

Te Maru o Kaituna River Authority

Annual Activity Report for the 2024/25 year



Te Maru
o Kaituna

INTRODUCTION

[Te Maru o Kaituna River Authority](#) (TMoK) was established in 2014 as a co-governance entity in accordance with its enabling legislation, the Tapuika Claims Settlement Act 2014 (the Act). The Authority is made up of members drawn from both local government and Te Arawa iwi organisations, as defined in s118 of the Act.

Schedule 5 Clause 10 of the Act states that TMoK: "...must report to the appointing organisations after the end of each financial year." The report must:

- (a) describe the activities of the Authority for the financial year it covers; and
- (b) explain how the activities relate to the Authority's purpose and functions.

This report is intended to fulfil those requirements in a brief and functional manner for the 1 July 2021 to 30 June 2022 period, building on the mahi outlined in last years Annual Activity Report. The Act requires appointing organisations with TMoK membership to review the performance of the Authority not later than one year after the Kaituna River Document is approved for the first time. Appointing organisations may make recommendations to the Authority. Schedule 5 Clause 11 of the Act specifies the scope of such reviews.

[Kaituna, he taonga tuku iho](#) – a treasure handed down (the Kaituna River Document) was approved 22 June 2018 and came into effect on 1 August 2018. [Te Tini o Tung](#) (the Kaituna Action Plan) was approved in September 2019.

PURPOSE AND FUNCTIONS

TMoK's purpose, as defined in s115 of the Act, is:

- (1) *The purpose of the Authority is the restoration, protection, and enhancement of the environmental, cultural, and spiritual health and well-being of the Kaituna River.*
- (2) *In seeking to achieve its purpose, the Authority may have regard to the social and economic well-being of people and communities.*

TMoK's functions, as defined in s116 of the Act, are:

- (1) *The principal function of the Authority is to achieve its purpose.*
- (2) *In seeking to achieve its purpose, the other functions of the Authority are—*
 - (a) *to prepare and approve the Kaituna River document in accordance with sections 125 and 127;*
 - (b) *to monitor the implementation and effectiveness of the Kaituna River document;*
 - (c) *to support the integrated and collaborative management of the river;*
 - (d) *to work with the local authorities and Crown agencies that exercise functions in relation to the Kaituna River—*
 - (i) *to monitor the state of the river environment;*
 - (ii) *to monitor the effectiveness of the management of the river;*
 - (iii) *to engage with iwi in relation to their interests in the river and to consult them on how to manage the river;*



- (e) to provide advice and recommendations to local authorities—
 - (i) relating to projects, action, or research designed to restore, protect, or enhance the health and well-being of the river;
 - (ii) on the appointment of commissioners to hear and decide applications for resource consents under the Resource Management Act 1991 that affect the river;
 - (f) to facilitate the participation of iwi in the management of the river;
 - (g) to monitor the extent to which the purpose of the Authority is being achieved, including the implementation and effectiveness of the Kaituna River document;
 - (h) to gather information, to disseminate information, and to hold meetings;
 - (i) to take any other action that the Authority considers is appropriate to achieve its purpose.
- (3) The Authority may seek to obtain funds to enable it to perform its functions.
- (4) To avoid doubt, except as provided for in subsection (2)(a), the Authority has discretion to determine in any particular circumstances—
- (a) whether to perform any function specified in subsection (2); and
 - (b) how, and to what extent, any function specified in subsection (2) is performed.

KEY HIGHLIGHTS

This report outlines key activities fulfilled by Te Maru o Kaituna River Authority during the period 1 July 2024 to 30 June 2025.

- Te Maru o Kaituna hui held on 16 August 2024, 15 November 2024 and 14 March 2025. The meeting scheduled for 30 May 2025 was cancelled. The [agendas and minutes of the meetings are available here](#).
- At the 16 August 2024 Hui it was confirmed the appointments of Jo'el Komene as the Primary member for Tapuika Iwi Authority and Dean Flavell as the Alternate member; Cr Steve Morris as the Primary member for Tauranga City Council and Cr Mikaere Sydney as the Alternate member, noting that during Cr Sydney's leave of absence, Cr Rick Curach will be the Alternate member.
- Jo'el Komene was appointed Chairperson of the Authority for a term of three years.
- Te Maru o Kaituna Annual Report 2023/2024 approved and released to TMOk appointing organisations for feedback (July 2024).
- Adopted TMOk's 2024/25 budget.
- **Amendments to Standing Orders: Virtual Attendance at Meetings** – Resolved that Te Maru o Kaituna River Authority:

2 [e] Amend 2.3.1: Chairperson of Authority to preside - "The chairperson of the Authority must preside at each meeting of the committee in person, unless the chairperson vacates the chair for a particular meeting . . ."

- Te Niao o Kaituna - building waka tete (river canoes) - The waka would be launched on the Kaituna River on 30 August 2024, at 10.00am at the boat ramp on the cut. All were invited.
- At the 15 November 2024 Hui there was a presentation regarding the **Taheke BC - Proposed hydro project** - Taheke BC had a working plan to develop their land as a green energy hub. Resource consent for a 38-megawatt geothermal plant had been granted last week. The Authority applauded the project while acknowledging that what was most important was the protection of the Kaituna and the implications of this project for the Kaituna and would like to be

kept updated with progress to monitor whether there were impacts for the awa and how those could be addressed.

- **At the 14 March 2025 Hui - Tapuika Iwi Authority - Taheke 8C Hydro Proposal – Tapuika Iwi Authority**
Members tabled the document, Position Statement of Iwi Members of Te Maru o Kaituna River Authority regarding the Taheke 8C Kaituna River hydro project. Highlighted the importance of engagement and consultation with the communities connected to the Kaituna River, noting that engagement was about providing an opportunity to carefully consider and balance the expected benefits and risks, were formally received via resolution as part of item 8.1 of the minutes.
- **Taheke 8C: Proposed Hydro Project – Consultation – Charles Harley and Paula Golsby**
The purpose of the report was for Te Maru o Kaituna River Authority to identify how they would like to be consulted with regarding the proposed Taheke 8C hydro project. Noted that Te Maru o Kaituna River Authority had the means to support TIA's request with advice to enable them to constructively engage in consultation on the Taheke 8C project. Recommendation was also made and accepted by the Authority to engage a suitably qualified and experienced consultant to assist with researching and providing advice for Fast Track Resource Consents that may impact upon the Kaituna Awa. Elva Conroy of Conroy & Donald Consultants Limited have been engaged.
- Received and considered papers/presentations on:
 - Tauranga Geothermal System Management Plan
 - Te Maru o Kaituna River Authority Biannual Reports about mahi being undertaken in the Kaituna catchment to implement Te Tini a Tuna (these reports are all available [here](#)).
 - Kaituna Catchment Flood Hazard Analysis
 - Fast track consenting legislation update
 - Kaituna Re-diversion Annual Report
 - Freshwater Policy Update
 - Updates from partners relevant to the Kaituna
- Received presentations from Kaituna kaitiaki including:
 - Taheke 8C - Proposed hydro project
 - Te Niao o Kaituna - building waka tete (river canoes)

THE FOCUS FOR 2025/26

- Progressing implementation of Te Tini a Tuna – the Kaituna Action Plan 2019 - 2029.
- Actively progressing TMOk led Kaituna Action Plan projects:
 - Project 3. Consented takes and discharges project (co-led with councils) – including fast track consents
 - Project 9. Pataka kai project
 - Project 10. Kaituna community connection project – 10D At least one annual community event and 10E Progressing holding the TMOk River Symposium due to occur in 2026
 - Project 13. Kaituna Cultural and Historical Heritage project
- Work with the Kaituna Catchment Control Scheme Advisory Group and Regional Council staff to maximise the alignment between the scheme's asset management / operations and TMOk's objectives, desired outcomes and projects.

- Monitoring and participating in any plan changes or resource consent processes that relate to TMOK's purpose.
- Work with member Councils to ensure continued resourcing of projects in Te Tini a Tuna through Council's Long Term Planning processes.
- Ensure the induction of new council members (Councillor's) to the Te Maru o Kaituna River Authority.
- Work with iwi to ensure engagement and where possible alignment of available resources with Te Tini a Tuna.

FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE

As part of its establishment, TMOK was provided a putea of \$250,000 by the Crown to fulfil its purpose and functions, particularly the preparation and approval of the Kaituna River Document.

Schedule 5 Clause 9(3) of the Act states that the Bay of Plenty Regional Council must, on behalf of the Authority, — (a) hold any funds belonging to the Authority; and (b) account for the funds in a separate and identifiable manner; and (c) spend the funds in accordance with any direction given by the Authority.

A summary of financial transactions for the period 1 July 2024 to 30 June 2025 is included below.

Statement of Financial Position for the period 1 July 2024 to 30 June 2025

	Amounts (\$) excl GST	
Opening Balance - 1 July 2024		195,561.34*
Expenses:		
Meeting catering - Chair: \$ 51.17		
Conroy & Donald Consulting: \$2,250.00		
Total Expenses:	-2,301.17	
Income:		
Interest received: \$9,830.89		
Total income:		9,830.89
Closing Balance - 30 June 2025		203,091.06

*Note that the 2022/23 Annual Report showed the Authority's closing balance as \$193,454.32, based on an estimate of the interest earned in the latter part of that period. The actual interest earned was higher, hence the higher opening balance in this year's report.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Te Maru o Kaituna River Authority is grateful to its member organisations for resourcing and support to achieve its vision, objectives, desired outcomes and projects as specified in He Taonga Tuku Iho (the Kaituna River Document) and Te Tini a Tuna (Kaituna River Action Plan). All members have contributed time and many have dedicated financial resources to the kaupapa. Bay of Plenty Regional Council covered the administrative costs for the three meetings held. These contributions have meant that the Authority still has 81% of the \$250,000 granted by central government in 2014 through the Tapuika Claims Settlement Act.

Jo'el Komene
Te Maru o Kaituna River Authority Chairman
On behalf of Te Maru o Kaituna River Authority

