



We will recover with kindness and collaboration

Tēnā koutou katoa, Cyclone Gabrielle's impact on our region has been massive and will be felt for many years.

Tragically lives have been lost and our hearts go out to their families and whānau. Those who have lost homes, businesses and livelihoods need our support to help them get their lives back together.

Hawke's Bay Regional Council has taken a major role in the civil defence response, and our staff have contributed massively to the region's response. This effort and focus will continue as we move into the recovery phase.

Key to our recovery will be finding ways our council can help those impacted by the floods to help themselves.

“It's been incredible to see how communities have been reconnected, and the mammoth efforts from several agencies to repair infrastructure.”

It is reassuring that we have been visited by a number of government ministers, all of whom have stressed their commitment to our recovery. I have urged this support to be constant and continual. We cannot recover as a region without the on-going support of central government.

I am proud of the hard work of our Regional Council staff, many of whom are dealing with the impacts of the cyclone in their own lives, and who have worked tirelessly to assess the damage to the region, restore vital flood infrastructure, and monitoring, co-ordinate waste disposal, restore our regional parks, and work with the rural community on the rebuild.

As a region, we have a huge job ahead of us, and moving forward will test our resilience, but one foot in front of another, we will get through this with kindness, and collaboration, and we will recover.

Ngā mihi nui,

Hinewai Ormsby

Chair, Hawke's Bay Regional Council

Regional parks

The region's much loved Waitangi, Pekapeka, Tūtira, and Pākōwhai Regional Parks experienced major damage.

We are clearing high risk trees, large rubbish, debris, silt and restoring access to tracks and foot bridges, and a phased reopening is looking likely later this month.

Images from top left:

- HBRC crews clearing debris at Waiohiki bridge.
- Inset: Stop bank rapid repairs at Omahu.
- Rapid Rebuild lead Jon Kingsford with Chair Hinewai Ormsby surveying the stop bank repair at Omahu.
- Crews responding in the immediate aftermath of the cyclone on Crystal Road.
- Pekapeka and Waitangi Regional Park have sustained significant damage.

On the road to recovery

Rain and river level monitoring

We have restored **113 rain and river level monitoring sites** across the region, and now focusing on permanent replacements where a temporary system is in place.

Rainfall levels were **500% above normal** and river flow was **1000% above normal** in February.

Rainfall surpassed forecasts in one area by **more than 250mm**.

The Glengarry gauge, used to monitor the Esk Valley, got **502mm over 24 hours** - the equivalent of **nearly six months of rainfall**.

This data shows the cyclone is **the most-significant weather event to impact the region since records began**.

Flood review

We will be undertaking a review to understand how our flood monitoring and infrastructure can be improved.

Esk Valley

What's happened in Esk Valley and other areas, and the decisions made before, and in the initial states of the emergency will likely be the subject of a broader inquiry and we will fully participate in the process.

Stop banks

Of our 248 kilometres network, roughly 6km breached and further parts of the network were damaged by erosion. The enormous volume of water moving at speed in this unprecedented event overtopped the stop banks and through erosion a number of breaches developed.

A crew of 160 people are working hard to restore the stop bank breaches and have put in place temporary bunds (gravel mounds). We will be putting in permanent repairs over the coming months.

Pumping

All pump stations are up and running.

The big clean up - Waste

We have established a cross-council team who are working with the Ministry for the Environment to deal with waste.

Silt

We are working with Hastings District Council and Napier City Council to help remove silt from rural and residential properties.

If you have silt for removal, please pile it on verges or easily accessible frontages away from drains and gutters. When silt is ready for collection, please call **0800 108 838** and it will be picked up and deposited. Our testing shows that silt is largely not contaminated however we do encourage people to be cautious and wear protective gear when dealing with silt, and to wash hands afterwards.

Animals

Our initial waste response was on animal carcasses and this is complete. About 8,000 sheep were collected plus other animals. Many landowners dealt with this themselves. A large portion were taken to a contaminated waste disposal site and the rest were buried in pits.

Wood waste

We are collaborating with local councils on disposal of wood waste from beaches and rivers. Significant large trees have come down the rivers, including some pine, macrocarpa and willow. We are removing this waste. If you have large volumes of wood waste on a lifestyle block, farm or orchard, call us on **0800 108 838** and we will arrange for it to be picked up.

Posts and wire

The cyclone caused many vineyard, orchard posts and wire to be ripped out of the ground. Landowners who have large quantities of posts and wire can contact the Regional Council on **0800 108 838** who will arrange for it to be collected.

For more information about our cyclone response and transition to recovery go to hbrc.govt.nz, search #cyclone Phone 0800 108 838

Hawke's Bay DISASTER RELIEF TRUST

Help for those affected from Cyclone Gabrielle

The Disaster Relief Fund provides financial support to residents and ratepayers of the Hawke's Bay region who have been affected by Cyclone Gabrielle. This one-off hardship grant provides for damage or hardship incurred as a result of the cyclone.

\$3 million has been donated and just under \$1.2 million has been distributed to applicants.

To apply for assistance:
hbrc.info/HBDisasterFund

To help those affected by Cyclone Gabrielle in Hawke's Bay:
Donate here hbrc.info/HBcycloneDONATE or Text GIVE to 2923 to donate \$3.00 to the Hawke's Bay Disaster Relief Trust.

Terms & conditions apply
see hbrc.govt.nz/legal for details.



**Hawke's Bay Cyclone Gabrielle
Welfare Helpline
0800 117 672**



• For help with health and wellbeing, accommodation, food supplies, household goods, services support, rural support, or animal welfare.

**Call weekdays 8am to 8pm
Call weekends 8am to 4.15pm**

