

Provincial Growth Fund Application Update

Meeting: Council Briefing
Date of meeting: 1st July 2020
Reporting officer: Jim Sephton, GM Infrastructure Services

Purpose/Ngā whāinga

To provide an update on the progress of shovel ready applications including three draft proposals - Raupo Water Storage project, Kaipara Halls and Civil Training Package applications.

Context/Horopaki

Kaipara District Council has submitted five Project to the Crown Infrastructure Partnerships (CIP) Shovel Ready programme for consideration from Government as part of an economic stimulus package. These are currently being considered by Treasury.

In parallel to this, Provincial Growth Fund (PGF) has been refocused to support 'shovel ready projects' with at least \$600 million of Provincial Growth Fund (PGF) money to be used to support regional economies as they recover from COVID-19

<https://www.growregions.govt.nz/about-us/the-provincial-growth-fund/>

The goal of PGF is to accelerate regional development, increase regional productivity, and contribute to more, better-paying jobs. The PGF's objectives are:

- Creating jobs, leading to sustainable economic growth
- Increasing social inclusion and participation
- Enabling Māori to realise aspirations in all aspects of the economy
- Encouraging environmental sustainability and helping New Zealand meet climate change commitments alongside productive use of land, water and other resources
- Improving resilience, particularly of critical infrastructure, and by diversifying our economy

Kaipara District Council have previously been successful in obtaining funding for the Kaipara Kickstart Programme and the Forestry Redeployment Package (which includes \$1.6m for parks).

Te Ara Mahi is a dedicated portion of the Provincial Growth Fund for getting local people into local jobs through funding initiatives that support pathways to work. Te Ara Mahi applications should meet the overall Provincial Growth Fund criteria, and:

- focus on any aspect of the pathway to employment for people in the regions. This includes tailored support for people to become work-ready, gain and sustain employment; and to support those who are underemployed and could upskill.
- focus on employers who may need support, coordination or connections, to employ local people into local jobs.
- focus on any age group within the working age population.

Officers have developed three applications which are proposed to be submitted to the Provincial Development Unit for Consideration

- Raupo Water Storage
- Kaipara Halls
- Kaipara Civil Training Package

Discussion/Ngā kōrerorero

Raupo Water Storage

The Raupo catchment is the largest in the North Kaipara Agricultural Delta and is protected by over 70km of external (river facing) and internal (canal facing) stopbanks. During the current drought, the borewater has been inundated with seawater, resulting in animal distress and significant concerns ahead of next year.

A proposal has been brought forward by the Raupo Drainage Committee for consideration as part of the Long Term Planning Process. This would see existing tidal canals gated which creates a fresh water storage facility for both irrigation and stock watering.

The expected cost of the scheme is \$9.8m and initial discussions have been held with Government to seek support through both the PGF and Te Tai Tokerau Water Trust.

Local funding will be required to develop the application potentially contribute to the scheme. This includes engineering and environmental assessment. An initial budget of \$100k is sought through the targeted rate.

Kaipara Halls and Marae

The PDU have requested that Councils put forward a package application for halls and marae in their area. Funding is limited to \$500k per facility. The focus of this investment is creating employment and the target is work which is easily transferable and/or shovel ready.

The community team have put forward a number of proposals which are considered to be ready. This includes but is not limited to the following:

- Ten halls within the district have identified projects which fit the criteria for shovel ready projects.
- Currently five Marae have had discussions with firm ideas on projects which are ready to go and will be approved by their Trustees.

Following discussion with the Community Advisors and Iwi Relations Manager, we recommend that Kaipara Marae trustees and the remaining halls boards are contacted, to give them the opportunity to submit projects which fit the criteria for shovel ready projects. The process would be time framed and completed for the Marae and Halls Provincial Growth Funding applications to be submitted for consideration at the next Council meeting.

The role of Kaipara District Council in this process would be providing funds (as per the existing grant process) it would not be project managing the actual works.

Approval will be sought to provide the completed applications for approval to submit to the Provincial Growth Fund at the next Council meeting.

Kaipara Civil Training Package

Pre-Covid, there was a 30,000 shortage of workers in Civil Construction. In Kaipara we have the opportunity to retrain people displaced through Covid as well as addressing longer term employment issues.

In partnership with Wilson Earthworks (who run a Training facility) we have developed a package which will see a number of apprentices go through a programme of classroom and simulator training.

They will then get the chance to develop their skills on a real project – the Dargaville to Te Kopuru Stopbanks – which is a relatively safe environment.

The total application will be for circa \$12m however we will await the results on the CIP applications for stopbanks and Kaihu Valley Trail before progressing.

Next steps/E whaiake nei

Applications will continue to be developed and discussed with PDU. Note that due to the time constraints, applications will be submitted but rescinded if not approved at Council Meeting.

Attachments/Ngā tapiritanga

	Title
A	Raupo Development Presentation