

## CASE STUDY



## Regional Infrastructure Fund (RIF)

**Waikato**  
REGION

**\$3.060m**  
CONTRACTED

**2025**  
COMPLETED



## Waikato Regional Council – Kirikiri Stopbank Upgrade

This RIF project renewed Kirikiri Stream stopbanks to their design height, to provide 1-in-100-year flood protection in the Waihou Valley.

### Background

The Kirikiri Stream is a tributary of the Waihou River. The stream is bounded by stopbanks that were constructed from the 1970s to the 1990s.

The project includes upgrading 3.7km of stopbanks that run from the mouth of the Kirikiri Stream to the SH26 bridge south of Kopu (Thames Valley).

An investigation was carried out in 2019 to determine upgrade requirements. At that time, it was expected that the upgrade would take two construction seasons due to the quantity of materials needing to be moved and shaped.

### Performance

The stopbanks were successfully returned to their design height and provide strong protection against rare but severe floods due to high tides and heavy rainfall.

The project replaced access tracks, fencing, and drain culverts, realigned the stopbank with the Hauraki Rail Trail bridge approaches, and provided protection from erosion.

During construction, a large pile of hidden asbestos material was uncovered. This was placed aside and managed by specialists after earthworks completion.

The project was completed in only one construction season as the contractor was able to provide more resource.



## Learnings

Insufficient upfront design, investigation, and stakeholder engagement led to late changes, scope uncertainty, and delivery issues, reinforcing the need for early agreement, clear documentation, and thorough preparation before tendering and construction.

## Variations

Reduced time and cost due to contractor being able to complete work in one construction season instead of two. Environmental benefit from treatment and removal of asbestos uncovered.

## Benefits\*

The benefits include:

**Protection of surrounding houses from flooding** due to upgrading stopbanks to provide strong flood protection. Rating: HIGH. Duration: 20 yrs.

## Benefits to outcomes\*\*

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

**Increased flood protection** due to upgraded stopbanks.

**More local jobs, especially for unemployed** due to main contractor employing locals and Māori.

**Improved access to finance for locals and Māori** due to main contractor employing locals and Māori.

**Increased private investment in local economies** due to contracting local business that support local employment.

**Reduced impacts of natural disaster** due to upgraded stopbanks providing better protection from flooding.

**More vital assets and services protected** due to reduced risk for Hauraki Rail Trail users.

**Strengthened local and Māori communities** by engaging with local landowners and Māori to enable and support their ongoing land use once work was completed.

**Increased local productivity** by working with all local landowners affected by works to return land to the same or better condition, with new fencing, drainage and access.

**More highly skilled workers** by providing learning opportunities.

## KEY INFO

### Grant

FUND TYPE

**\$3.060m**

CONTRACTED

**\$2.040m**

CO-FUNDED

**\$5.100m**

TOTAL VALUE

**7,576**

HOURS WORKED

**4.9**

ANNUAL FTES

**59%**

LOCAL

**12%**

MĀORI

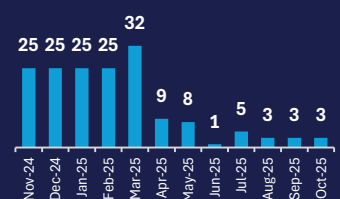
**Nov 2024**

START

**Oct 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).