

Cyclone Gabrielle updates

Message from the Mayor

We continue to make progress building back from the devastation caused by Cyclone Gabrielle, with each milestone taking us a step further on the road to recovery.

Hawke's Bay Together in Black and White day on Thursday 6 April was a beautiful celebration of just how united we are as a region and it was humbling to see everyone in their Hawke's Bay colours. This showcase of solidarity was broadcasted on TVNZ and showed Aotearoa just how strong we are.

We are grateful for our communities who continue to provide safe spaces, resources, expertise and events to uplift spirits for their neighbourhoods. We cannot thank those behind this mahi enough.

Teams across Council have continued to prioritise connecting communities and sharing information with residents. Reaching those in badly impacted areas remains a challenge – we encourage those wanting information to sign up to our database or reach out to our customer service team. Residents can sign up here www.hastingsdc.govt.nz/cyclone-gabrielle/community-hubs#updates

Our silt taskforce has made huge progress, developing a comprehensive action plan with zones with dedicated contractors who are also collecting flood-damaged goods as they go.

Mental health and well-being remains at the forefront of our actions, as our teams contact residents in stickered properties to check-in, and to ensure we have the correct details to share updates and information as we receive it.

With winter on the horizon we are encouraging rural communities to start looking at what challenges they'll be facing and review their winter resilience plans.

There are still a lot of unknowns, but we are pleased to hear in the latest update from the Cyclone Recovery Unit that no decisions on properties or communities will be made without comprehensive consultation (the detail can be found in the 'Update from the Taskforce' section in this newsletter).

Just like the national Cyclone Recovery Unit - we are committed to getting this right for our people and our businesses.

Our teams are continually reviewing the best ways to collect feedback from the community and want to emphasise that each and every resident's thoughts and ideas are important.

I encourage you to read the full Cyclone Recovery Unit update and I will continue to share this and the latest happenings from Hastings District Council with you weekly.



Kia kaha
Sandra Hazlehurst

ZONING

Council is urging Government to work at pace on decisions regarding the future for our most impacted areas. The Government taskforce has committed to community consultation and Hastings District Council will be strongly involved in ensuring everyone in our community who wants to have input into these decisions get the opportunity to do so. For the government's latest information see over the page.



SILT

The taskforce managing silt recovery has been focusing on funding the project, organising local contractors to collect silt, establishing and managing silt deposit sites, working through regulatory and legislative requirements, and engaging with iwi, key stakeholders and the community as well as picking up silt.



KEY STATS

288 jobs
RECEIVED
(to 14 April)

APPROXIMATELY
145,000m³
OF SILT COLLECTED
TO DATE

AROUND
850 truck
movements
PER DAY THIS WEEK
(17 April-21 April)

ROADS & BRIDGES

- Over the last two months access has been restored in one form or another for all of our residents.
- Many rural roads are still in a fragile state and are only open for essential travel and emergency access - this includes travel on the two new bridges in Dartmoor and Rissington.
- Design and construction of a Bailey bridge on Ellis-Wallace Road is underway, and is expected to be completed by the end of May.
- Demolition of the Redclyffe Bridge in Waiohiki will commence shortly. Once this site is clear, construction will then begin on a two-lane temporary bridge. This bridge is expected to be completed by the end of June.



KEY STATS

280 bridges
HAVE BEEN ASSESSED

2 new bridges
HAVE BEEN BUILT

A team of over a 1000 people

MADE UP OF COUNCIL TRANSPORTATION STAFF, CONTRACTORS AND MEMBERS OF OUR RURAL COMMUNITY HAVE BEEN WORKING HARD TO RESTORE ACCESS, REMOVE SILT AND REBUILD BROKEN ROADS.

COMMUNITY HUBS

Community hubs remain a central location for support and information specific to the needs of their community. Please see opening hours and upcoming meetings below.

Up to date community hub hours and meetings can be found online at www.hastingsdc.govt.nz/communityhubs



Pakowhai

Pakowhai Hall

Tuesday 18 April, 12pm-6pm
Thursday 20 April, 12pm-6pm
Saturday 22 April, 9am-12pm

Bay View

King Georges Hall

Wednesday 19 April, 12pm-6pm
Sunday 23 April, 9am-12pm

Taradale

Monster Autos site

Wednesday 19 April, 12pm-6pm
Friday 21 April, 12pm-6pm



UPCOMING MEETINGS

Whakatū

TBC, Led by E Tu, Whakatū Community Group
Wednesday 19 April, 6.30pm

Government Cyclone Recovery Unit information

UPDATE ON FLOOD RISK PLANNING

Published Friday 14 April, 2023.

For the full release see www.civildefence.govt.nz

The Government taskforce continues to work with councils and insurance companies to assess the risk status of areas affected by Cyclone Gabrielle. These assessments will “build a picture” to enable the community discussion on options to address the risks.

Every high-risk area is unique and will be influenced by different factors, so decisions must be carefully thought through and supported by evidence and community engagement.

Local and regional councils will work with the government to ensure that community needs are reflected in recovery planning.

The government is also working on economic recovery plans for Hawke’s Bay and the wider East Coast with various groups and sectors.

Key points

- If your property has a red or yellow sticker on it, it doesn’t automatically mean that it’s too risky to rebuild on or that it’s in a high-risk area for future flooding. These stickers are rapid assessments of the immediate safety risk at the location carried out as soon as possible after a disaster, not an assessment of future risk.
- Looking ahead, there are different things that can be done to improve safety. Managed retreat is one possibility, however other options could be building or enhancing stop banks, or changing the structure or location of buildings.
- The government will work closely with communities and stakeholders to decide on the best course of action. They will consult with people in high-risk areas to make sure everyone’s needs and concerns are considered.
- The Cyclone Recovery Unit is helping with the recovery efforts and coordinating the government’s plans to help affected areas. The government is committed to making careful and thorough decisions that take the needs of local communities into account.

GOVERNMENT CYCLONE RECOVERY UNIT

The government, industry, and local communities have agreed to work together to rebuild the East Coast transport network. They will prioritise projects and allocate resources while listening to local voices. Local contractors will play an important role, and there will be ongoing engagement with them before a full alliance model is established later in the year. The work needed is significant, but the alliance will ensure all available workers and resources are used effectively.

SUPPORT FOR CYCLONE-AFFECTED STILL AVAILABLE

Help remains available for individuals, families, farmers, whānau, businesses, iwi Māori, communities, and others affected by the cyclone. The Ministry of Social Development is offering financial support for individuals and whānau. Ethnic community organisations, faith-based groups and non-profit organisations can seek support through its Community Support Package. It is also providing tailored financial support for people living with disabilities.

There are also funds available for Maori communities, marae, and recognized community organisations. Businesses, farmers, and landowners can also receive support. The government is offering temporary housing for those who need it and psychosocial support through a helpline and mental health workers.

Links to the various agencies providing support can be found on this page: www.civildefence.govt.nz/resources/news-and-events/news-and-events/weekly-cyclone-update-14-april-2023



Hawke’s Bay
Cyclone Gabrielle

Welfare
Helpline

0800 117 672



HAWKE’S BAY
EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT
GROUP