

**MEDIA RELEASE 16 NOVEMBER 2022**

## **Aerial survey of Aupōuri aquifer completed**

The aerial electromagnetic (AEM) surveying of the Aupōuri aquifer has been completed and data analysis is now underway.

Over the past five weeks a helicopter carrying a loop system has flown about six and a half thousand kilometres back and forth across the survey area, gathering data on what's under the ground.

The final flight was made yesterday (Tuesday 15 November).

GNS scientists are now undertaking detailed analysis and interpretation of the raw data, to provide information in a useful format for councils, mana whenua and the community.

Aqua Intel Aotearoa Programme Director Jane Frances says initial indications are that the latest equipment being used by contractors SkyTEM is delivering high quality data, although detailed analysis and reporting will take time.

“The Te Hiku Water Study project team, representing iwi, the community, landowners and councils, recognises the importance of having reliable scientific information to base decisions on, and that's what this project will provide.”

“The analysis will take time and we will keep the community informed about progress.”

“On behalf of the Project Team, I want to thank our contractors SkyTEM and HeliA1 for their work on this project. They've overcome some weather disruptions and equipment challenges to deliver for us.”

SkyTEM and HeliA1 are due to begin aerial mapping of aquifers in Southland this week.

The \$3.3 million project is mainly funded through Aqua Intel Aotearoa (AIA), a collaboration between Kānoa (the delivery arm of the Provincial Growth Fund) and GNS Science. Co-funding is provided from Northland Regional Council, Far North District Council, Ngai Takoto, and Te Aupōuri.

Project team members are Wallace Rivers (Ngai Takoto), Craig Wells (Ngai Takoto), Walter Wells (Ngati Kuri), Penetaui Kleskovich (Te Aupōuri), Cale Silich (Te Rarawa), Wendy Thomas (landowner), Ian Broadhurst (landowner), Eric Wagener (Ratepayers Association), Susie Osbaldiston (Northland Regional Council) and Bill Lee (Far North District Council). The project team also includes Jane Frances and Ben Pasco from Aqua Intel Aotearoa and Chris Worts from GNS Science.

ENDS

**For further information visit the website [www.aquaintel.co.nz/te-hiku-water-study](http://www.aquaintel.co.nz/te-hiku-water-study)**

**Or contact Janice Rodenburg (021 705 301)**