



**Regional  
Infrastructure  
Fund (RIF)**  
**Northland**  
REGION  
**\$0.660m**  
CONTRACTED  
**2025**  
COMPLETED



**Kānoa**  
Regional Economic Development  
& Investment Unit

## Northland Regional Council – Quarry Road – Phases 1-2

This project added 15 metres to the Quarry Road bridge over the Pairatahi River allowing for earthworks underneath the bridge to support the wider Awanui River Flood Protection Scheme and reduce flood risks.

### Background

This work has contributed to flood protection efforts around the Awanui River that have been ongoing for over a century, initially focusing on preventing tidal flooding to enable land development near the Rangaunu harbour.

Over time, stopbanks and floodgates were extended upstream to protect more productive floodplain land, with significant upgrades following the major 1958 flood that impacted urban Kaitiāia.

The Quarry Road bridge was a flooding pinch point following a storm in August 2020. The additional water carrying capacity created by the Quarry Road projects (Phase 1 – the bridge extension and Phase 2 – the earthworks underneath) added to the significant

improvements the Awanui River Flood Protection Scheme already offers in reducing the risk of flooding to adjacent properties and the Awanui township.

### Performance

The project was completed by the end of July 2025, successfully delivering a 15-metre bridge extension and earthworks underneath to enable greater waterflow as intended

Despite interruptions due to weather and geotechnical complications, the project met its technical objectives. The wider bridge, and the Phase 2 earthworks underneath, are expected to significantly reduce flood risk and improve the hydraulic performance of the flood protection system. The full benefits will be known over time.



## Learnings

A key learning was the importance of building flexibility into project delivery - factoring in weather delays, thorough site investigations, community engagement, and realistic scheduling - to successfully manage the complexities of projects in flood-prone environments.

## Variations

The only significant variation was a cost increase – covered by the Council – after a refinement of the initial cost estimates.

## Benefits\*

The benefits include:

**Improved water flow and spillway capacity** due to the removal of a flooding pinch point or bottleneck. Rating: HIGH. Duration: 50 yrs.

**Flood risk reduction** due to the bridge extension and improved water flow. Rating: HIGH. Duration: 50 yrs.

**Prevented property damage and saved lives** due to lower flood risk. Rating: HIGH. Duration: 50 yrs.

**Improved resilience to climate change** due to greater capacity to handle higher water flows and extreme weather events. Rating: HIGH. Duration: 50 yrs.

## Benefits to outcomes\*\*

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

**Increased flood protection** due to the removal of a key hydraulic bottleneck, expanded water capacity, and improved flow through the flood system.

**More local jobs, especially for unemployed** due to it employing local contractors, suppliers and supporting services during construction.

**Reduced impacts of natural disaster** due to it preventing flood damage, protecting infrastructure, and improving community resilience during severe storms.

**More vital assets and services protected** due to it preventing flood damage to roads, homes, utilities, and emergency access routes.

**Strengthened local and Māori communities** due to it involving tangata whenua in decision-making and reducing flood-related economic disruption.

## KEY INFO

**Grant**

FUND TYPE

**\$0.660m**

CONTRACTED

**\$0.440m**

CO-FUNDED

**\$1.100m**

TOTAL VALUE

**860**

HOURS WORKED

**0.6**

ANNUAL FTES

**100%**

LOCAL

**50%**

MĀORI

**Sep 2024**

START

**Jul 2025**

END

TOTAL MONTHLY  
EMPLOYEES

8 8 8 8 8 8 8 8 8



\* 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).