

Red-stickers and zoning (managed retreat)

RAPID ASSESSMENT BUILDING PLACARDS (STICKERS)

Following a major weather event such Cyclone Gabrielle, many buildings and homes need to be checked to see if they're structurally safe and sanitary for owners and residents to return to.

If a building or home is checked, it will be labelled with either a white, yellow, or red placard (otherwise known as stickers).

● WHITE

The building is safe to return to once any evacuation order (if any) is lifted.

● YELLOW

There are two yellow stickers. **Yellow 1:** people may access part(s) of the building only. **Yellow 2:** Entry is only allowed short-term.

● RED

Entry is prohibited (but note this does not necessarily mean the building needs to be demolished).

Hastings District Council's building team has checked the majority of cyclone-affected buildings and affixed initial placards. There are lots of questions about what happens next for those areas affected by the cyclone, especially from those residents with yellow or red-stickered properties.

SO WHAT NEXT?

Just because your house has a yellow or red sticker doesn't necessarily mean you won't be able to live/stay there. All home owners of a placarded (stickered) property are receiving information on the process they need to follow from here. The primary action is to contact your insurance company.

LATEST INFORMATION FROM CENTRAL GOVERNMENT

Next steps for affected properties post Cyclone and floods

The Government via the Cyclone Taskforce is working with local government and insurance companies to build a picture of high-risk areas following Cyclone Gabrielle and January floods.

"The Taskforce, led by Sir Brian Roche, has been working with insurance companies to undertake an assessment of high-risk areas so we can understand the scale of impact and what this means for re-building," Grant Robertson said.

"We are making good progress, with the insurance sector agreeing to provide the taskforce with a consolidated view of the areas they have identified as high-risk within the next week. This will then be overlaid with the risk assessments that local councils are carrying out.

"Ministers expect that information to come together in the next three weeks (beginning of April) and will then be in a position to agree on the next steps. We are acutely aware of people's need for certainty, so it is important we make the right decisions, not the fastest and easiest ones," Grant Robertson said.

"It's worth noting that after the Canterbury earthquakes it was four months before decisions were taken on the future of affected areas. We want to move quicker than that, but it gives an indication of some of the challenges to making decisions.

"Each region has been affected differently. The impacts in the Hawkes Bay with the orchards and silt is quite different to the large number of residential houses flooded in Auckland.

"I want the risk assessments completed as fast as possible and I will keep pushing for that to be the case – but the reality is the complexities involved mean it cannot be completed in just a few weeks.

"We also understand that views within a community about the future are not always the same. Some people want to be able rebuild straight

away, others are wary about future threats and the resilience of infrastructure," Grant Robertson said.

"This is why it is important the local community is part of the decision making process and are kept informed all the way through. I have asked the Cyclone Recovery Unit to work closely with local government and recovery agencies to ensure that we are making information available in a timely and clear manner. Again how this is done will be different in each community, but we know we need to give regular updates, and opportunities for input.

"It is important at this time to highlight some issues that can cause confusion or stress. First, having a red or yellow sticker on your property does not necessarily mean that a location will be deemed high-risk or that the land can't be rebuilt upon. These are assessments of immediate safety risk at the location, not future risk of flooding or viability of the land.

"That means we can't simply use that assessment for this process, we'd get the wrong answers for affected people and property. That's why we are working with the insurance sector and local councils to get the best outcome," Grant Robertson said.

"Second, there are a range of potential responses to the assessments that we do arrive at. Managed retreat (i.e. not rebuilding in the area) is one possibility, but so are other resilience measures, including building or enhancing stopbanks, changing the structure or location of buildings or building in a different way.

"Communities should rest assured that we are moving as quickly as we can. We have to get this right for the people and businesses involved so we will ensure the process is careful and thorough and is always done with the needs of local communities in mind," Grant Robertson said.

Source: [beehive.govt.nz](https://www.beehive.govt.nz)