Kānoa
Regional Economic Development
& Investment Unit

Regional Strategic Partnership Fund (RSPF)

RSPF Impacts Report

June 2026

About the Regional Strategic Partnership Fund

In May 2021, the New Zealand government announced the Regional Strategic Partnership Fund (RSPF), allocating $193.8 million to Kānoa – Regional Economic Development & Investment Unit to support regions to take steps towards achieving their economic potential.

The RSPF allocated funding in these streams:

1. Enabling regional economic and business development - $40.5 million
2. Accelerating Māori economic aspirations - $61.5 million
3. Supporting sector transformations - $51.7 million
4. Emerging priorities - $40.1 million

The RSPF was fully allocated as of 23 August 2023 and $143 million has so far been paid out in grants ($19m), loans ($115m) or equity ($9m). Kānoa continues to monitor and administer investments as they move through their life cycles.

About RSPF Impacts Reporting

To collect the data to monitor impacts, Kānoa has recipients complete RSPF Impacts Reports online every six months after they first receive funds, reporting on the impacts they experienced during the preceding six months as a result of RSPF funding.[1]

The questions on impacts are grouped by five areas that support RSPF outcomes. These areas are:

1. Innovation – 3 questions
2. Business capability (including Māori business identification) – 11 questions
3. Networks – 3 questions
4. Staff – 6 questions
5. Environment – 6 questions.

This paper reports on the results of the impact data monitoring. The analysis covers all responses received since reporting began in June 2023, up to the current reporting month.[2]

[1] RSPF Impacts Reporting is in addition to other reporting completed by recipients so that Kānoa can assess risks and monitor the progress of projects invested in.

[2] Impacts may occur at any time in the life cycle of an investment and only need to occur once to be counted.

Kānoa
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RSPF Impacts Reporting

Results to 30 June 2026

By impact area

RSPF Impacts Reporting

Results to 30 June 2026

Overall *RSPF funding has contributed to regions achieving their economic potential*

It has done this through the impacts funded organisations have had as a result of RSPF funding. These include impacts on:

Innovation

RSPF funding **increased product diversity** for 91% of firms reporting impacts, **R&D spending** for 65%, and the **adoption and introduction of new technology** for 71% - *all factors crucial to innovation that increases productivity*.

Business capability

RSPF funding **increased future planning** for 97% of organisations reporting impacts, **alignment with community values** for 97%, **productive capacity** for 91%, **capital spending** for 85%, and **access to non-RSPF funding** for 74%. *These factors strengthen social capital, physical capital, and access to financial capital, contributing to a stronger base for economic growth*.

Nearly all of the organisations also **employed more services from local businesses** as a result of RSPF funding, and **41% were Māori businesses**.

RSPF Impacts Reporting

Results to 30 June 2026

Overall *RSPF funding has contributed to regions achieving their economic potential*

Networks

RSPF funding **strengthened relationships** for 97% of organisations reporting impacts, **benefited other organisations indirectly** for 97% and resulted in **more skilled workers in the region** for 82% *suggesting spillover benefits to the wider region that result in a multiplier effect, increasing the total economic benefits.*

Staff

RSPF funding **increased staff motivation** for 85% of organisations reporting impacts, **supported the local community** for 82%, **upskilled staff** for 82%, and **increased staff wellbeing** for 65%, *which all have benefits for greater wellbeing in the community and increased productive potential*.

Environment

RSPF funding helped organisations reporting impacts to **reduce greenhouse gas emissions** for 65%, **improve water efficiency** for 50%, **protect biodiversity** for 41%, and **reduce waste** for 38%. *These practices help achieve environmental sustainability for sustainable regional economic growth*.

RSPF Impacts Reporting

Results to 30 June 2026

Number of responses

34

organisations have completed at least one RSPF Impacts Report

39

organisations have received funding and are eligible for RSPF impacts reporting [1]

2

organisations are contracted but are not yet eligible for RSPF impacts reporting [1]

[1] Organisations begin RSPF impacts reporting six months after they have received their first payment.

RSPF Impacts Reporting

Results to 30 June 2026

Innovation *as a result of RSPF funding*

of the 34 reporting organisations

31 (91%)

increased their product diversity. 26 (76%) increased it substantially.

22 (65%)

increased their spending on research or development. 7 (21%) increased it substantially.

24 (71%)

adopted or developed new technology. Automation/Mechanisation was the most common technology.

RSPF Impacts Reporting

Results to 30 June 2026

Business capability 1:2 *as a result of RSPF funding*

33 (97%)

undertook future planning.

33 (97%)

increased their alignment with community values. 23 (68%) increased it substantially.

31 (91%)

expanded their capacity to produce more. 20 (59%) increased it substantially.

29 (85%)

increased their capital spending. 20 (59%) increased it substantially.

25 (74%)

found it easier to access funding from other, non-RSPF sources. 10 (29%) found it substantially easier.

17 (50%)

increased their profit margins. 5 (15%) increased them substantially, but 4 (12%) saw them decrease.

2.62 million

square metres of land was brought into sustainable production.

RSPF Impacts Reporting

Results to 30 June 2026

Business capability 2:2 *as a result of RSPF funding*

33 (97%)

employed more of the services of local businesses.

20 (59%)

employed more services from Māori businesses.

14 (41%)

identified as a Māori business *and* had owners who whakapapa to Māori.[1]

[1] According to StatsNZ's definition, an organisation must identify as a Māori business, and have owners that whakapapa to Māori, to be classed officially as a Māori business.

RSPF Impacts Reporting

Results to 30 June 2026

Networks *as a result of RSPF funding*

33 (97%)

strengthened relationships with other public, private or community organisations. 21 (62%) strengthened them substantially.

33 (97%)

benefited other organisations indirectly (other than in direct commercial transactions).

28 (82%)

reported more skilled workers in their region.

RSPF Impacts Reporting

Results to 30 June 2026

Results by impact area

Staff *as a result of RSPF funding*

29 (85%)

increased staff motivation. 19 (56%) increased it substantially.

28 (82%)

increased their support for the local community. 14 (41%) increased it substantially.

28 (82%)

trained or upskilled staff. 9 (26%) trained or upskilled all their staff.

22 (65%)

increased staff wellbeing. 8 (24%) increased it substantially.

938 workers

were employed. 751 (80%) were full-time; 187 (20%) were part-time. [1]

83% local

workers were employed.

[1] Sum of workers over the whole period of reporting (i.e. all months)

RSPF Impacts Reporting

Results to 30 June 2026

Environment *as a result of RSPF funding*

22 (65%)

took steps to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. Reduced waste and planted trees were the most common steps.

17 (50%)

improved their water efficiency. Mainly by encouraging water conservation, measuring water use, and recycling wastewater.

14 (41%)

took steps to protect or enhance biodiversity. Primarily by planting native plants and eliminating invasive plants and animal species.

13 (38%)

reduced waste. Mostly by composting, recycling or reusing.

24 (71%)

developed or started to implement a climate change mitigation-adaptation plan.

33 (97%)

faced challenges in developing a climate change mitigation-adaptation plan. The most common challenge was the time needed, followed by the expense.

Kānoa
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RSPF Impacts Reporting

Results to 30 June 2026

By Question & Answer Type

RSPF Impacts Reporting

Results to 30 June 2026

Results by Q&A type

34

organisations have completed at least one RSPF Impacts Report

39

organisations have received funding and are eligible for reporting [1]

Number of organisations that answered YES to the following questions

Area	Has funding resulted in your organisation…	Yes
8.Future planning	Taking additional steps to plan for the future?	33
11.Local businesses	Employing more of the services of local businesses?	33
17.Spillovers	Indirectly benefiting other organisations?	33
16.More skilled jobs	Increasing skilled workers in your region?	28
28.Climate plan	Implementing a climate change mitigation / adaptation plan?	24
12.Māori businesses	Employing more of the services of Māori businesses?	20

Area	Does your organisation…	Yes
14.Māori business	Have owners who whakapapa to Māori?	21
13.Māori business	Identify as a Māori business?	14

[1] Organisations report impacts six months after they have received their first payment.

RSPF Impacts Reporting

Results to 30 June 2026

Results by Q&A type

Number of organisations that answered 'Increased Substantially' or 'Increased Slightly' to the following questions

Area	To what extent has funding enabled your organisation to…	Increased slightly or substantially
10.Values	Align more with your/your community's values?	33
15.Relationship building	Strengthen relationships with other organisations?	33
1.Product diversity	Diversify and/or market new products or services?	31
7.Expansion	Expand capacity to produce more?	31
5.Capital spending	Change spending on capital?	29
18.Motivation	Increase staff motivation?	29
22.Community	Increase support for the local community?	28
6.Capital raising	Access funding from other sources?	25
21.Wellbeing	Increase support for staff wellbeing?	22
3.Research and development	Spend on research and development?	22
4.Profit margin	Change gross profit margins?	17

RSPF Impacts Reporting

Results to 30 June 2026

Results by Q&A type

Number of organisations that answered affirmatively to the following questions

Area	Has your organisation…	No. answered
29.Climate transition	Faced challenges developing a climate change plan?	33
2.Adoption of technology	Adopted or developed new technology?	24
24.Emissions	Taken steps to reduce emissions?	22
27.Water efficiency	Used water more efficiently?	17
26.Biodiversity	Protected or enhanced local ecosystem and biodiversity?	14
25.Waste	Reduced waste?	13

RSPF Impacts Reporting

Results to 30 June 2026

Results by Q&A type

As a result of RSPF funding...

Jobs

938

workers have been employed

80% full-time **20%** part-time

83%

of workers were locals

Land use

2.62M

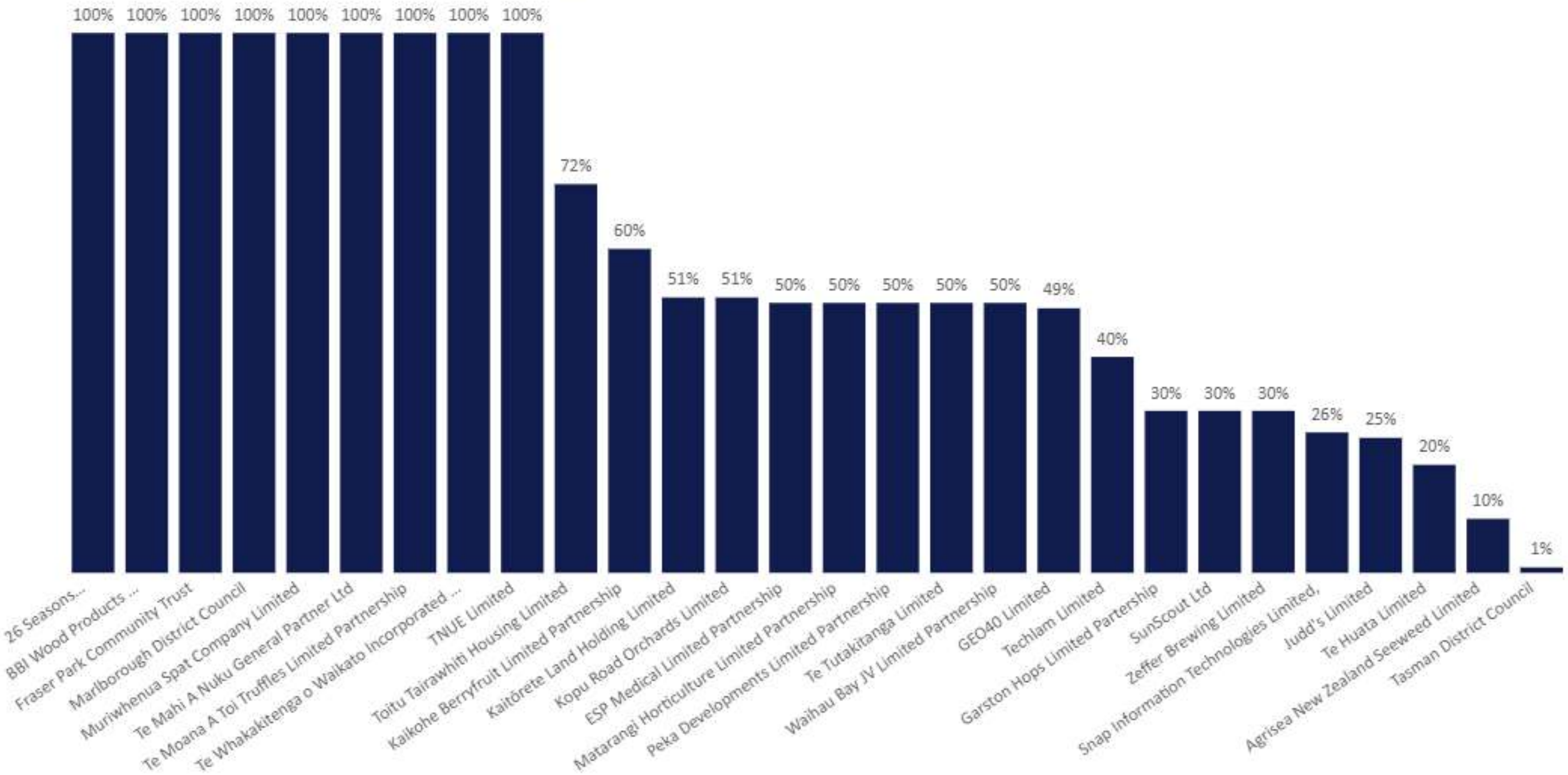
square metres of land has been brought into sustainable production

RSPF Impacts Reporting

Results to 30 June 2026

Results by Q&A type

Maximum percent of staff trained or upskilled by funding recipient



28

organisations have trained or upskilled staff as a result of RSPF funding

9

Organisations trained or upskilled all their staff