

# PROJECT CLOSE-OUT REPORT



New Zealand Government

## Te Tai Tokerau Worker Redeployment Package

|                             |  |
|-----------------------------|--|
| <b>Location and Region:</b> | Te Tai Tokerau\Northland   |
| <b>Contracted Amount:</b>   | NZD13,320,000, made up of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ \$9.32 million (Original), plus</li><li>○ \$4 million (FNDC / WDC Storm Variation)</li></ul>  |
| <b>Report Date:</b>         | 19 <sup>th</sup> July 2021   |
| <b>Programme Outcomes:</b>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• prioritise the employment of local workers displaced by the COVID economic crisis;</li><li>• occur at pace, time being critical; and</li><li>• assist in meeting the Social Procurement Objectives</li></ul> |

### Purpose

With work associated with the Te Tai Tokerau Worker Redeployment Funding programme now complete, this close out report has been compiled to cover the specific points outlined within the funding agreement.

#### I. Analysis of how the funding has allowed the Recipient to achieve the key outcomes of the Project;

Through administering the funding contract through Whangarei District Council, via the Northland Transportation Alliance (NTA), staff were able to leverage off existing Maintenance Contract arrangements to initiate works quickly and enable engagement of smaller local contractors. Several of these contractors faced uncertain futures following the level 4 restriction period and the injection of funding provided surety of forward works for a 6-month period allowing contractors to engage additional resources with confidence.

Early collaborative engagement with key stakeholders including Northland Council representatives, local MBIE staff, Ministry of Social Development (MSD), Te Puni Kōkiri and Northland Inc. ensured the programme Social Procurement objectives were developed and agreed to support the achievement of the programme deliverables.

Through relationships with MSD, workers impacted by COVID-19 were identified and engaged on short, fixed term contracts, with a significant number of these transitioning to full time employment following the completion of the funding.

The funding also provided the ability to provide formal training to many of the newly engaged workers, positioning them well to take advantage of employment opportunities in the future.

The original funding allowed for previously identified, high labour content works such as hazardous and self-seeded tree removal, roadside weed clearance, roadside litter collection, parks and waterways clean-up, footpath and walkway construction etc. to be undertaken. A significant portion of this work had not historically been able to be completed by Councils due to insufficient funding and, through this programme, the levels of service in these areas have been lifted significantly for the wider Northland Community.

## II. How the funding has reduced the economic impacts of COVID-19 in Te Tai Tokerau Region;

The engagement of at least 294 workers on this programme (111 of whom were previously unemployed) ensured that a significant proportion of the funding returned through the Te Tai Tokerau local economy.

Approximately \$5.035m (54% of Original Programme funding) reported as being awarded to, and completed by, Locally owned Northland enterprises. The balance of the expenditure was completed by Northland's Tier 1 roading maintenance Contractors (Fulton Hogan, Downer, Ventia) who, although not locally owned, provide for significant local employment and procurement of goods and services.

## III. The number of jobs created, and number of workers redeployed, during and resulting from the Project;

Final reconciliation of employment numbers has confirmed that of the total 294 people reported as working on aspects of the original programme, 111 of the workers engaged on programme works were previously unemployed (an increase of 13 compared to the 98 previously reported).

With the majority of the funded works associated with the engagement of previously unemployed workers finishing between November 2020 and February 2021 it is extremely encouraging to note that at least 93% (103) of those employed specifically for the programme remain permanently employed in July 2021, either through transitioning to fulltime employment with the respective contractors or utilising the skills and training acquired on the programme to secure alternate employment.

| Funding Employment Outcomes summary   | Total People Working | Previously Unemployed | Youth (15-24) | Māori | Pasifika | Women |
|---|----------------------|-----------------------|---------------|-------|----------|-------|
| Funding Items 1 -> 15   | 294                  | 111                   | 72            | 126   | 25       | 50    |
| Original Target   | 165                  | 50                    | 30%           | 45%   | 5%       | 20%   |
| Comparison to Original Target   | +129                 | +61                   | 44%           | 76%   | 15%      | 30%   |
| Redeployed worker reported as being retained in continued employment                |                      | 103                   |               |       |          |       |
| Percentage of redeployed workers reported as being retained in continued employment |                      | 93%                   |               |       |          |       |

An example of the employment success is feedback received in July 2021 on the redeployed workers engaged to complete the Northland Regional Council works, completed in November 2020:

- Of the 11 people we had employed on the "River Toa" project:
  - 8 have carried on into full time employment
  - 2 have gone into further training/tertiary education, and
  - Only 1 has returned onto benefit.
- Of those 8 people that have stayed in full time employment all have completed a level 2 qualification and one of those is now a crew supervisor.

In addition to the employment opportunities provided, employers engaged in the works facilitated upskilling and training of the redeployed workers. In addition to basic company induction, on-boarding and workplace safety training, across the programme formal training provided to redeployed workers included:

General Safety training:

- Demonstrate knowledge of workplace health and safety requirements (NZQA ID 497)
- Apply safe work practices in the workplace (NZQA ID 17593)
- Apply hazard identification and risk assessment procedures in the workplace (NZQA ID 17602)
- First Aid / CPR training
- Sitewise Green accreditation
- Construct Safe

Traffic Management training:

- Traffic Controller
- Site Traffic Management Supervisor (STMS)

Vegetation & Arboriculture related training:

- Growsafe certification (A practical course for those working under supervision and first-time agrichemical users who need practical training)
- Demonstrate knowledge & rules of chain saw use (NZQA ID 6916)
- Demonstrate basic chainsaw knowledge (NZQA ID 6917)
- Tree Felling Machine Assist Qualification
- National forestry qualification - Level 2
- National certificate in arboriculture - Level 4
- Forestry Foundation - Level 2
- Working in Harvesting Operations - Level 3
- Advanced Harvesting Operations - Level 4

Through the provision and completion of this training, most of the redeployed workers gained formal NZQA qualifications, positioning them well to take advantage of employment opportunities in the future.

#### **IV. How the project has increased social inclusion and participation;**

Contractors involved in the delivery of the programme liaised closely with local Community groups where appropriate to maximise employment opportunities and enable input to achieving successful outcomes. This included:

- Arrangements put in place with contractors focussed on working collaboratively with community and other groups to reuse by-products where possible.
- T8 communicated the availability of wood via social media and a give a little page for local distribution
- Profits from the firewood generated work on Waipapa Rd were used to support Junior Rugby in Kerikeri.
- Waterways Ltd is a small locally owned business focussed on the noxious weed and rubbish clearance from wetland areas, irrigation ponds and the like. Waterways were involved with pest plant eradication and wetland area clean-up at Mangawahi Community Park and as part of the delivery of this works worked with Youth Space to provide work and upskilling opportunities for several youth.
- Hauraki and Sons has a new young work force that are developing a range of skills on the job through formal and informal training pathways.

**V. How the project has contributed to Maori development (if applicable);**

Approximately \$1.38m (15% of Original Programme funding) reported as being awarded to, and completed by, Local Maori / Pasifika owned Northland enterprises

At least 126 staff engaged in delivering the programme were recorded as Maori, with a significant number engaged in formal training and development programmes.

**VI. How the project has contributed to New Zealand's climate change commitments and environmental sustainability (if applicable);**

The programme funding provided for approximately \$900k of roadside litter collection work to be completed along Northland state highways and local roads, with a further \$205k contributing to targeted clean-up of illegal dump sites endangering Northland's waterways. The volume of rubbish collected was estimated as:

- **NRC Waterways** – over 20 tonnes of illegally dumped refuse removed from Northland rivers and roadsides.
- **Council roadside** – Over 2000 individual bags of rubbish, several fridges and tyres removed from berms areas along Northland Council's local roads
- **State Highways component** - Over the duration of this programme up to 20 tonnes of litter was been collected from roadsides on the Northland State Highway network

As part of the Waka Kotahi programme 21 anti-litter signs were also installed at identified litter hot spots



Further environmental initiatives associated with the programme works included:

- Wood from FNDC activities was offered to the Fred Hollows fund raising group for firewood sales
- Firewood and mulch have been stockpiled for use by local residents
- Most of the wood removed from the Waihue site has been stockpiled in the Awakino Road refuse centre for future processing into firewood and made free for the community.
- The works being undertaken by Orang Otang Tree Trimmers included mulching of tree waste for reuse as ground cover, recovering of gum stems for use as landscape edging and recovery as firewood for community groups.
- The works undertaken by Turf Tamer involved a process of mechanically mulching in-situ which provide an initial ground cover prior to further treatment/revegetation.
- Wood and mulch distributed to Lions, Matea Trust & local residents.
- The removal of pest plants by predominantly using cut and paste method reduced the chemical usage in the environment.
- Chipping of the self-seeded roadside trees for use as mulch reducing green waste to landfill.
- At Ruakaka Wildlife Refuge a great environmental outcome and the recent inspection found Pingao and Spinifex establishing well, sand starting to build up around new plants, recent target of Ice Plant across foredunes dying back, Buffalo Grass throughout Muehlenbeckia dying off and the Training Daisy outbreak all dead
- 80% of the new fence on Tikipunga cycleway was re-constructed from re-cycling the existing fence, reducing waste to landfill.

**VII. How the Project has increased regional and national resilience by improving critical infrastructure and/or growth and diversification of the economy;**

The additional \$4m storm response variation (\$2m FNDC / \$2m WDC) provided the ability for these two Councils to not only accelerate completion of repairs from the July 2020 storm, but also to undertake these repairs in a way that allowed for upgrading of the infrastructure to lessen the likelihood of similar damage in the future. This included upsizing of culverts, installation of curb & channel, undertaken flood plain mapping etc.

## VIII. Additional information - Funding expenditure summary

As demonstrated in the summary table below, programme expenditure was reduced on high material / plant items (e.g. sight rail improvements and grading) to allow for targeted and increased focus on labour intensive works that generated and supported employment opportunities.

| Programme expenditure summary by activity type   |                       |                           |                             |
|--|-----------------------|---------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Project Element  | MBIE Funding Received | Final Project Expenditure | Variance as @ end June 2021 |
| <b>Waka Kotahi - State Highway Activities</b>  |                       |                           |                             |
| 1. Removal of self seeded roadside trees   | \$ 300,000            | \$ 1,260,000              | \$ 0.00                     |
| 2. Roadside sightline improvements and vegetation clearance  | \$ 460,000            |                           |                             |
| 3. Roadside litter collection and clean-up   | \$ 500,000            |                           |                             |
|  | <b>\$ 1,260,000</b>   | <b>\$ 1,260,000</b>       | <b>\$ -</b>                 |
| <b>Northland District Councils - Roading Activities</b>  |                       |                           |                             |
| 4. Removal of known Road side hazardous trees  | \$ 1,800,000          | \$ 1,852,548              | \$52,548.23                 |
| 5. Removal of self-seeded roadside trees   | \$ 870,000            | \$ 912,099                | \$42,099.39                 |
| 6. Roadside litter collection and clean-up   | \$ 470,000            | \$ 460,432                | -\$9,567.78                 |
| 7. Spot Spraying Noxious Weeds   | \$ 250,000            | \$ 277,498                | \$27,497.64                 |
| 8. Sight Rail Improvements (3# districts)  | \$ 200,000            | \$ 147,073                | -\$52,927.16                |
| 14.New Footpaths (3# districts) missing links in existing urban network                                  | \$ 1,500,000          | \$ 1,501,000              | \$1,000.00                  |
| 15.Accelerated Unsealed network grading program  | \$ 370,000            | \$ 199,451                | -\$170,549.32               |
|  | <b>\$ 5,460,000</b>   | <b>\$ 5,350,101</b>       | <b>-\$109,899</b>           |
| <b>Northland Councils - Parks &amp; Waterways Activities</b>   |                       |                           |                             |
| 9. Kaipara District Council Parks - Vegetation clearance & clean ups - Kai Iwi Lakes & Pou Tu o Te Rangi | \$ 1,600,000          | \$ 1,604,952              | \$4,951.99                  |
| 10.Whangarei District Council Parks - Vegetation clearance & clean ups                                   | \$ 200,000            | \$ 600,000                | \$ 0.00                     |
| 13. Tikipunga cycle trail - Stage 1 (Totara Parklands to Whangarei Falls)                                | \$ 400,000            |                           |                             |
| 11.Far North District Council Parks - Vegetation clearance & clean ups                                   | \$ 200,000            | \$ 205,573                | \$5,572.66                  |
| 12.Northland Regional Council - Rivers & Beaches Vegetation clearance & clean ups                        | \$ 200,000            | \$ 202,451                | \$2,450.68                  |
|  | <b>\$ 2,600,000</b>   | <b>\$ 2,612,975</b>       | <b>\$12,975</b>             |
| <b>WDC &amp; FNDC - Additional Storm Funding</b>   |                       |                           |                             |
| 16.WDC Flood Damage repairs  | \$ 2,000,000          | \$ 2,074,524              | \$74,524.36                 |
| 17.FNDC Flood Damage repairs   | \$ 2,000,000          | \$ 2,115,617              | \$115,617.46                |
|  | <b>\$ 4,000,000</b>   | <b>\$ 4,190,142</b>       | <b>\$190,142</b>            |
| <b>Total</b>   | <b>\$ 13,320,000</b>  | <b>\$ 13,413,218</b>      | <b>\$93,218.15</b>          |

### Expenditure Notes –

- Expenditure figure re-confirmed for all activities as at 30th June 2021
- All activities related to this work are 100% funded by MBIE with any related overspend covered by the entity concerned
- Expenditure figures above exclude any costs associated with internal Council programme support resourcing



**IX. Additional information - Funding activity example photos**

***Roadside tree clearance***



*Before*



*After*



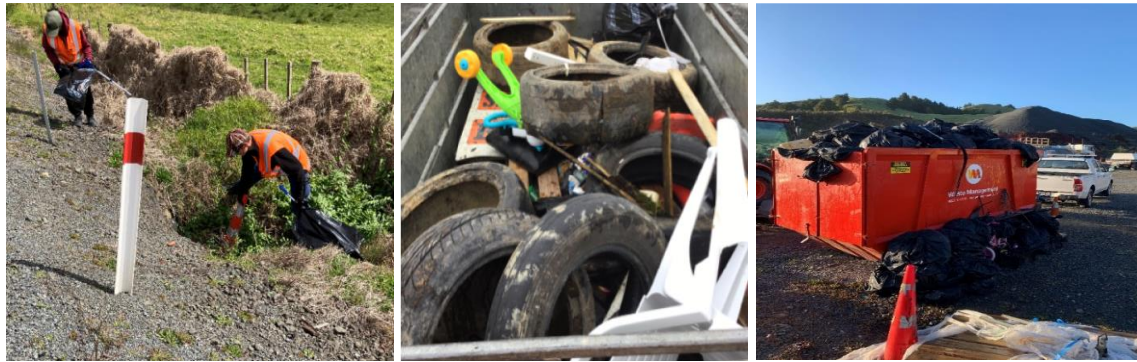
*Before*



*After (reverse view)*



## **Litter Clearance**



*Jude and Karyn are Kaipara locals who are passionate about their community, seen here with Deb Harding (social procurement support) and have a personal sense of satisfaction clearing away the litter and leaving “Papatuanuku” healthier. They love working in the outdoors although are challenged with the hazards of overtaking cars, broken glass and steep drains. Within 500 metres they have filled 10 rubbish bags. The most collected rubbish items are disposable baby nappies, plastic lunch containers, alcohol bottles and cans. Some positives are that locals stop to thank and acknowledge them for their work, and they have retrieved old toys that they have recycled and given a new life!*

## **Illegal dumping clearance of Northland’s waterways**



*Example NRC Identified dump site*

## **Weed clearance - Ruakaka wildlife refuge project**



*2 Rec Services workers (left hand side) and 2 new workers.*



## **Footpath works**



*First stage of Tikipunga shared path*



*Gillingham Road*



*Matakohe Shared Path*



*Taipa Point*



*Signal Station Road*

## **Sight rail upgrades**





## ***Storm damage upgrades***



*Mine Rd Stage 1 Water table reconstruction*



*Puna Rere Dr Water-table Restoration*

*Whangarei Heads Rd Stormwater control*



*Memorial Dr Footpath Retaining wall*