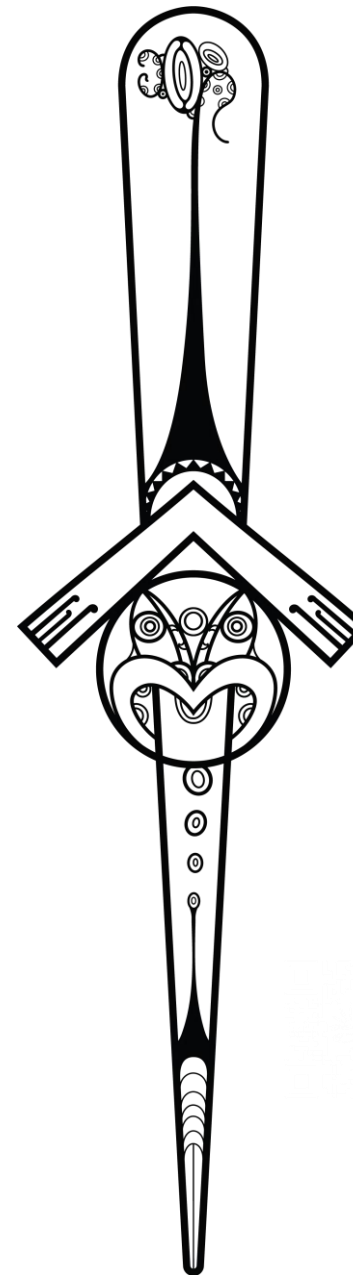




our road to recovery – Tairāwhiti

Weekly Report #4 – 24 April 2023



recovery coordination centre update

Recovery – Tairāwhiti is continuing to facilitate inputs into the Ministers plan due 30 April 2023. Therefore, this report provides a light brief on stream work and highlights new risks and issues.

Weekly Overview

Regional Public Sector Recovery meeting to align inputs into Minister's plan

Meeting with MetService regional council contract coordinator. Covered critical risk with flood model to look at rain radar options also plans for a Flood Monitoring Workshop.

Aerial imagery has been acquired which is now 72.8% complete and is now available to anyone via LINZ portal.

Meeting of Regional Council Science Advisory Group to discuss MBIE funding allocation from the MBIE Science Response Fund.

Ministers McNulty and Allan were hosted by the Mayor to discuss Recovery and Local Government issues and to touch base with CDEM staff.

Discussion with NEMA re silt removal funding following Ministers' visit

Rau Tipu Rau Ora meeting to outline the approach to Recovery Office and discuss Collective Impact Methodology.

Waka Kotahi resilience workshops attended by built environment stream leads.

Follow up with MFE on funding proposal for solid waste response and resilience.

Progress on planning for collective impact.

Risks

Statistics from the Ministry of Education show that children and staff are experiencing trauma, stress and anxiety resulting from the cyclone event.

Silt removal continues to feature highly as an issue, both from a funding perspective and a "how to remove" issue.

TAS will be charging part payments to people who are currently using temporary accommodation. Although MSD will be providing an accommodation supplement, this is likely to cause some anxiety to those whose homes have been stickered who cannot afford the part payment even with the supplement.

Fatigue and mental wellbeing issues as the reality of 9 weeks post-event and long-term nature of impacts and recovery sets in.

Businesses were surveyed six weeks ago and are anxious to hear what, if any, support will be offered by Government.

Research funding allocated is not adequate at \$1.2m to cover all regions and MPI has determined that the remaining funds would be used to capture Northland (which is supported) but also other areas, which did not experience the same adverse effects.

built environment



There has been significant progress in communicating with Waka Kotahi through strategic workshops around what a resilient network looks like and what the investment opportunities are. This work is ongoing and will be completed over the next few weeks.

The local roads team has provided the initial costs of repairing local roads and bridges and what has been spent to date with more work to happen on both local and main roads.

An area of concern is the potential impact of slash on private land above the main town supply water pipeline, which is an imminent risk. This raises complexities around who will remove this and where the funding will come from. The water team have provided reasonable costings for fixing the water risks and potential for resilience.

First Light Network and Chorus have been doing good work around regional power and communications infrastructure and have provided spend to date actual and forecasted costings.

There has been continuing work on the Blue Highway with a review of the existing business cases for marine/port infrastructure to understand opportunities and benefits for transport and resilience within isolated East Coast communities. This will be included in the Minister's Recovery Plan.



11 Roads Closed to Heavy Vehicles



20 Bridges Closed



21 Roads Closed

LOCAL ROADS



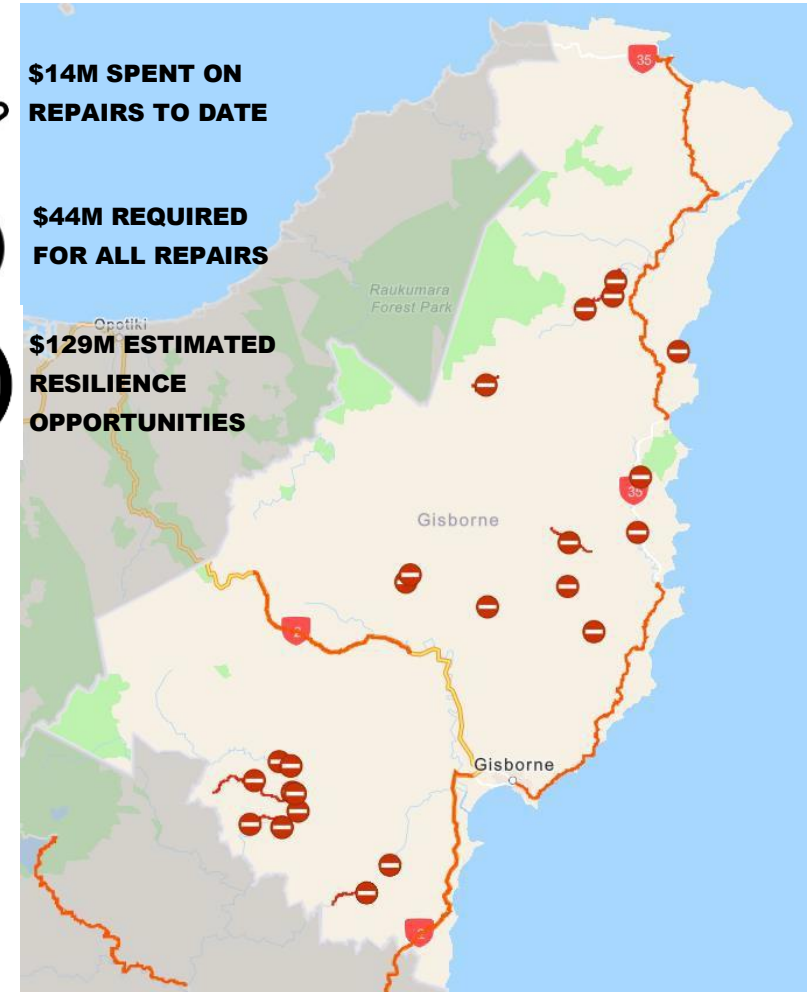
\$14M SPENT ON REPAIRS TO DATE



\$44M REQUIRED FOR ALL REPAIRS



\$129M ESTIMATED RESILIENCE OPPORTUNITIES



natural environment



Silt Removal

There are 115 properties on the list for silt removal with more being lodged each day as they see the contractors in the community.



75 COMPLETED



11 IN PROGRESS

29 OUTSTANDING



\$500k spent

\$400k accrued

Natural Environment Research Funding

The following projects/initiatives have been determined as necessary to support the recovery work for Tairāwhiti. These projects will enable data and information to be collected to understand the impact of the cyclone on our natural environment and what's needed for readiness and recovery.

1. Independent review of flood warning manual and the ARROWS flood warning system and recommendations for improvements to manual and enhancements or replacement of existing systems.
2. Identification of suitable water flow measurement technologies that work in turbid water. There is presently limited understanding of water flow (as opposed to water depth) during floods but this information is critical for flood modelling.
3. Installation of landslide monitoring equipment.
4. Tracking of sediment source in impacted catchments through Compound Specific Stable Isotope (CSSI) methodologies to enable the tracking of large woody debris that has damaged infrastructure back to specific forests.
5. Use of indigenous methods to assess impact of cyclone on *mahinga kai* (understand the traditional value of food resources and their ecosystems) in river systems.
6. Assessment of afflux effects of woody debris at bridges and impacts on upstream housing.
7. Ecotoxicity, soil structure loss and slope stability assessment of effects of high impact drying agents on steep slopes planted in pine.
8. Contract role for natural hazards advisor and a flood modelling analyst.

economic environment



The Economic stream is currently focusing on four workstreams. Workstreams 1-3 are underway, progressing well and near complete (1-2 weeks to go). Workstream 4 has yet to commence.

Workstreams

1. Pulling together representatives of economic activities,
2. Understanding the baseline from before the weather event,
3. The economic consequences of this weather and
4. Looking at building back better.

Grant applications overview

The distribution of Government business grant funding has been on-going and there are currently 877 applications for funding.

Application Demographics (Data updated 05.04.23)



Grant Application Overview

877 Applications **\$6.37m** funds distributed

810 Applications processed **\$20.13m** funding requested

661 Applications approved **\$55.09m** Estimated loss

Loss is self declared and only covers the businesses that have applied for grants, not the full economic picture)

\$4.72m Additional funding to lift payments to 100% of request

The analysis is focused on six sectors: horticulture, agriculture, forestry, SME, Māori business and tourism/hospitality/accommodation. Current estimates suggest regional direct losses versus a “no Gabrielle” scenario of \$400-500m to these businesses over the next 3-5 years.

Across horticulture and agriculture, the loss of current and future crops from flooding (reduced yield from the land for several years) accounts for the lion’s share of losses. This impacts both orchards and downstream processors. In forestry, lost work to the crews (around 4-8 weeks in many cases) and lost trees are the largest causes of loss. SME, Māori business and tourism/hospitality/accommodation are more heavily impacted by the loss of road and water infrastructure.

There remains high uncertainty around what “build back better” means for these businesses and we are hearing increasing frustration with the lack of concrete action e.g. many businesses were surveyed six weeks ago and are anxious to hear what, if any, support will be offered. Trust Tairāwhiti is managing this by way of a focused communications programme to keep stakeholders abreast of the process. As we move towards recovery, working closely to ensure alignment amongst built, natural and social workstreams will be critical.

social environment



Statistics from the Ministry of Education show that children and staff are experiencing trauma, stress and anxiety resulting from the cyclone event. The local office has been able to secure some funds to increase the number of counsellors across the region.

The Rural Support Trust (RST) is completing wellness assessments on their rural contacts.

New Zealand Claims Resolution Services has spoken with 103 people in Tairāwhiti since Monday 18th April.

Temporary accommodation funding from insurers is capped at a set price, with most sitting around \$20K. There is uncertainty around response timeframes from insurance companies. This is causing increased anxiety in individuals due to the uncertainty of ongoing funding for accommodation. Some families have been in temporary accommodation for more than one month.

The Recovery Team is checking individuals whose homes were red or yellow stickered. This is allowing for coordination of assistance to those who need either access to information or support, for example with silt removal, animal welfare, Disaster Relief Fund application process. Through this process we are also asking for consent from stickered householders to enable agencies to share information for the purposes of providing whole of Government support.

Ministry of Primary Industries will be holding a series of planned community events (requested by farmers) in Tairāwhiti in the next few weeks. It will also be continuing to check in with farmers with specific needs and supporting any referrals. Monitoring of animal welfare and emerging issues such as winter feed following the cyclone will also be happening. Any isolated communities needing logistics support to access crucial supplies, including animal welfare products, fuel, etc. will be monitored.

Benefit Numbers

Main Benefit Recipients

↑ **171** (3.0%) increase
since the event.

For the equivalent period in 2022

↓ **204** (3.5%) decrease

Jobseeker Support – Work Ready Recipients

↑ **93** (5.4%) increase
since the event.

For the equivalent period in 2022

↓ **171** (9.5%) decrease

Jobseeker Support – Work Ready Grants

↑ **15** (125.0%) increase
since the event.

For the equivalent period in 2022

↑ **15** (33.3%) increase

Jobseeker Support – Work Ready Cancels into work

↑ **3** (33.3%) increase
since the event.

For the equivalent period in 2022

↓ **42** (73.7%) decrease