



Resilient River  
Communities



Te Uru  
Kahika

Regional and  
Unitary Councils  
Aotearoa



Kānoa  
Regional Economic Development  
& Investment Unit



tasman  
district council  
Te Kaunihera o  
te tai o Aorere

# PROTECTING THE MOTUEKA COMMUNITY FROM FUTURE FLOODS

TASMAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

**Project:** Motueka River Stopbank Refurbishment Programme **Location:** Tasman District

The Motueka River catchment covers 2,170km<sup>2</sup> and is one of the largest river systems in the Tasman District.

A series of stopbanks were built in the 1950s to protect homes, businesses, productive land and infrastructure in the Motueka and Riwaka townships. Upgraded stopbanks across ten sites have substantially strengthened security at the most vulnerable locations, which are facing more significant and frequent flooding. While not due for completion until the end of summer 2024, the project has already faced three weather events where the upgraded stopbanks have provided improved flood protection.

## Community forms around project

Community engagement raised awareness of the importance of stopbanks. Regularly cut off when the river floods, Peach Island residents now fully understand future flood risks, and have an Emergency Management Plan in place.

A supplier panel for Māori and Pasifika businesses was established, awarding specialist packages within the restoration work. These businesses received procurement training from the council, giving them confidence and tools to bid for flood resilience works, and larger contracts, in future.

Valuable insights were provided by iwi – who own substantial amounts to land adjacent to the stopbanks – assisting the council to address at-risk locations in a culturally sensitive manner. This has led to exploring opportunities for environmental rejuvenation as part of a longer-term holistic approach to maintaining the health of the river.

## Project funding

Kānoa \$7.5m | Tasman District Council \$ 2.5m

## Total project cost

\$10m

## Social and Environmental Benefits



4.8km of **stopbank upgraded** to protect communities and assets



**4 local Māori owned businesses** awarded approximately \$650k in contracts



**Increased flood protection** to businesses and residences vulnerable to flooding in Motueka



**61 adjacent landowners and occupiers' assets** secured by increased protection

*"Having experienced widespread damage to our facilities during Cyclone Gita in 2018, we are fully supportive of this work which ensures that the stop bank is robust enough to protect our important research from regular and more extreme flooding events."*

– **Grant Williams**

Regional Facilities & Assets Manager at Plant & Food Research.

Karakia at the initiation of stage two of the project, with local iwi representatives next to the last remaining totara in the vicinity of the project, January 2022.

