



WAIROA RECOVERY

TE WAIROA KA ORA TE WERO TE TAKI
STRENGTH x UNITY x RESILIENCE



TUESDAY, DECEMBER 9TH 2025 | NEWSLETTER 19

Iti noa ana he pito mata | From the withered tree a flower blooms



RECOVERY SUPPORT TO CONTINUE THROUGH COUNCIL DAY-TO-DAY BUSINESS

Tēnā koutou katoa,

Officially closing the Council's Recovery Office and absorbing recovery needs through the Council's day-to-day business is a bittersweet moment.

It marks the fact that we have recovered enough to no longer require a dedicated specific hub for our district's recovery, but also reminds us of the people who are still suffering and the work we still need to do as part of our rebuilding and resilience.

It is so sad that we still have whānau impacted by both events who, through no fault of their own, are struggling to rebuild their lives.

I am still incredibly frustrated that Cyclone Gabrielle marked the end of Wairoa's aged care facility. I have been advocating with the Central Government to have a temporary facility established while we work on a permanent solution – but have had no luck. It is a sad day when business arrangements prevail over the duty of care for elderly people. I will not back down and will keep pushing to find a solution for our people.

Great news, though, is the progress being made with the Wairoa Flood

Mitigation Project. All going well, we will see shovels in the ground this summer, and work will begin to help keep our town as safe as possible.

I found it really interesting to read some of the achievement highlights included in this newsletter. We have made significant progress in so many areas and are so grateful to those who have supported us. Many people across New Zealand have made donations through the Cyclone Gabrielle and June 2024 flooding Give-a-Little fund and the Mayoral Relief Fund. While we cannot personally thank you all individually, I would like to extend my deepest gratitude.

Over the past two and a half years, plus, we have received tremendous corporate support, particularly from Affco. Most of this has come through businesses linked to our community, and we remain extremely appreciative.

Then there are other organisations that have so generously stepped in. I would like to particularly thank the New Zealand Red Cross, Tātau Tātau o te Wairoa, the Rapid Relief team, the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints and the New Zealand Meatworkers' Union – you have all

made a significant difference.

It is also important to acknowledge the current government and Minister for Emergency Management and Recovery, Mark Mitchell, as well as the previous government and Minister Kieran McAnulty. We received significant support from these governments and their departments, and we are appreciative of our needs being recognised.

I would also like to thank the Wairoa Recovery Team, from the initial Recovery Manager Benita Tahuri, who did a fantastic job in unprecedented times, through to the team we have today, and everyone who has helped out in between, thank you. I know many of you were impacted yourselves, and I appreciate the work you have done.

Council remains committed to supporting people in their recovery, and we are only a phone call away. In fact, we welcome your contact, as every person we can help and every house we remove a yellow sticker from is another step in our journey to full recovery.

In closing, I wish you all a very Merry Christmas and all the best for a prosperous 2026.



FAREWELL FROM RECOVERY

WAIROA RECOVERY MANAGER TE AROHA COOK

After 21 months of operation, cooperation, and empowering individuals and communities to recover from the impacts of Cyclone Gabrielle in February 2023 and the June 2024 flood event, the role of the Wairoa Recovery Office has come to an end.

Since July 2024, it has been my privilege to work alongside a dedicated and extremely competent team. I would like to acknowledge the foundations laid by former Recovery Manager Benita Tahuri and her original Recovery Team, which came together after Cyclone Gabrielle.

Managing Recovery is complex, and if not done well, could lead to significant social and economic impacts for the health and wellbeing of our communities. This journey has never been about just returning things to how they were. It has been about strengthening our people, the communities they live in, and emergency awareness and preparedness for the future. From flood protection works and the reinstatement of roads and bridges, to emergency readiness initiatives for marae and community halls, and from the placement of emergency pods to the installation of solar panels, Recovery has participated in laying the foundations for a safer and more resilient district. While many homes have been repaired or are close to repair, emotional and social recovery from natural disasters

can take time, and for some, the prolonged stress of rebuilding and recovery has, and continues to take, a toll on people's wellbeing and ability to cope. Wairoa's existing community support systems and health sector services remain available to support you.

Since the first event in February 2023, your dedicated team of Recovery Officers, several of whom were directly impacted themselves, continued to support those affected in a variety of ways by:

- Being someone to talk to
- Offering a single point of access for assistance for all recovery needs, such as building repairs, and providing support when working with builders and other contractors
- Identifying funding opportunities, informing people of what was available, and assisting impacted people to complete and submit funding applications
- Helping with insurance and accommodation queries – including helping people connect with Residential Advisory Service (RAS) and Temporary Accommodation Services (TAS)
- Advocating on behalf of impacted people with government agencies and insurance companies
- Connecting people with other agencies that may be able to assist, including health services,

financial services, and other Council departments

- Sourcing building materials, household goods, and other essential items
- Managing the Pataka, and receiving and distributing donated goods/household items
- Facilitating events and workshops for flood-impacted whānau/families
- Organising counselling sessions

By working collaboratively with community groups, services, organisations, iwi partners, charitable organisations such as Red Cross, and government agencies, we have coordinated our efforts to leverage resources, funding, skills, and knowledge.

It is not easy recovering from natural disasters – our communities know that from personal experience – but if we support each other, reach out when we need help and adapt together, we can overcome these challenges, and continue to thrive – as embodied in the following whakataukī:

'Ehara taku toa ite toa takitahi, engari he toa takatini | My strength is not that of an individual, but that of many.'

The Recovery Team wishes everyone all the best for the upcoming festive season.

Te Arohanui Cook (TC)
Recovery Manager

CUSTOMER SERVICE REQUESTS

If you need assistance around flood recovery, the best way to make contact is by filling out a CSR (Customer Service Request) with the Wairoa District Council.

We have been tweaking our system to ensure we can respond to requests. There have been a few times when the system has been overloaded and some CSRs may have been overlooked or taken longer to action than we would have liked. Please, if you have lodged a CSR and have not received a satisfactory response, try again, and we will do our best to assist you.

A CSR can be made by ringing the Council office on 06 838 7309, in person at the Wairoa District Council or online by going to the Wairoa District Council website: www.wairoadc.govt.nz/contact-us/customer-service-request

BUILDING MOMENTUM:

PROGRESS CONTINUES FOR WAIROA FLOOD MITIGATION

The Wairoa Flood Mitigation project continues to move forward, with several important milestones recently achieved that bring us closer to delivering improved flood protection for our community.

A preferred contractor, Goodmans, has now been appointed through an early contractor involvement process. This means the project team now has additional expertise on board to assist with finalising the technical design and preparing for construction.

Crown Manager, Lawrence Yule, says the contractor appointment, combined with other recent achievements, demonstrates tangible progress is being made.

"We've seen positive momentum across multiple fronts in recent months. The appointment of our preferred contractor, the funding that has been secured, and the Order in Council amendment that has been approved are all significant steps forward," Mr Yule says.

Land access negotiations remain a key focus, with the project team continuing to work respectfully with directly impacted whānau and property owners.

In direct response to feedback from mana whenua,

further refinement of the Option 1C+ alignment also continues, with ongoing work to narrow the floodway and minimise impacts on whānau, whenua and homes wherever possible.

The Crown peer review process has now been initiated, with some engineering refinements highlighted which the team is working through in more detail, with the support of technical engineering and construction expertise.

"Though we still have more detailed design and peer review works to complete, we have identified a resource consenting pathway that will allow the project to progress efficiently," says Mr Yule.

"Additionally, we continue to work toward the possibility of some construction activity during the current summer season, subject to achieving all necessary project approvals from the Crown."

At the heart of the project is a commitment to moving forward together, says Mr Yule.

"This is about turning plans into action to protect the Wairoa community, and while much of the technical work happens behind the scenes, real progress is being made every day.

"As always, we remain grateful for the ongoing engagement and patience of the community as we work toward a safer future for all."

FUNDING STILL AVAILABLE

The June 2024 flood Wairoa Mayoral Relief Fund is still open for applications.

The local funds aim to support Wairoa district residents most affected, particularly those whose homes have been yellow-stickered.

So far, just over \$662,000 from the June 2024 fund has been distributed.

The aim of the fund is to provide relief to those impacted and to enable immediate needs to be met. There is not enough funding available to meet everyone's needs, and the fund is not intended as a substitute for insurance.

Applications can be made online via the Wairoa District Council website or by calling the Council offices and collecting a hardcopy application form.

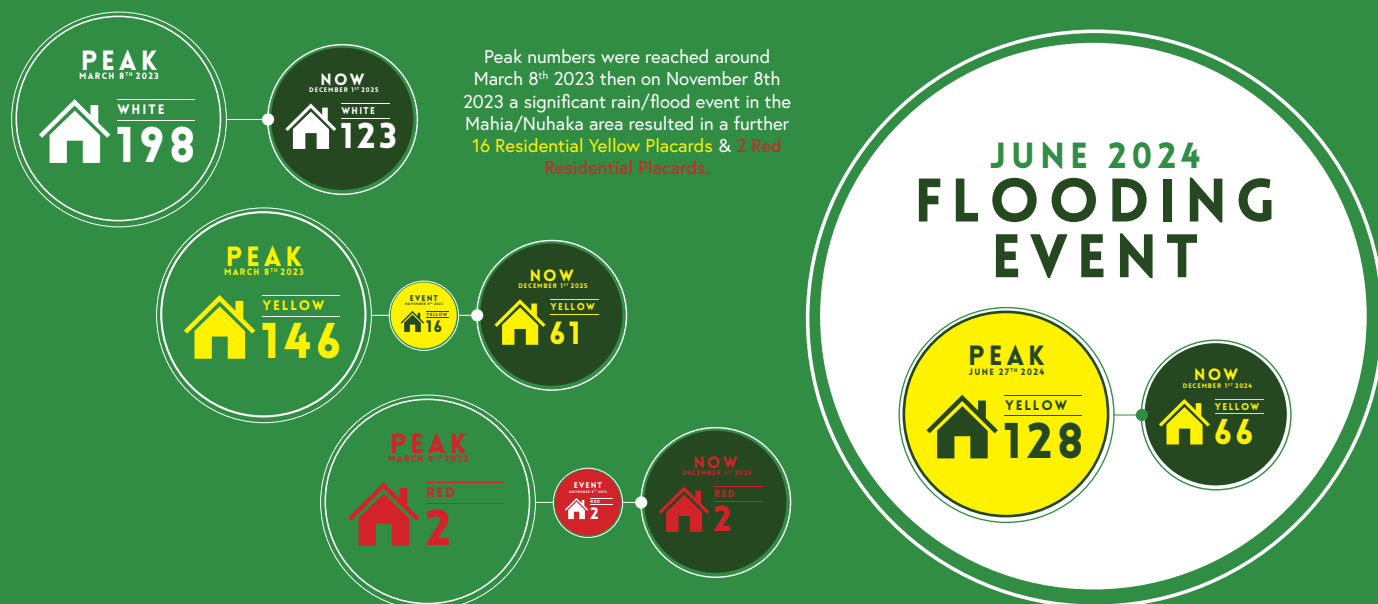
A reminder to applicants: if you can, please complete your application online, as this enables processing to be completed more quickly. Also, don't forget to attach the relevant information, especially bank account details.

To apply head to <https://www.wairoadc.govt.nz/services/civil-defence-emergency/flood-related-information/wairoa-mayoral-relief-fund-june-2024/> or scan the QR code

**WAIROA
MAYORAL
RELIEF
FUND STILL
OPEN FOR
APPLICATIONS**



STATUS OF STICKERED HOMES



PLACARDED PROPERTIES

If your flood-impacted home or business received a yellow or white placard, the building will need to be assessed by the Wairoa District Council's building team to enable the stickered status to be removed.

It is likely that many local flood-impacted buildings have had the required building work completed, but now they need a Council inspection to confirm the work is complete and the criteria have been met so that the placard can be officially removed.

Council wants to help our flood-

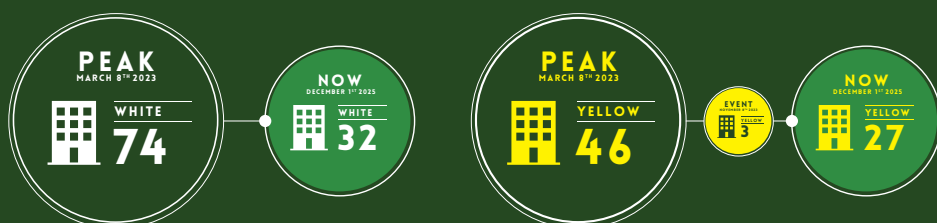
impacted communities move on from these events and the stickered property system. There is no cost for a Council inspection.

This is an important part of our rebuilding and closing the loop. We know that in many cases, work has been completed or there is very little left to do to have the placard status removed.

If your home or business received a stickered status and you think the appropriate remediation work has been undertaken and the status can be removed, or you need advice

on how to get the building to the required standard, please contact the council on 06 838 7309 so a free assessment can be arranged.

STATUS OF STICKERED BUSINESSES



Peak numbers were reached around March 8th 2023 then on November 8th 2023 a significant rain/flood event in the Mahia/Nuhaka area resulted in a further 3 Commercial Yellow

MOVING ON FROM DEVASTATION OF CYCLONE GABRIELLE

Optimistic and adaptable Marumaru couple Karl and Becky Donovan are rebuilding their lives after Cyclone Gabrielle flooding took away their home, land and livelihoods.

While they admit recovery from the disaster has a long tail, they are grateful for their family and friends who have supported their rebuilding process, which included converting their two-storey woolshed into their new home.

The Donovans have lived on their 7-ha block, 20km from town, for around ten years. The property is their home and, along with additional leased land, their income source.

Becky was seven months pregnant with their third child when Cyclone Gabrielle struck. Watching the river rise, they packed up their kids, Maddie, now 11 and Tommy, now 9, and drove through flood waters that reached the bonnet of vehicles. The family, along with Becky's sister and neighbour, Laura, and her two children, took refuge in the forestry block on a hill across the road.

Becky said the water was rising so quickly, and being pregnant, she felt so vulnerable and just wanted to get everyone to safety.

As dawn began to break, they could see their homestead surrounded with water up to the windows – about 1.2metres in height.

The family stayed with Laura and then rented a nearby farm cottage just in time for the arrival of new baby boy, Benjamin, on April 23, 2023.

Wanting to remain at their property, they decided to convert the woolshed, and with help from friends and family, the transformation began.

Now, nearly three years later, their new woolshed home features four bedrooms, a deck that wraps around the open-plan living area, and is set in a landscaped garden. Their home has a brand-new roof, and every external sheet of tin has been removed so they could insulate and wrap.

"We love it, it's cool. We loved the character of our old house,

a 100-year-old-plus homestead, and there's even more character here," say the couple who have left overhead shearing plants in place and have a sheep chute down to a playroom. The makeover is nearing completion, with a downstairs wetroom, laundry and spare room, and a few other finishing touches to be added to complete the job.

Most of the work has been completed by Karl with the help of his two builder brothers, friends, and a bit of Google. Karl jokingly describes himself as being qualified by experience.

Looking back on their journey, they say the biggest challenge was insurance, saying the people they were dealing with just didn't understand the severity of the situation and what they were going through. "It ended up taking one and a half years to be paid out, and that was with us being really proactive and trying to make progress. The people we dealt with just lacked empathy, they weren't living what we were living. It was really frustrating."



Becky and Karl Donovan with their post-Cyclone Gabrielle son Ben, on the deck of their converted woolshed home.

Another challenge has been reinstating the land. Clearing silt, cleaning up debris, relaying water lines, stockproofing paddocks, pasture renewal, and dealing with weeds brought down by the river.

Prior to the cyclone, Karl, a mechanic, had his own business doing contract work locally. Losing all his tools in the flood meant an employment reset, and he returned to work in the mines in Australia in July last year. "It was becoming hard living on a property that needed so much work and seeing it every day. Now that I'm away for two weeks, I come home and have a real lift in energy and motivation to get stuck in, and we are getting a lot more done."

The couple have also bought another property, and the plan is to dismantle their flooded homestead and use what is salvageable to build a cabin on their new block. "We definitely look at things differently now, especially properties, and that's why we are not rebuilding the homestead, we are just too scared it could happen again."

Karl and Becky say these days they don't sweat the little things that they can't control. "We lost so much, and it has grounded us by knowing it can all be gone in a heartbeat."

Becky says the damage from the cyclone put a lot into perspective. "Home is what you make it and who you are with. I feel proud of us. It would have been easy to lock the gate and walk away, but Ben kept us grounded. We wanted to stay on our land in a safe space and for our kids to have a home. Ben doesn't know any different, and our older kids are proud to live in a woolshed."

The Donovans say it is the people who supported them who made them realise what a great community they have around them. They also praised the support they received from the Wairoa Recovery Office and Rapid Relief Team.

"Without the friendships we have and the people who have helped, we wouldn't have got to where we are today. I hope that in the future, when our kids go through challenging times, they can look back and say, "Mum and Dad made it through Cyclone Gabrielle", and that gives them the strength to persevere."



The Donovan's 100-year-old Marumaru homestead was engulfed by floodwaters in Cyclone Gabrielle.



Ben, Becky and Karl Donovan inside their character woolshed home, which features overhead shearing plants and a sheep chute.

CUSTOMER SERVICE REQUESTS

If you need assistance around flood recovery, the best way to make contact is by filling out a CSR (Customer Service Request) with the Wairoa District Council.

We have been tweaking our system to ensure we can respond to requests. There have been a few times when the system has been overloaded and some CSRs may have been overlooked or taken longer to action than we would have liked. Please, if you have lodged a CSR and have not received a satisfactory response, try again, and we will do our best to assist you.

A CSR can be made by ringing the Council office on 06 838 7309, in person at the Wairoa District Council or online by going to the Wairoa District Council website: www.wairoadc.govt.nz/contact-us/customer-service-request

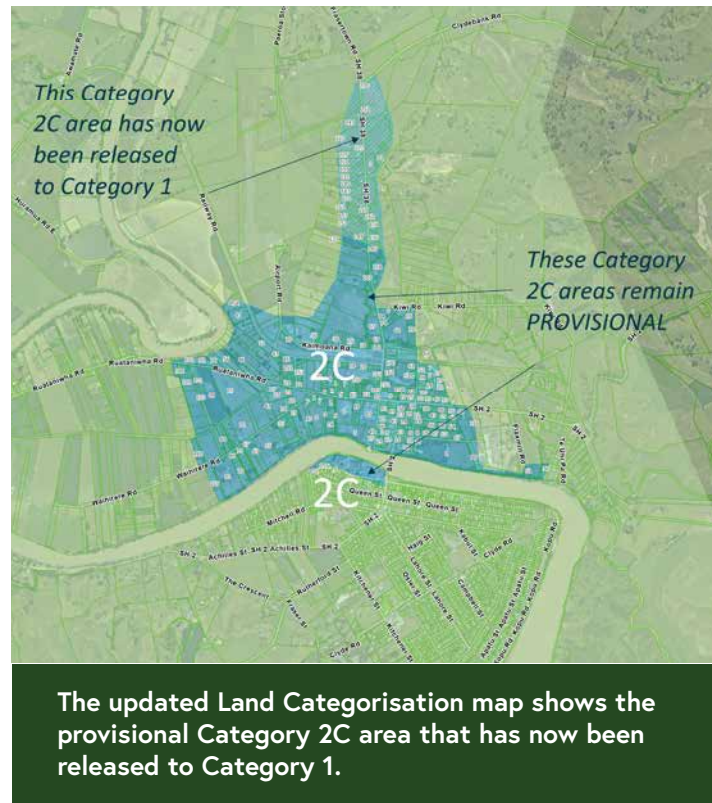
POSITIVE OUTCOME FOR SOME FRASERTOWN ROAD PROPERTIES

A total of 41 properties on Frasertown Road have received confirmation that their recategorisation has moved from provisional Category 2C to Category 1.

In a letter to property owners, the Hawke's Bay Regional Council said recent further technical assessments confirmed that flooding in the area came from the Awatere Stream/Paeroa Drainage Scheme, rather than the Wairoa River.

Wairoa Flood Mitigation Project Crown Manager Lawrence Yule said this is excellent news for those property owners who can now move forward with certainty in their recovery, and reduces the number of provisional Category 2C to 586 properties.

"This is a positive outcome for these Frasertown Road families."



NEED SUPPORT? WE ARE HERE

For those experiencing increased anxiety, feelings of helplessness, frustration, anger, or worry – there is help available. You do not have to go through it alone.

Weave Hawke's Bay (formerly Napier Family Centre's (NFC)) counselling team is available to support the Wairoa community free of charge.

Whānau don't have to be physically affected by a natural disaster for their wellbeing to be impacted. People can access free counselling support whether they have been directly or indirectly affected by Cyclone Gabrielle and or

the June flooding event. Offering confidential services from a private space on the Marine Parade, Weave Hawke's Bay offers Wairoa whānau a safe place to explore and express thoughts and feelings with support and without judgment. The counselling team are all registered with professional bodies.

Seeking help can be difficult. The Weave Hawke's Bay team aims to minimise barriers to accessing the service. No referral is needed - individuals can start the process by calling 0508 678 910.

REFLECTING ON RECOVERY PROGRESS

As we move out of the Cyclone Gabrielle and June 2024 flooding recovery stage we reflect on some of the achievement highlights.



- 24 Cyclone Gabrielle impacted homes fully repaired with funding sourced through Tātau Tātau o Te Wairoa
- 60 homes insulated
- 4 houses repaired through funding provided by Jesus Christ of the Latter-Day Saints Church
- Over 2,000 sheets of gib board distributed
- 138 fridges, freezers, washing machines and ovens distributed



147 yellow stickers removed from homes across all events



19 yellow stickers removed from businesses across all events



70 Cyclone Gabrielle flood impacted recipients received Red Cross bundles of home essentials from kitchen appliances to bedding and furniture



- Silt removed from 135 homes and businesses post Cyclone Gabrielle
- Gravel delivered for driveways at over 30 properties after Cyclone Gabrielle



Responded to 912 flooding related Wairoa District Council CSR (Customer Service Requests)

208 King, Queen, King single and single beds distributed



The Pātaka was Established by Tātau Tātau o te Wairoa to provide support for Wairoa's flood-affected whānau directly after Cyclone Gabrielle operated until March 2024. In that time the top five distribution items were 9,020 rolls of toilet paper, 8,114 600ml and one litre bottles of water, 6,188 410 gram tins tuna, 5,320 packets of noodles and 2,368 coveralls



Wairoa Recovery newsletter recognised at a national level picking up the Local Government Excellence award for Community engagement

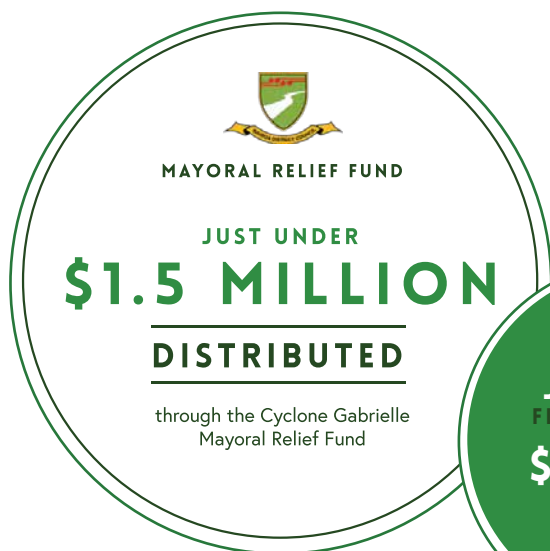
Roading: 75 dropouts fixed, 19 bridges repaired, and hundreds of landslips cleared



Opoiti Bridge repaired and replacement of the permanent Te Reinga Bridge underway. This work began in May 2025 and is a \$14 million fully subsidised project. Progress is continuing around the replacement of the Waikare (Glenbrook) Bridge and the Te Puna Bridge



Wairoa District Council purchased ARK temporary flood barriers



- Wairoa District Council secured \$94 million in external funding to repair road damage caused by six separate weather events, including Cyclone Gabrielle. Over the 2024/25 year, \$25 million in emergency roading works was completed – that is above Council's usual roading maintenance work
- Received over \$1 million from NZ Red Cross Liveable Homes Fund which supported essential house repairs following Cyclone Gabrielle
- Received \$800,000 in government funding for eight emergency EPODs located across the district
- Wairoa District Council secured \$400,000 to install solar panels at four local halls to build resilience
- Received \$1.74 million from central government for collection and processing of cyclone flood damaged property
- Wairoa District Council received \$2.7 million through the government's regional recovery package to restore and improve the River Reserve and extend the airport runway.
- \$70 million in government funding ringfenced for flood mitigation for Wairoa
- Received \$12.4 million in government funding through the Silt and Debris Fund which paid for silt removal under residential houses, silt and debris off reserves, Wairoa landfill solutions, transport of general waste and the Awatere drain clearance project
- Removal of more than 220,000 cubic metres of woody debris along the coast between Māhia and Napier.

198 people registered for the Rapid Relief Team event and received fencing packs valued at around \$1,500 comprising 80 posts, 100 battens, 25 strainers, 5 kilos of staples, wire crimps and two rolls of wire



WHEN LIFE GIVES YOU LEMONS.....

The Limery was operating at its peak when the Wairoa River mouth flood struck.

"We were pumping," says owner Dianne Downey, "then June 26, 2024, changed everything.

"It was like the rug was pulled out from under our feet. The flooding and damage were so huge it's still hard to get my head around what we lost – and 18 months later we are still really feeling the pain.

Di says that on the morning of the flooding, the water not going down the shower plug hole was the first sign that something was not right. "I went outside, and the water was coming up the steps. I managed to get to one of the vehicles, and by that time, containers were floating around me, and the floodwaters were above the car headlights."

Between 1 and 1.5 metres of floodwater flowed through the Kopu Road orchard, the processing plant, pack house, and associated plant and machinery.

The water and silt damage was endless, compounded by logs and woody debris dumped across the property, which had been piled up across the road after Cyclone

Gabrielle.

Initially, Dianne thought around 15% of the lime trees had been impacted, but as time moves on and trees continue to die, she estimates around 25% of the citrus trees have been affected.

Ironically, it was the sweeping view of the river mouth and ocean waves breaking on the bar that inspired

Dianne and her husband, the late Paul Hyslop, to leave Auckland and buy the four-ha ex-maize block in 2010.

The couple, who worked in the beverage industry, identified a shortage of limes in the domestic market. They were drawn to Wairoa because of its ideal citrus-growing climate.



The Limery owner, Dianne Downey, is focusing on looking after the lime trees that weren't impacted by the flooding.



The Limery was literally engulfed by the flooded Wairoa River.



Flood waters and debris swamped the Kopu Road Limery site.

Before the flood, they had planted 4,000 lime trees of different varieties. In addition to producing whole fruit, the innovative pair established a lime juice processing plant on site, requiring 1,200 tonnes of fruit annually to meet their brand's market demand. Business was growing at around 35% year-over-year, and product demand was so great that The Limery was purchasing fruit from local and Gisborne growers, as well as from overseas, to ensure a year-round supply for their supermarket and hospitality clients.

Dianne recalls that when they were first establishing the business, tradies who were helping them would leave their vehicles parked on site at the end of the day and literally walk across the road to surf at the bar, which was directly opposite The Limery.

Dianne holds the Hawke's Bay Regional Council responsible for the extent of the flooding. "The failure was really that the bar was closed. There was rain forecast, and that rain needed somewhere to go."

The Limery is leading a class-action

lawsuit that has been lodged against the Regional Council.

The past 18 months have been a rollercoaster ride for Dianne, whose priority has been to get the business back on track.

"In the first year, it was about survival. Initially, I thought we were around a million dollars out of pocket, but as time goes on, the damage caused by the water and silt keeps creeping in.

"When everything goes all in one hit you don't have enough insurance to cover that. There's this big void of that difference between what insurance did cover and what we actually lost, and are now having to try to replace ourselves."

"Financially, the costs are huge, and it's year two when you feel the real economic pain. We had a staff of 12 and wanted to keep them going as well, so it has been a tough time.

Di says it will likely be around five years to reinstate the limery to its former glory. We will replace the impacted trees, but our current focus is on good husbandry around what we have on the ground.

And while the devastation has been overwhelming, Dianne remains focused on the future. The packing and storage shed, which was being built at the time of the flooding, has now been rebuilt and completed, and The Limery is both consolidating and reinventing itself.

"I had to think outside the box, so we have developed new products utilising local ingredients. It's about getting back on the platform and showing our clients and future customers who we are. We are having to find our feet again, and it is exciting to be able to grow a new line of products. There is huge potential to take The Limery to the next level. There is a lot of scope on the horizon and also pluses about being in Wairoa, and we need to maximise those so we can move forward."

Dianne describes it as 18 months of two steps forward and one step backwards but says she is making progress. "Even though I am tired, I am driven and I want more. I'm optimistic for the future of The Limery as long as lessons have been learned and the river mouth is managed properly."



Inside the recently completed packing and storage shed.

DIRECTORY OF ASSISTANCE

MAYORAL RELIEF FUND

The Wairoa Mayoral Relief Fund, set up in response to the heavy rain on 26 June 2024, is open for applications. The local fund aims to support Wairoa District residents most affected by the flood. **Apply here:** <https://www.wairoadc.govt.nz/services/civil-defence-emergency/flood-related-information/wairoa-mayoral-relief-fund-june-2024/>.

FLOOD WASTE COLLECTION

Flood-damaged household items and materials are no longer being collected from the kerbside. Disposal of these materials needs to be directly at the landfill. If residents do not have insurance to cover the disposal cost, they can apply to the Wairoa District Council for the disposal costs to be covered by the Council. Please find the form here: <https://www.wairoadc.govt.nz/services/civil-defence-emergency/flood-related-information/>.

INSURANCE COUNCIL NEW ZEALAND

It is essential to contact your insurance provider as soon as possible after an event to ensure the claims process is as easy and efficient as possible. They can advise you on the best next steps to take, and any information they need to get the claim process underway to help you get things back to normal. Your private insurer will be your single point of contact to support your insurance recovery if the land immediately around your home, or over the first 60 metres of your main accessway, is damaged in a natural disaster, and a Natural Hazards Claim (NHC) is required. Householders do not need to raise a claim directly with NHC Toka Tu Ake, your private insurer will handle this on your behalf.

INSURANCE CLAIMS RESOLUTION SERVICE

Dealing with residential insurance claims after a natural disaster can be complex and confusing. The New Zealand Claims Resolution Service (NZCRS) supports homeowners with residential insurance claims after natural disasters to avoid disputes and resolve issues. Contact the team at NZCRS on 0508 624 327 or visit www.nzcrs.govt.nz.

WELFARE

For welfare support, please phone the Council on 06 838 7309, lodge a CSR (Customer Service Request), or visit the Council's website, www.wairoadc.govt.nz, and lodge a CSR online.

ANIMAL SUPPORT

If you need assistance with your pets, or if your pet is missing, please contact the Council's compliance team by calling 06 838 7309, emailing compliance@wairoadc.govt.nz, visiting the Council office and leaving your details at reception, or filling out a customer service request form: www.wairoadc.govt.nz/contact-us/customer-service-request/.

KAHUNGUNU EXECUTIVE

The team at Kahungunu Executive provides a range of services and programmes that could benefit local whānau affected by flooding. These services include counselling, parenting programmes, abuse prevention, home-based support and mental health. To contact Kahungunu Executive, email kahu-exec@xtra.co.nz or call 06 838 3259 or 06 838 6835. Or you can visit www.kahu-exec.co.nz.

ENABLED WAIROA

The team at Enabled Wairoa provides a range of services that could benefit local whānau. Services include emergency and transitional housing, family support: one-on-one mentoring support for parents, and Strengthening Families Support to support whānau dealing with two or more agencies to achieve their goals. The team at Enabled is available from 9am to 5pm. Please email yuanita@enabled.org.nz, call 06 838 7390 or visit www.enabled.org.nz.

MINISTRY OF SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

If you're struggling to meet your living costs, or get an unexpected bill, MSD might be able to help, even if you're working. This may include food, help with accommodation costs, power or water-related costs. For more information call 0800-559-009. 7am to 6pm Monday to Friday and 8am to 1pm Saturday. You can also visit workandincome.govt.nz and click on 'Check what you might get'.

PSYCHOSOCIAL SUPPORT

Free health and wellbeing support can help whānau at this difficult time. Ka Ora Telehealth 0800 252 672 offers same-day clinical consultations with a doctor or nurse. They are easy to book for anyone who cannot access a GP, including people who are not enrolled with a practice and rural and isolated communities. Ka Ora Telehealth can also issue prescriptions and make referrals as needed. You can also access counselling by calling/texting 1737.



Need support? We're here.

If the past couple of years have left you feeling out of sorts, we're here to help.

Maybe you're feeling anxious, sad, stressed, frustrated, or worried about your tamariki. You may be experiencing different feelings, and they might come and go. These feelings are understandable given the stress of recent weather events and it is perfectly normal to think and feel this way. Talking with someone might help.



FREE confidential & professional service available



Our counselling team can support you with strategies to get on the right track



We work with adults, tamariki, families & couples from all walks of life



You don't have to be physically affected by a natural disaster for your well-being to be impacted

CONTACT US TODAY ABOUT FREE MENTAL HEALTH SUPPORT IN WAIROA
Call 0508 678 910 or complete our enquiry form online
weavehb.org.nz

TE REINGA BRIDGE LIFT

Permanent connectivity came a step closer with the recent lifting of the Te Reinga Bridge arch onto its permanent site.

In one of the biggest bridge lifts seen in New Zealand, the bridge arch was lifted into place using a 1100-tonne crane.

Wairoa Mayor Craig Little described

the bridge lift as a huge step in connectivity for Ruakituri, Te Reinga and surrounding communities.

"Wairoa is grateful to the government for recognising our need and fully funding the \$14 million permanent replacement bridge."

Mayor Little thanked the local iwi and Māori landowners for their

assistance and guidance, and the community for their patience, and acknowledged the work of QRS, which holds the contract, and the work of the specialised sub-contractors.

The Te Reinga Bridge was initially damaged during the floods in March 2022. Further damage occurred in February 2023 during Cyclone Gabrielle, which caused a pier to wash away, leading to the bridge's closure. The old bridge was demolished in June 2023, and a temporary bridge (including a Bailey bridge) was constructed to restore access and opened in February 2024.

The new permanent bridge is a one-lane, 90.5m-long network arch spanning the entire riverbed, with a 13.5m-long single land span, eliminating the need for a pier in the riverbed.

Thank you to everyone for your patience around road closures and traffic management during the bridge lift process.



A 1100-tonne crane lifted the Te Reinga Bridge arch over the river and the temporary bridge and onto the abutments for the new permanent bridge, which is expected to open in February.



WARM HEART AND WARM HEADS

A kind-hearted gesture from a former Tiniroto School teacher has seen Waihirere Kohanga tamariki receive a whole lot of warm beanie hats.

The hand-knitted hats were sent to Wairoa Mayor Craig Little by the generous and thoughtful ex-teacher who taught at Tiniroto School in the 1970s.

In a letter sent with the beanies the ex-teacher

recalled her shopping trips to Wairoa and the great kapa haka inter-school performances.

Mayor Craig Little said the beanie donation was incredibly thoughtful with the warm hats donated to the Waihirere Kohanga, which is located next to Takitumu Marae at North Clyde, and was severely impacted by Cyclone Gabrielle flooding.



Waihirere Kohanga tamariki and mums were thrilled with the beanie donation.



WAIROA RECOVERY

TE WAIROA KA ORA TE WERO TE TAKI
STRENGTH x UNITY x RESILIENCE

FOR INFORMATION AND HELP RELATING TO CYCLONE GABRIELLE AND THE JUNE FLOODING EVENT PLEASE CONTACT US:

- In-person at the Wairoa District Council during office hours
- Online form via WDC website: www.wairoadc.govt.nz/contact-us/customer-service-request

Disclaimer: The Wairoa Recovery team has made every effort to ensure that this information is as up-to-date and accurate as possible. We acknowledge this is a rapidly changing environment and the information provided should be used for general purposes only. We encourage people to seek additional information before making any business, legal or other decisions. If you have any queries, please don't hesitate to contact us at recovery@wairoadc.govt.nz.