

# AVERTING \$50M\* DAMAGE TO KAITĀIA \*estimated

## NORTHLAND REGIONAL COUNCIL

**Project:** Awanui Scheme Upgrade **Location:** Kaitāia, Northland

### The challenge

After the significant flood of 1958 (pictured below), a comprehensive upgrade to this flood protection scheme was undertaken, including the construction of stopbanks and the Whangatane Spillway enlargement. Further improvements have been required, including to meet the projected impacts of climate change.

### The programme

- 8-year programme condensed to 3 years due to Kānoa funding support.
- \$15.5m (total value) of spillways, stopbanks, floodwalls.
- Extensive improvements to stabilise stopbanks allow the river to safely carry 15% more floodwater.
- Emergency spillway greatly reduces risk to life, property.
- Protecting public safety through repairs and maintenance.
- Pictured below: collaboration with FNDC project where shared cycle/walkway was installed along the river as well as a play area and community BBQ with shade sails as part of a separate Kānoa-supported project.

### Project funding

Kānoa \$8.5m | NRC \$4.5m | Local Community \$2.5m

### Project duration

3 years

### Jobs

40

There is the potential for investment in further work to adapt to climate change in the lower reaches.



Quite the contrast: In 1958, Kaitāia was inundated with floodwater and up to 1m standing waves. The August 2022 flood event which was 40% bigger than 1958 saw no flood water in Kaitāia.

### Key Benefits

- ✓ **\$50m\* in damages saved:**  
despite not yet being completed, works have already saved an \*estimated \$50m worth of damage to Kaitāia in a 1:100 year storm event on 18 August 2022. Before Scheme upgrade LOS 1:30 Kaitāia and 1:10 rural.
- ✓ **Protection upgrade:**  
to urban Kaitāia in 1:100 year flood, the surrounding area from a 1:20 year flood, to adapt to projected impacts of climate change.
- ✓ **Enabling affordability:**  
many communities cannot absorb increased cost of rates to pay for new or upgraded flood protection schemes. Contribution by central government has enabled increased resilience to climate change and protection against flooding.
- ✓ **Iwi partnership:**  
including planting days arranged by Oturu Marae with around 45 attendees over two days and arrangements for Oturu and Te Paatu Marae to maintain planting.
- ✓ **Council collaboration:**  
Northland Regional Council and Far North District Council working together, including planting collaboration and installation of community assets (part of another Kānoa-supported project). FNDC's assets include 2.2m wide shared cycle and walking loop along the awa, as well as play area and community BBQ nearby. Bench seats, outdoor exercise equipment and solar lighting also to be installed riverside, adjacent to current works – all protected by the Awanui Scheme Upgrade.
- ✓ **Community planting day:**  
marae-organised planting day with two local primary schools, over 45 attendees over two days and representation from Oturu, Te Paatu, Te Rarawa with NRC sponsoring trees, kai.
- ✓ **Social benefits:**  
employing 40 people including local rangatahi, whānau/hapū.



FNDC's new cycle and walk path adjacent to Awanui scheme works.