

## What are we doing?

The project will remove and safely store up to 40,000m<sup>3</sup> of sediment from the canal into containment sites. This sediment contains dioxins, a contaminant that is a result of historic discharges from an old sawmill site that was situated where The Hub is located.

These contaminants pose a risk to human health through repeated exposure over a long period of time. The sediment also needs to be removed to allow for flood management.

Resource consents have been granted for this Project and there are a significant number of control measures and monitoring to keep the public safe.

The contractor carrying out the physical works is EnviroWaste Services Ltd and they will have a number of sub-contractors working with them, including local subcontractors.

We are using a cutter suction dredge to remove the sediment which is pumped through pipes to geobags in the containment sites. This technology has been used for many years in New Zealand. It was also successfully trialled on the site in 2015.

Once the bags are filled and most of the water removed, scientists will start the process of bioremediation (the enhancement of the natural process of breaking down dioxins using a combination of fungi, bacteria and plants).

### Timeframes

Activity	2016	2017	2018
Pre-works preparation			
Plan - enabling works			
Containment Site construction			
Dredging & validation			
Project closure			

## Find out more

[www.boprc.govt.nz/kopeopeo](http://www.boprc.govt.nz/kopeopeo)

- Project history and background
- Key documents and conditions
- Latest news and information
- Detailed test results and progress
- Sign up to the newsletter
- Compliments and complaints register

The Community Liaison Group meets monthly and meetings are open to the public. Meetings dates are published in the newspaper and are on the website.

You can email [kopeopeo@boprc.govt.nz](mailto:kopeopeo@boprc.govt.nz) or call the Project Manager, Brendon Love on 029 633 9577



# About the Kopeopeo Canal Remediation Project

*"To safely remove and treat a legacy of industrial dioxin pollution, thereby restoring the mauri of the Kopeopeo Canal and the Whakatāne River and developing their full potential to contribute to the well-being of tangata whenua, the community and visitors for generations to come."*



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# Kopeopeo Canal Remediation Project

- Consented containment sites
- Section of canal being remediated



The contamination is a legacy issue that is associated with discharges from a former sawmill.

## Key facts and figures

- Project length 5.1km
- Up to 40,000 m<sup>3</sup> of sediment
- \$15.5 million project co-funded between the Ministry for the Environment and Bay of Plenty Regional Council.

We are moving west to east down the Canal starting dredging mid 2017

## Community awareness

Sawmill Workers Against Poisons (SWAP), led by the late Joe Harawira, have been instrumental in raising awareness of the Kopeopeo Canal contamination and other sites around the Whakatāne district.



## Methodology

A cutter suction dredge will move the sediment through pipes directly from the Canal into the Containment Cells. This process was successful in a trial open to the public in 2015.

## Containment sites

Three containment sites are consented (CS1, CS2 and CS3). Containment cells ensure that the sediment stays fully contained on the sites. Sediment is stored in geobags inside cells protected with HDPE liner. There will also be security and visual screening.

