

# **COVID-19 Response – Te Tai Tokerau Worker Redeployment Package**

**Meeting:** Kaipara District Council (Extraordinary)  
**Date of meeting:** 01 July 2020  
**Reporting officer:** Jim Sephton, GM Infrastructure Services

## **Purpose/Ngā whāinga**

To approve the funding agreement with Whangarei District Council, as part of a back-to-back contact with the Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment (MBIE), to receive \$2.87m of funding to be used for local worker redeployment.

## **Executive summary/Whakarāpopototanga**

Tai Tokerau has been successful in its application for a \$9.32m Worker Redeployment Package with MBIE. The main contract with MBIE is held by WDC with back to back contracts with KDC and FNDC.

\$2.9m of this will be spent in Kaipara creating employment opportunities for those who have lost jobs due to Covid or are at risk of losing jobs. This will be contracted primarily through the Roothing and Parks Maintenance and Operations Contracts as well as directly with local contractors including Te Roroa.

This paper is seeking Council approval of the contract.

## **Recommendation/Ngā tūtohunga**

That the Kaipara District Council:

- a) Approves Kaipara District Council entering into an agreement with Whangarei District Council and Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment to receive \$2.87m of funding to be used for local worker redeployment.
- b) Delegates the Chief Executive to finalise the terms and conditions of the agreement.

## **Context/Horopaki**

On 16 March 2020, Cabinet approved a Worker Redeployment Package of \$100m. The Cabinet Committee for the COVID-19 Response then approved additional funding of \$36.720m to support local workforces, for the Ministry of Social Development (MSD) for training and support for redeployment activity and for a primary sector workforce package. Of this amount, \$27.270m is to be used by the Provincial Development Unit for worker redeployment.

Te Tai Tokerau will receive \$9.32m of this package for urgent economic relief of its workforce. This is split across NZTA, WDC, FNDC and KDC.

MBIE have identified outcomes for this funding, being:

- (a) redeploy people relatively quickly in Te Tai Tokerau;
- (b) provide alternative employment for 3-6 months for 165 workers; and
- (c) align with objectives for economic development in Te Tai Tokerau.

Social Procurement Objectives will be agreed with MBIE which are likely to form part of a longer-term Tai Tokerau Social Procurement Framework. It is acknowledged that within a six-month contract it will not be feasible to completely achieve these objectives:

- Targeting local Maori, Pasifika and women workers who have been displaced by COVID-19;
- The use of businesses owned and operated by people who reside in the Northland Region, but targeting Maori and Pasifika businesses;
- Providing skills and training to those workers who are employed through this initiative, which they will be able to take on to other work in the future;
- Ensuring that the working conditions are suitable with health and safety training;
- Being environmentally responsible so that the project will be delivered sustainably.

The projects will be predominately delivered through the Northland Transportation Alliance with the exception of the Parks vegetation clear up. An external Project Manager has been appointed to oversee the delivery of this component.

## Discussion/Ngā kōrerorero

This is seen as a great opportunity to inject funding into the Northland Region to support that part of the community that has been impacted by the COVID-19 situation. The funding scope targets labour intensive work that can be initiated quickly, and which will increase levels of service for those activities where traditional funding has historically not been enough.

Local contractors have been identified including Downer (O&M Contractor), Orangatang, Turftamer and Te Roroa.

Staff have been working with (MBIE) to identify projects that would benefit from this funding. The proposed KDC elements are

KDC Project Element	Estimated Total Cost (plus GST, if any)	Commencement
Removal of known road side hazardous trees	\$500,000	Immediate
Removal of self-seeded roadside trees	\$226,200	Immediate
Roadside litter collection and clean up	\$79,900	Immediate
Spot spraying noxious weeds	\$75,000	Immediate
Site rail improvements	\$14,000	Immediate
Vegetation clearance and clean ups – Kai Iwi Lakes & Pou Tu o Te Rangi	\$1,600,000	Immediate
New footpaths – missing links in existing urban network	\$258,600	
Accelerated unsealed network grading program	\$118,400	Immediate
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$2,872,100</b>	

The funds have to be expended by November 2020 and therefore procurement activities and establishment has already commenced.

Projects to be delivered within the Kaipara Parks activity are illustrated below:

Activities	Contractor	Budget
Mangawhai Community Park tree removal	Orang-Otang	200,000
Memorial park removal of pest plants	Downer	20,000
Metal Track through Memorial Park Bush	Downer	10,000
Clearing of Vegetation at PToTR/HP Pa Site (LTP)	Turf Tamer	20,000
Omana Rd Reserve Tree and pest plant removal	Downer	20,000
Implementation of Pest Plant Plan at Taharoa (LTP)	Te Roroa/Turf Tamer	500,000
Implementation of Pest Plant Plan at PToTR/HP (LTP)	Downer	100,000
Install Kauri Dieback proof tracks at Kaiwaka Reserve (Includes \$100k of Washstations that NRC may contribute to)	Downer/4sight	616,000
Kaiwaka Oneriri Rd Intersection clean up (LTP)	Turf Tamer	30,000
Clearing of Vegetation for Thelma South Walkway (LTP)	Orang-Otang	1,500
Metal Track and Drainage on Thelma South Walkway (LTP)	Orang-Otang	40,000
Matakohe/Ruawai bike track Te Kowhai Rd		

Stopbank walk Dargaville Bridge to Taha Awa Gardens		
Maungarahu Rock		
Cemeteries		
Coastal walkway pest plant removal		
Professional Services		70,000

Roading related activities will be administered by Northland Transportation Alliance, leveraging off existing Maintenance Contract Agreements. Those contractors will supplement their own specialist resources to facilitate the works completion through the engagement of local construction and vegetation subcontractors, further supported by additional local labour obtained through MSD. Where vegetation clearance work generates a supply of quality firewood we will look to engage local community groups to collect and distribute to those in need throughout the Northland region.

### Options

Option 1: Approve the paper as per recommendations.

Option 2: Not approve the contract.

There is limited risk in approving the contract. It includes an upfront payment of 718,025 followed by monthly payments of 359,012.50 subject to satisfaction that we are meeting progress expectations. Work will be complete by December 2020.

The benefits of the work in terms of employment in our community are significant. The works themselves will create good community outcomes and reduce our maintenance liability.

The recommended option is **option 1**.

### Policy and planning implications

None. All works on Council land and generally within normal activity parameters

### Financial implications

Project Management costs have been included as part of the external funding.

Potential operational expenditure cost savings going forward as this work will clear a backlog of maintenance work.

### Risks and mitigations

There is a threat that this work could affect business as usual (BAU) delivery. This has been mitigated by the appointment of an external Project Manager and the fact that much of the work is BAU or would have been if funding had been available.

There is a risk of employing higher risk people which will need to be managed through the head contractor's health and safety protocols.

### Significance and engagement/Hirahira me ngā whakapāpā

The decisions or matters of this report do not trigger the significance criteria outlined in Council's Significance and Engagement Policy, and the public will be informed via agenda on the website.

### Next steps/E whaiake nei

Contract will be signed and works will commence,

An update on progress will be reported to Elected Members as part of the exceptions report.

### Attachments/Ngā tapiritanga

	Title
A	WDC Contract