

# **Kaipara Kickstart Programme: Kaipara Wharves Preferred Investment Option**

**Meeting:** Council Briefing  
**Date of meeting:** 22 April 2020  
**Reporting officer:** Diane Bussey, Kaipara KickStart Programme Manager

## **Purpose/Ngā whāinga**

To provide an update on the development of the wharves feasibility study and resulting preferred investment option, prior to completing wider consultation within the community.

## **Context/Horopaki**

The contracted deliverables for the Kaipara Wharves Investigation funding of \$950,000 include the development of a feasibility study and associated programme business case. The programme business case will provide the investment options for the allocation of the capital funding of \$4 million.

An elected member briefing was conducted on 19th February, with AR & Associates presenting the Kaipara Harbour feasibility study approach. The presentation slides from that briefing have been made available.

With further research, engagement and analysis having subsequently been completed, this briefing will provide an update of the specific locations for the initial capital investment.

## **Discussion/Ngā kōrerorero**

The draft feasibility study has identified a preferred investment option for the \$4 million capital funds provided by Provincial Growth Fund. This preferred investment option includes both capital items and non-capital items.

The capital works included in the draft preferred option are:

- Dargaville Wharf upgrade
- Pahi Wharf Upgrade
- Pouto Wharf Infrastructure
- Beach landing focus – minor upgrades to enable expand charter /taxi services (potential sites include Otamatea, Arapaoa, Kelly's Bay)

High level estimates to complete the capital works required will be presented at the briefing. The funding limit to complete the first stage of development is \$4 million.

The non-capital items included in the draft preferred option, which would be integral to activating the capital projects include:

- Development of a destination marketing strategy and tourism website
- Development of level of service agreements and operating framework for marine facilities across the district
- Development of targeted slow-tourism experiences
- Developing a local skills base to resource and support development of tourism products/experiences
- Establishing connections between marae to encourage social and cultural connections
- The funding sources for these non-capital items is being investigated.

The proposed delivery mechanism for the capital and non-capital items is as a programme within the Kaipara KickStart programme.

The draft feasibility study includes a staged approach for further investment, activating and improving further transport nodes as activity grows, including Tinopai, Te Kopuru, Oneriri, Batley and Kelly's Bay.

The draft feasibility study has been approved by the Programme Steering Group for submission to MBIE to meet a contracted funding deliverable.

A revised engagement plan will be presented at the briefing. This plan is currently being updated with the postponement of the River Festival and the inability to engage with larger groups whilst the COVID-19 situation evolves.

### **Next steps/E whaiake nei**

- 1 The programme team, with AR & Associates, will complete community engagement and encourage feedback, potentially with an online survey
- 2 The feedback received, along with additional research will be used to develop the final feasibility study and programme business case, expected to be completed late April
- 3 The next Council briefing on the overall Kaipara Kickstart programme has been scheduled for the May Council Briefing.