



Quarterly Update September 2023

Nau mai and welcome

Councils up and down the country are working closely with local businesses, iwi and communities to build resilience in flood vulnerable areas. A special thanks to Kānoa and local communities who are funding them, with more work required in the future.

In this issue we're spotlighting four council's projects. First, congratulations to everyone who was involved in the Greater Wellington and Mana Whenua mahi which was recognised at the 2023 LGFA Taituarā Excellence Awards. We also look at how a policy at ORC is helping improve social outcomes in Otago, then Bay of Plenty are leaning in to local labour to support local opportunities. Last but not least read about how innovation is allowing for better fish passage all around Canterbury.

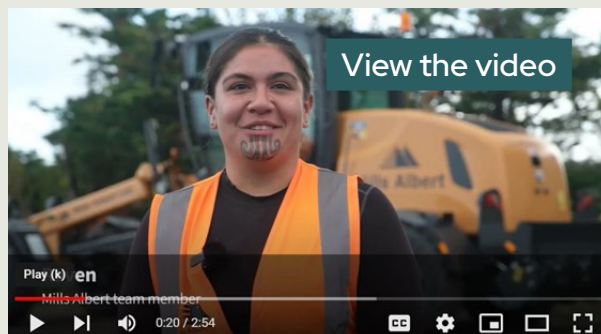
Mana whenua partnership mahi recognised at 2023 LGFA Taituarā Excellence Awards

Congratulations to everyone who was involved in the Greater Wellington and Mana Whenua partnership mahi which was Highly Commended at the 2023 LGFA Taituarā Excellence Awards. The work models how councils can authentically partner with mana whenua to deliver broader outcomes for the community alongside BAU work.

Greater Wellington's Climate Resilience Programme has delivered wider cultural, social, economic and environmental outcomes alongside their flood protection work, and is part of the Resilient River Communities project: **Broader outcomes initiatives**.



Find out more about the wellbeing element of the programme in the short video, below:





Policy helps project exceed social procurement targets

Outram Flood Protection: Otago Regional Council

In 2021, Otago Regional Council adopted ‘He Mahi Rau Rika’, a Significance, Engagement and Māori Participation Policy which means the Council must consider Māori suppliers and ensure that Mana Whenua partner companies are considered through their procurement processes.

The policy has resulted in the hiring of the main contractor for the [Outram Flood Protection](#) project who has been employing local people, including youth and Māori, and actively encouraging ongoing training for their employees.

The policy has helped the RRC “Outram Flood Protection” project exceed many social procurement targets including employing 12 females, 10 more than the original target. We’d targeted to have one apprentice but ended on bringing on a second and we also hired three youths which was more than our target of one. Meaning these people all have skills they can take away with them to help further their careers.

The Outram Flood Protection project aims to reduce risk of seepage during high river flows by extending the floodbank toe with an earth fill weighting blanket and strengthening any weak areas. Seepage is a risk that may affect the long-term integrity of the floodbank and creates a risk to the West Taieri community and forms part of the Taieri Flood Protection Scheme that prevents inundation of up to 4,000 hectares of highly productive agricultural land, Dunedin International Airport, and State Highway 87.



The project has been completed on time with the bulk earthworks taking place between October and December 2022. Since then, work has included paddock reinstatement, and procurement for a portable pumping option.

The majority of the project has been completed by local businesses, directly benefitting the local economy and providing employment opportunities within the community.

[Find out more on the Otago Regional Council’s website.](#)



Tim Walters and Harry Thomson from Romanes Construction at the McCracken Road swing gate site.

Leaning on local labour for flood protection in Bay of Plenty

Bay of Plenty Regional Council

Construction company, Romanes Construction partnered with Bay of Plenty Regional Council on both the construction of the Kaituna Mole and the final stage of the Rangitāiki Floodway as they both look to employ locals for local projects.

When taking on a project, Managing Director of Romanes Construction, Paul Romanes, always looks to employ locals to be part of his crew.

“It’s an important part of our business model. It always has a positive flow-on effect – from the large crew we hire, there are stand-outs, and those people tend to become part of our regular crew for project after project. They’re also more likely to hire other locals for their own projects.”

When it comes to the benefits of a local team, Paul says there are many: “Local employees know the area, they know the people and know good suppliers. They also have a real pride in their place; we’ll often hear of them popping down the road to the work site, making sure it is tidy and that the equipment isn’t getting destroyed in the elements.”

The construction company has partnered with Bay of Plenty Regional Council on both the construction of the Kaituna Mole and the final stage of the Rangitāiki Floodway – two jobs which aligned well to Paul’s company ethos.

Both projects are part of the Climate Resilience

Programme, a joint initiative between Kānoa (the Regional Economic Development and Investment Unit), regional councils and the community focused on developing and upgrading vital river management and flood protection schemes in Aotearoa.

These two projects attracted Kānoa funding for their ability to support new and existing local employment opportunities, and help grow local sectors impacted by Covid-19, for a more productive, sustainable, resilient regional economy.

The final stage of the Floodway is the installation of two sets of swing gates across two roads (McCracken and McLean) near Edgecumbe. To construct the gates, it involves cutting into the road to create a new concrete pad. They then set up two concrete walls at each site for the gates to attach to (the steel gates were made off-site by Page Macrae and were brought in when the concrete work was done).

The design of this swing gate system is unique to New Zealand – while stoplogs and sliding gates are commonplace, hinged gates across a road are the first of their kind.



Swing gates - McCracken Rd

In a flood event, these swing gates will act as a barrier on the road, keeping cars from entering a flood zone, and maintain the stopbank height of the Floodway, creating a channel that will help send water out to the Rangitāiki River mouth.

Sub-contractor Tim Walters (Te Arawa) has worked with Paul on both Kaituna and Rangitāiki River projects, along with his brothers, Justin and Tom, cousin Kaia and neighbour TK. The Maketū local had been working in Australia on form work construction and returned home to New Zealand in 2018. He met Paul when he was recruiting local iwi to be involved in the Kaituna Mole construction.

“We had about six of us from Maketū get involved, all with different levels of experience, which was good as we could help build up the younger fellas.

“Being from Maketū it was a project I wanted to be part of, so I could go down there with my son and tell him, ‘Yeah, I built this’.”

When Paul secured the contract for the Rangitāiki job, he gave Tim a call to come and carry on working together. While it’s 40 minutes away from Tim’s home, it’s like another home to him, as his partner and her whānau have strong connections to the area.

“Her grandfather was Bill Kerrison, the ‘kaitiaki of tuna’ in the East, so although this is a different site, the Bay of Plenty is a small community where everyone knows everyone.

“For me and the other guys working on the site, it feels special to be part of these kinds of projects when you know what the purpose of it is – to help protect the

people. We really enjoy it.”

Tim says there are plenty of advantages when it comes to locals working on local projects, particularly the pride that is put into them.

“Bringing in people who know the area, who know the people, is important. It gives the community peace of mind about who is working in their backyard as they know they will respect the place that they are working in.

“It’s also a great way to get the word out what’s happening, and encourage other locals to get involved and employed on these jobs.”

Paul says he is really enjoying the Rangitāiki project and he’s got a great team around him.

“Our crew have gelled together really well and we really enjoy working with Regional Council. The boys (Jordan and Peter) are straight-up when it comes to supporting local business and we’ve built a really good relationship.”

Bay of Plenty Regional Council received \$10.28M for the Rangitāiki Floodway and Spillway, and \$1.63M for the Kaituna Mole from Kānoa.





Innovation allows for better fish passage around river flood infrastructure

Regionwide Berm Transition: *Environment Canterbury*

Fish passage remediation is a top priority for Environment Canterbury and between 2022 and 2023, they'll be making more than 15 sites more fish friendly. This work is part of their Resilient River Communities Project: Regionwide Berm Transition.

Future proofing flood protection infrastructure in line with national legislation means **fish passage remediation is a priority** for Environment Canterbury. Over 2022 and 2023, they'll be making over a dozen instream structures more fish friendly.

The Essential Freshwater Package was introduced in 2020, requiring fish migration capability for all new structures built in waterways. Environment Canterbury was already looking at ways to alter existing flood protection and drainage scheme structures throughout Canterbury/Waitaha to make them more fish friendly while maintaining their integrity for flood protection.

Thanks to the one-off funding from Central Government, they have been able to use the opportunity to kick-start works across the region.



More than 15 sites are undergoing alterations to their structures. Regional monitoring was undertaken by staff across the organisation. The upskilling for these teams is also a key outcome from the project, to ensure all future structures meet EFP requirements. The fish passage work will protect or enhance travel for up to 14 species of fish/ika, including native taonga species tuna (long and shortfin eel) and inanga/inaka (common galaxias).

Fish passage is important as many of New Zealand's freshwater fish need to move between habitats to support their different life stages and ecological needs such as spawning, rearing young, feeding and finding refuge. Many fish species need to be able to climb, whilst others need safe places to rest when swimming large distances.

Environment Canterbury undertook an assessment of 44 structures within awa/river and drainage rating districts and have focused on remediating structures that have a high chance of blocking most or all ika/fish movement most or all the time. Monitoring and evaluating will happen once works are completed, with Environment Canterbury incorporating fish passage into their business-as-usual work programme.

[Find out more on the Environment Canterbury website.](#)



**Resilient River
Communities**

Built By



**Te Uru
Kahika**

Regional and
Unitary Councils
Aotearoa



Kānoa
Regional Economic Development
& Investment Unit



Resilient River Communities

Video

This short clip looks at the projects that are taking place around Aotearoa, why the Resilient River Communities programme was established and the people who are passionate about its success. Hear more about the effects of flooding on communities, as well as insurance implications and social outcomes from those directly impacted around New Zealand.

Watch the clip [here](#).

Spread the word

If you know someone who would like to be in the loop on the latest Resilient River Communities news, please forward this email to them so that they can subscribe using the button [here](#).

