

Te Tai Tokerau Worker Redeployment Package Kaipara District Council Parks – Vegetation clearance & clean ups - Progress Report

Meeting: Externally Funded Projects Committee
Date of meeting: 17 February 2021
Reporting officer: Hayden McGrath, Project Manager

Purpose/Ngā whāinga

To update Council on the Kaipara District vegetation clearance and clean-ups element of the 'Te Tai Tokerau Worker Redeployment Package'

Executive summary/Whakarāpopototanga

In March 2020 New Zealand was beginning to feel the effects of Covid19 and the anticipated downturn. Thousands of logging workers were being laid off and the threat of mass unemployment required immediate attention.

A joint application for Tai Tokerau was successful and a \$9.32m Worker Redeployment Package agreed with MBIE. The main contract with MBIE is held by WDC with back to back contracts with KDC and FNDC. KDC was assigned \$2.9m with \$1.6m of this allocated to 'Vegetation Clearance and Tidy Up' for our Parks.

The delivery of the Kaipara District Council Parks – Vegetation clearance & clean ups element of the Te Tai Tokerau Worker Redeployment Package commenced in July 2020 and will be completed in February.

The focus of the investment was on job creation and to date, the initiative has provided opportunities for over 40 people, of which 18 were previously unemployed.

Of the \$1.6m package, \$1,542,881 worth of works have been negotiated and committed, with over 95% of the direct and sub-contract works awarded to local businesses. The remaining budget providing contingency for any follow up or additional works required.

As at the end of December over \$1,320,085.00 worth of pest plant works have been completed across Taharoa Domain, Mangawhai Community, Harding, and Northern Wairoa Memorial Parks.

Nationally, MBIE have recognised the Tai Tokerau Redeployment Package as an example

Recommendation/Ngā tūtohunga

That the Externally Funded Projects Committee:

- a) Notes the Te Tai Tokerau Worker Redeployment Package Kaipara District Council Parks – Vegetation clearance & clean ups - Progress Report

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 received \$9.32m of this package for urgent economic relief of its workforce 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 were agreed with MBIE and MSD.

- 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

On the 1st July Council approved entering into an agreement with WDC and MBIE to receive \$2.87m of funding to be used for local worker redeployment. The report noted that staff were working with MBIE to confirm projects that target labour intensive work that can be initiated quickly.

The proposed KDC Project Elements were

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
Total	\$2,872,100	

This report focuses on the Vegetation Clearance and clean ups.

The photos over illustrate some of the progress made on the elements being delivered by the Kaipara Transport team.

The Matakohe Footpath has been completed as part of the package. This project was part of the KDC commitment to the Tourism Innovation Fund for the Matakohe toilet.



Before



After

Removal and Chip vegetation, Waihue Road



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!

Discussion/Ngā kōrerorero

For the Kaipara District, there are a total of eight project elements within the agreement with a total budget of \$2.87m. This report is focussed on the largest of the project elements, being the Vegetation clearance & clean ups with a budget value of \$1.6m.

The physical works aspect of the package has been focused on Kaipara District Council Parks – Vegetation clearance & clean ups – Kai Iwi Lakes & Pou Tu o Te Rangi, along with other Council park and reserve areas, with a particular focus on pest plant eradication.

Procurement

Council approved an overarching Procurement Strategy to allow an effective Covid19 response.

To meet the accelerated delivery and social procurement objectives, individual elements of work package were scoped and a direct negotiation procurement approach utilising existing locally based suppliers.

Smaller elements have been procured through direct purchase order, with larger package elements through minor works contract agreements or variation to existing contracts.

Name of business	Business type (Māori, Pasifika, local)	Length of contract (months)	Total value of contract (\$)	No. new employees (as a result of contract)
<i>Orang Otang Tree Trimmers / Kia Tupato/Coastal Tree Works</i>	<i>Local supported by Maori owned Traffic Management Company</i>	5	367,945	8
<i>Turf Tamer</i>	<i>Local</i>	5	204,900	0
<i>Te Roroa Group</i>	<i>Maori/Local Iwi owned business</i>	5	350,000	11 (2 x resigned)
<i>Andrew Younger Contracting</i>	<i>Local</i>	1	44,108	0
<i>Downer NZ / TEAM Vegetation</i>	<i>Local based (Downer) Local (TEAM Vegeation)</i>	3 <i>(further stages to be added)</i>	113,971	2
<i>Waterway Specialists</i>	<i>Local – Mangawhai based</i>	5	139,000	5
<i>Nga Uri o Hau Settlement Trust</i>	<i>Maori/Local Iwi owned business</i>	2+ follow up	104,007	4
<i>Babylon Coast Gardens</i>	<i>Local</i>	1	18,950	0
<i>Asset Construction Ltd/Kevin Reid Contractors</i>	<i>Local – Mangawhai based</i>	3	260,000	3 (Part-time)

Project Programme & Prioritization

At the July Council Meeting, Officers presented a table of proposed projects. Further discussions with MBIE resulted in a refinement of the programme with the following clarifications

- The investment has to relate to Vegetation Clearance
- Vegetation Clearance recognised to include replanting or other means of preventing regrowth
- Projects need to be focused on immediate job creation

The activity most affected by this was the proposed Kauri Dieback proof tracks at Kaiwaka Reserve (\$616k). Alternative funding is being sought to develop this project.

An initial programme of works was developed focussing on the high profile parks as the first priority including; Mangawhai Community Park, Po To Te Rangi - Harding Park, Taharoa Domain, Northern Wairoa Community Park.

In addition to this, other medium priority sites were added to the programme as the costs for the high profile sites were negotiated and finalised with relevant suppliers. These have included; Kaiwaka – Oneriri Road Intersection Reserve, Omana Road Reserve, and Mangarahu Rock Reserve.

Throughout the delivery phase of the package some projects, and elements within those projects have been prioritised over others to provide a more consistent work flow and subsequently better job opportunities. For example; Larger works involving machinery within the Mangawhai Community Park have been scheduled around the peak Christmas period, whilst more minor follow up labour type works have been programmed to continue through this peak period.

Physical Works Update

The physical works commenced in early July with over \$1,320,085.00 worth of physical works completed at the end of December 2020 including;

- 1) Mangawhai Community Park
 - a. Removal of gum trees between the Mangawhai Activity Zone and Golf Club completed.
 - b. Removal of Pine trees between the Mangawhai Activity Zone and the Museum completed.
 - c. Noxious plant and weed treatment works largely completed between Mangawhai Community Park and the Golf Course.
 - d. Stump grinding of gum tree stumps between Mangawhai Activity Zone and Golf Club completed.
 - e. Sand mound reclamation and pathway development through the park underway.
 - f. Preparation for revegetation underway with mulch cover over areas, along with the purchase of over 4,000 native trees for revegetation within the next planting season.
- 2) Pou Tu o Te Rangī – Harding Park,
 - a. Removal of pest plants around pond area in preparation for bike track, clearance and treatment of pest plants throughout Pa site area.
 - b. Assistance with remediation works associated with the bike track construction.
 - c. Follow up pest plant treatment completed.
- 3) Taharoa Domain – Kai iwi Lakes,
 - a. Implementation of pest plant plan largely complete, with a focus on removal and treatment of wilding pines, wattle and other pest species across a large portion of the park.
- 4) Northern Wairoa Memorial Park
 - a. Removal and treatment of pest plant species within bush reserve area completed.
- 5) Mangawhai Esplanade Reserve
 - a. Removal of large dangerous wilding pine trees from the esplanade reserve near the Hideaway Holiday Park.
- 6) Mangarahu Rock
 - a. Treatment of pest plant species largely completed.
- 7) Omana Road Memorial Reserve
 - a. Treatment of pest plant species and general reserve tidy up completed.

Redeployment Outcomes

Over the period to date the project has provides employment and work opportunities for over 42 people, of which 18 of these were previously unemployed.

The project has also provided work opportunities for over 15 individual businesses, of which over 95% are locally based.

Elements of the project have also provided opportunities for up-skilling, particularly for those previously unemployed.

Through the works undertaken at Taharoa Domain by Te Roroa Group, over 10 people received training in First Aid, Growsafe, and Chainsaw training.

The works at Mangawhai Community Park also provided opportunity for trainees to gain experience within traffic control operations.

As elements of the project have been completed the up-skilling and training has provided opportunities for many of the workers to continue into other work opportunities.

Social Procurement Objectives

The following table outlines the social procurement objectives as agreed with MBIE and the progress towards achieving the to date

State your Social Procurement Objectives (as agreed within two weeks of contracting)	Show achievements to date against each of the Social Procurement Objectives	Provide additional narrative to show how tendering, procurement, employment and/or training arrangements are helping to achieve the Social Procurement Objectives, identifying any limitations or further support needed.
Local (regional) businesses prioritised for employment (40% of direct contract and sub-contract values will be awarded to businesses owned and operated by people who reside in the region.	Of the total value of contracts awarded to date, the value portion awarded to Locally owner enterprises is over 95%.	The willingness and availability of local businesses has aided in achieving almost double the targeted value in the works contracted to date. Having packaged and spread work over mix of SME's, Larger Contractors, and Iwi Group(s) has also aided in achieving this.
Maori and Pasifika enterprises prioritised for employment (15% of the direct and subcontract values to be awarded to Maori or Pasifika enterprises.)	Of the total value of contracts awarded to date, the value portion awarded Maori owned enterprises is over 33%.	Early involvement of Te Roroa Group (TRG) and Nga Uri o Hau Settlement Trust Nurseries has provided the ability to exceed the target to date. TRG have also engaged 12 people who were previously unemployed as part of their project works, with 9 currently still engaged full time within the project works.
Targeted employment (Employment targets a. 45% Maori b. 5% Pasifika	The achievement of employment targets are as follows;	One of the risks identified early was meeting the employment targets, by spreading of work packages across SME's, Larger Contractors and Iwi Groups,

<p>c. 20% Woman d. 30% Youth (18 – 24 years)</p> <p>At least 50 (new) fixed term roles over the total 165 workers across the packages)</p>	<p>a. Over 70% Maori (*80% for the current month) b. 0% Pasifika c. Over 20% Woman (23% for current month) d. 34% Youth (*20% for current month)</p> <p>23 x workers have been employed who were previously unemployed, 14 of these are still currently employed as part of the project.</p>	<p>along with coordination with MSD has aided in progress towards achieving the targets to date. Supplier Waterways Specialists are also working alongside Whangarei Youthspace to engage youth in employment within the project works.</p>
<p>Skills and training delivered (Provision of relevant training to ensure all workers are skilled, qualified and safe in the workplace)</p>	<p>Contract agreements with Te Roroa Group include the provision of Growsafe and Chainsaw Training as part of the project delivery. For the works involving Kia Tupato has provided the opportunity for professional development training. (STMS,TC)</p>	<p>Agreements to date have been focussed on working collaboratively to achieve outcomes. The provision of Growsafe & First Aid Training has been undertaken onsite at Kai-iwi Lakes under the agreement with Te Roroa Group. There is opportunity to extend this training to the wider groups (other contractors) involved in the Project.</p>
<p>Improved Conditions for Workers (All new workers undergo pre-employment induction H&S) Documented H&S Management Systems</p>	<p>New workers introduced have been inducted into the relevant companies systems. Particular sites have in place Site Specific Safety Plans (SSSP) and contractors have relevant H&S systems in place.</p>	<p>Agreements to date have been focussed on working collaboratively to achieve outcomes. SSSP's provided by contractors and reviewed and approved as required. Contractors involved are Sitewise Green accredited.</p>
<p>Environmental Responsibility (Protecting local ecosystems through removal of exotic pest species. Actively seeking to minimise carbon impact of project delivery. Minimising waste – reusing materials. Build resilience back into work areas through replanting etc.)</p>	<p>The works being undertaken by Orang Otang Tree Trimmers, includes mulching of tree waste for reuse as ground cover, recovering of gum stems for use as landscape edging, and also possible recovery as firewood for community groups. The works undertaken by Turf Tamer & Coastal Tree Trimmers involves a process of mechanically mulching in-situ which provides an initial ground cover prior to further treatment/revegetation, this has been carried in Kai iwi and Mangawhai Park.</p>	<p>Arrangements in place with contractors have been focussed on working collaboratively with community and other groups in order to reuse by-products where possible. Open communication channels between contractor, KDC, and other stakeholder groups have been utilised to seek opportunities for re-use of by-products and recycling where possible.</p>

Forward Works Programme

The following work is planned to be completed by the end of February;

- 1) Mangawhai Community Park;
 - i. Removal of sand-mound and reuse of material to construct shared pathway formation between the Mangawhai Activity Zone and the Mangawhai Club.
 - ii. Removal of large dangerous pine trees on the Thelma Road South side of the park.
- 2) Kaiwaka Oneriri Road Intersection
 - i. General tidy up of reserve area and follow up treatment of pest plant species.

Risks, Issues and Opportunities

The following table outlines the key risks as part of the project delivery and the mitigation measures that have been employed during the delivery

Risks / Issues/Opportunities	Magnitude / Likelihood	Mitigation
Risk - Timely delivery of works to meet required timing outcomes.	Low	Have packaged and spread work over mix of SME's, Larger Contractors, and Iwi Group(s). Have alternative work packages/elements available to provide continuity of work if delays are encountered in some works.
Risk – Meeting required employment outcomes of the PGF funding	Low	Spread of work packages across SME's, Larger Contractors and Iwi Groups, along with coordination with MSD will provide wider opportunities.
Opportunity – Introducing new local SME's as future KDC Suppliers through work package opportunities.	Medium	Communication with SME's and other groups regarding opportunities and also introduction to existing Contractors.

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

The remaining elements of the overall works package are largely scoped and negotiated with relevant suppliers. The remaining physical work elements are programme to be completed and the funding fully expended by the end of February 2021.