

# HAPŪ AND COMMUNITY AT HEART OF SPILLWAY MAHI

## NORTHLAND REGIONAL COUNCIL

**Project:** Otiria Moerewa Flood Mitigation Spillway

**Location:** Otiria and Moerewa, Northland

The small Northland centres of Otiria and Moerewa have suffered three major flooding events in the last decade.

\$5.1m of works to reduce risk by about 75% include a 150m spillway and replacement of an existing bridge, restoring the river's natural flows using both natural and hard infrastructure solutions.

### Growing relationships and the environment

Building partnerships / whakawhanaungatanga is at the heart of this mahi. Kaitiakitanga were hired to assist with water quality monitoring and fish surveying alongside council staff.

Part of observing cultural practices, karakia was performed every morning at the site by local kaumatua Davey Ngawati to protect all mahi being done on and around the whenua, showing a massive shift within local government. NRC shaped change on its approach for this kaupapa to see the community roopu benefit, which strengthened their partnership with community and hapū.

Cultural induction allowed staff and contractors to meet and form relationships with hapū - a point difference for the contractors to appreciate the connection and understand the importance of this project. A barbeque was also hosted by NRC for the workers who completed the significant achievement of placing the bridge beams. This recognised their work acknowledged that NRC are not the ones "getting their hands dirty", they are.

### Project funding

Kānoa \$2.8m | Northland Regional Council \$ 2.2m

### Total project cost

\$5m

### Social and Environmental Benefits



**\$15,000** back into the community for clean-up work



**\$25,000** environmental monitoring investment and **upskilled 40 kaitiakitanga** alongside council staff



Restoring the natural flow of two rivers' waters with **flood risk reduced by ~75%**

Local hapū planted **10,000 natives**

*"Being from the area makes it more rewarding to see the project come to fruition, while also knowing what we are doing is going to make a difference for the community I grew up in."*

#### - Troy Packer

The onsite supervisor for the project, Troy was born in Kawakawa and raised near lake Owhareiti. Troy's local Marae are Tumatauenga and Te Rito, and through his grandmother he has ties to Otiria and Moerewa, Pokapu and Matawaia.



Local rangitahi join hapū and council staff for cultural assessment of taonga species.

Cultural assessment of taonga species connected council staff to hapū of all ages.

