

Kaipara KickStart Programme Update

Meeting: Council Briefing
Date of meeting: 4 March 2020
Reporting officer: Diane Bussey, Programme Manager

Purpose/Ngā whāinga

To provide an update on the Kaipara KickStart programme, which was established to deliver the PGF funding package announced on 3rd February 2019.

Context/Horopaki

At the last Council briefing on 4th December 2019, a revised engagement approach was confirmed as follows:-

For Information/Inquiry

- Updates provided in monthly Chief Executive Exception reporting
- A monthly Council Status Report
- Mayor and Deputy Mayor to attend monthly Programme Steering Group meetings as observers
- Bi-monthly Council Briefings
- Direct enquiries through usual Council channels, or programme email address
- Website

Communication and Engagement

- Calendar appointments sent to elected members
- Communication collateral and planned activities to be made available on elected member portal

Key Deliverables

- For deliverables with a strategic element, Council to provide strategic vision/views
- Council to provide feedback on key deliverables approved by Programme Steering Group prior to submission to MBIE
- Council to provide review/feedback and confirmation of final milestones such as final reports prior to submission to MBIE

Council briefings are now scheduled every two months through to conclusion of the programme.

Discussion/Ngā kōrerorero

Kaipara KickStart programme is progressing as planned with key points below;

- 2% ahead of schedule overall.
- Latest financial estimates to completion are within approved budgets
- There have been no scope changes requested
- All contractual obligations with MBIE are being met, with MBIE acknowledging timeliness and completeness of programme reporting
- Communication and engagement activities have increased in the past month. The investigative programme deliverables, such as feasibility studies are nearing draft stages. This information is now available in a format for stakeholders to contribute by providing review and feedback, adding perspectives and quality to the final deliverables.

- Funding Agreements – Announced on 31st January was an additional \$740,000 to support the establishment of practical pilot sites for horticultural production, utilising localised water solutions. The draft funding agreement was received 14th February and is currently being reviewed. This additional funding will be included within the Kaipara KickStart programme and delivered as part of the Kai for Kaipara project.

Further project specific updates are provided below: -

Kai for Kaipara

- Water availability, soil nutrients, and topoclimate information has been finalised and included to support the initial analysis within the Kai Feasibility Study
- Kai Hub – Physical hub to be established in Ruawai, Hub Manager to be appointed for 12 months. Additional mobile hub to be investigated to support physical location, and provide choice to support multiple support services.
- Kai Feasibility Study - Elected member workshop on 19th February provided an overview of the initial analysis within the draft Kai feasibility study and also an update on the Kai Hub delivery proposal and timing.
- Building stronger connections between the Northland Regional Council Community Water Storage projects and Kai Water project to identify and agree on complementary nature of delivery – especially with stakeholder engagement and communication activities.

Kaipara Wharves

- Capital PGF funding of \$4m has been confirmed. Initially noted as being approved ‘in principle’ an Indicative Business Case (IBC) for Dargaville Pontoon was completed, with a value of \$1.066m. Council approved ongoing maintenance costs associated with the IBC. With MBIE support, the paper to Regional Economic Development Ministers requested the full \$4m be committed and this was approved. A contract variation has since been executed to confirm the availability of \$4m capital funds.
- Dargaville Pontoon – Final Business Case has been completed, with a value of \$346,000 being the estimated wharf infrastructure capital costs only and do not include additional amenities. Conditions precedent in varied contract are currently being completed. Cultural Impact Assessment procurement process underway, tender documents for pontoon construction being finalised prior to tender process commencing. KDC Infrastructure team to support implementation project.
- Engineering Assessments – this work will provide analysis to support the feasibility study and also provide valuable information for the ongoing management of existing wharf infrastructure. Procurement processes to appoint a contractor to complete this work is nearing completion. Confirmation of wharf infrastructure ownership is included in scope.
- Wharves Feasibility Study - Elected member workshop on 19th February provided an overview of the initial analysis within the draft Wharves feasibility study, the potential investment options and recommendations for consideration.

Roading Package

- Tomarata Bridge is nearing completion. There are three funding providers for this project - Council, NZTA and PGF. The PGF component is estimated at less than \$180,000
- Pouto Road Sealing (Phase 1) – Strategic Business Case completed and approved by MBIE. Contractors have been appointed, and have commenced the survey work.
- Waipoua River Road – Not Council Owned - Strategic Business Case completed and approved by MBIE. Design contractor procurement process is underway.
- Confirmations have been received from MBIE that: -
 - Pouto Road Sealing (Phase 2) cannot commence until a decision has been made regarding the wharf investment options and it has been confirmed what infrastructure will be developed where.

- Unsealed Network (\$8.06m Funding Agreement 2) cannot commence until the prioritised list of required work on specific roads is completed as part of the Centre of Excellence work. This is expected in August 2020.

Next steps/E whaiake nei

1. The programme team will continue to complete the programme scope, as defined, supported by Project Management Office and Infrastructure operational teams
2. Further Council engagements for key strategic deliverables will be planned and delivered
3. The next Council Briefing on the programme has been scheduled for the May Council Briefing.