



WAIROA RECOVERY

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

FRIDAY, MAY 19TH NEWSLETTER 2023



Tuia ki te rangi te rangi e tū nei
Tuia ki te whenua e takoto nei
Tuia ki te moana pōkarekare nei
E rongō i te pō i te ao, i tea o i te pō nei e

*It is written in the heavens, on the earth and
in the seas, and felt in the reflection of night
and day. We are the world around us, and all
things are intrinsically connected.*

RECOVERY INFORMATION

For information and help relating to
Cyclone Gabrielle please contact us:

- Online form via WDC website www.wairoadc.govt.nz/contact-us/customer-service-request/
- Phone 06 838 7309
- In-person at the Recovery Team Office at the Wairoa Young Achievers Trust building (the old Westpac building on the corner of Marine Parade and Paul Street)
- Email recovery@wairoadc.govt.nz

Our job is to support Wairoa's recovery, rebuild, and to connect people with the services and support available, ultimately to be in a better position than we were before the cyclone.

The impact of Cyclone Gabrielle has been devastating for whānau, homes, and businesses. For some, the impact is likely to be inter-generational. For those most impacted, there is an urgent need to understand what happens next and what the recovery options are. While the situation is incredibly complex and we don't have all the answers yet, we now have more detail about the next steps and how impacted communities will be involved. It is important to know that those most impacted are at the centre of the process.

Wairoa has now submitted an initial locality plan which will form part of the Hawke's Bay Recovery plan. This is a living and constantly changing situation, you can be assured we are gaining a better understanding of the real needs of our Wairoa people. We look forward to working with you and supporting Wairoa's Recovery – building a brighter future.



MAYORAL RELIEF FUND DISTRIBUTIONS

\$531,000

APPLY NOW

Scan this QR Code or visit: <https://www.wairoadc.govt.nz/our-council/cyclone-gabrielle/wairoamayoral-relief-fund>



WAIROA RECOVERY

SILT REMOVAL UPDATE

River silt and sediment from Cyclone Gabrielle has had a major impact on whānau homes and the township. To date around 12,000 tonnes of silt has been stockpiled with much more silt removal needed, especially from under houses.

Silt removal around and under homes involves a different approach for each home depending on access, type of foundation, type of insulation, depth of silt and a risk assessment, including assessment for the presence and management of asbestos. If there is limited space under the home, it is likely to be a job for QRS which is using a high[1] pressure water system with the other crews manually removing the silt.



For White and Yellow stickered homes especially, assessments and silt removal are important as excessive silt levels can contribute to mould and decay. The Wairoa District Council is required to also check the silt levels under all houses that have received a white placard/ sticker and staff are out and about assessing white stickered homes. This information will help with understanding the full extent of silt under all stickered houses.

For silt removal please lodge a Customer Service Request:

- Online form <https://www.wairoadc.govt.nz/contact-us/customer-service-request/>
- Phone 06 838 7309
- In-person at the Recovery Team Office at the Wairoa Young Achievers Trust building (the old Westpac building on the corner of Marine Parade and Paul Street)

For more information or an update on any requests that are lodged please email recovery@wairoadc.govt.nz or go to the Wairoa Recovery page on Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/wairoarecovery>



The East Coast Rural Support Trust is a charitable trust that works with the rural community when times are tough on the farm or for your family. We also assist during and after adverse events.

We have local, rural people who know from experience that pressures can mount up, our networks and training can help with all kinds of situations and can help you get through your current challenges from Health and wellbeing, financial and adverse events. Our service is free and confidential.

Kylie Brown is our Wairoa Facilitator.

For assistance contact:
0800 787 254
www.rural-support.org.nz
Rural Support Trust
Wairoa on Facebook.

HOMES IMPACTED



BUSINESSES IMPACTED



White: Liveable (habitable).
Yellow 1: Restricted access to part/s of the building (may be habitable).
Yellow 2: Restricted access – short- term only (non-habitable).
Red: No access (not habitable).

MOISTURE LEVELS DROPPING

A local Te Rato Road couple are just a few points away from their flooded house reaching the milestone moisture mark.

the house were above 40% but with heating and dehumidifiers and the underneath silt being removed that figure is dropping.

John Morrell and his partner Katherine Purcell were forced to leave their home of seven years which was directly in the flooding pathway of Cyclone Gabrielle. The couple had 10-15cm of silt through their house and set to work cleaning up straight away.

John says for him Cyclone Gabrielle was a blast from the past. "I was living in Ruataniwha Road back in 1988 when Cyclone Bola struck. I can still remember looking down the road and seeing the water coming at us. Now here we are 35 years later, and we have experienced the same thing again."

They said their whole street helped each other and they were particularly lucky to be given a helping hand by Kingitanga from Tainui with silt hand shovelled from underneath their home. Initially, moisture readings in

The couple is thrilled to be making progress with their solid native timber home and are appreciative of all the support they have received.



Te Rato Road couple John Morrell and his partner Katherine Purcell are close to their home reaching the required moisture level which will allow them to tackle the final stages of building repairs.

MOISTURE METERS AVAILABLE TO BORROW

Twenty moisture metres are available for homeowners to borrow to check the moisture levels in their flood-affected homes. Reducing moisture levels is vital to tackling the final stages of building repairs. Many homes that were flooded had initial internal moisture readings of 40% and higher. Houses need to dry and generally moisture levels need to drop to 18% or less before interior walls can be lined. In the case of native timber buildings, the moisture level reading can be slightly higher at 24-25%. If you have native timber framing and your moisture levels are in the low 20s we recommend getting in touch with Council to see if it's possible to get your home verified earlier.

Pop into the Council offices to borrow a meter and be shown how to use it. The Silt Removal Checklist will help guide you as to when you can contact the Wairoa District Council Building team to conduct a verification moisture check to make sure internal walls are dry enough to allow wall coverings and insulation to be reinstated.

MOISTURE VERIFICATION CHECKLIST

This checklist will help guide you as to when you can contact the Wairoa District Council Building team to conduct a verification moisture check.

- ✓ 1 Septic tank cleaned, waste pipes flushed & toilet usable.
- 2 Potable water supply available.
- 3 Electrical Safety Certificate obtained.
- 4 Silt removed from internal wall cavities, exposed timber cleaned and disinfected.
- 5 Silt level gap under piled houses is greater than 400mm from the lowest timber, foundation vents are not blocked, and no organic matter or foul odours are present.
**If above conditions cannot be achieved silt level to be reduced to 15mm.*
**If polythene under house is covered in silt all silt must be removed.*
- 6 Moisture content of exposed wall framing has been confirmed <18% by a contractor.
**Moisture level requirements for native timbers is 24-25%. Please consult with your builder to confirm your timber type.*
- 7 Floors cleaned/disinfected or replaced if required.

*Steps 1-7 need to be completed before a building inspector can come and complete a moisture verification test to have the white sticker removed from your home.

RED CROSS FUNDING ASSISTANCE AVAILABLE

Wairoa has received over \$1 million in funding from the Red Cross to help repair homes in the Wairoa region that have flood damage due to Cyclone Gabrielle.

This fund can be used for septic tank cleaning, reticulation plumbing, reinstatement of home heating and essential electrical and bathroom repairs.

The Red Cross Funding stream has opened and is specifically to help accelerate the rebuild process to support residents back into their homes sooner.

Wairoa Recovery Manager Benita Tahuri said she knows Wairoa whānau are really grateful to have received another funding stream to help those who have been impacted by Cyclone Gabrielle.

Initial applications will be capped at up to \$6,000 per household, however some discretion will be applied if the amount is reasonable and will support whānau/residents to restore their homes to a safe and liveable standard. The Wairoa Recovery Team will consider each application on a case by case basis and will look to cover the reimbursement of reasonable expenses/invoices for work completed. Proof of work being completed will need to be provided. Priority will be given to white stickered homes.

To apply please lodge a Wairoa District Council Customer Service Request (CSR) form:

- Online form <https://www.wairoadc.govt.nz/contact-us/customer-service-request/>
- Phone 06 838 7309
- In-person at the Recovery Team Office at the Wairoa Young Achievers Trust building (the old Westpac building on the corner of Marine Parade and Paul Street)



Benita Tahuri, Wairoa Recovery Manager says "We are all needed in this recovery and working together is the key to building a brighter future for Wairoa". She is pictured with Phil Parker, Red Cross Disaster Fund PM Tairāwhiti, Leon Symes Chairman Tātau Tātau o Te Wairoa, Juanita Savage, Local Controller for Wairoa EOC, Sarah (Norm) Stuart-Black QSO – Secretary General Red Cross

When lodging a Customer Service Request please provide as much information as you can to describe your issue and if possible, include photos. It will be helpful to know if:

- You have already done the repairs and are looking to have some costs reimbursed,
- You need an assessment to determine what the total repair costs will be,
- You need septic tank cleaning, heating reinstated, or essential electrical and plumbing repairs

For more information or an update on any requests that are lodged please email recovery@wairoadc.govt.nz or go to the Wairoa Recovery page on Facebook.

SH2 WAIROA/NAPIER BACK IN ACTION

It's great to have SH2 between Wairoa and Napier open again after three long months. This road was devastated by Cyclone Gabrielle and looks a lot different to what it did pre-cyclone. The Waikare Gorge Bailey bridge is one of the longest Bailey bridge spans ever used in New Zealand.

A reminder to all whānau, please drive safely. There are vehicle weight, length, width and speed restrictions in place.

Initially the opening hours will be 7am – 6pm (between Tangoio and just north of the Waikare Bailey bridge) until the road and bridge are made safe for travelling at night.

Please allow extra time for your journey. There will be up to 30-minute delays with road works between Wairoa and Napier. As the road environment remains fragile, especially during wet weather, the road may need to close at short notice for extended periods of time.

TIMELINES FOR FLOOD-AFFECTED PROPERTIES

Property assessments on low-risk properties in Hawke's Bay that were affected by Cyclone Gabrielle will be completed by May 31.

Completing the assessments on low-risk properties will allow local

engagement to begin with affected homeowners which will allow people to settle with their insurance companies and get on with the job of repairing their properties.

Engagement with individuals and

communities with Category 2 and 3 severely affected properties will begin in early June; outlining the process ahead and paving the way for consultation on specific outcomes for severely affected locations. We will keep you updated.

FLOOD DAMAGED ITEMS

The collection of flood-damaged items, including vehicles, is continuing as part of Wairoa's recovery and rebuilding. However, people need to please follow the correct procedure and not just leave flood-damaged items and rubbish on the curbside.

If you have flood-damaged items, including vehicles, or are aware of piles of flood damaged items and abandoned vehicles, please complete a Wairoa District Council Customer Service Request (CSR). These can be made in person, by phone, online or by email. Once the request has been received it will be assessed on a case-by-case basis.

In the case of vehicles. If it is your vehicle, please check your insurance details relating to the vehicle, take photos or information for your records, remove the registration plates and de-register the vehicle, this can be done online. All vehicles need to be cleaned of rubbish items (ie no bags of silt waste inside them), fuel and oil.

When lodging a CSR please provide as much information as you can to describe your issue and if possible, include photos.

For support please lodge a CSR:

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Residents, particularly those in flood-affected areas in North Clyde, are reminded general household rubbish/waste will not be collected as part of the collection of flood-affected items.

HAWKE'S BAY DISASTER RELIEF FUND

The Hawke's Bay Disaster Relief Trust has approved new funding eligibility to \$10,000. Phase 2 will allow previous applicants to reapply for additional support where they have been severely impacted.

The fund is open to individuals and community groups to cover larger costs incurred because of flooding such as cleaning, clearing, and potential rebuilding of properties impacted by Cyclone Gabrielle.

The Trust is also making larger bulk donations to each of the region's territorial authorities, like the Wairoa District Council, of \$2,000 for every stickered property within their region. The councils will need to allocate these funds based on their contact lists to support these affected properties.

Application forms are available on the HBRC website or call into the Council offices or the Wairoa Young Achievers Trust office for help with your application.



Find us on:
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**WAIROA
RECOVERY**

KIWIRAIL

Kiwirail is committed to reinstating the rail line to Napier and to Wairoa.

In a recent update Kiwirail said given the scale of the damage in these sections it will take some time and there is no timeframe for reopening the line to Wairoa.

The rail line from Napier to Wairoa suffered some extensive damage in Cyclone Gabrielle.

More than 80 per cent of initial inspections along the length of the line have been completed.

There are major damage sites, particularly in the Esk Valley up to Tutira. The inspections so far have shown that the work done to reopen the line in 2019 has held up relatively well, but there is a lot of work ahead.

FLOOD SEDIMENT NOT HAZARDOUS BUT MAY BE INFECTIOUS

Recent testing of sediment and silt deposited in and around Wairoa by Cyclone Gabrielle has revealed most flood sediment is not hazardous although some may be infectious. Wairoa District Council arranged the testing to address questions about contamination risks of what was in the silt and implications for its handling and disposal.

All samples collected were found to be safe except for two samples which indicated the potential for pathogen infection. The concern for pathogen risks and infections after flooding is typical and expected, and has been part of Council's guidance issued during the clean-up phase.

Wairoa District Council Chief Executive Kitea Tipuna said while there is some pathogen risk, it does not extend to all areas affected by silt. The silt tested from Alexandra Park was found to be safe for children to play without risks of infection or any long-term health issues.

Council advises that fresh silt is not safe for incorporating into vegetable gardens immediately, with the need to wait until a period that allows pathogen levels to decrease. However, it can be stockpiled for a few months, and in spring it could be incorporated into vegetable gardens for summer harvest crops.



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