



Havelock North – Joll Road Plassey Street Community-led Recovery Conversation Cyclone Gabrielle – 14 February 2023

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**HERETAUNGA
HASTINGS** DISTRICT COUNCIL
Sage | Planning

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1 Havelock North

1.1 Introduction

The purpose of this report is to identify the context and key impacts of Cyclone Gabrielle in Havelock North, specifically the Joll Road and Plassey Street area, based on community conversations to better understand how they see recovery looking for their community. A snapshot of the conversations is included in this report along with a series of actions and priorities based on key themes for consideration by the community and Council.

The Havelock North landscape is dissected by a network of five streams. This community has learnt to love the streams but have for some time been wanting clarity on the responsibilities and the purpose of the stream network. They are increasingly concerned about capacity and maintenance of the stream network and Cyclone Gabrielle has heightened these concerns.

The Joll Road and Plassey Street area was impacted by flooding and silt deposition and there were other isolated pockets of flooding and damage to homes in areas near the streams in Havelock North. As with other parts of the region there were a range of other impacts across the wider Havelock North area.

There is much work to be done in relation to the stream network so that confidence is restored for those that live next to them.

1.2 Context and Key Impacts

The community of Havelock North is located south-east of Hastings City at the base of Te Mata Peak. The urban area is dissected by five streams – Mangarau, Te Kahika, Karitūwhenua, Herehere, and the School Drain which flow to the Karamu Stream. The most impacted part of the Havelock North community was the area around the Mangarau Stream which flows between Joll Road and Plassey Street. Significant rain (approx. 280 mm) fell in the hills above Havelock North and the Mangarau Stream was overwhelmed. The rain combined with wind from the Cyclone felled trees and branches and properties were flooded and covered in silt. A private bridge which connects residents in Joll Road was also destroyed and stormwater and wastewater networks were damaged. There are ongoing issues with the public wastewater networks and private pumped sewers in this location.

The dams at the head of the streams functioned as intended but this was a huge event that the system was never designed for. The community is seeking assurance that their safety and homes are not compromised by the dam and stream network.

The community acknowledges that the wastewater and stormwater network require repairs but would like more information on the proposed design specifications. There is a strong desire from this community to be well informed about the infrastructure that supports them, and they want confidence that those who are responsible and who are undertaking the maintenance know what to do and when to do it. There is a feeling in the community that the stream network is not well maintained and that communication between the residents and the Council could be better.

The ownership of the streams is complicated and legal responsibilities are unclear. The Council and the community acknowledge this and there is a need to work together to provide clarity on the responsibilities for the network so there is a shared confidence and understanding of the level of protection that the system can provide.

The impacted communities connected with and were supported by each other in the immediate aftermath of Cyclone Gabrielle. These were not hubs supported by the Council and the community felt largely forgotten by the Councils. This community has continued to support each other in the uncertainty associated with Land Categorisation and as the recovery has got underway.

1.3 Placarded Buildings and Land Categorisation

There were 90 placarded¹ buildings in Havelock North. Many residents who have homes in Plassey Street and Joll Road were displaced. This is the area that is subject to the Land Categorisation process and properties have been categorized 2C which requires community-scale intervention to protect the community going forward. The community wants some certainty about what this means for them – what will be done? when will it happen? And are there opportunities for community input into the solutions proposed? The Councils, Hawke’s Bay Regional Council (HBRC) and Hastings District Council (HDC) have recently agreed that HBRC will lead the investigation into appropriate solutions for the Mangarau Stream to enable the categorized community to move from 2C to 1. Hastings District Council are currently working towards undertaking a broader scale catchment management planning process for the five streams in the Havelock North area.

Figure 1: Land Categorisation Map (Provisional)



¹ Rapid building assessments were completed following Cyclone Gabrielle assigning access as follows: white – access allowed, yellow – access limited, red – access prohibited.

Source: <https://www.hastingsdc.govt.nz/assets/Document-Library/Cyclone-Land-Categorisation-Hastings-and-Napier/Havelock-North.pdf>

1.4 How Havelock North Shared with Us

Pre- engagement was undertaken with known community contacts in the Joll Road Plassey Street area as part of the early conversation. In addition, there have been meetings with the wider community about Cyclone Gabrielle in relation to the five streams and the land categorization process. The information that was gleaned from these meetings has been used to form the basis of this summary document noting that this is a record of the beginning of an ongoing conversation with the Havelock North community and in particular those people in Plassey Street and Joll Road who were directly impacted by Cyclone Gabrielle. The pre-engagement meeting proved to be very informative, traversing a range of issues.

- a. HDC Meeting 5 Streams 27th April
- b. Sage Pre-engagement meeting 23rd May
- c. HDC/HBRC Community Meeting on Categorisation 14th June

Following these meetings there have been ongoing conversations between the Hastings District Council staff and elected representatives, the Hawke’s Bay Regional Council staff, and members of the community. These have been in relation to the Land Categorisation process but also with a focus on the next steps for the management and development of the stream network.

1.5 Snapshot of What Havelock North Shared

- The community is concerned about the management of the streams.
- The community choose to live next to the streams and for those who do the streams are important to them.
- There is a need for a strong partnership between the community and the Council so that there is collective responsibility and transparency around decision making.
- This community expressed that they had felt largely forgotten about even though they were grappling with some of the same issues as other communities – displacement, Land Categorization, wellbeing etc
- There are already several stream management groups, and these groups have a lot of good knowledge about how the streams behave and are invested in looking after them. These groups should be contacted in relation to the streams.
- This community is keen to share its stories and they want these stories to inform decision making that affects them.
- There is confusion about who is responsible for the streams. It is understood that it is a combination of Hastings District Council, Hawke’s Bay Regional Council and the community but this is very unclear.
- There is a desire for this community to be fully informed and empowered to contribute to what is happening in their area.
- There needs to be an improvement in communication.

- Not everyone is connected to email and some residents have been left in the dark and do not know what is going on. There needs to be an improvement in communication between the Council and the community.
- Are the streams – streams or stormwater drains?
- What about the biodiversity within the streams? this needs to be considered and care needs to be taken to ensure this is valued and cared for.
- There is a need to be better prepared. If the dams are going to overflow, then the people who live downstream should be notified.
- There has been some urban intensification in this area and this could mean that there is more stormwater and the streams may not have the capacity to cope with this.
- The uncertainty is taking its toll on the wellbeing of the community.
- Not being in your home is hard.
- There is financial pressure because you must pay rent, and mortgages and the community don't know how long this will be for.
- The systems that are supposed to support communities are complicated and slow, and this is frustrating.

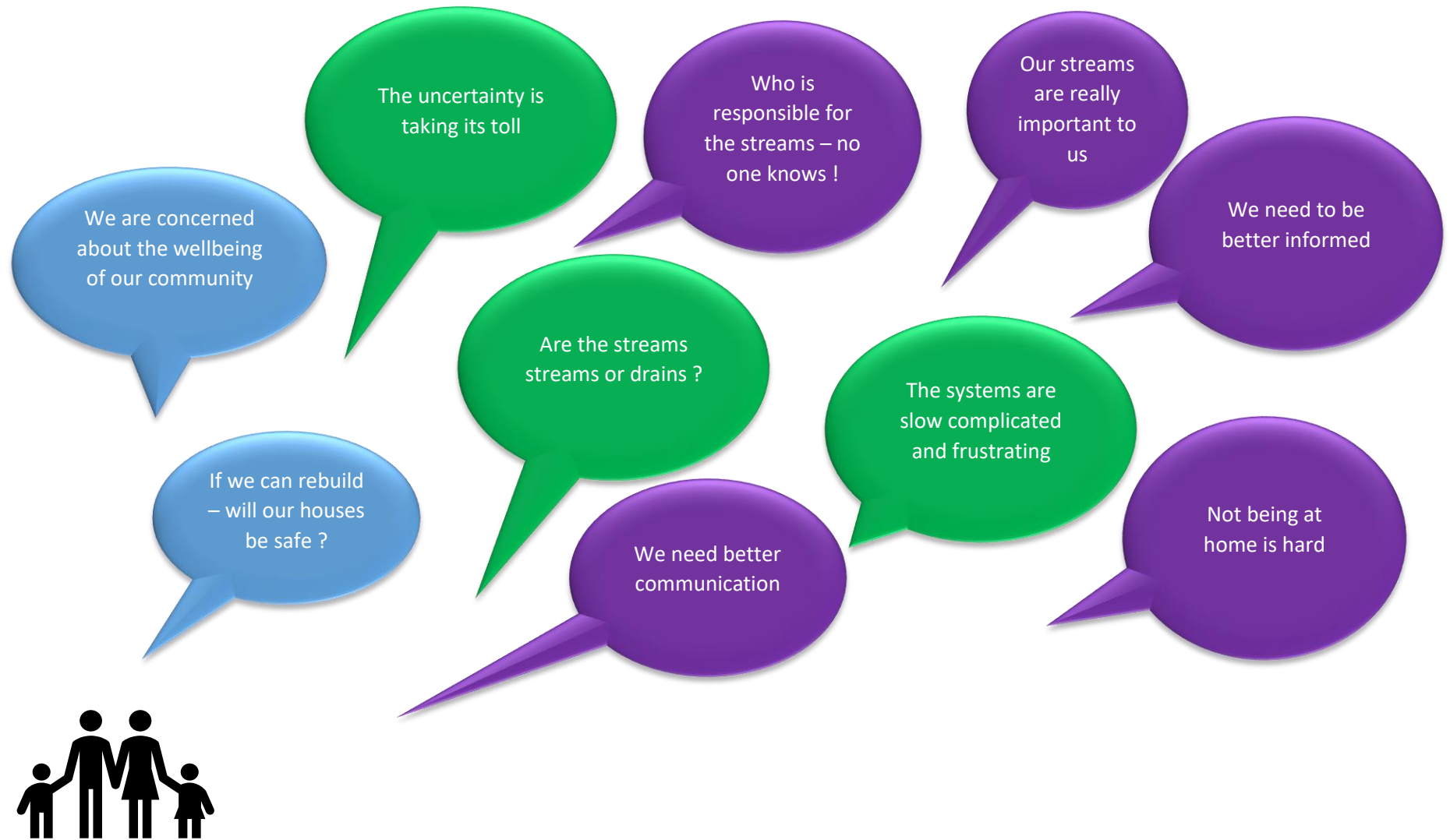


Figure 1 – Snapshot of what the Havelock North community shared

2 Key Themes for Havelock North

Several key themes have emerged from the conversations with the Havelock North (Joll Road Plassey Street) community. Relative priority order for this community is shown and this reflects the emphasis that was given to each in the conversations and other engagements. Under each a series of actions and priorities has been established.



2.1 Resilient Infrastructure

The drainage in the Havelock North area is heavily reliant on the streams and waterways that flow from the hills into the Karamu Stream. The community acknowledges that the streams are part of the fabric of Havelock North, and they value the contribution that they make to the amenity, providing recreation opportunities and urban greening.

However, there is much confusion about the stream network and a lack of clarity about who is responsible for its maintenance, day to day management and strategic development. There are concerns about the design capability of this network and questions raised as to whether this network is fit for purpose given what happened during Cyclone Gabrielle and given recent urban intensification in the Havelock North area.

The ownership of the stream network is complicated and legal responsibilities are unclear. The Council and the community acknowledge this and the need to work together to provide clarity on the responsibility and capability of the network to ensure a shared confidence and understanding of the level of protection that the system can provide.

Key Resilient Infrastructure actions are:

- i. Catchment Management Plan/s be prepared for the Havelock North streams and that this process has opportunity for community conversations and input.

- ii. As a matter of priority, the ownership, roles and responsibilities in relation to the stream maintenance and management are clarified and the community is advised of the outcome.
- iii. That a programme of immediate maintenance priorities for the streams is established and implemented based on technical understanding and input from the community.
- iv. That the Councils (HBRC and HDC) continue to work towards proposals for permanent and more resilient infrastructure solutions for wastewater and stormwater so that they are better designed to cope with more extreme events.

2.2 Strategic Focus

Representatives from the community want to share what they know to help inform future decisions around the streams and to a lesser extent land use activities. There is understanding of the importance of the stream network on the overall health and wellbeing of the community and an acknowledgement of the importance of environmental considerations when making management decisions. There was also acknowledgement that the way that these waterways have been managed in the past and the way that landuses, including residential intensification (specific mention has been made of the Keirunga Road subdivision) has occurred noting that this may/may not be appropriate going forward.

Key Strategic Focus actions are:

- i. That a strategic review of the five streams is undertaken which feeds into the catchment management planning process. Consideration should be given to matters not strictly related to their ability to convey water i.e., environmental, ecological, recreation, landuse etc and there should be opportunity for public input.

2.3 Collective Wisdom

This community have extensive knowledge not only about the waterways but also about the needs and aspirations of their community. They also have a strong desire to ensure that this knowledge is considered in decisions that affect them. They would like regular and open communication and for information and knowledge to be shared between the community and Council. Specifically, this relates to the day to day and strategic management of the streams but also with those individuals who have been most impacted by Cyclone Gabrielle. There was concern expressed that the current mechanisms for communication with the Council are not satisfactory. The responses are too slow, if indeed a response is received.

Key Collective Wisdom actions are:

- i. That a mechanism is established which enables the community to input into decisions that affect them. This should be more than the minimum statutory requirements.
- ii. That the Councils (HDC and HBRC) provide regular updates on the works be undertaken in relation to the Mangarau Stream and the five streams Catchment Management Planning, as well as the maintenance and management of the stream network.

- iii. That a Council community partnership is established with the existing stream management groups including (but not limited to) Palmbrook Care Group, Havelock North Stream Restoration Project, New Zealand Landcare Trust, Karituwhenua Stream Care Group.

2.4 Community Well-being

The community felt that they had been forgotten about by the Council and to a lesser extent other agencies both during the response phase of the cyclone and the early stages of recovery despite being impacted significantly by flooding and silt deposition and the subsequent displacement of people who were impacted. There is a low level of confidence in the capability of the infrastructure to protect communities going forward. The processes to enable people to come back to their homes are complicated, uncertain, and slow. These factors are having an adverse impact on the wellbeing of the community and creating heightened levels of anxiety. Whilst this community is doing its best to connect and support each other there is a desire for more to be done to improve the wellbeing of this community.

Key Community Wellbeing actions are:

- I. Prepare a community wellbeing programme. This should include activities and events supported by agencies.
- II. That the Council proactively provide information about the proposed stream catchment management planning process and update the community in relation to matters which will give them confidence in the capability of the infrastructure to support them.
- III. Work with the community in the development of early warning systems that will enable early evacuation should the network be likely to exceed its design specifications.
- IV. Facilitate early resolution of outstanding Land Categorisation, insurance and TAS matters.

3 Additional Resources

The following additional resources are also available:

- Hawke's Bay Regional Council Hazards Portal <https://gis.hbrc.govt.nz/Hazards/>
- HDC Cyclone Gabrielle before/after Imagery: <https://hdcgis.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=6ef8fe7c8ed643b2b9005bae7ca01162>

