

# CYCLONE GABRIELLE UPDATES

04.09.2023

HERETAUNGA  
HASTINGS DISTRICT COUNCIL

## Message from the Mayor

Kia ora,

Our consultation on amending our Long Term Plan to allow us to undertake voluntary purchases of properties in Category 3 areas will close at 5pm tomorrow Tuesday (5 September) – thank you to everyone who has given us feedback so far.

This decision-making is an important step in our recovery and an opportunity to receive a significant package of Government funding, as well as give impacted people more certainty about their futures.

As a council we will be considering submissions on September 14 and if appropriate will consider final Crown agreements on September 21.

Our council faces an estimated \$800m repair and rebuild programme for our roads and bridges that will take about five years to complete.

It's a huge challenge, but our teams have been working hard and have finished inspecting all the roads, culverts and bridges for damage. Every new weather event brings up new issues so the work is ongoing with priority given to areas with high use, or that are needed for our farmers to carry out their business.

In the meantime, planning is going ahead on the design of permanent bridges to help our district's resilience into the future, starting with the Puketapu and Matapiro bridges.

If you have been impacted and are struggling to cope I do encourage you to make use of the help that's available listed at the end of this newsletter. This is a long process and not an easy one so please do reach out if you need to.



Kia Kaha

Sandra Hazlehurst

## Long Term Plan (LTP) 2021-2031 amendment public consultation

**REMINDER:** Submissions close 5pm Tuesday 5 September on the Long Term Plan (LTP) 2021-2031 amendment public consultation

### How to have your say

To tell us your views on the proposal outlined in the full consultation document and draft amended 2021-2031 LTP document visit: [www.myvoicemychoice.co.nz](http://www.myvoicemychoice.co.nz).

Following the devastation by Cyclone Gabrielle, the Crown has offered a funding package for Hawke's Bay's cyclone recovery to help us move forward as a region.

### The regional funding deal

The package would secure an overall Crown contribution to Hawke's Bay of \$556m and includes:

- **Transport:** \$260m towards Hawke's Bay's transport recovery
- **Flood mitigation:** \$203m, contingent on HB Regional Council funding of \$44m, towards flood mitigation works in Category 2 areas
- **Residential property purchases:** A capped Crown contribution of \$92.5m towards Category 3 residential property purchases in Hawke's Bay (for Hastings District Council, enough to match its estimated contribution of \$50m)

The offer is conditional on a partnership approach with all councils, and councils sharing the cost with the Crown of voluntary Category 3 residential property purchases.

### What Hastings would get

About \$350m of the regional funding would be spent in the Hastings District made up of:

- **Transport:** \$197m for repairs to roads and bridges (at a 100% subsidy rate). This is a \$50m increase over standard transport funding
- **Flood mitigation:** A package supporting \$100m for flood mitigation in the Hastings District
- **Residential property purchases:** A 50/50 share of Category 3 voluntary residential property purchases with Hastings District Council's contribution estimated at \$50m.

To receive almost \$350m in financial support for the Hastings District, the Crown requires Hastings District Council to contribute an estimated \$50m towards voluntary property purchases, offset by the \$50m increase on standard transport funding.

## Long Term Plan amendment needed

As the Category 3 voluntary residential property purchases are a new activity for Council, which will need to be provided for in the Long Term Plan (LTP), we are consulting with you, our community, on the proposal to amend the LTP, along with changes to our revenue and financing policy.

## Public feedback sessions

For those who might not have been able to attend our in-person public feedback sessions, a Facebook Live FAQ session was held on Wednesday 30 August and can be viewed here: [https://www.facebook.com/watch/live/?ref=watch\\_permalink&v=868666221342761](https://www.facebook.com/watch/live/?ref=watch_permalink&v=868666221342761)



The Council will consider the feedback at its September 14 meeting and, if appropriate, consider the final Crown agreements on September 21.

## Hastings roads and bridges update

All roads, culverts, and bridges have been inspected, and faults logged post Cyclone Gabrielle. The community can be assured that we are aware of the scale of damage, and the time, and cost to repair. At this stage, our estimated response and recovery cost is around \$800M and will take 5-7 years to repair/rebuild. How this is funded will affect the timing of the rebuild and the development of any high-level programme.



We have work priorities based on road hierarchy and known higher-intensity farming routes. These do change as/when we receive information, and when road conditions change.

Our roading team are working with our maintenance contractors to implement the initial response activities to safeguard our vulnerable network. This work can be seen throughout the network now.

Our panel of consultants are busy with investigations and designs of the recovery aspects of bigger and more complex slips, bridge works, and culvert repairs on our road network, to develop the right and appropriate engineering solutions. These often require geotechnical investigations and surveying during the design phase prior to construction. Work is also well underway in this space, but the community may see small jobs being done while large sites seem to be left alone for now.

If a customer has a query about a site in particular, and there are reasons to elevate the site to a higher priority, we welcome them to call us on (06) 871 5000.

## Permanent bridge rebuilds

HDC partner with mana whenua for projects that have an impact to waterways, this partnership is underpinned by the principles of the Treaty of Waitangi and the statutory acknowledgments of mana whenua over our local rivers.

Statutory acknowledgments record some of the special associations mana whenua have with sites or areas, associations that are recognised by the Crown through the Treaty of Waitangi settlement process and the Acts that give effect to those settlements. These statutory acknowledgments influence the Resource Management Act 1991 processes for a proposal.

In planning the construction of permanent bridges to replace those lost during Cyclone Gabrielle, HDC will be partnering with mana whenua to help guide our decision making.

## Land Categorisation Community Engagement

The public engagement phase of the Cyclone Gabrielle land categorisation process will soon be coming to an end, with feedback closing on the following dates:



- Pakowhai – Now closed
- Esk/Tangoio/Aropanui – Now closed
- ALL other areas – feedback closes 11:59pm Thursday 7 September

If you have already provided feedback on the provisional category for your property this has been received and is being reviewed by Hawke's Bay Regional Council. If you have not yet provided direct feedback relating to your property and would like to, we encourage you to do this at your earliest convenience before feedback closes in your area. Below is a list of ways you can do this:

- Visit an on-duty Connector at Hastings District Council Customer Services. You can find a schedule of days and times here: [www.hastingsdc.govt.nz/cyclone-gabrielle/land-categorisation/](http://www.hastingsdc.govt.nz/cyclone-gabrielle/land-categorisation/)
- Via the online portal at <https://hbrc.mysocialpinpoint.com/hawkesbay-recovery-and-resilience>
- Call a Hastings District Council Connector on (06) 871 5000

## Revised rates remission applications available for cyclone-affected properties

To qualify for this rates relief, the property either must have been officially yellow stickered by Council or the land severely damaged or eroded (including crop or pasture damage), making it unusable or uneconomic.

In the wake of Cyclone Gabrielle, properties that have been deemed uninhabitable (red stickered) are being granted an automatic rates remission, so an application isn't required.

For a remission to be granted on yellow stickered properties, the yellow sticker must be on the main dwelling/building on the property (i.e. primary residence). This requires an application.

If the main dwelling/building is useable (white/no sticker) but a yellow sticker has been applied to another building(s) on the property (i.e., workshop, storage unit, sleepout, cabin etc.), rates will not be remitted however rates can be

postponed for a period, determined between Council and the applicant (but no later than 30 June 2025).

Once the remission has been approved, you do not need to reapply.

For land that has been damaged, applications need to include the following information:

- Is the damage to just land, just crops, or land and crops?
- What portion of land on the property is damaged and unusable? i.e., whole or part – if only part of the property, please provide an approximate % of the total property size affected.
- What are the economic (financial) impacts?
- How long do you expect the land to be unusable?
- Supporting photos showing the damage.

To complete an application form online or download a pdf copy, visit: <https://www.hastingsdc.govt.nz/cyclone-gabrielle/rates-relief/>

## Payments for stickered properties continue



Hastings District Council is continuing the one-off support payments of \$2000 through the Hastings Mayoral Relief Fund to owners of red and yellow stickered properties. To date, 628 properties have received payments with new applications continuing to come in via the Smarty Grants website; HDC customer service, and our community connectors.

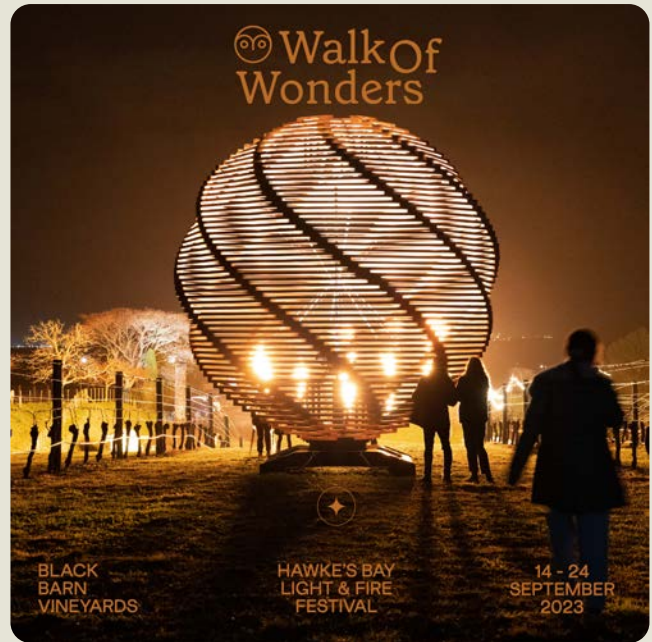
Note, these payments are based on the property ID data held by Hastings District Council, with the one-off \$2000 payments made to a single bank account for each property as a whole. Payments are made per property, not per building or per owner on that property.

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](http://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](mailto:customerservice@hdc.govt.nz) or phone: (06) 871 5000.



## Walk of Wonders

Walk of Wonders is a mesmerizing light & fire festival which guides its audience through a landscape of illuminated art installations and wandering performances, accompanied by a wondrous original musical score, and interwoven with a tale of adventure and magic.

### Black Barn Vineyards 14-24 September

More info <https://walkofwonders.co.nz/>

Hastings District Council have a limited number of free tickets for the opening night on Thursday 14 September. Follow the link <https://www.eventfinda.co.nz/2023/walk-of-wonders-the-return-journey/havelock-north> and insert promo code BS45ZP. Tickets are allocated on a first in, first served basis.

## 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.