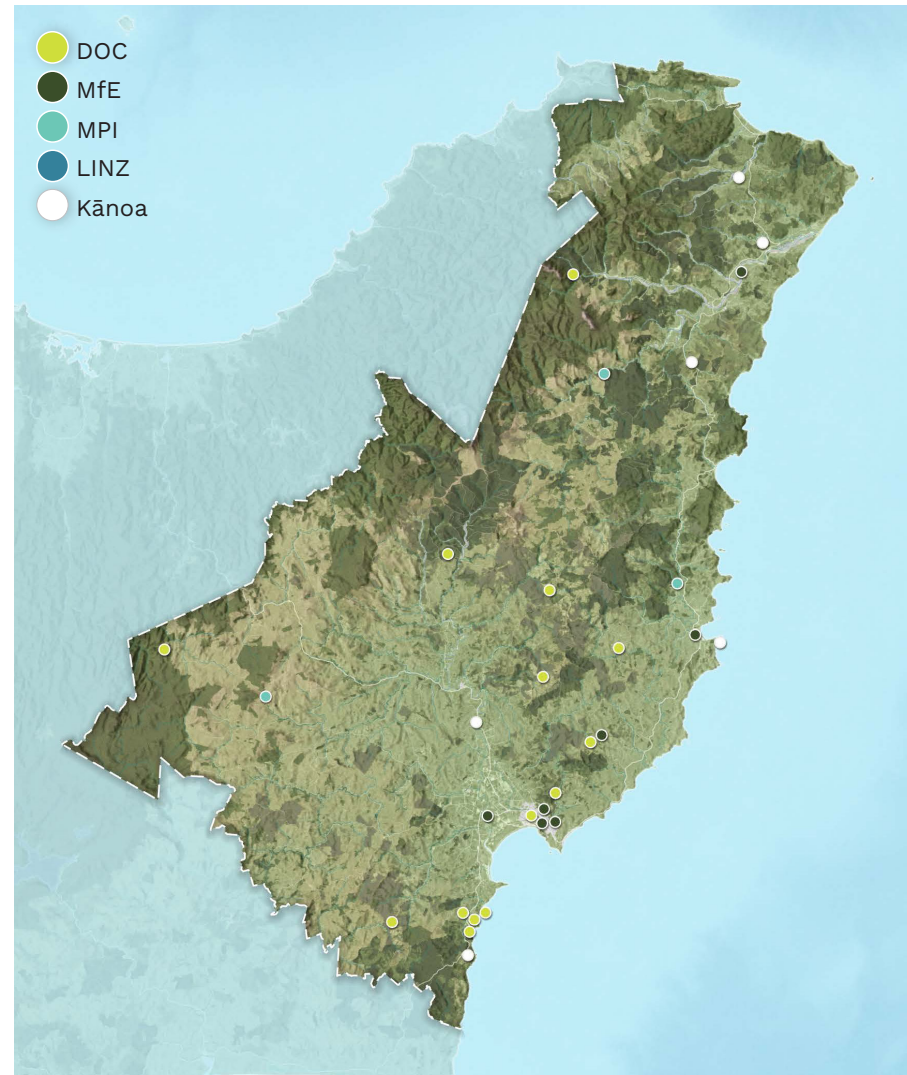


Purpose: To show the Jobs for Nature investment to date in the Gisborne region and the significance of funding in context of the economic and environmental challenges to the region.



Map sourced from Land Information New Zealand 2023

Significance of Jobs for Nature (J4N) funding to the Gisborne region during the COVID-19 pandemic

Economic and employment impacts¹: Early estimates expected the Gisborne economy to contract by 5.9% over the year to March 2021, compared to an 8.0% contraction in the national economy. Sectors most affected were tourism and sectors related to household-spending, with large declines in economic output expected in transport, postal and warehousing, retail and wholesale trade, and accommodation and food services.

The forestry sector contributes 6.7% to the regional GDP and employs nearly 7,500 workers and saw lower activity due to a global slowdown.²

By March 2020, approximately 1,700 jobs were expected to be lost in Gisborne with unemployment expected to rise to 9.3%. Low-skilled workers were anticipating to bear the brunt of the job losses, with over 800 low-skilled workers expected to lose employment.

Environmental challenges facing the region

Climate change: Impacts are being felt including warmer temperatures and changing weather patterns. This has led to more frequent and severe natural events such as floods and landslides.³ The region's infrastructure is vulnerable to the impacts of climate change and extreme weather. For example, coastal erosion is threatening road links between Gisborne city and towns further north.⁴

Cyclone Gabrielle had a devastating impact. It caused widespread damage to roads, infrastructure, homes, and businesses across the region, leading to a National State of Emergency being declared.⁵ The economic cost is estimated to be up to \$14.5 billion⁶, with the cost of restoration and boosting resilience to deal with similar events in the future being estimated at over \$1 billion.⁷

J4N projects have created a workforce who can support the infrastructure rebuild projects. The skills acquired through J4N on-the-job training can be transferred to other sectors, such as cyclone recovery, supporting infrastructure rebuild projects.⁸

Water security: Gisborne's freshwater supply faces challenges including climate change, scarcity, and wastage. Without intervention, both the quality and quantity of water bodies subject to intensive demand, will face further decline.⁹

Forestry practices and environmental degradation: Forestry practices in the region have led to significant environmental damage, including waterways choked with debris, aggraded riverbeds, and suffocated coastlines. This has also resulted in roads and bridges becoming unfit, unpassable, and many broken.¹⁰

How is J4N investment addressing environmental challenges facing the region while creating employment opportunities? Data as at 30 September 2023

Funding	\$45.3 million across 32 projects
Employment opportunities	535
Hours worked	499,240

The projects are collectively delivering a wide range of environmental and social benefits. These include:

Employment opportunities and improved skills and capabilities

Including the recruitment, training, and placement of unemployed or underemployed people into full-time jobs in ecological restoration, and the provision of project and business support to whānau hapū-based entities.

Ecological restoration and biodiversity protection

Investments are helping to restore and protect the region's natural ecosystems. This includes the transformation of a clear fell pine plantation back to indigenous forest in Waingake, the regeneration of ecosystems in Te Wherowhero wetland, Te Kuri a Pāoa headland, and Te Kōpua Farm, and the protection of six waahi tapu sites from predators and weed species invasion.

Freshwater restoration

Including protection and enhancement of the biodiversity value of wetland areas, the exploration of nature-based solutions to support flood resilience in the Waimatā awa and its floodplain, and the fencing and indigenous riparian plantings on eroding farmland along the Waimatā River and its tributaries. The projects also aim to improve connections with catchment groups and support regulatory implementation.

Historical and cultural heritage outcomes

Including the protection of cultural heritage through the planting, fencing, and signage of historic sites, and the support of kaitiakitanga responsibilities for the three Tūranga iwi.

Recreation enhancement

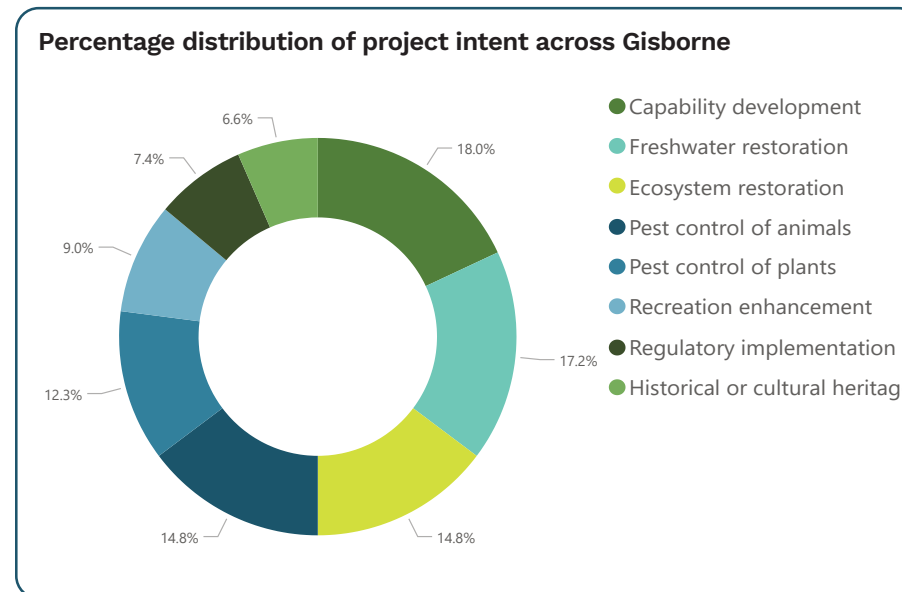
Including the creation of an ecological corridor stretching from Titirangi Maunga through to Tatapouri, and the establishment of designated walking trails and signage.

Overview of labour market participation in the Gisborne region

Labour market	
Working age population ¹¹	41,400 (2021)
Labour force participation rate	63.0%
Employment rate ¹²	60.7%
Median annual household income ¹³	\$96,600 (2023)
Unemployment rate ¹⁴	4.8% (2023) NEET: 16.0% (2023)

Māori	
Population ¹⁵	53.5% (2023)
Employment rate ¹⁶	62.8% (2023 includes Hawkes Bay)
Participation ¹⁷	67.6% (2023 includes Hawkes Bay)
Unemployment rate ¹⁸	8.0% (2023 includes Hawkes Bay)

Pasifika	
Population	4.6% ¹⁹ (2023)
Working age	Suppressed* (2023)
Participation	Suppressed* (2020)
Unemployment rate	Suppressed* (2020)



Source [Q1 Data as at 30 September 2023]

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INFO 1226

Jobs for Nature: Regional Profile Gisborne

Published in March 2024 by the Ministry for the Environment on behalf of the Jobs for Nature Secretariat.