

Rural Report

MAY 2022

Roading response to storm event largely complete

Major rain events can play havoc with the roading network, particularly in rural areas, and we got a recent reminder of that with the storm that swept the district from March 23 to 26.

It caused widespread flooding and damage from slips and dropouts, and 11 crews were out and about during the storm and immediately afterwards to clear slips and make roads safe.

Significant works are still required across the network for the large slip sites, and also clearing remaining debris from bridges.

The total estimate of damage to roads is \$1.4 million, which has been submitted to Waka Kotahi for funding assistance.

Thanks to ongoing maintenance work that's been carried out in the past, such as clearing culverts and drains, the damage and associated total clean-up cost was significantly less than it might have been.

Call to heed funding challenges

Setting aside the impact of these kind of weather events, our rural roads are experiencing increased wear and tear and Council has to prioritise its maintenance and upgrades within the restrictions of decreasing Central Government funding.

At its May, Rural Community Board meeting, members addressed the issue of falling levels of funding over the past 10 to 12 years, resulting in a growing backlog of roadworks to improve the network.

The board members asked that the full council be made aware of their concerns about Waka Kotahi's underinvestment over the past three Long Term Plans.



They also asked that a report be brought to council to highlight the funding shortfall and the growing negative impacts and risks to the roading network due to consistent underfunding.

Remember ...

In storm events like these, people are advised to stay at home and off the roads wherever possible. To keep up with information on road closures, the Hastings District Council website is kept up to date during these kind of events, or you can check on this page

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

To report road closures, slips or trees down call Council customer service (06) 871 5000 (24 hours).



Mount Erin Road upgrade

As proposed during consultation in September 2020, Hastings District Council has been undertaking significant road renewal works on Mount Erin Road.

Stage one of these works, from Crystall Road to about 69 Mount Erin Road, are due to be completed the week starting June 10.

Stage two will complete the project to Te Aute Road and is set to start in September, when improvements will be made to the Mount Erin Road/School Road and St Georges Road/Te Aute Road intersections.

Rural resilience

The Ministry for Primary Industries has renewed funding for two successful programmes training farmers, growers and other rural people to manage pressure and adapt to change.

The Agri-Women's Development Trust has been allocated \$339,000 to expand its popular 'Know Your Mindset. Do What Matters' and 'Our Resilient Farming Business' programmes.

To find out more about these programmes and when courses are being run go to:

[Know your Mindset. Do what Matters](#)

[Our Resilient Farming Business](#)

Sunny day for tree planting project

A safety project which has been a year in the making came to fruition when 700 plants new plants were established in the village of Maraekākaho in the space of two hours thanks to a great turnout of enthusiastic community members!

Almost as much talking as working went on as 20 to 30 friends and neighbours of all ages worked together on a sunny Saturday morning in May and the rain fell, perfectly timed, the day after.

It's a well-known fact established by many studies that the introduction of plants and trees alongside roads can help to reduce traffic speed, as well as making any community look more attractive and interesting.

The Maraekākaho project saw most plants placed in specially prepared and mulched beds within the 50 km/h area along Kereru Road, with a few leftover plants used to fill in spaces at previous planting sites near the village recycling centre.



The joint venture between Focus Maraekākaho, Hastings District Council and the Maraekākaho community, came about through the Maraekākaho Community Plan produced by the Focus MKK team in 2018. The road safety scheme was planned and overseen by Council's Lachlan Chapman and Bart Leslie, who were jointly responsible for the overall design and choice of plants. The next step will be upgrading of road safety markings through the village and the installation of active speed signs.

Appliance and whiteware recycling

Got household whiteware or old tyres you need to get rid of? Here in Hawke's Bay we have a few ways to take care of these:

• Henderson Road Transfer Station takes:

- Washing machines and dishwashers – with no disposal charge
- Fridge and freezers – with a \$10 disposal charge (this is to de-gas them)
- Car tyres – with a disposal charge of \$8 per tyre
- Truck tyres – with a disposal charge of \$25 per tyre

Get more details about Henderson Road [here](#).

• Redclyffe Transfer Station takes:

- Washing machines and dishwashers – with no disposal charge
- Fridge and freezers – under general waste charges
- Car tyres – with a disposal charge of \$8 per tyre

Get more details about Redclyffe [here](#).

- **Local scrap metal dealers:** if the item you want to dispose of contains metal there is a good chance a local scrap metal dealer will take care of it for you (and possibly even pay you for it). It's likely they'll take a look at what you've got and decide how much money you get based on the type of metal, how much it weighs and the effort involved in sorting/recycling it.

- **Tiger Tyres:** You can take any of your car tyres to Tiger Tyres (located at 6 Hyderabad Road, Napier) for a disposal charge of \$6 per tyre.

By recycling these items you'll be preventing them from going to landfill. Contact our Waste Minimisation Team at reducewaste@hdc.govt.nz if you've got any questions.

Vote 2022 – nominations open in July

The Rural Community Board is an important governance group at Hastings District Council, there to represent those in Hastings' rural communities.

The current Rural Community Board is made up of six members, four elected by the rural community of Hastings to represent the rural subdivisions of Maraekākaho, Kaweka, Poukawa and Tūtira and two Council appointees (the two rural ward councillors). After the elections, the new Council will also appoint one of the Takitimu Māori ward councillors to the Board. All eligible electors in the relevant subdivision can vote for their local rural community board representative.

As the voice of the rural community, the Board looks after rural matters for which the council is responsible; such as rural roads, bridge repairs and maintenance, recycling and rural halls.

The Rural Community Board is involved in setting the vision for the rural community as part of the Long Term Plan and Annual Plan and hears submissions on rural subjects and also considers and gives guidance on the setting of rates.

Nominations for the Rural Community Board open Friday 15 July and close Friday 12 August at 12 noon. Voting opens Friday 16 September and closes noon Saturday 8 October.

If you are returning your voting paper by mail, you must post your voting paper in a NZ Post box before Tuesday 4 October to reach the electoral officer before close of voting on Saturday 8 October 2022.

For more information, click [here](#).

Rural Community Board Members



Nick Dawson
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Sue Maxwell
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Jonathan Stockley
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Marcus Buddo
Board | Poukawa

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