

Despite high average annual rainfall across Northland, a lack of storage means much of this water can't be retained for use at times of shortage.

Te Tai Tokerau Water Trust, with support from the PGF, plans to help solve this problem in two specific areas in the Kaipara and the Mid North by creating reservoir, water delivery and allocation systems that allow landowners to plan and implement future land use change with greater confidence and which lifts the prosperity of local communities. This will create employment opportunities and benefit the local economy, as well as address disparities in Māori access to water for land development.



Here's what we've got in mind for the Mid North

Volume of Storage	8 million m ³
Number of Storage Sites	3 or 4
Total Length of Pipe	45 – 55 km
Approx total new irrigable land	3000 ha
Add resilience to town water supplies	Yes

How will it work?

Three or four small-scale reservoirs will be created in the Mid North. These will fill from surface water that is retained during times of high overland water flow. A network of pipes will deliver sustainably allocated water throughout the community when required to supplement water availability. Landowners who wish to access water will need to buy shares in the scheme however, we're not sure what this cost will be just yet.

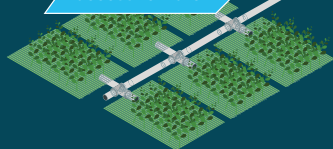
1. Reservoirs are filled during high flows



2. Pipes and pumps deliver the water under pressure



3. Landowners buy access to water



Who will benefit?

Landowners with access to the water scheme will obviously benefit but so too will the wider community through increased employment opportunities and economic activity, amongst other benefits. That's the whole point of the project. Development of the scheme in the Mid North is expected to potentially lift the area's GDP by \$67 million per year and employment by 12%. We also want to make it easier for Māori to gain access to water for land development.



How were the locations chosen?

Previous studies analysed the entire province of Tai Tokerau before determining the best places to develop the schemes were in the Kaipara and Mid North.

The two locations were ultimately chosen because of:

1. Suitable Horticultural Soils.
2. Demand and opportunity due to climatic conditions.
3. Significant potential for economic growth in local communities.



Who's running the show?

Te Tai Tokerau Water Trust are responsible for turning this good idea into reality. The Trust is made up entirely of Northlanders including senior former political and business leaders. The PGF has funded the scheme to the tune of \$67.5 m for initial capital costs. It is likely the Trust will transition into a private company once the system is established.

Timeline

A project like this has been a long time coming for Northland and we're determined to get on with it as quickly as we can. Construction of the first reservoir called Matawii, near Kaikohe, should begin before the end of 2020. Another here in the Mid North is planned to start in early 2021. Water could be available for use as early as summer 2022, if not earlier. Development of the full scheme is likely to be over a longer period in response to demand.

Construction



2021



Matawii
Kaikohe

Mid North

Available for use



2023



Matawii
Kaikohe

Mid North



Further development
based on demand