KAIPARA MOANA REMEDIATION

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



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 6,000km^2 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 800km^2 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 Maungakaramea 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 farewelled 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 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, 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 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).



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

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 and monitored 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 6,000km^2, 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

1,950ha

planted, contracted to plant or regenerating into native forest

Over

1,250km

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

Over

161,000ha

are managed under KMR plans

Full KPI results can be found on page 48.





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.

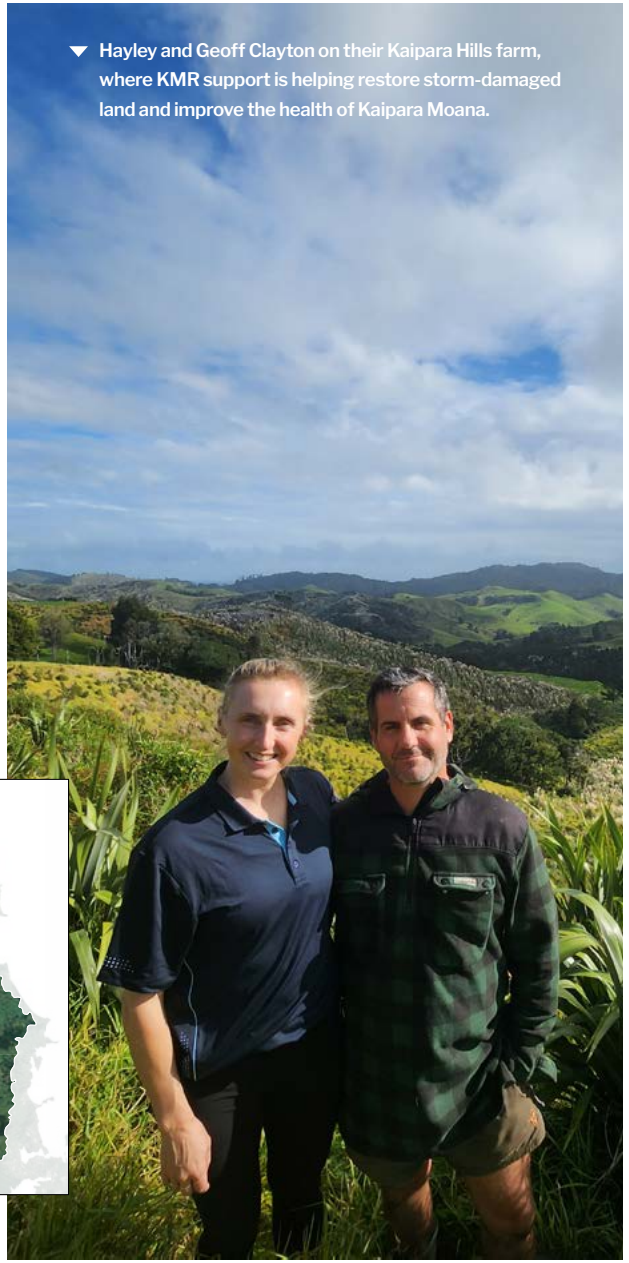
Through KMR's Navigator programme, the Claytons developed and implemented a comprehensive ecological restoration plan focused on reducing erosion and sediment loss into Kaipara Moana. This included retiring highly erodible hill country, fencing waterways to exclude stock, restoring riparian margins and 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 whakatauira 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): • Number of new Plans • Number of new Projects by returning Landowners and Groups	**200** 100 100	**370** 162 208	KMR Sediment Reduction Plans and associated projects focus on sediment reduction outcomes. We expect fewer new Plans over time, and more return projects by landowners and groups with a Plan already in place.
	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 • Number of trees/plants planted in riparian, lake, or wetlands areas • Number of trees/plants planted in highly erodible hill country	**950,000** 600,000 350,000	**1,157,619** 608,924 548,695	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.
	Area protected through planting or native regeneration • Area protected by riparian, lake, or wetlands planting • Area protected by afforestation, space planting or biodiversity planting in highly erodible hill country	**370 hectares** 120 hectares 250 hectares	**916 hectares** 122 hectares 794 hectares	The total **916 hectares** include 527 hectares signed off as completed and 388 hectares contracted for planting or native regeneration.
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

JOBS FOR NATURE | MAHI MŌ TE TAIAO

Te Kāwanatanga o Aotearoa
New Zealand Government

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