

Gisborne & Wairoa Flood Recovery Assessment 2022



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Note: The Gisborne and Wairoa Flood Recovery Assessment was carried out by Federated Farmers on behalf of the Gisborne and Wairoa District Councils. Funding was via the mayoral relief fund to ground truth from those affected the extent of the damage and wider effect

The first assessment was undertaken on 5 May 2022, from this an up-to-date database with records of properties across the Gisborne and Wairoa districts that were identified as potentially flood affected have been recorded to inform the wider recovery.

These recovery assessment results will be used to better understand the support these properties have and will need, to assist them in their recovery journey. Individual or identifying information is deemed private and will not be shared without explicit permission from respondents.

Executive Summary

The Gisborne and Wairoa Floods of 2022 highlighted the large-scale disruption and long-term impacts that can occur from localised and often short adverse weather events, especially in this case with the cumulative effect of two discrete events in a very short space of time.

Over a quarter of all the properties we surveyed across the Gisborne and Wairoa regions felt they had experienced “damage to their property that was greater than moderate “.

This property damage, for the 251 properties surveyed, was estimated to be \$11m. Almost half the respondents felt they would have no insurance cover and it was estimated that of the damage only 11.9% would be met by insurance proceeds. This leaves a significant need for properties to recapitalise and recover.

At the same time 20% of the affected properties were already expressing concerns for their long-term income. This number may grow as the impacts of the event settle in. We know that these properties alone were anticipating a \$5m reduction in revenue from the impact of the event. With the need to fund uninsured losses on the back of reduced income, there will be challenging times ahead for the local community.

The event also created resilience pressures for those properties surveyed. 35% of the properties lost access to parts of their own properties, through slips or other occurrences. This can make assessment of damage challenging, and the ability to make remedial repairs impossible. Over half of the properties lost power or internet connectivity during the event, some being without it for a period of time that again makes recovery and assessment difficult. These challenges were only further compounded by the impact on the local roading network, leaving some properties isolated or requiring significant additional journeys which can impact not only on the property owner's wellbeing but has potential animal welfare risks.

Whilst it was initially intended to survey approx. 650 properties, after additional mapping and data sets were applied it was realised that many of the properties had amalgamated, were being used contiguously, had been converted to forestry and had no farming or residential representation. The reduced number was around 580 properties, an additional complication arose with access to current phone numbers, as this is how the survey is largely undertaken.

While the surveys did only reach 251 properties, and further work needs to be undertaken to increase accessibility to accurate contact details in the time of an event, this sample shows the extent of the economic challenge to our natural and community resilience these events bring.

Recovery will be costly and time consuming whilst all the while needing to continue to look after each other on a day to day basis. Given the scale of the impact, it is surprising how few people wanted further support from RST, identifying barriers or misinformation about how this service operates could be considered as part of the recovery.

Whilst it is understood that each individual ‘red warning’ event caused damage in its own right, the cumulative effects of two so close together will make the recovery journey that much more onerous. Areas and sites of high risk should be identified and monitored in future events.

Summary of Weather Event

1st Red Warning – Rain

On the 23 March 2022 torrential rain caused flooding across the East Cape and Hawke's Bay. MetService issued a red weather warning for 48 hours of heavy rain.

Tairāwhiti Civil Defence declared a state of emergency after the ongoing deluge created floodwaters which resulted in forced evacuations of some Gisborne communities. Following the first night, more than 750 homes were without power, and the Hikuwai River had risen more than 12 meters.

On the 29 March 2022, the state of emergency was extended, following the closure of nearly 50 local roads, damage to infrastructure, and farms under water. The state of emergency was lifted on 1 April 2022, after more than a week of constant rain (with MetService calling this Gisborne's wettest March in almost 90 years).

Ten days of continuous wet weather saw Wairoa's farmland and roading network bear the brunt of the heavy rainfall event. Some northern Hawke's Bay areas received triple their rainfall, other areas double. Early suggestions were that many sites had March totals that were the highest on record. On 24 March 2022 MetService tweeted that *"Gisborne Airport recorded a 'March worth of rain' in 7 hours – 86.9mm."*

River levels around the Hawkes Bay region rose sharply, with some reaching the 5% Annual Exceedance Probability (AEP) (long term average of once every 20-year) and even 1% AEP (100-year) levels.

2nd Red Warning – Heavy Rain (Ex Cyclone Fifi)

Less than 2 weeks following the first 'red warning' event ex-tropical cyclone Fifi reached New Zealand, with the brunt of the force hitting the already damaged East Cape, Gisborne, and Hawke's Bay areas.

On 12 April 2022, MetService issued another red warning for the Tairāwhiti-Gisborne area, with forecasts expecting 200 to 300mm of rain for Gisborne, and 250 to 300mm for Wairoa in a 24-hour period. The weather eased on the 14 April 2022 and the red warning was lifted.

This second additional 'weather bomb' created further widespread damage with high river levels causing more flooding, erosion of river and stream banks, breaching of stop banks and damage or destruction of flood gates. The roading network was again unable to cope with the extreme wet weather conditions and many were closed or had access limited.

Rural areas saw additional significant damage to pasture and fences with slips, blocked and damaged culverts, washouts and rockfalls being some of the more common issues. Recovery will be hampered by the wet ground conditions, high water table and unstable soils and hillsides.

Survey Data Summary

The recovery assessment recorded the results of 251 flood-affected properties across the Wairoa and Gisborne Districts. 151 properties were within Gisborne District Council boundaries, with the remaining 100 properties located across Wairoa District.

Properties that completed the recovery assessment were identified by their local territorial authority as potentially flood-affected and in need of support, or they self-registered for further contact online. Assessments were completed via phone interviews which comprised of pre-identified questions included to capture specific information. These included questions around property access, connectivity, damage, financial information, feed and pasture loss, and clean-up support and other support required.

Recovery assessments commenced on 5 May 2022, with 94% (235) of recovery assessments recorded between 5th May and 4th June 2022, the last assessment was completed on 21st June 2022.

Scale of Impact

Of the 251 rural respondents:

- 71% were on sheep and beef properties and 12% 'lifestyle'
- 64% stated they had moderate or greater damage to property
- 71% of those respondents surveyed were the property owner
- 88% of respondents had additional support from family, staff, or neighbours
- Reported that average rainfall was 646ml, with 1300ml recorded on a single Wairoa property
- The damage was spread in pockets throughout the Gisborne and Wairoa Areas, including Tiniroto, Bushy Knoll, Waimata, Whangara, Tolaga, and inland Ruatorea (refer to figure 2)

Property Access

- 30 properties reported being isolated due to road closures;
- Road access has been limited in some areas to residents only
- 17 properties will have issues relocating stock due to road closures and river access

Power and Connectivity

- 49% of properties reported internet connectivity issues, with 55% reporting intermittent access to power during the event respondents reported
- 43% (107) properties experienced issues with both power and internet

Fencing

- 78% sustained damage to fencing, with 158 of these properties reporting an average 1.7km of fence loss
- 27% stated they had at least one boundary fences that was currently not stock proofed at the time they were surveyed, with an average 700m needing to be built or improved for stock proofing
- 48 properties will need machinery to stock proof boundary fences

Property Damage

- 172 (69%) properties surveyed reported property damage due to slips and landslides
- Roughly half of all properties reported some form of pasture loss, loss or damage to internal tracks;
- 90 of respondents stated that they are unable to access all areas of their property, largely due to damage from wash outs and slips at the time of the survey;

Financial

- Total estimated cost of damage for all properties was just over \$11 million, with the property average at \$57,000
- Average estimated insurance coverage was \$9,555 per property, or 11.9% of damage costs
- 112 properties said that insurance would not cover any damage, or were unsure of the coverage amount
- 53 properties believe their future income would suffer losses due to property damage
- Average property estimated income loss was \$55,748, with the highest estimate at \$1.5million

Pasture and Feed Loss

- 37% (92) of properties sustained flood damage to either pasture, feed, or crops, which will need to be replaced
- Permanent pasture was the most damaged category, with 67% (62) of properties sustaining some level of damage
- 9 properties do not have enough feed for their stock
- 7 properties are concerned about being able to afford the feed or grazing

Enhanced Taskforce Green Support

- 33 properties have requested contact from Enhanced Taskforce Green (ETFG)
- 48% of properties requested immediate assistance at the time of the interview
- 59% of properties estimated the clean-up would take 3 or more days



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Contacted Properties

Federated Farmers of New Zealand was contracted by Wairoa District Council and Gisborne District Council to contact 650 properties of their selection, for the purposes of completing a recovery assessment of damage sustained during and following the severe weather events of March and April.

Flood area parcels identified by the District Council were shared with Federated Farmers on the 29 April 2022. These council identified properties were then compared with Agribase to retrieve contact information.

Issues arose with trying to reach properties to complete the recovery assessment interview, as large quantities of property contact data (phone numbers) within Agribase and Council records was either incorrect or missing. Of the contacted 650 properties, 591 properties were identified through Agribase, only 422 had a contact phone number listed.

Additional mapping was undertaken and verified for accuracy. This identified that a number of properties had been amalgamated or were being used as contiguous units. Some had retired into pine plantations and were no longer farming or residential units. This reduced the number of individual properties to approximately 580.

251 recovery assessments were completed, where the remainder of the properties either had a disconnected number (61) or did not answer the minimum three (or more) times they were rung (110). Although everyone was encouraged to undertake a survey, regardless of the level of damage (this assists in building a bigger picture), there were still a small number that felt they would be '*wasting interviewers time*' and '*there are others worse off*'.

Wairoa District Council

Wairoa District Council identified 412 unique parcels.

When merged with Agribase data held by Federated Farmers, that number had reduced to 207 properties. Of these 207 properties, only 151 had a contact number associated with the property in AsureQuality's Agribase.

On 4 May 2022 60 of these 151 properties were allocated to phone interviewers contracted by Federated Farmers, with 41 of the 60 properties allocated completing a recovery assessment.

On May 5th Federated Farmers contacted Wairoa District Council to try and find contact numbers for the properties which did not have a number listed in Agribase, with Wairoa District Council returning a spatial data layer from their Rates database

Gisborne District Council

Gisborne District Council identified 400 unique parcels.

When merged with Agribase data, Federated Farmers were able to identify 384 separate properties. Of these 384 properties only 271 had a contact number associated with the property in AsureQuality's Agribase.

From 4th May 2022 onwards, these 271 properties were allocated to phone interviewers contracted by Federated Farmers.

On 16 May Federated Farmers contacted Gisborne District Council to try and find contact numbers for the properties which were unable to be contacted, with Gisborne District Council returning a spatial data layer from their Rates database on 2nd May 2022, this contained information for 276 properties. 196 of these properties had an associated phone number/s, of which 33 properties had all numbers disconnected, 6 numbers were for the wrong property, and 50 properties had the phone number ring but had no answer. Of the 108 properties who completed a recovery assessment, a large portion of these properties had already been contacted by other means.

151 properties in Gisborne completed a recovery assessment.

	Council Selected Properties	FFNZ Identified Properties	Had Contact Number in Agribase	Completed Assessments
Gisborne District Council	400	384	271	151
Wairoa District Council	412	207	151	100

Interviewers:

Federated Farmers contracted four experienced interviewers to complete recovery assessments for selected Wairoa and Gisborne properties, to record the affects following the two back-to-back weather events. In total, Federated Farmers interviewers completed recovery assessments for 190 properties, with 149 in Gisborne and 41 in Wairoa.

Hawke's Bay Regional Council offered volunteer help from 7 of their staff to complete recovery assessments for properties affected in Wairoa. Of the 61 completed assessments, 59 properties were in the Wairoa District and two from the Gisborne District.

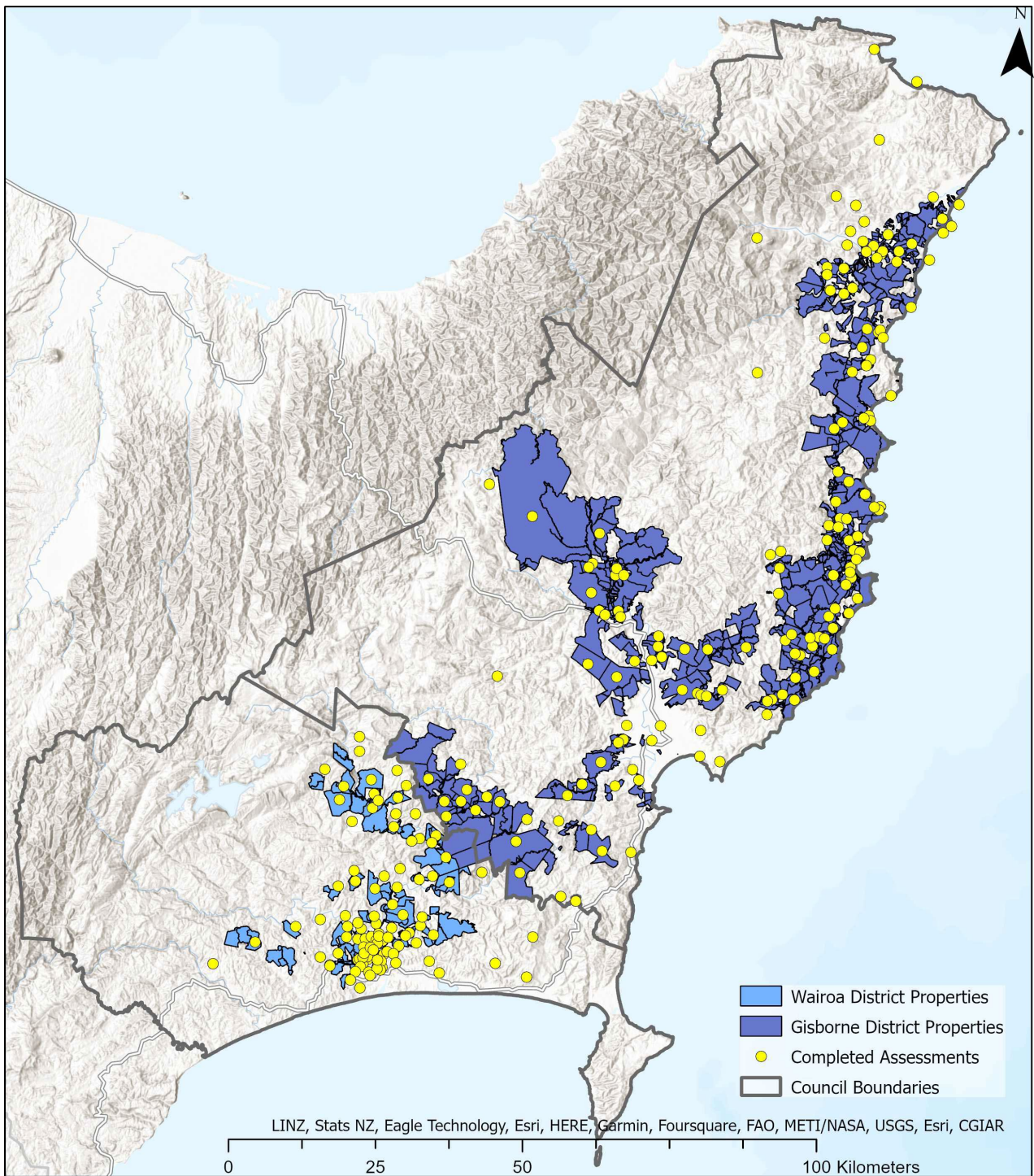


Figure 1 - Map of properties selected by district councils for recovery assessments and completed assessment locations.



Farm System:

The most common farm system was sheep and beef, at 71% of all properties, followed by lifestyle properties at 12%, and 'other' at 10%.

The farms system of the property did not have a strong effect on the level of damage sustained across all categories, but did influence the type of damage, with sheep and beef properties more likely to have damage to fences (and at greater average lengths). This would be reflective of the land area contained within these systems which is needed to be productive.

Farm System	All Results	Gisborne	Wairoa	ETFG
Sheep and Beef	70.9%	71.5%	70.0%	79.1%
Lifestyle	12.4%	11.3%	14.0%	11.6%
Other	10.0%	13.3%	5.0%	9.3%
Arable / Cropping	2.4%	1.3%	4.0%	0.0%
Dairy	1.6%	0.0%	4.0%	0.0%
Horticulture	1.6%	2.0%	1.0%	0.0%
Forestry	1.2%	0.7%	2.0%	0.0%

Other farm systems:

Of the 25 properties that selected the 'other' category for their farm system, these were:

- Mixed systems (3)
- Bees (2)
- Horses (2)
- Deer (2)
- Native forest (1)
- Citrus fruit (1)
- Pigs (1)
- The remaining 13 properties were misallocated and would have fit into one of the predefined categories, such as sheep and beef or horticulture

What was your effective area before the event? (ha)	All Results	Gisborne	Wairoa	ETFG
Min.	0.3	0.3	0.6	1.3
Max.	12000	11200	12000	3129

Role in business:

This question was asked of interviewers to ensure that properties who may have completed more than one recovery assessment could be accounted for and allow for assessment results be linked especially where the properties were amalgamated or contiguous units.

This question is a recent addition to recovery assessments and is a learning from previous adverse events responses.

Owner contact details were collected from leaseholders, managers, and staff, to allow for property traceability and easy comparison with external databases to ensure we were not doubling up on interviews by interviewing both the owner and manager/leaseholder or staff.

Avg.	700	721	666	805
Sum.	152576	96624	55952	29796

Role in Business	All Results	Gisborne	Wairoa	ETFG
Owner	71.3%	66.9%	78.0%	72.1%
Leaseholder	11.6%	17.2%	3.0%	7.0%
Manager	16.7%	15.2%	19.0%	20.9%
Staff	0.4%	0.7%	0.0%	0.0%
Share Milker	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%

Do you have support during this time?

This question was not explicitly asked of assessment participants and was instead gathered across the course of a conversation. This is where there is a benefit in having experienced interviewers who are not rushed and able to extract the information in a way that is not invasive. Results give us an idea of the level of support that this person may have been receiving following the event, and was used to indicate those who may have needed further support from the Rural Support Trust.

Most interviewees (88% or 221) indicated that they had additional support, although 139 did not provide further details on who provided this support. The most common support network was family (79), followed by staff (7), Neighbours (2), and Federated Farmers (1). Additionally, 7 participants have more than once source of support (family and staff).

Do you have support during this time?	All Results	Gisborne	Wairoa	ETFG
Yes	88.1%	88.1%	88.0%	90.7%
No	2.4%	1.3%	4.0%	0.0%
Did not answer	9.6%	10.6%	8.0%	9.3%

Preferred Method of Contact?

The answer to this question during any given event can vary widely depending on the demographic and connectivity in each area.

Of note is that although people preferred to receive a call, the biggest weakness in the survey was lack of available contact information. With cellular (and internet) connectivity issues in the area, contacting busy farmers who are outside for most of the day can be problematic, it can take luck and good timing to contact them when they are in the house.

Preferred Method of Contact	All Results	Gisborne	Wairoa	ETFG
Cell phone	45.0%	47.7%	41.0%	44.2%
Landline	43.8%	43.7%	44.0%	41.9%
Email	10.8%	8.6%	14.0%	11.6%
In-person	0.4%	0.0%	1.0%	2.3%



Situation Ratings

Each of the 251 properties that completed a recovery assessment was given a rating from the interviewer, between 1 and 5, based on the level of physical damage to the property and the farmers' emotional state. This situation rating for properties was given by the interviewer, as learnings from past adverse events have shown that those who are closest to the situation (i.e. the respondents) are often unable to correctly gauge the level of damage for the most part will play down or under-value their situation.

Interviewer Question: How do you rate this person's situation?

1 - No issues present

2 - Insignificant damage

3 - Moderate damage to property

4 - Damage to property is at a greater scale and cost than 3

5 - Urgent assistance needed, or major scale damage

1 - No issues present and 2 - Insignificant damage:

The two situational categories include properties who were not adversely affected by the event, or who were minimally affected but did not require any support for recovery purposes. More than a third of all properties (36% or 90 properties) assessed fell into one of these categories, with similar levels in the Wairoa (34%) and Gisborne Districts (37%).

"We're doing pretty good!"

"Just getting on with it"

"We just need to keep moving forward!"

"Farming now is a stressful time, we need to keep positive. It can always be worse"

3 - Moderate damage to property:

Properties with a situation rating of three were moderately affected by the weather event but were able to continue with most property operations. Damage to property was most likely some debris, fence damage, track damage, stock bank loss, but nothing too significant. 36% (91) of properties were given this situation rating, equal across both districts (Gisborne with 55 properties and Wairoa with 36). This was the most common situation rating for properties who requested support from Enhanced Taskforce Green, at 47%.

From an Interviewer:

One survey participant sounded to be very stoic and "is used to weather events causing significant damage", however, I got the sense the damage may be a little worse than he let on."

"This is a 3-4 year job to get everything sorted"

4 - Damage to property is at a greater scale and cost than 3:

27% (67) of all properties were rated at a level 4, with a significant increase to 44% for properties who requested support from ETFG.

"I'm more concerned about other people, there are plenty worse off than I am. We have good contingencies in place, supplements on-hand etc"

"Our house is majorly damaged from leaks. Fencing damage will be difficult to repair because of silt and debris etc. Water troughs are still silted over and drains all need clearing. Water ponding and silting means lease money will have to be reimbursed and loss of lease income until paddocks are restored. Dams are silted up and culverts full of silt and debris."

5 - Urgent assistance needed, or major scale damage:

There were only 3 properties who were given a situation rating of 5, with all properties located in the Gisborne district. This rating was given to properties who were severely impacted by the event, through physical, emotional, and/or financial damage.

"We lost two cars and a privately owned walk bridge when the river flooded, this is our property access including our house. The house water tank cracked so we now bring water to the house in containers from a nearby spring. There is a lot of damage to the land"



Interviewer Question: How do you rate this persons situation?	All Results	Gisborne	Wairoa	ETFG
1 - No issues present	18.7%	16.6%	22.0%	0.0%
2 - Insignificant damage	17.1%	20.5%	12.0%	7.0%
3 - Moderate damage to property.	36.3%	36.4%	36.0%	46.5%
4 - Damage to property is at a greater scale and cost than 3.	26.7%	24.5%	30.0%	44.2%
5 - Urgent assistance needed, or major scale damage.	1.2%	2.0%	0.0%	2.3%



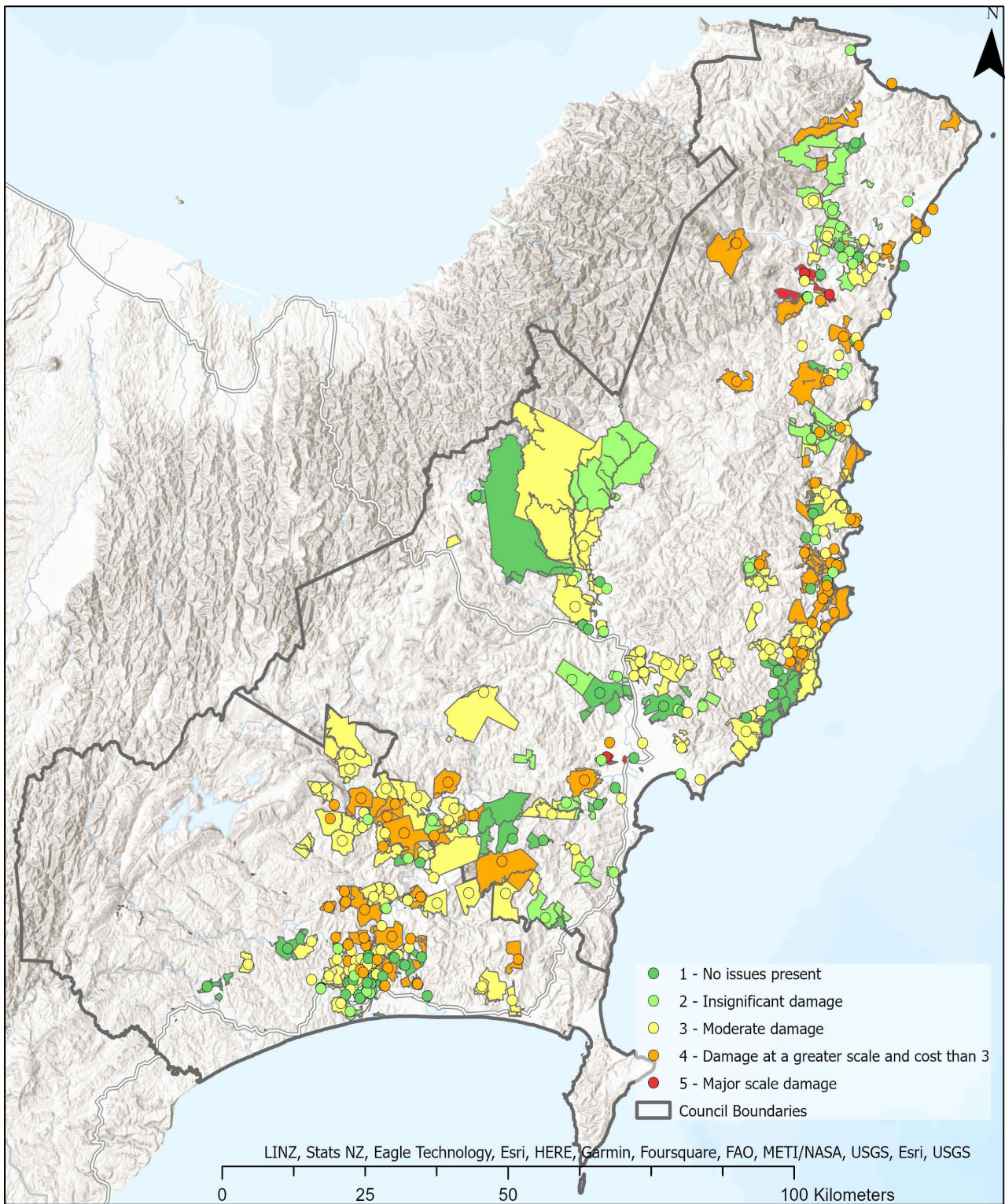


Figure 2 - Map show properties that completed the recovery assessment with colour scale based on situation rating.



Rainfall

The average amount of rainfall across properties surveyed was 646ml across both events. While there was slightly more variation between the minimum and maximum levels in the Wairoa District, $\pm 1200\text{ml}$, the district also had a higher percentage of properties who recorded their rainfall level (66% compare with Gisborne's 40%), allowing for higher accuracy in results. Properties within the Wairoa district also saw a higher average level of rainfall, with 752ml compared to Gisborne's 531ml.

When compared across all results from the recovery assessment, there was no strong correlation between the level of rainfall and property damage during or following the event. There is low statistical significance to this resulting relationship though, as only 51% of properties supplied a rainfall value, and is therefore unable to give a clear indication.

The answer format for this question also allowed for written responses, with some properties answering with "unsure", "a lot", and "too much", while others were very detailed, with one person say they had "1200mm in 6 days including 650mm in 6 hrs on the Friday, 200mm a week later", creating a bias with the results.

Do you know how much rainfall you received?	All Results	Gisborne	Wairoa	ETFG
Min.	100ml	150ml	100ml	160ml
Max.	1300ml	1200ml	1300ml	1000ml
Avg.	646ml	531ml	752ml	655ml
Count	127	61	66	21

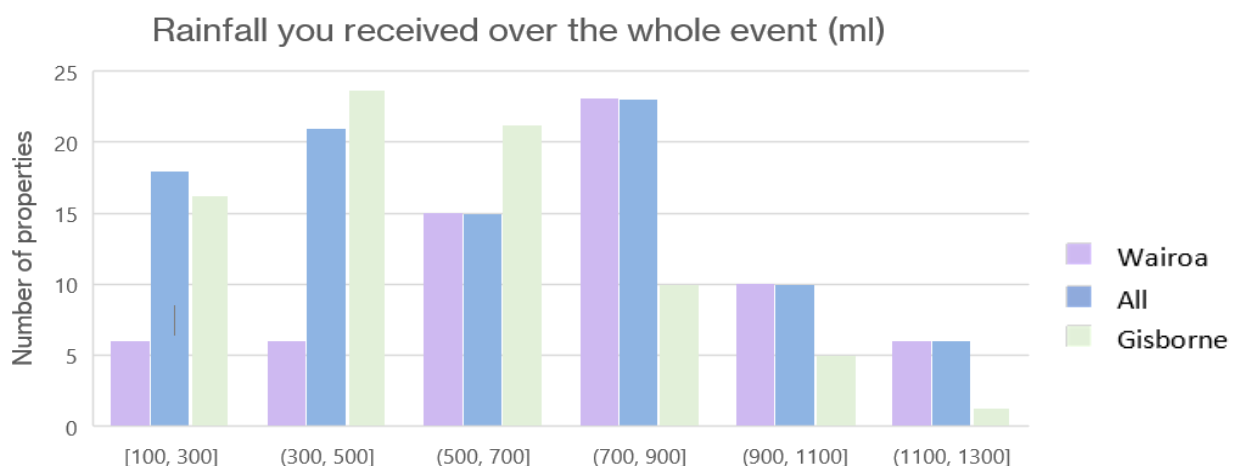


Figure 3 - Graph showing weather event rainfall levels for affected areas

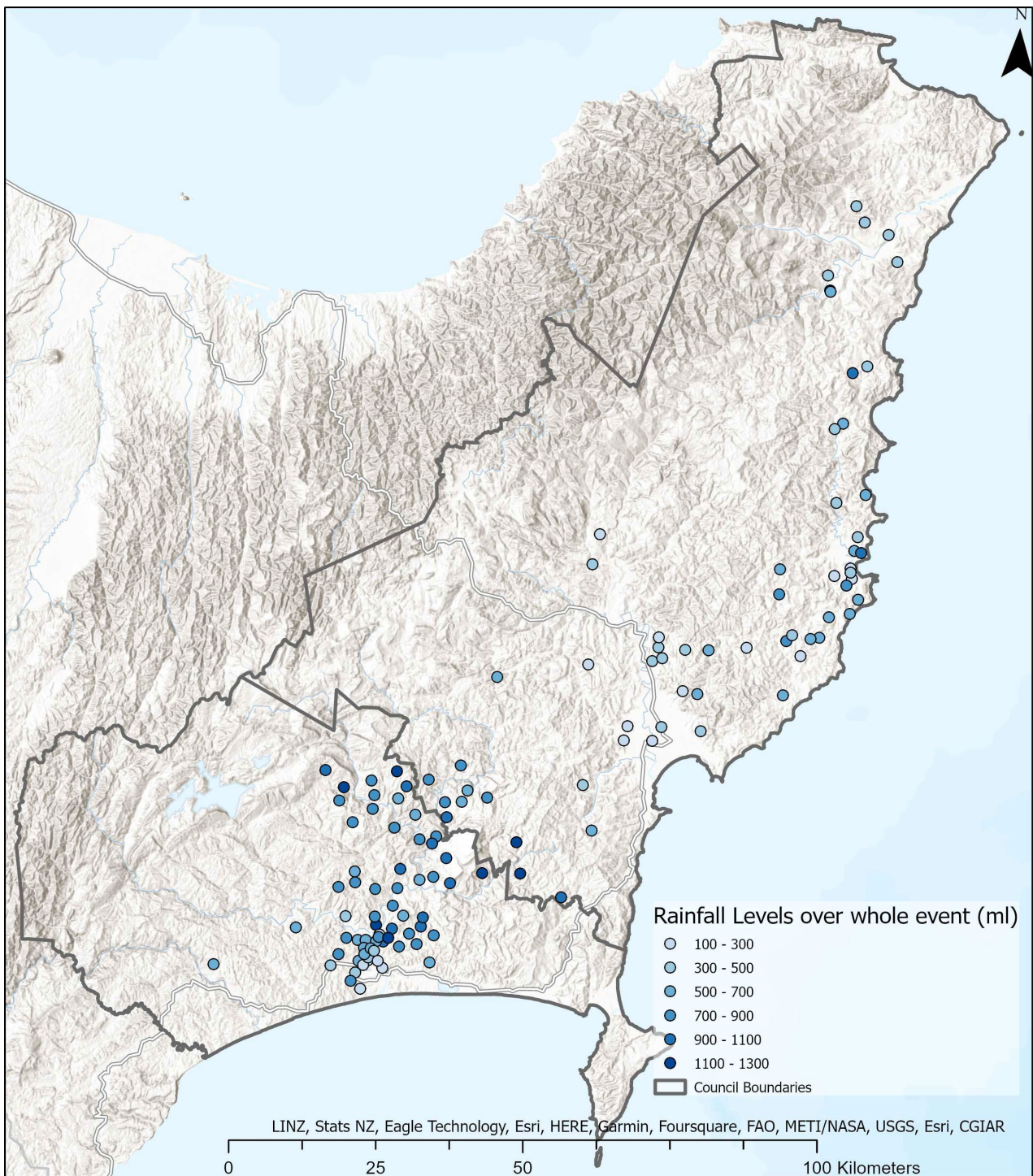


Figure 4 - Map showing rainfall levels of assessment properties, using colour ramp symbology, with higher rainfall levels in darkest blue.



Property isolations due to road closures

Functional roading networks are especially important for rural communities, which often are already isolated, and have extended distances to travel for critical support and resources.

Roads for rural people mean access to food, supplies and medical attention, while road for commercial livestock owners allows access to stock, animal movement, veterinary assistance, and farm supplies among others.

30 properties (12%) across both districts were isolated due to road closures either during or following the two weather events, with a slightly higher percentage affected in Wairoa (16%, or 16 properties) as compared with Gisborne (9%, or 14 properties). The 14 affected properties in Gisborne were located across 13 unique roads. The 16 properties in Wairoa were found across 7 roads, where one road had 8 affected properties along its length.

"We lost access to the farm for 3 weeks, we opened up road ourselves"

Of the 30 properties which were affected by road closures, a further 17 (57%) stated that they would face difficulties with trying to move stock off the property. This was broken down to 7 properties in Gisborne and 10 properties in Wairoa.

When asked to give more detail on what had caused the difficulties with getting stock off their property. 7 of the 10 properties in the Wairoa district cited closed or damaged bridges as the main reason for these access difficulties, with two saying that dropouts on the road are the issue, and one person stating that road closures in general have made it difficult to plan for stock movement.

"Freight so expensive now that we have to drive such a long way around due to the bridge closure. Logistically it has become quite hard to get supplies, as truck drivers are trying to get full truck loads to justify the travel."

"The bridge is closed. It could take six months to open to stock trucks"

Property access issues in Gisborne are varied by comparison, with stock movement difficulties due to river access, road closures and damages, or roads are 4wd only and not able to take stock trucks.

"Our access road is damaged and there are issues with it being repaired, with council only doing patch up jobs and not repairing it properly. We're the only farm up this road."

"We still need a 4wd for access."

Is your property isolated due to road closures?	All Results	Gisborne	Wairoa	ETFG
No	88.0%	90.7%	84.0%	90.7%
Yes	12.0%	9.3%	16.0%	9.3%

"[The] bridge will be closed for some time. Takes longer to get a truck out to the farm, so some delays. Not impossible but does take longer. "

"Access road has been fixed so that it is passable, by 4wd only, in dry conditions. Have been told road will fixed better in October. Have been able to walk cattle off."

"Road open to cars but requires a tractor to pull trucks through. Slips and washout on main road into farm."

"Sometimes we have to leave the car over 5kms from the house and take the quad."

Will you have difficulties with getting stock off your property?	All Results	Gisborne	Wairoa	ETFG
Yes	6.8%	4.6%	10.0%	7.0%
No	5.2%	4.6%	6.0%	2.3%
Did not answer	88.1%	90.7%	84.0%	90.7%

**Note: This question was only asked if they had answered 'Yes' to the question 'Is your property isolated due to road closures?'.*

"We are having to walk cattle for the truck down to neighbours to get them off farm "

"Access to our property is by driving through the river, but this is becoming more and more difficult due to flood events. There used to be a proper road and bridge, but they were washed away 10 years ago. It was good that during this flood, Civil Defence was able to drop in supplies to the house."

"We can't get wool out, it is a 15km drive to get stock out for sale. The road was shut for a while, and the bridge is shut still."

"The bridge is damaged. There are slips below and above house. The house is separate from the farm and we couldn't access it."

"I have access to the farm but this is by a much longer narrower windier route than normal. I am concerned about logging trucks using this route, which may further damage bridges, which will make it impossible to get stock off the farm. I have raised the issue with MPI as a potential animal welfare issue, but said I wasn't listened to."

"The road was closed for 10 long days. We couldn't get stock out for over a Month and had to fly in an electrician, groceries etc. We spent \$4k on chopper just getting supplies in to survive."

"I can now drive to my house but the road is in bad condition, with huge washout gutters. Yesterday a fertiliser truck slid off the road and it closed again for a while."

"My husband wasn't able to go to work for a week, as the road was shut for so long."

"During the event I was cut off because of flooding over the road to get to my house. I live next to the river and banks on both sides are caving in."



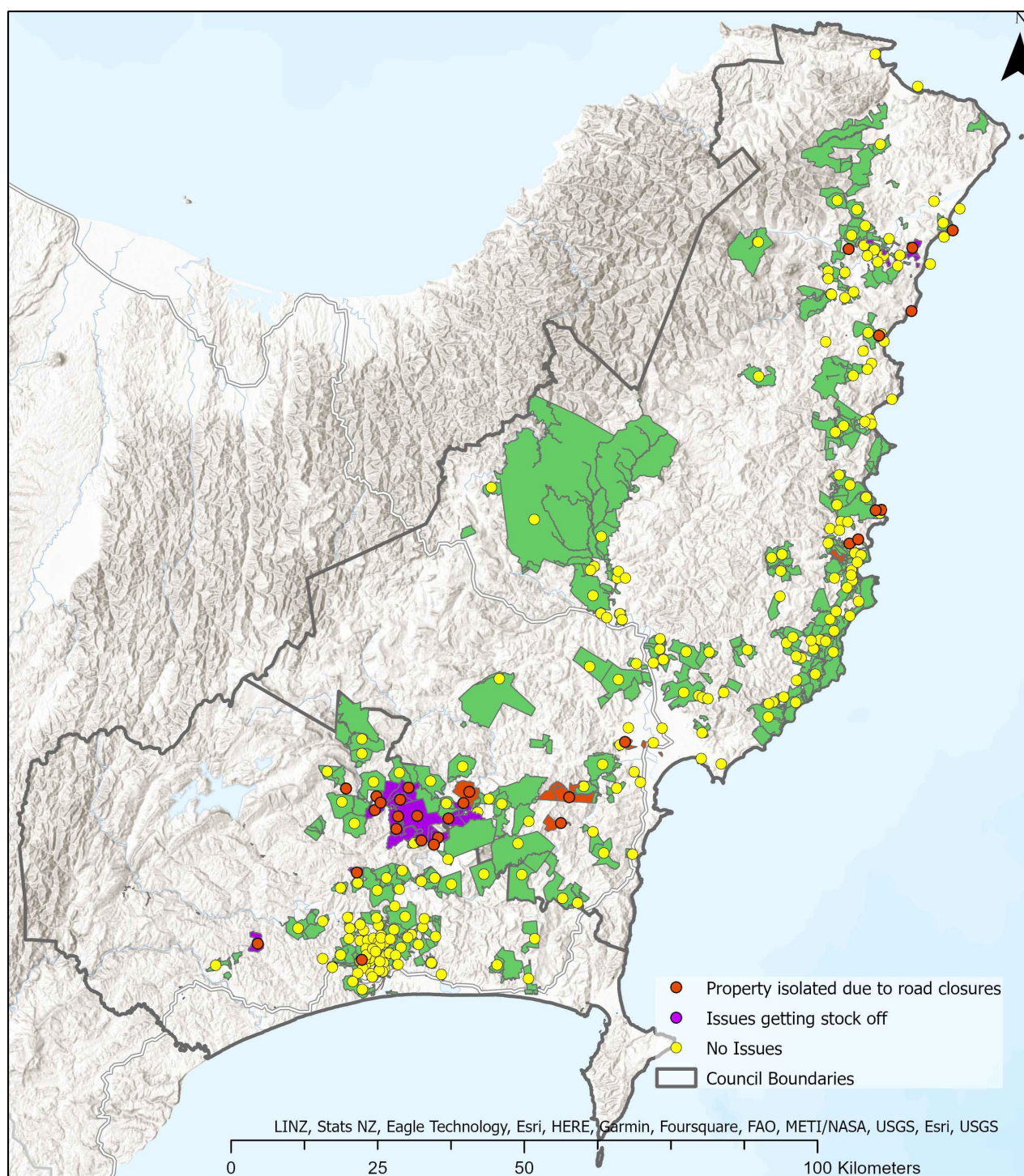


Figure 5 - Map showing properties isolated by road closures and difficulties moving stock of the property.



Power and Internet Connectivity

Half (49%) of all properties lost or experienced internet connectivity issues during and following the events, with a slightly lower percentage of properties that experienced internet issues in Wairoa compared with Gisborne properties (46% to 51%).

When asked if they lost power or had intermittent access to power, 55% of properties responded 'yes'. Roughly two thirds (64%) of properties in Wairoa District experienced loss of power, much higher than Gisborne's 50%. For properties who lost power, 26% (36) used Contact Energy as their provider, followed by 15% (21) with Genesis, although it is uncertain if these numbers are statistically significant as they may reflect the base number of properties within the area who are with these providers.

Additionally, there were 107 properties (43%) who experienced connectivity issues with both power and internet, with 40 properties in Wairoa and 67 in Gisborne.

Did you lose power?	All Results	Gisborne	Wairoa	ETFG
Yes	55.4%	49.7%	64.0%	76.7%
No	44.6%	50.3%	36.0%	23.3%

"Power was off for 2 weeks. 7 poles had to be replaced."

"I have just had surgery so is I am unable to do any repair work"

"The transformer on a nearby hill had a lightning strike the night of the storm which is why power was out for a week."

"We lose power quite often. We are looking at putting in own generator."

[As of May 31st] "Power is still off and no word as to when it will be put back on"

"A lot of people in the valley were uncontactable due to reception and power being out. "

Who is your power provider?

Properties who lost power or had intermittent access to power were also able to give details on who their power supplier was. 128 of the 139 properties answered this question.

Who is your power provider?	All Results	Gisborne	Wairoa
Contact	36	28	8
Genesis	21	9	12
Eastland/Eastern Network	9	4	5
Mercury	8	5	3
Trust Power	8	3	5
Pulse Energy	7	4	3
Meridian	6	3	3
Nova	4	2	2
Gisborne Net Genesis	3	0	3
Unknown provider	3	0	3
Grey Power	2	0	2
Energy online	1	1	0
Evolution wireless	1	1	0
Just energy	1	0	1
Spark	1	0	1

Did you experience internet connectivity issues?	All Results	Gisborne	Wairoa	ETFG
No	51.0%	49.0%	54.0%	32.6%
Yes	49.0%	51.0%	46.0%	67.4%

“The landline was out for 35 days”

“The backup batteries went down at Tiniroto. It has been suggested that a generator up there would resolve this issue. As phone lines are connected to this many people had no form of contact while the roads were also closed”

“We couldn't milk for 2-3 days due to no power. There was no internet or cell phones – no power to charge, or connect to the WIFI as the router wouldn't go without power”

The valley will benefit hugely from better cell service. The internet went out, and lots of us rely on the internet for phone connections too. This meant many of us had no form of communication at all during the event, we were also isolated due to road closures.”

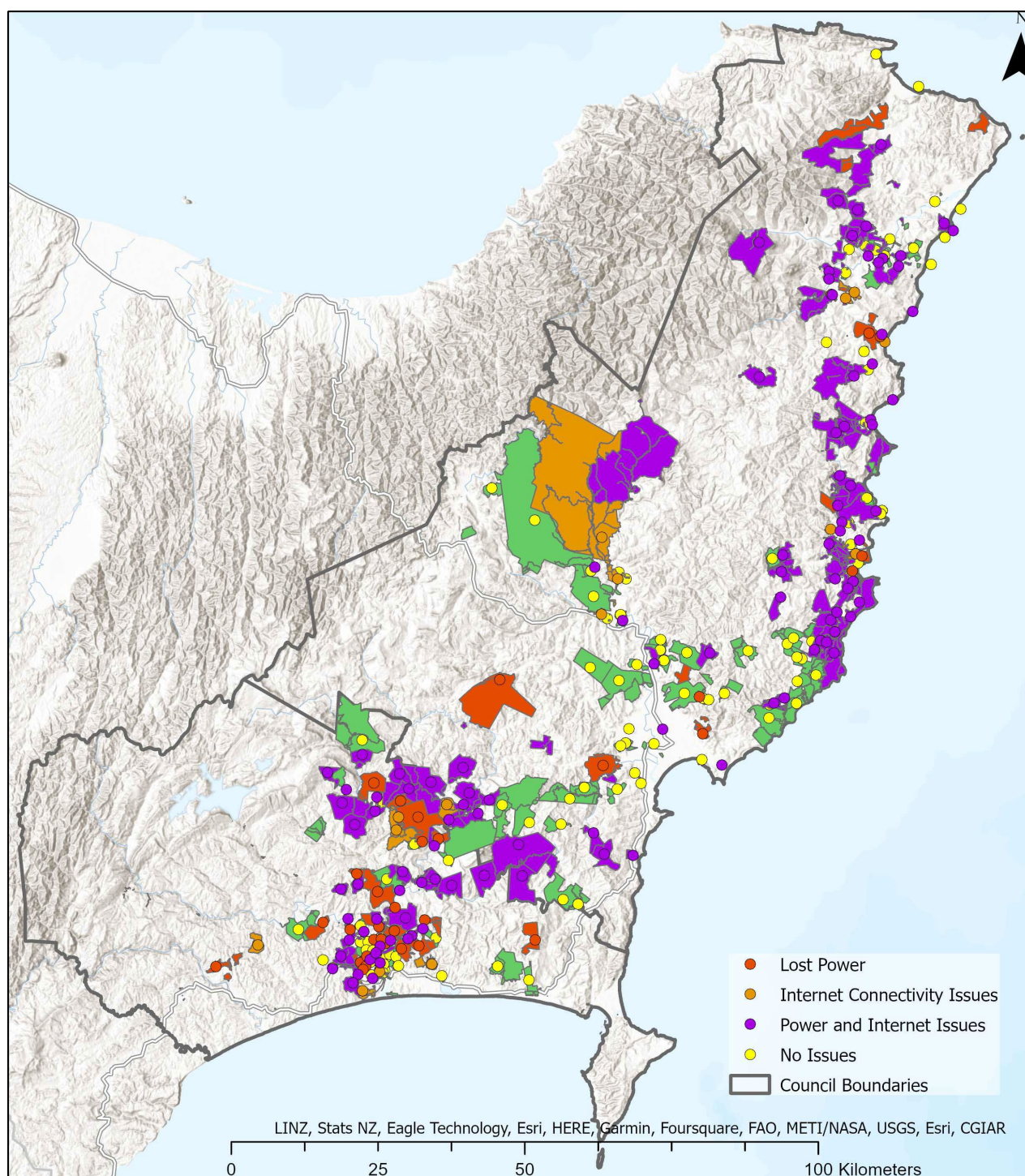


Figure 6 – Map showing properties which faced internet and/or power issues during and following the weather events

“We lost power, phone connectivity (no cell phone coverage), internet, and our road was blocked. It left us and others very vulnerable as no one externally could know what was happening in their valley.”

“We lost connectivity and phones for ten days. We feel like that is too long.”



Damage to fencing

Most properties who completed the recovery assessment, 78%, sustained damage to or lost portions of their fences. While there were small variations in the percentage of properties across the Gisborne and Wairoa districts, -2% and +3% from the average respectively, there was a high correlation between the properties that requested support from Enhanced Taskforce Green with those that sustained damage to fences, at 98%.

When looking past the overall count of properties that sustained fencing damage, and instead looking at measurable lengths that were affected, there is a larger difference for fence damage between the districts. Of the 182 properties (73%) assessed, only 158 were able to get a recorded distance for the length of fence line which was affected.

The average length of fence line damaged per property for both districts were 1,728 meters (1.7km), or when you exclude the outlier property which sustained 40,000 meters (40km) of fence line damage, then the average for all properties drops to 1,448 meters (1.4km). The average length of fence lost or damaged for Gisborne (excluding the outlier) was 1,679 meters (1.7km), with Wairoa almost 500 meters behind on average damage at 1,229 meters (1.2km).

Properties which requested assistance from Enhanced Taskforce Green sustained even longer lengths of fence damage, with the average length at 2,506 meters (2.5km).

"1 km of fencing out, but in lots of small places rather than total fence lines taken out, which has been more problematic & expensive compared to replacing one whole length of fence. We had to fly fencing materials in. We can't replace fencing over slips, as material too unstable, so need to get a machine to clear or compress."

27% (69) of all properties have lost or damaged boundary fences which are no longer stock proof. The average length of fence line would need to be built or improved to make the property stockproof was 700 meters. There was a significant difference in this measurement between the two districts, with the average length in Gisborne district at 967 meters compared with Wairoa's 286 meters.

The total length of boundary fence line across all properties that needs to be improved for stock proofing is 42,645 meters, or 42km.

Of the 69 properties that need to stock proof their boundary fence line, 48 (70%) have said that to do so will require the use of machinery.

"I had to sell stock as haven't had fences to hold them"

Did you lose or have damage to fences?	All Results	Gisborne	Wairoa	ETFG
Yes	72.5%	70.9%	75.0%	97.7%
No	25.9%	27.8%	23.0%	2.3%
Did not answer	1.6%	1.3%	2.0%	0.0%

"Our electric fence units are broken due to power surges. Two units at about \$2,000 each."

"Fencing damage is extensive. The boundary fence that has gone is with the neighbouring forestry block so not much of a concern."

What length of fence line was lost or damaged (meters)?	All Results	Gisborne	Wairoa	ETFG
Min.	2.5	2.5	17.0	2.5
Max.	40000	40000	13000	25000
Avg.	1728	2105	1229	2506
Sum.	273053	189456	83597	87713

Are your boundary fences stock proof?	All Results	Gisborne	Wairoa	ETFG
Yes	44.2%	42.4%	47.0%	51.2%
No	27.5%	27.2%	28.0%	46.5%
Did not answer	28.3%	30.5%	25.0%	2.3%

**Note: This question was only asked if they had answered 'Yes' to the question 'Did you lose or have damage to fences?'.*

"Boundary fences stock proof but only temporary fencing. I have been quoted 20k for digger work to get it ready to replace fences"

"I have already done a lot of netting and warratah fenced to patch up to sections to gain control of stock again. We'll need machinery to do the fence line properly in the spring"

"The boundary fence is not totally damaged, but not totally reliable. We are working with our neighbours, so if one party has stock in an area where the fence is not good, the other doesn't."

"Our lost boundary fence but has been patched up. There are lots of slumps pushing against fences but the ground hasn't yet moved enough to take them out completely. It is quite likely that over winter these fences will be taken out by the slips."

"The boundary fence follows the river, and all of it was washed away, so we will need to move fence back from river. This fence is on lease land and has just been replaced after the last flood, at our cost, we will require permission from the landowner to move the boundary fence."

"Our river fences went and are still down, we are undecided where to reinstate the fence, as must go back to its original location under the conditions of the Crown lease, but if put back where it was then it will just go again. This is what happened in the floods of 2012, so it was a relatively new fenceline was lost, and we are reluctant to do it again. So, we are holding off at the moment. We are leaving stock off that area in the meanwhile."

"Damage to ridge tops and fence lines that will make reinstating difficult. Some of the fencing is holding but could be lost with more heavy rainfall. Temporary measures in place to maintain boundary"

"We are working with our neighbour to manage the lack of a boundary fence"

What length of fence line would need to be built/improved to make your property stockproof (meters)

	All Results	Gisborne	Wairoa	ETFG
Min.	5.0	5.0	50.0	50.0
Max.	6000	6000	1500	3000
Avg.	699	967	286	587
Sum.	42645	35775	6870	11150

Will stock proofing those boundaries require machinery?

	All Results	Gisborne	Wairoa	ETFG
Yes	19.1%	18.5%	20.0%	32.6%
No	7.6%	8.6%	6.0%	14.0%
Did not answer	73.3%	72.9%	74.0%	53.5%

**Note: This question was only asked if they had answered 'Yes' to the question 'Did you lose or have damage to fences?'.*

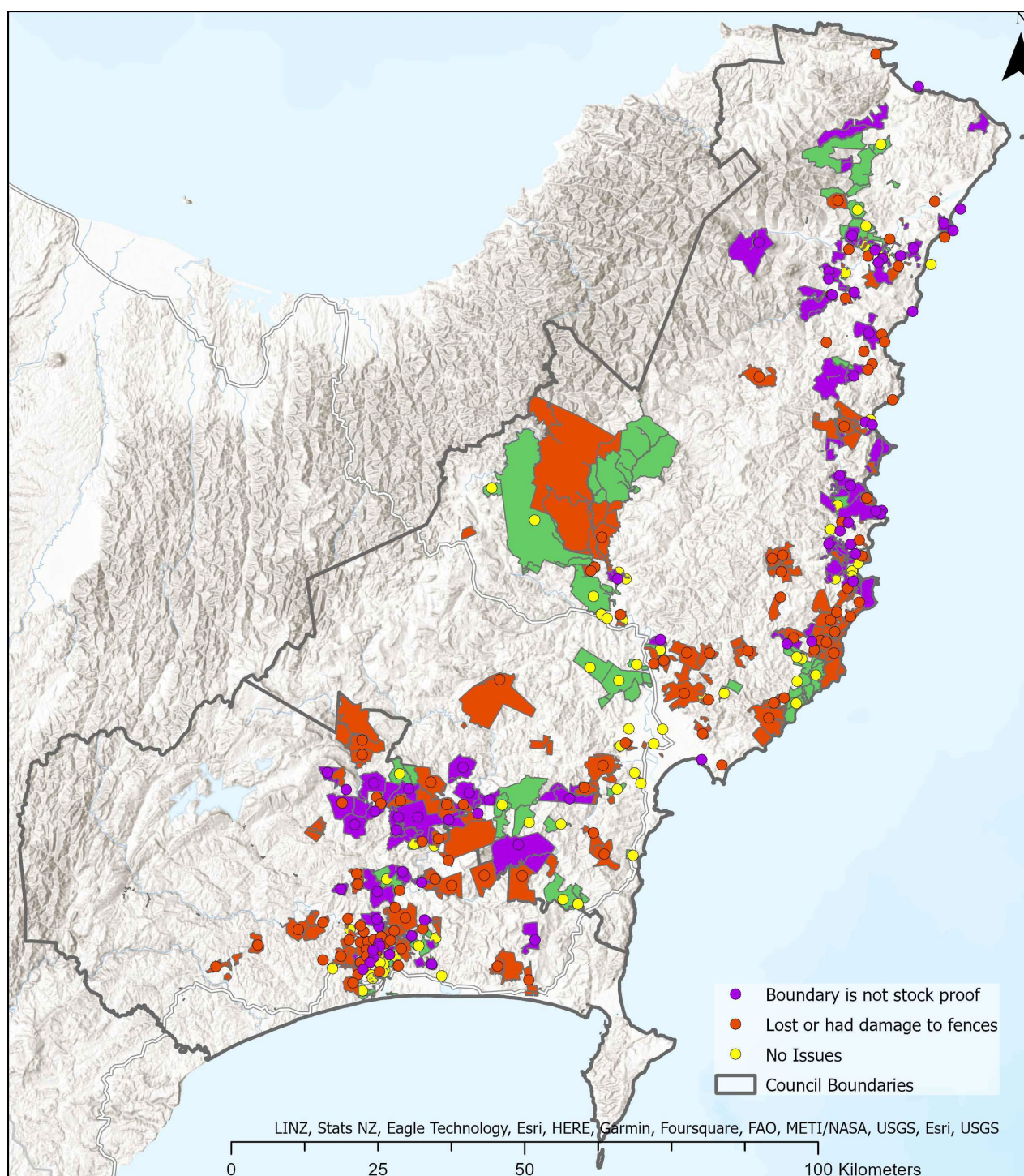


Figure 7 – Map highlighting properties which sustained damage to fences, including properties which were no longer stock-proofed.

“2km of the boundary fence along the river was damaged. The riverbed has been raised, so it is not worth fencing it until at least spring. It will only take a very small flood for it to come over again. We have two fencing contractors are on the job now.”

“We asked the council to come a couple of years ago to clean the river, and they said they wouldn't come because it's too far away.”



Property Damage

Property Damage

36% (90) of respondents stated that they are unable to access all areas of their property. These internal access issues were slightly more frequent in Wairoa compared with Gisborne, at 42% (42) and 32% (48) of properties respectively. Half of all properties who requested support from ETFG stated that they had reduced internal access, at 51% (22), significantly higher than the average.

The most common cause cited for reduced internal access was due to damaged internal tracks, from either washouts or slips. Other issues included fallen trees or slash, silt and debris, or washed-out culverts. Some properties were still able to be accessed by horseback or all-terrain vehicles where other vehicles were unable to gain access, although this was prohibitive to the type of work which could be achieved.

"We are prioritising areas which are really bad at the moment, to make it easier for the horses but will leave most track till spring to fix."

Significant numbers of properties sustained additional damage during and following the two events. The most common form of property damage, felt by more than two thirds of properties (69%, or 172), was due to slips and landslides. Roughly half of all properties had some form of pasture loss, loss or damage to internal tracks, and loss or damage to bridges and culverts (53%, 52%, and 48% respectively).

For properties who requested support from ETFG, these percentages for 'other' damage sustained increase dramatically, at roughly three-quarters of properties seeing damage for the above infrastructure.

One property in particular received damage to every infrastructure category, except for dams and water tanks.

Also, not included in the list below, properties additionally lost cars and forestry.

"We'll need 6 weeks of digger in Sept/Oct, followed up by a team of fencers to clear fence line. Repairing the dams and tracks will need to be done in spring. A rates relief would be good practical help the council could implement"

Are you able to access all areas of your farm?	All Results	Gisborne	Wairoa	ETFG
Yes	62.2%	66.9%	55.0%	46.5%
No	35.9%	31.8%	42.0%	51.2%
Did not answer	2.0%	1.3%	3.0%	2.3%

What is reducing your access to those areas of your farm?

"300ha of our property is still not accessible by vehicles, only by horses. This is from slips and track damage with all gullies blown out"

"We have access to a lot of the farm but out the back it's still all by horse. All tracks are gone from slips."

"We have slips and track damage; the ground is still very wet. About 25% of farm can only be accessed by horse still and the rest only by quad, wouldn't get a truck on. 20-30 ha of slips, which is on leased land"

"We have slips, internal track damage, culverts blocked or dropped out. Can't even get a horse over the drop out and must go via neighbours to get out - this is an issue!!"

"A bulldozer has been round to open more tracks a month ago after the first rains, but there has been more rain since. There are slips across tracks. More than 50% isn't accessible by bike, just on foot."

"We are prioritising areas which are really bad at the moment, to make it easier for the horses, but will leave most of the tracks until spring to fix."

Other Property Damage	All Results	Gisborne	Wairoa	ETFG
Slips / landslides	68.5%	64.2%	75.0%	86.1%
Pasture loss	53.4%	45.0%	66.0%	74.4%
Internal tracks	52.2%	45.0%	63.0%	62.8%
Bridges and culverts	48.2%	43.1%	56.0%	69.8%
Silt damage	42.6%	39.7%	47.0%	74.4%
Flood gates	42.6%	39.7%	47.0%	74.4%
Debris	36.7%	40.4%	31.0%	76.7%
Dams	23.9%	11.3%	43.0%	30.2%
Other	23.5%	33.1%	9.0%	25.6%
Water scheme / reticulation	18.3%	13.3%	26.0%	27.9%
Livestock	15.5%	9.9%	24.0%	25.6%
Crop loss	12.4%	11.9%	13.0%	23.3%
Feed	5.6%	4.6%	7.0%	11.6%
Sheds	4.8%	6.0%	3.0%	16.3%
Housing	4.0%	5.3%	2.0%	9.3%
Water tanks	3.2%	2.0%	5.0%	9.3%



"Our water reticulation was damaged, it is a community scheme we share with neighbouring properties who all put in a percentage for repairs. The community also worked together to clean up each other's properties."

"We lost a water tank, five dams need clearing, internal tracks need to be cleared, 500m of fence repairs, flood gates, the water pump shed silted up and there's lots of silt damage."

"We are not sure of the cost of getting tracks cleared and replacing the dam. The river has scoured away land so something will need to be done about the banks. Trees have been washed out and the river is getting dangerously close to the house. We have got a spring, which is allowing some stock water, but we will need to replace the dam and have no idea how much that will cost."

"I will need to do something about big slip that affects my place and the neighbours. Will probably plant it out."

We lost lots of culverts. Our swede crops damaged. Silt is over pastures. Debris in fences, debris tails from slips have covered lots of pasture as well as pasture loss from slip scars. There is no school bus access so we are needing to drive the kids to school each day. There is lots of extra man hours droving stock due to inaccessibility for stock trucks. Insurance may only cover fencing losses."

"Some assistance with pole planting and increase pole numbers would be a massive help."

"On our place there is months of digger and fencing work. Every paddock is affected with tracks access. Grass seed will need to be applied to slips. Culverts replaced, floodgates replaced, new fence lines are needed."

Do you need assistance with skilled labour and equipment/machinery?	All Results	Gisborne	Wairoa	ETFG
No	67.3%	70.9%	62.0%	51.2%
Yes	21.5%	13.9%	33.0%	39.5%
Did not answer	11.2%	15.2%	5.0%	9.3%

Financials

"The damage has been so extensive that it would be prohibitive to repair, so the decision has been made to leave the whole property to naturally regenerate into bush, for carbon. This change of practice means there will be no business income for some years."

Cost of Damage:

The total estimated cost of damage for all properties who completed the recovery assessment was just over \$11 million, with the property average \$57,000. There were slight variations to this average between the two districts, with Gisborne at \$53,576 and Wairoa a little higher at \$62,567. For properties who requested support from ETFG, the average property damage cost increased by nearly \$40,000 above all properties, sitting at \$97,561.

"\$150k, could be more depending on how the winter goes, as everything is still wet and likely to move again"

"We lost 300 works lambs down the river @ \$160/lamb (as this area was only on a met service watch, not warning, if it was warning I would have moved stock"

Insurance Coverage:

163 properties were able to estimate the cost of damage covered by insurance, with 112 (45%) properties saying that insurance would not cover any damage or were unsure of the coverage amount, and an average estimated coverage at \$9,555 per property for both districts. Calculations for the percentage of damage costs which were covered by insurance found that on average insurance was covering 11.9% of damage costs.

"Half million down in fruit income, \$100,000 in grape income, and too early to call in apple income but potentially 300,000. Looked like was going to be a bumper crop. Not covered by insurance"

"Insurance says there is no cover for our fences or bridges."

Loss of Business Income:

Due to the nature of the information, some interviewees were hesitant to share financial income information during the recovery assessment, while a large portion believed it was just too early to tell what changes and damage to the property would later have with income losses.

"Unsure on damage and damage costs, as we still can't access places of the farm with significant slips that need to be moved"

Of the 174 properties that answered the earlier financial questions, only 101 (58%) thought that they would be able to estimate the loss of income from property damage.

This question did not have a defined temporal scale, with responses ranging from mid- to long-term effects. 48 properties said that there would be no effects to their loss of income following the adverse event, with 53 saying that their future income would suffer losses. The highest estimated income loss for Wairoa was \$1,500,000 (\$1.5 million), with Gisborne's highest at \$900,000.

The average estimated loss of income for all properties in Wairoa is \$84,545, which reduces to \$53,773 when the highest outlier is not used in calculations. Wairoa's average estimated loss of income is still significantly higher than Gisborne's \$30,683. The insufficient data to effectively estimate the loss of income for properties who requested support from ETFG, as only 6 ETFG properties answered this question, with four saying \$0, one saying \$60,000, and one saying \$1.5million.

"We haven't estimated cost to business, it's too scary"

"I have a water and sewer treatment system. The pump was damaged by power surges and now it's not working properly... I am now getting the tank pumped out on a regular basis, at cost... It's a health issue. If needed, a replacement cost will be 20-30k."

"We need to build a new well for water supply to houses, woolshed etc. The storm severely damaged the pipes and pump system so it all needs replacing"

The inability to work due to road closure cost 3 weeks wages. Couldn't sell stock, weaners, and fat lambs. It takes a lot of extra time walking stock out."

"Having to drove stock out because can't get stock truck or wool truck in. Estimated 250 hours extra work @ \$40/hr."

Estimated cost of damage to your property	All Results	Gisborne	Wairoa	ETFG
Min.	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$40.00
Max.	\$850,000.00	\$600,000.00	\$850,000.00	\$850,000.00
Avg.	\$57,005.71	\$53,576.28	\$62,566.96	\$97,561.47
Sum.	\$11,059,108.00	\$6,429,153.00	\$4,629,955.00	\$3,317,090.00

Estimated cost covered by insurance	All Results	Gisborne	Wairoa	ETFG
Min.	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Max.	\$300,000.00	\$300,000.00	\$80,000.00	\$300,000.00
Avg.	\$9,555.46	\$8,360.82	\$11,311.21	\$22,692.31
Sum.	\$1,557,540.00	\$811,000.00	\$746,540.00	\$590,000.00

"We are still unsure how much the damage would cost, unable to give a ball park figure. Insurance will cover some of the damage to the fencing, unsure on the that cost. We are also unable to estimate the loss of business income."

"Only fences and yards covered by insurance.

- *Replace main road to the back of the farm and open tracks \$10,920*
- *Metal and concrete cartage for cattle yards, \$11,000,*
- *fill tomo in covered-in sheep yards, \$2,500*
- *Tractor tidying up stockyards and remedial work, \$1,000*
- *Helicopter to lay fence lines, \$5,800*
- *Labour costs \$8,300*
- *70 hectares pasture lost = \$242,900 potential loss of income to the business, by not being able to put weight on our ewes at tugging*
- *and the value of the stock we have lost during the storm event."*

"He is not sure if EQC will cover damage to houses. There is structural house damage and damage to a retaining wall."

"Insurance says no policy written to cover their fences or bridges."

"Unhappy that insurance won't cover culverts or bridges. Unsure of cost to business yet, had to replace crops and get it reseeded by helicopter due to ground being too wet."

"Had three dams blown out and is unsure if it will be covered by insurance, but this the only cost."

"Bridge repairs alone looking at between 50 - 70K. Has had insurance

Estimated loss of business income	All Results	Gisborne	Wairoa	ETFG
Min.	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Max.	\$1,500,000.00	\$900,000.00	\$1,500,000.00	\$1,500,000.00
Avg.	\$55,747.52	\$30,683.33	\$84,544.68	\$228,571.43
Sum.	\$5,630,500.00	\$1,656,900.00	\$3,973,600.00	\$1,600,000.00

"Hasn't estimated cost to business, too scary, but has losses due to things like holding stock on because can't get trucks on."

"Don't know the full impact yet. Crop rotation has been impacted and [they are] worried about what scanning results will be"

"Inability to work due to road closure cost 3 weeks wages. Couldn't sell stock, weaners and fat lambs. Time walking stock out"

"The lost 40ha of pasture was supposed to be put into lamb grazing for store stock, so that income opportunity has been lost"

"[The] bridge is shut meaning it is no longer viable to take logs out from the forest. \$200k worth of clean-up costs gaining access to get machinery out and open up access. No work for 4 contractor crews for 3-week period working at \$12,000 a day, loss of turnover = 15 working days at \$12k per day and multiplied by four crews = \$720000 plus \$80000 lost income to Forest company due to having to salvage logs that were already on the ground - pretty much running at a loss just to clear logs on the ground driving them out [another way]."

"Estimated \$25 to \$50K of damage, but difficult to estimate the impact on production, as calves are still on cows, but the 20-month cattle that are due to be sold have lost condition and will be back in value."

"Hard to estimate business loss as this will be apparent later down the track."

"Next year's income will be 15-20% down. Has done urgent work now and will finish in the summer when it dries out. Has been destocking to have an easier winter, so they are getting income now, but it will be less than if they sold stock in spring or later. Also haven't put the rams out to the hoggets, so will have a lower lamb crop."





Feed

More than a third of properties (37%, or 92 properties) across both districts sustained flood damage to either pasture, feed, or crops, which will need to be replaced. While there was moderate variation on this average compared with the regions (Wairoa at 34% of properties and Gisborne at 40%), there was a significant increase to more than half (58%, or 25) of all properties who requested assistance from ETFG.

Permanent pasture was the most damaged category, with 67% (62) of properties sustaining some level of damage. Other forms included feed crops such as maize, plantain or swede, and 300 apple trees will need to be replanted. The scale of damage for this feed is highly variable, from a small paddock of permanent pasture, through to 70 hectares. Properties have said that they lost pasture and crops to flood waters, silt, slips, and ponding.

"50ha of pasture needs resowing but will leave to spring when it's dried out"

"3ha of new grass sowed went under water so will need to be replanted in the spring"

"100 acres went under flood waters. The harvested maize paddocks were replanted (as pasture). although late, and growth is slow as its colder. Some areas have had to be left till the spring as they are still too wet."

Loss of feed can have many negative follow-on effects, with animal health concerns arising if stock do not meet nutritional requirements. 9 properties (3 in Gisborne and 6 in Wairoa) said that they no longer had enough feed for their stock following the flooding, with a further 7 (3 and 4 respectively) concerned with being able to afford the feed or grazing needed to cover the feed damage from the flood.

"15% loss of pasture has led to early destocking of sheep. Concerned about lambing percentages and has destocked ewes so could have lower lamb numbers"

"Pasture damaged by silt damage, but can't afford to replace it, so we're hoping grass will grow through it."

"Planting our crops and winter grassing has been set back by two to three weeks which has a huge downstream affect in terms of feed for stock etc."

"We are concerned some farmers may not have enough feed on hand to cope with a bad winter/spring."

Did the flood damage any pasture, feed or crops that you will need to replace?	All Results	Gisborne	Wairoa	ETFG
No	63.3%	65.6%	60.0%	41.9%
Yes	36.7%	34.4%	40.0%	58.1%

"We are ok, we know what we need to do and have a plan. Damage to crops has set us back for the future, as well as having lost immediate crops. There is an inability to get their own machinery on paddocks due to wetness."

"We have pasture damage, I but won't deal with that until next autumn when I'll probably over sow it."

"7ha of pasture annual winter grasses needed to be sprayed twice due to the rain and we couldn't plant another 10ha of winter grass because of sediment."

"50ha of pasture is under silt alongside river"

Do you have enough feed for your current stock?	All Results	Gisborne	Wairoa	ETFG
Yes	33.1%	32.5%	34.0%	51.2%
No	3.6%	2.0%	6.0%	7.0%
Did not answer	63.3%	65.6%	60.0%	41.9%

**Note: This question was only asked if they had answered 'Yes' to the question 'Did the flood damage any pasture, feed or crops that you will need to replace?'.*

"We could do with 100 bales for cattle. This is because winter grass has been taken out and we have not been able to quickly take stock off farm."

"I'm confident I'm OK for feed, but I'm worried other people are cutting it fine and will suffer if they have a wet winter."

"We are facing winter feed shortages. Will need more suppliant. We offloaded stock early and won't be replacing scanned dry stock. Will be down by 100 - 150 ewes over winter."

"We are seeing poorer pasture utilization which is impacting pasture quality and stock performance."

Are you concerned about being able to afford feed or grazing?

	All Results	Gisborne	Wairoa	ETFG
No	33.1%	31.1%	36.0%	46.5%
Yes	2.8%	2.0%	4.0%	7.0%
Did not answer	64.1%	66.9%	60.0%	46.5%

**Note: This question was only asked if they had answered 'Yes' to the question 'Did the flood damage any pasture, feed or crops that you will need to replace?'.*

Would you like to be connected with the feed coordination service?

	All Results	Gisborne	Wairoa	ETFG
No	35.5%	33.8%	38.0%	53.5%
Yes	0.8%	0.0%	2.0%	2.3%
Did not answer	63.7%	66.2%	60.0%	44.2%

**Note: This question was only asked if they had answered 'Yes' to the question 'Did the flood damage any pasture, feed or crops that you will need to replace?'.*





Enhanced Taskforce Green

Enhanced Taskforce Green (ETFG) is a Ministry of Social Development initiative which supplies teams of light labour to help deal with the clean-up on properties following an adverse event. Work available includes cleaning fences, debris, removing damaged fences, and tidying up baleage wrap. They bring their own supervisor, meals, and equipment, while also providing their own health and safety gear, and work with property owners and managers on access restrictions.

29 (12%) properties asked to be contacted by the coordinators of ETFG for further discussion around receiving assistance with the event clean up, and a further 14 (6%) properties said that they may want to be contacted later. There was a slight variation between the districts with the number of properties who wanted or maybe wanted to be contacted by ETFG, at 20% of Gisborne properties compared to 13% in Wairoa.

When the properties who had said yes to being connected with ETFG were asked when they would like assistance, one third (48%, or 14 properties) said 'now', followed by 2 weeks and 3 or more weeks (both at 14%, or 4 properties), in 1 week (10%), and in 2-3 days (7%). Properties in Gisborne district more frequently requested support 'now' when compared with properties in the Wairoa District. There is no correlation to link when help was requested compared across the size, type, or financial cost of damage sustained.

When asked how long they estimated the length of time the work on their property would take to be completed, 59% (17%) responded with the longest length of time, which was '3 days+'. 2 days' worth of work was next, with 21% of properties expecting work to take this long, followed by 14% of properties saying only 1 day would be needed. Comments from farmers have stated that they are uncertain of how long this clean-up work would take, as it would depend on the size of the team and their skill level.

While this recovery assessment was completed over the course of 5 weeks, there was no strong correlation between the date of the event, when the assessment was recorded, when they were available for assistance, or the estimated number of days the work would take.

Additional comments from interviewees who requested to be connected with ETFG show some hesitancy with requesting this help, as they were unsure if it would be applicable to their property, or that there would be others who deserve the help more.

“Due to our location, I’m not sure that anyone would be able to come and help, as we have no accommodation and it’s a long way out.”

“I would be happy to have ETFG help but would like places like marae and community organisations to be prioritised.”

“We would appreciate ETFG help, but it’s too wet yet and too difficult for inexperienced people to access”

“I feel that because this country is not really suitable for a task force green workforce, the money would have been better going to individual farmers to hire fencers or employees for clean-up work.”

Would you like to be contacted by ETFG?	All Results	Gisborne	Wairoa	ETFG
No	82.9%	80.1%	87.0%	0.0%
Yes	11.6%	14.6%	7.0%	67.4%
Maybe later	5.6%	5.3%	6.0%	32.6%

“We need help now. I feel it is almost too late for ETFG.”

“Enhanced Task Force Green would have been beneficial, but a bit late now as we’ve already done the work”

When will you be ready for ETFG assistance?	All Results	Gisborne	Wairoa	ETFG
Now	5.4%	8.0%	2.0%	32.6%
2-3 days	0.8%	1.3%	0.0%	4.7%
1 week	1.2%	1.3%	1.0%	7.0%
2 weeks	1.5%	2.0%	1.0%	9.3%
3 weeks +	1.5%	0.7%	3.0%	9.3%
Did not answer	96.9%	97.4%	96.0%	81.4%

**Note: This question was only asked if they had answered ‘Yes’ to the question ‘Would you like to be contacted by ETFG?’.*

How many days do you estimate the work will take?	All Results	Gisborne	Wairoa	ETFG
1 day	1.5%	2.0%	1.0%	9.3%
2 days	2.3%	3.3%	1.0%	14.0%
3 days +	6.6%	8.6%	4.0%	39.5%
Did not answer	91.1%	88.1%	95.0%	46.5%

**Note: This question was only asked if they had answered 'Yes' to the question 'Would you like to be contacted by ETFG?'*

Any other information for ETFG:

Properties who requested the assistance from Enhanced Taskforce Green were given the option to supply any additional information which could be of use to the coordinators, used to assess each properties situation and allow for equitable sharing of resources.

Of the 29 properties that requested additional support from ETFG, 22 provided additional comments, which frequently included information on the work that would need to be done, or around access to the property.

"A builder would be helpful to repair damage to two houses. ETFG will need to be prepared to walk."

"Access will be by quad only and ETFG coming is weather dependent. If it gets wet again, they won't be able to get on."

"A lot of debris on our property and on the beach that has come down the river."

"Fences have debris and are also partially buried."

"Would like help getting boundary fences stock proof, they could get the guys out there most likely but 4wd only."

"Will need chainsaws to clear fallen trees and want help to clear the slip mess away from the fence and fix fence and gate. Probably not till spring though, as it is still too wet. Ideally, they would need a small digger. We don't live on farm as we both work in town. We haven't been all over farm yet but are hoping to get a drone out up to check it all."

"I have security concerns about the ETFG but am really keen to at least be able to discuss what they could offer."

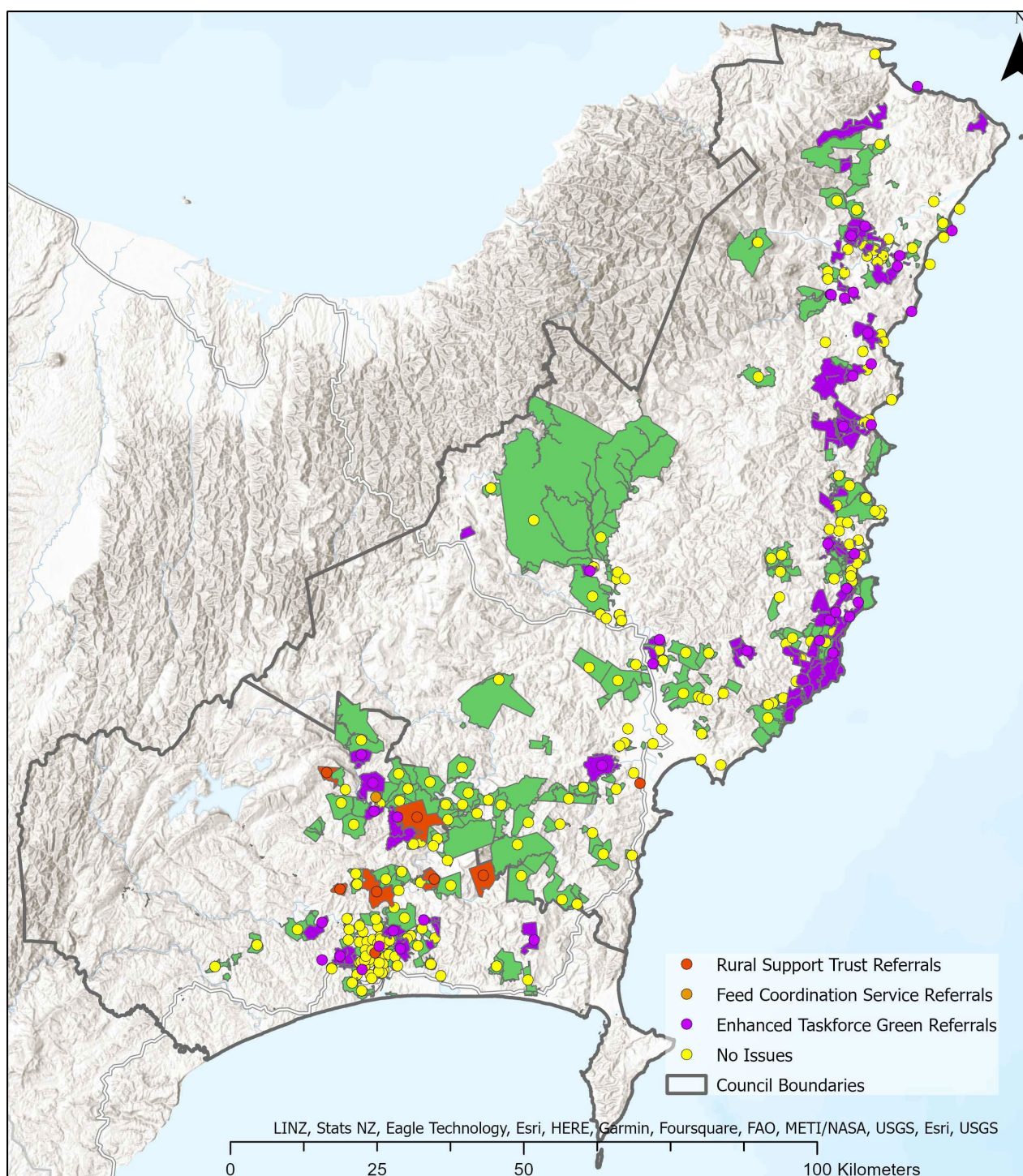


Figure 8 – Map showing properties that requested to be referred to an external group for further support following the weather event, including Enhanced Taskforce Green for clean-up support following property damage, Rural Support, and the National Feed Coordination Service.

Would you like to receive support from RST?	All Results	Gisborne	Wairoa	ETFG
No	96.4%	98.7%	93.0%	97.7%
Yes	3.2%	0.7%	7.0%	2.3%
Maybe later	0.4%	0.7%	0.0%	0.0%

"I have a lot of concerns and worries about social issues in the area, which would only be compounded by the stress of the flood. I have lost a number of beef animals and a stud bull through the boundary fence, I suspect they have been pinched."

"I get stressed, and I deal with it by working."

"The owners of the blocks they lease contribute nothing to the cost of flood repairs."

I don't totally understand the concept of the RST, but thank you (survey interviewer) for listening and letting me vent. I am happy for my number to be passed on to RST."

"I have already had help from RST, so no need to follow up."

"We are pretty fed up. This is the second significant flood in 9 months and we are finding it hard to take. We are okay and do not need help from RST."

"I got a care package (I think from rural women), the book (with Sam Whitelock on the cover) in the package was the best book I've ever read. I'm aware of RST but says I'm fine."



Additional Comments

"We need for an instant recovery fund, for people wanting to regrass slips before the soil temp drops. And for people to be able to recover the money spent on the choppers that ferried out essential supplies/animal health to isolated farmers or carting out families when the power was out. Also, for those that went for a fly to assess the damage on their farms. My costs should be covered by insurance, but others won't be."

"I've got labour already on digger/dozer."

"This is a 3-4 year job to get everything sorted."

"We would re-grass slips if funding was available.

We have now employed their casual staff, full time as things take much longer, this means paying another labour unit. Track access only by foot or horse. We lost less than 50 animals, all sheep that they know of but we can't get trucks up to the airstrip to spread fertiliser, which could impact future seasons if they can't get it on."

"The orchard got waterlogged again in the second storm, 300 apple trees were blown over, and many of the apples fell on the ground. We had to keep picking, so the machinery has left huge tracks in the wet ground which created more issues. We are now having to put in extra posts to help support the remaining trees, plus have to replace the 300 trees lost.

We didn't have crop insurance as it was too expensive."

"There is a stop bank around the school to protect it which meant the water was diverted into our property and was flooded up to the height of the stop bank. Then the water went over the banks and flooded all the flats. The neighbours used their tractor to dig holes in the stop banks to drain the property. We got access 2 days later."

"We have done 80 hours on the digger so far to gain access to the farm. But it's just a quick fix at this stage, with many hours to go. We lost 40 lambs in the event, and a dozen sheep in slips."

"Our income will be affected, but not severely."

"Pipe damage as occurred to the water scheme. Maize is under water and too late to replant so we can't bring on lambs. We would usually buy in 800-900 lambs but won't get any in this year. As there is much less feed, we will use it for our cattle."

"We had 30 head of breeding cows plus bulls lost down the river. We have no insurance cover. Hopefully the grass should come through the silt."

"The regional councils' aspiration for riparian planting is great, but farmers contributions will be constrained for the next 5 years. Cost of inflation on farm is more than nationally, at 15%, which affects everything."

"The contractor base has suffered through this period. If you want to know the effects of this rain event, best to get in touch with the contractor crews - their loss of income has been significant. The company has its asset base spread, but contractor crews are in specific areas each time, and so any localised rain event can affect them worse."

"The delayed planting is already having a downstream effect with grass growth, very slow."

"The road is not accessible for any trucks. All farms down the road are having to drove stock out across the land. GDC has applied for funding from Waka Kotahi to fix it. If you could find fencers that would be handy as there is lots of fencing to do."

"If the road is not open to stock trucks by December, that will be bad for business. This is the time we send out most of our weaned lambs."

"The dams are all full of silt. Multiple slips all over the farm. 10 years' worth of native planting is gone. The farm was sold prior to the event and will be used for production forestry, so we won't fix the fences."

We had to open the road ourselves after a month of isolation. We only had 4WD access but would still get stuck. We opened the road with our own digger and truck."

"The power was out for 5 days, we lost all the meat in our freezers. Generators and a sparky were flown in and hooked up to mains. We flew in food and fencing gear."

"If there is funding available, we would re-grass our slips, but it is just another cost at this point. The thing that has added the most stress is the bridge being out."

"The lack of production is a concern. Our staff are tied up with remedial work and not actually farming. We have a good team though."



