment Reduction Plans is 100% funded by KMR, implementation of works included in plans is split between KMR and landowners/other contributors.</i>		
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	It also supports delivery through sediment remediation partnerships with: • Kaipara Uri, a key delivery partner, supporting engagement to drive uptake and projects among harder-to-reach mana whenua groups. • Fonterra, who develops Tiaki Farm Environment Plans and associated projects on KMR's behalf • The Forest Bridge Trust supporting engagement and delivery of Sediment Reduction Plans/projects. • Other delivery partners include Wai Connection who assist with community engagement and QEII Trust to establish covenants around the Kaipara Moana Catchment. The budget also includes the value of contracted sediment remediation grants and the matching landowner/group contributions carried over from Year 6. Some of this budget will roll over into Year 8, reflecting newly contracted remediation grants and matching landowner contributions that are not completed until the following financial year.	• Further projects contracted with 120-320 landowners/groups who are already working with KMR. • Between 13,000-30,000 hectares of new land area covered by new Sediment Reduction Plans or Tiaki Farm Environment Plans/grant agreements. • Between 300-550 km of new fencing built or under contract to be built. • Between 100-160 ha of planting in riparian, coastal, wetland or lake margins completed or under contract to be completed. • Between 250-1,200 ha of afforestation or space planting outside of riparian and wetland areas are completed or under contract. • Between 350,000-1,800,000 plants planted in highly erodible hill country outside of riparian and wetland areas completed or under contract. Note: Uptake of Sediment Reduction Plans/projects and the quantum of individual landowner/group spend per property depend directly on several external factors (such as economics, weather and central and regional government policy settings), as well as the success of KMR's engagement strategy, landowner/group willingness and			
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		capacity to engage, and the rate at which Plans/projects are completed by KMR and our delivery partners in the 2026/2027 financial year. Remediation works outputs (i.e. kms of fencing) are tracked from when a Sediment Reduction Plan is agreed with a landowner, until projects included in the plan are signed off as completed. Remediation projects often span financial years. Final payment and landowner contribution will occur when remediation works are signed off as completed. Workforce development and FTE outputs are modelled based on assumptions about remediation works outputs.			
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Capability and Workforce Development	A range of activities to support KMR to build technical advisory capability including: • Providing strategic and technical advice to our Field Advisors on tree species for unique challenges on land or supporting sediment reduction activities • Professional development, training, and mentoring support via a community of practice for KMR Field Advisors (Including 12 individually contracted Field Advisors employed in the previous financial year) • Training to develop The KMR Local Stream Health Project and Freshwater Farm Planners into the future	KMR will provide quarterly updates on: • Number of people who have undertaken training, as an agreed Jobs for Nature KPI measure. KMR will provide narrative updates on the following activities in the 6-Monthly and /or Annual Report. • Workforce initiatives with a focus on developing workforce capability and capacity to implement sediment remediation projects, support KMR stream health monitoring	\$0.285	\$0.253	\$0.538

	Other initiatives as required to support workforce development, training, and mentoring as required.	and future Freshwater Farm Plans.			
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Engagement and Partnership			\$0.151	\$0.045	\$0.196
Communications and Engagement	KMR's communications and engagement are directed at reaching landowners and groups across the catchment to drive uptake and completion of KMR grants, in line with programme KPIs and expectations of wide participation, as well as a targeted number of activities to keep founding partners, delivery partners, stakeholders, and future investors informed. Activity will include: • Revision of the KMR Comms & Engagement Strategy • Forums with senior industry, NGOs, community, iwi/hapū and practitioners across the Kaipara Moana Catchment to share information on remediation opportunities, funding, resources and relevant insights from KMR delivery. • Engagement in the community, including on marae, at events, field days and open days, as well at sector and community forums. • Publicising the work the KMR is doing to landowners and groups not yet working with KMR, and potential commercial and philanthropic partners, including through regular media outreach, video content and campaigns.	KMR will provide quarterly updates on: • Data on hosted events including on-farm, community-based and on-marae engagement, either in person or held through online mediums. • Copies of published information materials and brochures, either in print format or via digital channels. • Regular e-newsletters to subscribers, publicly available website/news updates, social media posts. • An Annual Partnership Forum for landowners, groups, and KMR partners to share information and best practice and provide updates about KMR.	\$0.145	\$0.036	\$0.181

	A range of engagement methods to target landowners and groups with offers of support, reminders, and seasonal messages.				
Programme marketing	This workstream will promote and publicise the work KMR is doing, with a focus on informing landowners, groups, and potential partners of the opportunities available through KMR, and profiling people taking action with KMR support, in order to better reach target groups. Activity will include: - Advertising and paid promotional content. - Text messaging to existing landowners/groups to promote new projects - Creation of marketing collateral to promote KMR.	KMR will provide quarterly to the Ministry: Digital copies of created marketing collateral	\$0.006	\$0.009	\$0.015
Thriving Maurikura			\$0.574	\$1.611	\$2.185
Kaipara Maurikura	The Kaipara Maurikura is the operational vehicle for KMR. It was established as a business unit within Northland Regional Council, until such time as the Kaipara Moana Body is established under statute. The Kaipara Maurikura currently employs 12.75 full-time equivalent (FTE) staff, which is capped at 14FTE with vacancies included in this budget, (at least 50% funded by co-funders) who fulfil the leadership, engagement, communications, project management, technical leadership, strategic, governance	Delivery of programme-level KPIs. Timely delivery of required reporting outputs to the Ministry for the Environment: - Quarterly reporting on Jobs for Nature KPIs (due July 31, 2026, October 31 2026, January 31 2027 and April 30 2027) - Six monthly report (due 28 February 2027)	\$0.574	\$1.611	\$2.185

	support and administrative roles required to deliver KMR's work programme. It is the responsibility of the KMR Maurikura to confirm all external funding for Year 7 of this project is secured, and if not, notify the Ministry. This budget area includes all costs for independent office space, with IT and telecommunications, vehicles, health and safety, human resources, professional development of KMR Maurikura staff, financial, audit and other administrative support costs, delivered via a Service Level Agreement with Northland Regional Council. This budget area also includes a contingency budget (only if needed) for the Pou Tātaki for consultants, legal advice, and sundries.	• Annual report (due 31 October 2027) • Annual independent financial audit report (including delivery confirmation of Grant Agreements) (due 31 October 2027) • KMR Year 8 Annual Work Plan (due 30 April 2027)			
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Governance, Planning and Reporting			\$0.030	\$0.030	\$0.060
Governance	The Kaipara Moana Remediation Joint Committee costs including Kaipara Uri member fees, venue hire, catering, koha, travel and other associated costs. Note – Kaipara Maurikura staff provide administrative support for the Joint Committee (budgeted for separately under Thriving Maurikura above).	KMR will provide effective governance through the Kaipara Moana Remediation Joint Committee with the following deliverables: • 4 Formal meetings each year (some online) • Links to recordings of online meetings published on the Northland Regional Council YouTube site. • Additional Governance meeting minutes as required. • Minutes of meetings once approved will be published.	\$0.030	\$0.030	\$0.060
Digital Tools			\$0.229	\$0.209	\$0.438
System development and maintenance	Continued subscription and maintenance for necessary improvements or upgrades of KMR's digital farm planning platform Mātai Onekura. Establishment of a KMR ArcGIS account, dashboard design, team users' licenses and produce analysis to match new initiatives and targets. Bi-annual GIS spatial analysis. Carry-over of remaining budget approved in previous AWP's for Tātaki Wai, KMR's water quality accounting framework (\$0.131m).	KMR will provide progress reporting within the 6-Month Report and/or Annual Report on: • Improved capability of KMR's digital tools. • Learnings from spatial analysis • Provide MfE access to Storymaps on catchment coverage progress.	\$0.229	\$0.209	\$0.438

Strategy and Opportunities			\$0.464	\$0.352	\$0.816
Kōrero Tuku Iho	Kōrero Tuku Iho is the cultural dimension of KMR and one of its two foundations. The project will provide an avenue for Kaipara Uri and mana whenua not represented by Kaipara Uri entities to express priorities for sediment reduction. Kōrero Tuku Iho will use place-based case studies to capture articulation of te ao Māori	KMR will provide progress updates via the Joint Committee on the development of: • Case study 1, expected to be completed during 2026. • Case study 2, to be established in 2026, completed early 2027. • Case study 3, scoping to be finalised in 2026.	\$0.356	\$0.324	\$0.680

	values and aspirations of relevance to KMR, develop a cultural framework for wider use across the catchment, and use kaitiakitanga in action to work towards restoring the health, wellbeing, and mauri at specific, culturally important locations.	N.B. KMR will provide ongoing oversight and support of the project, including support for development of a blueprint for how KMR can integrate considerations of cultural priorities (e.g. culturally important areas, culturally significant native species, traditional methods for reducing sediment) across the Kaipara Moana catchment (i.e. beyond the geographical areas covered by the case studies).			
New Partnerships and Opportunities	Ongoing development of opportunities with third parties that will deliver near-term benefit to KMR landowners. These opportunities will focus on reducing the cost to the landowner of KMR remediation activity, thereby increasing fund accessibility. Opportunities will also reduce the pressure on the KMR budget, allowing KMR to reach more landowners/groups, and supporting progress towards KMR's investment objectives.	KMR aims to deliver: - Establishment of one new partnership to bring in third party funding to reduce sediment reduction costs for landowners/groups and KMR. - Develop Landowner funding opportunities navigation with other catchment group fund holders.	\$0.025	\$0.025	\$0.050
Investment strategy, monitoring and evaluation	Review of KMR's investment to reflect programme experience, any insights from scientific outputs and/or models, and the Kōrero Tuku Iho framework, and set the foundations for developing a targeted investment approach to deliver on KMR's four investment objectives.	KMR will: Review and refine investment approaches to align with the stage of the programme.	\$0.083	\$0.003	\$0.086

	Continue and expand programme monitoring and evaluation, including improvements in tracking the impact towards KMR investment objectives. Local Stream Health Monitoring Project (paired catchment modelling)	- Progress the development of further monitoring against investment outcomes. - Copy of Local Stream Health Monitoring Project final report (either via the six-monthly, annual report or a separate document).			
Total Estimated Budget for FY 2026/2027			\$11.331	\$11.331	\$22.662

7 Annual progress towards Jobs for Nature Focus Area Indicators

Indicate below how your project's activities for the year will contribute to the programme's focus areas. You will report on progress towards your targets over the life of your project. Delete the Metrics and/or Focus Areas that are not relevant to your project.

Note – These indicators will be refined as FY2026/2027 progresses and as KMR grants funding is taken up by landowners and groups. There is significant uncertainty on the speed and level to which grants funding will be taken up. Assumptions will be reviewed as better data based on direct engagement with landowners is available. **Bold values indicate required J4N indicators.**

Focus Area	Metric (Delivered in reporting period)	Six-month target range	Total (12 month) Year 7 target range	J4N KPI
Engagement and Participation	Number of new Project plans or new Farm Environment Plans completed (total): - Number of new Plans - Number of new Projects by returning Landowners and Groups	110-230 50-70 60-160	220-460 100-140 120-320	100
	Area covered by new Farm Environment Plans (ha)	6,500-15,000ha	13,000-30,000ha	13,000ha
Nature and Resilience	Length of new fencing constructed (km)	150-275km	300-550km	300km
	Total trees/plants planted - Number of trees/plants planted in riparian, lake, or wetlands areas - Number of trees/plants planted in highly erodible hill country	450,000-1,300,000 275,000-400,000 175,000-900,000	900,000-2,600,000 550,000-800,000 350,000-1,800,000	550,000
	Area protected through planting or native regeneration (ha) - Area protected by riparian, lake, or wetlands planting (ha) - Area protected by afforestation, space planting or biodiversity planting in highly erodible hill country (ha)	175-680ha 50-80ha 125-600ha	350-1,360ha 100-160ha 250-1200ha	100ha 250ha
Skills and Jobs	Number of people-hours worked	31,500-40,000 (19-26 FTE)	63,000-80,000 (40-51 FTE)	63,000 (40 FTE)
	Number of people undertaking training	20	40	40

8 Funding information for Year 7

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

Funding parties	Contribution for Year 7 (\$ million)	Funding confirmed or pending
Auckland Council/Northland Regional Council	\$3.481M	Confirmed.
Landowners/Groups	\$7.850M	Pending (this is an outcome of remediation work completed through Sediment Reduction Plans and related grants funding).
Crown contribution for the year (maximum)	\$11.331M	This includes funding carried over from the 2025-26 financial year.
Total value (cost) of KMR activity for the year	\$22.662M	This includes funding carried over from FY 2025 – 2026.

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

9 Partnership and collaboration (non-funding)

Please provide details of any other organisations or individuals that you are partnering with to deliver the project, though are not contributing cash.

Organisation name	Contact details <i>Name, phone number and email</i>	Details of involvement or collaboration <i>For example, contribution of funding or resources, involvement in decision-making, responsibility for delivering a component of the project.</i>
Fonterra	George Kruger George.kruger@fonterra.com 027 504 4156	Delivery of Tiaki Farm Environment Plans
The Forest Bridge Trust	Matu Booth – General Manager matu@forestbridgetrust.org.nz 0220289342	Delivery of SRPs, community events, technical hui, Partnership Hui
Envirocons Holdings Ltd	Cindy Hemsall chempsall@uriohau.co.nz 021 511 879	Cultural review of sediment reduction plans/projects. Oversight and delivery of the Kōrero Tuku Iho project.

10 Consultant and/or sub-contractor details (if applicable)

Provide information about any third party you intend to sub-contract to undertake work on the project. The Ministry may request evidence of all contracts (and associated procurement process followed, for each sub-contractor) as part of the milestone reporting requirements. Please refer to the Guide for Grantees for guidance on the use of sub-contractors

Company name of consultant/sub-contractor <i>Please include trading name if different</i>	Work to be undertaken in the delivery of the project	Value of contract <i>Total estimated value of contract, excluding GST</i>	Potential conflict of interest <i>(eg, financial interest in sub-contractor's company, commercial or business relationship with sub-contractor, friend or relative working for sub-contractor, etc)</i>
Field Advisors (7)	Landowner engagement and producing SRPs	\$0.624	None
Sediment Reduction Plan Specialists (5)	Landowner engagement and producing SRPs, specialist evaluation, workforce training, GIS analysis, complex SRPs, reviewing SRPs, mentoring, specialist and lead in planting, landowner and field advisor advice, nurseries liaison and accreditation.	\$0.858	None
This is Level	Strategy, marketing and design	\$0.168	None
Made Curious	Digital farm planning platform Mātai Onekura	\$0.227	None
Northland Regional Council	IT and telecommunications, vehicles, health and safety, human resources, professional development, and financial, audit and other administrative support costs	\$0.334	None
The Orchard Hub	Office space and IT connections.	\$0.089	None

11 Risk management

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

Potential risk	Likelihood of risk occurring	Impact on project	Consequence on project	Strategy to mitigate
Identify the potential risk to your project (for example, project not completed on time, unpredictable events such as weather, lack of resource commitment, time and cost estimates too optimistic, unexpected budget cuts, stakeholders changing requirements after the project has started, risks to the industry or sector to which the organisation belongs).	Low, medium or high.	Describe the impact the risk would have on the project if it occurred (for example, misunderstandings, duplication of work, incomplete work).	Minor, moderate or severe.	Describe what will be done to minimise and/or manage the risk (for example, project manager monitors functional roles to ensure enough time is allocated to complete each task/activity and the project as a whole).
Strategic risks - Changing operating environment				
1. Political or investor support for KMR wanes.	Low	KMR is a long-term programme and waning support may reduce landowner certainty about support for activity and compromise ability to achieve the programme's goals.	Severe	• Ongoing senior-level engagement, including Ministerial engagement and with government officials. • Induction for new JC members. • Ongoing regular engagement with MfE, as primary funder and Councils as co-funders. • Maintain and develop collaborative relationships with lead industry agencies. • Ongoing senior-level participation and presentation at relevant rural, professional, conservation and community events. Communications and external engagements showcasing KMR progress and achievements. • Ongoing programme reporting, validation and assurance activity to maintain confidence. • Marketing of recent successes

2. Policy changes and/or uncertainty reduce uptake of KMR services.	High	Persistent uncertainty around future freshwater, carbon, and biodiversity policy settings remain factors which negatively influence uptake, and it may be that anticipated opportunities for KMR in leveraging these areas will not eventuate before the end of the 10-year programme. Reduced uptake would challenge programme objectives. Uncertainty among landowners about future regulatory requirements may reduce uptake of KMR grants, as there is no guarantee whether the funded works will meet future compliance expectations.	Moderate	• Engagement with policy and planning processes. • Ongoing KMR Landowner Grants and Whenua Whānui Fund engagement and delivery. • Ongoing development and delivery of programme partnerships / third party contribution to incentivise uptake. • Ongoing delivery of Sediment Reduction Plans until Freshwater Farm plans are implemented. • Watching brief on KMR's role in a Freshwater Farm Plan operating context.
3. Economic downturn and/or adverse events (e.g. weather events, labour force constraints) reduces uptake of KMR grants and slows works.	Medium	Reduced landowner uptake would compromise delivery of programme objectives.	Moderate	• Deepening of programme partnerships / third party contribution to incentivise uptake. • Tailored marketing with third party networks to promote opportunities. • Regular pricing reviews to ensure appropriate market rates. • Mātai Onekura planning tool allows more proactive monitoring and support for Field Advisors. • Ongoing project management approaches to both reduce project delays and allow flexibility for changing landowner circumstances.

Reputational risks - KMR delivery does not meet expectations				
4. KMR is slow to make available investments, and/or the quality of delivery of services is poor.	Low	Programme reputation and stakeholder confidence in KMR's ability to deliver is undermined, which further limits KMR's influence and effectiveness. Low quality service and / or a lack of timely	Moderate	• Demonstrated delivery by KMR. • Ongoing marketing and communications of our achievements to date. • Strengthened Field Advisor training, development and mentoring.
		delivery impact on longer-term objectives.		• Field Advisors are connected to named Grant Coordinators for support and transparency of progress. • Ongoing KMR work programme development and prioritisation. • Proactive, regular oversight of project and plan development and delivery, using digital tool functionality. • Ongoing quality assurance, review and audit processes. • Programme planning based on updated modelling and actual uptake for improved forecasting and programme assurance. • The KMR / DOC Community Agreement is reviewed to assess progress and delivery risks. KMR will adapt as needed to reflect lessons learnt in Auckland before any roll-out to Northland. • A watching brief on changing best practice and actual costs of interventions.
Reputational risks - KMR brought into disrepute				

5. KMR staff or contractors improperly use KMR funding or other resources	Low	KMR integrity and brand are compromised.	Moderate	• Ensuring KMR induction and onboarding of contractors. • Digital processes and internal review provide greater transparency and assurance of project and grant activity. • Privacy and security settings are enabled through digital tools. • NRC financial controls/audits including fraud controls. • Proactive monitoring of OAG-defined and other potential conflicts of interest, both direct and indirect.
				• Programme reporting and review by MfE to maintain confidence. • KMR accreditation and ongoing quality assurance and review processes. • KMR contract management and grant auditing processes.
Relational risks – KMR partnerships are not honoured				

6. KMR fails to demonstrate the intent of the founding Memorandum of Understanding.	Low	Misalignment with intent erodes trust, confidence and relationships amongst KMR partners and communities.	Moderate	• Joint Committee papers provide comment on alignment to MOU investment objectives. • 'No surprises' communications of key matters to Joint Committee members via the Chair. • Regular engagement with senior partner representatives. • Partnership Forums and in-community hui and meetings. • Engagement with environmental arms of Kaipara Uri and other iwi/hapū groups in the catchment. • Regular engagement with MfE / Ministers and local government as investors and key stakeholders. • Progress with Kōrero Tuku Iho Project.
7. KMR fails to engage with groups in the catchment who are not represented by Kaipara Uri.	Low	Perception that KMR is taking a narrow tribal view rather than a catchment perspective. This could impact negatively on relationships and settlement processes.	Moderate	• Mana Whenua Relations Advisor continues to engage. • Ongoing engagement with non-Kaipara Uri iwi/hapū groups in the catchment. • Joint Committee Haukāinga sessions. • Whenua Whānui Fund available to marae, Māori trusts, ahuwhenua landholders and iwi/hapū within the Kaipara Moana Catchment.

				• Kōrero Tuku Iho project progressing. • Other groups represented on Kōrero Tuku Iho reference group. • Field Advisor training and accreditation are available to all. • Partnership Forum and Community Hui open to all. • Support and investment for establishment of Catchment Reference Groups, Collective or equivalent to coordinate local remediation projects.
Wellbeing, safety and health risks				
8. H&S risks to staff, partners, contractors, sub-contractors and communities are not adequately managed.	Low	Potential impact on the health and safety of staff, partners, contractors, sub-contractors and communities if risks are not appropriately identified and managed.	Severe	• Ongoing KMR Health and Safety assurance, accreditation and support for Field Advisors and contractors • Maurikura Health and Safety buddy system. • NRC Health & Safety Policies and Processes, including for contractors and sub-contractors, are complied with. • KMR preferred supplier and nursery accreditation processes. • Established SiteWise (or other recognised) accreditation and audit programme. • Ongoing Field Advisor mentoring, training and H&S checks.

12 Conflicts of interest

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

Declaration

This declaration must be completed by a person with the organisation's signing authority.

As a duly authorised representative of the organisation:

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

Name: Tame Te Rangi

Position: KMR Joint Committee Chair

Signature:

By typing your name in the space provided you are electronically signing this Annual Work Plan.

TITLE: Annual Report (2025-2026)

**Kaituhi Pūrongo |
Report Writer**

Natalie Jarufe - Ringa-Pārongo | Communications Lead

Te Kaupapa | Purpose

This report tables the Kaipara Moana Remediation Annual Report (2025-2026) for adoption by the KMR Joint Committee.

Rāpopototanga Matua | Executive summary

The Kaipara Moana Remediation (KMR) Deed of Funding requires the preparation of an Annual Report for submission to the Ministry for Cities, Environment, Regions and Transport (MCERT) by 31 October each year.

The 2025-2026 KMR Annual Report has been drafted, and audit is underway. An Audit Report will be signed following the Joint Committee's approval of the Annual Report.

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

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

Whakataunga | Recommendations

That the Joint Committee:

1. Receive the report 'Annual Report (2025-2026)', by Natalie Jarufe dated 19 October 2026.
2. Adopt the final draft of the Annual Report 2025-2026 for provision to the Ministry for Cities, Environment, Regions and Transport.
3. Delegate to the Joint Committee Chair power to approve the final Annual Report, with the ability for the Pou Tātaki to make minor editorial changes prior to publication if required.

Horopaki | Background

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

Tātari me ngā tūtohu | Analysis and Advice

Annual Report requirements

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

Audit Report

An Audit Report is also required to be submitted to the Ministry. At the time of writing, an independent auditor is completing an audit of the 2025-2026 financial year. Auditors will finalise the Audit Report once they have confirmation of the Joint Committee's approval of the Annual Report. Once the Audit Report is signed, KMR will circulate this to the Joint Committee for information.

Finalising the draft Annual Report and delegations to the Chair

KMR staff recommend the Joint Committee adopt the draft Annual Report for provision to the Ministry for Cities, Environment, Regions and Transport.

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

Annual Report publication

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

Considerations

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

Provision of an Annual Report to the Ministry is a requirement under the KMR Deed of Funding. KMR's Annual Report sets out the programme's financial and activity-based reporting and progress on key performance indicators with the Ministry.

2. Ngā ritenga take pūtea | Financial implications

There are no financial implications of approving the Annual Report. Its preparation and audit are covered by KMR's general operating budget.

3. Ngā hiranga me ngā hononga | Significance and Engagement

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

4. Ngā tūraru me ngā mauri | Risks and mitigation

The Annual Report provides transparency and accountability to the work of KMR, and assurance to programme partners on performance.

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

KMR will do a small print run of our Annual Report on recycled paper using sustainable inks to minimise the environmental and climate footprint of this publication.

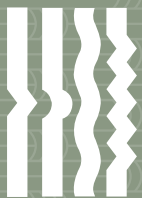
¹ This Joint Committee operates under the Local Government Act which requires a significance and engagement policy (which identifies when matters require special consultation with tangata whenua and the community) and to have regard to that policy when making decisions. As the administrative support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

Ngā Tāpiri | Attachments

Attachment 1 – Annual Report (2025-2026)

Pūrongo-ā-Tau

Annual Report 2025/2026





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

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Kupu Whakataki



Tame Te Rangi
Chair

Chair's Foreword

Ko te aronga tuatahi ki te wāhi ngaro ki te mātāpuna o te manaaki. Ka whai tonu i te hononga ki te hunga kua okioki kua ngaro rā ki te tirohanga o te kanohi; rātou ki a rātou ā, ko tātou kua mahue mai ki muri kia ū kia manawaroa ā, kāti ake.

Kaipara Moana Remediation (KMR) is a long-term, intergenerational programme with a clear purpose: to protect and restore the health of Kaipara Moana. This Annual Report reflects the progress being made across the catchment through the collective efforts of landowners, uri, communities, and programme partners.

The scale of work continues to grow. Five years after becoming fully operational, KMR has surpassed three million plants, either in the ground or contracted for planting, while more than 1,500 landowners and community groups have expressed interest in plans to reduce sediment loss from the whenua into Kaipara Moana.

The restoration work supported by KMR—from wetland restoration and waterway fencing to native planting and the regeneration of highly erodible land—is delivering tangible environmental gains. Together, these actions are reducing sediment loss, restoring biodiversity, strengthening connections between people and place, and building resilience to a changing climate.

These achievements demonstrate what can be accomplished when environmental restoration is led by those who know and care deeply for the whenua. I acknowledge the landowners, uri, communities, and partners whose commitment and leadership are driving this work. Such contribution is fundamental to the long-term health and resilience of Kaipara Moana.

This year saw the completion of the first place-based case study through the Kōrero Tuku Iho project, with a second underway. This work is helping establish a framework for local knowledge, values and aspirations to shape restoration and regeneration across the catchment.

I acknowledge the ongoing support of government Ministers, Members of Parliament, councils and our programme partners, and thank Joint Committee members for their stewardship.

There is much more to do. The foundations are strong, the momentum is building, and our collective ambition remains clear: a healthier, more resilient Kaipara Moana for generations to come. Kua tau.

Ngā Aronga a te Pou Tātaki



A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Emma Doré'.

Emma Doré
Pou Tātaki

Pou Tātaki Foreword

Kaipara Moana is one of Aotearoa New Zealand's greatest natural treasures, with immense environmental, cultural and economic significance. Its rich history stretches back through generations of tangata whenua and the many communities who call the catchment home. Restoring and protecting the health of the Moana is a long-term commitment that requires collective action.

This Annual Report highlights another year of strong progress for Kaipara Moana Remediation and what can be achieved when landowners, groups, local government, delivery partners, and industry unite behind a shared purpose.

During the year, KMR continued to expand its impact, with hundreds of new projects underway, but KMR's success is not measured solely in numbers. Behind every project is a landowner, whānau, marae committee, community group or business investing in the future of their whenua and waterways. Their efforts are help to create healthier ecosystems, stronger communities and a more resilient catchment.

I was delighted to see several farmers working alongside KMR recognised at the 2026 Ballance Farm Environment Awards, reflecting the innovation and environmental stewardship shown across the catchment. Partnerships with KMR across the primary sector, environmental organisations and local communities continue to strengthen, enabling outcomes that would not be possible alone.

This year reinforced an important truth: the community resilience is inseparable from the resilience of the natural environment. The rivers, streams, wetlands and coastal margins of the Kaipara Moana catchment support livelihoods, productive landscapes, cultural identity and wellbeing. Investing in these systems strengthens both communities and climate resilience, with healthy waterways, wetlands and coastal margins providing natural protection against flooding, erosion and the impacts of increasingly extreme weather events.

At the same time, our core purpose remains clear: reducing the sediment entering Kaipara Moana through practical action on the ground. As conversations across Aotearoa New Zealand increasingly recognise the value of natural infrastructure, it is encouraging to see growing recognition of the wider economic, environmental and social benefits that sediment reduction can deliver.

My sincere thanks to our governance, funders, partners, accredited suppliers, contractors, staff, and especially the landowners and communities taking action across the catchment. While much work remains, this report demonstrates the progress being made and the power of collective action to secure a healthier future for Kaipara Moana.

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

Kaipara Moana is an ancient bastion of nature, alive with history of days, of eras past. It is a place of deep spiritual and cultural value, a space with its own mauri and identity imbued with a mana of its own. As the largest natural harbour in the Southern Hemisphere, it is also a place of global significance.





Ko ā Mātou Mahi

Our Work

As Aotearoa's largest harbour system, Kaipara Moana includes 6,000km² of catchment spanning Auckland and Northland regions and 8,110 kilometres of waterways flowing into the harbour. The Moana has deep environmental and cultural value, with many taonga species and New Zealand's rarest ecosystems, including sand-dune, seagrass, and freshwater and estuarine wetland ecosystems. As the nursery for much of New Zealand's snapper fishery, Kaipara Moana also has major economic and recreational value.

However, high sediment levels have put this at risk. Decades of deforestation intensification of land use 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. At high concentrations, these contaminants can make people and animals unwell and make water quality unsuitable for swimming, drinking, or mahinga kai (food gathering). Sedimentation's significant impacts on the Moana are well-documented, with studies showing that species and habitats are smothered, leading to ecological losses.

The historic signing of the Kaipara Moana Remediation (KMR) Memorandum of Understanding on 9 October 2020, 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). \$80m has been budgeted for further remediation activity and will be sourced in various ways, including from landowners, industry, community, and philanthropic organisations. This approach recognises that Kaipara Moana restoration requires widespread action across the catchment, while reflecting that for every dollar of Crown funding, a matched contribution is required.

Rautaki Tūmahi Tau Tuawhā

The Year in Review

This Annual Report highlights the significant progress and outcomes KMR achieved between 1 July 2025 and 30 June 2026. These achievements reflect the power of collaboration across the Kaipara Moana catchment—bringing together the leadership and dedication of KMR staff and governors, the support of our founding agencies, funders and programme partners, the expertise of accredited nurseries and suppliers, and the growing commitment of landowners and community groups working to restore and protect our waterways.



Building on success

KMR continued to expand its portfolio of projects across the rohe. Our staff, technical experts and Field Advisors partnered with landowners and community groups to ensure investment decisions were informed by robust science and local knowledge, targeting actions and sites that would deliver the greatest environmental outcomes in the most cost-effectively.

In 2025-2026, KMR significantly exceeded Key Performance Indicator (KPI) targets for:

- The number of new landowners and groups joining KMR;
- The number of landowners and groups undertaking further projects with KMR support;
- Soil conservation on erodible hillsides (number and area of trees planted);

The continued growth in our results reflects expanding community participation in KMR programmes and sustained investment in high-priority sites, including steep hill country where erosion poses significant environmental risks.

This year KMR was delighted to celebrate several important milestones, including contracting our three millionth tree and our 1,500th landowner or community group formally submitting an Expression of Interest. By 30 June 2026, the programme had enabled more than 3.1 million plants and trees to be planted or

contracted and supported over 1,250 kilometers of fencing installed or contracted to protect waterways and vulnerable hill country—stretching further than the distance from Cape Rēinga to Wellington.

Contributing to nature-based solutions

The Aotearoa Circle's Natural Infrastructure Plan, launched at Parliament in March 2026, recognised KMR as a leading example of how nature-based solutions can deliver long-term environmental, economic, social and cultural benefits. Developed with input from more than 200 experts, the plan advocates for recognising natural assets such as forests, wetlands, waterways, dunes and soils as essential national infrastructure that strengthens New Zealand's resilience and prosperity.

KMR was featured as one of six national case studies demonstrating the value of investing in natural infrastructure. The plan highlighted KMR's strong return on investment, citing benefits including improved farm productivity, regional employment, reduced erosion and sedimentation, protection of Kaipara Moana, and strengthened community and cultural outcomes. It also recognised the programme's role in protecting and revitalising Māori cultural values and practices across the catchment.

The recognition reflects the collective efforts of all engaged with KMR, reinforcing the importance of natural infrastructure as a practical, cost-effective tool for building environmental and economic resilience for future generations.

Awards and industry recognition

KMR's impact and partnerships continued to gain recognition across the primary and environmental sectors.

KMR featured in Fonterra's 2025 Annual Report, highlighting the success of the partnership established between KMR and Fonterra in September 2021. Over the past four years, the collaboration has supported planting more than 200,000 native plants and installing 350 kilometres of fencing on Fonterra dairy farms within the Kaipara Moana catchment. Dairy farms cover approximately 23% of the 640,000-hectare catchment and are estimated to contribute around 24% of the harbour's sediment load, making this partnership an important contribution to sediment reduction efforts.

KMR-supported landowners' environmental leadership was recognised at the 2026 Ballance Farm Environment Awards in Auckland and Northland. Northland winners James and Krista Franklin, who are kūmara, sheep and beef farmers from Dargaville and KMR Landowner Grant recipients, received the Bayleys People in Primary Sector Award, the FMG Risk Management Award, and the Rabobank Agri-Business Management Award.

Murray and Dean Child of Maungakaramaea were awarded the Beef + Lamb New Zealand Livestock Farm Award for their commitment to balancing productive farming with environmental stewardship. In Auckland, KMR-supported sheep and beef farmers Johnny and Michelle Hildreth were recipients of the Auckland Council Water Quality Enhancement Award for their work to improve water quality and protect the environment.

These awards are well-deserved recognition of the innovation and environmental stewardship demonstrated by the recipients. By sharing their stories, they show that strong environmental outcomes and successful farm businesses can be achieved together, and KMR is proud to be working alongside such leaders.

Ongoing system leadership

As the largest harbour restoration initiative and one of the largest catchment groups in Aotearoa, KMR plays a critical leadership role. We freely share advice, templates and guidance to ensure that other initiatives around the country can learn from KMR's expertise. By openly sharing our experience, tools and lessons learned, we build capability and momentum for environmental restoration across Aotearoa.

KMR's Field Advisors act as a critical bridge between local communities, technical specialists and programme partners. Through working closely with landowners and community groups, they help align aspirations, knowledge and resources to support effective restoration outcomes.

By listening, sharing expertise and reducing barriers to action, they collective catchment capacity and beyond to respond to environmental challenges and deliver lasting change.

This approach reduces barriers for landowners and groups to take action, accelerates project delivery, and supports better investment of time and resources.

We have continued to engage with Catchment Communities Aotearoa by supporting the collective voice and contributing to data collation captured across the many existing and emerging catchment groups in Aotearoa. As catchment funding arrangements and eligibility settings continue to evolve across the sector, KMR remains in close contact with funding agencies, helping landowners and groups understand changing requirements and identify emerging opportunities.

While sediment reduction remains at the heart of KMR's purpose, recognition is growing that improving the health of Kaipara Moana also contribute to biodiversity enhancement, climate adaptation and the development of natural infrastructure. KMR values understanding and supporting these connections, particularly where they can strengthen the overall return on investment from restoration activities.

KMR continued to engage with organisations and initiatives working across these areas, seeking opportunities to align effort and share knowledge.

Although this work is still at an early stage, it reflects KMR's commitment to system leadership by recognising the interconnected nature of environmental challenges and supporting approaches that deliver multiple benefits from a single investment.

Growing career opportunities

Since our inception as a Jobs for Nature programme, KMR has remained committed to investing in initiatives that mobilise local participation, strengthen community connections and support skills development and employment. In the last year, we created 89,800 hours of new work for local people across the catchment, which is a year's full-time work for 58 people. Over the life of the programme, we have created 487,000 hours of work (equivalent to a year of full-time work for over 313 people).

After five years of full operational activity, our dedicated team of staff and Field Advisors have developed specialist knowledge, skills and expertise that support increasingly effective restoration outcomes. Investments in training and professional development have also opened doors to new career opportunities, strengthened local capability and created a lasting legacy of skilled people committed to managing natural resources sustainably.

The benefits of this investment reach well beyond KMR itself. As knowledge and expertise are shared with landowners, whānau, marae and community groups, local capability continues to grow across the catchment.

In this way, each investment in training and development strengthens the collective capacity to restore and protect Kaipara Moana, creating enduring benefits that extend far beyond the life of any single project.

Staying safe

Protecting the health and safety of our staff and Field Advisors remains a top priority for KMR. Over the past year, we have continued to strengthen our health and safety systems and practices, ensuring our team has the knowledge, tools, and support needed to work safely and confidently in a wide range of environments.

During the reporting period, all contracted partners and Field Advisors successfully retained their prequalification health and safety accreditation, demonstrating their continued commitment to maintaining the highest health and safety standards.

To support this commitment, KMR hosted a Health and Safety Training Day for all Advisors and staff to complete or renew their prequalification Health and Safety accreditation. The training reinforced key safety principles, refreshed core knowledge, and ensured our field teams continue to meet industry standards and best practice requirements.

KMR also improved digital health and safety systems to make reporting easier and more accessible. Staff can now report incidents and near-misses quickly and directly from their phones, capturing information in real time while in the field. These improvements streamline reporting, encourage timely communication, and help us respond more effectively to potential risks and hazards.

In addition, KMR refreshed Health and Safety requirements and field guidelines for contractors. These updates provide clearer expectations and practical guidance for Field Advisors working across different sites, helping ensure everyone involved in KMR projects understands and meets the same safety standards. Close management is an important part of maintaining a safe working environment for both our team and project partners.

We introduced personal satellite-based monitoring devices for staff visiting properties and remote field locations. This technology provides an additional layer of protection alongside our existing EROAD vehicle tracking system, improving our ability to monitor staff safety and respond quickly if assistance is needed. Introducing these devices reflects KMR's ongoing commitment to continuously improving safety measures for staff working in isolated environments.

We recognise that driving remains the highest safety risk across our organisation. To help manage this risk, our 'Safety Buddy' check-in system is actively used by KMR staff when travelling to and from meetings, events, and field activities. Scheduled check-ins help ensure that staff arrive safely at their destination and provide an additional layer of oversight for those travelling alone. Together, these initiatives demonstrate KMR's proactive approach to protecting our people and fostering a culture focused on safety and wellbeing.



Building capability for long-term success

Training and development are embedded in the KMR team's culture. While our people's personal growth remains important, we have also prioritised strengthening the organisational systems and processes that enable effective delivery.

As KMR continues to mature, we have invested in reviewing and strengthening the foundations that underpin programme delivery. Over the reporting period, this has included enhancements to engagement approaches, digital mapping tools, operational systems, and landowner support services, alongside the development of a refreshed Communications and Engagement Strategy.

Importantly, these new and refined ways of working are informed by the insights gained through working closely with landowners and community groups across the catchment. By applying what we learn from their experiences and feedback, KMR continues to enhance the way we support project delivery, reduce barriers to participation, and direct assistance to where it can have the greatest impact.

These improvements have sharpened our understanding of the catchment and increased confidence in our ability to identify where resources, partnerships, and interventions can achieve the greatest benefit. As a result, KMR is better equipped to accelerate action and maximise environmental outcomes across the catchment.

Operating in a challenging and uncertain environment

While KMR has maintained strong programme delivery, ongoing economic pressures and uncertainty across the rural sector influence voluntary participation from landowners and community groups. Many farming businesses remain focused on financial resilience following several challenging seasons. Variable commodity prices, increasing compliance costs, and ongoing climate-related risks continue to affect confidence and capacity to engage in catchment initiatives.

Climate change and increasingly volatile weather patterns present significant challenges across the regions. Landowners are managing the cumulative impacts of recent years' severe weather events, alongside a cycle of intense, localised flooding, prolonged dry periods, and shifting seasonal conditions that are affecting pasture growth and farm productivity.

Uncertainty around resource management reform and the future direction of freshwater policy also continues to influence landowner decision-making. KMR remains actively engaged with central and regional government to understand emerging policy settings and ensure our programmes remain practical, relevant and aligned with the diverse needs of landowners and community groups.

Recognising these challenges, KMR has focused on making participation as practical and achievable as possible. Working alongside farmers, landowners and community groups, we are increasingly breaking ambitious long-term plans into smaller, affordable projects that are delivered progressively as circumstances allow. This approach acknowledges current economic realities and demonstrates that meaningful environmental gains can be achieved through incremental action. Every restored wetland, fenced waterway and replanted area contributes to the wider restoration of Kaipara Moana, helping maintain momentum even in challenging times.





Kaipara Maurikura team members collaborate and share ideas at the biannual planning workshop.

Maurikura Matomato

Thriving Maurikura

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

Over the year, the Kaipara Maurikura operated with an average of ~12 FTE. This was below the agreed staffing level, reflecting KMR's commitment to flexible working arrangements that support staff wellbeing and workload management, alongside a cautious approach to recruiting into anticipated future development roles.

As the KMR programme continues to grow, we have developed our capability in project oversight, financial stewardship, and programme assurance to remain well positioned to support delivery at scale. What began as engagement with 35 landowners and groups has evolved into a programme supporting more than 1,000 participants, many of whom are engaged in long-term project delivery.

July 2025 marked the implementation of our new internal team structure, reflecting the programme's maturity and the developing needs for focus and specialisation across both remediation activities and business administration.

The new structure followed the organisational capability review in 2025 and has delivered the intended benefits, improving team resilience and enabling more effective workloads across periods of peak demand, seasonal activity and staff leave.

It has also strengthened KMR's ability to remain results-focused, delivering high-quality services and support to a growing number of programme participants across Northland and Auckland.

Over the year, we welcomed two team members back to Kaipara Maurikura after parental leave and have been delighted to meet our two new Maurikura babies. We also sadly farewellled our Pou Tātaki and Communications & Governance Lead, with existing team members stepping up to fill these positions.

This was KMR's first year operating with a new team of three Grants Coordinators, very much needed to support an increasing number of landowners and community groups receiving remediation grants.

The team plays a critical role in supporting grant recipients throughout the entire funding journey, from contract administration through to project completion and final invoicing. These roles have streamlined and tracked our grant processes, improved customer support, and enabled our Field Advisors to focus on

delivering advice and assistance to landowners and community groups as their caseloads increase.

In January 2026, KMR marked one year in our new office at The Orchard, a shared workspace in Whangārei. The move has provided greater flexibility and capacity to accommodate our team, while meeting rooms and collaborative spaces have enhanced communication and teamwork. Being part of a shared working environment has also created valuable opportunities to build relationships with other Northland organisations and strengthen our regional networks.

Building organisational capability remained a key focus throughout the year. Kaipara Maurikura staff participated in ongoing professional development across a range of technical disciplines, including assisted native regeneration, afforestation, and spatial mapping. These investments strengthen our ability to provide high-quality advice, identify opportunities for impact, and analyse and evaluate project delivery across the catchment.

The Kaipara Maurikura team brings together expertise across field advisory services, grants administration, programme management, finance, communications, and monitoring and evaluation, enabling KMR to support participants from project planning through to delivery and reporting.

Mana Kawenga, Mana Tātaki me te Hanga Mahere

Governance, Management & Planning

Governance

The Joint Committee continued to provide strategic governance, oversight and decision-making for KMR in accordance with the Memorandum of Understanding. Joint Committee Hui agendas, minutes and supporting information are publicly available on the KMR website. All Hui remained open to the public, consistent with local government transparency requirements.

Holding Joint Committee Hui in person continued to strengthen connections with haukāinga and local communities, providing greater opportunities to share information about KMR's work, objectives and funding opportunities, while supporting meaningful local engagement.

In the year under review, the Joint Committee held five hui: one on a marae, two at a community venue, and two were online and livestreamed.

This year marked a period of transition for the KMR Joint Committee as we both farewelled and welcomed members. These changes largely reflected the local

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 (John Blackwell).

government election cycle, with Auckland Council and Northland Regional Council making new appointments to the Joint Committee following the 2025 local body elections.

We were pleased to welcome two new members from The Rodney Local Board (Auckland Council), one new member from Northland Regional Council, and one new member from Te Uri o Hau. We thank those who have completed their service on the Committee for their dedication and guidance, and we look forward to the fresh perspectives and continued leadership our new members will bring.

Throughout the year, Joint Committee Members played a key role in reviewing programme performance,



▲ KMR Joint Committee Chair Tame Te Rangi and members Pita Tipene and Georgina Connelly.

monitoring progress against strategic objectives, and ensuring KMR remained focused on achieving meaningful environmental outcomes while maintaining accountability to partners, communities, and funders.

The Joint Committee considered and approved significant programme decisions, including annual work planning, programme budgets, investment priorities, reporting to the Ministry for the Environment, and key operational and strategic initiatives.

Members also maintained oversight of financial performance, audit results, programme assurance, and governance processes, helping to ensure KMR continued to operate effectively and responsibly as the programme expanded in scale and complexity.

The Joint Committee continued to guide and support the Kōrero Tuku Iho programme, approving funding allocations, considering project risks and opportunities, and ensuring investments remained aligned with KMR's kaupapa and objectives. Members also contributed valuable insights on stakeholder engagement, environmental monitoring, future opportunities, and the evolving policy environment, helping to position KMR to respond proactively to change.

Through their collective experience, leadership, and commitment to the Kaipara, the Joint Committee has helped ensure KMR remains well governed, strategically focused, and well placed to deliver lasting benefits for the catchment and its communities.

Management and planning

The willingness and capacity of individual landowners and community groups to participate and contribute time and resources are critical to the successful delivery of sediment reduction projects, as KMR operates voluntarily. Project implementation depends on seasonal conditions and can be significantly impacted by adverse weather events.

Property locations, the preferred delivery approach (whether landowners undertake works themselves or engage external contractors), and the timing of project activities all affect demand for suppliers, contractors, and nurseries.

KMR improved its operational systems, reporting, and assurance functions to support the next phase of programme delivery. Enhanced project and financial reporting more comprehensive programme data and spatial analysis, are provide stronger oversight of investments and outcomes. With KMR's digital tools now capturing the full lifecycle of funded plans and projects, the programme is increasingly well positioned to manage growth while maintaining high standards of accuracy, accountability and performance.

Risk management

Delivery risks are regularly identified, monitored, and, through KMR's risk management and project governance processes. Key risks include co-funding requirements that may limit landowner or community group participation, challenges in managing expectations around the scope of KMR investment and support, particularly where desired outcomes extend beyond sediment reduction objectives, and the possibility that programme delivery assumptions may not be realised. For example, ongoing uncertainty around freshwater farm plan policy settings contributed to some landowners delaying engagement with KMR until regulatory requirements become clearer.

KMR also faces several external risks that are more difficult to influence or mitigate. Continued cost-of-living pressures and challenging market conditions can affect landowner and community groups' participation in projects.. Environmental factors can reduce the feasibility and timing of planned planting programmes.

Infrastructure disruptions, such as ongoing road closures affecting key transport routes, can further impact project delivery schedules, access to sites, and the availability of contractors and suppliers. Together, these factors can influence project timeframes and overall programme delivery.

While some external factors remain beyond KMR's control, our established networks and relationships help us identify emerging trends and respond proactively to changing circumstances. Internally, KMR continues to review and refine its operating settings to ensure they remain fit for purpose. In the final quarter of the year, we reviewed our grant criteria and updated settings introduced at the start of the programme's operational phase to reflect current conditions and delivery priorities.

Tukunga Kaupapa Programme Delivery

This year was largely focused on building on KMR's existing work and helping it grow. We launched new initiatives to speed up environmental improvements, increase people's involvement, and reduce sediment entering waterways. At the same time, we improved how the programme operates and engages with stakeholders, so KMR is ready for future changes and can continue to deliver strong results, whatever the future brings.

Deepening support across the landscape

Reducing sediment loss from the land to waterways has remained a core focus of KMR since the programme began. During the year, KMR continued to support projects in riparian areas and highly erodible hill country, combining practical interventions with growing technical expertise. In autumn, Field Advisors received additional training in assisted native regeneration, afforestation, and using carefully selected non-invasive, non-pine species to establish continuous-cover forest on erosion-prone land. Together with strategic fencing and planting, these approaches help stabilise vulnerable areas, reduce sediment loss, improve water quality, and enhance biodiversity outcomes.

Working across the catchment, from coastal margins through to upland ridgelines, KMR has continued to

expand delivery and maintain momentum despite challenging seasonal conditions and the emerging El Niño weather pattern.

KMR also continued to refine the systems and planning that underpin successful winter planting programmes, including early engagement with nurseries for large plant orders and consistent communication. A significant milestone was reached in June 2026, when KMR contracted its three millionth tree, highlighting both the scale of environmental action underway and the growing collective commitment to restoring the health of Kaipara Moana.



▲ Field Advisors participate in a training and mentoring session in Kaiwaka, helping to build technical expertise and enhance the support KMR provides to landowners.

Horticulture New Zealand's KMR partnership

KMR continued to strengthen its partnership with Horticulture New Zealand (HortNZ) during the year, expanding support for the horticulture sector across the Kaipara catchment. The partnership was initially established to help kūmara growers in Tāmaki Makaurau and Te Tai Tokerau implement best management practices on their whenua. Building on the success of that initiative, the programme was broadened this year to include a wider range of vegetable growers and orchardists.

During the reporting period, KMR worked with five horticultural landowners across the catchment to identify and implement practical actions that improve environmental outcomes while supporting sustainable production systems.

The partnership focused on targeted interventions such as riparian fencing and native planting to protect and restore waterways, reduce sediment loss, and improve freshwater health. In doing so, it helped participating growers progress towards the NZ Good Agricultural Practice (NZGAP) Environment Management System requirements and prepare for future freshwater farm planning requirements.

As momentum builds, the KMR-HortNZ partnership is demonstrating how sector-specific support can help growers take meaningful action on the ground while contributing to the long-term health and resilience of Kaipara Moana.

Evolving partnerships key to success

KMR's impact is amplified through the strength of its partnerships. Working across two regions and a catchment spanning more than 6,000km², the programme relies on trusted organisations that can engage communities, build relationships, and support action where it is needed most.

Partnerships with Fonterra, The Forest Bridge Trust, Environs Te Uri o Hau and other primary and environmental sector organisations continue to create pathways for participation, helping landowners and community groups move from interest to implementation. Through these relationships, KMR supports the development of practical sediment reduction plans. Our partners bring valuable expertise, experience and networks that strengthen KMR's capability and enhance the support available to landowners and community groups undertaking this work. and the successful delivery of projects that contribute to healthier waterways and a healthier Kaipara Moana.

Strengthening cultural and local perspectives

Kōrero Tuku Iho is KMR's cultural cornerstone, recognising that Kaipara Moana's restoration must be informed by both environmental science and the knowledge, values, and experiences of its people. Through the programme, Kaipara Uri, iwi, hapū, marae, and local communities are supported to share the stories, histories, relationships, and places that connect them to the catchment. These insights deepen understanding of the Kaipara, strengthen

connections between people and place, and ensure restoration efforts reflect the unique cultural identity of the moana and its communities.

During the year, the first case study on the Poutō Peninsula was completed, which centred on dune lakes and their role in food production. A second case study is underway, which is focusing on reducing sediment and improving water health to support the rejuvenation of local kūtai beds. Discussions are also underway regarding a third case study in the southern Kaipara area.

Strengthening the voice of catchment groups

In May 2026, KMR marked its first full year as a member of the Catchment Communities Aotearoa (CCA), which is a network that brings together catchment groups from across the motu to share knowledge, experiences, and practical solutions. Membership has provided valuable opportunities to contribute and learn from a growing body of expertise focused on community-led environmental restoration.

Attendance at the CCA national forum in Wellington in June 2026 further strengthened relationships with organisations facing similar challenges and opportunities. These connections help KMR stay informed about emerging best practice and ensure the Kaipara Moana catchment's unique perspectives and experiences are represented in national conversations about freshwater improvement and catchment management.

CCA continues to provide an important forum for collaboration, shared learning, and advocacy, helping to strengthen the voice of catchment groups and support more effective environmental action across Aotearoa.

Ngā Mahi Rauora, Ngā Whiwhinga

Year 6 results at a glance

In 2025-2026, KMR worked with landowners and groups across the catchment to deliver the following results:



Over

1.16 m

plants in the ground or
contracted to plant



447 km

of fencing completed or contracted



Over

\$9.3 m

worth of sediment reduction
projects contracted



Over

15,000 ha

of land covered by new sediment
reduction plans



Over

916 ha

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



Over

89,800 hrs

of work created – equivalent to full
time work for more than 58 people



370

new sediment reduction
plans and projects

Over its life to date, KMR has delivered these results (as at 30 June 2026):



Jobs & Skills

Training support for

283

participants, many from local iwi/hapū

Creation of over

487,000

hours of new work – a year's work for over 313 people

Over

\$34m

in sediment reduction project value



Engagement & Participation

1,545

landowners/groups have expressed interest in KMR

995

co-funded plans have been developed with landowners/groups

A further

180

plans are in development



Nature & Resilience

Over

3.1m

plants in the ground or contracted to plant

1,950 ha

planted, contracted to plant or regenerating into native forest

Over

1,250 km

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

Over

161,000 ha

are managed under KMR plans



In just 4.5 years, through retirement of erosion-prone land and regeneration of nature, KMR projects have protected:



1,912 km
of river and stream-banks



59 km
of coastline



347 ha
of wetland



409 ha
of remnant forest



574 ha
of highly erodible land



A total area of
3,330 ha



Field Advisor Tim Eves presents a KMR-supported fencing project at the Māori Agribusiness Wānanga in Awarua.

Pārongo me ngā Hononga

Communications & Engagement

KMR's success depends on landowners and community organisations' willingness to participate in the programme. Because involvement is entirely voluntary, significant effort is required to connect with a broad and diverse range of potential participants, build understanding of the support available, and encourage uptake. Attracting and maintaining participation remains a key determinant of programme success, as environmental outcomes can only be achieved through agreements with landowners or groups.

Over the past five years that KMR has been operational, the engagement landscape has shifted. While KMR experienced a high initial uptake, we now face a more challenging political and economic environment. This year, KMR refreshed its Communications & Engagement Strategy, first developed in 2021. The updated strategy will support KMR over the next three years and beyond to deepen communication while providing space for greater community participation. The strategy also recognises that communities across the Kaipara Moana catchment have different communication needs, preferences, and pathways for engagement, and therefore adopts approaches tailored to the distinct characteristics of individual sub-catchments.

This strategy honours collective action, acknowledging that without the support of our landowners and communities we are unable to do the work we set out to do.

Our goal is to encourage landowners, communities, and partners to work with us and support our efforts to protect and restore Kaipara Moana by supporting or undertaking projects on the land to reduce sediment flow into waterways that flow onto Kaipara Moana.

Face-to-face engagement

Face-to-face engagement remains one of the most effective ways of encouraging landowners and community groups to partner with KMR. Direct, in-person conversations provide valuable opportunities to build relationships, share information, and inspire participation in catchment restoration initiatives. Presenting at local and industry events and maintaining a presence at Field Days and A&P shows enables KMR field staff to connect with potential clients and showcase the available support.

Throughout the year, KMR engaged extensively with the primary sector and wider farming community. Activities included participation in Northland Field Days, Paparoa, Arapohue, Helensville and Warkworth A&P Shows, Beef & Lamb NZ, Dairy NZ, and Horticulture NZ industry events, and the Ballance Farm Environment Awards. KMR also hosted a series of nursery open days at accredited nurseries across the catchment providing landowners with the opportunity to learn more about native planting projects and connect with industry experts.

KMR Field Advisors continued to play a vital role in community engagement. Informal conversations across the fence line remain an important and trusted communication channel in rural communities, helping build awareness of KMR's programmes and encouraging landowners to get involved.

E-communications

The KMR Pānui (e-newsletter) remains the programme's primary channel for sharing updates, celebrating achievements, and keeping partners, landowners, and community groups informed about KMR's work across the catchment. Distributed every six to eight weeks, the Pānui reaches a growing audience of more than 2,000 subscribers.

During the year, KMR published six editions of Pānui, which continues to play an important role in maintaining connections with existing participants, while raising awareness of opportunities for new landowners and groups to become involved.

We introduced a dedicated Field Team newsletter this year, providing KMR Field Advisors with access to the latest industry insights, technical information, and practical resources to support their work with landowners and communities.

Gap analysis to inform future engagement opportunities

To strengthen KMR's understanding of the operating environment, inform the refresh of the Communications and Engagement Strategy, and identify future opportunities for engagement, KMR undertook a detailed spatial analysis of properties across the Kaipara Moana catchment using ArcGIS and LINZ data.

This analysis provides a clear picture of where KMR is currently engaged and highlights landowners and communities that have not yet been reached. In addition to mapping engagement levels, the assessment examines property size, land use, and sediment risk within sub-catchments that influence sediment generation and reduction potential.

KMR can take a more targeted approach to recruitment and prioritisation by combining engagement and land-use data. This will enable the programme to focus resources where they are likely to deliver the greatest environmental benefit and maximise reductions in sediment entering waterways.

Sharing KMR Stories

Media profiling of landowners, groups, partners, suppliers and nurseries remains a key strategic tool for KMR to attract new participants. These stories highlight the breadth of people and projects supported across the rohe, showcase successful outcomes, and encourage others to undertake their own restoration initiatives. The following section of this report features some of KMR's published stories this year.

Enhancing mana

Strengthening tangata whenua participation remains a key focus for KMR, reflecting the important role iwi and hapū play in restoring the health of Kaipara Moana. Their mātauranga, local knowledge, and long-standing connections to the whenua provide valuable insights that support efforts to reduce sediment entering waterways and the harbour.

Over the past year, KMR worked alongside a diverse range of Kaipara Uri, including iwi and hapū organisations, marae, governance groups, whānau, and other mana whenua representatives from across the catchment. This engagement, led by KMR's Mana Whenua Relations Advisor and Pūtohu-Hononga Hapū and Hāpori / Community and Hapū Engagement Advisor, centred on identifying and progressing opportunities for sediment reduction, particularly through projects supported by the Whenua Whānui Fund.

Sharing best practice

As a recognised system leader and innovator, KMR continued to support learning and collaboration beyond the programme itself. KMR convened a Partnership Forum in June 2026, bringing together partners, practitioners and community organisations to discuss building resilience amid complex and changing environmental, social and economic challenges. KMR also presented at regional and industry events and exchanged knowledge with restoration programmes across the country, helping to advance best practice at a broader scale.





Ō Tātou Tāngata

The People of KMR

The restoration of the Kaipara is driven by the people who live, work and care for this place every day. Whether they farm the land, manage ngahere, protect waterways or lead community initiatives, they are united by a desire to leave the harbour and its catchment healthier than they found it.

Through funding and support, KMR helps enable these locally led efforts. The work takes many forms, but it is often about more than environmental outcomes alone. It can strengthen community connections, reaffirm cultural values, and deepen people's relationship with the places they call home.

In the pages that follow, some of our partners share their stories. Together they reflect the many ways people are contributing to a healthier, more resilient Kaipara.

A commitment to working together, nurturing the whenua

Ngāti Māhia Farm Investments Trustees want to make a positive difference to the whenua for future generations of tamariki and rangitahi.

A significant restoration project led by Ngāti Māhia is helping to improve the long-term health of the Kaipara Moana, while strengthening connections between whānau, whenua and wai.

On the 1,500-hectare sheep and beef property at Awarua, 25 hectares of waterways have been protected through 15 kilometres of fencing completed across three projects in just five months. Working alongside

KMR Field Advisors, the farm has also developed an ambitious planting programme that will see tens of thousands of trees established to protect waterways and wetlands and reduce sediment entering the Awarua River system.

Situated at the headwaters of the Kaipara catchment, the project targets an area where sediment can have far-reaching impacts downstream. Native and exotic species are being planted within fenced setbacks to stabilise vulnerable land, improve water quality and support biodiversity. The planting programme builds on an existing 600-hectare native forest block already established on the property.

The project reflects a shared commitment between Ngāti Māhia trustees, farm management, whānau and KMR to create lasting environmental and cultural outcomes. Local people have been actively involved in fencing, contracting and planting, ensuring the benefits of the work remain within the community.

Ngāti Māhia leaders describe the initiative as an example of what can be achieved through collaboration, long-term planning and a commitment to future generations. Beyond the environmental benefits, the fencing programme has also supported improved farm management and informed future diversification opportunities for the Trust.

For Ngāti Māhia, success will ultimately be measured by the restoration of healthy waterways and the return of native species and traditional food sources, including watercress, kōura and tuna. The project embodies the principle of mahi tahi (working together), recognising the deep whakapapa connection between people, land and water, and contributing to the shared goal of restoring the mauri of the Kaipara Moana.



◀ From left: Gavin Brown, Ashton Tairua, Maui Tairua, Dr Te Tuhi Robust, and Harold Lowry at Awarua.

Environmental leadership at its best in South Head

When Craig Ross and Nettie Nasmith, alongside their business partners, linked up with Kaipara Moana Remediation, they were clear on one thing – do the job right.

In what seems like the blink of an eye, Omana Trees Limited has seemingly smothered sizeable chunks of its 263 hectares farm holding near the shores of the Kaipara Moana with natives.

In the winter of 2025, more than 90,000 native trees and grasses were planted across 20-hectares, while 2 kilometres of KMR-specific fencing has been completed to protect many of the planted areas. KMR funded over 60,000 natives and Omana Trees Limited the other 30,000.

Having grown up on his parents' neighbouring South Head sheep and beef farm, Craig has a strong connection to the land and a deep appreciation for the importance of protecting the Kaipara Harbour.

An interesting observation Craig has made is in areas of the farm that were previously planted in pine trees. A large dam that had been dry for decades is now coming back to life and refilling with water. To help ensure it remains healthy and does not dry up again, Craig plans to establish a substantial native planting buffer around the dam, recognising its importance to the wider environment.



▲ Craig Ross from Omana Trees Limited in front of more than 90,000 native trees on erodible farm land near Kaipara Moana.

Working alongside KMR Field Advisor Angela Parkin, Craig is also keen to progress more plans to plant other areas of the farm in natives to help reduce sedimentation into the Kaipara Moana – just as his parents have been doing of their own accord next door for years.

Those maturing plantations look great and are giving Craig and his business partners in a mixed beef and forestry venture plenty of encouragement. They can see their land will soon be flourishing with established stands of healthy native bush blocks which will not only improve water quality but also stabilise land.

When Cyclone Gabrielle struck in 2023, numerous steeper hillsides on the property simply fell away, despite never slipping in all the years Craig had been hunting on the property.

Keeping cattle out of those now erodible slopes makes sense, so new plantings have added to the native regeneration already occurring naturally.

To look after the grazable areas of the farm, the stocking rate is low with around 60 Angus breeding cattle and their offspring on the property, along with some nearby leased grazing blocks.

When Craig is not busy planning for positive environmental impacts with KMR, his summers are frantic cutting and baling around 30,000 conventional hay bales throughout the wider South Head and Helensville catchment. All are sold locally to long-term, loyal clients, giving Craig plenty of opportunity to yarn about the benefits of KMR!

“We are future-proofing the place for our kids, and we have plans for more planting.”

Growing resilience through horticulture partnerships

A partnership between KMR and Horticulture New Zealand (HortNZ) is helping growers across the Kaipara catchment accelerate environmental improvements while building more resilient farming businesses.

Launched in 2025 through Horticulture NZ's Growing Change programme, the collaboration supports fruit and vegetable growers to enhance on-farm environmental practices, reduce sediment loss and strengthen waterways that flow into the Kaipara Moana.

Among those leading the way are Arapohue growers Sophia Wood and Michael Frood of Double O Farms. With support from KMR and HortNZ, they have completed two kilometres of waterway fencing and planted 1,682 native trees, with a further three kilometres of fencing and almost 3,000 native plants planned. Their goal is to exclude livestock from waterways, improve soil and water health, and create a more sustainable farming system on their 200-hectare family property.

Sophia and Michael say the partnership has enabled them to bring forward long-term environmental goals while encouraging other landowners to consider similar action. The waterways on their farm feed directly into the Northern Wairoa River, highlighting the importance of local efforts in improving catchment-wide outcomes.

Further down the catchment, Pouto Peninsula grower Luke Posthuma is also benefiting from the programme. On his 89-hectare mixed cropping and livestock property, Luke has completed 2.5 kilometres of fencing and is establishing more than 15,000 native plants. The project includes restoring wetlands, protecting streams and creating vegetated buffer zones to reduce soil loss and enhance biodiversity.

Luke sees the work as an investment in the future health of the landscape, improving habitat for insects, fish and birds while supporting better water quality in local waterways and the harbour.

Together, these projects demonstrate how collaboration between KMR, HortNZ and growers is delivering practical environmental outcomes, increasing resilience to future climatic events, and supporting a shared commitment to restoring the health and mauri of the Kaipara Moana for future generations.

▼ Kūmara growers Sophia Wood and Michael Frood at Double O Farms in Arapohue.



Repairing the whenua through partnership

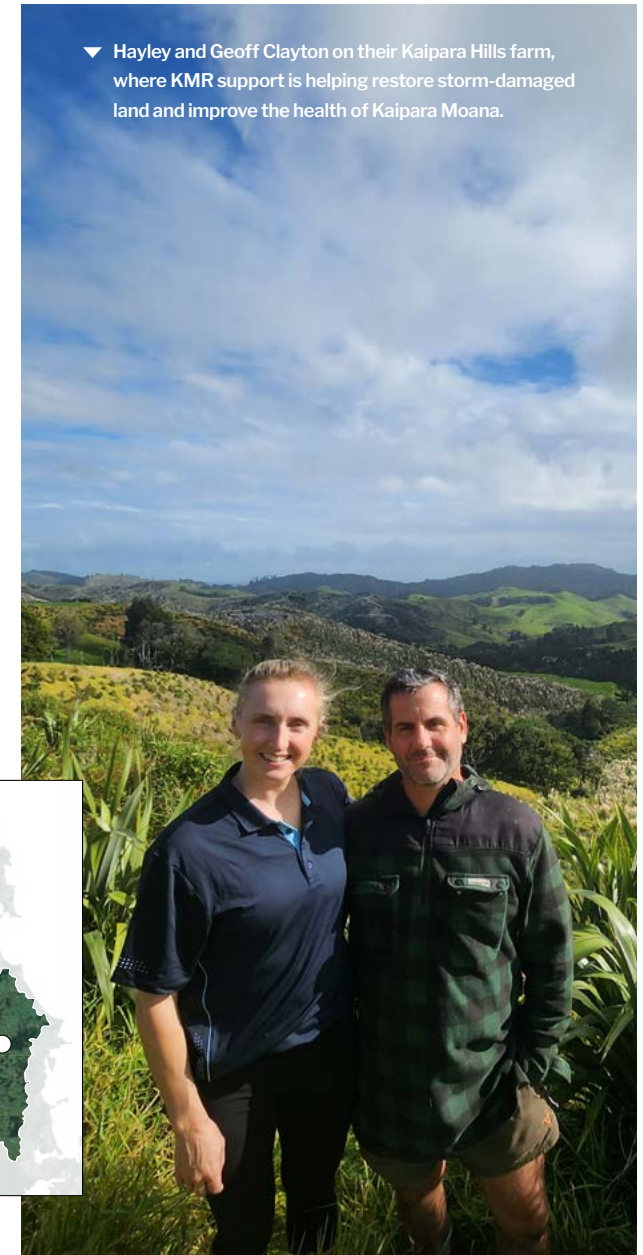
For Hayley and Geoff Clayton, KMR provided crucial support following the devastating storms of 2023. Just two years after purchasing their 135-hectare Kaipara Hills farm, the couple experienced extensive damage from Auckland Anniversary Weekend floods and Cyclone Gabrielle. Intense rainfall triggered sinkholes and major slips across the property, threatening both the viability of the farm and its environmental future.

Through KMR's Navigator programme, the Claytons developed and implemented a comprehensive ecological restoration plan focused on reducing erosion and sediment loss into Kaipara Moana. This included retiring highly erodible hill country, fencing waterways to exclude stock, restoring riparian margins and undertaking large-scale planting.

Since 2023, KMR has supported approximately 20 kilometres of fencing and the planting of 60,000 trees, including 53,000 native species and nearly 7,000 blackwoods. The combination of native and alternative exotic species has been instrumental in stabilising some of the property's most severely damaged slip areas. After three winters of growth, significant canopy closure is now evident across large parts of the site, helping protect vulnerable soils and accelerate ecological recovery.

The Claytons credit the guidance of KMR Field Adviser Katie Forno and the collaborative approach of both KMR and The Forest Bridge Trust for helping them navigate a challenging recovery journey. Additional support included replacement and expansion of storm-damaged fencing and planting through KMR's 2023 Flood and Cyclone Recovery Fund, alongside the donation of 2,000 mānuka trees from Comvita.

Today, the couple are working towards retiring approximately 80 hectares of farmland and planting 10,000 trees annually over the next five years. Their vision is to create a resilient farm that balances productive farming with environmental restoration, demonstrating how landowners and KMR can work together to repair the whenua, improve water quality, and deliver lasting benefits for the environment.



▼ Hayley and Geoff Clayton on their Kaipara Hills farm, where KMR support is helping restore storm-damaged land and improve the health of Kaipara Moana.

Creating a legacy for future generations

Te Arai landowner Hamish Alexander sees restoration as about more than planting trees. It is about creating a lasting environmental legacy and giving back to the Kaipara landscape that has supported generations before him.

With support from KMR, Hamish has transformed much of his 125-hectare property near Kaiwaka through an ambitious afforestation and restoration programme. Over several years, he has planted 70,000 native trees and 30,000 redwoods, with KMR contributing 6,500

native plants to help establish riparian margins and vulnerable hillsides. Once complete, approximately 110 hectares of the property will be covered in forest, with just 10 hectares remaining in pasture.

A key focus of the project has been reducing sediment runoff into local waterways and, ultimately, the Kaipara Moana. Wetlands, stream edges and areas prone to stock damage have been retired from grazing and planted in native species. Hamish says the transformation has delivered significant environmental benefits, with water quality from restored areas now comparable to that of long-established native forest on

the property. A further 700 metres of stream margins are scheduled for planting in 2026.

Beyond environmental restoration, the project reflects Hamish's vision of creating a place that future generations can enjoy. Tracks have been developed throughout the property and are being designed with accessibility in mind. Hamish plans to provide four-wheel-drive wheelchairs so people with disabilities can experience the forest and landscape, creating a legacy that extends beyond ecological outcomes alone.

Describing the initiative as a "pay it forward" project, Hamish acknowledges the contribution agriculture has made to New Zealand's prosperity while recognising the impact historic land-use practices have had on the Kaipara catchment. He sees restoration as a shared responsibility and believes collaboration between landowners and KMR is essential to repairing past damage.

His project demonstrates how private landowners can make a meaningful contribution to restoring the health of Kaipara Moana while creating enduring benefits for the environment and community.



◀ Hamish Alexander on his Te Arai property, where large-scale native planting and afforestation are creating a lasting environmental legacy for future generations.

Restoring whenua and moana together

Restoring the health of the whenua and Kaipara Moana is both a responsibility and a long-term aspiration for the whānau connected to Ngāti Whātua Waihaua Marae. Overlooking the Arapāoa River as it flows into the Kaipara Harbour, the marae community is leading efforts to protect and regenerate the landscapes and waterways that sustain future generations.

Working in partnership with KMR, whānau have planted more than 10,000 native plants across riparian margins and wetland areas in recent years. Species such as wīwī, pūkio and tī kōuka have been selected to strengthen vulnerable landscapes, improve water quality and reduce erosion while enhancing the ecological health of the catchment.

The project reflects a wider vision held by the community: the restoration of healthy waterways, flourishing native vegetation and abundant kai moana for future generations. Whānau see native planting and fencing as practical steps towards protecting waterways that flow into the Kaipara Moana, while also rebuilding the resilience of shorelines and restoring habitats for native species.

Central to the initiative is a commitment to intergenerational stewardship. Whānau are focused on developing a shared understanding of their long-term aspirations for the whenua and creating a pathway that enables tamariki and rangatahi to continue the restoration journey in the years ahead.

Their goal is not only to address current environmental challenges, but to ensure the land and waters are healthier, more productive and better protected for those who follow.

The work undertaken so far demonstrates the power of collective action and community leadership. KMR Mana Whenua Relations Lead Marina Ford says the project is a strong example of the Whenua Whānui Fund in action, supporting communities to achieve meaningful progress through practical, locally led projects.

For Waihaua whānau, the restoration of the Kaipara catchment is a long-term commitment grounded in collaboration, shared purpose and a determination to return the whenua and moana to a thriving state.



◀ Ngāti Whātua Whānau gathered together at Waihaua Marae to discuss protecting whenua and Kaipara Moana for generations to come.



◀ Tāpora landowners Tim Short and Kirsty Laws demonstrate how sustained investment in restoration can improve water quality, biodiversity and farm resilience.

Investing in the future of Kaipara Moana

Through a strong partnership with KMR, Tāpora farmers Tim Short and Kirsty Laws are helping protect the future of both their farm and the Kaipara Harbour. Their restoration efforts have significantly reduced sediment and nutrient runoff, protected sensitive coastal habitats, and improved the health of waterways flowing into the harbour.

Over recent years, Tim and Kirsty have completed four KMR-supported projects focused on safeguarding wetlands, remnant native bush and riparian margins. Together, these projects have delivered 3.7 kilometres of new fencing and more than 2,100 native plantings. The work forms part of a much broader restoration programme they have undertaken since purchasing their 400-hectare sheep and beef farm nine years ago.

To date, the couple have fenced around 10 kilometres of riparian and coastal margins and planted more than 80,000 trees, many of them grown by Kirsty from locally sourced seed. Supported by farm manager Brad Douglas, they have worked to exclude livestock from estuarine margins, mangroves and wetlands, protecting important habitats while improving water quality.

The results are already visible. Areas once affected by clay runoff and sediment-laden water are showing signs of recovery, with improved water clarity and increasing numbers of shellfish, crabs, fish and birdlife returning to the inner Kaipara Harbour. A wetland linking a Department of Conservation scenic reserve to the estuary has also been fenced and restored, creating valuable ecological connections across the landscape.

Tim and Kirsty credit KMR's practical approach and co-investment model with helping make these projects achievable. They believe collaboration and shared commitment are key to restoring the harbour and encourage other landowners to take action where they can.

Their work demonstrates how sustained investment in restoration can deliver lasting benefits for the environment, while helping preserve the health, biodiversity and productivity of Kaipara Moana.

Field advisors recognised for environmental leadership

This year KMR recognised the outstanding contribution of its Field Advisors, presenting seven awards to acknowledge the significant environmental outcomes they helped deliver during 2025. The awards celebrated the expertise, commitment and relationships that Field Advisors bring to restoration projects across the Kaipara catchment.

Field Advisors play a central role in KMR's mission to restore the health and mauri of Kaipara Moana by working alongside landowners, farmers and community groups to develop and implement sediment reduction projects. Their efforts have helped drive impressive programme outcomes over the past five years, including more than 1,500 landowners expressing interest in KMR, over 1,200 kilometres of fencing completed or contracted, 3.1 million plants planted or contracted, and more than \$34 million invested in environmental restoration projects.

Among those recognised was Tim Eves, who received an award for his work with the Mangakāhia Valley Dairies Trust. Tim guided a series of projects on a 347-hectare beef property characterised by highly erodible hill country. The work included fencing, silvopasture, native planting and large-scale exotic planting. KMR Catchment Remediation Manager Lisette Rawson praised Tim's ability to bring together farm staff, contractors, nurseries and forestry specialists to successfully deliver one of the largest planting projects undertaken by KMR.

Katie Forno was recognised for outstanding project management on a challenging 432-hectare family-owned dry stock farm in the Whangaripo Valley, coordinating landowners across New Zealand and overseas to achieve significant fencing and planting outcomes.

Iraia Maxwell received the Breakthrough Field Advisor Award for his technical expertise, leadership and dedication to supporting landowners and Whenua Whānui projects, while Ben Herbert was recognised for facilitating the highest number of plants through KMR's partnership with Fonterra.

Highly Commended awards were presented to Mitchel Hanmore for delivering more than 25 kilometres of fencing, Shona Oliver for her strong commitment to both KMR and community engagement, and Angela Parkin for supporting a large-scale native planting project involving 59,000 plants on a single property.

Together, the award recipients demonstrate the critical role Field Advisors play in turning restoration ambitions into on-the-ground action and delivering lasting environmental benefits for Kaipara Moana and its communities.



▲ KMR staff present Field Advisor Tim Eves with an award for his work with the Mangakāhia Valley Dairies Trust.

Protecting whenua, strengthening farming systems

For Paparoa farmers Wayne and Melinda Birt, environmental restoration and productive farming go hand in hand. Through their partnership with KMR, the couple have undertaken a substantial programme of work to protect waterways, native bush and erosion-prone land while enhancing the long-term sustainability of their farming operation.

Over the past several years, four KMR-supported projects have helped deliver almost 12.5 kilometres of fencing across their 240-hectare sheep and beef property. The work has focused on safeguarding indigenous forest, wetlands, streams and highly erodible hillsides by excluding stock from sensitive areas and preparing sites for native revegetation. Approximately 30 hectares of native bush and six hectares of wetlands are now protected, with all major waterways on the farm fenced.

The improvements are already producing positive environmental outcomes. Stream channels have been cleaned and stabilised, streamside vegetation has established strong ground cover, and waterways now flow more clearly. Protected bush areas are also developing dense native understorey, improving habitat and biodiversity across the property.

Wayne and Melinda say KMR's co-investment model has been instrumental in making the work achievable. Beyond funding, they value the programme's collaborative approach, which combines local knowledge with technical expertise. This flexibility proved particularly important following the severe

weather events of 2023, when ex-tropical Cyclone Hale and Cyclone Gabrielle caused significant damage across parts of the farm. KMR's support enabled restoration plans to adapt to changing priorities while maintaining momentum.

The project has also helped shape the farm's future direction. As the business transitions towards a predominantly beef operation, environmental improvements are making it possible to farm more efficiently while protecting vulnerable areas. Looking ahead, the Birts are continuing to explore opportunities for additional restoration, erosion control and land-use diversification.

They view the recovery of Kaipara Moana as a long-term endeavour that will require sustained commitment across generations. Their experience demonstrates how practical partnerships between landowners and KMR can deliver meaningful environmental change while strengthening farm resilience and productivity.



Wayne and Melinda Birt have fenced almost 12.5 kilometres of waterways, wetlands and native bush on their Paparoa farm, strengthening both environmental and farming outcomes.



▲ The KMR and DOC partnership supports native planting and restoration along marginal strips, to reduce sediment entering Kaipara Moana.

KMR and DOC partnership expands restoration opportunities across Kaipara waterways

A new partnership between KMR and the Department of Conservation (DOC) is helping unlock greater opportunities for environmental restoration across the Auckland region, strengthening efforts to improve water quality and reduce sediment entering Kaipara Moana.

The agreement enables landowners with properties adjoining DOC-administered marginal strips to participate more easily in restoration projects along waterways that flow into the harbour. Across the Auckland region, DOC manages 45 kilometres of marginal strips bordering rivers, streams, wetlands and coastal margins within the Kaipara catchment.

These areas, while often small in scale, play an important role in protecting freshwater ecosystems and improving the health of downstream environments.

Through the partnership, KMR provides funding support, technical expertise and project guidance to help landowners establish native planting on eligible marginal strips and undertake ongoing maintenance, including weed control. The initiative supports practical, locally led conservation action while strengthening collaboration between communities, landowners and government agencies.

The work contributes directly to KMR's goal of reducing sediment entering Kaipara Moana, New Zealand's largest harbour system. With more than 8,000 kilometres of waterways draining a catchment spanning 6,000 square kilometres across Auckland and Northland, protecting the harbour requires coordinated action across both public and private land.

Alongside improving water quality, native planting delivers a range of wider environmental benefits. Restored riparian margins and wetlands help stabilise land, increase resilience to storms and floods, create healthier places for recreation, and enhance habitat for indigenous species. These efforts also support the protection of some of the country's rarest ecosystems, including estuarine wetlands, seagrass habitats, freshwater environments and dune systems.

The agreement represents another significant example of partnership in action, creating practical pathways for landowners to contribute to the long-term restoration of Kaipara Moana.

Monitoring confirms the importance of post-planting care

A comprehensive monitoring study undertaken by KMR has confirmed that native restoration plantings across the catchment are performing well, while also highlighting the critical role of ongoing maintenance in determining long-term success.

The study assessed more than 9,400 native plants across 40 restoration sites two years after planting, making it one of KMR's most extensive monitoring exercises to date. The aim was to understand whether planting projects were delivering the intended outcomes and to identify the factors that most strongly influence plant survival, health and growth.

The results were encouraging. Across both the 2022 and 2023 planting cohorts, most plants were alive and in moderate to excellent condition. Less than one percent of surviving plants surveyed showed signs of severe stress, despite some sites experiencing significant weather-related challenges during establishment, including the impacts of Cyclone Gabrielle. The findings provide strong evidence that KMR's restoration approach is delivering positive environmental outcomes across a wide range of sites and conditions.

However, the study also revealed a clear lesson: what happens after planting is just as important as the planting itself.

Of all the factors examined, post-planting maintenance, had the greatest influence on success. Sites that received regular follow-up maintenance demonstrated higher survival rates, stronger plant health and faster growth. Additional weed control treatments consistently improved outcomes, regardless of the site's slope, aspect or local environmental conditions.

While climate and site characteristics influenced growth rates, they had little impact on overall plant health or survival. For example, plants established in 2023 were generally shorter than those planted in 2022 due to less favourable growing conditions, but they were equally healthy and just as likely to survive. Similarly, steeper sites often supported taller plants but showed no difference in plant survival rates.

The study concluded that KMR's restoration projects are fundamentally sound and capable of succeeding across diverse landscapes. Most importantly, it reinforced that sustained maintenance during the first few years after planting is the single most effective action for ensuring long-term restoration success and achieving lasting ecological outcomes across the Kaipara catchment.





Ngā Arotahi Anamata

Looking Ahead

Over the coming year, KMR will build on the strong foundations established during its first five years of full programme delivery. The programme is now well established, with strong participation from landowners and community groups, a growing delivery network, improved digital systems, and a proven track record of delivering practical environmental improvements across the Kaipara Moana catchment.

Over the past year, KMR has reviewed its programme settings, engagement approaches and systems to continue meeting the programme's needs as it grows and evolves. This work improved engagement planning, stronger mapping and analysis tools, updates to internal systems, better support for landowners, and a refreshed Communications and Engagement Strategy to guide the next stage of delivery.

KMR is also gaining recognition as an example of how investment in natural infrastructure can deliver long-term environmental, cultural, social and economic benefits. Its inclusion in The Aotearoa Circle's Natural Infrastructure Plan highlights how investment in healthy soils, waterways, wetlands and native vegetation can improve environmental resilience while also supporting local communities, culture and economic wellbeing across the Kaipara Moana catchment.

In line with KMR's long-term goals and founding commitments, the programme will continue to focus on increasing participation, expanding remediation activity, strengthening partnerships and co-investment, advancing Kōrero Tuku Iho, and building the evidence that shows the positive impact of restoration on the health and mauri of Kaipara Moana.

Underlying all of this is KMR's commitment to supporting farmers, growers, marae, hapū, Māori landowners, catchment groups and communities to take practical action that contributes to a healthier, more resilient Kaipara Moana.

Targeting engagement and delivery

With a refreshed understanding of the potential landowner base now available, future engagement over the year ahead will focus on targeted and locally relevant approaches to connect with a wider range of landowners, communities and collectives.

KMR will focus on priority sub-catchments and use seasonal communications, community events, peer-to-peer advocacy and practical tools to help landowners move from interest to action. The programme will also continue to improve its processes and systems to make participation easier, reduce barriers, and provide better support throughout the project journey.

Supporting collective action across the catchment

KMR is seeing growing benefits from people working together to restore and care for the environment. Catchment groups, marae-led projects, community organisations and neighbouring landowners can achieve much more together than they can working individually.

Over the coming year, KMR will continue to support locally led projects that bring people together around shared environmental, cultural and community goals. Through the Whenua Whānui Fund, partnerships with community organisations and opportunities to work alongside government agencies, KMR will help communities lead restoration work in ways that reflect local priorities and aspirations.

By working together, communities can make a bigger impact on reducing sediment, build local knowledge and skills, strengthen resilience, and create long-term stewardship of waterways, wetlands, native habitats and places of cultural significance.

Advancing Kōrero Tuku Iho

Kōrero Tuku Iho continues to play an important role in KMR's work to restore the health and mauri of Kaipara Moana. In 2026, the first whakatauirā project at Poutō was completed, leading to the development of the Pātaka Kai Poutō Lakes Mauri Restoration Plan and the establishment of the Poutō Lakes Restoration Committee to guide future restoration work.

A second project on the Hukatere Peninsula is now underway, bringing together whānau, hapū, marae and community partners to work towards shared environmental and cultural restoration goals. A third case study is currently being scoped and discussed to enhance and complement work completed and underway.

Over the coming year, KMR will commence planning to capture the knowledge and lessons from these projects and turn them into a practical framework that can support future restoration initiatives across the catchment. This will help ensure cultural values, significant places, important species and local aspirations are better reflected in restoration planning and delivery.

By embedding these learnings into future projects, KMR aims to create a lasting legacy that supports restoration efforts well beyond the programme's life.

Using better tools and evidence

KMR's digital systems continue to be an important part of the programme. Over the coming year, improvements to ArcGIS mapping and reporting tools will provide a clearer picture of where restoration work is taking place and the combined impact it is having across the catchment. Regular analysis at six-monthly intervals will help KMR identify where resources can have the greatest impact and where new opportunities for action exist.

As the programme continues to bring in new participants while supporting existing landowners to do more, these tools will help show how individual projects contribute to bigger outcomes for waterways, landscapes and communities.

A planned three-year stream health monitoring project, planting assessments, economic analysis and interactive mapping will continue to build a stronger evidence base and help communities see for themselves the difference restoration activities are making.

Investing in people and capability

KMR's success depends on the people and organisations that help deliver the programme, including the KMR team, delivery partners, nurseries, suppliers and contractors. Supporting and strengthening this network will continue to be a priority through training, mentoring, practical guidance, and improved tools and systems.

While future freshwater, carbon and biodiversity policies continue to evolve, KMR is well placed to respond to new opportunities and support landowners across the catchment. The programme has built a strong foundation through trusted relationships, a proven delivery record, growing national recognition, and clear evidence of the benefits restoration work can deliver.

As Aotearoa New Zealand looks for practical solutions to environmental challenges, KMR is increasingly demonstrating what can be achieved when mana whenua, communities, local government, central government and landowners work together towards a shared goal. The programme is helping farmers, growers, Māori landowners, catchment groups and communities take practical action to improve the health and mauri of Kaipara Moana. In doing so, it is also supporting participants to make more informed land management decisions, strengthen the long-term productivity and resilience of their land, and improve the return on investment from environmental actions.

Looking ahead, the focus is not just on delivering more projects, but on getting more people involved, supporting communities to work together, and creating lasting environmental, cultural and community benefits. With strong foundations in place and a clearer understanding of opportunities across the catchment, KMR is well positioned to continue building momentum and demonstrating how large-scale restoration can create lasting benefits.







Mahere Mahi ā Tau Annual Work Plan (Year 6)

Remediation grants and partnerships

KMR has worked with a steadily increasing number of landowners and groups across the Kaipara Moana catchment to support sediment remediation projects through KMR grant funding.

The figures presented show funding paid once on-site sediment reduction work has been completed and verified. Landowner and group contributions are recorded when works have been completed and signed off.

Participation continued to strengthen across the catchment, with many landowners returning to progress further stages of work through second or third KMR-supported projects.

KMR Field Advisors support delivery either through direct contracts with KMR or through our delivery partner, The Forest Bridge Trust. Through KMR's partnership with Fonterra, Sustainable Dairying Advisors also help dairy farmers in the catchment access KMR support.

These Field Advisors work alongside farmers, other landowners and community groups to develop plans that identify sediment reduction priorities and enable co-funding for agreed projects. KMR co-funding is generally equivalent to 50% of the estimated market value of each project.

In addition to the KMR grants paid during the year and shown in this table, over \$7m of additional projects have been contracted with landowners or groups but had not yet been verified as complete or paid by 30 June. Funding for these committed projects has been carried forward into 2026-27 for payment once completion has been confirmed.

Outputs from this investment are summarised in the table of Year 6 results on page 50.

Budget				Actual			
Crown	Council	Landowner / Other	Total	Crown	Council	Landowner / Other	Total
\$7,888,481.39	\$859,698.16	\$6,211,528.20	\$14,959,707.75	\$4,477,918.05	\$369,842.03	\$3,707,184.58	\$8,554,944.66



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

Capability and workforce development

Through the year, KMR engaged 19 Field Advisors to work alongside landowners and community groups to develop high-quality Sediment Reduction Plans and support the delivery of sediment remediation projects.

KMR Field Advisors developed their skills through an active Field Advisor Community of Practice. This included fortnightly technical support sessions and continuous tuakana-teina mentoring relationships.

To date, KMR has supported the training of 283 people, including through recognised courses that enabled participants to achieve NZQA micro-qualifications.

This year also saw continued engagement with, and support for, KMR's 22 accredited native plant nurseries across the catchment. This included technical support, review of planting plans, and coordination with nurseries to help ensure native planting projects were supplied with high-quality, eco-sourced and site-appropriate plants.

Budget				Actual			
Crown	Council	Landowner / Other	Total	Crown	Council	Landowner / Other	Total
\$269,538.41	\$269,538.41	-	\$539,076.82	\$106,886.10	\$106,886.09	-	\$213,772.19

Communications and engagement

KMR's ability to deliver results relies on landowners and community groups choosing to take part. As participation is voluntary, ongoing engagement is needed to keep people informed about the programme and the support available.

Trusted relationships play an important role in encouraging involvement, with many farmers learning about opportunities through conversations with neighbours, local networks and industry groups.

As more landowners and community groups have worked with KMR over time, engagement is increasingly built on the relationships they have developed with their KMR Field Advisor. These trusted connections often provide the main channel for communication, advice and support.

As KMR's reach has grown, its approach to engagement has become more targeted, ensuring communications reflect the priorities and interests of specific communities and stakeholder groups. These include:

- Open days hosted by accredited KMR nurseries. This year, open days were held at Te Orewai Native Nursery - Pipiwai, Scrub Nursery - Wainui, Waimarie Nurseries - Whangārei, The Native Project - South Head, and Kauri Coast Plant Centre - Kaukapakapa.
- Community events and planting days (e.g. public wetland planting day, volunteer planting days on farm, school plantings, information sessions at community hubs, and Whenua Whānui Fund events)
- On-farm open days (e.g. events hosted by KMR's partners, a The Forest Bridge Trust & Mountains to Sea Conservation Trust hosted farm visit, and Beef+Lamb NZ Māori Agribusiness Wananga in Awarua, HortNZ open days, among others)
- Sector-led events (e.g. the Ballance Farm Environment Awards, Beef+Lamb NZ and Dairy NZ outreach, Paparoa, Arapohue, Helensville, and Warkworth A&P shows, Northland Field Days and rural professional forums).

Throughout the year, KMR held face-to-face meetings with over 60 groups, including hapū, marae, trusts and whānau, to discuss how the Whenua Whānui Fund could support their projects and aspirations.

KMR's annual Partnership Forum served as a valuable opportunity for programme partners and stakeholder organisations to connect, learn from one another, and share successful approaches. With resilience chosen as the central theme, discussions focused on the ongoing economic pressures and climate-related events affecting the catchment.

KMR also focused through the year on communicating KMR opportunities through our many community-facing partners including Aotearoa Catchment Collectives, Enviroschools, Mountains to Sea Conservation Trust, the QEII National Trust, the Rural Support Trust and others.

KMR continued to use media stories, online profiles and social media to help people learn about its projects and funding opportunities, highlighting its work across digital and print media, as well as industry journals and specialist newsletters.

Budget				Actual			
Crown	Council	Landowner / Other	Total	Crown	Council	Landowner / Other	Total
\$148,500.00	\$36,000.00	-	\$184,500.00	\$56,975.62	\$36,000.00	-	\$92,975.62

Programme marketing

To help promote its work, KMR sets aside a modest budget for information materials. This includes grant brochures and co-branded flags displayed by delivery partners at local community and industry events.

Budget				Actual			
Crown	Council	Landowner / Other	Total	Crown	Council	Landowner / Other	Total
\$10,000.00	\$15,000.00	-	\$25,000.00	\$1,597.24	\$2,000.00	-	\$3,597.24

Kaipara Maurikura

The Kaipara Maurikura team brings together expertise in field advisory services, grants administration, finance, communications, and monitoring and evaluation, ensuring strong oversight and best practice from project planning through to delivery and reporting. During the year, KMR employed an average of fewer than 12 full-time equivalent

staff while managing periods of parental leave and implementing a new team structure that came into effect in July 2025. The restructure created new roles to support a growing number of engaged landowners and community groups, while also strengthening KMR's capability in strategic planning and future development.

Budget				Actual			
Crown	Council	Landowner / Other	Total	Crown	Council	Landowner / Other	Total
\$583,472.40	\$1,582,974.98	-	2,166,447.38	\$580,000.00	\$1,126,808.93	-	\$1,706,808.93

Governance

In Year 6, the Joint Committee held five meetings, including one hui on marae, two at community venues, and two online meetings that were livestreamed. To support new Joint Committee members in their governance roles, two induction sessions were held at our Whangārei office, providing an opportunity to connect with the staff team and build an understanding of the programme's work.

Budget				Actual			
Crown	Council	Landowner / Other	Total	Crown	Council	Landowner / Other	Total
\$50,000.00	\$10,000.00	-	\$60,000.00	\$47,146.58	\$10,042.20	-	\$57,188.78

Digital tools - system development and maintenance

Mātai Onekura, KMR's digital farm planning and grant funding tool, remained central to the delivery of spatially accurate, risk-focused sediment reduction plans and the management of associated remediation projects and grant funding. Throughout the year, targeted system enhancements improved the efficiency, accuracy, and reliability of project planning, administration, and reporting. Upgrades to mapping,

data management, and financial functionality have made the tool more responsive and user-friendly while providing greater flexibility for staff managing projects and supporting landowners. Continued investment in training and mentoring helped ensure the tool is used effectively and consistently across the programme.

Budget				Actual			
Crown	Council	Landowner / Other	Total	Crown	Council	Landowner / Other	Total
\$194,092.35	\$177,880.59	-	\$371,972.94	\$95,688.40	\$79,476.62	-	\$175,165.02

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 that inspire and inform efforts to reduce sedimentation into the Kaipara Moana. As a key component of KMR's restoration approach, it ensures environmental outcomes are grounded in the knowledge, values, histories, and lived experiences of local communities.

During the year, the first Kōrero Tuku Iho case study was completed on Poutō Peninsula, exploring the significance of dune lakes and their role in traditional food sources. A second case study located on Hukatere Peninsula was begun during the year, focusing on reducing sediment and improving water health to support the rejuvenation of local kūtai beds.

Budget				Actual			
Crown	Council	Landowner / Other	Total	Crown	Council	Landowner / Other	Total
\$398,312.00	\$448,312.00	-	\$846,624.00	\$83,079.96	\$84,000.00	-	\$167,079.96

Investment strategy, monitoring and evaluation

KMR continued to strengthen its investment, monitoring and evaluation approach by demonstrating the broad environmental, economic, social and cultural benefits generated through restoration activities across the Kaipara catchment. The programme was recognised nationally in The Aotearoa Circle's Natural Infrastructure Plan as a leading example

of how investment in natural infrastructure can deliver long-term returns for communities and the environment. Ongoing monitoring and evaluation activities have helped quantify programme impacts, inform investment decisions, and support continuous improvement, while system leadership and knowledge sharing have enabled KMR's

experience, tools and lessons to contribute to restoration initiatives across Aotearoa. This work reinforces the value of integrated catchment-scale investment and supports KMR's commitment to delivering multiple benefits from each restoration dollar invested.

Budget				Actual			
Crown	Council	Landowner / Other	Total	Crown	Council	Landowner / Other	Total
\$77,000.00	\$8,000.00	-	\$85,000.00	\$3,200.00	\$1,050.00	-	\$4,250.00

New partnerships and opportunities

Strategic partnerships continued to play an important role in maximising the impact of Kaipara Moana Remediation (KMR) investment, leveraging funding, expertise, and networks to support restoration outcomes across the Kaipara catchment. Key partnerships during the year included Trees That Count, the Department of Conservation, the QEII National Trust, the New Zealand Association of Resource Management (NZARM), NZ Landcare Trust, Catchment Communities Aotearoa, and the Mountains to Sea Conservation Trust.

KMR also continued to develop opportunities for collaboration and co-investment with organisations whose objectives align with our environmental and community outcomes. A notable achievement was the successful implementation of a co-funding partnership with Horticulture New Zealand, supporting kūmara growers in the Northern Wairoa area to undertake restoration activities.

KMR continued to explore emerging funding and incentive mechanisms that could encourage greater landowner participation in restoration activities and attract additional investment into environmental outcomes across the Kaipara catchment. This work seeks to identify opportunities to enhance the long-term sustainability, reach, and impact of restoration efforts.

Budget				Actual			
Crown	Council	Landowner / Other	Total	Crown	Council	Landowner / Other	Total
\$25,000.00	\$25,000.00	-	\$50,000.00	\$802.50	\$802.47	-	\$1,604.97

Year 6 total

Budget				Actual			
Crown	Council	Landowner / Other	Total	Crown	Council	Landowner / Other	Total
\$9,644,396.55	\$3,432,404.14	\$6,211,528.20	\$19,288,328.89	\$5,453,294.45	\$1,816,908.34	\$3,707,184.58	\$10,977,387.37

Key Performance Indicators

The table below provides more information about the Year 6 results compared to the Key Performance Indicators in the Year 6 Annual Work Plan:

Focus area	Key Performance Indicators	Year 6 target	Year 6 achieved*	Notes
Engagement and Participation	Number of new Project plans or new Farm Environment Plans completed (total):	200	370	KMR Sediment Reduction Plans and associated projects focus on sediment reduction outcomes.
	• Number of new Plans	100	162	We expect fewer new Plans over time, and more return projects by landowners and groups with a Plan already in place.
	• Number of new Projects by returning Landowners and Groups	100	208	
	Area covered by new Farm Environment Plans	16,250 hectares	15,337 hectares	The area covered by New plans in Year 6 highlights a shift to working with smaller properties.
Nature and Resilience	Length of new fencing constructed	300 kilometres	477 kilometres	The 477 kilometres of fencing includes both 289 kilometres of fencing signed off as constructed and 188 kilometres of fencing contracted for construction.
	Total trees/plants planted	950,000	1,157,619	The total of 840,552 plants included 661,810 which were signed off as planted, and 495,809 which were contracted to plant in winter 2026.
	• Number of trees/plants planted in riparian, lake, or wetlands areas	600,000	608,924	
	• Number of trees/plants planted in highly erodible hill country	350,000	548,695	
	Area protected through planting or native regeneration	370 hectares	916 hectares	The total 916 hectares include 527 hectares signed off as completed and 388 hectares contracted for planting or native regeneration.
	• Area protected by riparian, lake, or wetlands planting	120 hectares	122 hectares	
	• Area protected by afforestation, space planting or biodiversity planting in highly erodible hill country	250 hectares	794 hectares	
Skills and Jobs	Number of people-hours worked	60,000 (39 FTE)	89,816 (58 FTE)	In 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.
	Number of people undertaking training	40	65	Training included Field Advisor Training, and external training provided by various delivery partners.

Rāpotopoto Ahupūtea

Financial Summary 2025-2026

Cash contributions					In-kind contributions				
	MfE	MfE Other	Councils	Landowners / Other (incl. Interest)	Total cash contributions	Council	Landowners / Other	Total in kind expenditure	Total expenditure
Funding ¹	\$14,895,896.00	\$1,300.00	\$933,088.41	\$773,753.37	\$16,604,037.78				
Workstream expenditure									
Programme Delivery – Remediations Grants and Partnerships	\$4,584,804.15		\$475,453.12	\$198,873.58	\$5,259,130.85	\$1,275.00	\$3,508,311.00	\$3,509,586.00	\$8,768,716.85
Engagement and Partnerships	\$58,572.86		\$37,742.26		\$96,315.12	\$257.74		257.74	\$96,572.86
Kaipara Maurikura	\$580,000.00		\$260,887.44		\$840,887.44	\$865,921.49		\$865,921.49	\$1,706,808.93
Governance, Planning and Reporting	\$47,146.58				\$47,146.58	\$10,042.20		\$10,042.20	\$57,188.78
Digital Tools System Development & Maintenance	\$95,688.40		\$73,790.62		\$169,479.02	\$5,686.00		\$5,686.00	\$175,165.02
Strategy and Opportunities	\$87,082.46		\$85,214.97		\$172,297.43	\$637.50		\$637.50	\$172,934.93
Total expenditure	\$5,453,294.45	-	\$933,088.41	\$198,873.58	\$6,585,256.44	\$883,819.93	\$3,508,311.00	\$4,392,130.93	\$10,977,387.37
Funding carried over to 2026/27	\$9,442,601.55	\$1,300.00	-	\$574,879.79	\$10,018,781.34				

NOTES:

¹ Funding includes cash contributions from the Crown via MfE, Councils and third parties as well as interest on cash held in the bank

² Funding for KMR to support the launch of Tūhono Taiao, a national website to share catchment-related information. This MfE revenue does not have to be matched.

Tātari Agreed Procedures Report

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

Partnerships



Memorandum of Understanding signatories



Ngā Tūtohu Acknowledgments

KMR would like to thank everyone who has supported and contributed to our work this year.

We would especially like to acknowledge the many landowners, farmers, land managers, whānau, kaitiaki, hapū, community groups, catchment groups, schools, and others across the catchment who have worked alongside us to take action and contribute to positive outcomes for the catchment.

We would like to extend our sincere thanks to KMR's MOU signatory parties, strategic and commercial partners, and the many KMR-accredited nurseries, contractors, and suppliers who support this work. We also acknowledge the Field Advisors, Sustainable Dairying Advisors, and plant and land management specialists whose dedication and expertise help drive action in communities, on farms, and across 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 John Blackwell, Debra Brewer, Georgina Curtis-Connelly, Greg Sayers, Jack Craw, Guy Wishart, Ivan Wagstaff, Kelly Retimana, Pita Tipene, Mike Tana, and Tracy Davis.

During the reporting period, KMR farewelled Pou Tātaki Justine Daw, whose leadership was instrumental in establishing the programme and shaping its success from the outset, and Communications & Governance Lead Ben Hope, whose governance support and communications leadership were pivotal in building the KMR brand and helping it become a recognised and trusted presence across the catchment. Together, they leave behind a significant strategic legacy that will continue to guide and strengthen the programme in the years ahead. We thank them for their outstanding contributions and wish them every success for the future.

As always, we recognise and thank the Ministry for the Environment 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

J O B S | **MAHI**
FOR NATURE | MŌ TE TAIAO



Te Kāwanatanga o Aotearoa
New Zealand Government

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kmr.org.nz

TITLE: **Local Government (Systems Improvement)
Amendment Act 2026**

**Kaituhi Pūrongo |
Report Writers**

Emma Dore | Pou Tātaki

Te Kaupapa | Purpose

This paper updates the Joint Committee on the Local Government (Systems Improvement) Amendment Act 2026 and seeks Joint Committee advice on the next steps to support KMR governance.

Rāpopototanga Matua | Executive summary

Since the 27 July 2026 Joint Committee Paper, the Local Government (System Improvements) Amendment Bill received royal assent on 18 September and has been enacted as the Local Government (System Improvements) Amendment Act 2026 (the Act).

On 15 September 2026, during the Committee of the Whole House stage, further late-stage amendments to the Bill were introduced. These included further definition of the term “non-elected member”, the definition of the term “specified committee” which now includes joint committees, expansion of definitions for Treaty Settlement references and the addition of section 260A, which enables exemptions from the non-elected member provisions to be created by Order in Council. For the KMR Joint Committee exemption would need to be sought under section 260A to preserve the current KMR governance model.

On 29 September Minister Watts provided information to Mayors and Regional Council Chairs regarding voting at council committee meetings. This letter confirmed that councils will need to comply by 18 March 2027 and also provides the process for requesting exemption. Requests need to be received by the Minister of Local Government by 18 November 2026.

This report provides further details of the new legislation and seeks the Joint Committee’s direction on what actions are to be taken and by whom, and requests Joint Committee consideration of contingency options should exclusion not be granted.

Whakataunga | Recommendations

That the Joint Committee:

1. Receive the report ‘Local Government (Systems Improvement) Amendment Act 2026’ by Emma Doré, dated 19 October 2026.
2. Note the date for the legislative clauses impacting the KMR Joint Committee come into force on 18 March 2027.
3. Note that a request for exception must be submitted by 18 November 2027 and decisions are intended to be made and communicated in early 2027.
4. Agree that an exception from the Act be sought to preserve the voting rights of non-elected KMR Joint Committee members.
5. Agree that KMR staff work with partner organisations to build the case and ensure appropriate support including a council resolution is obtained ahead of the deadline.
6. Endorse and provide direction on contingency governance arrangements should an exception not be granted.

Horopaki | Background

Kaipara Moana Remediation (KMR) was established as a partnership between the Crown, Kaipara Uri, Auckland Council and Northland Regional Council. The equal participation of these partners is a foundational pillar of the way KMR is governed and operates.

KMR's current governance arrangements were always intended as an interim arrangement, pending the establishment of the permanent Future Kaipara Moana Body, through Treaty settlement legislation. Given this context, the KMR establishment team considered that establishing KMR's governance as a Joint Committee of Northland Regional Council under the Local Government Act was both pragmatic and efficient and could be implemented in a way that was consistent with KMR's founding Memorandum of Understanding.

On 2 June 2026, Minister of Local Government, Hon Simon Watts, announced a Cabinet decision to restrict the rights of non-elected members on council committees through The Local Government (Systems Improvement) Amendments Bill.

On 15 September 2026, late-stage amendments were introduced through Amendment Paper (AP) No. 755 during the Committee of the Whole House stage, immediately before the Bill's third reading.

The key late amendments relevant to KMR were:

1. New power for exceptions from the non-elected member voting restrictions

A new section, 260A, was inserted, allowing exceptions to be specified by Order in Council in relation to the new voting restrictions for non-elected members.

2. Definition of "non-elected member" was refined.

The Amendment Paper provided a detailed statutory definition of "non-elected member", clarifying exactly who is covered by the new restrictions and distinguishing them from elected councillors, community board members, local board members, and certain joint committee members.

3. Treaty settlement references were added

The amendment paper inserted new definitions for:

- Treaty settlement
- Treaty settlement Act
- Treaty settlement deed

4. Joint committee provisions were included

The definition of a committee was amended to specifically recognise joint committees established under relevant Schedule 3 and Schedule 7 provisions.

In effect, these mean that once these changes come into force on 18 March 2027, KMR's governors who are not elected members of either Northland Regional or Auckland Councils will not have voting rights on the Joint Committee.

Tātari me ngā tūtohu | Analysis and Advice

Exemption Pathway

The new legislation affects the agreed partnership model that underpins the Crown's partnership with Kaipara Uri and the governance structure of the KMR Joint Committee. In addition, these changes may prejudice the intended transition to the future statutory Kaipara Moana governance body contemplated by the Kaipara Moana Framework Agreement.

The new section 260A of the Act, which enables exceptions from the non-elected member provisions to be created by Order in Council provides the mechanism through which KMR may seek an exception.

The power to recommend an exception by Order in Council rests with the Minister of Local Government. An Order in Council is made by the Governor-General, on the recommendation of the Minister.

The Minister must be satisfied that the committee's particular purpose, functions, membership arrangements and governance context justify an exception to the standard rules for non-elected members. Before recommending an Order in Council, the Minister must consult affected parties and consider the purpose of local government and the committee's role in delivering its functions. Section 260A (4) states that *"The Minister must not recommend the making of an order under subsection (1) unless they are satisfied that the exception is necessary or desirable."*

The Minister's letter of 29 September to Mayors and Regional Council Chairs provides further detail of what information is required in a request for exception and should enclose a resolution from council in support of the exception and ideally have the support of all councils who are members of the joint committee. Requests for exception need to be submitted by 18 November 2026, and will be assessed by officials from MCERT, who will provide advice to the Minister of Local Government after the election. It is intended that decisions will be made and communicated in early 2027.

Timing Considerations and Risks

The Minister of Local Government is responsible for considering any exception request and, if satisfied, recommending an Order in Council. As at October 2026, this role is held by Hon Simon Watts. Should there be a change of Government or Minister following the General Election, responsibility for considering exemption requests would transfer to the incoming Minister of Local Government. The Minister's letter of 29 September notes his intention that decisions will be made and communicated in early 2027, although this could be subject to change under a new government. A change in Government, ministerial portfolios, or policy priorities following the election may further affect the timing of decisions.

As the new voting provisions are due to come into force on 18 March 2027, there is a risk that an exception application may not be determined before that date. In that circumstance, the Joint Committee may be required to operate under the new legislative requirements unless and until an exception is granted. The Committee may also need to consider whether alternative governance arrangements are available should the current structure no longer be able to operate as intended.

Further advice and consideration may be required to fully understand any implications for how this impacts the Joint Committee Memorandum of Understanding and the Deed of Funding with the Crown.

Ngā mahi ka whai ake | Next Steps

The Joint Committee may wish to consider:

1. The process and requirements for seeking an exception under section 260A
2. Whether a smaller group should be established to lead and progress this work in a timely manner
3. The governance, funding and contractual implications should an exception not be in place by 18 March 2027; and
4. What legal support is required to progress this work, including whether advice can be obtained through existing council resources or whether independent specialist advice would be beneficial.

Considerations

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

KMR's policy settings are designed to support the primary objective of sediment reduction, while supporting KMR's wider investment objectives. Preserving the existing joint governance arrangements supports continued alignment between investment decisions, Treaty-based commitments, and the long-term wellbeing outcomes sought for Kaipara Moana.

2. Ngā ritenga take pūtea | Financial implications

This paper does not propose any immediate change to the approved KMR budget. However, there may be financial implications associated with legal and advisory support, staff and Joint Committee time for correspondence and engagement with Ministers and agencies, and the development of contingency governance options if KMR is not excluded from the proposed amendments. Further financial implications may arise if alternative governance or legal entity arrangements need to be progressed ahead of settlement legislation.

3. Ngā hiranga me ngā hononga | Significance and Engagement

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

4. Ngā tūraru me ngā mauru | Risks and mitigation

The primary risks associated with the enactment of the Local Government (System Improvements) Amendment Act 2026 relate to uncertainty regarding KMR's future governance arrangements, potential impacts on confidence in the existing governance model, possible implications for settlement implementation arrangements, programme delays, and reputational risk to participating councils and Crown agencies. These risks may be mitigated through early engagement on the exemption process provided for under section 260A of the Act, ongoing engagement with Ministers, local Members of Parliament and relevant Crown agencies, obtaining appropriate legal and governance advice, and considering alternative governance arrangements should an exemption not be in place before the new voting provisions come into force.

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

This Joint Committee paper does not have wider climate change mitigation and adaptation implications.

Pirihongi | Attachments

Attachment 1: Letter from Tame Te rangi to Minister Watts, 14 July

Attachment 2: Letter from Minister Watts to Tame Te Rangī, 30 July 2026

Attachment 3: Letter from Minister Watts to Regional Council Chairs and Mayors 29 September 2026

14 July 2026

Hon. Simon Watts
Minister of Local Government

Request for exclusion of the Kaipara Moana Remediation Joint Committee from proposed Local Government Act amendments affecting voting rights and quorum.

Tēnā koe Minister,

We write as the Kaipara Moana Remediation (KMR) Joint Committee, to submit that the Kaipara Moana arrangements should be considered separately from the general policy relating to appointed members of local authority committees.

We seek confirmation that The KMR Joint Committee will be excluded from the proposed amendments to the Local Government Act 2002 that would restrict voting rights and quorum participation for non-elected members of council committees.

We understand the Government has announced its intention to amend the Local Government Act 2002 so that only elected members may vote at council committee meetings, with non-elected members no longer counting towards quorum. We also understand that statutory committees and appointments, including arrangements agreed as part of Treaty settlement processes, are intended to be excluded from the proposed changes.

The Kaipara Moana Remediation programme is materially different from ordinary council committee arrangements. It was established as a partnership and Memorandum of Understanding between the Crown, Kaipara Uri, Auckland Council and Northland Regional Council, with equal participation by those partners forming the foundational pillar of its governance and operation.

The current Joint Committee has always been intended as an interim governance arrangement, established to enable the partners to progress the Kaipara Moana Remediation programme pending the establishment of the Future Kaipara Moana Body through settlement legislation. The Crown's 2014 Kaipara Moana Framework Agreement was designed to provide for Ngāti Whātua involvement in governance and decision-making through a body comprising equal local authority and iwi representation. The Agreement acknowledges Ngāti Whātua's status as kaitiaki, their longstanding relationship with Kaipara Moana, and the value of their participation in decision-making processes. These arrangements are not advisory in nature; they were conceived as a mechanism for shared responsibility and collaborative governance. As such, the removal of voting rights from iwi-appointed members would be inconsistent with both the intent and spirit of the Framework.

The Memorandum of Understanding signed on 9 October 2020 records a joint commitment by the Crown, Kaipara Uri and regional councils to protect, restore and enhance the mauri of Kaipara Moana. The Joint Committee was formed under the auspices of Northland Regional Council to expedite the ability to negotiate and accept the Deed of Funding with

the Ministry for the Environment, while anticipating transition to a future statutory entity once settlement legislation is in place.

For these reasons, applying the proposed amendments to the Kaipara Moana Remediation Joint Committee would risk undermining Crown, Kaipara Uri and council commitments that were deliberately designed around partnership, shared equity and equal participation.

Removing or limiting the voting rights and quorum participation of some Joint Committee members would be counter to the expectations established at the programme's inception and could create risks to relationships, programme stability, delivery, and the intended transition to the future statutory Kaipara Moana governance body.

We therefore request written confirmation that the Kaipara Moana Remediation Joint Committee will be excluded from the proposed amendments or otherwise treated as falling within the category of Treaty-based or settlement-related governance arrangements intended to be protected.

In support of this request, we note that:

- KMR implements commitments arising from Treaty settlement negotiations and associated Crown, Kaipara Uri and council agreements.
- The current Joint Committee is an interim arrangement pending settlement legislation to establish the Future Kaipara Moana Body.
- Equal participation by Crown, Kaipara Uri and councils is central to the agreed partnership model and to maintaining confidence in the programme.
- Cabinet has indicated that statutory committees and appointments, including those agreed as part of Treaty settlement arrangements, are intended to be excluded from the proposed voting-rights changes.
- Uncertainty or disruption to the current governance arrangements may prejudice programme delivery, partner relationships and the transition to the future statutory body.

Given the expected timing of further Cabinet decision-making and the potential for amendments to be advanced late in the parliamentary process, we would appreciate early engagement with officials and urgent confirmation of the pathway for securing exclusion for the Kaipara Moana Remediation Joint Committee.

We would welcome the opportunity to discuss this matter with you and your officials as soon as possible. Please contact Emma Doré, Acting Pou Tātaki at emmad@kmr.org.nz or 0274 323 603 to arrange a discussion or to request any further information required to support this request.

Nāku noa, nā



Tame Te Rangi, Chair
Kaipara Moana Remediation Joint Committee



30 JUL 2026

COR2642

Tame Te Rangi
C/O emmad@kmr.org.nz

Dear Tame

I write in response to your letters to me and my ministerial colleagues dated 14 July 2026 about the Local Government (System Improvements) Amendment Bill (the Bill) and the proposed changes to voting rights for non-elected members.

I understand that representatives from Kaipara Moana Remediation have met with my officials to discuss the amendments that I have announced.

The Bill is intended to improve the performance, transparency and accountability of local government. The signalled amendments reflect the Government's position that there should be no responsibility without accountability. The proposal is intended to ensure that people who vote on council committees have been democratically elected and are accountable to voters.

Some exemptions will apply. Many council committees and subcommittees are established under legislation other than the Local Government Act 2002. This proposal will not apply to committees and appointments that are required under other legislation. Statutory exemptions will include committees created by Treaty of Waitangi settlement and redress legislation.

Cabinet has agreed additional exemptions may be granted on the recommendation of the Minister of Local Government. In rare and justified circumstances, some non-elected member appointments may continue to hold voting rights. I acknowledge your request for the Kaipara Moana Remediation Joint Committee to receive an exemption. I will communicate my expectations for any exemptions, including how they can be requested, in due course.

Yours sincerely

Hon Simon Watts
Minister of Local Government



29 SEP 2026

Mayors and regional council chairs
By email

Dear Mayors and Chairs

Voting at council committee meetings

Last week, the Local Government (System Improvements) Amendment Act 2026 received Royal assent. The Act reserves voting rights on council committees, joint committees, subcommittees, and other subordinate decision-making bodies ("specified committees") for elected members only.

As I have stated previously, the purpose of this change is to strengthen democratic accountability. Councils may continue to appoint non-elected members to specified committees to provide expertise, stakeholder perspectives, or community representation. However, unless an exception applies, non-elected members must not vote and are not counted toward the quorum of the meeting.

Your council must comply with the Act from 18 March 2027. The purpose of this transition period is to ensure you have enough time to change the structure of or delegations to your council's specified committees, if required.

The Act also provides for certain exceptions. These include committees or appointments that are required under or for the purposes of another enactment and arrangements required to give effect to Treaty settlements.

Additionally, the Act provides for the Governor-General, on the recommendation of the Minister of Local Government, to grant exceptions where the Minister is satisfied these are necessary or desirable. Exceptions may be time-limited or indefinite, and with or without conditions.

My expectations are that exceptions will be granted rarely. The Government's policy is that non-elected members should generally be non-voting. Councils seeking an exception will therefore need to demonstrate a clear and specific justification that supports the statutory test that the exception is necessary or desirable.

The next page of this letter contains information on how requests for exceptions will be considered.

If your council considers that an exception may be required, I encourage you to submit a request in writing to the Minister of Local Government by 18 November 2026 enclosing:

- A copy of a resolution from your council in support of the exception.
- Information about the issue the exception would address, why existing governance arrangements would not adequately address the issue, and how the council would manage the issue without an exception.
- Information about the role of the committee, the proposed role of non-elected members, and the steps that would be taken to maintain democratic legitimacy and public accountability.
- Information about how the exception fits within the broader statutory framework, including any comparable precedents.

Requests regarding a joint committee should ideally have the support of all councils who are members of the joint committee.

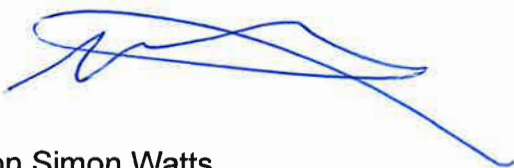
Requests should contain sufficient information for the Minister to recommend the exception to the Governor-General.

Officials at the Ministry for Cities, Environment, Regions and Transport (MCERT) will assess any requests received and provide advice to the Minister of Local Government after the election. It is my intention that decisions will be made and communicated early next year, and exceptions will come into force at the end of the transition period.

If you require more information:

- Visit the MCERT website at www.mcert.govt.nz/our-work/local-government/local-government-system-improvements/.
- Contact your MCERT Local Government Partnership Director.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'Simon Watts', with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Hon Simon Watts
Minister of Local Government

TITLE: Pou Tātaki Report

Kaituhi Pūrongo |
Report Writer Emma Doré | Pou Tātaki

Te Kaupapa | Purpose

This report provides a brief update to the Kaipara Moana Remediation (KMR) Joint Committee on KMR delivery.

Rāpopototanga Matua | Executive Summary

In this report, we provide an update on KMR delivery and KPIs, as well as an overview of new initiatives and any material issues since we last reported.

Whakataunga | Recommendations

That the Joint Committee:

1. Receive the 'Pou Tātaki Report' by Emma Doré dated 19 October 2026.

Tātari me ngā tūtohu | Analysis and Advice

Pou Tātaki Update- Strategic and Emerging Matters

1. The Local Government (Systems Improvement) Amendment Act 2026 is now enacted. As this legislation has significant implications for KMR, a separate paper has been submitted to the Joint Committee.
2. Deloitte has advised KMR that the annual audit is nearing completion, with no issues of concern raised to date. The auditors will await Joint Committee approval of the Annual Report 2025-2026 before issuing their assurance opinion.
3. The Resource Management Act 1991 is being replaced by two new Acts: a Natural Environment Act and a Planning Act. The reforms are expected to maintain a strong focus on freshwater and catchment management outcomes, potentially creating additional opportunities for KMR.
4. Freshwater Farm Plans: The Government has confirmed a more practical and risk-based Freshwater Farm Plan framework, with regulations currently being developed to support implementation. KMR will seek opportunities to work alongside landowners to incorporate sediment reduction actions into broader farm planning activities.

Partnerships and Relationships.

A priority over recent months has been to reconnect with partners and key agencies to strengthen relationships. The KMR Leadership Team met with leaders at Te Roroa, Te Uri o Hau and Ngā Maunga Whakahii o Kaipara, where key aims and objectives were shared and collaborative strategies were explored.

Taking a results-driven approach for efficient and effective gains, KMR has engaged with the Northland Regional Council (NRC) Community Engagement team and the Biosecurity Services General Manager to consider leverage across both organisations to reach landowners and communities for mutual environmental outcomes.

Seeking new solutions to address engagement gaps in the South Kaipara, KMR is working with Auckland Council's Healthy Waters team to investigate a catchment-led delivery model. By contracting directly with a catchment group, multiple smaller neighbouring properties can be supported through

a single agreement, enabling them to collectively meet grant eligibility requirements while reducing administration and supporting a national shift towards funding catchment groups as delivery entities.

KMR is collaborating with Ballance and Beef + Lamb New Zealand to deliver NZ Farm Assurance Programme Plus (NZFAP+) workshops over four days during October and November in Wellsford and Dargaville. The workshops provide farmers with NZFAP certification, including support to meet Freshwater Farm Plan requirements. The "Plus" component includes additional planning and accreditation for good environmental practice. KMR's attendance provides an opportunity to engage directly with participating farmers, discuss sediment reduction opportunities, and establish clear referral pathways into KMR initiatives.

Update from The Ministry for Cities, Environment, Regions and Transport (MCERT).

Change of Lead Contact

Over the past year, KMR developed a close working relationship with Aoife Broad as our primary contact at MCERT, following on from Celia Soloman Te Kani in 2025. As Aoife steps away on secondment, KMR is pleased to be working with Sarah Vaughan, Team Leader, Investments, as our new primary contact. Sarah has a strong understanding of KMR's early development and was closely involved in establishing the KPI framework and reporting arrangements. KMR also continues to work with senior MCERT staff Wes Patrick and Lorena Stephen, who provide continuity and support to both KMR and Ministers.

Evaluation

MCERT is seeking budget to procure a mid-term evaluation of KMR. This is in line with normal practice to undertake interim evaluations of large-scale investment programmes. The intention would be for the evaluation to draw out lessons from programme design, delivery and governance, take stock of the evidence available on emerging outcomes, and set out what needs to be in place for a robust assessment of outcomes and longer-term value over time. MCERT has indicated the evaluation of KMR is a priority for the 2026/27FY, but budget and subsequent date has not been committed to.

Maurikura

September Away Day

In mid-September the Maurikura held the second "Away Day" of the year, exploring global, national and regional emerging themes and how our work sits at the intersection of some of Aotearoa's biggest priorities. The day moved into an operational planning focus, recognising achievements to date, the focus for this stage of the programme and how to best utilise our capability to support the next phase of programme delivery.

Recruitment

Working with the People and Culture team at NRC, we have now confirmed internal appointments to backfill vacancies arising from an internal secondment to the Pou Tātaki role, with these appointments expected to be in place by 12 October. Recruitment for the Remediation Programme Lead role will commence shortly. While this may create a temporary gap in the operational team, we are aiming to have the position filled before the end of the calendar year.

Comms and Engagement

Refreshed Communications & Engagement Strategy

The draft Communications & Engagement Strategy 2027-2029 is currently under review. Feedback has been sought from KMR Joint Committee members and staff, and all responses have now been received. We are currently collating and analysing the feedback, incorporating agreed changes into the draft strategy, and refining the document to ensure it reflects organisational priorities and stakeholder expectations.

Once the revisions have been completed, the strategy will be finalised and adopted as the roadmap for KMR's communications and engagement activities over the next three years.

Northland Business Excellence Awards

Northland's business community came together to celebrate the 49th Northland Business Excellence Awards on Friday, 2 October 2026, at McKay Stadium in Whangārei.

KMR submitted two entries under the categories Excellence in Sustainability and Climate Action Award, and the Excellence in Business Award. Unfortunately, as Northland Regional Council were the sponsors of the sustainability and climate action award, KMR's application was excluded at a late stage. The event was attended by KMR Joint Committee Deputy Chair John Blackwell, accompanied by Emma Doré and Moana Fraser. KMR congratulates all winners and finalists recognised at this year's awards.

Media

KMR continues to maintain a strong presence across local and sector media, highlighting the positive environmental outcomes being achieved by landowners, schools, community groups and partners through KMR-supported initiatives.

Since the last Joint Committee meeting, five feature stories have been developed and published on the KMR website. These stories showcased KMR's strategic partnerships with Fonterra and Horticulture New Zealand, school planting activities delivered through the Enviroschools programme, and the collective efforts driving a community-led restoration project. The stories attracted coverage across a range of regional publications, including the Northern Advocate, Kaipara Lifestyler and Local Matters.

This ongoing media engagement helps raise awareness of KMR's work, strengthens KMR's profile across the region, and celebrates the individuals, communities and organisations making a meaningful difference through their mahi.

Industry events

KMR staff attended five industry and community events during the reporting period, strengthening relationships with key stakeholders and increasing awareness of KMR's programmes and priorities. These events were hosted by the Rodney Local Board, Beef + Lamb New Zealand, Northland Regional Council in partnership with the three Northland district councils, the International Erosion Control Association, and Civil Contractors New Zealand.

Participation in these events provided valuable opportunities to engage directly with landowners, industry representatives, local government partners and community organisations.

KMR Pānui

The September edition of the KMR Pānui was distributed to KMR's growing subscriber database, which now exceeds 2,000 subscribers. The e-newsletter provided stakeholders with updates on KMR activities, projects, funding and participation opportunities, and the environmental outcomes being delivered across the Kaipara Moana catchment.

KMR Performance

Through the Governance Level Reporting Framework adopted in July 2026, KMR will be providing quarterly year-to-date reports to our MOU signatory partners for the period from 1 July to 30 September in addition to our standard published Life to Date performance metrics. Overall performance is good and meeting KPI targets.

KMR undertook a planned review of system data regarding KMR committed sediment reduction plans which were contractually overdue, and where necessary, withdrew plans where landowners were unable to proceed. Taking withdrawals into account has marginally reduced the impact of new performance across life to date metrics but assures KMR and funders of the accuracy of data going forward.

KMR Performance (Life to Date)

At 30 September 2026, a little over 4 years into operational delivery, KMR delivered the following results on the ground:

Nature & Resilience

- Over 3.1 million plants in the ground or contracted to plant
- 2,000 hectares planted or contracted, or regenerating into native forest
- Over 1,270 km of fencing completed or contracted – more than the distance from Cape Rēinga to Nelson!
- Over 164,000 hectares managed under KMR plans.

Jobs & Skills

- 492,000 hours of new work – a year's work for over 316 people
- Over \$35 million invested or contracted in restoration projects
- 55 local businesses and nurseries accredited to supply KMR
- 283 people trained and mentored, many from local iwi/hapū, to advise on project design and delivery.

Participation

- 1,630 landowners/groups have expressed interest in KMR
- 1050 plans completed with landowners/groups
- 163 more plans in development
- 157 projects led by hapū, marae, community groups, catchment groups and other collectives in train or development.

Financial performance

To maximise interest on our funds, KMR has opened (through NRC banking) a Corporate Saver Account alongside our Transaction Account. This recognizes the high account balance of KMR operating funds, particularly when funding invoices are paid. By holding the bulk of KMR funds in the saver account, we anticipate an increased interest rate of 0.65%, which could generate around \$40,000 additional interest over 12 months.

The year-to-date financials for end September 2026 shown in Table 1 below show that KMR continues to scale up at pace, as intended, indicated by the value of total Programme Expenditure (Activity).

Table 1: KMR Financials (Year to date, as of 30 September 2026)

KMR Financials to 30 September 2026

Funding Contributions	30 September 2026
MfE	9,442,602
Northland Regional Council	-
Auckland Council	-
Other funding	169,664
Interest earned	564,122
Subtotal (Funds available)	10,176,387
<i>Less KMR expenditure (Activity incl. Grants)</i>	1,377,920
<i>Less other funding allocated</i>	12,788
Funds Remaining	8,785,679
Co-funding (Matching Contributions)	
NRC in kind labour and Opex costs (incl. salaries)	316,826
AC in kind labour and Opex costs	135
Landowner / Other contributors	1,163,472
Subtotal (Co-funding expenditure)	1,480,434
Total Programme Expenditure (Activity)	2,858,354

Joint Committee Grant Interests

In line with advice from the Office of the Auditor-General, we provide a transparent overview below of the KMR grant-related interests that are relevant to LAMIA Act (local government legislation that pertains to the financial interests of elected members, and others sitting on local government committees, such as KMR's Joint Committee).

We note that the Office of the Auditor General (OAG) has made a ruling in respect of KMR which recognises that Members of the KMR Joint Committee have been appointed to the Committee on a representative basis i.e. due to their roles in their iwi/hapū.

Table 2: Joint Committee Grant Interests

Who	Grant type	KMR Grant value	Status	Nature of Interest
Deb Brewer	Whenua Whānui Fund	Project 1 \$17,318.00 (excl GST) Project 2 \$17,318.70 (excl GST)	Project 1 is now in Complete status. Project 2 is in Under Development status (planting of the south area moved from Project 1 to Project 2).	As Chair of the Te Kia ora Marae, Kakanui, Deb Brewer has an interest in this grant. Any potential financial benefit from this environmental restoration grant (e.g. in terms of future land use value) would accrue to all beneficiaries of the Marae trust. The OAG has provided a ruling to

				KMR that such a role does not constitute a LAMIA conflict.
Kelly Retimana	Whenua Whānui Fund	Project 1 \$21,856.10 (excl GST) Project 2 \$31,026.10 (excl GST) (not yet contracted)	Project 1 is currently in Sign Off status, and Project 2 is in Awaiting Contract status; we are waiting for them to complete their project 1 planting before moving on to Project 2.	Kelly is not a landowner or trustee but an interested whanau member who has promoted the project. Kelly is an affiliate of the Marae and would not receive financial benefit.
Mike Tana	Whenua Whānui Fund	Project 1 \$1,501.50 Project 2 – not defined yet.	Project 18 (ANR) has just been approved. Project 2 (planting) is 'Under Development' but likely to be submitted in 2027, once the whenua is ready to be planted.	Mike is a not a trustee on the various blocks of whenua within this project. While Mike does whakapapa to Parirau Marae he would not receive financial benefit for this project.

Pirihongi | Attachments:

Attachment 1: Quarterly Year to Date Catchment-Wide KPI

Kaipara Moana Remediation (KMR)

Year to Date KPIs Quarterly Report

Period: 1 July – 30 September 2026

KPI Outputs (Quarterly) – Core Metrics

Land Management Actions – Catchment Wide

Metric	Year 7 Current*
Number of new Project plans or new Farm Environment Plans completed (total) - Number of new Plans - Number of Projects by returning Landowners and Groups	32 41
Area (ha) covered by new Plans	2,979ha
Number of plants planted or contracted for planting in riparian, lake, or wetlands areas	164,428
Number of plants planted or contracted for planting in highly erodible hill country	163,216
Area (ha) of riparian, lake, or wetlands planting completed or contracted	32.9ha
Area(ha) of afforestation, space planting or biodiversity planting in highly erodible hill country completed or contracted	192.4ha

Length (km) of new fencing constructed or contracted	82.7km

*These values will fluctuate through the year if projects are withdrawn and are highly influenced by the seasonality of work.

Key achievements, challenges or notable activities delivered this period

- Over the 2026 winter period KMR has confirmed that across 171 Planting projects, over 550,000 plants have gone into the ground across the catchment.
- KMR representatives engaged with local landowners and communities at events across the catchment, including the Beef and Lamb AGM and Taupaki School AG Day.
- For many KMR farmers and landowners, spring is a busy period and marks the end of the winter planting season. KMR is now preparing for an increase in new fencing projects planned for summer.
- As at 30 September 2026, a quarter of the way through the 26/27 Financial Year, KMR is on track to meet all of its KPIs, with some looking likely to be exceeded.

TITLE: Local Stream Health Monitoring Project - Delivery Update

Kaituhi Pūrongo | Darren Van Beek - Kaiārahi Whakaora Whenua Koawa | Remediation Programme
Report Writer Lead

Te Kaupapa | Purpose

This report provides an update to the Kaipara Moana Remediation Joint Committee on the delivery of the Stream Health Monitoring Project.

Whakarāpopototanga | Executive summary

The Local Stream Health Monitoring Project (Stream Health project) was established by Kaipara Moana Remediation (KMR) to demonstrate the effect of the significant remediation work on waterways that has been funded by KMR since inception.

The Stream Health project focuses on streams where KMR-funded fencing and planting have occurred and can be paired with a control site where there has been no remediation activities. Data is collected using the Stream Health Monitoring and Assessment Kit (SHMAK) at six monitoring sites across the catchment. Through repeat monitoring over a three-year period, the project aims to demonstrate the impacts of fencing, planting, wetland restoration and afforestation activities on stream health.

The six monitoring sites cover a broad spectrum of the KMR catchment - including two sites in the northern KMR catchment, two sites in the central KMR catchment and two sites within the southern KMR catchment area.

This initiative presents an important opportunity for KMR to demonstrate some of the environmental outcomes associated with KMR co-funded remediation activities and to support future programme reporting, communications and continuous improvement.

Whakataunga | Recommendations

That the Joint Committee:

1. Receive the report 'Local Stream Health Monitoring Project – Delivery Update' by Darren Van Beek, Kaiārahi Whakaora Whenua Koawa -Remediation Programme Lead and dated 19 October 2026.

Horopaki | Background

The Stream Health project has been developed by KMR, with support from MCERT, to demonstrate the value of KMR funded remediation activities to stream health, delivered across the Kaipara Moana catchment. The project will be using the NIWA Stream Health Monitoring and Assessment Kit (SHMAK) methodology which provides a practical, repeatable and nationally recognised framework for assessing freshwater health.

This project is intended to compliment, not replace, the long-term freshwater monitoring programmes undertaken by Auckland Council and the Northland Regional Council. The primary purpose of the project is to demonstrate the measurable improvements in water quality resulting from KMR co-funded remediation works. By establishing repeatable monitoring at selected sites, KMR will be able to monitor changes, and the stream health outcomes being achieved through KMR programme investment.

Tātari me ngā tūtohu | Analysis and Advice

Project Establishment

Sites were identified using GIS through a targeted selection process focused on KMR-supported remediation projects. The identification process sought to identify suitable paired catchment reference sites with first and second order streams, as these waterways provide the greatest opportunity to demonstrate the impacts of fencing, planting, wetland restoration and erosion control activities. First and second-order streams are headwater streams that form the beginnings of a river network (and have no tributaries flowing into it). They were selected for monitoring because they are most sensitive to changes in surrounding land management and provide an early indication of stream health before impacts accumulate downstream.

An initial list of landowners with suitable remediation sites was developed by KMR staff. Landowners were then approached to determine their interest in participating in the project and their willingness to accommodate repeat stream health monitoring on their properties over a 3-year period. Following shortlisting, the participating landowners were formally approached to obtain agreement for KMR staff and project partners to undertake stream health monitoring at the selected locations over a three-year period. Landowner participation is a key component of the project and reflects the collaborative approach underpinning KMR's restoration program.

Training and Capability Building

To support project implementation, SHMAK training was delivered on 25 August 2026 by Mountains to Sea Conservation Trust. The training was attended by five KMR Field Advisors, three KMR Maurikura staff and one participating landowner and covered monitoring protocols, data collection methods and stream health assessment techniques.

To support quality assurance, Mountains to Sea Conservation Trust will also assist with the initial monitoring visits at three selected monitoring sites.

Monitoring Sites and Programme

Six monitoring sites have been selected across the KMR program area:

- Puketitoe Road, Titoki
- Akerama Road, Hukerenui
- Matakana Valley Road, Whangaripo
- Kaipara Coast Highway, Glorit
- Oneriri Road, Oneriri
- Burma Road, Tāpora

Monitoring will commence in October 2026 and continue through to April 2029, with assessments undertaken twice annually in spring (October) and autumn (April). This will provide a consistent dataset across a three-year period and assist in identifying trends in stream condition over time. Once data is collected, Field Advisors will enter this into the Survey 123 online system.

Using the SHMAK methodology, monitoring will assess the following key components of stream health:

- Water clarity
- Water temperature
- Water flow
- pH level
- Macroinvertebrate community index
- Stream bed condition
- Riparian cover & shading

Together, these indicators provide an assessment of freshwater health and are directly influenced by the types of remediation activities supported through the KMR programme

Considerations

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

The Stream Health project is focused on assessing the health of waterways in the Kaipara Moana Catchment. It will rely on Field Advisors and one landowner to complete the SHMAK assessments, with support from KMR Maurikura and add information into the Survey 123 application. The goal is to demonstrate the effectiveness of fencing and planting on stream health and broader environmental health.

2. **Ngā ritenga take pūtea** | Financial implications

Budget was set aside to purchase the SHMAK kits and provide the training. The future financial implications are only around Field Advisor time to complete the monitoring.

3. **Ngā hiranga me ngā hononga** | Significance and Engagement

In relation to section 79 of the Local Government Act 2002[1], the decisions arising from this report are considered to be of low significance when assessed against Northland Regional Council's significance and engagement policy. This does not mean that this matter is not of significance to Kaipara Uri, Governors or the community but that the Joint Committee is able to note the contents of this paper without undertaking further consultation or engagement.

4. **Ngā tūraru me ngā mauru** | Risks and mitigation

To ensure successful delivery and mitigate potential risks associated with project, the following risk management measures will be implemented:

- **Contractual Controls** - Clear monitoring dates and data submission have been agreed to monitor progress.
- **Financial Oversight** – There is no financial oversight required as the initial financial outlay has occurred (purchasing the SHMAK kits and training).
- **Capacity Support** – The Maurikura will provide ongoing support to Field Advisors and landowners, helping to maintain the monitoring schedule and address any operational challenges.

- **Monitoring and Evaluation** – KMR staff will conduct periodic analysis of the data received to ensure it has been collected against agreed objectives.
- **Contingency Planning** - Provisions will be included to manage delays, scope changes, or unforeseen issues, ensuring project continuity and adaptability.

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

TITLE: KMR Two-Year Post-Planting Monitoring Analysis

Kaituhi Pūrongo | Galilee Miles, Kaitohutohu | Advisor – Monitoring and Evaluation
Report Writer

Te Kaupapa | Purpose

This report provides an update to the Kaipara Moana Remediation Joint Committee on the KMR Two-Year Post-Planting Monitoring Analysis.

Whakarāpopototanga | Executive summary

Across the 2022 and 2023 planting cohorts, most plants are alive and the majority are in moderate to high health, despite some sites being negatively affected by Cyclone Gabrielle and other adverse weather events in early 2023. Severe stress among surviving plants is rare, affecting less than 1% of plants sampled. The findings provide a reassuring picture of resilience, while highlighting a critical lesson about the importance of management.

Early-stage restoration success is determined largely by what happens after planting. KMR projects demonstrate strong survival and good plant health across diverse sites, confirming that the restoration approach is fundamentally sound; however, sustained maintenance is needed to support long-term canopy closure and ecosystem recovery.

Whakataunga | Recommendations

That the Joint Committee:

1. Receive the 'KMR Two-Year Post-Planting Monitoring Analysis' report by Galilee Miles, dated 19 October 2026.

Horopaki | Background

Kaipara Moana Remediation (KMR) undertook a large-scale monitoring project to determine whether restoration plantings are succeeding on the ground. The study covered 40 sites and sampled more than 9,400 native plants at two years post-planting.

The monitoring compared plant height, health, and survival at the same two-year milestone across cohorts planted in 2022 and 2023. It also considered post-planting maintenance, weed competition, slope, aspect, annual climate variation, and species-level performance.

Tātari me ngā tūtohu | Analysis and Advice

Across height, health, and survival, post-planting maintenance stands above all other factors. Without maintenance, plantings struggle; with it, they thrive. Active management outweighs site characteristics in determining early outcomes.

Environmental factors matter in more specific ways. Steeper slopes in this study, up to 70 degrees, are associated with taller plants, likely because of improved drainage and reduced frost exposure, but have no measurable effect on survival or health. Aspect shows no influence. The 2023 cohort is more than 20 cm shorter on average, reflecting less favourable establishment conditions, yet plants from both years are equally healthy and equally likely to survive at two years.

The underlying ecological mechanism is competition. Unchecked weeds outcompete young native plants for light, space, and nutrients, suppressing growth and increasing mortality risk. Mānuka and Kānuka are strong early performers, while species such as Akeake show greater susceptibility to stress; even high-performing species require effective management to reach their full potential.

The key takeaway is to prioritise consistent, effective post-planting maintenance, particularly weed control and release spraying, during early establishment. Each additional release spray improves growth, increases the likelihood of plants being in high health categories, and improves survival outcomes at the site level.

Considerations

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

The monitoring findings indicate that KMR-funded restoration plantings are generally surviving and maintaining good health at the two-year milestone, supporting progress towards canopy closure and ecosystem recovery. Receiving this report provides the Joint Committee with evidence about early restoration performance and reinforces the importance of post-planting maintenance in achieving the intended long-term wellbeing outcomes.

2. Ngā ritenga take pūtea | Financial implications

There are no financial implications with receiving the KMR Two-Year Post-Planting Monitoring Analysis report.

3. Ngā hiranga me ngā hononga | Significance and Engagement

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

4. Ngā tūraru me ngā mauru | Risks and mitigation

There are no risks or mitigations associated with receiving the KMR Two-Year Post-Planting Monitoring Analysis report.

Pirihongi | Attachments

Attachment: KMR Two-Year Post Planting Monitoring Analysis Report

KMR Two Year Post-Planting Monitoring Analysis

*Based on sampling data from 2024
and 2025*

Galilee Miles Kaitohutohu | Advisor – Monitoring and Evaluation

June 2026



kmr.org.nz

Background

In 2024 Kaipara Moana Remediation (KMR) began monitoring co-funded Projects two years post planting to gather insights and assess whether KMR funded projects have been successful. The scope has been limited to KMR co-funded planting and regeneration projects, with a plan in place to include fencing projects more systematically in future sampling years. Monitoring was conducted on a random selection of KMR co-funded projects with permission from landowners as pre-2025 projects were not contractually obligated to allow KMR to conduct monitoring post Sign-off of the project.

Methodology and Data Collection

Study Site Selection and Experimental Design

Weighted random sampling was performed annually to select sample sites with KMR co-funded planting projects which had been planted two years prior. Sampling was conducted using methodology has been developed by KMR with support and peer review of Tane's Tree Trust. The 2022 sample cohort (sampled in 2024) comprised 4,671 individual plants nested across 235 plots and 21 unique sites. The 2023 sample cohort (sampled in 2025) comprised 4,744 individual plants nested across 267 plots and 23 unique sites. In total, 40 distinct sites were sampled, with 4 properties containing planting projects spanning both cohort years, ensuring a balanced sample distribution of approximately 4,700 observed plants per monitoring season.

Within each selected site, an average of 10 circular sample plots were established, or a minimum of 200 plants per site. Each individual field sample plot consisted of a fixed 4-meter radius circle (total surface area of approximately 50m²). *Based on the target planting density, a fully stocked, successfully established plot held an expected baseline count of approximately 23 plants.*

A total of 9,415 individual plants reached the 2-year developmental milestone and were verified during the field inventories.

Data Collection and Variable Measurement

At each plot location, biophysical landscape features, localized management histories, and individual plant performance metrics were recorded using the following protocols.

Biophysical Landscape Metrics

- **Slope Gradient:** Topographic slope steepness was recorded as an average across each sample plot.
- **Aspect (Compass Direction):** Plot aspect orientation was initially recorded in the field using text-based compass directions (e.g., N, NW, S, SE). To create linear, continuous metrics for statistical modelling, raw compass headings were converted to radians and then mathematically transformed into **Northness** to evaluate solar radiation levels, and **Eastness** to evaluate regional wind exposure. Flat surfaces featuring a slope gradient of exactly 0° were assigned a value of 0 across both aspect transformations to eliminate geographic bias.

Management and Age Factors

- **Post-Planting Maintenance (Sprays):** Plant management was extracted from property records and discussions with landowners. The number of release-spray herbicide applications a site received during its initial 2-year establishment window post planting was recorded.
- **Planting Year:** The establishment year was recorded as a categorical factor variable (2022 vs. 2023) to assess macroclimatic differences across the 2022–2024 and 2023–2025 growth windows.

Individual Plant Metrics

- **Vertical Height (mm):** Individual plant height was measured continuously in millimetres to the nearest 100mm. Due to field equipment limits and canopy reach, vertical heights were strictly capped at a maximum measurement of 2,000 mm, with anything higher than this being recorded as 2,100mm (>2,000mm).
- **Physiological Vigour:** Individual plant health was assessed qualitatively using a standardized 1 to 5 ordinal visual scale, where a score of 1 represented severe physiological stress/dieback, and a score of 5 represented optimal, disease-free foliage vigour.
- **Species Grouping:** To preserve statistical degrees of freedom and prevent model convergence failure, the top 8 most frequent pioneer species—including *Leptospermum scoparium* (mānuka), *Kunzea ericoides* (kānuka), *Phormium tenax* (harakeke), *Coprosma robusta* (karamū), *Cordyline australis* (tī kōuka), and *Dodonaea viscosa* (akeake)—were retained as individual predictors, while less common varieties were consolidated into an "Other" baseline category.

Statistical Analysis

Data analysis was conducted entirely in R to explicitly handle censoring, ordinal structures, and hierarchical plot nesting:

1. **Descriptive Statistics and Initial Profile:** Prior to conducting further modelling, an initial summary of the dataset was compiled to establish baselines. This basic summary captures the general growth, health and estimated survival across the monitored plants before isolating localized landscape and management drivers.
2. **Plant Height/Vertical Growth:** Modelled using a Right-Censored Tobit Regression via the `survival::survreg` package. The upper censoring threshold was set to 2,100 mm (>2,000mm) to eliminate coefficient bias caused by capped height measures. Cluster-robust standard errors were calculated using a unique `site_plot_nested` variable to account for plants grouped within plots.
3. **Plant Health/Vigour:** Modelled using a Cumulative Link Mixed Model (Ordinal Regression) via the `ordinal::clmm` package. Random intercepts for both Site and `site_plot_nested` were added to capture localized hierarchical environmental variances.
4. **Site Survival Rate:** Modelled using a Fractional Logistic (Quasibinomial) GLM via the `glm` function. Survival weights were bounded strictly between 0.00 and 1.00 relative to the generalized expected 22.62 plants-per-plot density threshold based on an assumed 4,500 plants per hectare, allowing robust testing of site-level stocking success.

Species Analysis:

Prior to running advanced statistical modelling, a descriptive baseline profile of the monitored plants was compiled (Table 1). The finalized inventory comprises 8,832 plants across the top eight species (94% of samples), with less frequent varieties consolidated into a single baseline category (Other, (n = 583)). To eliminate the structural downward bias introduced by the 2,000 mm measurement cap, median values are utilized to represent physical growth performance. Notably, *Leptospermum scoparium* (mānuka) represents the most abundant pioneer variety (n = 3,786), exhibiting a median height of 1,800 mm, with 32.3% of all sampled stems being recorded as >2,000mm. This high proportion of upper-

boundary clustering strongly validates the requirement for a right-censored Tobit regression approach to safely isolate biophysical growth drivers without coefficient suppression.

Table 1: Simplified Species Scoreboard (Top 8 Categories & Consolidated Other)
This table consolidates rare species to provide a clear overview of the most frequently measured species.

Species	Total Stems Count	Median Height (mm)	% of Stems Capped at 2100mm	Average Vigour (1-5)
<i>Leptospermum scoparium</i>	3,786	1,800	32.3	3.9
<i>Kunzea ericoides</i>	1,340	1,500	16.8	4.0
<i>Phormium tenax</i>	1,219	1,300	4.1	3.9
<i>Coprosma robusta</i>	998	1,400	9.2	3.8
<i>Cordyline australis</i>	936	1,100	10.7	3.9
<i>Carex secta</i>	342	900	0.0	3.8
<i>Pittosporum</i> spp.	134	1,000	9.0	3.4
<i>Dodonaea viscosa</i>	77	1,200	10.4	3.7
Other	583	1,200	8.6	3.7

The raw plant height distribution (Figure 1) exhibits a distinct structure defined by two primary characteristics: a broad, slightly right-skewed distribution, and a massive accumulation of plant height measurements reaching the upper measurement level.

Most measured plant heights are distributed cleanly between 500 mm and 2,000 mm. However, a major statistical spike occurs directly in the final >2,000 mm bin, where over 1,500 stems have accumulated at the maximum measurement ceiling.

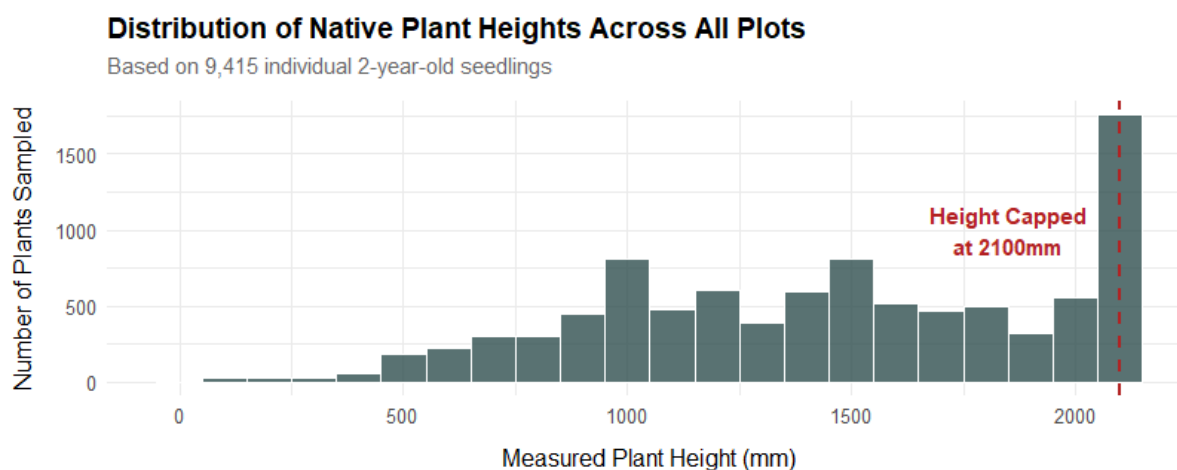


Figure 1: Raw distribution frequency of measured plant heights (mm) across all sampled plots at the 2-year post-planting milestone ($n = 9,415$ plants). The red vertical dashed line indicates the field measurement cap of 2,100 mm. Heights are grouped into 100 mm frequency bins.

The plant height by maintenance boxplot (Figure 2) displays a step-wise positive growth response linked directly to weed management intensity. Plots left entirely unmaintained (0 sprays) show suppressed growth profiles, with a median height sitting well below 1,500 mm and an interquartile box that barely reaches the upper tiers of the study.

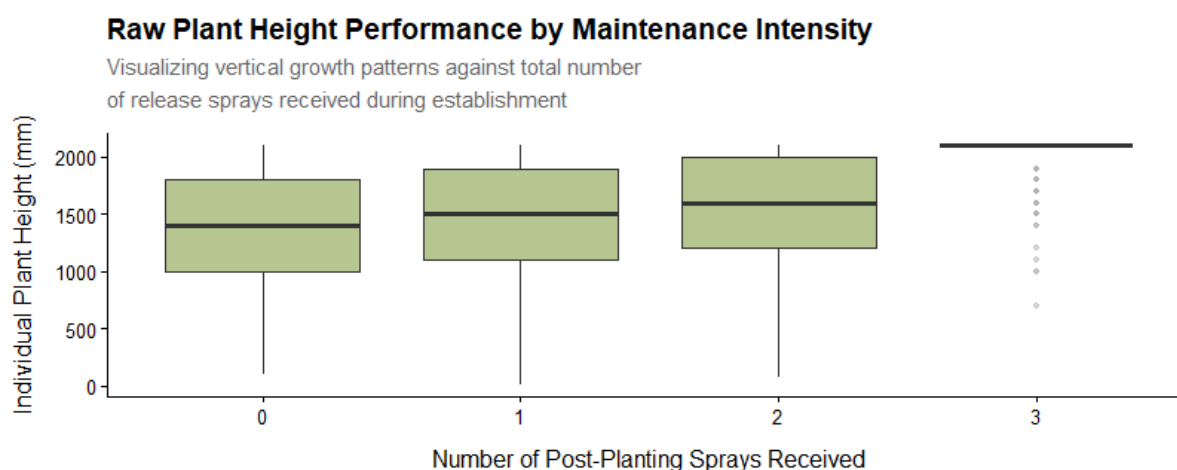


Figure 2. Individual plant heights (mm) at two years post-planting, stratified by the total number of post-planting herbicide maintenance release sprays received (0, 1, 2, or 3 applications). Horizontal interior bars indicate the median, boxes span the interquartile range (IQR), and light grey dots represent statistical outliers.

As maintenance intensity increases to 1 and 2 release sprays, the median growth line climbs steadily, and but variance widens. While the most dramatic structural transformation occurs

at the maximum treatment level of 3 post-planting sprays. At this level of management, the entire interquartile range is flattened against the >2,000 mm measurement cap, however this group consists of only one high performing site.

The visual health profile of the establishing plants (Figure 3) shows a clean pattern across both monitoring seasons. In the raw counts, explicit signs of severe physiological stress—represented by vigour scores of 1 (poor) and 2—are practically non-existent, making up less than 1% of the sampled populations.

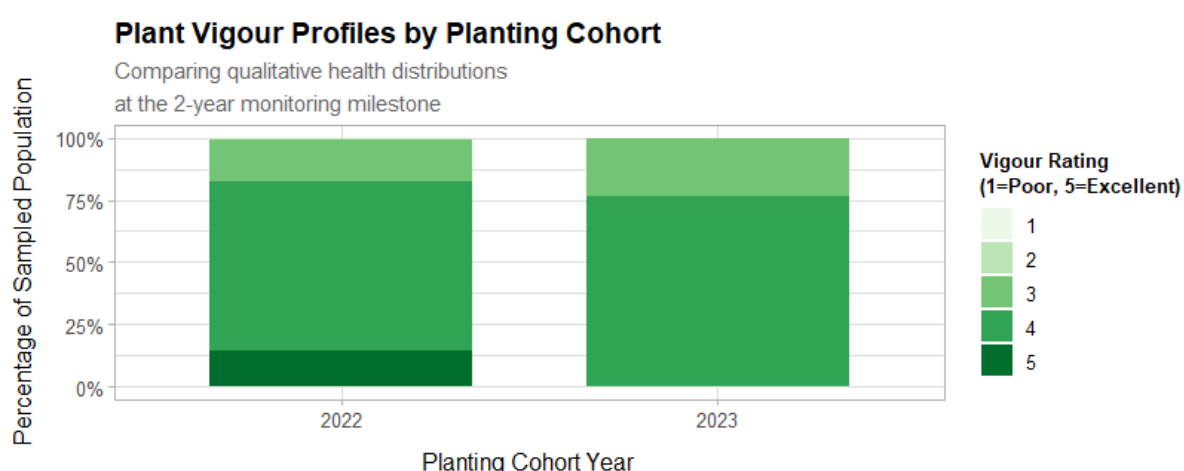


Figure 3. *Proportionate distribution of qualitative visual vigour scores (ranked 1 to 5) compared across the 2022 (n = 4,671) and 2023 (n = 4,744) planting cohorts. Both cohorts were evaluated two years post-planting (sampled in 2024 and 2025, respectively).*

Instead, most of the trees are clustered solidly in categories 3 (moderate/stable health) and 4 (high vigour), indicating robust baseline plant health through the establishment phase. There is notable structural consistency between the two years: the 2023 cohort displays a very similar proportionate health profile to the 2022 cohort at the same 2-year milestone, though the 2022 cohort shows a visible fraction of top-tier category 5 (excellent) individuals that is absent in 2023.

Plant Height Model

Summary of Findings

- Post-Planting Maintenance (Sprays): Highly Significant ($\beta = 59.8\text{mm}$), ($z = 2.23$), ($p = 0.02569$). Each maintenance spray release adds roughly 5.7cm of vertical growth over un-maintained plots.
- Slope Steepness: Significant ($\beta = 2.77\text{mm/degree}$), ($z = 2.02$), ($p = 0.04374$). Plants established on steeper gradients grow systematically taller.
- Landscape Aspect: Completely Non-Significant. Neither Northness ($p = 0.199$) nor Eastness ($p = 0.349$) impacts height.
- Planting Year: Highly Significant ($\beta = -239\text{mm}$), ($z = -6.70$), ($p < 0.001$). Despite being measured at the same milestone (2 years post-planting), the 2023 cohort displays a significant growth lag compared to the 2022 cohort.
- Species Standouts: *Leptospermum scoparium* (mānuka) is the top pioneer vertical performer, growing 585mm taller than the collective baseline reference group of minor species ($p < 0.001$). This was followed by *Dodonaea viscosa* (akeake, +375mm, ($p < 0.001$)) and *Kunzea ericoides* (kānuka, +319mm, ($p < 0.001$)).

Discussion

The vertical growth data demonstrates that plant height is dictated by a mix of human intervention, physical topography, and annual macroclimatic variance. Because plant heights were capped at 2,100mm ($>2,000$), utilizing a right-censored Tobit model successfully prevented downward bias in our slope estimates.

The positive impact of slope gradient points toward structural and microclimatic drivers. It is important to note that the maximum slope recorded in the two years sampled was 70 degrees, as there were no Hill country plantings included in these samples as, at the time of planting in 2022 and 2023, it had not yet been approved in KMRs suite of provided mitigations. Sloped terrain is effective at facilitating cold-air drainage (preventing frost damage) and maximizing water runoff (reducing waterlogging and root rot). The moderate slopes observed in this study had a positive impact on plant height, but this may not be the case for more extreme sloped sites. The neutrality of aspect suggests that at this early establishment phase, ambient atmospheric temperatures and macro-level climate factors across these sites outweigh localized solar radiation (Northness) or windward exposure (Eastness).

Because both year cohorts were sampled two years post-planting (the 2022 cohort sampled in 2024, and the 2023 cohort sampled in 2025), the significant 23.3 cm height deficit in the 2023 cohort represents an environmental growth lag rather than an age difference. This indicates that regional weather variations during the 2023–2025 establishment window suppressed vertical extension compared to conditions experienced by the 2022 cohort between 2022 and 2024. However, due to the nature of the sampling carried out, plots were not placed on slips where there were no plants to sample. This indicates that, although some sites 2022 planted sites experienced plant losses due to slips and flooding during the extreme weather events at the start of 2023, the plants that did survive were able to grow at a higher rate than those planted during the winter of 2023 (planting season).

Plant Heath Model

Summary of Findings

- Post-Planting Maintenance (Sprays): Extremely Significant ($\beta = 1.029$), ($z = 3.44$), ($p = 0.000589$). Herbicide application dramatically improves the log-odds of a plant occupying a higher vigour category (scores 4 or 5).
- Biophysical Landscape (Slope & Aspect): Completely Non-Significant. Slope steepness ($p = 0.225$), Northness ($p = 0.454$), and Eastness ($p = 0.322$) exert no control over visual health ratings.
- Planting Year: Non-Significant ($p = 0.071$). Evaluated at their respective 2-year post-planting milestones, the 2023 cohort does not have a significantly different baseline biological health profile compared to the 2022 cohort.
- Species Resiliencies: *Phormium tenax* (Harakeke/Flax) is exceptionally robust, matching the high-vigour baseline ($\beta = 0.252$), ($p = 0.302$). Conversely, *Dodonaea viscosa* (Akeake) is highly susceptible to localized health stress or initial dieback ($\beta = -1.44$), ($z = -3.26$), ($p = 0.001$).

Discussion

Weed suppression is a primary driver of baseline plant vigour. By eliminating exotic grass and weed, seedlings are protected from being out-competed, translating directly into high-vigour foliage.

The non-significance of slope and planting year reveals that, while hillsides and annual weather fluctuations have a significant impact on plant's physical height, they do not inherently diminish its biological vigour. So, although the 2023 cohort experienced environmental limits during its establishment period that suppressed its physical extension, the seedlings were not statistically less vigorous than the 2022 cohort when both reached their 2-year milestone. Flat surfaces and adverse weather years during establishment do not therefore limit optimal visual health, but can make plants more compact.

Plant Survival Model

Summary of Findings

- Post-Planting Maintenance (Sprays): Highly Significant ($\beta = 0.719$), ($t = 2.25$), ($p = 0.0314$). Translating the log-odds ($e^{0.719} = 2.05$) reveals that each additional spray application doubles the site-level odds of hitting the 4,500 plants/ha target baseline.
- Biophysical Landscape & Cohort Age: Completely Non-Significant. Slope gradient ($p = 0.234$), Northness ($p = 0.817$), Eastness ($p = 0.387$), and Year Planted ($p = 0.972$) show no statistical relationship to survival percentages.

Discussion

The output from the fractional logistic (quasibinomial) model isolates management intervention (number of post – planting sprays) as the sole meaningful driver of plant survival at the site level based on stocking estimates. Topography, sun orientation, and the specific planting season have no measurable impact on whether a tree lives or dies.

Plant mortality on the sites sampled is driven almost primarily by competitive exclusion, where fast-growing invasive weeds physically crowd out the young native root zones. If a site is left unmaintained, the odds of meeting canopy closure standards drop exponentially, regardless of how optimal slope or aspect. Furthermore, the lack of significant difference in survival rates between the two cohorts at their 2-year marks ($p = 0.972$) shows that while annual weather variations altered the 2023 cohort's height, those climate constraints were not severe enough to induce widespread mortality, leaving both cohorts equally well-stocked outside of severe slip and flooding areas where no plants remained to be sampled.

Integrated Master Discussion

When comparing all three models (Table 2, Figure 4) a cohesive ecological narrative emerges on the impacts of management actions, landscape traits, and temporal conditions on planting projects.

Table 2: Master Synthesis Table

Consolidated overview of biophysical landscape drivers and management interventions across three independent dimensions of 2-year planting performance. Individual plant models represent ~9,415 stems; the survival model represents 40 distinct regional properties standardized against a landscape target density of 4,500 plants per hectare. ● indicates a significant positive driver ($p < 0.05$), ● indicates a significant negative driver ($p < 0.05$), and ○ indicates a statistically neutral factor.

Variable / Term	1. Vertical Height Growth (Tobit Model: mm)	2. Physiological Plant Health (Ordinal Model: 1–5)	3. Plot Survival / Stocking (Fractional GLM: %)
Post-Planting Sprays	● Significant Increase (+59.8 mm per spray)	● Significant Increase (+1.03 log-odds)	● Significant Increase (Doubles stocking odds)
Slope Gradient	● Significant Increase (+2.77 mm per degree)	○ No Statistical Effect ($p = 0.225$)	○ No Statistical Effect ($p = 0.234$)
Landscape Aspect	○ No Statistical Effect (Northness & Eastness)	○ No Statistical Effect (Northness & Eastness)	○ No Statistical Effect (Northness & Eastness)
Planting Cohort (2023)	● Significantly Shorter (-239 mm environmental lag)	○ No Statistical Effect (Healthy tracking, ($p = 0.071$))	○ No Statistical Effect (Equally well-stocked)

Biophysical and Management Drivers Across All Restoration Success Metrics

Comprehensive evaluation of growth (mm), health (1-5), and survival relative to a 4,500/ha target

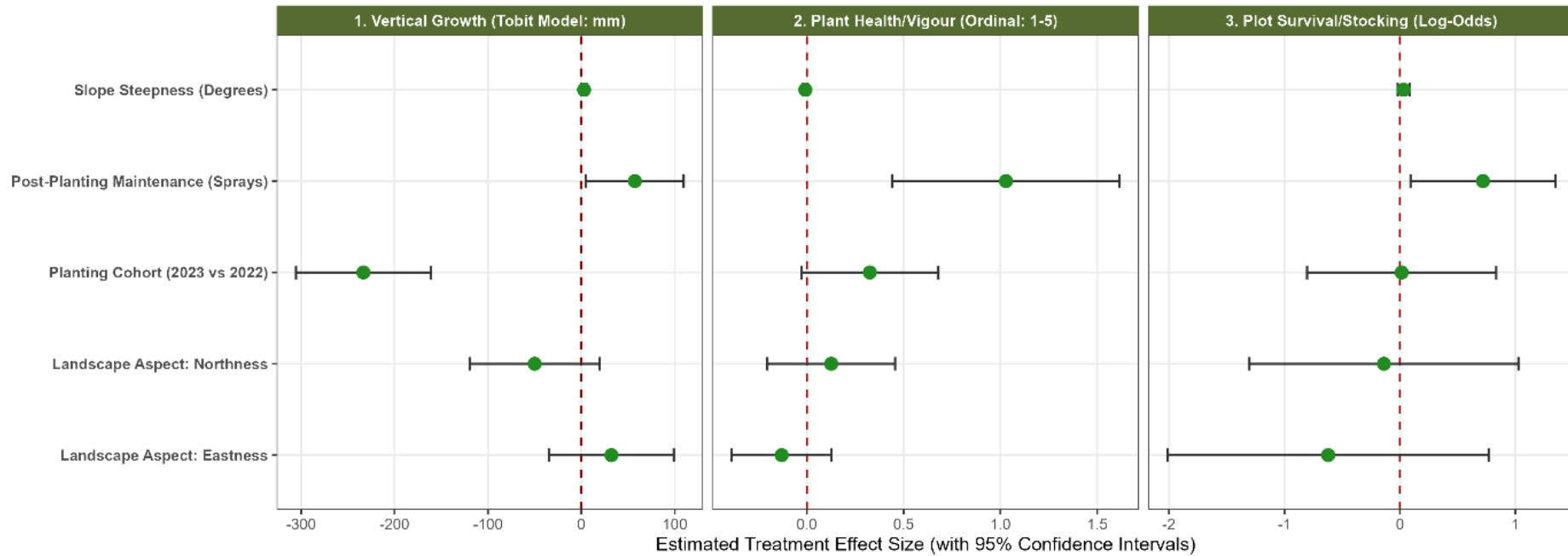


Figure 4: Combined treatment effect sizes and 95% confidence intervals across three distinct scales of ecological restoration performance: (Left) Plant Vertical Growth (mm, Tobit Model), (Centre) Plant Health/Vigour (1–5 scale, Ordinal Mixed Model), and (Right) Site-Level Survival/Stocking Rate (Log-Odds, Quasibinomial GLM). Individual plant models represent ~9,415 stems; the survival model represents 40 distinct regional properties standardized against a landscape target density of 4,500 plants per hectare. Vertical dashed red lines indicate zero effect thresholds.

Active Management

The most crucial takeaway from this research is that post-planting maintenance acts as a primary driver of planting success. It is the only variable tested that significantly dictates height, vigour, and survival simultaneously. It accelerates early vertical extension (+5.9 cm per application), boosts qualitative visual foliage health (+1.03 log-odds), and doubles the spatial stocking odds (Odds Ratio = 2.05). This cross-model consistency displays that weed competition is the foremost limiting constraint to success of planting projects. It is important to note that, despite these results, several organic sites were monitored which displayed excellent plant performance across all variables measured and were industriously maintained by the landowners. However, this adds significant time input from the landowners and is not suitable for extremely large planting projects

Topography, Structural Growth, and Survival Dynamics

The results demonstrate that Slope shapes physical stature, but it does not determine survival or vigour. Planting sites with gradient provide an immediate growth advantage by improving soil drainage and venting low-lying frost pockets. However, the non-significance of slope in the vigour and survival models reveals that plants on flat ground are not inherently suffering severe stress or dying but demonstrate a more conservative structural growth trajectory.

Cohort Resiliency under Standardized Timelines

The results reveal a highly resilient restoration trajectory. The 2023 planting cohort faced environmental constraints that limited its physical vertical height by 23.3 cm compared to the 2022 baseline. Yet, because planting year dropped out as a significant driver in both the vigour and site-level survival analyses, we can infer that these macroclimatic limits only impacted growth rates, not plant survival. The 2023 plots that were sampled are just as healthy and stocked to meet long-term canopy closure targets as the older 2022 plots.

Structural Site Control

Finally, the large variance recorded at the macro-site level within our random effects structure (Variance = 5.55 in the vigour model) serves as an important reminder that. Macro-level site parameters, such as historical topsoil composition, regional climate differences, localized pest browsers (like hares, rabbits, or possums), or overarching farm/property management practices, hold a dominant influence over the eventual success of the planting project. While some of these parameters cannot be altered (eg. regional location, climate years, or topography), management of planting projects by deploying consistent post-

planting maintenance sprays, or for smaller projects, consistent hand release, can heavily tip the ecological scale in their favour.

TITLE: Joint Committee and Maurikura Connections to Support Engagement

**Kaituhi Pūrongo
Report Writer**

Emma Dore | Pou Tātaki

Te Kaupapa | Purpose

To seek Joint Committee discussion and guidance on how Joint Committee Members could support stronger connections between the Maurikura and the organisations, communities and networks represented across the KMR partnership.

Rāpopototanga Matua | Executive Summary

KMR has recently undertaken analysis to better understand engagement across the Kaipara Moana catchment to identify geographical areas where relationships, communication and participation could be strengthened.

This work confirmed that KMR benefits from a broad range of established relationships with other agencies, landowners, community groups and stakeholders. It also identified opportunities to strengthen connections with some communities and networks across the Kaipara Moana catchment.

As part of discussions arising from this work, the Maurikura have expressed an interest in developing a better understanding of the KMR signatory organisations, their communities and networks, and in exploring opportunities to build relationships with support of the Joint Committee Members.

Joint Committee Members are uniquely placed to support these connections through the relationships they hold across their representative organisations, communities and sectors.

Whakataunga | Recommendations

That the Joint Committee:

1. Receive the paper, Joint Committee and Maurikura Connections to Support Engagement
2. Discuss opportunities to strengthen connections between the Maurikura and the organisations, communities and networks represented across the KMR partnership and provide guidance on any potential next steps arising from the discussion

Horopaki | Background

The Maurikura are mindful of the governance role of the Joint Committee and are not seeking to create additional responsibilities or expectations for members. Rather, they are interested in understanding whether there may be opportunities to better engage with communities and utilise the networks that already exist across the wider KMR partnership.

While engagement activities are undertaken by the Maurikura, KMR's strength as a partnership lies in the collective relationships held by its members.

Joint Committee members collectively hold extensive relationships and networks across local government, iwi, hapū, community organisations, environmental groups, and industry sectors across the wider catchment. These relationships are an important strength of the KMR partnership and play a significant role in connecting KMR with the communities it serves.

The Joint Committee may wish to consider whether stronger relationships between Maurikura and

the networks represented by Joint Committee members could support KMR's engagement aspirations and assist in addressing opportunities identified through the engagement review.

The purpose of this discussion is to seek the Joint Committee's views on whether there is value in strengthening these connections and, if so, how that might best occur.

Suggested Questions for Discussion

1. Does the Joint Committee see value in stronger connections between the Maurikura, and the organisations, communities and networks represented by Joint Committee members?
 2. What opportunities exist for Joint Committee Members to facilitate connections between the Maurikura and the communities, organisations and networks they represent?
 3. Are there existing or planned forums, hui, events or partnership activities that the Maurikura should be aware of, and how might information about these opportunities best be shared?
 4. How might the Maurikura access the knowledge and experience of Joint Committee Members to better understand local relationships, community dynamics and engagement considerations across the catchment?
 5. What guidance does the Joint Committee wish to provide regarding potential next steps?
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