

Te Matau a Māui

Our Environment

August 2024

Planting day at Waipātiki

We are supporting our community to build resilience to future climate events

Tēnā koutou katoa,

As a region, we are still recovering from the tough last few years while facing the challenges this year has brought us.

Last month, Regional Council received the report from the Hawke's Bay Independent Flood Review, which investigated the impacts of Cyclone Gabrielle. This taonga (treasure), these findings, are vital for us and will be taken on wholeheartedly by council. But we know we can't do this alone. Central to our approach will be our partnerships across the region, and working in co-design with our communities, ensuring your voices are around the table.

We have an ambitious flood resilience programme ahead of us and supporting our communities to move from Category 2 to Category 1, and review findings will be part of these designs. We will continue to invest in the region's recovery and bring down the cost to ratepayers.

We know affordability is a big concern right now. After hearing your feedback, we've adjusted our planned rate increase to 16% for next year, thanks to internal and external savings. We appreciate your input and are committed to addressing these challenges together.

Through it all, we continue to do the mahi to enhance and protect our environment. We have been collaborating with local catchment groups and key partners to plant native trees across the region, supporting farmers with erosion control, and developing our regional parks and open spaces.

As we look ahead to the next few months and beyond, we are focused on addressing immediate needs while also investing in long-term solutions, building resilient flood infrastructure, and keeping the community at the heart of everything we do.

Ngā mihi nui,
Hinewai Ormsby, Chair
Will Foley, Deputy Chair



Building flood resilience

After the cyclone, we repaired more than **5.5km of stopbank breaches** and **26km of scour and erosion related damage** across the region

and the work continues

6 large-scale flood mitigation projects

underway in Whirinaki, Waiohiki, Pākōwhai, Ohiti Road / Omāhu, Wairoa, and Pōrangahau

along with significant telemetry and pumpstation upgrades

These projects are part of the NIWE programme (North Island Weather Event) funded by the Government and Hawke's Bay Regional Council.

We've also completed stopbank upgrades in Taradale and Ngatarawa and have extracted **801,639 cubic metres of gravel** from various sites across the Upper Tukituki Flood Control Scheme over the past four years.



Meet the locals

We're lucky to have a very special species of skink living on our foreshore - the **kōkōwai** (northern spotted skink).

Once widespread from Hawke's Bay to Wellington and in Marlborough/Tasman, the kōkōwai is now almost extinct on mainland North Island.

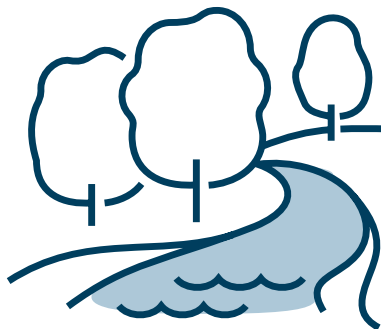
The kōkōwai are relatively large for a NZ skink, growing to around 20 centimetres in length. These vulnerable creatures have made their home on the foreshore where they gather in complex habitats with good cover from their predators. **Smart skinks!**



Stabilising the Clive riverbank

The Clive riverbank next to Farndon Road has been eroding heavily over the past few years. If we don't act now, this could cause serious flooding issues in the future.

After surveying and monitoring the area, and considering potential designs, it was decided installing a rock wall along the riverbank is the best option to stabilise the area. We're delighted that Kohupātiki Marae representatives and nearby landowners have been supportive of this important mahi. Construction is scheduled to get underway this summer.



Empowering the next generation

We work with

42 schools & **31** kindergartens

across Hawke's Bay as part of our **Enviroschools Programme**.

We offer a range of resources and support for schools, aiming to ignite sustainable behaviours, promote collective action against climate change, and encourage innovation.

Working together to fight biosecurity threats

Our teams work behind the scenes to protect our environment by monitoring, managing and eradicating animal and plant pests across Hawke's Bay. We monitor over 235,980 hectares for animal pests, and tackle pest plants that pose serious threats to our region.

Recently, we discovered Senegal Tea, an aquatic and aggressive pest plant, in Te Awa o Mokotūararo (Clive River), and Karamū Stream. Let's prevent it spreading across the region with a goal of eradication. If you're taking a boat, jet ski or even heading out for a stroll near these waterways, please - check, clean, dry. This means checking your gear (boots and all) for weed fragments, thoroughly cleaning it then leaving it out to dry. **Find out more at hbrc.govt.nz, search #pesthub**



We advise on land use



Just one of the things we do day in, and day out across Hawke's Bay

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For more information and contact details go to hbrc.govt.nz, search: #councillors

Let's kōrero!

Get in touch on **0800 108 838** or visit our website at hbrc.govt.nz

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HAWKES BAY
REGIONAL COUNCIL

TE KAUNIHERA Ā-ROHE O TE MATAU-A-MĀUI

Te whakapakari tahi i tō tātau taiao. Enhancing our environment together.