



**Regional
Infrastructure
Fund (RIF)**

**Wairarapa
REGION**

**\$0.080m
CONTRACTED**

**2025
COMPLETED**



Kānoa
Regional Economic Development
& Investment Unit

GWRC – Waipōua Site 3 – Waipōua SH2 bridge left bank protection, Waipōua Awa

This RIF project stabilised the true left bank of the Waipōua River to reduce lateral erosion and control river flow. This safeguards the SH2 bridge from flood damage and enables public access along the riverbank footpath.

Background

This project increases resilience and supports the objectives of the Te Kāuru Upper Ruamāhanga Floodplain Management Plan.

The work involved construction of a 45-metre rock revetment to provide control of lateral erosion and river movement. Approximately 675 tonnes of rock was used to build the revetment.

The work was needed to limit riverbank erosion both upstream of, and under, the State Highway 2 bridge where it crosses the Waipōua River. It will also protect the existing walking track which runs alongside the river and under the bridge.

Performance

The rock revetment is designed to stabilise the true (viewed downstream) left bank by absorbing river energy and reducing erosion. Vegetation will be planted along the revetment to enhance long-term resilience and support environmental integration.

The full performance and long-term effectiveness of the revetment can only be evaluated after one or more high-flow flood events. The structure is not intended as full scour protection, meaning periodic top-ups will be necessary over time. Full scour protection would require a much larger volume of rock, which is not possible due to space near the bridge. It would also restrict river flow.

Learnings

The cost of materials increased, consistent with rising construction costs. However, the project budget included a contingency amount. A key lesson is the importance of building sufficient contingency to accommodate unexpected cost increases.

Variations

No significant variations outside of material costs noted above.

Benefits*

The benefits include:

Protects key state assets (SH2 bridge) by reducing erosion of the riverbank. Rating: HIGH. Duration: 30 yrs.

Redirects river flows away from the eroding riverbank by addressing the gravel bar on the bank. Rating: HIGH. Duration: 30 yrs.

Restores vegetation and strengthens rock structure by planting along the riverbank. Rating: HIGH. Duration: 30 yrs.

Provides safe river access by protecting the existing walking track. Rating: HIGH. Duration: 30 yrs.

Benefits to outcomes**

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

Increased flood protection due to revetment construction.

More local jobs, especially for unemployed by creating sustained employment opportunities and a training programme for locals, including previously unemployed.

Reduced impacts of natural disaster due to less erosion and better control of river flow.

More vital assets and services protected due to reduced erosion safeguarding SH2 bridge and walking track.

Strengthened local and Māori communities by engaging a Māori-owned business as the main contractor and protecting a culturally significant area.

Increased local productivity due to less flooding.

More highly skilled workers due to the nature of the work involved.

KEY INFO

Grant

FUND TYPE

\$0.080m

CONTRACTED

\$0.053m

CO-FUNDED

\$0.133m

TOTAL VALUE

4,600

HOURS WORKED

2.9

ANNUAL FTES

79%

LOCAL

17%

MĀORI

Sep 2024

START

Jun 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 and end dates are construction end dates (approximate).