

# ENHANCING FLOOD PROTECTION & THE ENVIRONMENT

## WAIKATO REGIONAL COUNCIL

**Project:** Piako River right bank asset rationalisation **Location:** Hauraki Plains, near Piako River mouth

The Piako River scheme includes a range of flood protection assets to protect people and property on the low-lying Hauraki Plains from frequent flooding.

Three floodgates near the mouth of the Piako River and the Firth of Thames, which serviced a drainage catchment of 850 hectares, were nearing the end of their useful life. This project, started in 2020, is about replacing these floodgates with one to reduce operational and maintenance costs. The current level of service will be maintained, along with options for longevity of flood protection in this area.

### New shorebird roost and tuna pond arises from enhanced defences

The site was once paddocks that had become inundated by the sea after a king tide busted through a private stopbank. It was being used by shorebirds for foraging and roosting on old farm equipment before being purchased by the council for this project. Mangroves, which can reduce feeding and roosting sites critical to shorebirds, have been removed and appropriate habitat with shorebird roosts will be created where the stopbanks have been set back. The project also includes the creation of a stormwater storage area to support fish life – particularly tuna – year-round, even in times of drought.

### Project funding

Kānoa \$2.6m

### Total project cost

\$8.8m

### Social and Environmental Benefits



**Creation of 10-hectare wetland habitat** which connects to green corridor project (native planting along the Piako River)



**Raised roosting areas for shorebirds** and new stopbanks built from sediment from site



**Excavated pond will support fish life year-round** and provide stormwater storage

Tidal structure allows fish movement in and out of habitat area and prevents stored water from becoming stagnant.

*"We are delighted. The site is by the cycle trail, we're talking about putting in a hide; it will be brilliant."*

– **Keith Woodley.**

Keith Woodley is the Pūkoro Kororo Miranda Shorebird Centre manager. He is passionate about birds and has been advising the regional council on the creation of the wading bird habitat, which is part of this project



**Above:** Culvert crossing construction

**Below:** The site was being used by shorebirds for foraging and roosting on old farm equipment before being purchased by the council.

