



**Regional
Infrastructure
Fund (RIF)**

**Wairarapa
REGION**

**\$3.590m
APPROVED**

**2025
COMPLETED**



Greater Wellington Regional Council – River Road – Stages 2-3

This project strengthened critical flood infrastructure along the Ruamāhanga River to reduce erosion, improve river stability, and enhance the region’s resilience to climate-induced flooding.

Background

Flooding is New Zealand’s number one hazard. Most towns in the greater Wellington region are on floodplains with around 30 percent living in flood prone areas.

This project, at the confluence of the Waipoua and Ruamāhanga rivers, protected nearby landfill and properties that back onto River Road from flooding.

Stage 2 of the work used 6,500 tonnes of rock to build a 150-metre-long revetment (a sloping layer of large rocks placed on the riverbank to slow down erosion) and a rock groyne (large rocks placed at right angles to the riverbank to further guard against erosion).

Stage 3, the final stage, involved building a further seven rock groynes to connect with the revetment and groyne built as part of Stage 2.

This work secured the true (when viewed downstream) right bank of the river.

Performance

The full performance and long-term impact of the revetment and groynes can only be reliably assessed following one or more high-flow or flood events. To date, no such events have occurred since the construction completed. In other words, while early signs are positive, the effectiveness of the structure in extreme conditions remains untested.

Learnings

Greater Wellington Regional Council (GWRC) invested \$160,000 towards assessing project requirements before commencing the flood resilience contract with MBIE under the Regional Infrastructure Fund. This resulted in a well-defined problem statement and scope of work.

Variations

After stage 1, further assessments resulted in a more efficient design for stages 2 and 3. The revetment built in stage 2, initially estimated at 5,000 tonnes, increased to 5,500 tonnes.

Benefits*

The benefits include:

Mitigating riverbank edge erosion due to strengthened riverbanks. Rating: HIGH. Duration: 30 yrs.

Preventing contamination of the Ruamāhanga River due to strengthened riverbanks. Rating: HIGH. Duration: 30 yrs.

Protecting the cultural significance of the baptismal site for Kahunguni ki Wairarapa due to strengthened riverbanks. Rating: HIGH. Duration: 30 yrs.

Providing safe access to the river for the community due to strengthened riverbanks. Rating: HIGH. Duration: 30 yrs.

Benefits to outcomes**

The project fits to the following intended outcomes of the RIF:

Increased flood protection due to strengthened riverbanks.

More local jobs, especially for unemployed due to main contractor using local workers and previously unemployed graduates of their training programme.

Reduced impacts of natural disaster due to the strengthened riverbanks.

Strengthened local and Māori communities due to the main contractor being a Māori-owned business and the project protecting a culturally significant environment.

Increased local productivity due to less flooding.

More highly skilled workers due to training and employing workers skilled in civil trades on the project.

KEY INFO

Grant

FUND TYPE

\$3.590m

APPROVED

\$2.393m

CO-FUNDED

\$5.983m

TOTAL VALUE

11,767

HOURS WORKED

7.5

ANNUAL FTES

88%

LOCAL

19%

MĀORI

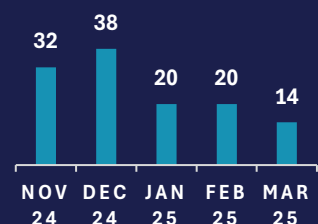
Nov 2024

START

Mar 2025

END

TOTAL MONTHLY
EMPLOYEES



* Benefits of each project are rated HIGH, MEDIUM or LOW with an estimated duration. Not all benefits may be included.

** Benefits to outcomes include the RIF outcomes the project fits to either fully or partially. Not all benefits may be included.

Notes on KEY INFO: Employment figures use recipient Monthly Reports of employment and hours worked. One annual FTE is equivalent to 1,560 hours and may be spread across multiple employees. Percentage local and Māori are of the total monthly employed. Start dates are contract start dates. End dates are construction end dates (approximate).