

Cyclone Gabrielle updates

Message from the Mayor

This week we are coming up to five months since Cyclone Gabrielle hit our region and progress is being made to recover, although due to the many complexities it's not a fast process.

Last week Hawke's Bay Regional Council announced that the 2C* land categorisation areas of Meeanee/Awatoto and Ōmāhu had been released into Category 1 status, and hundreds more properties were recategorised to 1 this week.

The owners of these properties have been advised of the change and can now make decisions about rebuilding their properties and their lives.

With ongoing assessment of repairs to stop banks it's hoped more 2C* properties will be able to be moved to Category 1 very soon.

As we work through this challenging time, an upcoming event with Dr Lucy Hone may offer some valuable tools to help.

A global expert on resilience, she is in the region to host fireside chats about what it takes to get through a disaster such as we have experienced.

If you are in a position to attend, her free event at Toitoti next Thursday looks very valuable. You can find all the details in this newsletter.



Kia Kaha
Sandra Hazlehurst



PAYMENTS FOR STICKERED PROPERTIES CONTINUE

Hastings District Council is continuing to roll out the one-off support payments of \$2,000 through the Hastings Mayoral Relief Fund to owners of red and yellow stickered properties.

Note, these payments are based on the property ID data held by Hastings District Council, with the one-off \$2,000 payments made to a single bank account for each property as a whole. Payments are

made per property, not per building or per owner on that property. If Council holds your bank account details your payment will be processed as soon as possible and an application is not necessary. If Council does not hold your bank account details (or you are unsure if it does) you will need to fill in this simple form: <https://hdc.smartygrants.com.au/StickeredProperty>

Note: If you are applying on behalf of multiple owners, please ensure you have completed the Bank Account Approval – Trusts and Multiple Owners form: www.hastingsdc.govt.nz/assets/Document-Library/Cyclone-Gabrielle-Resources/Cyclone-Grant-Payment-Bank-Account-Approval-Trusts-and-Multiple-Owners.pdf. This should be uploaded with proof of your bank account.

We understand this process adds additional work for you and may take time, but we need to ensure we have paid the correct bank account.

If you have questions about this process, please contact our Customer Services team either by email: customerservice@hdc.govt.nz or phone: **(06) 871 5000**.

UPCOMING LAND CATEGORISATION ENGAGEMENT MEETINGS

To see the list of confirmed land categorisation engagement meetings along with any changes in the schedule, please visit: <https://www.hastingsdc.govt.nz/cyclone-gabrielle/land-categorisation/>

In the meantime, should you need to speak to someone about your situation you can contact us on **(06) 871 5000** to be linked with a Community Connector or you can call into one of our drop-in centres operating weekly:

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

Alternatively, to provide your views and feedback directly to us online, visit: <https://hbrc.mysocialpinpoint.com/hawkesbay-recovery-and-resilience>.

Category 3 Meetings

Unfortunately, the Category 3 meeting scheduled to take place on Monday 3 July at Valley d'Vine in Eskdale was postponed.

Two weeks ago, former Cabinet Minister Chris Finlayson, was appointed to lead the negotiations between the five Hawke's Bay Councils and central Government. A key component of these discussions involves the funding and policy details associated with the voluntary buyout of residential properties confirmed as Category 3.

Given these negotiations are ongoing, the Category 3 meeting in Eskdale will be rescheduled as soon as councils have a firm indication of what the voluntary buyout will look like and how it will be funded.

At this stage, the Category 3 meetings in Pakowhai (July 18) and Rissington (July 19) will remain in the schedule but may be postponed if further information is still not available. Impacted residents will be advised directly of any changes.

OVER \$7 MILLION DISTRIBUTED AS PART OF HAWKE'S BAY DISASTER RELIEF FUND

On Friday 30 June, the Hawke's Bay Disaster Relief Fund panel announced it had approved pay-outs of \$601,678.59 to a further group of 88 applications.

Following these payment approvals, \$925,000 will be left in the fund. An additional \$350,000 payment from Red Cross is also expected in the coming weeks.

Since applications opened on 18 February, 5654 applications have been received and 4270 approved totalling \$4,840,470.48 in grant pay-outs. In addition to this, \$2,320,000 has been paid to local councils for the \$2,000 payments to owners of yellow and red-stickered properties. This brings the total paid out (up to 29 June) to \$7,160,470.48.

For more information and to apply for funding, visit:

www.hbrc.govt.nz/home/article/1511/over-7-million-distributed

SUPPORT PACKAGE FOR GROWERS, FARMERS AND BUSINESSES AFFECTED BY NORTH ISLAND WEATHER EVENTS

Government announced last week that there will be further support for businesses, including growers and farmers affected by the North Island weather events by underwriting bank lending and offering cheaper finance options to ensure the long-term survival of critical regional industries.

The North Island Weather Events (NIWE) Loan Guarantee Scheme will provide relief to affected firms seeking commercial lending. This scheme leverages the Crown's financial strength by carrying 80 percent of the credit risk on covered loans, allowing banks to reduce interest rates and offer more flexible terms.

The package also includes the NIWE Primary Producer Finance Scheme to provide access to capital for affected growers and farmers unable to access lending without further support. The funding will be targeted towards severely affected businesses that have a reasonable likelihood of being commercially viable but cannot currently access commercial finance.

Read more here: www.beehive.govt.nz/release/support-package-growers-farmers-and-businesses-affected-north-island-weather-events

SILT

The Sediment and Debris Recovery Fund remains open for commercial entities (including growers and farmers) to recover some of the costs of cleaning up sediment and debris on their land. Applicants must meet the eligibility criteria. Applications close Monday 31 July.

To help explain the grant and co-funding parts of the fund, visit:

www.hbrc.info/silt

KEY STATS

Up to 30 June 2023

474 jobs
RECEIVED

APPROXIMATELY
420,000m³
OF SILT COLLECTED
ABOUT 30,000m³ BEING
COLLECTED THIS WEEK

AROUND
4,500 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/.



Crownthorpe Bridge. Photo: WSP



Follies Bridge. Photo: WSP

HASTINGS ROADS AND BRIDGES UPDATE

Ellis Wallace – Due to the recent weather events, some rework and delays have occurred pushing the anticipated bailey bridge completion date out to 2 August. At the very least we are pushing to get it up sooner so that residents can walk across it should the temporary crossing be lost again.

Crownthorpe – Due to the recent weather events, works onsite have been delayed. Contractors are working to reinstate vehicle access as soon as possible with the anticipated bridge completion date in mid-July, hopefully lining up when school returns.

Follies – Due to a drop-out at the abutment getting worse, a repair is underway which we are looking to establish by 17 July.

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.

SURVEYING WORKS TO DETERMINE FLOOD EXTENTS

Hastings District Council contractors will this week be carrying out survey works along each side of the rivers in Whanawhana, Puketapu, Redcliffe, Rissington and Matapiro so that we can measure and analyse the flood extents.

In some cases, this work will be undertaken up to 500m+ away from the rivers. If you see a person in an orange jacket walking along the riverbanks this is what they are doing.

HAVELOCK NORTH STREAMS UPDATE

The area around Joll Road in Havelock North was hit by Cyclone Gabrielle in February, resulting in flood damage to properties and the affected area categorised as 2C. Since that time, the Hastings District Council has instigated programmes of works, both to understand how the stormwater network dealt with such large amounts of rain, and to make immediate repairs to the network.

Stream works have included:

Karituwhenua Stream

Clearing vegetation and structures within the upper Karituwhenua Stream and Palmbrook Reserve areas has been undertaken. On-going clean-up is required as smaller material continues to fall into the stream channel. Some ground stabilisation is still required using planting and grass seeding. A programme of work for areas where banks, walking track and bridges need attention is being developed.

In Palmbrook Reserve a large slip and tree have been cleared, directly below Te Mata Road. Consultants are now designing a long-term solution for the location. Clearance of debris and treefall is on-going, which has required vehicle tracks to be cut to allow access.

School Stream

Areas of School Stream have been cleared of treefall and periodic checks are on-going to check for blockages.

Te Kahika Stream

Work to clear debris through the Tokomaru Reserve is on-going. Stormwater and road infrastructure damage occurred at the corner of Tokomaru Dr and Tauroa Rd and this is scheduled for repair.

Mangarau Stream

Clearance of debris and treefall in the upper Mangarau Stream, between Toop Street and Glenpark Place has been undertaken. The lower Mangarau Stream continues to be cleared as debris collects. Some of these areas are proving difficult to access due to the height of the banks and proximity of buildings and fences.

Herehere Stream

As with the Mangarau Stream, clearance of debris and treefall has proven complicated due to access issues. A number of locations are being assessed for bank stability issues to address this.

Havelock North dams

All five Havelock North dams are undergoing a thorough inspection and review to identify any remedial works required.

2C status

A group of homes in the Joll Road and Plassey Street area remain categorised as 2C at this time. This indicates that work is required to mitigate risk to life during flood events. Consultants are working to assess options that would enable that categorisation to move to 1. That would allow repairs of homes to the previous standard to go ahead.

Feedback

Hastings District Council remains keen to receive photos, video and information that will assist with understanding how the flood impacted the area. You can upload information here: <https://hbrc.mysocialpinpoint.com/hawkesbay-recovery-and-resilience>

FREE COMMUNITY EVENT

Getting through post cyclone: A 'fireside chat' with Dr Lucy Hone. 12.30pm, 13 July at Toitoti – Functions on Hastings

Dr Hone is a director of the NZ Institute of Wellbeing & Resilience and offers profound insight on human suffering through her work following the Christchurch earthquake and her own unimaginable tragedy.

Register to attend the chat, facilitated by 'Toddy' from Toddy Talks, at <https://www.eventfinda.co.nz/2023/getting-through-post-cyclone-with-dr-lucy-hone/hastings>. Light lunch will be provided.

Surplus Donations Pop-Up Clearance



WHEN

Saturday 8 July

Sunday 9 July

10am-4pm

WHERE

Giant's Gym, 108 Eastbourne Street East,
Hastings 4122

Surplus bedding and clothing donations from Cyclone Gabrielle, bring a bag and fill it up for a koha donation.

All donations will go back into the Mayoral Relief Fund.



WHERE YOU CAN SEEK HELP

- Log into 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, or go to 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.

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.