

SEPT 2023

RURAL REPORT



• CYCLONE UPDATE • ROADS • BRIDGES • SILT COLLECTION UPDATE
• COMMUNITY-LED RECOVERY CONVERSATIONS

Cyclone update

This newsletter contains information about progress made to date in the recovery from Cyclone Gabrielle. Regular updates are posted on the council website. Go to hastingsdc.govt.nz/cyclone-gabrielle/ to find out more.



Roads

Six and a half months on from Cyclone Gabrielle, progress is being made to repair and restore rural roads across Hastings district – although with each weather event

the status can change.

To date all roads, culverts, and bridges have been inspected, and faults logged post-cyclone.

Council is acutely aware of the scale of damage, and the time, and cost to repair. At this stage, it's estimated that the cost of the response and recovery is about \$800 million and that it will take five to seven years to repair/rebuild.

How this is funded will affect the timing of the rebuild and the development of any high-level programme.

Our roading team are working with our maintenance contractors to implement the initial response activities to

safeguard our vulnerable network. This work can be seen throughout the network now.

Our panel of consultants are busy with investigations and designs of the recovery aspects of bigger and more complex slips, bridge works, and culvert repairs on our road network, to develop the right and appropriate engineering solutions.

These often require geotechnical investigations and surveying during the design phase prior to construction.

Work is also well underway in this space, but the community may see small jobs being done while large sites seem to be left alone for now.

If a customer has a query about a site in particular, and there are reasons to make the site a higher priority, we welcome them to call us on **(06) 871 5000**.



Bridges

Permanent bridge rebuilds

To date ten of the 16 bridges and crossings that were destroyed in the cyclone have temporary replacements.

In planning the construction of permanent bridges to replace those lost, council will be partnering with mana whenua to help guide our decision making.

Council partners with mana whenua for projects that have an impact on waterways, and this partnership is underpinned by the principles of the Treaty of Waitangi and the statutory

acknowledgments of mana whenua over our local rivers.

Statutory acknowledgements record some of the special associations mana whenua have with sites or areas, associations that are recognised by the Crown through the Treaty of Waitangi settlement process and the Acts that give effect to those settlements. These statutory acknowledgements influence the Resource Management Act 1991 processes for a proposal.

Permanent solutions for Puketapu and Matapiro Bridges are the initial focus.



Parks

The cyclone caused extensive damage to rural parks and reserves in its path and council continues to work on repairing and reinstating green spaces where it can.

Below is a summary of the status of the reserves in more rural areas:

- **Maraetotara Falls** - Limited opening. The toilets and carpark are available – but there is limited access on the trail due to washouts and trees down – no definite opening date.
- **Roys Hill Reserve** – Open.
- **Puketapu Park** – A plan is being developed with the community to reinstate this park. While there is no timeline as yet this work has been provisionally supported by funding from the government’s Tourism Infrastructure Fund to help restore the park to its pre-cyclone state using fit-for-purpose equipment and with resilience at the forefront of planning. Council is working on fulfilling the requirements of Government to enable a contract for the funding to be agreed.
- **Eskdale Park** – Awaiting land status confirmation and public consultation.

HB Trails

Some of the river corridors where Hawke’s Bay walking and cycling trails normally go are damaged by flooding. Hawke’s Bay Regional Council says 70 per cent of the trails are now rideable. See hbtrails.nz/ride-our-trails/trail-map/ for the latest map.

The remaining closed tracks have been significantly impacted due to stopbank damage, roading/trail slips, or destroyed bridges. The Regional Council is assessing options for the remediation of the most-damaged sections and hope to open the remaining tracks over the coming months.

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KEY STATS		
Up to 2 September 2023		
<p>569 jobs</p> <p>RECEIVED</p> <p>> 10 JOB INCREASE IN LAST WEEK</p>	<p>APPROXIMATELY</p> <p>790,000m³</p> <p>OF SILT COLLECTED</p> <p>ABOUT 47,000m³ BEING COLLECTED LAST WEEK</p>	<p>6642 trucks</p> <p>SHIFTED SILT INTO DEPOSIT SITES LAST WEEK</p>



Community-led recovery conversations

Hastings District Council has been undertaking an engagement project to begin conversations with our most impacted communities to understand the local challenges and needs for recovery.

The input from the community has been invaluable and council is grateful that communities took the time to participate in this process when there is still so much work to do.

Six emergency themes have been identified through the conversations reflecting key

recovery issues and aspirations for communities.

These are community well-being, resilient infrastructure, collective wisdom, sustainable hubs, strategic focus and preparedness.

Based on the conversations, 11 draft individual plans have been prepared and these will shortly be shared with communities that participated for feedback.

This will allow plans to be finalised and next steps confirmed.