



# Shovel Ready

## Firth of Thames foreshore east and west stopbanks



**Funded:** \$1.92m by MBIE's Kānoa – Regional Economic Development & Investment Unit

**Total project cost:** \$3m

**Project duration:** 3 years

**Jobs expected over project life:** 27

Waikato Regional Council received \$29 million for multiple environmental restoration, biosecurity and climate resilience projects from the Government as part of the economic response to COVID-19.

This project, which is one of them, will see the upgrade of the Firth of Thames foreshore east and west stopbanks to design height and allow for more cost-effective upgrades in the future. The material for the upgrade works – in excess of 150,000 cubic metres – will mainly come from foreshore silt traps, thereby helping to improve water quality and removing lengthy transportation of soil.

These stopbanks, constructed in 1961, provide coastal and flood protection to the pastoral land between the Waihou, Piako and Waitakaruru rivers. The work is critical to prevent coastal inundation of the Hauraki Plains. The area protected by these stopbanks is far reaching, including to Te Aroha on the Waihou River and almost to Morrinsville on the Piako River. This includes all highways, roads, schools, public and private land.

### Benefits

- Maintaining land productivity.
- Resilience in the food production sector and employment.
- Resilience of communities – towns of Ngātea, Kerepehi, Paeroa and Te Aroha are below mean tide level.
- Resilience in travel across the Hauraki Plains to the Coromandel Peninsula, Tauranga and Hamilton, with the state highway being a vital link for tourism, emergency services and the economic sector.
- An extended stopbank footprint (to support an increase in stopbank height) which takes into account the impacts of current climate change predictions.
- Reduced impacts to the Hauraki Rail Trail.

For more information and an update on these projects, see [waikatoregion.govt.nz/shovel-ready](http://waikatoregion.govt.nz/shovel-ready).

Or contact Emily O'Donnell (Piako Green Corridor) or Karen Botting (all flood protection projects), ph 0800 800 401.

### What does this mean for me as a ratepayer?

The upgrade to the stopbank is a planned regular renewal. The Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment (MBIE) funding helps reduce our capital works reserve debt as this work would normally have been fully paid for by the ratepayer. This work is critical for protection from extreme flooding due to coastal inundation.

### What does this mean for my land licence?

The work area, on the Firth side of the existing stopbanks, is no longer used for grazing of animals, therefore it will have no impact on land licence agreements.

### Is there a risk to the Piako River scheme?

No, the upgrade is part of regular renewal work to ensure the scheme continues to meet its required levels of service.

### How is the council procuring services and materials?

We are following our procurement policy to ensure procurement of services and materials meets local government's requirements for the use of public money. A requirement of the central government funding is a greater emphasis on procuring services that include local persons, local businesses, Māori/Pasifika, women and youth. To date we have procured the services of a number of specialists.

### Who is the council engaging with on this project?

We are engaging with stakeholders Hauraki District Council, the Department of Conservation, local iwi, local landowners, Pūkoro Mirinda Shorebird Centre and Fish & Game.



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For more information call Waikato Regional Council on 0800 800 401 or visit [waikatoregion.govt.nz](http://waikatoregion.govt.nz).

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