

Cyclone Gabrielle updates

Message from the Mayor

We are about to start in-depth discussions with our more than 20 highly impacted communities on the Heretaunga Hastings Locality Plan.

Last week Council lodged its high-level preliminary plan with Government. The Government required the first version in a short three-week timeframe to enable it to make initial funding decisions on our district's immediate needs. It covers the costs for elements such as road and bridge repairs, managing waste and silt, engaging impacted communities on the next version of the Locality Plan, initiatives to keep communities connected, and help for primary industry.

The next version, which has a September deadline, will be prepared with input from every one of our highly impacted communities – those where homes were flooded and those that were isolated from the rest of the district.

We know the impacts on our communities have varied hugely and the conversations will be different in each of them. We will ensure everyone in those areas who wants to have a say has the opportunity to do so.

Our teams will be asking you how you want to engage, the best way to keep in contact with you and, of course, what you think should be added into your community's recovery plan

We know the most important thing for our communities right now is knowing if they are going to be able to stay in our hardest hit areas. We are encouraging the Government to get this information to our people as soon as possible. While the decisions lie with Government, our Council will be strongly advocating for effective community engagement and helping to facilitate those conversations with our people.

Our focus remains on supporting communities as we work together to decide how we best ensure a resilient future.



Kia Kaha
Sandra Hazlehurst

SILT

By the end of April 2023 more than 1 million m³ of silt was scheduled to be collected by the regional taskforce, Estimates suggest this is just 25% of the total amount of silt to be cleaned up across the District. Priorities include clearing silt that is blocking drains or entry to property, identifying more temporary and/or permanent silt storage sites, ensuring we're following environmental rules and consent conditions, working within the Severe Weather Emergency Legislation, and investigating long-term uses for the silt. Potential options include composting, mixing it in with aggregates for construction, and filling in gullies or land on farms. To book silt collection visit:

www.hastingsdc.govt.nz/cyclone-gabrielle/silt-collection/



KEY STATS

337 jobs
RECEIVED
(up to 28 April)

APPROXIMATELY
185,000m³
OF SILT COLLECTED
(up to 28 April)

AROUND
900 truck
movements
PER DAY THIS WEEK
(24-28 April)



ROADS & BRIDGES

Hastings District Council roads and bridges

The design of the Moeangiangi Bridge has been completed with access scheduled to be re-established at the end of May; work on the Whanawhana Bridge is about to begin with access available in early part of May; design of the Mangatutu Low level crossing and Crystal Twin culvert is complete.

For the most up-to-date information on road closures and the repair status of Hastings District bridges see:

www.hastingsdc.govt.nz/services/roads-and-streets/road-works

Waka Kotahi roads and bridges

Esk River Bridge closure: From this week the bridge is closed Sundays to Thursdays, from 9pm to 5am, for strengthening work. The project is expected to be completed by 21 May (weather-dependent).

Waikare Bailey Bridge progress: Last week contractors started building the prefabricated steel and timber platform for the Bailey bridge over the Waikare Gorge. This will take about 10 days to complete. The bridge is on track to be completed at the end of May.

Devil's Elbow: Crews are securing dropouts, making shoulder and road surface repairs, repairing guardrails, clearing drains and silt, and removing debris and waste.

HUBS AND MEETINGS

Numbers using the community hubs have much reduced in recent weeks, due to the evolving needs of our impacted communities and that people are now predominantly engaging directly with the various organisations relevant to their individual situations. Council remains committed to supporting our most-impacted communities in the best way possible. To access support call Council's 24/7 help number (**06 871 5000**), advise that your call is for 'cyclone support' and our customer service team will have the appropriate staff member contact you.



BUILDING RECOVERY INFORMATION PACK



The building recovery information pack has been created to help guide residents through the processes available for and repairs and demolition/deconstruction of flood-impacted houses/buildings. As recovery has progressed it has been updated to reflect the most recent information and resources available. The most recent version (version 4) can be found online [here](#).

RATES REMISSION APPLICATIONS

Owners of yellow-stickered properties (the sticker must be on the main residence) can apply for rates remissions by filling in the form [here](#). Red stickered properties are automatically receiving rates remission.

THE BIG CHECK-IN

An online evening of support for rural people post-cyclone

THE BIG CHECK-IN

An online evening of support for rural people post cyclone is happening on Thursday 4 May from 7pm – 8.30pm. The interactive session is a nation-wide opportunity to check-in with impacted whānau, friends and supporters, and pick up some practical wellbeing tools and tips for keeping on track. Registrations are required, [click here](#).

EXTREME WEATHER LEGISLATION CHANGES

Government has changed the Resource Management Act to help with cyclone recovery, time-limited to expire once those affected have had enough time to restore their properties and infrastructure. The changes allow urgent responses in specific circumstances, detailed in the legislation [here](#). Read more about the main changes [here](#).

Govt announcement: Risk categories

The categories under which the future of flood and landslide affected properties will be assessed have been announced today (May 1) by Cyclone Recovery Minister Grant Robertson:

- 1. Low Risk** – Repair to previous state is all that is required to manage future severe weather event risk. This means that once any flood protection near the property is repaired, the home can be rebuilt at the same site.
- 2. Managed Risk** – Community or property-level interventions will manage future severe weather event risk. This could include the raising of nearby stop banks, improving drainage or raising the property. (Category two is split into three sub-categories as outlined in table below).
- 3. High Risk** – Areas in the high risk category are not safe to live in because of the unacceptable risk of future flooding and loss of life. Homes in these areas should not be rebuilt on their current sites.

“Communities will be consulted before any final decisions are made about which category properties are placed into. Those discussions will begin as soon as assessments are completed and quality assurance is done,” Mr Robertson said.

“The Government’s intention is to complete assessments for low risk properties in Category One quickly so people in those homes can settle with their insurance companies and get on with their recovery. Decisions on properties in Categories Two and Three will take a bit longer – but will be completed as soon as they are possible.

“We know it is stressful for residents waiting to hear about the future of their properties and I want to assure people we are doing all we can to move through this process as quickly and effectively as we can.

“The worse thing would be for us to announce a property or community was in one category, only to change that shortly thereafter. We need to make the right decision not the quick one.”

CATEGORY	DEFINITIONS	EXAMPLES
1	Repair to previous state is all that is required to manage future severe weather event risk.	Minor flood damage to repair but no need for significant redesign/retrofitting.
2C	Community level interventions are effective in managing future severe weather event risk.	Local government repairs and enhances flood protection schemes to adequately manage the risk of future flooding events in the face of climate change effects.
2P	Property level interventions are needed to manage future severe weather event risk, including in tandem with community level interventions.	Property specific measures are necessary e.g., improved drainage, raising houses is necessary. Benefits accrue to property owners but some may face affordability issues.
2A	Potential to fall within 2C/2P but significant further assessment required.	Interventions may be required / possible but insufficient information to provide initial categorisation (these may subsequently move between "2" categories or to categories 1 / 3).
3	Future severe weather event risk cannot be sufficiently mitigated. In some cases some current land uses may remain acceptable, while for others there is an intolerable risk of injury or death.	In the face of enhanced climate risks the property may face unacceptable risk of future flooding. Other property could be subject to unstable land that poses an ongoing risk.