



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.



How will it work?

Small-scale reservoirs will be created within both regions. 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%. In the Kaipara, GDP could potentially rise by \$83 million per year and create a 5% lift in employment. 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. Two others, one each in the Mid North and Kaipara, are 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.

