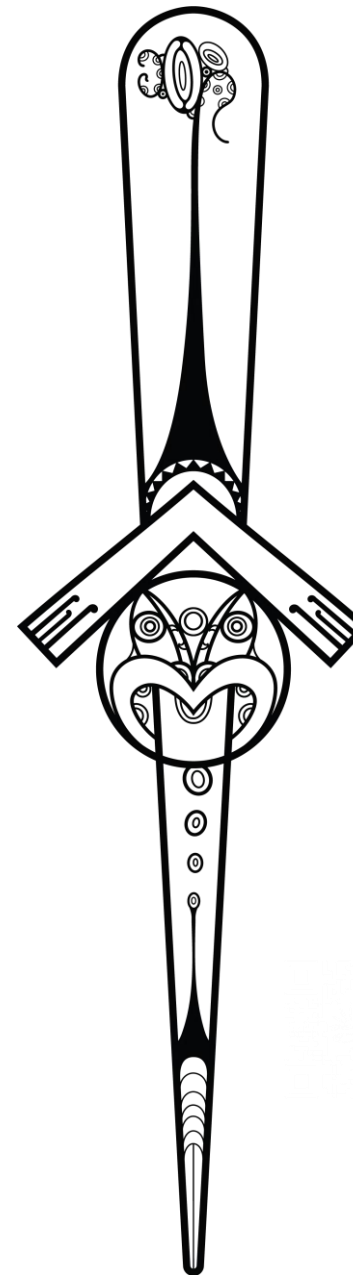




# our road to recovery – Tairāwhiti

Weekly Report #1 – 3 April 2023



# recovery coordination centre update

On 13 Feb 2023, at 9.45am, Tairāwhiti region declared a State of Local Emergency due to Cyclone Gabrielle. The following day, due to the devastating effects of Cyclone Gabrielle, the Minister for Emergency Management declared a State of National Emergency to assist in the response to Cyclone Gabrielle.

Cyclone Gabrielle created extensive damage and isolation for Te Tairāwhiti. The damage and impact on the region resulted in significant infrastructure failures, substantial isolation of communities with extensive land and road impacts, major flooding, damaged houses with many whānau displaced including the tragic loss of one person. Not only will financial hardship continue but increasing psycho-social and social harm issues are likely to emerge.

## Transition to Recovery

Six weeks on from the impacts of Cyclone Gabrielle, the focus has now turned to recovery.

The Tairāwhiti Recovery Office is busy with the key focus for our region's recovery which is to support and encourage communities/iwi to be at the forefront of developing their priorities for recovery. It's not about recovering from what we had but moving into a new future that is resilient for Tairāwhiti.

The Recovery is about our community which is our future. However, full recovery is many years ahead of us.

Community engagement has started. The recovery is working to determine the key people to connect with in various communities. Criteria have been established and a plan is underway to provide resourcing for communities to enable them to develop their recovery priorities and plans. We will then be meeting with those people to assist wherever needed in planning for recovery.

From there we will then create an overarching regional plan based around the four focus areas – built, natural, social and economic environments. More than anything it's also about ensuring we have resilience in any re-build efforts.

## Recovery Office

The Regional Recovery Office is established and in place. The office continues to carry one vacancy.

To date the operational focus on processes is to ensure a streamlined approach to developing operational engine rooms to lead a co-ordinated approach for Recovery Response and Recovery Resilience for:

### *Built Environment Recovery*

Housing, critical infrastructure, transport and buildings.

### *Social Environment Recovery*

Relationships, culture, tradition, social systems, political, institutions that go towards supporting individual, family/whānau wellbeing.

### *Economic Environment Recovery*

Investment, business, labour and employment

### *Natural Environment Recovery*

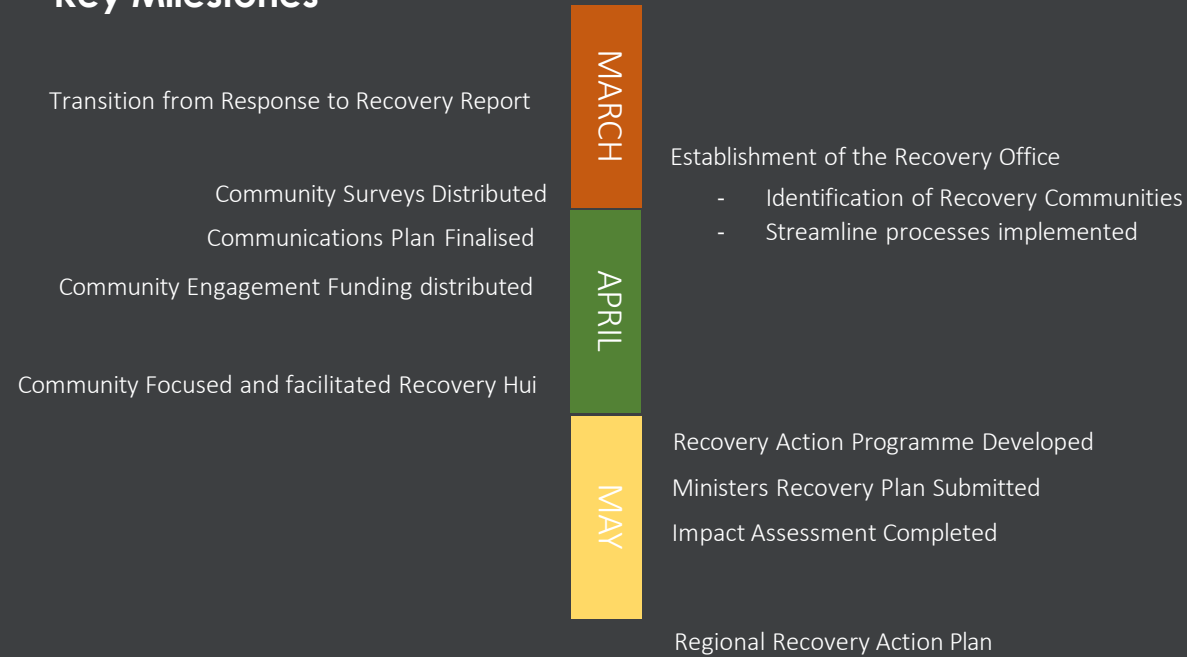
Landslides, flooding, lateral spread, flora and fauna (kaimoana and mahinga kai) and woody debris, water catchments.

# recovery coordination centre update

Throughout operational developments within the Recovery Office the main priority has been ensuring a smooth transition to recovery, particularly in the welfare space, so no one falls through the gaps.

The next steps are to ensure the Community Engagement is underway so as a region we can identify and understand the needs of affected communities, and subsequently whānau, to determine their needs to prioritize recovery activities into the above engine rooms.

## Key Milestones



# recovery office week priorities

This week there are several priorities Tairāwhiti Recovery Office are working on with national partners including:

- Following up with Department of Internal Affairs (DIA) on the progress on the Funding Business case for the Recovery Office.
- Internal impact assessments on Tairāwhiti from Cyclone Gabrielle, and the cumulative effects from the previous weather events since 2021. Expected to be completed 15 April 2023.
- Continued monitoring of land that has been identified as high risk for slips. The initial information indicates that in the next significant rainfall we will have more movement affecting houses.
- Management of coordinated consultation from central government agencies.
- Support the Civil Defence Emergency Management Team and communities to undertake Response Debrief
- Recovery Office will commence our engagement processes with communities.



# built environment



In the natural and built environment space, the focus is currently on identifying what the critical issues are and then getting the right information that will assist recovery. The key issues are the impact the enormous volume of sediment discharge from landslides and riverbank erosion has had on the rivers and river flats. Not only has the sediment damaged crops and inundated houses, but the changes also mean that riverbeds may be higher than before which could mean that future storms may result in increased risk of land and dwellings flooding.



521 Assessments Completed



25 Red Stickers



202 Yellow Stickers



11 Stickers Removed

Recovery teams are working with property owners and iwi representatives to facilitate the reoccupation of dwellings. There are two streams to this body of work. Firstly, making sure that houses are safe to reoccupy which requires buildings to pass six tests before the placard will be lifted or modified:

1. Is the building electrically safe?
2. Ensure gas storage systems are safe.
3. Supply of potable water.
4. Waste water disposal system in working order.
5. Building moisture and black mould is at acceptable levels
6. Sludge and silt removed

Secondly, working closely with external agencies to place relocatable units close to dwellings to allow people to live on their own properties while dwellings are repaired. To date three buildings have been placed in Tauwhareparae Road, Tolaga Bay and one in Te Karaka. There is ongoing work identifying where these cabins are going, when they need building consents and when they will be exempt.

## Roads

Cyclone Gabrielle and Cyclone Hale caused significant damage to the local road network. Almost all of our rural network was closed, and we completely lost 8 bridges with 54 having serious-significant damage. Following such events, our focus is always to reopen roads to residents who are cut-off and to get access for heavy freight to support our rural communities. Priority is given to school bus routes, safe access to connect communities and forestry and farm access routes for animal welfare.

Included in Appendix One is a breakdown on local road accessibility.



8 Roads Opened Last Week



19 Bridges Closed



\$44m spent on local road repairs



30 Roads Remain Closed



9 Roads Closed to Heavy Vehicles



\$170m required to build resilience

## Water

The Waingake water pipeline has been reconnected and repaired at all eight breakage points as of 30 March 2023. There is a blend of water coming from both the Waingake and Waipaoa treatment plants.

Having the pipe connected doesn't mean there is no risk – Tairāwhiti has moved to Level 4 water restrictions which means the total ban on outdoor water use remains in place. Those homes that have been yellow-stickered have an exemption for essential cleaning.

## Power

Eastland Network restored power to all customers on 5 March 2023.

Roading access remains the main issue to accessing the power network. There are several areas of fragility due to unstable land and exposed lines.

Building a resilient network is a priority, however planning to achieve this will mean working in tandem with Waka Kotahi and the local roading teams.

# natural environment



## Environment assessments

We have many landslides and in places these appear similar in style and scale to Cyclone Bola (1988) but there were many areas that escaped the worst effects of the storm. GNS is working with Council to undertake a region-wide assessment of landslides to work out how many landslides there were, where they are and how much sediment they delivered into the rivers.

The strategy and science team are writing submissions to central government on emergency legislation relating to the long term plan and the RMA processes, particularly as they relate to extending timeframes for getting plans done following the impacts of Cyclone Gabrielle. They're also putting a recovery lens over the Future Development Strategy work and our climate change response work.

To date Lidar (Light Detection and Ranging) has been flown over the Waipaoa, Uawa and Mangahauini catchments to get detailed elevation data needed before we can undertake new flood modelling.

## Silt and rubbish removal

It's estimated that there's over 650,000 cubic metres of silt to be removed from drains, slips and roads.

A focused programme has been implemented to remove and dispose of silt from residential, rural and commercial properties. The programme was put in place as silt contamination of residential properties posed an immediate health risk to occupants, volunteers and contractors working on response activities at these properties.



**Silt cleared from  
41 Houses**



**113 Houses to do**



**\$4.2m spent for  
silt and waste removal**

The Tokomaru Bay Transfer Station sits near the bank of the Mangahauini river on top of the old landfill site at the end of Paikea Street. In recent weather events the transfer station has been overtopped by flood waters. The transfer station and infrastructure has been damaged on many occasions and the old landfill site has suffered ongoing erosion.

After Cyclone Gabrielle there was significant flooding on the transfer station and additional erosion to the banks of the old landfill site. The erosion was over a 150-metre stretch of the embankment and was approximately 60 cubic metres of volume. There are current plans to relocate the transfer station to prevent flooding in weather events. We are looking into options to prevent further erosion to the old landfill site. Options may include preservation of the site, alternatively removal of the site may be considered.

# economic environment



Trust Tairāwhiti as Economic Lead is working through the development of the economic recovery plan across seven sectors including:

- Horticulture
- Agriculture
- Forestry
- Whenua Māori
- Tourism, including hospitality and accommodation
- Māori Business
- Small / Medium Enterprises
- Manufacturing

Initial surveys and sector engagement have been undertaken across agriculture, horticulture and SMEs. Similar workstreams will commence across forestry, whenua Māori, Māori business and tourism/accommodation/hospitality during the week of 3 April. Sector-by-sector loss estimates will be made and aggregated with a target completion of total losses date around 24 April 2023.

Administration of business support grants remains a priority. Applications remain open to any business that has not applied and meets the eligibility criteria. The independent panel has begun assessing applications again and will process payments as soon as Central Government funds are received.

**784**  
applications  
received

**467**  
applications  
processed



**\$4.29m funds  
distributed**



# social environment



The social environment demand is going to grow as engagement starts to occur. The priority within the Social recovery environment is engagement with central govt agencies, but most importantly the community, hapu, iwi and whānau. The Recovery Office has started to engage with the Civil Defence Community Links people and determine the key people to connect with in their communities. We will then be meeting with those people to assist wherever needed in planning for recovery.

To date the below priorities have presented as pressing issues through various community and agency hui:

- the psychosocial impact of the emergency
- access to food, household goods, medical supplies, and shelter/accommodation
- unknown period of displacement
- housing
- stress of managing insurance claims/excess
- no insurance or not enough cover
- community not feeling adequately supported through recovery.

The Tairāwhiti Mayoral Relief Fund and Disaster Relief Fund have supported communities, individuals, families, and community organisations to get immediate access to funds to assist with recovery.

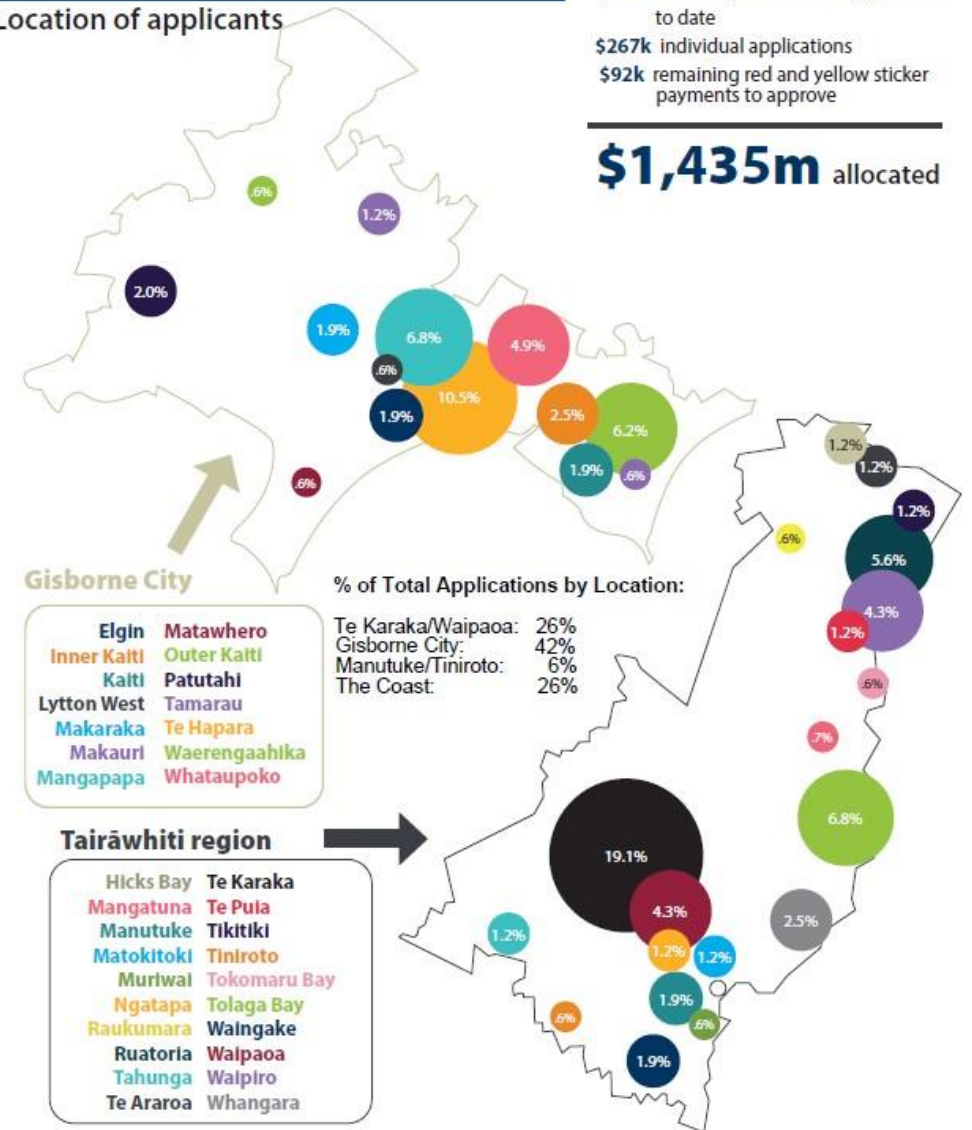


**\$3.312m**  
total funds available

\$500k silt removal  
 \$576k red and yellow sticker payments to date  
 \$267k individual applications  
 \$92k remaining red and yellow sticker payments to approve

**\$1,435m** allocated

## Location of applicants





# communication and engagement

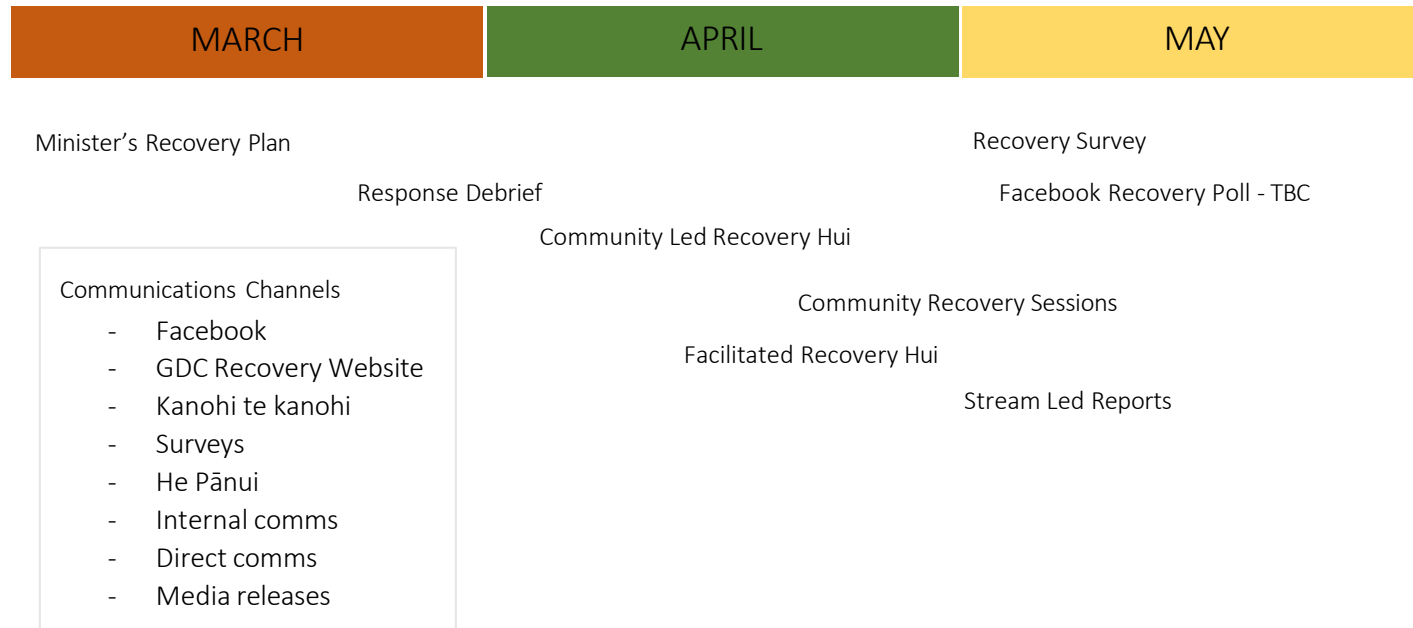
Communications for recovery will be multi-layered.

The Recovery Office intends to keep the community informed about all the recovery activities taking place, our priorities, milestones achieved and longer term resilience ambitions.

Communications will inform them about how/when they might want to get involved in recovery actions in their areas. This will keep the community updated (and involved) about all the efforts Council is involved in regarding infrastructure repairs and re-building as well as the activities in the welfare, economic and environmental spaces.

The communications will include formal communications such as our website Recovery page, media releases, and responses to media enquiries, as well as a regular He Panui (our digital newsletter) and regular posts on our GDC Facebook page. There will be internal communications channels for staff and Councillors as well as direct communications to groups and organisations.

## Planned Engagement



Tairāwhiti Regional Recovery  
Action Plan



# Tairāwhiti recovery risks

## **Recovery Governance**

Uncertainty remains in relation to Ngāti Porou involvement with the Tairāwhiti Regional Recovery Plan and the phases to achieve this.

## **Recovery Office Business Case**

No certainty has been given for funding for the Recovery Office Business Case submitted to DPMC National Recovery Unit, DIA Partnerships and Local Recovery Minister.

Recruitment has been completed for Recovery Office resources and costs are being incurred by Council.

## **Annual Planning**

Lack of certainty around consultation on GDC's annual planning and long-term planning process. While Government is working through this, certainty is important for Council.

## **Land movement risking housing**

There is an ongoing risk of land movements over the winter. There are several emerging tension cracks on hillslope properties that have yet to manifest themselves in any obvious surface movements. If we get any on-going or significant wet winter it is likely this will result in more land movements and more red stickered buildings over the middle part of 2023.

## **Disconnected and uncoordinated engagement with communities**

Recovery discussions are currently occurring without a co-ordinated approach to engagement. This is sometimes resulting in mis-informed communities and agencies which in turn is leading to decisions made without all the relevant information and/or causing confusion.



# Built – Appendix One – Local Road Status Update as at 31 March 2023

| Road                    | Location   | Status | Comments  | Expected Resolution |
|-------------------------|--|--------|---|---------------------|
| Pauariki Road           | Entire Road  | Closed | Flood repair work ongoing. Resident access only.  | 11 Apr 2023 12:00pm |
| Waitahaia Road          | From 5km   | Closed | Flood damage  | 11 Apr 2023 12:00pm |
| Panikau Road            | From 12km  | Closed | Slips.  | 11 Apr 2023 12:00pm |
| Mata Road - Upper       | 29.5km   | Closed | Dropouts.   | 17 Apr 2023 12:00pm |
| Wharekopae Road         | From 38km  | Closed | Closed to all vehicles on the weekend of 1-2 April 2023.  | To be advised       |
| Waikawa Road            | From 0.5km   | Closed | Multiple flood damage.  | To be advised       |
| Ruakaka Road            | 10km - 20km  | Closed | No access due to Mossman and Ruakaka bridge closures.   | 02 Apr 2023 12:00pm |
| Wharekopae Road         | From 38km  | Closed | Flood damage. 4WD resident access only.   | 26 Apr 2023 12:00pm |
| Newton Road             | Entire Road  | Closed | No access due to Bushy Knoll Road closure.  | 01 May 2023 12:00pm |
| Te Kowhai Road          | From 0.5km   | Closed | Flood damage.   | 30 Apr 2023 12:00pm |
| Bruce Road - Kanakanaia | From 2km   | Closed | Flood damage. Quad access.  | 09 Apr 2023 12:00pm |
| Tauwhareparae Road      | 17km - 26km  | Closed | Flood damage.   | 01 May 2023 12:00pm |
| Matahiia Road           | Entire Road  | Closed | No access due to Makarika Road closure. Ford crossing access via Karewa Road (Weather Permitting)   | To be advised       |
| Monck Road              | Entire Road  | Closed | No access due to Utting Road closure.   | 09 Apr 2023 12:00pm |
| Bailie Road             | Entire Road  | Closed | No access due to Utting Road closure.   | 09 Apr 2023 12:00pm |
| Utting Road             | From 1.5km   | Closed | Flood damage.   | 09 Apr 2023 12:00pm |
| Pehiri Road             | 21km - 26km  | Closed | Dropout.  | 09 Apr 2023 12:00pm |
| Paparatu Road           | From 2km   | Closed | Dropouts and slips.   | 09 Apr 2023 12:00pm |
| Ihungia Road            | Ihungia - Mata Loop between Tokomaru and Te Puia Springs | Closed | Closed for maintenance Mondays and Thursdays. Open to 4WD on Tue, Wed, Fri, Sat, Sun at these times, from Ruatoria end 8am-10am, 1pm - 3pm and Tokomaru Bay end 10.30am - 12.30pm, 3.30pm - 5.30pm. | 27 Apr 2023 12:00pm |
| Bushy Knoll Road        | From 4km   | Closed | Slips. Quad access via Trafford Road.   | 01 May 2023 12:00pm |
| Y Wury Road             | Entire Road  | Closed | No access due to Parikanapa Road closure  | To be advised       |
| Ellmers Road - Hangaroa | Entire Road  | Closed | No access due to Bushy Knoll Road closure.  | 01 May 2023 12:00pm |
| Oliver Road             | From 7km   | Closed | Slips and dropouts. Resident access.  | 30 Apr 2023 12:00pm |
| Tiniroto Road           | 34km - 41km  | Closed | Washout and flood damage. No access.  | 30 Apr 2023 12:00pm |

# Built – Appendix One – Local Road Status Update as at 31 March 2023

| Road                    | Location                          | Status        | Comments   | Expected Resolution |
|-------------------------|-----------------------------------|---------------|--|---------------------|
| Parikanapa Road         | Entire Road                       | Closed        | Slips and dropouts. For 4WD route and convoy times please click on the image attached. | To be advised       |
| Horehore Road           | 1.7km                             | Closed        | Silt and drop outs   | 10 Apr 2023 12:00pm |
| Wharf Road - Hicks Bay  | From 4km                          | Closed        | Slip   | 31 Mar 2023 12:00pm |
| Matakaoa Road           | Entire Road                       | Closed        | Drop out.  | 31 Mar 2023 12:00pm |
| Waipiro Road            | Entire Road                       | Closed        | Slips and dropouts. Limited access to service vehicles only.                           | 11 Apr 2023 12:00pm |
| Karakatuwhero Road      | Entire Road                       | Closed        | Two washouts. Detour available for residents only.                                     | To be advised       |
| Hikuwai Road            | Pauariki Bridge (0.5km)           | Bridge Closed | Washed out. Temp ford access available for residents.                                  | To be advised       |
| Riverside Road          | Waikereu Bridge (10.3km)          | Bridge Closed | Road closed on either side of the Waikereru Bridge. Detour available for residents.    | 07 Apr 2023 12:00pm |
| Ruakaka Road            | Ruakaka Bridge (7.7km)            | Bridge Closed | Washed out.  | 30 Apr 2023 12:00pm |
| West Ho Road            | Whakauranga Stream Bridge (1.2km) | Bridge Closed | Flood damage. Access to residents only.  | 03 Apr 2023 12:00pm |
| Makarika Road           | Makarika Bridge 2 (3.5km)         | Bridge Closed | Abutments compromised.   | To be advised       |
| Tiniroto Road           | Hangaroa Bridge                   | Bridge Closed | Washed out. No access.   | To be advised       |
| East Cape Road          | Awatere Bridge (0.1km)            | Bridge Closed | Bridge access for light vehicles only. Temporary ford open for heavy vehicles.         | To be advised       |
| Burgess Road            | Burgess Bridge (0.1km)            | Bridge Closed | Washed out. Quad access for residents.   | To be advised       |
| Mata Road - Upper       | Huiarua Bridge (12.5km)           | Bridge Closed | Washed out. Access available from both sides of bridge.                                | 03 Apr 2023 12:00pm |
| Walker Road             | Mangareia Bridge (0.1km)          | Bridge Closed | Washed out. Resident access via Waiomatatini Road.                                     | To be advised       |
| Te Kowhai Road          | Mangatai Access Bridge (0.8km)    | Bridge Closed | Washed out. No access.   | 03 Apr 2023 12:00pm |
| Pehiri Road             | Littleworths Bridge (21km)        | Bridge Closed | Washed out   | 03 Apr 2023 12:00pm |
| Patemaru Road           | Patemaru Bridge (0.1km)           | Bridge Closed | Abutment compromised. No access.   | To be advised       |
| Ruakaka Road            | Mossman Bridge (10.7km)           | Bridge Closed | Abutments compromised.   | 30 Apr 2023 12:00pm |
| Paroa Road              | Mangatokerau Bridge (1.3km)       | Bridge Closed | Abutments compromised. Access available both sides of bridge.                          | To be advised       |
| Paparatu Road           | Porters Bridge (2.2km)            | Bridge Closed | Washed out. Quad bike access for residents.  | 09 Apr 2023 12:00pm |
| Bruce Road - Kanakanaia | Grays Bridge (1km)                | Bridge Closed | Washed out. Temporary ford crossing open for residents.                                | To be advised       |
| Utting Road             | Martins Bridge (1.6km)            | Bridge Closed | Abutments compromised. Quad access residents.  | 03 Apr 2023 12:00pm |
| Tauwhareparae Road      | Mangaheia Bridge 4 (18km)         | Bridge Closed | Abutments compromised  | 01 May 2023 12:00pm |
| Bushy Knoll Road        | Hollywood Bridge (4km)            | Bridge Closed | Washed out.  | 01 May 2023 12:00pm |