

# Ngā Mahi a Wai Māori

## Northland Water Storage and Use Project



*Ki te kore te pūtake e mākūkungia - e kore te rākau e tupu*  
*If the roots of the tree are not watered - the tree will never grow*

## He pānui mo te mana whenua

The Water Storage and Use Project is investigating the feasibility of developing one or more community reservoirs which can be used to store water when it is plentiful, for use when it is dry. Having water security all year round will increase the viability and value of the surrounding land.

Two initial studies, co-funded by NRC and central government, identified about 6300 hectares of potential land - some of which may be suitable for conversion to high value horticulture - in Kaipara, another 1600ha south of Kaikohe and 1700ha to the west of Lake Ōmāpere.

In May 2019, the project received additional funding of \$18.5M from the Provincial Growth Fund (PGF) to help further investigate and, if feasible, begin construction of water storage options.

Initial indications are that with the availability of a secure water supply, horticulture and supporting industry could ultimately create additional employment options and substantially boost Northland's economy. The decision on whether the project will progress further will be made in 2020.



### Core principles - Ngā mātāpono matua

The project has some core principles including:

- There must be public benefit from government funding of the project
- Water storage will help address disparities in Māori access to water for land development.
- Proposals should maintain the health of waterways
- Water storage proposals should demonstrate that they will support land use that does not increase – and ideally reverses – negative impacts on water quality and supply
- Small-scale community level projects will be supported rather than mega irrigation schemes or projects

- The project will strengthen economies by shifting land use to higher value, sustainable uses, while avoiding increases in livestock intensification
- Proposals should consider the potential for effecting community resilience to climate change
- Where practicable, proposals should contribute positively to the target of reducing greenhouse gases, and demonstrate how they will contribute to mitigating or adapting to climate change effects and adjust transition to a low emissions economy.

## Potential benefits for tangata whenua - *pāinga mo ngā tangata whenua*

The provision of a secure water supply for the Kaipara and Kaikohe area have a range of economic benefits:

- More opportunities for Māori landowners (freehold, incorporations and trusts) to develop their land, making the land more viable / valuable
- More opportunities for Māori businesses providing secondary or support services to highly productive land
- More employment opportunities for local communities and Māori
- Overall increase in economic performance will help to re-invigorate the local economy, with potential flow-on effects lifting the overall standard of living for these communities.



## Māori landowners – *Tangata whenua Māori*

Māori who wish to develop their whenua are well placed to benefit from these proposed schemes. This project takes a positive step to realising economic independence as a fundamental principle for Māori.

The following table summarises the area and number of Māori freehold land (MFL) titles within each of the three areas undergoing pre-feasibility investigations. In addition to MFL titles, land within these areas, has been identified as being owned by Māori, either as private individuals or collectively through trusts, iwi investment companies etc, which could potentially benefit from the development of improved long term secure access to water.

Scoping option	Kaipara	Mid-North A	Mid-North B
Potential command area (Ha)	19,000	2,300	2,800
Number of Māori Freehold Land titles in potential command area	16	109	34
Area of Māori Freehold Land in potential command area (Ha)	331	349	134
Māori Freehold Land as a percentage of potential command area (%)	2%	15%	5%

Reference: Pages 12-13, PGF development phase funding application

## Employment and business opportunities for Māori – *Ngā ara ūmanga, mahi hoki mo te Māori*

Around one-third of people in Dargaville and three-quarters (75%) of people in Kaikohe, identify as Māori (compared to 16% nationally and 20% in Kerikeri).

Local Māori can benefit from the increased employment and opportunities to develop supporting industries such as transport, warehousing and processing. There may also be opportunities for Iwi to own a financial holding/stake in future water supply infrastructure, making them a water provider and active participant in the economic development of the region.



## Māori are represented at the decision-making table - *Ka whai mana a ngai Māori ki ngā whakataunga katoa*

The governance structure of this project includes tangata whenua representatives at every level. People involved to date include:

- Project Steering Group: Dover Samuels
- Project Advisory Group: Colin Rameka, Hone Tiatoa, Nicole Anderson, Rick Parore, Snow Tane, Stephen Brown, Te Rau Allen and Willie Wright
- Project Management Group: Auriole Ruka

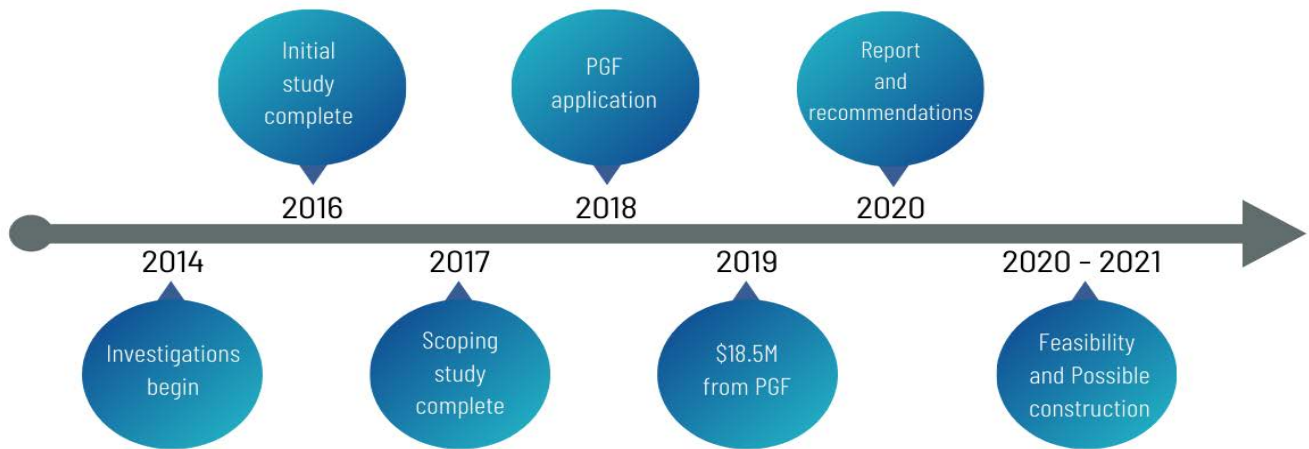
We are also engaging with local Iwi and hapu representatives and will be holding hui and/or visiting marae as requested by mana whenua.





## Project timing and phasing - *Ngā wā, me ngā wāhanga o te kaupapa*

The Water Storage and Use Project is currently in phase 3 of a Development Stage where information is being gathered for **Prefeasibility analysis**. If the prefeasibility project identifies that a scheme could work, the feasibility stage will begin and ultimately constructed.



### Q. Why are we looking at water storage options?

*He aha te take mo te titiro ki ara kē atu ki te pupuri wai?*

The Tai Tokerau Northland Economic Action Plan (TTNEAP) identified better water management as one of four key enablers for economic development, and best use water storage and management as a “game changer” for the region. The total economic benefit to the region if all the irrigation potential in the three option areas is developed is estimated to be around \$230 million per annum with up to 2,100 jobs created. The realisation of these plans are likely to require a partnership and co-funding approach between central and/or local government as well as investment from the private sector.

### Q. Will the water be used to support intensification of beef or dairy farming?

*Ka whakamahingia te wai ki te whakapakari ki te mahi pāmu rānei?*

The work done to date through the strategic and scoping phases strongly suggests that the water will be used for the development of horticultural production, i.e. result in a land use change from pastoral farming to horticulture, rather than led to the conversion of sheep and beef to dairying.

### Q. Is there sufficient water available – will the environment be compromised?

*He nui te wai kia koe - Ka mate te taiao i ōu mahi?*

The core principles and funding requirements are very clear, that any water storage option must be managed in an environmentally sustainable way – this means collecting water when it is plentiful, for use when it is dry. A key part of any investigations will be looking at: seasonal rainfall; locations where the might water come from; where the reservoirs could be situated; how big the pipes will need to be; what consents are needed etc.

### Q. What will the location of the storage options be based on?

*Me pēhea te whakatau ka tū ngā wāhi pupuri wai ki hea?*

The areas being investigated were chosen for their soils, climate, water storage and supply capabilities and economic growth potential.

For more information, including maps of proposed areas, go to: [www.nrc.govt.nz/waterstorage](http://www.nrc.govt.nz/waterstorage)