



Quarterly Newsletter

Nau mai and welcome. This Resilient River Communities update - a joint initiative with regional councils and unitary authorities, and Kānoa - Regional Economic and Investment Unit, brings updates from Environment Canterbury, Hawke's Bay Regional Council, Horizons Regional Council and Greater Wellington Regional Council. As we head towards the end of the year it's encouraging to see so many projects underway or coming to completion.



Waimakariri River – Kaiapoi community flood protection

Environment Canterbury

The Waimakariri and Kaiapoi River stopbanks protect Kaiapoi township and the surrounding area from flooding. They are part of the Waimakariri-Eyre-Cust flood protection system which is maintained by Environment Canterbury. In the 1960s, riverbank rock armour was installed to prevent erosion and stopbank breach on this very sharp bend.

Over the years the river has narrowed, and a deep scour hole has developed, increasing erosion vulnerability. This project involved rock works at McIntosh's bend, a particularly difficult part of the river due to a sharp bend where the river has narrowed over the years causing erosion.

The new rock works strengthened existing riverbank rock protection around McIntosh's bend and added new rock armouring to the adjacent stopbank.

This project is now complete, and ECan are finishing the closure report. Aerial photos and video of the completed works detail the full extent of the project. An event is currently in the planning stage to celebrate the completion of the project with attendance from partners, key stakeholders, and key media.

Since its completion, the improvements to this popular fishing spot have been well-received by regulars and newcomers alike. The upgraded amenities including enhanced parking, a picnic table and toilet facilities that have proved popular with the many walkers and runners using the area. The recently completed wetland and dryland native planting is a boost for native bird and animal habitat, enhancing the popular area for locals.



Hutt River Erosion Edge Protection – Te Awa Kairangi and Ruamahanga River

Greater Wellington Regional Council

Earlier this year, heavy rainfall events eroded considerable sections of the Hutt River Trail. This project aims to protect the community from the challenges posed by climate change, namely increased rainfall and flooding events, protecting homes and individuals that live on this flood plain now and into the future.

Greater Wellington Councillor Ros Connelly is excited about the future of this project.

“We are doing works on 15 sites along Te Awa Kairangi (Hutt River) and Ruamāhanga River, working with 30 individual businesses. We're not just building infrastructure, we're building people, businesses, and jobs”, Connelly says.

The greater programme includes the planting of 60,000 trees, approximately half of which will come from the local Rimutaka Prison nursery.

Contractor Paul Albert of Mills Albert says that for

works at the Royal Wellington Golf Club site, there were two phases to the project: physical works which included over 5,500 tonnes of rock, and a social procurement project.

“We've been fortunate to have the ability to work with local iwi and have hired a civil engineer from Ngāti Toa to work on this project. For Mills Albert, a Māori owned business, the ability to engage with local iwi has strong connections with our company and we're currently doing this in other parts of the country - we feel it has huge importance, because this is their area as well.”

The Royal Wellington Golf Club site is due for completion in January 2022, with the remaining project sites finishing by June 2022.

Find our more: <https://youtu.be/BmWzwbdTp2Q>

Flood resilience project provides local employment and training

Horizons Regional Council

The strengthening of the stopbank network at key locations in the lower Manawātū area is a key project for the Horizons Regional Council. The first stage of this project includes upgrading rock lining in Foxton to give additional protection to nearby homes and the community, as well as improving protection to an existing walkway which is a popular recreational path. To date the rock lining has been completed, with the walkway to be reinstated by the end of November.

In addition to building community resilience to severe weather events and climate change, this project has provided local employment and development opportunities.

Local contractors Alan G Gibson were awarded the contract and one of their staff, Pete Harper who was previously a truck driver and small digger operator, has had the opportunity to upskill in the more difficult area of rock placement.



Pete says it's the first job that he's had a technical responsibility for and while it's been challenging, it's also been really rewarding as he's grown in confidence. He's also one of six staff from Alan G Gibson who will be undertaking a 4WD course organised by Horizons to better equip them for working on rural river sites in the future.



COP26 and the link between climate change and building Resilient River Communities

The world's ability to limit climate change to a 1.5C rise in global temperature is being questioned after the United Nation's COP26 meeting in Glasgow failed to make the significant breakthrough many were hoping for.

This result will have an impact on how regional government in New Zealand meets the threat of rising sea levels, more severe storms and other weather events.

The November conference saw climate negotiators from nearly 200 countries haggle over a fortnight to reach consensus on urgent action to limit the global temperature rise to 1.5 degrees centigrade.

Efforts to move away from widespread use of coal ran into a last-minute obstacle when India, backed by China and other coal-dependent nations, rejected a clause calling for the "phase out" of coal-fired power.

Hurried negotiations saw the clause amended to asking countries to instead "phase down" coal use.

COP26 president Alok Sharma admitted the final agreement may not be enough.

"The pulse of 1.5 is weak," Mr Sharma said in his closing remarks.

"This is a fragile win. We have kept 1.5 alive. That was our overarching objective when we set off on this journey two years ago," he said.

"What this will be judged on, is not just the fact that countries have signed up, but on whether they meet and deliver on the commitments.

"The hard work starts now."

Glasgow was the 26th such international meeting to address climate change, giving the meeting its name – Conference of Parties 26.

Delegates were bluntly told by small maritime nations that curbing global temperatures was now urgent if they were to avoid being submerged by rising sea levels.

At the start of the conference, Barbados' Prime Minister Mia Mottley said for his country and other small island states, 'two degrees is a death sentence'.

New Zealand's delegation was led by Climate Change Minister James Shaw who used his conference speech

to reinforce Prime Minister Mottley's message.

"Aotearoa New Zealand's closest neighbours are among those first and worst hit by the climate crisis, but who have contributed the least to global emissions," Mr Shaw said.

"To illustrate what this means, last year our government was asked to assist a Pacific nation with the massive task of moving 42 villages inland, away from the rising waves.

"For some this isn't even an option. Villages in low-lying countries like Tuvalu, Tokelau and Kiribati have nowhere inland to go.

"New Zealand will continue to lead by example here, and show the world what meaningful, ambitious and lasting climate action looks like," James Shaw said.

The outcome of COP26 and James Shaw's pledge have implications for New Zealand local government already struggling to cope with increasingly severe weather events and rising sea levels.

Before the conference, the Ardern Government began public consultation on what to include in New Zealand's first ever Emissions Reduction Plan.

It released a discussion document *Te hau mārohi ki anamata* - Transitioning to a low-emissions and climate-resilient future, with consultation ending on 24 November.

The document points to work already underway between Kānoa – RDU and local government as an example of how to tackle climate change.

It suggests building on programmes such as the Kānoa Regional Economic Development Partnerships and investigating the Regional Strategic Partnerships Fund's potential to accelerate "equitable regional transitions."

It also suggests deploying more intensive support to help those transitions in communities and regions needing more assistance, as well as a new Climate Adaptation Act to address managed retreat.

The Climate Resilience Advisory Board is already working with local government on protecting regional communities, using \$211 million to fund 55 separate river protection and flood resilience projects across 14 regions.



Positive social outcomes in the Hawke's Bay

Hawke's Bay Regional Council

Hawke's Bay Regional Council are currently working on a range of flood protection projects producing excellent social outcomes. Not only are they actively establishing iwi and community connections, but they are sharing these initiatives and the learnings with other councils for the betterment of the wider flood protection community. David Keracher, Manager Regional Projects – HBRC, talks about these projects and some of the learnings along the way.

"We're working with a handful of different groups on smaller initiatives to try and meet our social procurement goals, and then to share the knowledge that we've gained with other councils who might be struggling to set this stuff up".

HBRC are working with Eastern Institute of Technology (EIT) biosecurity students putting in place a programme to enable student to shadow contractor and to be upskilled in the removal of pest plants around the river bead areas. This project will take place toward the end of this year. Film and media student are also involved in documenting and recording the development of some of these projects.

"We're also working with a group of local contractors and while they are great at what they do, they need support with aspects of the tendering and proposal process. We've established training through a third party to do a tendering workshop, a bit like 'tendering 101'. Once they'll completed the course, they'll be eligible for one-on-one support for completing future tenders not just for our projects but around the region".

"Kaitiaki Rangers are involved in two of our other projects, we're providing them with upskilling and financial assistant to help develop their nursery so they can support us with the Herataunga Plains Flood Control Scheme Project. They been doing some great work over the past few years and have created a benchmark for capabilities for Māori in the region. They brought a lot of Māori back into the workforce including planting teams, contractors. The nurse that has been set up will assist with our projects now and into the future".

This week works started on HBRC's flagship stop bank strengthening project, Taradale stopbank. The project is a 2km stretch of stopbank protecting assets with a

capital value of over \$5 Billion including residential, commercial, infrastructure, bridges, roading. Keracher and his team recently ran a workshop for contractor, subconsultants, and designers regarding social procurement.



"We asked them what social procurement meant to them, and we came out with some fantastic opportunities. Basically everyone in the room wanted to be upskilled by the others in the room. As a result we've developed a partnering agreement that say that we'll all endeavour to upskill each other under a framework of continuing professional development. If someone from a Geotech company wants to be upskilled in earthworks the earthworks contractor will provide the upskilling, but it's up to them to manage the process. We don't want to tell contractors what to do we want them to buy into the collaboration and manage it themselves. The onus is on them."

HBRC will host a social procurement workshop on the 6 Dec which will include all regional councils from North Island and virtually in South Island – Guest presenters include Te Wai Māori Trust, Dodge contracting who engage employees through Ministry of Social Development, Kānoa and Mates4Life. The goal will be sharing information to make the social procurement process easier for other councils.