

SECURING WATER SOVEREIGNTY:

A JOURNEY TO SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT AND SELF-SUFFICIENCY

ARAMIRO AHU WHENUA TRUST CASE STUDY

“THE TRUST CONSIDERS THE TANK AS PROVIDING WATER SOVEREIGNTY AND LETS US BE IN CHARGE OF EVERYTHING WE DO. WITHOUT WATER OUR OPPORTUNITIES ARE LIMITED.”

The Aramiro Ahu Whenua Trust in Waitetuna, run by General Manager Brett Te Whare, started a plan five years ago to take their land, which has 1,700 shareholders, from underperforming to thriving. The plan included beginning to harvest a plantation of pine trees, planting more than 70,000 natives and fencing waterways on the sheep and beef farm.

As part of their plan they are also considering a native plant nursery and other ventures that will secure a sustainable future for the property, alongside farming and forestry. The Trust provides primary industry training for local tamariki with the vision that they will work on the block in future years.

A key factor in achieving a sustainable and self-sufficient future for Aramiro Ahu Whenua Trust was water security.

The property has a bore that currently supplies water to the farm and feeds a small settlement

of homes and the neighbouring marae but a feasibility study identified this was a limited resource that restricted future growth on the property.

With plans to build the nursery and allow for future increases in the size of the local community, the Trust needed a reliable source of water storage that would serve their present requirements and provide protection and resilience in years to come.

Brett had spoken to local farmers in the region who suggested Tauranga business, KlipTank, could provide the water storage solution he needed.

He applied for an infrastructure grant for the supply and installation of a 1,000m³ roofed KlipTank. The tank is filled with rainwater from the existing farm buildings and the 400m² roof area of the tank itself is used for rain harvesting too.

“We’ve got a 1,000 cubic metre capacity tank with a roof on top. We had some adjacent buildings that the water was just running off. A woolshed, an implement shed and a shearers’ quarters and none of them had good roofs or guttering. So part of the funding allowed us to re-roof one of the buildings and put gutters on them, and we piped them all to the tank.”

Brett said working with KlipTank had been a very positive experience. “Their communication is awesome. We got an independent contractor to do the site prep and there was good communication with them about what KlipTank’s needs were.”

“Right through from the sales team to the construction team to the service afterwards, we were very happy with KlipTank. There’s a couple of things that we had challenges with during construction, but they were really well-communicated and quickly resolved. I deal with a lot of contractors through the work we’re doing, and KlipTank’s right at the top of our list in terms of providers and suppliers.”

The Trust considers the tank as providing water sovereignty. “We’re in charge of everything we do, if we have our own strategy and a plan to make it

happen. The water is the key component, without water our industry doesn’t survive. We just had to have a storage option that fitted our future needs.”

“The whole idea of water storage (probably partly because of the three waters discussion) has become more on the radar for people. They’re starting to think about not just relying on bores etc., and about how they can make sure that they’re looking after themselves. In the past water’s been viewed as an unlimited resource, it’s not unlimited.”

The Trust is also looking at options for recycling the water from the tank. “You’ve got to have more than one bite of water, otherwise it’s a waste in our view.”

Brett hopes in future to see water storage, as a requirement to issuing a building consent on a new home, rather than just plumbing into the town supply.

Impressed with the process and final result after working with KlipTank, Brett is planning on ordering another KlipTank to store water for hydro power.

The new 1,000m³ Trussed Roof KlipTank now provides water sovereignty for Aromiro Ahu Whenua Trust.



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