

# Cyclone Gabrielle updates

## Message from the Mayor

Community meetings, either led by the community or Council, began last week – an opportunity to gather feedback from residents in flood-affected areas about the provisional land categorisations.

We're really keen to fully understand the valuable local knowledge that exists within our communities, and we remain committed to ensuring that decisions that impact a community are made with that community's involvement and input – and that those decisions have inter-generational safety at their heart.

This week we welcomed our 11 new connectors who have been brought in to help individuals and whānau who have been affected by the cyclone. The connectors will help people navigate the complexities of the land categorisation process and outcomes, work through Council's regulatory processes, and connect them to Central Government agency support.

The connectors are trained in community liaison, welfare, and emergency response, and they will be available to work one-on-one with residents, walking alongside them to help them move forward with their recovery.

You will be able to find and talk to our connectors at our drop-in centres, at community meetings or you can call Council's customer service team to request their support. We encourage people to take the opportunity to talk to them and make the most of the support they are here to offer.

Last week, Council adopted a proposal that could see rates remissions for red and yellow-stickered property owners extended for up to two years. We also agreed to potentially expand rates remissions to include properties where there may not be stickered buildings or dwellings, but where land has been damaged and become unusable or uneconomic.

We want to hear what the community thinks about the proposal. For more information and to make a submission go to [www.myvoicemychoice.co.nz](http://www.myvoicemychoice.co.nz) or call council on (06) 871 5000. The consultation runs until July 4. We encourage people to have their say.



Kia Kaha  
Sandra Hazlehurst  
Mayor of Hastings

## PAYMENTS FOR STICKERED PROPERTIES

Where Council has a bank account on file, owners of red and yellow stickered properties damaged by Cyclone Gabrielle in the Hastings district will automatically receive a one-off support payment of \$2000 through the Hastings Mayoral Relief Fund in the coming weeks.

If Council does not have your bank account on file or if you want to check, you can contact Council either by email: [customerservice@hdc.govt.nz](mailto:customerservice@hdc.govt.nz) or phone: **(06) 871 5000**, or, if you are the sole property owner, you can provide your bank account details via a short form here: [hdc.smartygrants.com.au/StickeredProperty](http://hdc.smartygrants.com.au/StickeredProperty)

If you are one of multiple owners, you will need to supply one bank account number with approval from all parties for the account to be used for payment. To do this you will need to complete the following form and submit it along with your application:

[www.hastingsdc.govt.nz/assets/Document-Library/Cyclone-Gabrielle-Resources/Cyclone-Grant-Payment-Bank-Account-Approval-Trusts-and-Multiple-Owners.pdf](http://www.hastingsdc.govt.nz/assets/Document-Library/Cyclone-Gabrielle-Resources/Cyclone-Grant-Payment-Bank-Account-Approval-Trusts-and-Multiple-Owners.pdf)

## LAND CATEGORISATION ENGAGEMENT MEETING SCHEDULE

Meetings based on all land categories have been planned across the District. Representatives from both HDC and HBRC will be in attendance. Details noted as 'TBC' below as well as details of additional meetings will be advised ASAP. A schedule of drop-in centres, where you can meet connectors, discuss your situation, and find out more information, has also been prepared, with details below. We understand that for some, providing feedback online is the preferred method so we have launched a digital engagement tool to enable this - <https://hbrc.mysocialpinpoint.com/hawkesbay-recovery-and-resilience#/>

### Category 3 Meetings

- **Eskdale/Esk Valley/Tangoio/Waiohiki:** Monday 3 July, 5.30pm-7pm, Valley d'Vine, 347 SH5
- **Pakowhai:** Tuesday 18 July, 5.30pm-7pm, Pakowhai Hall, 1917 Pakowhai Rd
- **Rissington:** Wednesday 19 July, time and venue TBC.  
*\*Meetings for Category 3 properties have been scheduled in July to align with the Government's expected announcements on buy-out options.*

### Category 2A Meetings

- **Pakowhai:** Thursday 22 June, 5.30pm-7pm, Pakowhai Hall, 1917 Pakowhai Rd.
- **Puketapu North:** Wednesday 5 July, 5.30pm-7pm, Puketapu School, 708 Puketapu Rd.  
*\*Category 2A meetings have already been held for properties in Eskdale, Esk Valley, Tangoio and Waiohiki.*

### Category 2C Meetings

- **Havelock North:** Thursday 4 July, 5.30pm-7pm, Havelock North Primary School, 9 Campbell St.
- **Waiohiki:** Thursday 6 July, 5.30pm-7pm, venue TBC.

### Drop-in Centres

- **Pakowhai School:** Wednesdays, 3.30pm-7pm
- **Hastings Library:** Thursdays, 11am-7pm
- **Taradale Library:** Saturdays, 10am-4pm

## CYCLONE RECOVERY PHASE WELL UNDERWAY FOR POLICE

Hawke's Bay Police has a dedicated leadership team focusing on the significantly impacted areas of our region. This team is being led by Acting Inspector Caroline Martin, supported by Senior Sergeant Steve Nicoll and Sergeant Andrew Graham.

As part of the recovery phase Police will continue 24/7 community reassurance patrols in cyclone-affected areas.

As always, you are encouraged to report any incidents, so Police know what's happening in your communities. If it's an emergency call 111 or call the 105 non-emergency number for things that have already happened and don't need urgent Police assistance.



*Photo: The Hawke's Bay Police leading the Cyclone Gabrielle Recovery phase (L to R) Sergeant Andrew Graham, Acting Inspector Caroline Martin and Senior Sergeant Steve Nicoll*

## PUBLIC CONSULTATION TO OPEN ON PROPOSED RATES REMISSION POLICY

Hastings District Council is proposing to introduce a specific rates remission policy to assist ratepayers whose land or primary dwellings/buildings have been detrimentally affected by natural disaster.

Following Cyclone Gabrielle, Council automatically remitted rates for red-stickered properties through to June 30 this year, in recognition of the inability for people to live in these properties. Yellow-stickered property owners needed to apply for the remission if the sticker was assigned to their main dwelling/building. In both cases, the remission period applied to the third and fourth quarter instalments in the 2022/23 rating year.

These remissions were granted under the current Sundry Remission policy, however Council is looking to introduce a more specific remission policy. It would provide clarity to affected ratepayers on what financial assistance with rates is available, and give Council the ability to expand the scope of remissions to include properties where the damage impacted land and/or crops but which did not have dwellings or buildings stickered.

This proposal along with the 'Remission of Rates – Dwellings and Land Affected by Natural Disaster' policy can be read at: [www.myvoicemychoice.co.nz](http://www.myvoicemychoice.co.nz). Or you can call council on **(06) 871 5000** to be sent the information.

Submissions on the proposal can be lodged up until 5pm 4 July 2023 either electronically via [www.myvoicemychoice.co.nz](http://www.myvoicemychoice.co.nz), or in writing to: Attention: Richard Elgie, Finance Operations Manager, Hastings District Council, Private Bag 9002, Hastings 4156, or by email to [richarde@hdc.govt.nz](mailto:richarde@hdc.govt.nz).

## SILT

Applications remain open for commercial entities (including growers and farmers) to access \$62.6 million of Government funding to recover some of the costs of cleaning up sediment and debris on their land as a result of Cyclone Gabrielle.

Applications can be made through [www.hbrc.govt.nz](http://www.hbrc.govt.nz) and close on Friday 30 June. Applicants must meet the eligibility criteria.



Mangatutu Bridge, Photo: Fulton Hogan



Waiohiki/Redclyffe Bridge. Photo: WSP

## HASTINGS ROADS AND BRIDGES UPDATE

This past week the **Moeangi** and **Mangatutu** bailey bridges were opened to traffic, restoring vital transport links for the rural communities of Pūtōrino and Waihau. While there is still some work required post opening at both of these sites, Council's contractors will work with the community to ensure this is streamlined.

Work continues on deconstructing **Waiohiki (Redclyffe)** bridge and creating temporary options for reopening. This is happening in parallel with ongoing engagement at Waiohiki and with the wider community around connectivity across the region.

Unfortunately, due to the recent heavy rain the temporary ford crossing at Matapiro has been damaged and is currently closed. Contractors are working to repair and reinstate this crossing as soon as possible.

For the most up-to-date information on road closures and the repair status of Hastings District bridges visit: [www.hastingsdc.govt.nz/services/roads-and-streets/road-works](http://www.hastingsdc.govt.nz/services/roads-and-streets/road-works).

## EVENT - FINDING CALM THROUGH CHAOS

**Wednesday  
28 June,  
Hastings**

The Hawke's Bay Life Education Trust is bringing together a group of education and

trauma experts to discuss the impact the cyclone has had on children in the region. Get more information and tickets for the Wednesday 28 June event online here: <https://www.eventfinda.co.nz/2023/finding-calm-through-chaos/hastings>

Funds raised will support Hawke's Bay Life Education Trust

**FINDING CALM THROUGH CHAOS**

Join a panel of education experts for an evening to unpack trauma and gain insight on what might be going on for tamariki in the Hawke's Bay region at the moment.

Kathryn Barlett  
Engage Training

Jane Williams  
Whanauwines

Judy Hunter  
Ednet Education Co.

## WHERE YOU CAN SEEK HELP

- Log into [www.wellbeingsupport.health.nz](http://www.wellbeingsupport.health.nz) to find a service close to you or you can call or text Need to Talk 1737 any time to talk with a trained counsellor.
- At most general practices you can phone and book in to see a Health Improvement Practitioner (HIP), a registered mental health professional who provides advice and support promoting self-management, and connects people to other services they may need. Every day, HIPs have appointments that are not pre-booked so you can phone a general practice where you are enrolled and book in on that day.
- **The Depression Helpline** – Call **0800 111 757** or text **4202** to talk to a trained counsellor about how you are feeling or to ask any questions.
- **Youthline** – Call **0800 376 633**, text **234**, email [talk@youthline.co.nz](mailto:talk@youthline.co.nz), or go to [youthline.co.nz](http://youthline.co.nz) for an online chat.
- **The Lowdown** – Text **5626** for support to help young people recognise and understand depression or anxiety.
- **Healthline** – Call **0800 611 116** for health advice and information.
- **Alcohol Drug Helpline** – Call **0800 787 797** to speak with a trained counsellor.
- Tips and support, go to [allsorts.org.nz](http://allsorts.org.nz).

## Free wellbeing apps

- You can download the Groov and Headstrong wellbeing apps free for android and Apple phones. Just go to Google Play or the Apple app store.

## KEY STATS

Up to 16 June 2023

**445 jobs**  
RECEIVED

APPROXIMATELY  
**380,000m<sup>3</sup>**  
OF SILT COLLECTED  
ABOUT 40,000m<sup>3</sup> BEING  
COLLECTED THIS WEEK

AROUND  
**2,400 truck**  
**movements**  
THIS WEEK

To find out more about handling silt, silt sampling results, and how to request a silt collection, visit the Hawke's Bay Regional Council website: [www.hbrc.govt.nz/our-council/cyclone-gabrielle-response/dealing-with-waste](http://www.hbrc.govt.nz/our-council/cyclone-gabrielle-response/dealing-with-waste)

## CYCLONE RECOVERY UNIT UPDATES

The Cyclone Recovery Unit works alongside the Government's Cyclone Recovery Taskforce and other Government agencies to support the worst affected regions to recover from the impacts of the North Island floods and Cyclone Gabrielle. This group produces regular updates with detailed information from organisations including the Ministry for Primary Industries, MBIE and Waka Kotahi. You can find the most recent update here: <https://www.civildefence.govt.nz/resources/news-and-events/news-and-events>