



Titiro Whakamuri, Kōkiri Whakamua

Cyclone Gabrielle Final Recovery Report for Te Tai Tokerau Northland



NORTHLAND
EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT
GROUP

A scenic landscape photograph showing a wide bay with blue water, a sandy beach on the right, and a range of dark mountains in the background under a blue sky with scattered white clouds. The foreground is filled with lush green grass and various trees, including some with bare branches.

Karakia

Whakataka te hau ki te uru,
Whakataka te hau ki te tonga.

Kia makinakina ki uta,
Kia mataratara ki tai.

E hi ake ana te ata kura
he tio, he huka, he hauhunga.

Haumi e! Hui e! Taiki e!



Mihi mihi Welcome

'Titiro whakamuri, kōkiri whakamua' – we look back and reflect so that we can move forward

Tēnā koutou. Tēnā koutou. Tēnā tātou katoa. Ngā mihi nui ki ngā hapori, ngā iwi, ngā hapū, ngā whānau katoa o Te Tai Tokerau.

Cyclone Gabrielle marked the largest emergency our region has faced in a generation, spearheading the most extensive recovery effort in the 25-year history of Northland Civil Defence Emergency Management (CDEM).

While for some, the cyclone may seem a distant memory, many continue to feel its impacts, dealing with ongoing repairs and clean-up. To those still navigating these challenges, aroha nui to you and your whānau.

This document details significant portions of our recovery efforts, yet much of the invaluable work – undertaken by families, community organisations, and countless individuals – remains unseen. These contributions have been crucial as we not only rebuild but also fortify our resilience against future emergencies.

As we share these stories of recovery and preparedness, we recognise that our region remains vulnerable to severe weather events. The spirit of manaakitanga – our ethic of care – has been pivotal in our collective response and will be essential as we continue to support each other in times of need.

I wish to extend a special mihi to the dedicated Northland CDEM staff, whose tireless efforts in recovery have been instrumental. Equally, I acknowledge the crucial roles of our community and iwi and hapū responders across the region, whose local knowledge and commitment ensure that Tai Tokerau is better equipped to weather any future storms.

Together, we remain vigilant, embodying the principle of 'Titiro whakamuri, kōkiri whakamua' as we move forward, strengthened by our past experiences and united in our readiness for whatever lies ahead.

Kelly Stratford (nō Ngāpuhi, Ngāti Wai, Ngāi Te Rangi)
Chair, Northland Civil Defence Emergency Management Group
Kahurangi, Te Rākau Whakamarumarū o Te Tai Tokerau



Kōrero tīmatanga

Introduction

Tēnā koutou. Tēnā koutou. Tēnā koutou katoa. Ngā mihi mahana ki a koutou.

After disasters and emergencies, Northland CDEM's role is to set the recovery priorities for the region and coordinate government and non-government agencies in rebuilding, restoration, and re-imagining what happens next.

Our approach in this recovery acknowledged that marae and community groups know their communities best, but may need some help in coordinating with other groups, or securing funding. Government agencies have their own stakeholders and funding processes, but may need to be put in touch with those who can deliver recovery projects. In this way, while Northland CDEM set the overall priorities for this recovery – informed by community consultation – local solutions really came to the fore.

This document is the 'final' recovery report for Northland. This report covers the recovery to the end of June 2024, the medium-term period of the Regional Recovery Plan. That plan also included some actions to the end of the long-term period of June 2025. Some of this work – especially rebuilding roads – will likely continue to 2030 and beyond. This report therefore documents what has been done, and some of what is yet to come.

This report also shows some of the support from government and non-government agencies that has come to the region. At times in this recovery, it has felt like Northland was slightly forgotten. At other times, the level of support simply reflected that we weren't as affected as other regions. And other times, the support received felt like an embarrassment of riches. In many ways, this reflects the chaotic nature of disaster recovery – we try to coordinate, but so much is outside of our influence.

Many of the stories in this report focus on readiness for future severe weather events. Risk reduction and resilience was a key part of Northland's recovery strategy. This was informed by community consultation, so it's not surprising that many community projects presented here look to the future.

I'd like to thank everyone who contributed to this recovery, and to this report – communities, marae, hapū and iwi, community organisations, government agencies, funders, Lifeline Utilities, members of the Northland Adverse Events Team (rural sector), sports groups, workplaces, churches and faith communities, and many others. This report truly shows that civil defence is all of us.

Mark Trüdinger
Northland CDEM Group Recovery Manager
Kaiwhakahaere Whakaoranga, Te Rākau
Whakamarumarū o Te Tai Tokerau

Rārangi upoko

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Cyclone Gabrielle 18 months on

On 8 February 2023, Cyclone Gabrielle formed in the Coral Sea. MetService issued a severe weather warning for Te Tai Tokerau Northland, including both a red severe rain warning and severe wind warning.

The cyclone hit the northern parts of Northland, increased in rain intensity further south near Whangārei, and then lashed Northland's west coast in its wake. Dargaville was especially hit, with overtopping and flooding leading to evacuations over three days. Mangawhai was then hit by a severe weather event on 24 February.

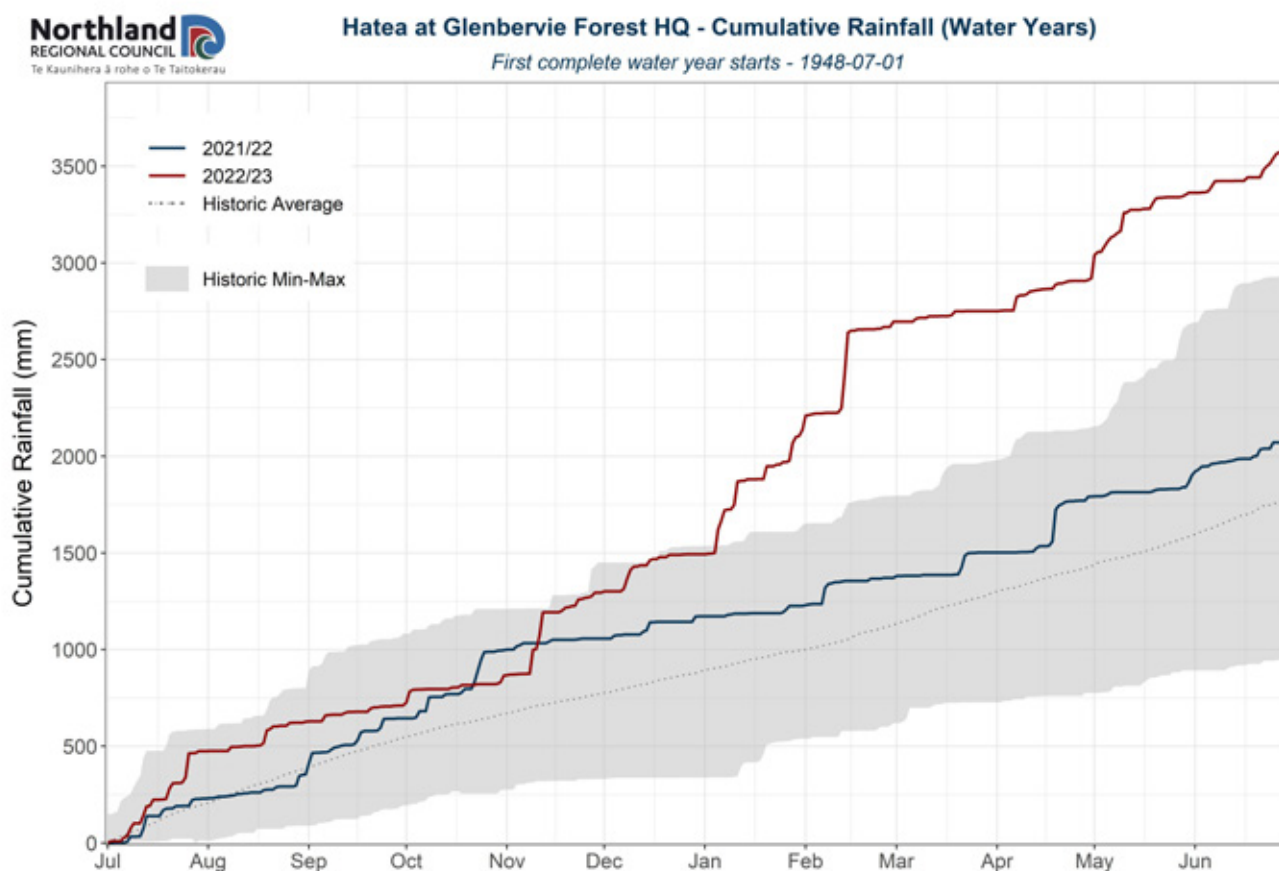
These events had many significant features around Northland, some of them record-breaking:

- The Northland region as a whole received 342 mm of rain over seven days, with Glenbervie Forest recording 420 mm.
- One-in-100-year rainfall amounts over 48 hours were recorded at six sites; one site recorded a one-in-250-year rainfall.

- Wind speeds reached gusts of 165 km/h.
- Rainfall of 63 mm/h was recorded for a sustained period on the Pouto Peninsula.
- The cyclone brought large waves, storm surges, and coastal inundation. In the Bay of Islands, a wave buoy recorded a wave height of 10.9 metres.
- Four rivers exceeded heights from all previously recorded maximums on record.

On Sunday 12 February at 4:30 pm, Northland CDEM declared a Regional State of Emergency. At 8:43 am on Tuesday 14 February, a National State of Emergency was declared by the Prime Minister and Minister for Emergency Management. This was only the third time that a National State of Emergency had been declared in New Zealand.

The graph below, recorded at Glenbervie Forest, shows how rainfall from early 2023 (shown in red) was not only far higher than 2022 (blue), but higher than the maximum ever recorded (grey):



Impacts

Major impacts included damage to State Highway 1 between Northland and Auckland, with access to the region significantly restricted for some days. Other concerns and impacts included:

- access to food and fuel
- wind and tree damage causing widespread power outages across the region (peaking at about 46 000 customers at one time, and 64 000 total customers affected across the event)
- widespread communications outages (approximately 40 000 customers)
- physical damage to 88 schools throughout the region
- approximately 60 grocery stores and supermarkets had interrupted delivery of food and other essential items.

During much of the event, many Northlanders were also without communications:

- more than 200 communications towers were non-functional for two days
- approximately 40 000 Spark customers did not have mobile/cellphone coverage
- 29 100 customers were without fibre connections.

This limited the ability of families and communities to know if others were safe and for other critical infrastructure providers, and emergency services, to be contacted.

Throughout Northland, 17 houses were red-stickered (entry prohibited/assessed as unsafe to inhabit), and 30 yellow-stickered (restricted access/assessed as significant damage and/or risk). More than 3400 households filed insurance claims relating to building damage.

Seven vessels sunk at their mooring due to rain or waves and a further 17 ran aground. Three beacons were destroyed. All shipping was suspended in Northland's harbours.

Northland farms were significantly affected. Approximately 70% of the region's kūmara crop was destroyed, more than 250 dairy farms were without power during the event, and at least 150 dairy farmers had to dump milk. Some stock animals were killed, and fruit and vegetable crops damaged.

Total economic impact to Northland is estimated to be hundreds of millions of dollars.

While Northland was not as impacted as Auckland, Tairāwhiti, and Hawke's Bay, the above statistics are an important reminder of the extent of this event – and why it was the largest emergency in Northland for a generation.



Ngā Pou Whakaoranga

Four priorities for this recovery

Northland CDEM and the Cyclone Gabrielle Recovery Governance Group set the following four priority Recovery Programmes, or Pou Whakaoranga, for the Regional Recovery Plan for Te Tai Tokerau. These were based on an assessment of the consequences/impacts on communities during the cyclone itself, as well as community feedback:

- Community Wellbeing
- Critical Infrastructure
- Rural Support
- Marae Preparedness.

Each of these four pou was coordinated by a Recovery Programme Group. We decided to call these 'programmes', rather than 'projects', to acknowledge

that work will continue in each of these areas after the formal winding down of this recovery, with this work being taken up as 'enhanced business as usual' by the relevant service providers and organisations.

Of course, other significant work needed to occur, also covered in this report:

- housing
- economic recovery – led by MBIE, Northland Inc, and the region's Chambers of Commerce/business associations
- restoring biodiversity and other conservation values – led by the Department of Conservation, hapū, iwi, and community groups.

'Titiro whakamuri, kōkiri whakamua'

This document captures just some of the work that communities, marae, Northland CDEM, government agencies, the business sector, non-government organisations, the rural sector, and others, have done to recover from the above impacts. This document, and the projects it showcases, draws on the whakatauki 'Titiro whakamuri, kōkiri whakamua' – we look back and reflect so that we can move forward.

While this is the 'final' recovery report, we acknowledge that not everything, or everyone, is 'recovered': some households are still dealing with loss, damage, and insurance; farmers and businesses are still on the road to recovery; and the region's roading network and three waters infrastructure still have some years of remedial works remaining.

This recovery, as well as this report, also takes a longer-term look, showcasing many projects focused on

disaster risk reduction and readiness. These include the flood mitigation works now occurring across Northland funded by this recovery; marae and community hall preparations to look after their communities in future events; or simply household, farm, and business emergency readiness.

In emergency recovery, 'building back' is not enough. While we can't prevent natural hazards, we can work to prevent some of their impacts, and therefore prevent disasters. We can also take a critical look at who is most impacted by emergency events, such as our more isolated communities, people with less access to resources, and people with disabilities, and work to ensure that they, and the communities around them, are better placed to weather future storms and other emergencies.



He Oranga Hapori Whānui

Community Wellbeing

People's health and mental health can be impacted by disasters. Northland CDEM's community consultation showed that while most people had come out of the event unharmed, some had concerns about their own, or others', wellbeing.

Early in this recovery, it was clear that some people in the diverse communities of Te Tai Tokerau Northland might need assistance with covering lost income, navigating insurance, replacing personal effects, and cleaning up.

The Growing Up in New Zealand study later showed that 28% of young people interviewed reported some damage to their house and 58% reported damage to their neighbourhood. The Mental Health Foundation of New Zealand's survey (right) showed that 33% of Northland respondents reported some level of mental or emotional stress, 28% reported property damage, 23% reported financial impacts, and 13% reported house contents, vehicles, or animals lost or damaged.

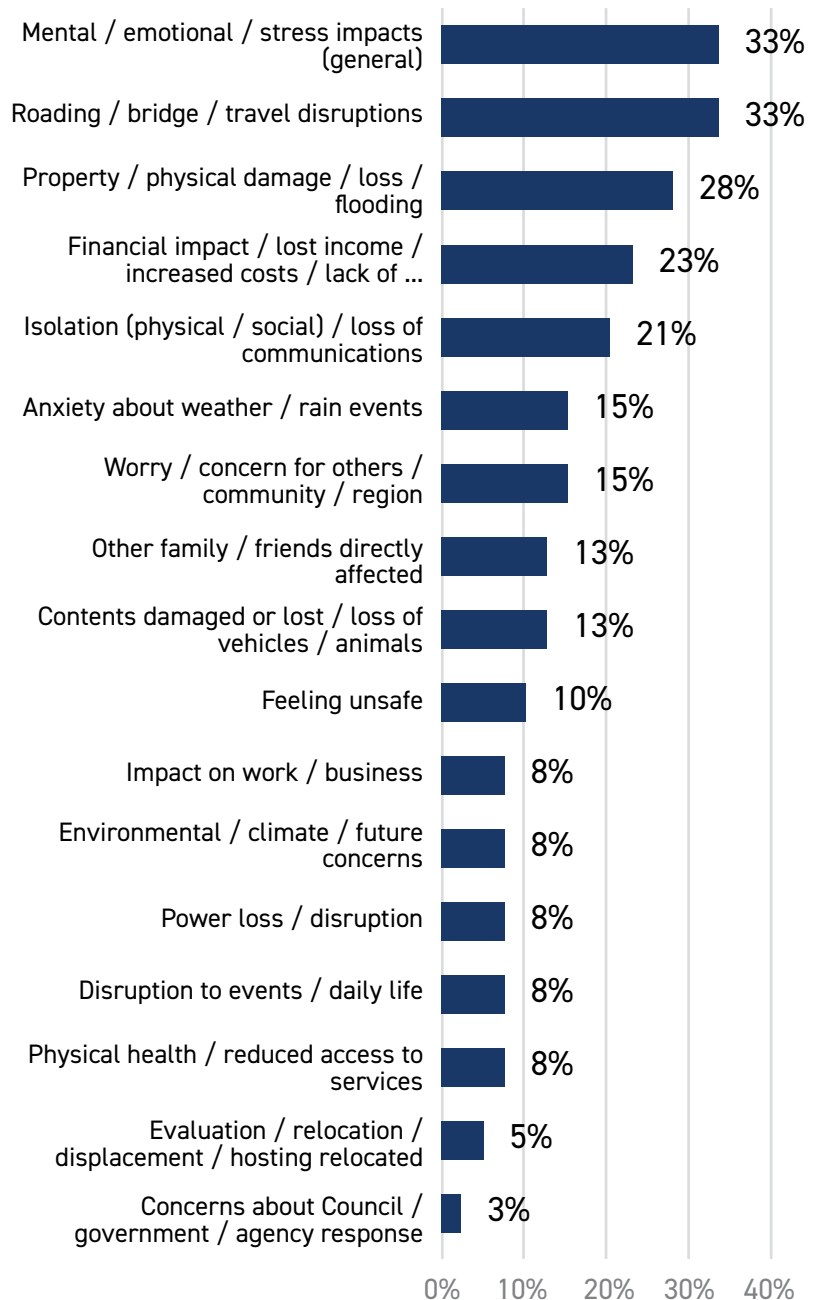
From the very beginning of the Cyclone Gabrielle recovery, members of Northland CDEM's Welfare Coordination Group, plus other community groups and social service providers, formed as the Community Wellbeing Recovery Programme Group.

This allowed key government agencies and service providers to share knowledge, ideas, and resources, and provide cross-referrals for those affected by the cyclone. It also allowed Northland CDEM to help in coordinating funding to the region, as well as provide specialist information and advice – for example, about assisting people with disabilities during emergencies.

The Community Wellbeing Recovery Programme Group was formally wound down on 7 September 2023, passing responsibility for ongoing recovery welfare needs back to the Welfare Coordination Group. This section of the report contains just some of the social wellbeing recovery projects that happened across Tai Tokerau Northland.

Type of negative impact – by area

Northland



Source: Mental Health Foundation of New Zealand. (2024). 2023–2024 Community Wellbeing: North Island Weather Events/Cyclone Gabrielle focus

MSD Civil Defence Payments

In emergency events, the Ministry of Social Development (MSD) coordinates Civil Defence Payments. It is not a requirement to be on a benefit to qualify for a Civil Defence Payment, nor does the recipient have to be a NZ resident. In Northland, 11 532 Civil Defence Payments with a value of \$3 559 401 were made between January 2023 and June 2023.

Mayoral Relief Funds

During emergencies, government, businesses, and private donors can contribute to Mayoral Relief Funds (also called Disaster Relief Funds), which are managed by the district councils. These funds are primarily designed for rapid one-off financial support to affected individuals, families, community groups, and marae. The following is a breakdown of the Mayoral Relief Funds received by Northland's three district councils.

Far North District Council

Amount of funding received	\$537 775.76
Amount of requests received	138
Total value of requests	\$1 131 245*
Number of payments made	94
Total value of payments made	\$369 115.64

* This figure is an estimate, as some applicants were non-specific about amounts.

The fund is closed, and the remaining funds have been journalled to a balance sheet account which carries forward to the new year to be used for a future event.

Kaipara District Council

Amount of funding received	\$532 619.27
Amount of requests received	144
Total value of requests	\$2 387 637.42
Number of payments made	119
Total value of payments made	\$532 443.94

Whangārei District Council

Amount of funding received	\$371 500
Amount of requests received	130
Total value of requests	\$800 000
Number of payments made	101
Total value of payments made	\$366 000



Stories of community resilience

Soon after the Cyclone Gabrielle, Northland CDEM undertook community consultation/whakawhiti kōrero via an online survey and informal face-to-face conversations. This consultation formed the basis of the overall recovery strategy and priorities.

It also served as its own stand-alone piece of community work: after disasters and other significant events, people often want to share or bear witness to what they and others have experienced. Reflecting these accounts back to communities can in itself be both profoundly acknowledging and healing.

These communities' members' voices were published as *Cyclone Gabrielle and Tai Tokerau Northland: Stories of community resilience and messages of support for the rest of Aotearoa New Zealand* at the end of August 2023. Nearly all of the content and images are from people across Te Tai Tokerau.

Experience from having produced these kinds of booklets over the last 30 years shows that communities often hold on to these documents for years to come, as both a marker point in time of the emergency/disaster, but also of how they got through.

Thousands of copies have been distributed across Northland and to other regions affected by the weather events of 2023. Positive feedback has been received from iwi representatives, farmers, the business sector, and others.



Cyclone Gabrielle and Tai Tokerau Northland

Stories of community resilience
and messages of support for the rest of
Aotearoa New Zealand



Maurice's reflection

After the *Stories of community resilience* booklet was published, we received the following message from Maurice Lambert from Mangōnui.

Kia ora Civil Defence,

I just wanted to acknowledge the hard work and hours you would have put into composing the book about the stories of community resilience and messages of support. It was really great to read that most of our people in Te Tai Tokerau were on the same wavelength and had worked out that the best way to handle the weather event and its devastation is together.

When I wrote my message of support to our communities to the south including Tai Rawhiti and Hawke's Bay, it was with tears in my eyes; when I read the same message that you had published in the book, those same tears came back. I didn't realise how it had impacted me emotionally. I've been thinking about how I could have better warned them that it's coming their way but nobody knew that the cyclone was gonna turn toward them and create havoc. It was heartbreaking to see the devastation it caused.

Since the cyclone, Charlotte and I have installed solar. In November last year (2022), I applied to a solar provider; their reply was 'You are out of our supply zone, if you lived in Kaitaia you would have been fine'. After Gabrielle had hit, I contacted them again. They had a board meeting that morning discussing the great stories of their customers helping neighbours by giving them shelter and charging cellphones so people could contact family to let them know they were okay. My name came up in their meeting and it was decided to widen their supply zone, so we were accepted.

We don't get power cuts now. Our pantry, fridge, and freezers are always full. We feel it's important that we are prepared for another event such as Gabrielle because they will still keep coming. Our neighbours are more than just friends now; we watch over each other constantly.

Life doesn't seem so complicated anymore; it throws up a surprise, but we handle it together as it comes.

Thank you for all that you do for our communities, we really appreciate it. We couldn't do it without the planning and support that you and your team have in place for us all.

Take care,
Kia haumarū tonu te noho,
Ngā mihi nui,
Maurice Lambert



Print copies of the *Stories of community resilience* booklet are still available. If you'd like some for your community, workplace, whānau, school, church, social club, or any other reason, please email recovery@nrc.govt.nz with how many copies you

would like – you're welcome to just request a single copy, or a box of 50 (or more). Filled with so many voices of the people of Te Tai Tokerau, this booklet is a taonga – and we're keen to see it out in as many houses, marae, and organisations as possible.

MSD social sector recovery work

MSD supported social sector recovery by providing grants to building resilience for community and/or iwi organisations. The funding built on identified strengths and protective factors to increase future resilience, including preparedness for future events. Activities were funded in communities severely impacted (particularly rural and isolated communities) to build optimism, increase protective factors, and build resilience through coming together.

In Northland, MSD provided a number of community grants with \$200 784 to support mental wellbeing initiatives and \$535 425 towards resilience and preparedness initiatives. \$2.8 million has been allocated over two years to fund employment initiatives, and \$945 000 was provided to support community food providers to meet increased demand for food due to the impacts of weather events, ensuring that food relief was targeted to those most in need.

Funded projects included:



Provider funded	Social sector recovery funding type	Funding provided for	Funding
Chamber of Commerce	Iwi & Community Infrastructure Funding	Business wellbeing	\$75 000
Northland Rugby	Mental Wellbeing Fund	'Kick start the kōrero' – Mental wellbeing awareness campaign	\$200 784
Northland Regional Council	Iwi & Community Infrastructure Funding	Emergency management community support packs	\$40 175
Te Ora Hou Northland	Iwi & Community Infrastructure Funding	Service coordination capability building	\$140 250
Various providers as per table below	Community Food Funding	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Food storage Stocking of community food banks Food initiatives / sustainable projects Establishment of community food hubs 	\$945 000
Mahitahi Hauora	Iwi & Community Infrastructure Funding	Youth mentor for Te Rūnanga o Whaingaroa	\$150 000
Te Uri o Hau Tangata Development	Iwi & Community Infrastructure Funding	Project management capability to establish an iwi-led childhood education centre in Te Kaipara	\$130 000
Various providers	North Island Weather Events (NIWE) Employment Initiatives	Projects that employ/redeploy MSD clients on projects aligned to cyclone recovery initiatives	\$2.8m over two years
Te Roroa Iwi	Enhanced Task Force Green (ETFG)	Support for farm clean-up in Te Kaipara post cyclone	\$772 000
Various iwi	Iwi Partnership Funding	Capability and capacity building and emergency preparedness funding into iwi	\$438 600

Below is the table with all food funding into Northland over two years (to June 2024) – \$945 000. These funding amounts mainly contribute towards:

- food storage
- food initiatives / sustainable projects
- stocking of community food banks
- establishment of community food hubs

North Island Weather Events Community Food Providers

Name	Region	Total funding
Aupouri Ngati Kahu Te Rarawa Trust	Northland	\$35 000
Bay of Islands Districts Foodbank	Northland	\$20 000
Bream Bay Community Support Trust	Northland	\$30 000

North Island Weather Events Community Food Providers

Name	Region	Total funding
Dargaville Combined Churches Food Bank	Northland	\$20 000
He Iwi Kotahi Tatou Trust	Northland	\$45 000
Kairos Connection Trust	Northland	\$40 000
Te Kaupapa Mahitahi Hauora-Papa O Te Raki Trust Board	Northland	\$50 000
Mauri Whanau Limited	Northland	\$20 000
Ngapuhi Iwi Social Services Limited	Northland	\$375 782
Ngati Hine Health Trust Board	Northland	\$15 000
One Double Five Whare Awhina Community House Trust	Northland	\$99 218
Tai Timu Tai Pari Limited	Northland	\$15 000
Te Hau ora o Ngapuhi Limited	Northland	\$60 000
Te Kotahitanga E Mahi Kaha Trust	Northland	\$10 000
Te Runanga O Ngai Takoto Trust	Northland	\$10 000
Te Runanga O Ngati Rehia Trust	Northland	\$25 000
Te Whai Community Trust Mangawhai	Northland	\$25 000
The Ngatiwai Trust Board	Northland	\$20 000
Waitomo Papakainga Development Society Incorporated	Northland	\$30 000
TOTAL		\$945 000

Health New Zealand

Te Whatu Ora

In Northland, Te Whatu Ora provided funding to small community agencies via Arataki Ministries. Yellow Brick Road, Rural Support Trust, and It's Up To You Charitable Trust delivered support services to more than 2200 people and 71 events and activities across the region.

These projects and events involved community gardens, a local medical centre, school visits, the Men's Shed, kapa haka, barbecues, youth groups, flax weaving, Matariki celebrations, Mental Health First Aid training, the Smoko on Us (free morning tea) project, celebrity speakers at dinners for farmers, fundraisers for community organisations, and more.

Two Marae Hauora projects were funded post Cyclone Gabrielle. These are nurse-led clinics based at marae in Dargaville and Kaitaia with virtual capabilities and links with GP practices. The target population are Māori, Pasifika, and rural, isolated, and unenrolled people. The concept is marae/hapū-led co-design hauora. Both sites are operational and funded through to 2025.



National

Nationally, Health NZ Te Whatu Ora provided the following services:

- 1737 free phone counselling – <https://1737.org.nz>
- All Sorts Campaign online resources – <https://allsorts.org.nz>
- Access and Choice programme – www.wellbeingsupport.health.nz
- Blueprint courses – Mental Health 101, Rural Mental Health 101, Stress, Resilience and Wellbeing, Weathering the Storm – www.blueprint.co.nz
- Red Cross Psychological First Aid in Communities
- Health Improvement Practitioners (HIPs) and Health Coaches (HC) based in most GP practices in Te Tai Tokerau – www.tetumuwaiaora.co.nz
- Farmstrong nationwide wellbeing programme for the rural community – <https://farmstrong.co.nz>

Enabling Good Lives

Tiaho Trust is a disability advocacy organisation undertaking community-led development under the Enabling Good Lives (EGL) kaupapa across Te Tai Tokerau.

EGL is a social movement instigated through Whaikaha – Ministry of Disabled People to improve the lives of people with disabilities/tāngata whaikaha and their family members.

As part of establishing people's strengths, issues, and goals from a community-led perspective, one important strand is

Emergency Preparedness and Response, specifically about barriers and issues that disabled people and their families face. Information collated through community workshops with disabled people and their families included the following:

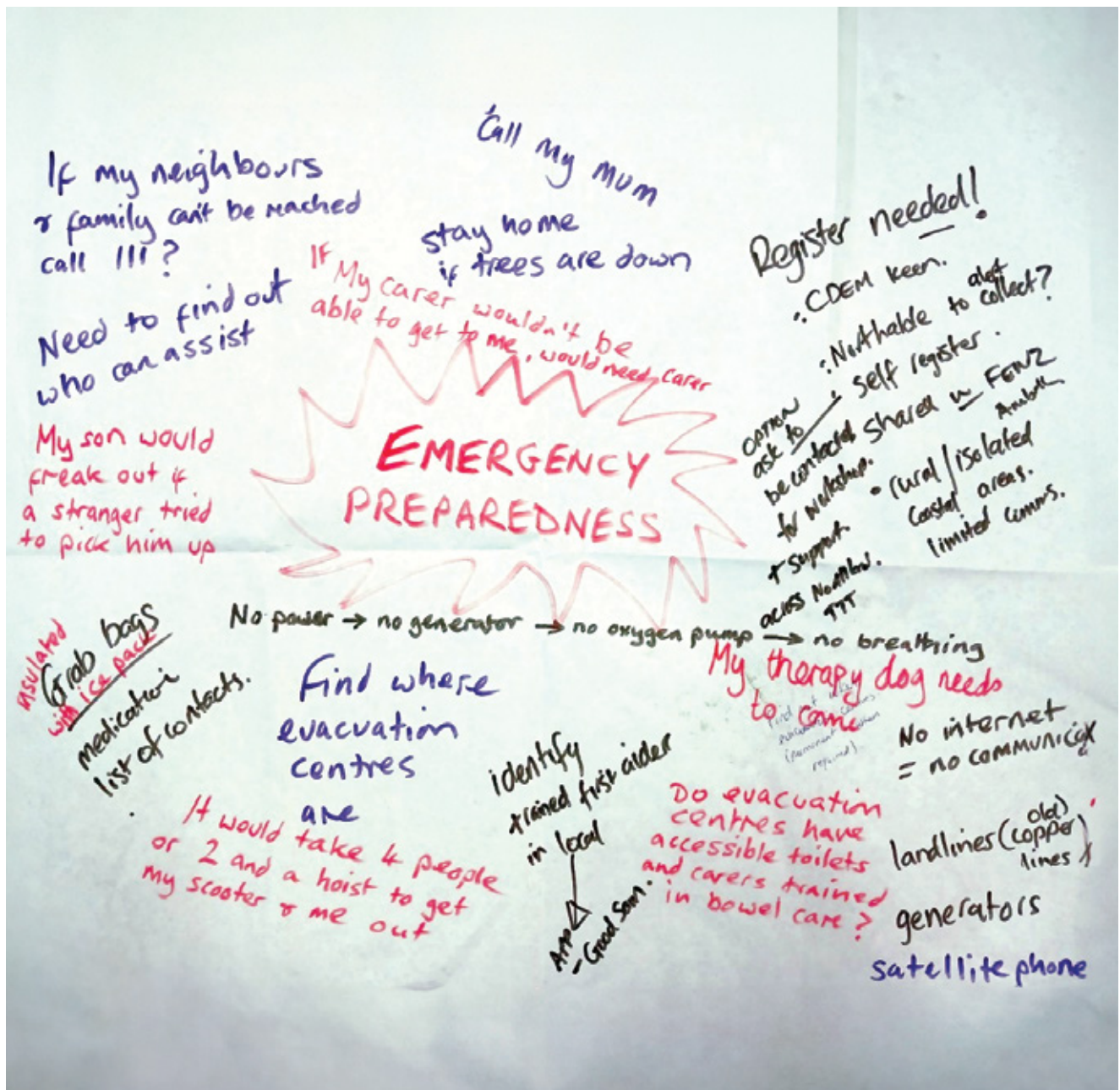
- Accessibility – to the home, from the home, and into evacuation centres for manual wheelchair users, electric mobility chairs, walking frames, and so on. For example, if trees are down, access is flooded or otherwise impassable, how many people and what type of vehicles are needed to transport people to evacuations centres, and do those evacuation centres have accessible facilities?



- Sensory needs – for people who are neurodiverse or living in a heightened sensory world that cannot cope with strangers, change, or new environments, are there appropriately trained people to assist evacuation or provide care in place? What can be provided within evacuation centres to cater for those who may be triggered into episodes, such as screaming or lashing out in such situations?
- Continuity of communication and care around medication, bowel/bladder care, stomas, and other specialist physiological equipment requiring power, water, refrigeration, and contaminated waste containment. How might evacuation centres provide for satellite or radio communication in areas of low or no reception?

One of the main recommendations from discussions on emergency preparedness is the need for a voluntary register of people with specialised needs in the case of emergencies. This would require a collaborative approach by the NASCs (Needs Assessors, Service Coordination), government, and non-government service providers engaging at local and regional levels with evacuation centres and other community welfare leaders to identify and engage in a whole-systems approach. Currently, there is no capacity to establish and maintain such a database, nor a navigable pathway to allow sharing of personal information to community and emergency services.

Tiaho Trust are in the process of establishing a Regional EGL Leadership Group which could assist this work if resourced to do so.



He Hanganga Matua

Critical Infrastructure

Critical infrastructure was significantly affected during Cyclone Gabrielle, with 450 Council roads damaged, and hundreds, if not thousands, of trees taking out powerlines across the region.

The Critical Infrastructure Recovery Programme Group was established immediately after the transition from response to recovery on 2 March 2023. Initially, this group comprised Northland CDEM, Northland Transportation Alliance, NZTA Waka Kotahi, Northpower, and Top Energy, and was soon extended to include telecommunication companies.

This group coordinated service restoration across Northland, including whether to use formal recovery powers under the Act to close a critical road when it subsided. The Critical Infrastructure Programme Group was wound down on 28 July 2023, with ongoing recovery work being coordinated directly with

infrastructure providers, and reviewed at meetings of the Northland Lifelines Group.

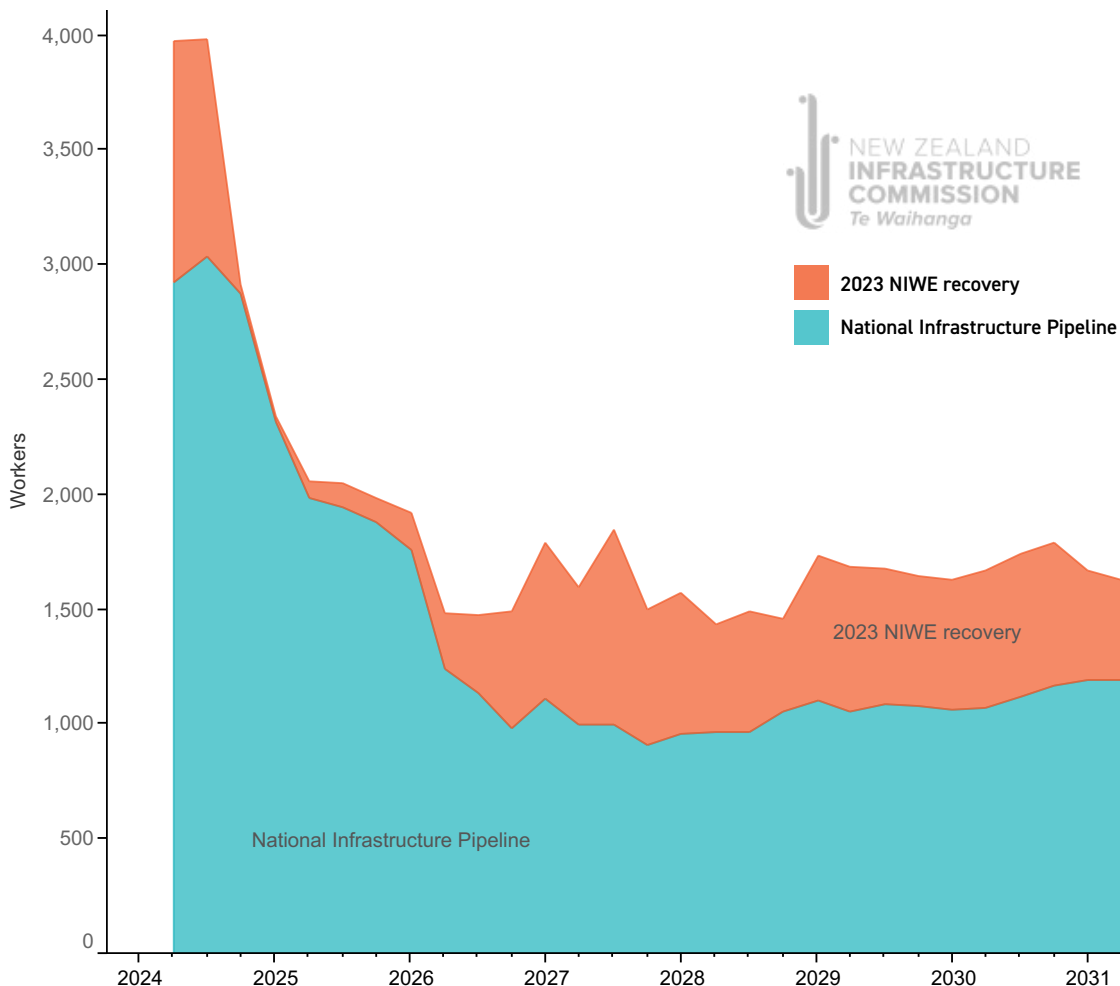
While much has been done to restore critical infrastructure, much work remains, mainly in roading, three waters, and in preventing trees from affecting powerlines and roads in future severe weather events.

The New Zealand Infrastructure Commission Te Waihangā maintains the National Infrastructure Pipeline; their graph below shows the existing Pipeline workforce demand for Northland in green, with Cyclone Gabrielle recovery work shown in orange – this clearly shows that rebuilding will occur to 2030 and beyond.

This section of the report documents the massive efforts by our Lifeline providers to not only repair and rebuild infrastructure, but make improvements to prevent loss of service during future emergencies.

Projected workforce demand

Showing Northland region and 8 sectors



Council roads

The severe rainfall events of early 2023 challenged Northland's local road networks, with 450 roads directly impacted across the region, including 183 roads requiring full (temporary) closure.

The events brought unprecedented rainfall accumulation, with little reprieve between one event and the next, causing damage of a size and scale not previously experienced by operational staff.

Of a revised total repair cost of \$64 million, approximately \$36.5 million of response and repair works, requiring over 5500 individual work dispatches, were completed by the end of June 2024.

This incorporated an increased (>50%) use of local subcontractors, with about 60 civil construction contractors (excluding material supply) involved regionally on roading recovery activities.

A one-off standard Funding Assistance Rate (FAR) + 40% from central government was approved for Initial Response and Phase 2 (minor recovery) activities

resulting from the Cyclone Gabrielle and Auckland/ Northland Anniversary weekend events.

A substantial amount of Emergency Works and Phase 2 activities have been completed including:

- initial response activities (to reopen roads)
- 350 non-complex dropout repairs (under slips)
- on-site non-complex repairs and clean-up, including removing more than 750 minor overslips
- repairs completed on 97% of slips which occurred as a result of the severe weather events
- clearance or restoration of drainage assets
- clearance and removal of vegetation debris (including fallen trees)
- site investigations, design optioneering, and planning activities for complex sites.



Completed to date

Districts	Local share (\$m)	Subsidised central (\$m)	Total value by district (\$m)
Far North	\$0.00	\$5.82	\$5.82
Whangārei	\$1.18	\$15.10	\$16.28
Kaipara	\$0.77	\$13.63	\$14.40
Region	\$1.95	\$34.55	\$36.50

Remaining works

Districts	Value of remaining (\$m)
Far North	\$4.22
Whangārei	\$8.63
Kaipara	\$15.00
Region	\$27.85

Phase 3: Major recovery works (current phase)

The third phase is focused on major repair works, being those generally with an estimated repair cost of more than \$100 000 per site and requiring geotechnical investigations and detailed design work. Each site requires a funding application to NZ Transport Agency Waka Kotahi (NZTA) and approval, and a standardised approach to engineers' estimates for a programme and funding of this scale.

Phase 3 sites are categorised into low, medium, and high risk, with suppliers capability-matched to risk – these are shown below, with examples of the types of solutions in each category:

Low risk	Medium risk	High risk
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Volume earthworks Gabion baskets Rock spalls 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Retaining walls – cantilever, timber, steel Road realignment Soil nails (specialist) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Concrete reinforced piles Anchored retaining wall Soil nail through wall

Geotechnical investigations and optioneering have been completed on 90% of Kaipara and Whangārei district sites; however, the Far North has substantially more damage and slip sites to work through – investigations are likely to continue for at least another 12 months in this district:

Far North district	Kaipara district	Whangārei district
43 sites	16 sites	15 sites
Geotechnical investigations 30% complete	Geotechnical investigations 100% complete	Geotechnical investigations 80% complete



Regional storm readiness and communications improvements

Alongside these recovery works, the regional roading emergency works team has implemented a range of readiness and communications improvements that can be adopted at a district council operational level:

- a Road Status Situation Reporting (SitRep) template directly linked to councils' asset management systems to extract information in real time for reporting through to CDEM
- GIS slip maps sourcing updated status information from councils' asset management systems made public on council webpages
- emergency Works and 'long term road repairs' webpages containing information on the storm response and recovery work published on council websites
- Recovery Phases aligned with NZTA's Emergency Works (subsidy) funding categories to improve programme management. This allowed applications for minor works to be progressed separately from major works, expediting funding approvals
- a template for initial geotechnical Emergency Works site Assessments (EWAs) to support funding requests and remediation decision-making
- a regional panel to review EWAs and confirm recommendations on remediation to improve regional relationships between contract delivery teams and funding advisors
- a new prioritisation process to deal with highest risk sites
- centralised procurement management enabling financial data capture to ensure value for councils, and which will support forecasting in the future.



State highways – NZTA

State Highway 1 (SH1) is a vital connection for our Northland communities, as well as the freight and tourism industries. Following the severe weather events of 2023, the immediate focus for NZ Transport Agency Waka Kotahi (NZTA) has been to restore access to the road as soon as possible. Due to unique challenges at each location, these recovery works have progressed at differing rates, with some projects now moving on from the emergency works to the next phase which will return the network to a pre-event condition.

While recovery work is still ongoing across the region, long-term resilience alternatives will be addressed as part of the Government Policy Statement on land transport 2024.



SH1 Brynderwyn Hills

SH1 through the Brynderwyn Hills was fully closed for 36 days and partially closed for 37 days in 2023 to clear slips after the 2024 Auckland Anniversary floods and Cyclone Gabrielle. While these emergency works cleared the road and restored access, further work was needed to return the corridor to a pre-event level of service. Without the recovery work completed during the 2024

closure, SH1 Brynderwyn Hills was unlikely to survive the next weather event, with six to eight short closures (days) and one long closure (months) predicated in 2024 alone.

Following engagement with key stakeholders and the public, NZTA closed SH1 Brynderwyn Hills on 26 February 2024 to complete essential recovery works.



Due to the narrowness of the road, a full closure was the only viable option to excavate more than 240 000 cubic metres of earth, install eight retaining walls using 136 H piles (structural beams driven into the soil) at a depth of 8–12 metres, and stabilise slopes with almost 400 soil nails.

During the closure, the public and stakeholders were kept well informed by weekly e-newsletters and social media posts, allowing them to understand the scale of work and the pace at which crews were working.

The road was on track to reopen on 13 May; however, two large slips in late April delayed the reopening until 26 June ahead of Matariki weekend. To make the most of the extended full closure, NZTA used the time to complete post-closure works in other parts of the corridor to reduce the timeframe down from 8–12 months to 4–6 post reopening. Currently, ongoing drainage and downslope work is taking place using the newly created shoulder space, and the project will be completed in late spring when a final coat of asphalt is applied to the full width of the road. This must be done in the warmer and

drier weather to ensure its quality and durability. When completed, this vital work will provide a reliable road for Northland in the medium term.

Our focus is on ensuring the Brynderwyns route remains reliable and safe for travel despite the challenging terrain, which is prone to movement during heavy rain. We employ 24/7 electronic monitoring and standby crews to promptly manage road closures due to slips, as seen recently on 20 July 2024. The extra space built next to the lanes during the recent recovery work enabled quick clearance within seven hours, demonstrating that the additional space and our well-prepared teams can assess, monitor, and clear the road.

We set out to achieve the recovery of the Brynderwyns corridor, ensuring a safe and reliable connection for Northland in the short to medium term. This involves maintaining access during weather events and slips, improving operational efficiency, and focusing on safety without redesigning to new road standards. A longer-term alternative to the Brynderwyn Hills is addressed as part of the Roads of National Significance.

SH1 Mangamuka Gorge slip repairs

The SH1 Mangamuka Gorge slip repairs project addresses extensive damage caused by severe weather that resulted in the closure of the gorge in August 2022, for the second time in two years. Spanning over 13 kilometres of State Highway 1 through the rugged terrain of the Maungataniwha Range, the highway is a key economic and social link between the Far North and the rest of New Zealand.

Mangamuka Gorge has its own unique challenges due to its geology and varying terrain, and the project has

been challenged by persistent wet weather. The heavy rainfall in 2023 added complications to existing slip sites and more than doubled the number of slip sites. This subsequently resulted in delays to the initial works programme. During heavy rainfall in the Far North on 19 June 2024, a new critical slip formed, which has taken the total number of slip sites to 36, with 16 identified as critical. Notably, the earlier repair work from the 2021 closure held up well against the more recent weather events and required no additional work.



Pre-construction work was accelerated including securing the required funding, designing the complex repair plans, and mobilising the people and equipment. An extensive amount of enabling work was undertaken to rebuild storm-damaged sections of SH1 to ensure the gorge was safe and stable enough to accommodate the large machinery needed to carry out permanent repairs. This included installing 747 enabling piles.

The current stage of permanent repairs is now underway, and the project is on track to reopen the road by Christmas 2024. Each slip takes on average five to six months to repair. This means multiple work sites are operating in parallel in an already constrained environment. The current phase of the project focuses on permanent repairs and stormwater management improvements. Work continues at pace, with teams

running three shifts day and night where possible to manage tasks such as drilling, piling, capping beams, installing ground anchors, and continued monitoring. The repairs require over 560 permanent piles, most of which are over one metre in diameter and drilled up to 32 metres deep in some places. The stormwater improvements being undertaken at the same time aim to increase the drainage capacity to better handle future severe weather events. The final phase of the project, set to begin in late 2024 once the heavy machinery has been removed offsite, will involve resurfacing the damaged road sections.

This crucial work aims to restore SH1 to a safe and reliable condition, which will reconnect communities in the Far North, restore access to essential services, and enhance connectivity with the rest of New Zealand.

North Auckland recovery (Dome Valley and SH16)

Following the severe weather events of 2023, significant repair and recovery efforts have been undertaken across North Auckland, particularly focusing on State Highway 1 (SH1) through Dome Valley and State Highway 16 (SH16), linking Northland to Auckland.

The initial emergency response focused on clearing debris and restoring road access. Moving beyond these urgent measures, the recovery phase involved a more extensive programme aimed at returning normal functionality to the state highway network. This ongoing effort has included stabilising slopes above the road to prevent future slips and rockfalls, stabilising slopes below the road where the road is at risk of falling away, and repairing damaged culverts so rain can flow away from the road.

Work has been completed on multiple damaged sites, including critical repairs to keep SH1 Dome Valley open. Recent work has included addressing two significant slip sites at Cleasby Hill Lookout along SH16, where the road was realigned, strengthened, and the drainage systems upgraded. While this work has been underway, maintaining safe connections for all road users to and from Te Tai Tokerau Northland, has been a key priority. Scheduled for completion by late 2024, this recovery work will mean these roads are safer and more resilient, and will help prevent further damage following any future storm events.



Northpower

Cyclone Gabrielle was a huge event that affected the Northpower electricity network significantly. It also gave us an opportunity to learn and prepare for any future events.

The biggest cause of damage to the electricity network was vegetation. Northpower continues to work hard to clear vegetation away from our network lines, in line with our risk-based approach to tree management. We have been working with the forestry industry to remove trees within fall zones and contributing to tree regulation consultations. Northpower have also been a part of the Ngā Manga Atawhai project, led by Northland CDEM and the Northland Regional Council, to tackle at-risk trees. This work is ongoing and requires cooperation and action from tree owners as well as Northpower.

Northpower has enhanced our digital outage management systems so that we can always provide the latest up-to-date information for customers and staff. We have installed more remotely operated switches and are increasing battery backup on core systems. We are investing more than \$40 million a year on replacing older assets and building greater resiliency into our existing network.

We are developing an understanding of how to better assess land stability risks for our existing critical infrastructure as well as any planned network assets for long-term resiliency.



Top Energy

In total, 22 000 Top Energy consumers lost supply at some point during the event, with 16 000 consumers off at the peak of outages. Fully 90% of our rural lines were impacted by storm/tree damage, some by multiple events.

In general, we were able to maintain supplies to urban areas of the network response, and recovery spanned a full two-week period as we worked through repairs and restorations.

We coordinated with the NEMA electricity desk in Wellington, which gave us access to a defence force heavy lift aircraft to fly South Island contractors and equipment into the Far North, in addition to the North Island contractors we also mobilised to support our in-house contractor teams.

Top Energy critical infrastructure usually has a least one form of redundancy in the event of a fault. Critical assets such as substations have either two independent supply lines or generator backup that can be switched on to recover electricity supply. However, in extreme events such as Cyclone Gabrielle, even this level of redundancy can be defeated by multiple damage sites occurring at once.

Event debriefs have highlighted opportunities in a number of areas to improve interagency and stakeholder collaboration, public communication, and other improvement options, so that we are all better prepared for the future severe weather events, and can communicate well with our customers and stakeholders.



Transpower

Cyclone Gabrielle did not cause a loss of supply from Transpower's network to Northland. We had two minor incidents from falling trees contacting our lines, both of which were quickly restored with no loss of supply. Since the event we have conducted further felling of at-risk trees within fall distance of our lines.

However, the impact from widespread slips across the area was still significant.

The most significant impact was at a site near Wellsford, where a large slip put a tower from each of the two transmission lines supplying Northland's power at risk. These two lines (with two circuits each) were both realigned onto new routes within the month following

the cyclone, restoring security to both lines. The larger of these (the 220kV line) has been in a temporary configuration since this time, and is expected to be moved to a new permanent route in November 2024.

On top of this site, we identified dozens of slips within range of our transmission towers across Northland. Of those, 15 have had further geotechnical investigation to determine further remedial work required to protect them. These geotechnical assessments resulted in another tower replacement completed in January 2024, and four more significant sites being investigated for potential structure replacement, as well as various minor remedial actions such as drainage and planting work.



North Auckland Rail Line – Storm damage and repair

KiwiRail experienced significant damage to its rail line connecting Northland, with 99 minor to moderate sites and 35 major damage sites along the 180 km line between Swanson in Auckland and Kauri, north of Whangārei. The repair effort has included major civil works repairing slips and large embankment collapses at the damage sites.

Work trains, repair equipment, and test trains are already travelling on the track between Swanson and Whangārei.

The need for resilient future transport options featured highly in Te Tai Tokerau community's hopes for the future as expressed in the Recovery Plan. KiwiRail is also looking forward to a future where more heavy freight is moved by rail, providing transport options for the region's businesses, and helping take freight off the region's roads.

KiwiRail's focus during the cyclone recovery has been on improving the resilience of the line wherever feasible. We have significantly improved drainage and culverts, which now have more capacity to channel natural water flows beneath or away from the rail line.

The cyclone recovery work is now substantially complete, but there is still work to do to ensure that the North Auckland Line (NAL) can carry 18-tonne axle loads as far as Kauri, where Fonterra has a dairy plant. This includes work on the foundation of the line, repairs to bridges, and some changes to the Whangārei rail yard. These are not sites damaged by the weather; however, getting this work done before the NAL reopens reduces any further disruption for customers.

Our teams are working as quickly as they can to complete this work and reopen the line to freight in late 2024 or early 2025.





Telecommunications

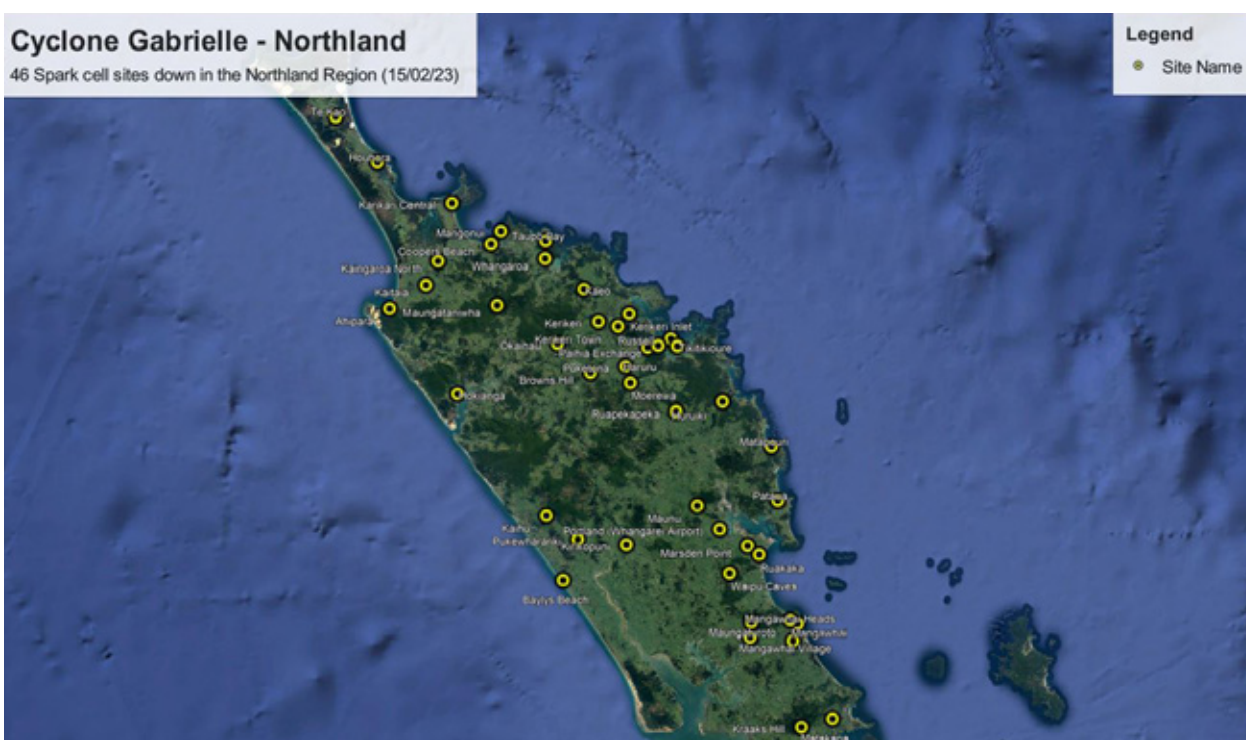
Spark

Cyclone Gabrielle wreaked havoc on the North Island, leading to extensive damage that resulted in power failures and cable damage:

- At its peak/worst, we had 43 RCG sites (Rural Carrier Group – government-funded cell sites) and 46 Spark cell sites down in the Northland region (15 February).
- Twenty Spark cell sites were down in Northland due to a fibre cut between Kerikeri to Kaikohe, managed by Chorus.
- At its peak, 6468 Spark wireless broadband customers were impacted in the Northland region.
- At its peak, we had 11 genset placements across Northland. Two gensets were pre-deployed to the Kaikohe Exchange & Wellsford Mobile Site.

The significant incident was overseen by Spark’s network operations centre, starting from 12 February 2023 until the full restoration of all cell sites by 26 February.

Sites down across the North Island on 15 February 2023:



Learning and improvements since Cyclone Gabrielle

- Throughout Cyclone Gabrielle, it became apparent that we needed enhanced monitoring of cell sites and their power conditions. In response, we have created several dashboards that empower Spark’s Network Operations Centre to handle significant weather events and provide more transparent updates to concerned parties more effectively, with a real-time view of network status.
- Spark has been collaborating with Connexa to enhance the battery capacity at all newly-constructed cell sites. Additionally, there’s a focus on augmenting the number of generators available and strategically distributing them nationwide for swift deployment in response to significant weather events. Discussions are also in progress regarding the permanent installation of generators at our most vital sites (hub sites) to guarantee a consistent power supply to our cell sites, ensuring uninterrupted service to our customers during major weather events.
- Spark has made several Starlink kits available to our field teams for deployment in instances of extended backhaul disruptions due to severe weather conditions, such as bridge washouts, which may result in significant delays in restoring backhaul services.
- From a backhaul perspective, our goal is to fully enhance the network’s resilience. In Northland, our reliance on Chorus is significant, particularly for services provided beyond the Kaikohe to Kerikeri lines. We’re implementing self-healing arcs to form networks that automatically recover from faults and complete the network rings. Power supply at Chorus sites housing Spark’s infrastructure is essential for maintaining network reliability.

2degrees

There was little damage to 2degrees cellular infrastructure. No sites in Northland were damaged and nationwide 2degrees had just one cell site flood-damaged. However, power outages impacted some 2degrees cell sites.

Nationally, 17% of 2degrees-owned sites were impacted in some way, with a peak outage on the morning of 14 February. In Northland, 35 cell sites were impacted. Nationally, 150 RCG sites were impacted, including some in Northland. Some 2degrees customers in the Kerikeri region had their fixed line services impacted.

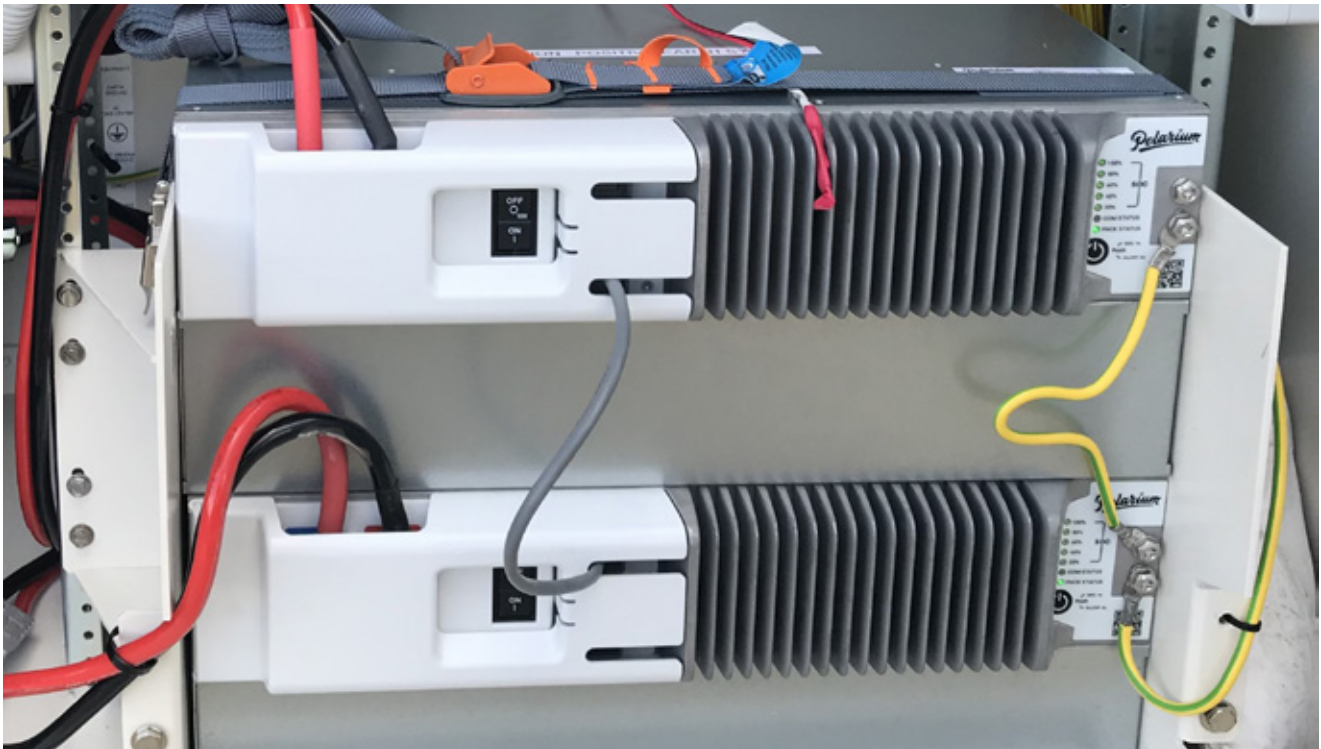
Overall, the 2degrees team and its contractors performed very well in response to the event.

Deployment of generators was pre-planned and worked well. Cross-industry collaboration was well handled and the telecommunications industry received a parliamentary citation for this work.

2degrees has conducted a post-event review and is embedding learnings into its business-as-usual processes. Some of these include changes to geographical distribution of generator sets and other equipment, procedures around deploying Cells on Wheels (COWs) during emergencies, and investment in additional tools to allow improved real-time operational view of real-time coverage and restoration.

Northpower Fibre

Northpower Fibre's network was not badly affected by Gabrielle, apart from power outages. We have done work on improving battery life and securing additional portable generators to keep our network running.



Improved battery backup at a key Northpower Fibre site

Critical infrastructure commitments

Provider	Short term	Medium term	Long term
Chorus	<p><i>Work closely with NZ Police to increase protection of network assets from theft and vandalism.</i></p> <p>Outcome: NZ Police involvement has resulted in convictions of local thieves. Added Chorus security measures are increasing network protection.</p>	<p><i>Explore installing a permanent generator at an additional critical site, to prevent loss of 111 service in future events.</i></p> <p>Outcome: Exchange site generators and fuel MTC (Mobile Tank Cleaning)/upgrades are programmed and ongoing.</p> <p>Fibre Route Surveys to make our critical network more robust are ongoing.</p>	<p><i>Identify network nodes that were previously not in flood risk areas but may be threatened in future events, and move them to higher ground.</i></p> <p>Outcome: Network review is underway and ongoing.</p>
Northland Transportation Alliance (council roads)	<p><i>Complete funded 'initial response' activities, plus low-risk slip repairs (not requiring geotechnical investigation).</i></p> <p>Outcome: 97% completed.</p> <p><i>Commence geotechnical investigation and detailed design for larger, higher-risk slip repairs, and submit implementation funding request to NZTA for approval.</i></p> <p>Outcome: 90% complete Whangārei 100% complete Kaipara 30% complete Far North.</p>	<p><i>Prioritise and commence retaining wall construction across larger, higher-risk slip sites (subject to funding approvals/resourcing).</i></p> <p>Outcome: Still in progress, with physical works commencing late 2024.</p>	<p><i>Continue and complete work across larger, higher-risk slip sites, and return to business as usual.</i></p> <p>Outcome: Still in progress, with physical works commencing late 2024.</p>
Northpower	<p><i>Negotiate with several large forestry owners to remove high-risk trees within fall zone areas.</i></p> <p><i>Contribute to Tree Regulation consultation to more effectively manage tree risk.</i></p> <p>Outcome: A number of forestry areas risk addressed, work ongoing. Tree Regulation reform consultation ongoing.</p>	<p><i>Strengthen the resilience of our core communications sites.</i></p> <p><i>Continue a risk-based approach to vegetation management, negotiating with tree owners where risk has been identified.</i></p> <p>Outcome: Ongoing.</p>	<p><i>Complete geotechnical studies to understand land stability risks and identify particular areas prone to land movement where critical electricity infrastructure is in place.</i></p> <p><i>Use land stability data for planning suitable placement of new network infrastructure.</i></p> <p>Outcome: Ongoing.</p>

Provider	Short term	Medium term	Long term
Northpower Fibre	<p><i>Train more staff on CIMS so we have more trained staff available in emergencies.</i></p> <p>Outcome: CIMS training completed for managers, and ongoing for new staff.</p>	<p><i>Build more diversity into our network for our communities that have a single cable feed.</i></p> <p>Outcome: Still in planning and will be completed in the future as resource and budget allows.</p>	<p><i>As batteries require replacing, we will upgrade them to ones that have greater capacity.</i></p> <p>Outcome: Several sites already completed. Upgrading the remainder as batteries require replacing.</p>
Top Energy	<p><i>Make submission to MBIE's review of the Electricity (Hazards from trees) Regulations 2003 (given that most power outages during Cyclone Gabrielle were from trees down on powerlines, not from network infrastructure issues).</i></p> <p>Outcome: Top Energy along with other Electricity Distribution Businesses (EDBs) has submitted our tree regulation review submissions to MBIE, requesting regulatory changes to assist electrical networks and tree owners to improve safe electrical distances and power line resilience.</p>	<p><i>Review our vegetation management strategy to better identify, and remove, vegetation risk to powerlines.</i></p> <p><i>Explore implementing an Outage Management System (OMS) to be integrated into our existing Advanced Distribution Management System (ADMS). This will increase network resiliency and decrease the length of future outages.</i></p> <p>Outcomes: The review of our vegetation strategy is in progress. As part of this, we are exploring some new technical innovations now available in NZ.</p> <p>The implementation of the Outage Management System (OMS) into our Advance Distribution Management system that controls and monitors the network is an ongoing project scheduled for completion over the next two years.</p>	<p><i>Design and build interconnections between existing 11kV network distribution, where viable, to allow back feeding of areas that are affected by faults or line damage (outlined in our Asset Management Plan).</i></p> <p><i>Overall, our Asset Management Plan covers Top Energy's goals for de-carbonisation, reduction of greenhouse gas emissions, and climate change resilience. It includes climate change risk as a design factor in new network construction, site selection, and exposure of existing assets during maintenance and upgrade work.</i></p> <p>Outcome: A programme of interconnection work to allow for alternative supply to areas previously supplied by a single source is ongoing and outlined in our Asset Management Plan available from the Top Energy website.</p>
Transpower	<p><i>Relocate two lines onto new routes to remove risk created by towers located on a large slip plane (temporary solution for the 220kV line is already complete).</i></p> <p><i>Complete additional fall distance tree felling where cyclone has highlighted at-risk locations</i></p> <p>Outcome: Completed.</p>	<p><i>Conduct programme of geotechnical site investigations for transmission towers across Northland that have been identified to have some level of risk.</i></p> <p>Outcome: Completed.</p>	<p><i>Take action to implement all mitigations identified by investigation to ensure stability and improve security of identified sites.</i></p> <p>Outcome: Partially complete. Expected completion 2025.</p>

He Āwhina ki ngā Takiwā Taiwhenua

Rural Support



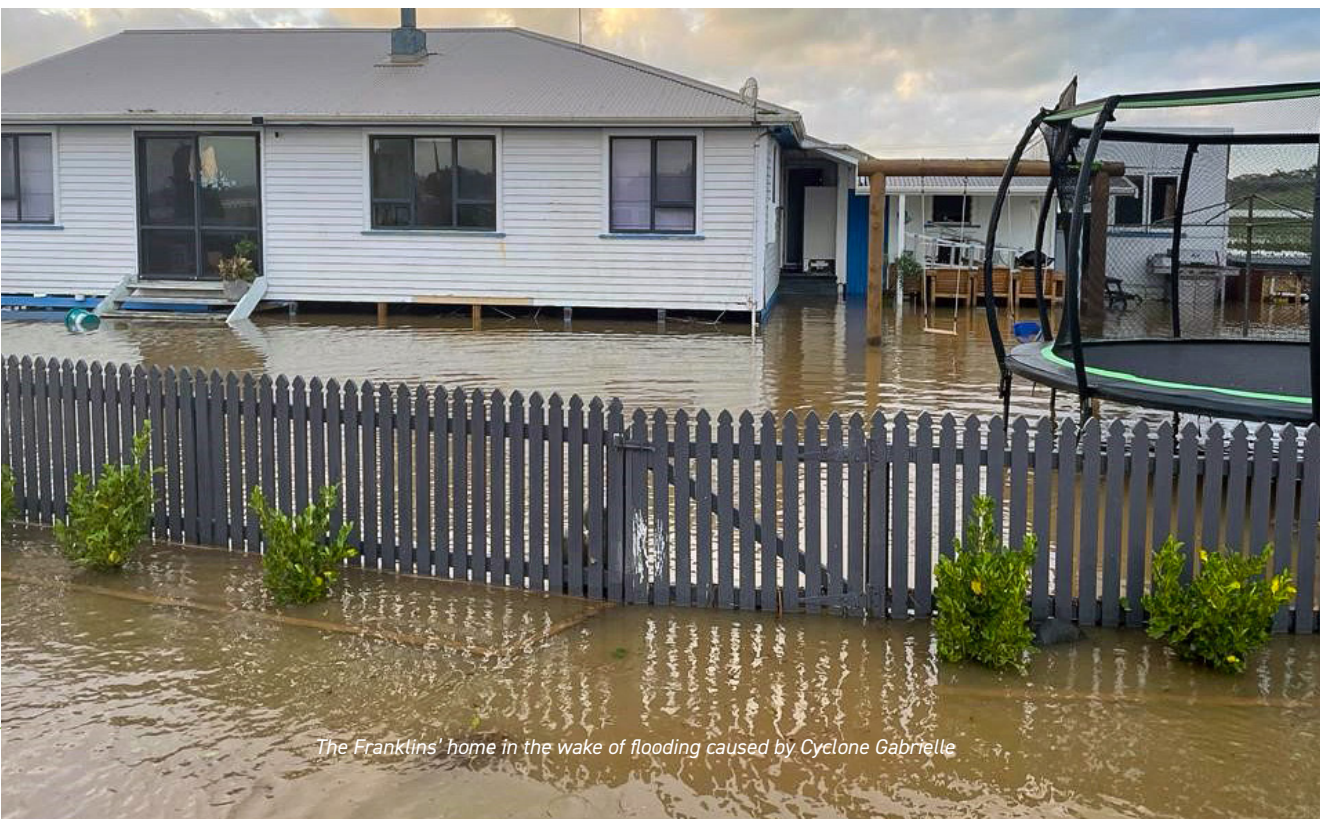
Krista and James's story

With Northland's kūmara industry back on track after the devastation of Cyclone Gabrielle, one Kaipara farming couple have a simple message for those who helped: 'Thank you'.

Like many growers in the region, James and Krista Franklin's property near Dargaville was hit hard by Gabrielle, after the Kaihū River burst its banks in February last year. 'We were warned about a storm

coming, but never did we expect the devastation that Cyclone Gabrielle dealt to us,' Krista said.

After a night of very heavy rain, the couple woke to find the field across the road had turned into a lake, and knew they were in trouble. They took their two young girls to James's parent's home, and after driving his family to safety, James returned to the farm to try to save what he could.



The Franklins' home in the wake of flooding caused by Cyclone Gabrielle

While the couple's home was fortunately spared due to being built up on piles, hectares of kūmara were completely underwater. In the days that followed, the pair endured a nervous wait. The longer the water sat on their fields, the greater the damage was likely to be. Some exploratory digs confirmed their worst fears – most of the kūmara had started to rot, and in the end, they were only able to harvest 16 per cent of their total crop.

The most agonising part was that the cyclone hit only a few days before they had planned to harvest. 'We had, like many other growers, decided to leave it a couple of weeks to size the crop up,' Krista said. 'Hindsight's a wonderful thing – it was probably the worst mistake we've made in our lives.'

The physical and financial damage was so bad that the couple seriously considered leaving the business. 'But in the end, we decided that we'd kick ourselves if we didn't try again,' Krista said.

As James and Krista faced the daunting task of cleaning up and starting over, Krista said they realised, more than ever, the importance of mental wellbeing, including taking time to get off the farm to unwind. 'It's a very lonely place when you're not sure where to turn,' she said.

'But there were amazing events run by Rural Support Trust Northland, as well as the Northern Wairoa Vegetable Growers Association – they hosted lots of dinners and lunches where we could all get together as growers.' For Krista and James, it made an incredible difference. 'There were information-sharing evenings, or spokespeople would come through from different organisations to offer support,' Krista said.

The Rural Support Trust receives funding from a range of sources, including the Ministry for Primary Industries, private donations, and from corporates. ANZ New Zealand was one such company, donating \$100 000 to the trust's Cyclone Gabrielle relief effort.

Krista realised the impact Rural Support Trust had at times like these, and soon after Gabrielle hit, she decided to get involved herself. 'It was such a welcome opportunity at that point in time,' Krista said. 'Being able to work with fellow kūmara growers experiencing something similar to us, and other farmers who were going through the difficult season, it was just really rewarding.'



One of the couple's kūmara fields after the water receded, leaving behind rotten crops



Kūmara harvesters hard at work on James and Krista's farm



A bin of James and Krista Franklin's 2024 kūmara crop

A year later, with this season's kūmara harvest well underway, James says things seem to be back on track, both for the Franklin's farm, and others in the region.

'We're looking forward to getting our product out to market, hopefully at a good price,' James said. 'Maybe there'll be a bit of built-up demand in the market, since a lot of people might have missed out last year. But yeah – the quality is looking really good.'

Enhanced Task Force Green (ETFG)

In the wake of Cyclone Gabrielle, the Government approved an Enhanced Task Force Green (ETFG) programme to help with clean-up and recovery. Funded by the Ministry of Social Development and Whangārei District Council and delivered by Te Iwi o Te Roroa, the ETFG programme saw thirteen local jobseekers, students, and workers at risk of returning to benefit help 120 farmers across Northland and North Auckland to restore their land.

The majority of damage included fallen trees and branches, some of which blocked vital roads and waterways and damaged fences. This presented considerable risk to both farmers and local community. Existing expertise within the ETFG team meant they could offer tree removal and chainsaw services, which proved invaluable, and helped forge strong bonds between the team and landowners.

Ongoing training, supervision, and pastoral care ensured a sustainable workforce throughout the duration of the

12-month programme. A governance group including representatives from MSD, Te Roroa, Ministry for Primary Industries, Northland Regional Council, Rural Support Trust, and Federated Farmers met regularly to monitor the scope of work, problem-solve and identify sustainable employment outcomes for the workforce.

The programme officially wrapped up on 29 April 2024 and was acknowledged nationally for its partnership with iwi, scope of work delivered, and its ability to mobilise quickly. As a result of innovative partnerships, the ETFG workforce were transitioned into ongoing employment through Ngā Manga Atawhai, a multi-agency project which aims to build Northland's resilience to future adverse weather events by tackling the problem of fallen and at-risk trees. Lessons learned from the weather event and ETFG deployment have been captured and reviewed by the governance group, giving the region confidence that for future events, community support can be deployed quickly.



Lifestyle Block Support workshops

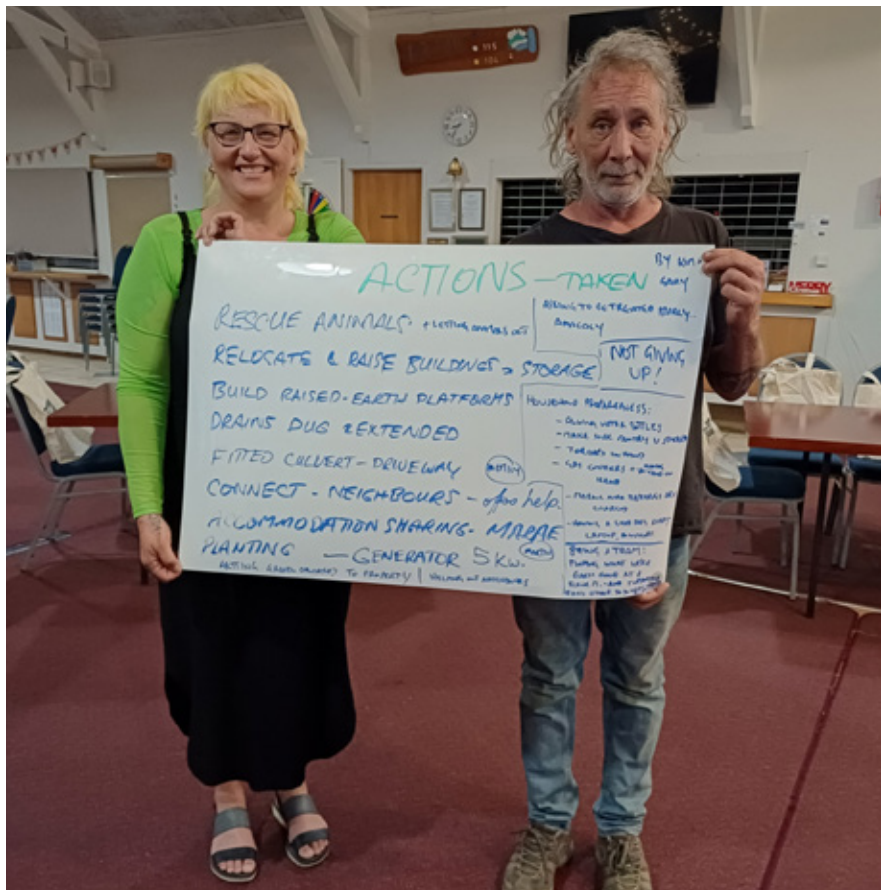
During the Northland Adverse Event Team's (NAET) debrief of the Cyclone Gabrielle emergency response (involving Northland's peak rural bodies, Rural Support Trust, MPI, Fonterra, and Northland CDEM), one key issue identified was that while funding had been made available to farmers and primary producers, little direct support had been given to lifestyle block owners.

However, those on lifestyle blocks can face some of the same issues as farmers – damage to fences, loss of livestock, feed supply issues, and so on. This can be compounded by lifestyle block owners not necessarily having farming backgrounds and the equipment, tools, and skills to make needed farm repairs after severe weather events.

MPI provided funding to Hayley Sqaunce of BML Consulting to implement the Lifestyle Block Support Programme to support lifestyle block rural communities impacted by Cyclone Gabrielle, including Northland. Northland CDEM worked with Hayley in delivering these workshops in Kerikeri, Whangārei, and Mangawhai, as well as one online session, during late November and early December 2023.

As part of the cyclone recovery, Hayley also established the Lifestyle Block Community Champion (LSBCC) programme. This programme exemplifies community unity by empowering rural residents to prepare for and recover from emergencies through collective action. Recognising the unique challenges faced by lifestyle block communities, the programme promotes community-led preparedness, response, and recovery, fostering a sense of ownership and collaboration.

Through group coaching, participants gained the skills and knowledge needed to become



Lifestyle block owners Kim and Gary at the Kerikeri workshop with a list of actions they've taken to make their block more resilient for emergencies

effective community leaders for emergency events and conduits for the lifestyle block community in their local area, including as trusted sources of information to emergency management and emergency response agencies and organisations.

The Lifestyle Block Community Champion cohort includes 22 people across the affected regions. Northland has three community champions who are linked to MPI's AWEM (Animal Welfare Emergency Management) team, helping lifestyle block owners be better prepared for future emergencies.

Business continuity planning in emergencies for farmers

During Cyclone Gabrielle, many Northland farmers faced business continuity challenges – for example, from electricity loss for milking, crop loss, or inability to get supplies and stock in or out due to road closures.

In a debrief of the cyclone response by the Northland Adverse Events Team (NAET – Northland’s peak rural bodies, Rural Support Trust, MPI, Fonterra, and Northland CDEM), we realised that farmers’ knowledge and skills in business continuity needed to be increased.

Throughout the first half of 2024, Northland CDEM, in collaboration with NAET and Northland Inc, ran seven ‘business continuity in emergencies for farmers’ workshops across Northland, from Kaitaia to Wellsford. These were attended by 49 farmers who learnt about basic risk assessment and mitigation, and walked away from the workshops with completed emergency business continuity plans for their houses and farms.

Northland CDEM and NAET thank Andrew Drysdale from AgFirst, MPI, FMG, and Rural Support Trust for delivering these workshops, FMG for catering, The Survival Co for supplying the giveaway emergency bags, and Dave from Hubands for going the extra mile (literally) with a 1.2 tonne generator in tow. Thanks also to Auckland Emergency Management and the Tāmaki Makaurau Recovery Office for collaborating on the workshop in Wellsford.

FREE WORKSHOPS

BUSINESS CONTINUITY IN EMERGENCIES FOR FARMERS

Were you prepared when Cyclone Gabrielle hit Northland? What was your Plan B when infrastructure failed? Plan C? Plan D?

Being prepared for emergencies on your farm means you're less likely to suffer stock and crop loss, injury, or worse.

If you want to find out how you can improve the resiliency of your farm when emergencies occur, then this workshop is for you.

These workshops will cover:

- how to prepare an emergency plan for your house and property
- how to plan for animal welfare before emergencies
- tips for working with insurers
- backup energy systems to keep the power on
- and more!

Workshops are free to attend, and lunch will be provided.

Workshops will run in **seven locations** across Northland from mid-February to the end of March 2024.

Each workshop will also have a lucky door prize of emergency grab and go bags, valued at more than \$400.

To register scan here:  or go to www.northlandnz.com/business/get-business-support/emergency-workshops-for-farmers-and-growers/





Below is a sampling of the feedback on these workshops from farmers:

'It was fantastic.'

'Bloody awesome!'

'It reminded me of all the things I knew I should do, but haven't yet. Now I will.'

'Having the generator on site was great. And to have the fellow from Hubands who had the practical knowledge and advice we all needed to hear. I'm going to get one installed now for our dairy shed.'

'It reminded me of the importance of not being complacent. I want to do more for our house and farm, but also speak with neighbours about how they can be ready for next time.'

'I found today really helpful – especially having both a house and a farm plan. We'd thought through some things, but these plans made me realise we've got a bit more that we need to do, and to write it down. Having a written plan for when the power's out will be a big help.'

'We lost a culvert in the 2023 storms. We've fixed that, but today had us thinking about the other things we rely on. We're going to go back to the farm, take stock, and make some plans of things to sort out.'

'Today was a reminder about the importance of having a generator – or at least the switch – in advance. We looked into this after Cyclone Gabrielle, but it's always a juggle on the farm of what you want to do and what's the next thing that breaks! We've talked with our neighbour before about possibly going 'halvsies' in a big generator. We'd have to work out how to share it, and how to help if other neighbours wanted to use it also.'

'Our place was hit big on the races and yards. We still have some work to do for our culverts. We got some funding from MPI and fencing gear from the Rapid Relief Team day in Wellsford, but there's always so much more to do. Today helped us to take stock of where we're at now and what we want to prioritise before the next event.'



Rural Support Trust – working for rural recovery

The Rural Support Trust Northland is a charitable organisation set up to work with rural communities when times get tough – ranging from biosecurity and employment issues to financial, animal welfare, and health and wellbeing challenges.

We are part of a nationwide network which supports rural communities during and after extreme weather or events which affect livelihoods, including pastoral farming, forestry, horticulture, and other land-based activities. The Trust has access to rural networks and professionals, health services and providers, local and central government agencies, and Civil Defence, allowing us to be well placed to assist in times of need. We work collaboratively with other rural organisations to coordinate preparedness, response, and recovery activities in rural communities before, during, and after an adverse event.

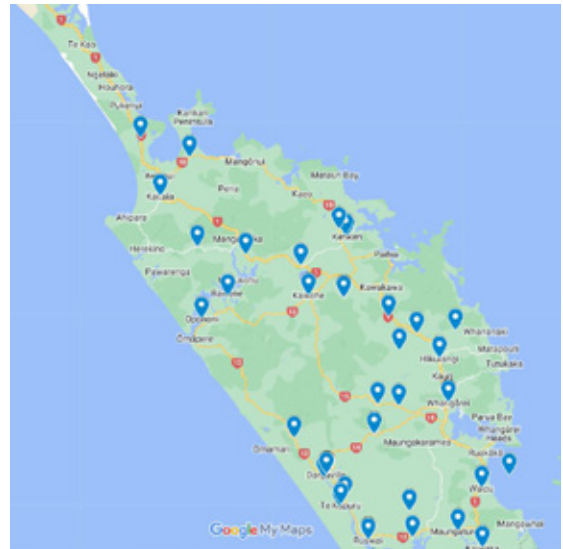
One key focus for Rural Support Northland is our one-to-one support, which we provide to our rural people by connecting them with one of our Ag Facilitators. This connection is pivotal for our rural people to have key support to enable them to navigate their challenges and engage with the most appropriate professionals for their ongoing needs.

In the past 18 months, Rural Support Trust Northland helped to implement and coordinate clean-up via Enhanced Task Force Green to 120 farms across Te Tai Tokerau. Over 160 farmers sought one-on-one support from Rural Support Trust. We gave out over 950 care packages and held over 127 events in Northland which more than 7500 people attended.

Events included comedy shows such as the Bitches Box, The Time out Tour with Matt Chisholm, The Speaker Series with Dame Valerie Adams, Shane Cameron and Phil Gifford, Community dinners with Shaz Dagg, and Brunch on Us.

Time Out Tour with Matt Chisholm

Matt Chisholm is a National Rural Support Trust ambassador, who for the last 18 months has travelled across New Zealand telling his story about his struggles with mental health. Rural Support Trust Northland decided to go with a different format for Matt's latest visit to Northland. We asked three local farmers/growers to talk about the challenges they have faced in recent times with Cyclone Gabrielle and the impact that has had on their lives. A hundred people came to the Arapohue event. Local panellists Doug, Shaun and Kathryn spoke candidly about their farming lifestyles and the importance of downtime with friends and whānau. This format was incredibly popular with our rural community – they had an opportunity to enjoy good food, good company, and hear stories that are really relevant.



A snapshot of events held in Northland over the last 18 months



MPI's support for Tai Tokerau Northland

The Ministry for Primary Industries (MPI) provided significant funding to support the recovery of farmers, growers, and rural communities affected by the North Island weather events in early 2023.

Farmer and grower recovery grants

Farmers, growers, and whenua Māori owners in areas significantly affected by Cyclone Gabrielle were able to access farmer and grower recovery grants to undertake urgent repair work, including fencing and clearing silt to save trees and vines. Almost 1130 grants were paid out to Northland farmers and growers, totalling \$11.47 million.

North Island weather events funding

Budget 2023 provided \$35.4 million to support the recovery of rural communities through two specific funds:

- time-critical projects that helped boost health and safety and protect animal welfare
- support for rural communities isolated by the weather events.

Projects that covered Northland included:

- Additional funding of \$1.9 million nationally for Rural Support Trusts to support recovery efforts

from the North Island weather events, including \$262 726 for Northland.

- Te Roroa Commercial Development Ltd was allocated \$957 000 for Ngā Manga Atawhai, an iwi-led initiative, supported by Northland Regional Council, central government agencies, and lines companies, to turn trees toppled during Cyclone Gabrielle into free firewood for low-income whānau and to remove trees which could cut power in future severe weather events.



- Farmlands received \$500 000 for the Post Your Support campaign providing support through grants to farmers and growers who had fencing and or growing structures damaged or destroyed by Cyclone Gabrielle, including in the Northland region.
- Seafood Sector Network Trust (FirstMate) was allocated \$310 252 for a wellbeing and resilience programme for those in the seafood sector and their whānau in cyclone-affected regions of Northland, Tairāwhiti, and Hawke's Bay.
- Northland Regional Council received \$100 000 to provide support for the establishment of rural community-led groups, creation of formal Community Response Plans, and purchase of essential equipment to support local communities. Specialised support and information will be delivered to isolated rural communities and rural primary producers and lifestyle block owners.
- Manea Footprints of Kupe was allocated \$100 000 for the development of a community safety and wellbeing plan, purchasing equipment to prepare the community for isolation during adverse weather events, and holding wānanga to share information.
- Northern Wairoa Vegetable Growers Association Inc was allocated \$50 000 to provide access to expert advice to help with critical health and safety activities on-farm to alleviate mental health and wellbeing pressures for Northern Wairoa growers.
- Mahurangi Oyster Farmers Ltd and the New Zealand Oyster Industry Association distributed almost \$1.8 million to repair and restore damaged farm structures on oyster farms, including several in the Northland region.
- Rapid Relief Team (RRT) New Zealand Limited received \$1.25 million to deliver community events in several regions, including Northland, providing meals and fencing supply packs to farmers, with mental health advisers, financial advisers, and farm advisers present.



Initial mobilisation fund

MPI also provided \$4 million across affected regions to help rural communities with immediate recovery needs in the wake of Cyclone Gabrielle. Northland-specific projects supported included:

- The Northern Wairoa Vegetable Growers Association and Vegetables New Zealand received \$269 500 for the Kūmara Industry Seed Contingency Plan project. Seed kūmara was distributed to growers affected by Cyclone Gabrielle to use for the 2023/24 season.
- Vegetables New Zealand received \$120 000 to address an immediate need for soil testing to enable growers to make management decisions to repair soil from flood and silt damage. Soil testing was coordinated by the horticulture sector in Hawke's Bay, Gisborne, and Northland.
- Onions New Zealand received \$50 000 to support a network of industry coordinators across Northland, South Auckland, Gisborne, and Hawke's Bay to help growers recover.

Preventing animal welfare issues

MPI has a dedicated animal welfare emergency management team which provides support in a response for any emergency that may have an animal welfare impact.

During Cyclone Gabrielle, damage to the electricity network left people and businesses without power. This meant dairy farmers without generators were unable to milk their cows. MPI worked with the Northland CDEM Lifelines team to ensure dairy farms that had been without power for several days were escalated as priority for reconnection.

MPI also helped get essential animal welfare products into Northland, connecting veterinary suppliers and logistics teams. This included veterinary supplies used to dry off dairy cows and minimise the impact of flood-related animal health issues.

Within the first week of the Cyclone Gabrielle response, 400 kilograms of veterinary products were delivered to Whangārei for distribution to veterinary clinics Northland-wide.

Slip recovery

MPI's On Farm Support team partnered with Beef + Lamb New Zealand to host a workshop on slip recovery following Cyclone Gabrielle. The workshop at Ahuroa was attended by more than 70 people.

It brought together industry experts and farmers to share their knowledge, especially those involved in recovery efforts following Cyclone Bola. They were joined by local organisations with funding and tools to help.

Speakers from Ravensdown, Ballance Agri-Nutrients, Northland Regional Council, Kaipara Harbour Remediation and Te Uru Rākau – New Zealand Forest Service presented practical information on topics including HawkEye mapping, pasture recovery, heli-cropping, revegetation, and funding opportunities.

Connections made at the workshop encouraged the formation of the Arapārerā Catchment Community group.



Kūmara growers – from disaster to crop and economic recovery

During Cyclone Gabrielle, approximately 70% of the region's kūmara crop was destroyed. This represents about 20 000 tonnes of kūmara that would normally have been produced. Almost all kūmara growers in the Northern Wairoa area suffered some loss. For some, this was minimal, while for others, it was their total crop. The flow-on effect was reduced work for hundreds of people employed in the sector.

MPI North Island Weather Events funding was administered by Northern Wairoa Vegetable Growers Association for kūmara growers, covering three projects: seed contingency, soil testing, and a diesel mechanic. The seed contingency scheme allocated \$269 500 provided by MPI to growers who suffered significant loss of crop due to Cyclone Gabrielle and were unable to harvest sufficient kūmara to meet their seed needs for the following season. This funding was allocated to six growers who used the funding to purchase kūmara to bring their seed up to approximately 80% of what it would usually be, thus setting them up for a decent start to the following season.

The soil testing and diesel mechanic schemes were funded by \$50 000 from MPI and \$15 000 from Horticulture NZ, and provided soil testing so that growers could go into the 2023/24 season knowing whether they needed fertiliser, and a diesel mechanic to keep growers' machinery working through the planting season and start of harvesting with timely repairs. These two projects gave growers good starting knowledge and reduced the risk from equipment failure, and made the difference in helping growers have a reasonable season to start their recovery.



*Above: That's not the Dargaville River, that's a paddock of destroyed kūmara
Below: After a year of hard work, Northland's kūmara crop is making progress again*



He Mahi Whakarite Marae

Marae Preparedness

MBIE Community Renewable Energy Funds programme

The Community Renewable Energy Fund (CREF) was established to support renewable energy projects that help communities access secure, renewable, and more affordable energy.

Community buildings are often used in civil defence events to protect people during and immediately after emergency events. The Fund's investment in solar PV and battery systems for these buildings will provide communities with renewable energy for emergency events and for day-to-day use.

Some communities, particularly those in remote areas and islands, don't have reliable access to affordable energy. For example, some communities aren't connected to the national electricity grid, and others may be at higher risk of power outages from natural hazards, such as earthquakes, storms, and floods. These risks will increase as our climate changes.

Investing in locally generated electricity helps enhance community resilience by providing an alternative and more secure source of electricity, while also increasing energy independence.

Nationally, up to 70 community buildings used to support the emergency response during 2023's North Island severe weather events are being fitted with solar photovoltaic and battery systems. This included 14 sites in Northland, totalling approximately \$1.3 million:

Location	Site name
Whangārei	Terenga Paraoa Marae
Paparoa	Parirau Marae
Pouto	Waikaretu Marae
Kaiwaka	Kaiwaka Sports Association
Parakao	Te Aroha Marae
Motuti	Motuti Marae
Dargaville	Holy Trinity Church Dargaville
Karikari	Haititaimarangai Marae
Kohukohu	Matihetihe Marae
Pukepoto	Oturu Marae
Titoki	Korokota Marae
Whangaruru	Mokau Marae
Whangaruru	Ngātiwai Marae (Ngaiotonga Marae)
Waiharara	Waiharara School



Terenga Paraoa Marae is one of the pilot sites for the Community Renewable Energy Funds programme

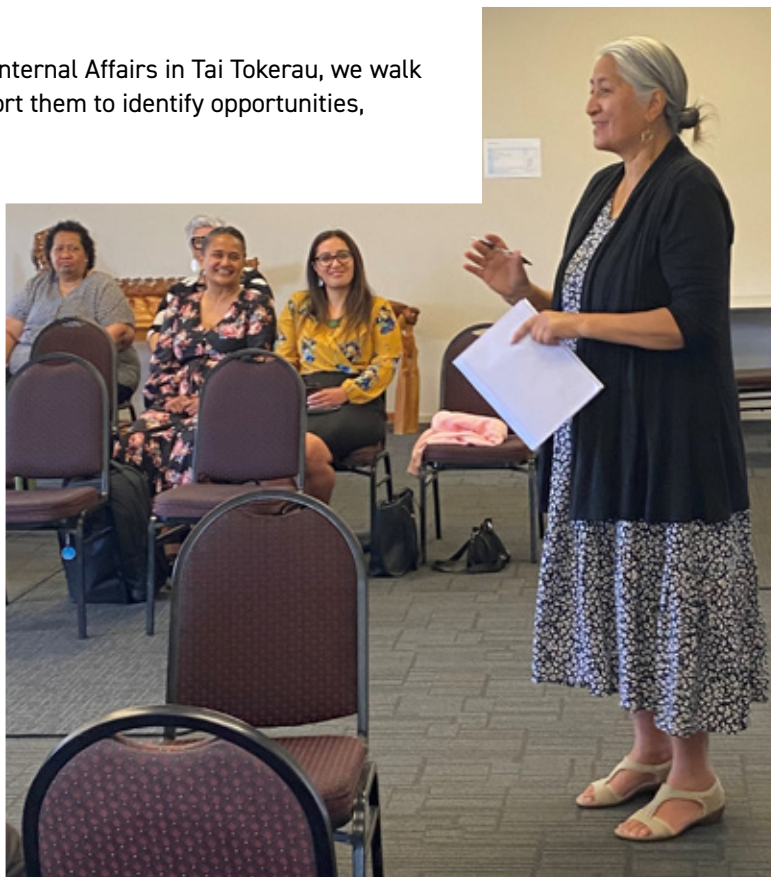
Lottery Tai Tokerau/Northland Flood Relief Fund

Nāu te rourou, nāku te rourou, ka ora ai te iwi

Within our Hāpai Hapori team in Department of Internal Affairs in Tai Tokerau, we walk alongside hapū, iwi, and communities, and support them to identify opportunities, navigate challenges, and achieve their goals.

Te Puna Tahua, the Lottery Grants Board, allocated additional Lottery profits of \$5 698 500 to the three regions (Tai Tokerau, Bay of Plenty/ Gisborne, and Hawke's Bay), experiencing ongoing hardship following Cyclone Gabrielle.

Tai Tokerau received 20% (\$1 139 700) to support the Marae Preparedness aspect of the Regional Recovery Plan. This was distributed to 12 iwi entities in Tai Tokerau to support marae preparedness in their rohe. Funding was utilised in many ways such as improving communications, access, containers, generators, solar, water tanks, emergency supplies, and environmental scans.



Participants at a DIA-led hui about cyclone recovery funding



Te Puni Kōkiri Cyclone Gabrielle funding

Te Puni Kōkiri (TPK) Te Tai Tokerau invested a total of \$1 911 700 towards the response and recovery of Cyclone Gabrielle. Projects aimed to address impact and solutions to:

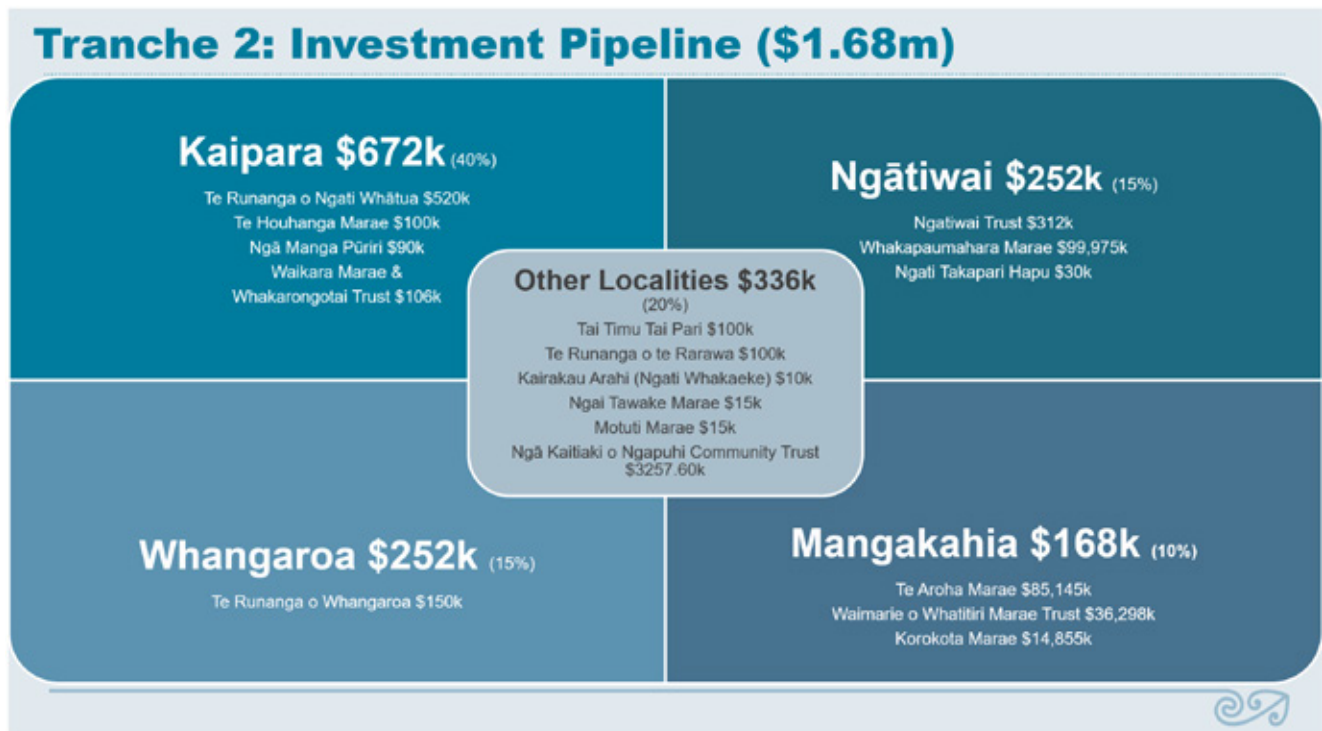
- whānau, hapū, marae, and hapori impacted by Cyclone Gabrielle
- hapori/marae enacted as Māori Civil Defence hubs
- affected urupā, wai, kai, taonga, whenua, and whare.

Tranche 1 was the immediate and emergency response to Cyclone Gabrielle. A total of \$150 000 was prioritised for whānau, hapū, marae, and hapori affected by Cyclone Gabrielle and those who stood up as evacuation hubs. Kaitono received between \$5000 and \$10 000 to feed, house, and manaaki hapori Māori that were impacted and/or displaced.

Recipients included:

- Ahu Whenua Trusts – Te Orewai Te Horo Trust and Pukahakaha E5BT
- Māori non-government organisations/hapori Māori – Te Hau Āwhiowhio, Wot Matters, Ngati Tautahi, Te Runanga o Ngāti Whātua, Te Rūnanga o Whaingaroa
- Marae/hapū /iwi – Te Roroa (Waikara), Te Aroha (Parakao), Ahikiwi, Tauteihiihi, Ngati Rēhia, Pateoro, Whakapaumahara, Te Iringa, Otaua, Awarua, Tautoro, Matarau, Pakanae, and Kokohuia Marae.

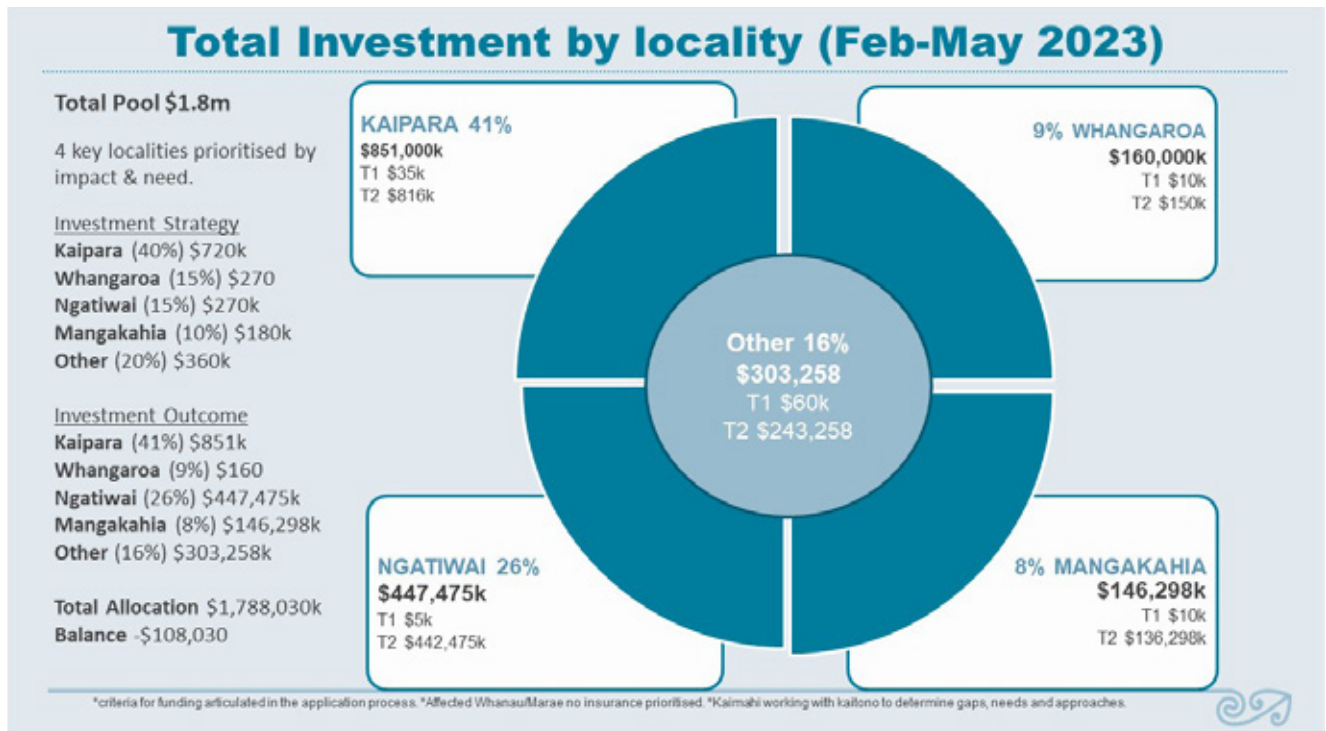
Tranche 2 focused on the recovery from Cyclone Gabrielle; \$1 680 000 was invested across hapori Māori with the greatest allocation of resource to the Kaipara:



Investment into 'Other localities' were the pockets of Northland communities impacted through Cyclone Gabrielle but not included in the priority zones of Kaipara, Whaingaroa, Ngātiwai, and Mangakāhia.

Tranche 2 projects enabled hapori Māori and marae to plan for future extreme weather events and included items such as shipping containers and emergency resources required to stand up in an emergency, including chainsaws, generators, high-visibility gear, solar and installation packages, and communication devices. We invested in sewage and water solutions, infrastructure repairs, reviewing and developing marae emergency response plans, cleaning up access ways, and more.

The graphic below provides oversight across both tranches of funding. T1 = Tranche 1, T2 = Tranche 2 and the location (committed & actual) for investment:



In addition, the Kāinga Rua Fund supported a collective marae project in the Kaipara following the end of Tranche 2 CG funding. A total of \$111 700 was invested with Oturei Marae to support 13 Marae in the northern ward of Ngāti Whātua to review and update their emergency response plans. Oturei also purchased generators, a combi oven, and expel air cylinder, and replaced their chiller.



Northland CDEM and Marae Preparedness Plans

Northland CDEM has worked with hapū and iwi to prepare Marae Preparedness Plans before Cyclone Gabrielle, and continues to do so. While we have a template of possible areas to consider, and can assist with hui and wānanga, the content is created by the local community, based on their own knowledge and preferences. For more information about marae preparedness planning, contact Northland CDEM.



Red Cross's support to communities and marae

New Zealand Red Cross were on the ground in Northland in the aftermath of the severe weather hitting the region hard. Members of its highly trained Disaster Welfare and Support Team were deployed to support the setting up and ongoing management of the Civil Defence Centre at McKay Stadium in the initial response.

The mental wellbeing of people impacted by such an event cannot be underestimated. The New Zealand Red Cross First Aid Team also provided support across the Northland region with expertise and training in Psychological First Aid – ensuring that those that are providing 'on the ground' support were well equipped and prepared.

New Zealand Red Cross believes in the power of local agencies supporting local needs and, as a result, a decision was made to financially support local community organisations who were responding to the immediate needs of their communities. To that end, Red Cross launched a national appeal in support of those affected. More than 19 Northland organisations were provided grants totalling more than \$1 million to enable them to continue the excellent recovery work that they were doing (see list of funding below).

Like many, Ngunguru Marae felt unprepared for a disaster like the cyclone. But they were on higher ground, and able to support their community, so opened

their doors and just made it happen. During and after the cyclone, the marae kept people safe and warm, fed and comforted, supporting their local community in their time of need.

Trish Clueard from Ngunguru said the event made it clear they needed to be better prepared for an emergency in the future, and New Zealand Red Cross funding has enabled them to do that: 'Our experience enabled us to identify what we didn't have, and we now have it and are prepared. We are now confident and ready for the next event.'

The marae used its \$50 000 grant from the New Zealand Disaster Fund for a variety of preparedness items such as blankets, tools, food, hygiene items and a water tank.

Trish said the marae was overwhelmed by the response from New Zealand Red Cross. 'We can't say enough about the impact this is had and they have made this possible for us. We now have other people visiting to see what we have done.'

New Zealand Red Cross feels very privileged to have been able to serve the communities of Northland during this time of significant need. We want to recognise and thank all those who have supported the response – both our generous donors and those who partnered with us to bring relief and support.

Supplies at Ngunguru Marae, provided from Red Cross's New Zealand Disaster Fund



Programme	Beneficiary	Outcome	Approved \$
Response	Far North District	Generators to the Far North	\$19 000
Partnership	Te Roopu Whakamana Charitable Trust	Mental Wellbeing and Resilience – plus a community van	\$65 000
	Omaha Marae Trust	Rebuild mattress room and replace the equipment that was lost. Install a water filtration unit.	\$50 000
	Whakapara Marae Trust	Community resilience to equip the marae with emergency resources	\$50 000
	Ngunguru Marae Trust	Community resilience to equip the marae with emergency resources	\$50 000
	Ruapekapeka Hapaitia	Purchase generators, replace water tanks, and hardship grants	\$48 880
	Akerama Marae	Clean up damage and replace equipment that was lost	\$32 000
	Whānau Focus Centre (Kaipara Abuse Prevention Inc)	Funding to run a programme to increase mental health and wellbeing	\$30 000
	Te Houhanga Marae	Funding to support the purchase of bedding, clean-up supplies and food	\$21 000
	Takahiwai Marae Committee	Purchase a Civil Defence storage container	\$10 000
	The Little Decant NZ	Reimbursement of food and essential items brought in the wake of the cyclone	\$8 000
	Matakohe Community Group	To purchase two generators to power the hall and provide hot water	\$3 000
Investment	Ngāti Kuri	Upgrading the communications network and electrical supply	\$254 562
	Tai Timu Tai Pari Ltd	Supporting marae preparedness for power outages – chillers for kai delivery and improving access to drinking water	\$203 250
	Te Waiariki Ngāti Korora Ngati Takapari Hapū Iwi Trust	Clean-up support and resilience support	\$166 911
	Te Ao Matauranga Trust	Power – generator	\$20 000
	Oruawharo Community Response Group	Supporting the set-up of two emergency locations	\$19 575
	Ngararatunua Marae	Emergency response pod – container with emergency equipment	\$19 366
	Rangatahi Ora	First aid training	\$9 000
Total			\$1 078 770

He whare, he kāinga ruruhau

Housing

Sue's story

It's hard to believe we are still recovering from the impact of Cyclone Gabrielle which affected our owner-built cottage on our property. While the flooding to our property was upsetting, we consider ourselves lucky. Yes, we lost furniture and belongings, the vege garden was completely destroyed, and the 'cottage' took a beating, and it also took ages for the water to subside and dry out. Many trees came down and the clean-up took a wee while.

Here is a photo of the entrance to our property during the flood and a lavender garden (for the bees) we created after a big tree came down. We left the stump there and planted around it. The vege garden is still messy but am pleased to say the cottage is almost complete!

Our community supported each other and ensured people were safe during this difficult time. Birgit from Titoki General Store is absolutely amazing – she provided food for people, helped clean up, and we could charge our phones when without power, as she has a generator.

Birgit also worked with the group that came to the community to support locals and farmers, where we all got together for a barbecue and had the opportunity to ask questions regarding the recovery process.

Kind regards

Sue Grenfell



MBIE Temporary Accommodation Service

MBIE TAS received 103 registrations from Northland in the North Island Weather Events, and approximately 23 households ended up being placed in houses across the region.

The Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment (MBIE) activated the Temporary Accommodation Service (TAS) on 8 February 2023 to support people impacted by the Auckland floods, and on 27 February 2023 TAS activated a response for all regions impacted by Cyclone Gabrielle. This was to assist displaced households to find suitable temporary accommodation solutions.

The events, collectively known as the North Island Weather Events (NIWE) response, were TAS's fastest and second-largest event (the Christchurch earthquake being the largest) alongside multiple other small events.

In Northland, TAS engaged with the Hokianga Housing Resilience Collective, supporting whānau with information sharing through drop-in centres at Te Hiku Iwi, Te Kahu o Taonui, Moria Marae, and Motuti Marae.

TAS also partnered with the local Ministry of Social Development Housing Manager and Te Puni Kōkiri in providing support to ineligible TAS households.

TAS generally uses commercial accommodation in the first instance. However, due to the size of the response, TAS was faced with housing supply issues which made it challenging for TAS to deliver accommodation. This added to the complexity of accommodating households displaced in Northland. Portable cabin deployment was challenging due to land availability and suitability, and in some cases, displaced households were located in areas where commercial accommodation was not suitable.

As of 31 October 2023, a total of 2126 households affected by the NIWE were registered for assistance (this included households active in TAS, resolved, and cancelled). Of those registered households, 1114 were placed in TAS-supplied accommodation during the response. These registrations show the natural attrition while households self-resolved their housing.

Cyclone Gabrielle cabin project – MHUD

As part of the Government's Budget 2023 Flood and Cyclone recovery package, the Minister of Finance approved \$70 million to invest in the delivery of 400 relocatable cabins (up to 40 m²) by the end of December 2023 across the hardest-hit regions.

In Te Tai Tokerau, the Ministry of Housing and Urban Development – Te Tūāpapa Kura Kāinga funded \$10.5 million for 60 relocatable cabins for iwi/Māori providers to be delivered by 31 Dec 2023. Targeted areas included the Kaipara, Hokianga, east coast from Whangārei to Whaingaroa, and Ngāti Kuri.



Residential insurance claims

The Insurance Council of NZ – Te Kāhui Inihua o Aotearoa (ICNZ) reported 3405 total residential insurance claims as at 1 February 2024 for Northland. The total estimated cost for those claims (as at 1 February) was \$38 449 860. As of 30 June 2024, ICNZ did not expect there had been a significant number of new claims lodged since 1 February. Collating this data was a large piece of work for ICNZ to coordinate across its members, who are separate companies. Northland CDEM would like to express sincere thanks to ICNZ for preparing these numbers.

Earthquake Commission Toka Tū Ake (EQC) data

Across Northland, insurers reported 373 residential properties to EQC with claims for natural disaster damage from Cyclone Gabrielle resulting in an EQCover claim.

The EQC Act provides the following cover for the following types of hazards following a weather event:

- damage to both residential building and residential land from landslip
- damage to just residential land from storm and flood.

As of 30 June 2024, EQC had received and resolved the following claims for Northland:

Loss cause*	Territorial local authority	Total number lodged	Number resolved	% Resolved	Total unresolved
Flood	Far North District	10	10	100%	0
	Kaipara District	22	21	95.45%	1
	Whangārei District	22	20	90.90%	2
Natural landslip	Far North District	9	8	89%	1
	Kaipara District	70	67	95.71%	3
	Whangārei District	183	168	91.80%	15
Storm	Far North District	2	2	100%	0
	Kaipara District	19	19	100%	0
	Whangārei District	36	36	100%	0
Total		373	351	94.10%	22

*EQC does not specifically cover 'High wind'; this is part of 'Storm'.

Generally, landslip damage is more complex than storm/flood damage and takes longer to assess (due to the need for geotechnical input). The overall progress is generally in line with other areas impacted by this event.

On 1 July 2024, EQC transitioned to the Natural Hazards Commission, also known as NHC Toka Tū Ake, under the new governing legislation, the Natural Hazards Insurance Act 2023. NHC Toka Tū Ake will continue to resolve the remaining claims.

FOSAL (Future of Severely Affected Locations)

On 1 June 2023, the government announced the FOSAL (Future of Severely Affected Locations) programme, which covered properties affected in the North Island weather events, and would likely be affected by future events.

FOSAL involves district councils categorising land and then either buying out properties where there was a likely future intolerable risk to life or injury (Category 3), applying 'community' or landscape solutions to reduce future risk (Category 2C), property-level solutions (such as raising piles or digging drains) to reduce future risk (Category 2P), or deeming the property as only requiring repairs (Category 1).

While the government offered a 50/50 cost split for property buyouts, funding amounts for Category 2C and 2P was unclear, and has recently been confirmed as not available for Northland. Both Kaipara District Council and Whangārei District Council have decided to not sign on to FOSAL. Far North District Council is undertaking an initial review to determine whether or not it will formally adopt FOSAL.

While common in other countries, post-disaster property buyouts have historically not been as common in New Zealand. However, future emergencies may involve similar programmes. The Northland councils look forward to consultation and collaboration about any future schemes.



Ngā kaupapa whakaora o tēnei rohe

Recovery projects across the region

Removing trees from Northland's rivers

In response to Cyclone Gabrielle, Northland Regional Council (NRC) allocated \$500 000 to assist with removing trees from rivers across Northland. Site visits post Cyclone Gabrielle to river catchments around the region showed that the scale of the problem was massive – some estimates were that thousands, if not tens of thousands, of trees had come down during the event.

Members of the public, such as farmers and landholders, were able to make applications for assistance via the NRC website. A large number of queries were received,

and sites were prioritised based on areas of the highest risk of river blockage/damming and subsequent impacts, including risk to human life or public infrastructure such as a state highway bridge.

Big forestry gear and experienced crews were required to carry out the mahi which saw hundreds of trees removed from rivers around the region, with high priority sites scattered around all three of Northland's districts, including sites in Awakino, Kaihu, Paparoa, Mangawhai, Taupō Bay, Opouteke, Mangamuka, and Waipu.





Ngā Manga Atawhai

Many of the issues Northlanders experienced from Cyclone Gabrielle were due to fallen trees, which caused widespread power outages, as well as blocking rivers and roads. Hundreds of trees remain fallen under existing powerlines or next to roads and rivers, and hundreds of thousands of standing trees remain at risk of falling over roads, rivers, and powerlines.

Ngā Manga Atawhai is a collaborative project, born from the aftermath of Cyclone Gabrielle, which aims to build Northland's resilience to future events by tackling the problem of fallen and at-risk trees.

Ngā Manga Atawhai's kaupapa originated from community consultation after the cyclone, and was included in the Regional Recovery Plan.

Ngā Manga Atawhai unites groups from across government, councils, iwi, and the private sector to remove dangerous trees, increasing Northland's resilience. The majority of the wood doesn't go to waste, but is given to low-income whānau to make their homes warmer and drier.

Overall, the Ngā Manga Atawhai project is the single-largest thing we can do to enhance future energy network resilience, as well provide a nature-based solution to flood reduction. Employing local rangatahi and forestry kaimahi, as well as providing wood to low-income whānau, will provide additional social benefits for years to come.





Tai Timu Tai Pari supporting whānau readiness

Nāku te rourou, nāu te rourou, ka ki te kete

Through our partnership network, Tai Timu Tai Pari secured a truckload of kai from New World's Auckland wholesalers and a shipment of generators. Over 50 kaimahi and volunteers packed over 1500 kai packs for distribution to Te Kaipara, Pipiwai, Mangakāhia, and whānau in the Bay of Islands.

We purchased cooking equipment, freezers, and generators to support our communities to feed their people. With a workforce of over 500 in our partnership, kaimahi were deployed to check in with their clients (whānau), especially whānau with complex medical needs, knocking on doors if needed.

We distributed other resources that will support communities to develop and implement their civil defence emergency plans. They include pūtea for dry store kai, first aid kits, gas bottles, portable water tanks, chainsaws, shipping containers, tarpaulins, and other equipment.

To enhance marae capability to support tangata whaikaha and kaumatua, we have provided some with mobility walkers, wheelchairs, and rollaway beds that lift our kaumatua off the floor of the whareniui. We will continue to empower tangata whaikaha (and their whānau) in rural areas by connecting them to resources and services that enable their resilience during civil defence and other emergencies.



School repairs – Ministry of Education

Following Cyclone Gabrielle and the Auckland Anniversary flooding events in early 2023, the Ministry of Education supported schools and their communities in their recovery efforts. In Te Tai Tokerau, 88 schools were impacted, requiring repairs across 96 projects. Much of the damage in the region was relatively minor, including fallen trees, damaged fencing and rooves, and water damage from leaks.



Most recovery projects in Northland are now complete, with a few larger and more complex projects expected to be delivered by early 2025. The remediation and repair of all 88 schools is estimated to cost \$8 million.

One of the more significant projects relates to ground stability at Whangārei Heads School, which we are still monitoring. There is no immediate risk; however, further movement may impact future development on that site.



Holy Trinity Anglican Church memorial

When significant disasters happen, creating contexts for memory is important. In February 2024, the Kaipara District, hit hardest during Cyclone Gabrielle, unveiled and blessed a commemorative stone one year on from the cyclone at the Holy Trinity Anglican Church in Dargaville.

The church was set up as a Civil Defence evacuation centre during Gabrielle, and the stone was unveiled

in thanksgiving to those who responded quickly to the needs of the community – both 'official' first responders and the many people who gave their time, opened their homes, and provided food, bedding, and help in whatever form they could. This event was a wonderful celebration of the community's collective response, and provided a memorial as part of the cyclone recovery.



Te whakahaumanu i te kanorau koiora me ētahi atu uara tiakitanga

Restoring biodiversity and other conservation values

Coastal erosion and loss of dunes was one of the most significant impacts around the Northland coast, creating steep drop offs to the beach and affecting many access points. Kōiwi (human remains) were exposed on Moturua Island, Urupukupuka Island, and other coastal sites such as the pa site north of Elliot Bay.

Rivers and streams flooded, causing tree falls, erosion of banks and siltation in many waterways which impacted on water quality, freshwater plants, and native fish.

Numerous slips created instability and scarring of landscapes, opening areas for weeds to establish and movement of animal pests. Heavy rain affected protected species' habitats such as the kōkako management area in Mataraua and caused damage to the network of predator control tracks across Northland, in some cases washing away traps.

The movement of soil around kauri dieback sites potentially spread the water-borne bacteria.

Treefalls damaged fence lines around some conservation areas, allowing stock intrusion and damage in these reserves.

There was also significant damage to visitor tracks and access roads from washouts and treefall, particularly at Mt Manaia, Mangawhai Walkway, and Mimiwhangata. Lakes formed at the Uretiti campground and coastal erosion reduced access to the beach.

Historic sites were impacted with the rockwall and access track to the iconic Te Rerenga Wairua/Cape Reinga lighthouse subsiding. The Marsden Cross memorial was also damaged at Rangihoua.

Windfall in kōkako protected area in Mataraua Forest



Recovery priorities

Working with hapū and iwi reinterring ko iwi to safer ground was an important part of cyclone recovery work.

Assessing threatened species habitats and populations was undertaken at North Cape, Three Kings, Manganui Bluff, Waimā, and Bream Head with moderate impacts noted at these sites. Assessment of dune lake vegetation and removal of pine needles were assessed at Kai iwi lakes and assessment/surveillance of weed establishment on nature reserves/islands such as the Hen and Chickens islands will be undertaken shortly.

The slip and track repairs at Te Rerenga Wairua have been completed, as has the windfall and vegetation clearance at Mt Manaia and Mangawhai Walkway; track resurfacing is underway.

A hydrology assessment has been completed at Uretiti campground which will help inform remedial work and any future development. The coastal access at Mairs Road has been reinstated and the Marsden Cross memorial repaired.

Future-proofing and sustainability – repair, redesign, or retreat – were key considerations in the remedial works undertaken, with total cost of the work on priority sites being \$1.3 million for Heritage and Visitors and \$0.9 million for Biodiversity work.

Eroded section of the Mangawhai Walkway





Rockwall collapse and slip at Te Rerenga Wairua | Cape Reinga, Ngāti Kuri rohe

Coastal erosion and remedial works at Uretiti



Ngā kaupapa mō te whakatakatū hapori me te whakakaha aumangeatanga hapori

Community readiness and resilience projects

Whakapirau community – looking back, looking ahead

Eighteen months on from Cyclone Gabrielle, our Whakapirau community has taken steps to become more resilient and better prepared to face another adverse event.

With our road access cut off for the first day, it was a case of the locals getting their chainsaws out and the farmers using their tractors to clear a pathway through the fallen trees. I wish I had taken a photo of a family with young children – with handsaws – trying to cut through the debris!

Our power was off for eight days. There were multiple places where long lengths of lines were buried under fallen trees. We commend Northpower for their efforts in restoring power in the most trying of circumstances. We heard that new power cables were being sourced from other parts of the country, as the need to replace lines was huge.

Generators were needed to keep freezers and water pumps going. These generators were shared from house to house to try and keep food from perishing. Some of our locals have purchased their own generator since the

cyclone – particularly if they lost a freezer lot of food, an expensive exercise.

After a few months, we realised that we needed to have a better plan for communication, as we couldn't rely on having cellphone coverage. So we have broken down our community into each street, or part of the street, so a smaller group are responsible for each other's wellbeing.

We have a map drawn of our area to identify resources in our area. We have the defibrillator, first aid kits, generators, and so on, all marked on the map. We also have identified nurses and other people with skills needed during an emergency.

We have received funding for a generator and have applied for further funding to upgrade our evacuation area. We are continuing to hold our usual community events. These are put on to draw our community together, and are always very well supported. I believe we have definitely become more resilient as a community in the last 18 months.

Whakapirau's New Years Day kids' races



New Years Day raft race – with fallen pine still hanging over the beach



Cyclone Gabrielle Appeal Trust Fund

The Cyclone Gabrielle Appeal Trust allocated a total of 558 grants totalling \$14 137 699 to Tai Tokerau, Auckland, Waikato, Bay of Plenty, Gisborne, Hawke's Bay, and Taranaki districts. Allocations were made to groups that were directly impacted by the major weather events in January/February 2023.

There was a significant oversubscription to the fund and this is evidenced by the need across the country being much greater than what was available, with the Trust receiving \$50.7 million of requests; Tai Tokerau comprising over one-fifth of those applications.

Tai Tokerau received 25% (\$3 586 028) of Trust funding to support community, marae, iwi, and hapū in their recovery.

These funds were provided to the 161 applicants listed below. Marae submitted 106 requests, of which 83 marae were granted for a total of \$1 992 686. The grants will contribute to projects for solar power/generators, containers, emergency supplies, land/access remediation, urgent building repairs and flood mitigation.

The breakdown of these grants across Tai Tokerau is as follows:

- Kaipara: 32 grants = \$734 517
- Mid North: 52 grants = \$1 213 941
- Far North: 52 grants = \$1 081 513
- Whangārei: 25 grants = \$556 057

2 Meke 2 Limited

Ahikiwi Marae Administration Trust

Ahukura Hākinakina

Aupouri Rugby Football and Sports Club Inc.

Eastern Football Club

Environs Holdings Ltd

Far North Rodeo Roundup Inc

Haititaimaranga Marae

He Korowai Tiaki Tangata Charitable Trust

He Puna Ruku Mātauranga o Whanguru Kura

He Uri o Tiopira – Te Roroa Iwi

Hikurangi Friendship House Charitable Trust

Hukerenui School Board of Trustees

Kaihu Protestant Cemetery Committee

Kaikou Marae Trustees

Kaingahoa Marae 439 Trust

Kaingahoa Marae Mataraua

Kaitiaki Whangaroa Association Incorporated

Kāpehu Marae

Karangahape Marae Trust

Kauere Reihana Ruka Committee

Kauhanga Māori Reservation

Kerikeri Branch – Royal New Zealand Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Incorporated

Ko Wharemaru Marae O Kaimaumau

Kohukohu Town Hall Committee

Kōmanawa Community Refuge

Korokota Marae

Mahimaru Marae

Mahuri Marae

Mangatowai Marae Community Trust

Marunui Conservation Ltd

Mataitaua Marae

Matauri Bay Marae

Matihetihe Marae Trust

Maungaturoto Bowling Club

Maungaturoto Centennial Community Centre Incorporated

Moehau Marae

Mōkau Marae

Mokonuiarangi Marae

Morehu Marae

Motukiore Marae

Motukiore Rd, Papua Residents

Naumai Marae

Ngā Kaitiaki O Ngā Wai Māori Incorporated

Ngā Tai Whakarongorua Marae

Ngāti Kaharau me Ngāti Hau Hapū ki Hokianga

Ngāti Manawa Marae Trustees

Ngāti Pakau me Ngāti Te Rauwawe Roopu Kaitiaki

Ngāti Rahiri Māori Komiti

Ngāti Taka (Ngāti Takapari) Hapū Charitable Trust

Ngāti Hine Health Trust Board

Ngunguru Marae

Northern Wairoa Agricultural and Pastoral Association Incorporated

Oakura Beach Reserve Board

Oakura Marae – Whangaruru

Ohaki Marae o Pawarenga

Omauri Marae

Otamatea Marae

Otatara Marae

Ōtaua Marae

Otetao Marae

Otiria Marae Trustees

Ōtūrei Marae Trustees

Pakanae Marae

Pakōtai Te Oruru Community Sports & Recreation Centre Inc

Pananawe Marae

Parawhenua Marae
 Paremata Ahu Whenua Trust
 Parihaka Marae Trust
 Pateoro Marae
 Potahi Marae
 Puha Road Residents Roopu
 Puketawa Marae
 Puketutu Papakainga
 Rangikohu Marae
 Rawene and Districts Community Development Incorporated
 Rawhitiroa Marae Committee
 Regent Community Trust
 Ripia Marae Trust
 St Agnes Kaihu Catholic Community
 Surf Life Saving Bayllys Beach Incorporated
 Taemaro Marae
 Taheke Community Roopu
 Taheke Marae Trust Board
 Taiao Marae
 Taiharuru Marae Incorporated Society
 Taita Marae
 Tama Te Uaua Marae
 Tana Papakainga
 Tangiteroria Marae
 Taonga Hauora Charitable Trust of Te Hapū Hoani
 Haora Hoani O Nu Tireni
 Taumataparoro Urupa
 Taupō Bay Civil Defence
 Taupō Marae Trustees
 Te Ao Matauranga Trust
 Te Aroha Otangaroa Marae
 Te Arohanui Marae
 Te Awa o Waiomio Roopu
 Te Hapanga Road, Motukiore Residents
 Te Hapua Sports and Recreation Club
 Te Hiku o Te Ika Marae
 Te Houhanga Marae
 Te Hua o Te Kawariki Trust
 Te Huahua School Regeneration Project
 Te Huia Pupuke Marae
 Te Huruhi Marae
 Te Iringa Marae
 Te Kōpuru Playcentre
 Te Kotahitanga Marae
 Te Kōwhai Marae
 Te Kupenga Rauora Trust
 Te Maire Whanau
 Te Ngahengahe Te Hapū
 Te Ngaitupango Marae

Te Pokapu Tiaki Taiao O Te Tai Tokerau Trust (Far North Environment Centre)
 Te Pounga Marae
 Te Raranga a Te Kuihi Trust
 Te Rawhiti Work Trust
 Te Riingi Marae
 Te Rito Marae Trust
 Te Roopu Taiao o Utakura
 Te Runanga o Taumarere Ki Rakaumangamanga
 Te Tangata Marae
 Te Tārai o Rāhiri Marae
 Te Tawai and Maata Kawiti Whanau Trust
 Te Tiriti O Waitangi Marae Board of Trustees
 Te Uri O Te Aho Hapū
 Te Uri o te Motatou
 Te Waiariki Ngāti Korora Ngāti Takapari Hapū Iwi Trust
 Te Whana o Te Nanakia Charitable Trust
 Te Whanau a Rangiwakaahu Hapū Charitable Trust
 Te Whanau o Te Kohanga Reo o Waimamaku
 Te Whare Āwhina O Ngāti Tautahi
 Te Whare Marama o Parirau
 The Helping Paws Charitable Trust
 The Pines Golf Club, Tamaterau
 The Pouto Marine Hall Incorporated
 Tuku Tame Raua Ko Te Auparo
 Tuparehuia Marae Committee Charitable Organisation
 Waihapa Marae
 Waihaua Marae
 Waikare Marae Trustees
 Waikaretu Marae
 Waima Community Water scheme
 Waima Topu Ahu Whenua Trust (Waima Topu B Trust)
 Waimahana Marae
 Waimamaku Community Civil Defence Group
 Waimirirangi Waihou-nui-a-rua Marae
 Wainui Marae
 Wainui Marae (Ahipara)
 Waiora Marae
 Waiotea Marae
 Waipapa Trust (Ruapekapeka Hapaitia Ltd)
 Waitaruke Marae Incorporated
 Waiwhatawhata Marae Trust
 Wekaweka Valley Community Trust
 Whakapara Marae Trust
 Whakapirau Residents and Ratepayers Association
 Whangaroa Community Trust
 Whare Timatatanga Hou Ora Incorporated
 Whirinaki Toiora Trust

NorthAble disability readiness project

During the recovery from Cyclone Gabrielle, Whaikaha – Ministry for Disabled People asked Northland CDEM what it was doing to specifically help people with disabilities.

This was an important question, and one that we take seriously. Disability organisations and kaimahi had been instrumental in distributing our community consultation survey, and the voice of people with disabilities were woven through the Regional Recovery Plan and *Stories of community resilience* booklet.



We contacted Nicole Ross, Planner and Response Mentor at NorthAble Matapuna Hauora, and a key member of the Community Wellbeing Recovery Programme Group, to see if she had ideas for a specific project. Early in the recovery, Nicole received referrals from other social service providers, and helped them to think through the effects of the cyclone on the disabled people they work alongside.

Nicole specialises in assisting tāngata whaikaha (people with disabilities) to be ready for emergencies. In collaboration with Northland CDEM, she came up with a project where 100 of her most isolated and/or vulnerable clients received a high-quality 72-hour preparedness bag. This could be used as 'shelter in place' supplies to stay at home in an emergency. It could also be supplemented with personal items that might be needed if evacuating to a Community-Led Centre or Civil Defence Centre.

When handing out the CDEM-funded bags, Nicole and NorthAble's Service Facilitation team will work alongside clients who want personalised emergency readiness plans. We thank Nicole for her creativity, thoughtfulness, and hard work on this project, and look forward to hearing the stories of those whose lives it touches.



Ensuring food security in emergencies

Soon after Cyclone Gabrielle, Northland CDEM conducted a brief analysis of emergency food distribution. This was a mix of 'downward counterfactual analysis' (what if this event had been worse?) and 'gap analysis' (where are the gaps or opportunities in our system and how can we get to where we want to be?).

We recognised that between households having emergency food stores (for those who can afford to), and CDEM supplying food directly, community food initiatives played an important role. One the largest of these is Whakaora Kai Food Rescue Northland, which has a network of 90 sites across the region that distribute food before and during emergencies.

However, Food Rescue's sites do not have stand-alone power systems. An extended electricity outage would mean that Food Rescue could not function, and food would be lost. Funding power systems at their distribution nodes would ensure delivery of food in emergencies to thousands of households. We took this project to MSD, who have provided funding for a generator for Whakaora Kai's main hub in Whangārei. We look forward to working with Whakaora Kai during future emergencies.

Small infrastructure grants for Community Response Groups

Northland CDEM received \$100 000 from MPI's North Island Weather Event Fund, to be distributed to Northland's Community Response Groups (CRGs) for small infrastructure items to support their local communities before, during, and after emergencies.

Northland relies on CRGs for the community-led aspects of Civil Defence Emergency Management, with one of the highest ratios of CRGs in the country. (Northland has approximately 60 CRGs; this number fluctuates based on demands for support to new groups.)

Most of these CRGs are in small towns and rural areas. Resourcing CRGs was a key priority identified by the NAET group (Northland Adverse Events Team, comprising MPI, Northland CDEM, Rural Support Trust, and rural sector peak and member organisations). This initiative was included in the list of 'Key primary industries Recovery issues and opportunities' in Northland's Regional Recovery Plan and this project is one of the most significant in the Rural Support Recovery Programme Group.

Of Northland's existing and new Community Response Groups, 51 requested be part of this project (listed below). The total funding was divided equally among the recipients; each group received \$1960.

This funding was used for small infrastructure items such as:

- transistor radios (especially solar and wind-up)
- chainsaws
- storage containers
- wet weather gear
- handheld/two-way radios
- generators/inverters/UPSs
- gazebos
- Starlink and mini solar panels for charging
- cookers
- water purification systems
- signage
- small hand tools (such as shovels, etc)
- torches
- larger lighting
- first aid kits
- and more ...



The 51 groups who received are as follows:

Whangārei district

Akerama CRG
Bland Bay CRG
Helena Bay/Teal Bay CRG
He Korowai Tiaki Tangata
Hikurangi CRG
Kaikou CRG
Korokota Marae
Ngunguru Hapori
Okura/Whangaruru South CRG
Onerahi CRG
Pakotai CRG
Parua Bay CRG
Pipiwai CRG
Tamaterau/Waikaraka CRG
Te Aroha Marae
Tutukaka CRG
Waipu CRG
Whakapara CRG
Whananaki CRG
Whangārei Heads CRG

Far North district

Doubtless Bay CRG
Karikari Peninsula CRG
Te Hapua CRG
Motuti CRG
Te Kao CRG
Kawakawa Response Group
Kaitaia Evacuation Group
Ahipara CRG
Mohinui Marae
Okaihau CRG
Moerewa CRG
Rawene CRG
Te Tii Manganui CRG
Waikare/Waihaha CRG
Ngawha Springs CRG
Tapuaetahi CRG
Tauranga Bay CRG
Motatau Marae
Kaimaumau Response Group
Mitimiti CRG

Kaipara district

Tinopai CRG
Pouto CRG
Paparoa CRG
Whakapirau CRG
Matakohe Community Group
Inc
Baylys Beach Community
Centre Trust
Ruawai CRG
Maungaturoto CRG
Oruawharo CRG
Waikara Marae and
Whakarongotai Urupū Trust
Kaiwaka Can Inc



While Northland has national recognition for its Community Response Group model – and has one of the highest, if not the highest, ratio of CRGs to population in New Zealand – CRGs have never been provided funding before as a whole. Many groups used these funds as co-funding to attract other donations and increase their ability to secure resources. This funding has been a significant part of Northland’s recovery work overall, and has increased the capability of CRGs across Northland to prepare their communities for, and respond to, future emergencies.

Hikurangi CRG

We used these funds to purchase items that we didn’t have available within our community, so we now have them on hand to help us cope in an emergency. We chose generators as our primary purchase as our district is prone to power cuts with the frequency of trees down over powerlines. We plan to store these at the local hall and have them available for distribution to our other evacuation centres should that be required. We will also store the power bank, the medical kit, and the torch at the hall but have them available to transport to any evacuation centre as necessary. Our committee would like to thank Northland CDEM for these funds; without them we wouldn’t have the items available in our community!

Ngā mihi

Sharlene Morris-Ross
Hikurangi Community Development Coordinator

Community-Led Centre training

With funding for the regional recovery, Northland CDEM developed and ran training in the Whangārei and Kaipara districts on how to set up and run Community-Led Centres. Seven sessions were run, with four in Whangārei and three in Kaipara, attracting 60 participants. These sessions were offered to Community Response Groups, with four held during the day and three in the evening to accommodate those with daytime commitments.

The training covered the following topics:

- Civil Defence 101: Understanding the basics of Civil Defence Emergency Management
- What is a Community-Led Centre?: Learning about the concept and purpose of Community-Led Centres
- Roles and activation process: Explore the roles and responsibilities involved in activating Community-Led Centres
- Setting up a Community-Led Centre: Practical steps for establishing and operating a centre
- Closing/scaling down a CLC: Guidelines for winding down operations when necessary.

The feedback we received was overwhelmingly positive. Below are just some of the comments from attendees.

'Great workshop. Enjoyed the morning so much. We need more of these.'

'Easy to understand the content of the workshop. It has been done in a way we understand.'

'Great session. Thoroughly enjoyed meeting other community groups and being able to share ideas.'

'This has been a great way to meet our neighbouring volunteer groups.'

'I feel a lot more prepared and feel a lot more comfortable if we had to set up a CLC in the future. Thank you.'

CLC workshop held in Hikurangi



CLC workshop held in Dargaville



Te āwhina ki ngā pakihi

Support for businesses

Northland Inc, Te Tai Tokerau Northland's Economic Development Agency, encompasses the Regional Tourism Organisation and central government's Regional Business Partner Network.

In the immediate aftermath of Cyclone Gabrielle, feedback from businesses showed:

- businesses across the entire region were impacted by Cyclone Gabrielle and the subsequent weather events
 - roading outages had a dire impact on businesses, particularly on supply chains and the flow of people, especially visitors, which affected the tourism industry
 - significant damage to the agriculture industry, particularly through the Kaipara region where many crops were wiped out.
- In addition, the perception that Te Tai Tokerau Northland was severely damaged/inaccessible following the cyclone and subsequent weather events impacted the visitor industry. Anecdotal feedback from industry included:
- immediate impact through booking cancellations directly following the cyclone
 - confusion from visitors about how to access the region, and missing bookings as a result of roading issues
 - forward booking cancellations due to the perception that Te Tai Tokerau was severely damaged and was no longer desirable to visit.

Cyclone Gabrielle Business Recovery Grants

Northland Inc delivered the government's Cyclone Gabrielle Business Recovery Grants in Northland.

A total of 923 grant applications were received. Of these, 793 were assessed with 633 being approved. A total of \$33 875 898 worth of grants were requested with \$8 628 865 distributed. Grants were used to cover clean-up costs, wages, loan and overdraft repayments, utilities, rent, power, and replacing inventory.

To ensure Māori businesses were aware of the fund and supported through the application process, Northland Inc supported partner Whāriki in the launch of Te Kōtiri Pakihi — Rebuilding Business campaign, to empower pakihi Māori (Māori businesses) affected by Cyclone Gabrielle. A four-week haerenga (journey) across Te Tai Tokerau engaged with Māori businesses to ensure they had equitable access to support following the cyclone.

Advocacy for the region

Alongside mayors, other elected members, and businesses themselves, Northland Inc undertook advocacy on behalf of the region through Chief Executive Paul Linton meeting with the Prime Minister during his visit to Te Tai Tokerau following the cyclone, and a subsequent visit to Wellington to meet with senior officials and advocate for regional needs in early March 2023. Paul Linton and Head of Destination, Tania Burt, also spoke about the impacts of the cyclone, the need for resilient infrastructure, and the region's recovery through national media.



MBIE Resilience Project

Following the successful distribution of \$8.6 million of direct grant funding to businesses directly following Cyclone Gabrielle, Northland Inc was contracted by MBIE to deliver a \$1 million resilience project between September 2023 and September 2024, for the benefit of Tai Tokerau and in support of its economic recovery.

Of the funding, \$500 000 was allocated to business resilience, delivering targeted regional events and support. The remaining \$500 000 was allocated to tourism support, delivering multiple regional promotional campaigns through to December 2024 and supporting the delivery of the Taitokerau Northland Destination Management Plan.

Taitokerau Business Resilience Project

Close to a year on from Cyclone Gabrielle, Northland Inc surveyed 270 Tai Tokerau businesses, with 20% reporting current struggles and 30% reporting that they felt underprepared for future events. Insights around regional business needs helped to design a resilience project that aimed to strengthen businesses via training in business fundamentals, business planning, and wellbeing.

Northland Inc partnered with NorthChamber, Whāriki Te Tai Tokerau, and the Te Hiku Iwi Development Trust (via the Te Hiku Business Boosters programme) to offer one-to-one coaching, mentoring, and workshop opportunities to SME businesses (small and medium-sized enterprises), delivered by subject matter experts. The project was guided by a steering group including Northland Inc, NorthChamber, and Te Puni Kōkiri.

Topics covered included sales, marketing, digital marketing, artificial intelligence, financial management, financial crime, business planning, business continuity planning, SME management, human resources, health and safety, navigating restructures, succession planning, exit strategies, staff engagement, and workplace wellbeing. Sales, marketing, and financial management, and one-to-one coaching were particularly popular.

Offerings were either free or 80% subsidised. Many offerings were held online for ease of access across the region. By-Māori-for-Māori offerings were supported by Whāriki Te Tai Tokerau. Industry-specific offerings were delivered to businesses working in the trades, tourism, and agriculture/horticulture.

Northland Inc created a website to host links to trainings, connections, and resources. A low-budget



communications campaign supported delivery via social media and radio, with most activity centred on training offerings. Video and podcast interviews with Northland businesses spread a message of support and gave lived advice about how to navigate challenges to Te Tai Tokerau businesses.

This was a significant economic recovery project: delivery spanned the seven months of February to August 2024, reaching approximately 1800 participants from businesses across Te Tai Tokerau.

The success of the programme highlighted the benefits of having a central coordinating project management team, while delivering via established regional agencies with existing engaged audiences.



Tourism support

Major disruption to the tourism and visitor industry occurred during Cyclone Gabrielle and afterwards – the perception of the region being closed to visitors, both domestic and international, persisted for much of 2023. Industry gave strong feedback that additional effort and investment was required to change this perception, to spread the word that the region was open for business and ready to accept visitors.

With the support of funding through the MBIE resilience project, Northland Inc continued to develop regional promotional activity. We delivered domestic and international campaigns to stimulate travel to Northland by showcasing iconic attractions and areas.

A need for marketing also arose during the roading closure and upgrade of the State Highway 1 Brynderwyn Hills from February 2024, continuing through the winter period. Once again, the severe weather events caused major disruption to trading conditions and perceptions of access to the region.

To offer additional support – and ensure future development of the visitor industry continues – Northland Inc developed and delivered multiple activities under the Taitokerau Northland Destination Management Plan.

Thanks to MBIE funding, marketing included the 'Northland Style' Spring 2023 campaign in November and December 2023. The 'It's Northland Time' Autumn campaign supported the visitor industry during the closure of SH1 Brynderwyn Hills, running between February and May 2024. Activity was developed in partnership with NZTA and reached over 5 million people across multiple channels. International marketing was undertaken through partnerships with Australian media.



Taitokerau Business Resilience Project

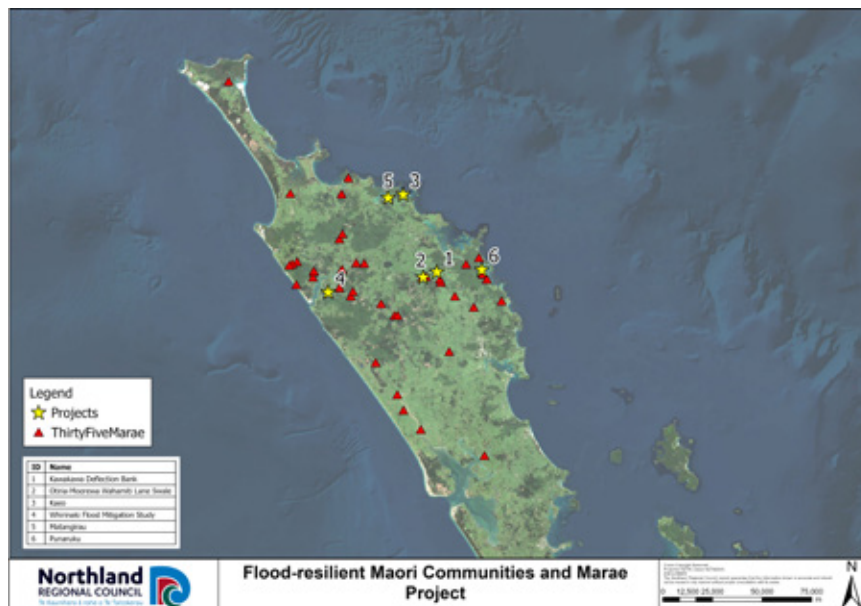


Ngā kaupapa whakaheke mōrearea ā-rohe

Regional risk reduction projects

Flood-resilient Māori Communities and Marae Project

The Flood-Resilient Māori Communities and Marae Project, delivered by Northland Regional Council (NRC), aims to reduce the risk of flooding in six Māori communities and more than 30 marae across Te Tai Tokerau. The six communities include Kawakawa, Otiria-Moerewa, Kaeo, Whirinaki, Matangirau, and Punaruku. Using high-resolution flood modelling and historical records, these communities were assessed as being at high risk of flooding.



Te ao Māori values and respecting Te Tiriti o Waitangi are crucial to ensuring overall success. Underpinning every project are the values and concepts of tino rangatiratanga, whanaungatanga, manaakitanga, mātauranga, wairuatanga, and oranga. Together, these values are guiding the project towards a culturally-attuned approach to flood risk mitigation and marae/community resilience.

Kawakawa Deflection Bank

The shops in Kawakawa are at risk of flooding. By deflecting flood waters from the commercial area to the vast 1 km-wide flood plain on the opposite side of the river, flood risk to the shops was reduced. By drawing on the fundamental concept of Te Mana o te Wai, we have worked with the taiao (earth or nature) to reduce flood risk.

Kawakawa deflection bank blessing August 2024





Kawakawa deflection bank

Attendees gathered in Kawakawa to officially open the Deflection Bank flood mitigation project



Otiria-Moerewa Wahamiti Lane Swale

Reviewing existing work on the larger Otiria-Moerewa Flood Mitigation Spillway and Bridge project showed that further mitigation work was required. We learnt through hydraulic modelling that an additional eight cubic metres per second of flood waters would overwhelm the existing drain. The remaining water would flow down Kingi Road, affecting the Rugby Club, Otiria Marae, and approximately 10 houses. Flood reduction work has sought to mitigate this risk.

Roddy Pihema, Resident of Taumaramakuku and Moerewa, and Community Board Member Far North District Council with NRC's Chantez Connor-Kingi, Kai whiri iwituna



Kaeo

The Kaeo project includes mahi alongside Te Ngaere, Wainui, and Mangaiti marae.

Hydraulic modelling indicates that both Te Ngaere and Wainui Marae can be protected from 1-in-100-year flood events by employing various mitigation techniques. The roads leading to these marae are also flood-prone. Whānau and the wider project team are working on options to provide 10-year protection to these roads.

Much like Whirinaki, there is no solution for Mangaiti Marae, and long-term managed retreat is the most sensible option. Prior to engagement, whānau and trustees of Mangaiti were unaware of the extent of flood risk to the marae. Key to ongoing risk reduction work is that relationships with the marae trustees and the project team endure beyond the scope of this project. Access to information and key contacts have been shared. Minor works to clear drains and an investigation into flood barriers is ongoing.

Matangirau

In the 1960s, the County Council constructed a causeway and bridge that led to a backwater effect, resulting in flooding of homes and marae upstream. This project aims to reshape the riverbank (benching) to establish a floodway and optimise flood flow beneath the Wainui Road Bridge, thereby lowering the flood risk upstream. Flood modelling suggests that this will reduce the impact of 1-in-10-year and 1-in-50-year flood events. Other works near the school road culvert have reduced the risk of flooding.

Touwai Stream June 2020



Northland Flood-Affected Marae

The project includes flood risk reduction actions for 35 marae across the region that are currently exposed to 10- and 100-year flood events. To date, the team has made initial engagement with 15 marae and have completed flood modelling investigations and design for flood protection infrastructure for some of the marae. Some will have relatively easy ways to reduce flood

risk, some will be more difficult, and some will need to protect in place with the aim of retreat over the longer term. This project builds on existing relationships between NRC and many of these communities. This project focuses on raising awareness of flood risk to the marae, developing marae preparedness plans, and minor flood mitigation works within the funding available.

Punaruku

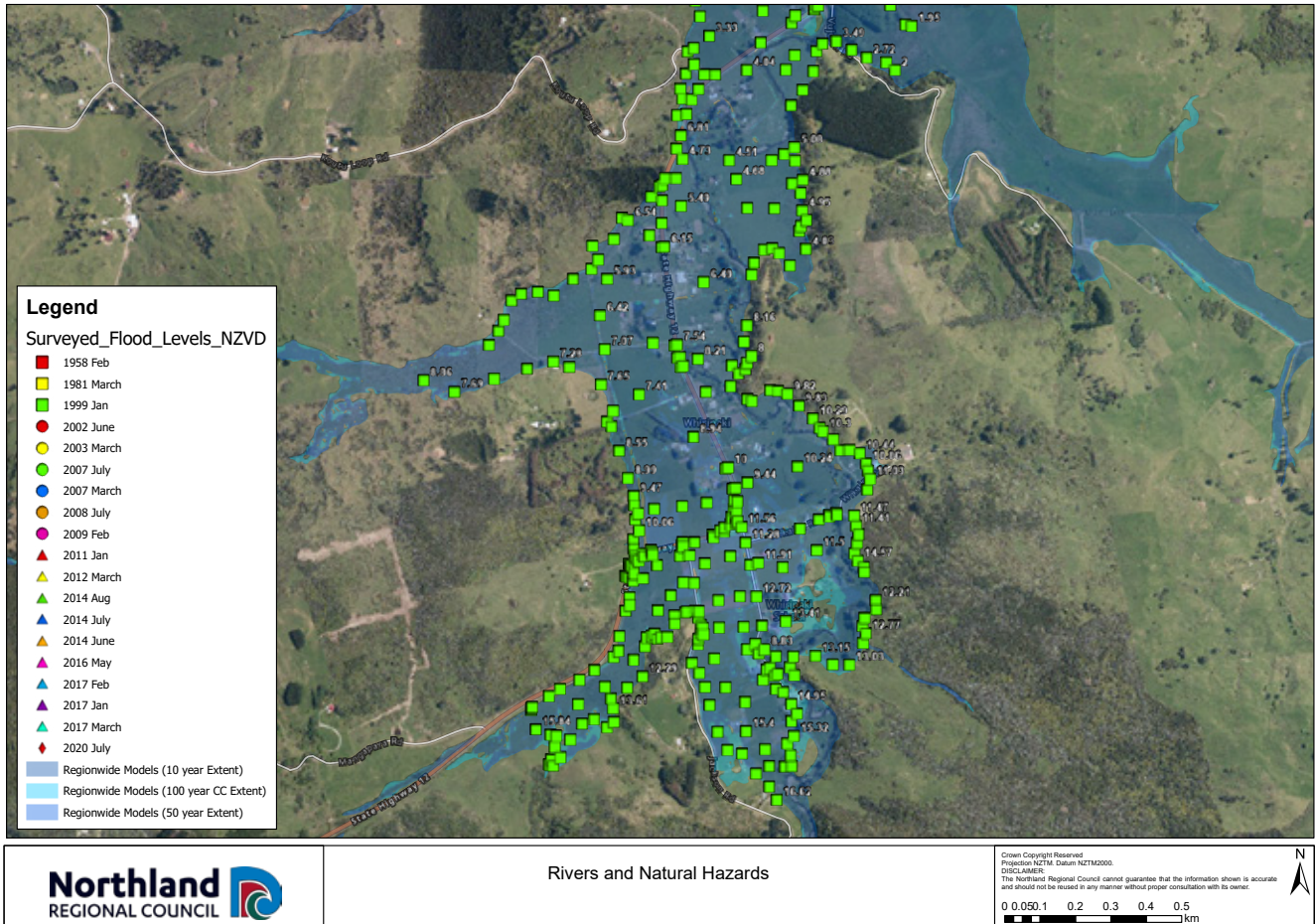
Punaruku's three marae, the school, and most homes are situated above flood level, but the access road frequently floods, causing children to miss more than two weeks of school each year. The team has evaluated several options to mitigate this flood risk. Modelling indicates that implementing benching and bunds along the roadside could provide protection equivalent to a 1-in-5- to 1-in-10-year flood event.



Punaruku marae hui

Whirinaki Flood Mitigation Study

Three marae and approximately 80 homes that occupy the Whirinaki Valley are at risk of flooding. Modelling has indicated that 1-in-10-, 50-, and 100-year flood events fill the valley from side to side, and with each event, the flood gets deeper. There is no flood mitigation option for this valley; managed retreat is the prudent option. Te Hikutū hapū are taking a leading role in developing any future plans. Managed retreat is a key matter occupying the kōrero for this hapori. This project focuses on raising awareness of flood risk to the marae, developing the marae preparedness plan, and minor flood mitigation works within the funding available.



Kaipara District Council flood resilience projects

Since Cyclone Gabrielle, Kaipara District Council has been working on seven number of projects that increase flood resilience. These projects are co-funded with central government funding.

Awakino railway embankment

During the cyclone, a large amount of floodwater built up behind the Awakino railway embankment across the Awakino Valley. As the floodwaters flowed over the embankment, the ballast under the tracks eroded and then gave way suddenly, resulting in a sudden mass release of water causing dangerous and damaging flooding downstream.

By building a stopbank alongside the railway embankment, a similar mass release of floodwater can be prevented. Once completed, a 500-metre-long

earth stopbank to the upstream side of the railway embankment will stabilise the bank so that even if the railway tracks end up over-topped by floodwaters in a future event, the bank will not blow out and cause a sudden mass release as it did during Cyclone Gabrielle.

Design for the project has been completed, along with approvals from KiwiRail to undertake the work. The project is supported with \$400 000 from central government.



Dargaville wastewater treatment plant bund height increase

During Cyclone Gabrielle, the Dargaville wastewater treatment plant area was flooded, with floodwaters entering the maturation pond and also coming close to entering the oxidation pond. To prevent this happening again, this project raises the height of the earth bund around the maturation pond and the most

vulnerable segments around the oxidation pond. In all, this will equate to around 1000 metres of bunds to be heightened. This project is in design with council staff preparing it for delivery. Kaipara District Council has received \$650 000 in central government funding to support this project.

Beach Road culvert

The Beach Road culvert is a critical piece of infrastructure in the Dargaville township flood defence network. During the cyclone, council staff and contractors utilised tractor-driven pumps to remove floodwater from behind the Beach Road culvert. This project will increase the culvert size so that it can take more water and be more resilient to future flood events and increased water.

Dargaville floodwall improvements

This project seeks to make repairs to four sections of the stopbanks/flood walls that protect Dargaville township from flooding by the Northern Wairoa and Kaihū rivers. These repairs are essential to prevent the flooding of the Dargaville central business district and the residential suburb of Mangawhare. Both these areas narrowly escaped the worst of the flooding during the cyclone; however, both areas were subject to widespread sandbagging and evacuations. Design is complete and ready for delivery. The project was supported with \$500 000 from central government.

Awakino River mouth cleaning

This project involves clearing the Awakino River mouth, in collaboration with Northland Regional Council. This involves cleaning up the lower riverbanks and removing silt from the Awakino River mouth, where it meets the Wairoa River. This work will improve the water flow in high rain events. This project is supported by \$350 000 in central government funding.

Ruawai Stopbank Reinstatement (Bowergate)

This project is reinstating a section of stopbank in the Raupō Drainage District. This is a high-risk area with the stopbank designed to protect an area to the southwest of the Ruawai township from flooding inundation from the Wairoa River. The project is in the final stages of construction and is supported with \$280 000 in central government funding.



Robert Street stormwater upgrade

This is one of a number of stormwater upgrades on the east coast of Kaipara district. The project included new stormwater infrastructure in the Robert Street area to alleviate localised flooding. This work has been completed and the project was supported with \$500 000 from central government.



Dargaville Stormwater Catchment Management Plan

Prior to the North Island Weather Events (NIWE), Kaipara District Council had been working to model Dargaville's urban stormwater network and prepare a Stormwater Catchment Management Plan. This work looked at the layout and capacity of stormwater pipes, open drains, and other water courses.

Once the infrastructure is well understood and computer-modelled, different rainfall events can be applied to virtually test how the infrastructure will perform. The short-term aim was to identify specific areas of insufficient capacity that would result in surface flooding or water ponding. The longer-term goal was to use the model to inform larger-scale upgrades of the town's flood defences to respond to sea level rise and climate change, such as flood wall heightening and possibly future pumping.

At the time of the NIWE, the model was still incomplete but was nearing a state that some early conclusions could be drawn. The model build had been complicated by two key factors specific to Dargaville:

- the age of the infrastructure and Council's limited understanding of asset location, condition, and the overall layout of the system due in part to the age of some parts of the system
- the need to understand and model the interface with the tidal rivers surrounding Dargaville. This is because Dargaville's stormwater network mostly drains to the Northern Wairoa River via flood gates/gated culverts. These open to let stormwater drain out when the tide is low, then close as the tide rises to prevent the tide flowing into the town. When the river level is higher due to flood flows, storm surges, and so on, there is a shorter window when these can open. This can cause stormwater (water that falls as rain) to build up in town and cause localised flooding. Modelling river and flood flows had not been intended to form part of the modelling work, but was necessitated due to the way the Dargaville system operates.

As the storm approached, our stormwater modellers (who are based in Auckland) asked Kaipara District Council staff to venture out in the storm to take photos. This would show how the network performed and where the water accumulated. In turn, this would assist in testing how accurately the model reflected reality.

On the whole, the network performed well initially, with only a few areas of localised ponding. However, as the river level rose, the flood gates shut, and the rain continued to fall, ponding intensified in the low-lying areas of town. This accumulation of stormwater

was the reason for the first evacuation of the suburb of Mangawhare. Later evacuations of this and other areas were more due to the threat of flooding from the river.

A year on from the storm, the model is complete (and refined by learnings from the NIWE) and is being used to assist in planning the construction of further flood protection works. We are able to add hypothetical stopbanks and other improvements into the model and then test how these will affect flood flows before proceeding with further design and construction.



Morningside Flood Relief Project – Whangārei District Council

Whangārei District Council owns and operates the Whangārei urban stormwater system which includes the Morningside catchment area. The area has been subject to ongoing and frequent flooding, which at times has entered homes and buildings.

The Morningside catchment, including Kaka Street, comprises a commercial area, residential area, public open space, school, and sports fields that are an essential part of the urban fabric of Whangārei. Increased frequency of flooding is having an impact on residents, businesses, users of the transportation network, and the community as a whole. Financial impacts include loss in revenue, as well as increased costs associated with repairs, insurance claims, or relocation of businesses or activities.

The Morningside Flood Relief Project aims to significantly reduce flooding in a low-lying residential area of Morningside with:

- a new pump station to pump to Limeburner's channel
- tidal gates to maximise channel capacity
- storage in the low area of Rawhiti stream to allow pumps to operate efficiently.

Subsequent modelling has recommended that the project should include an interceptor pipe along Morningside Road that will significantly enhance flood mitigation efforts by reducing water flow to flood-prone areas, improve storage capacity, and increase the efficiency of the new downstream pump station.

The project is currently going through the detailed design stage followed by the physical works that will be completed by 30 June 2025.



Future CDEM resilience and readiness

Multi-Agency Coordination Centre

A new \$7.5 million multi-agency Civil Defence emergency coordination centre for Northland is expected to open in Whangārei by the end of 2026. The Multi-Agency Coordination Centre (MACC) will be Northland's first stand-alone regional Emergency Coordination Centre (ECC).

Northland CDEM discussed the project with Emergency Management and Recovery Minister Mark Mitchell during a meeting about Cyclone Gabrielle recovery in January 2024. The Minister visited the site on 22 March and announced \$1.037 million of government funding for the building.



Starlink kits for emergency centres

During Cyclone Gabrielle, cellphones were widely affected, although for a moderately short period. The Far North EOC (Emergency Operations Centre) was completely without communications. As part of the cyclone recovery, Northland CDEM purchased Starlink kits for the region's five EOCs and the regional ECC (Emergency Coordination Centre), ensuring that emergency communication will be available across all four Councils' CDEM sites.

Members of Northland CDEM hand-cut the foam to make custom, weather-proof cases for Starlink units

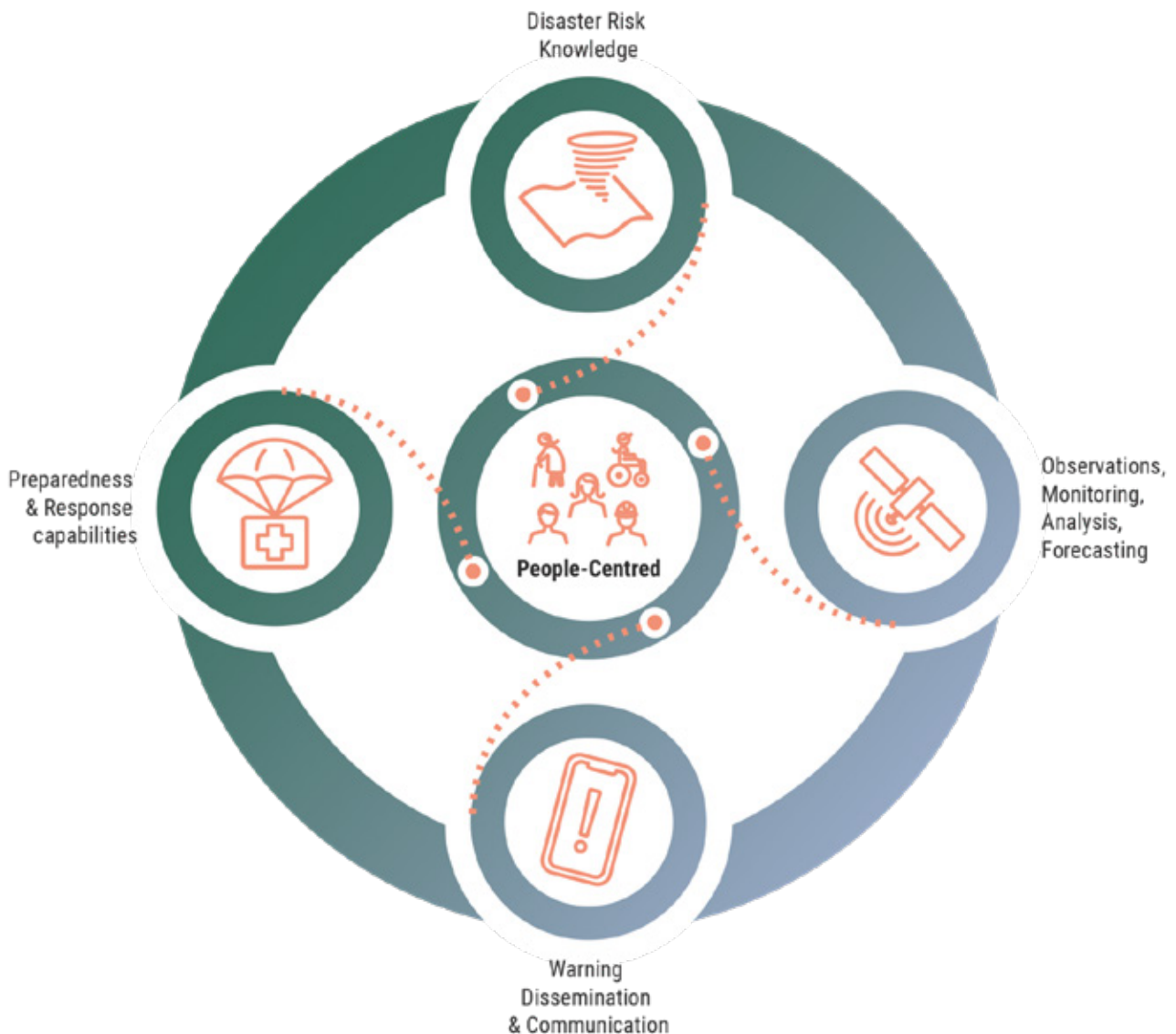


Northland Flood Intelligence and Early Warning Project

In Aotearoa New Zealand, MetService issues official weather watches and warnings for the country. However, there is no national flood warning system. Instead, this responsibility falls to regional councils as part of their flood protection and Civil Defence and Emergency Management roles.

Warning systems are complex. The World Meteorological Organization identifies four pillars of

early warning systems (below): understanding the hazard and risk, ongoing monitoring and analysis of rainfall and river levels, flood preparedness, and response capabilities. Additionally, these systems must be able to disseminate information and warnings. Most importantly, they should be people-centred, delivering information in a timely and appropriate manner to those affected.



Northland Regional Council's early warning work has included:

- modelling the flood risk regionally and in more detail for priority rivers (available from our natural hazards portal)
- undertaking monitoring and analysis for a number of rivers (available from the environmental data hub)
- through Northland CDEM, working with communities to develop response capabilities and establish methods to disseminate warnings and communicate with communities during a response.

The Northland Early Warning Flood Intelligence Project is the first step towards integrating this work into an early flood warning system and addressing existing gaps. This project has received funding from central government as a part of the Cyclone Gabrielle recovery to develop the flood intelligence needed for one catchment in the region (Waitangi catchment). Further funding has been allocated through the Regional Council's Long Term Plan for 2024 to 2030.

Te otinga

Exit strategy and wind-down

After publishing this final regional recovery report, Northland CDEM will prepare an exit strategy, which will document outstanding actions, and the organisations responsible for delivering these.

After this, and once the external evaluation detailed below is completed, the recovery will be formally wound

down. Northland CDEM, some government agencies, and community organisations will still have some recovery projects to deliver, but this will be considered to be 'enhanced business as usual' (BAU), or simply part of delivering and acquitting recovery funding.

Arotake

Evaluation

Northland CDEM will undertake the evaluation of the Cyclone Gabrielle recovery in two stages. First, Northland CDEM will undertake an internal 'lessons identified' document, focusing on operational improvements. Second, an external consultant will evaluate this recovery. This evaluation will interview key recovery stakeholders, review regional and national recovery coordination, and will be a publicly-available document.



Appendix A: Status of district council recovery actions

This section collates Northland's three district councils' actions in the Regional Recovery Plan, including the outcomes or status as of 30 June 2024. The time periods listed here are those of the plan – short-term was to end of June 2023, medium-term was July 2023 to June 2024, with long-term being July 2024 to June 2025 (and possibly beyond).

Far North District Council | Te Kaunihera o Tai Tokerau ki te Raki

Actions outstanding from Response phase

Issue/consequence	Desired outcome post-recovery	Actions	Status at 30 June 2024
Sense of overwhelm in rural communities especially as cumulative effects of power cuts and economic effects are felt	Communication of channels for support for rural communities Potential consideration of MPI designation of adverse event	Continue to work with relevant agencies to restore power and telecommunications	Complete
Concerns from extended power outages including hygiene needs, water, and cooking	Consideration of welfare outreach for affected properties	Appeal for generators Receive generators and deploy into community	Complete
Requests for potable water in a small number of areas	Water supply restored to pre-event standards	Use water tanks in short-term Maintenance on WTP	Complete
Still receiving requests for food parcels despite most roads being open and shops well stocked with food supplies	Ensure MSD are first point of call for welfare issues	Communication of channels to request welfare support, i.e. transition to MSD	Complete
Marae and community buildings used as Community-Led Centres were affected by the cyclone	A plan of work to increase the resilience of these structures, i.e., alternative power supply and water tanks Consideration to the use of VHF or satellite for alternative communications	Appeal for generators Receive generators and deploy into community	Complete
Crucial roads closed in the Far North	Resilience for major routes to main population centres in Far North	Contribute to lobbying Government for financial assistance	Ongoing

Key short-term recovery priorities Far North District Council | Te Kaunihera o Tai Tokerau ki te Raki

Issue/consequence	Desired outcome post-recovery	Actions	Status at 30 June 2024
Welfare centres (CDCs and CLCs) had power and communications disruptions during event	Enhance power and comms capability	Manage large influx of donated generators Method of deploying generators (identify locations, deliver, register) Administer continued offers of help and match to needs Work with CDEM to develop welfare centre resilience	Complete

Key short-term recovery priorities Far North District Council | Te Kaunihera o Tai Tokerau ki te Raki

Issue/consequence	Desired outcome post-recovery	Actions	Status at 30 June 2024
People financially affected by cyclone	People's direct financial impacts covered (or at least reduced) by Mayoral Relief Fund	<p>Create Mayoral Relief Fund (account, application forms, communicate)</p> <p>Establish working group and administrative process</p> <p>Form panel and set criteria</p> <p>Administer fund, assess applicants, make payments</p>	Complete
Some individuals still have welfare needs caused by cyclone	Welfare needs met	<p>Establish working group for welfare needs</p> <p>Complete gap analysis on Response welfare needs and current needs</p> <p>Respond and manage ongoing welfare needs</p>	Complete
Community have broader ongoing needs as a result of the cyclone	Broader community needs identified and resolved where possible	<p>Set up mechanism for registering and managing offers of support</p> <p>Identify community needs (response data, email, etc)</p> <p>Establish working group for community liaison</p>	<p>Complete</p> <p>Complete</p> <p>Dropped</p>
Cost to Council from Response and Recovery needs to be funded	Costs of Response and Recovery covered with as minimal impact possible on FNDC residents	<p>Collate Response costs and secure central Government reimbursement</p> <p>Identify Recovery costs and utilise external funding</p>	Complete
House damaged by cyclone and red-stickered, leading to residents being displaced	Property owner adequately housed and supported	<p>Meet property owner and discuss needs</p> <p>Provide support as necessary</p>	Complete
Roads throughout the region significantly damaged	Safe access restored as quickly as possible for critical lifeline routes	<p>Restore access where possible to reconnect isolated communities and critical lifeline links throughout the transport network</p> <p>Use temporary traffic management to manage access while reducing risk to road users</p> <p>Clear roadside debris and slips where safe to begin restoring level of service</p> <p>Begin damage assessments and investigations into medium- and long-term solutions/interventions</p> <p>Quantify damages and submit emergency recovery funding application to Waka Kotahi</p>	Significant progress made by NTA – see dedicated section in this report

Key medium-term priorities Far North District Council | Te Kaunihera o Tai Tokerau ki te Raki

Issue/consequence	Desired outcome post-recovery	Actions	Status at 30 June 2024
Roads throughout the region significantly damaged	Restore level of service to before Cyclone Gabrielle event	Carry out detailed geotechnical investigation and design Continuation of road asset reinstatement/rehabilitation	Significant progress made by NTA – see dedicated section in this report

Key long-term priorities Far North District Council | Te Kaunihera o Tai Tokerau ki te Raki

Issue/consequence	Desired outcome post-recovery	Actions	Status at 30 June 2024
Damage to transport networks across the Far North District	Improvements made to roading network to mitigate impacts of future events	Complete asset and critical lifelines assessments and traffic modelling for future resilience and improvement activities Include modelling outcomes and potential projects into Asset Management Plan so external funding support can be sought for construction of new resilience improvement opportunities that are identified	Ongoing

Kaipara District Council | Kaipara te Oranganui

Actions outstanding from Response phase

Issue/consequence	Desired outcome post-recovery	Actions	Status at 30 June 2024
Number of significantly damaged roads across the Kaipara district	Restoration of transportation links across the Kaipara district	Repair damage to KDC's transport network caused by Cyclone Gabrielle and 24 Feb Mangawhai severe thunderstorm event	Immediate repairs complete
Large-scale power outages across district	Restoration of power across the Kaipara district	Communicate networks down, assist remote areas that are still without power, access to generators and recovery of generators	Work continues to ensure Northland has resilience in its power distribution
Displaced people are unable to return to their homes due to safety reasons	Ensure displaced people are in suitable short-term (emergency) to longer-term (temporary) accommodation	Finalise any outstanding building assessments Work with MBIE TAS for temporary accommodation options Provide wrap-around support	Complete
Public wanting to know about social and welfare support, as well as progress of Recovery	Public informed	PIMs to disseminate accurate information in a timely manner about social and welfare support and successful reinstatement of infrastructure crucial to returning communities to normality	Complete

Actions outstanding from Response phase Kaipara District Council | Kaipara te Oranganui

Issue/consequence	Desired outcome post-recovery	Actions	Status at 30 June 2024
Significant damage to Mangawhai Heads SLSC due to Anniversary Weekend adverse weather event landslide behind the club room	Identify if land is suitable for the rehoming of the Mangawhai Heads SLSC in its current position	Work with geotechnical engineers to assess land slip	Initial geotechnical assessments underway
Significant amounts of green waste, household waste, and landslip material	Safe dumping of household waste, reduce contamination, reduce risk of infestation	Communicate ways to dispose of household waste, green waste, and landslip material; open refuse stations for free tipping	Complete Council provided free drop-off of green waste and food damaged items at local refuse stations

Key short-term recovery priorities Kaipara District Council | Kaipara te Oranganui

Issue/consequence	Desired outcome post-recovery	Actions	Status at 30 June 2024
Material hardship for affected residents in the Kaipara district	People's direct financial impacts covered (or at least reduced) by Mayoral Relief Fund	Set up Mayoral Relief Fund, establish working group to oversee the fund, source funding, advertise fund, process claims, form panel to assess claims, ET to signoff claims, make payments to affected residents	Complete The Kaipara District Mayoral Relief Fund gave out a total of \$532 443.94 to residents and ratepayers in the Kaipara district who experienced financial hardship as a result of Cyclone Gabrielle Of the 119 grants given out, the majority of payments went to individual and families, with a number of marae, community groups, and businesses also receiving funds Grants were given out for roof and house repairs not covered by insurance, damaged accessways and footpaths, clearing debris, trees, flood-damaged furniture and other items, broken and damaged culverts, septic tanks, and more
Ongoing welfare needs of individuals affected by recent adverse weather events	Continue to provide welfare support to KDC residents affected by recent adverse weather events	Respond to and manage ongoing welfare needs of affected residents	Complete Council worked with multiple central government agencies and NGOs to ensure welfare support could be accessed by Kaipara residents
Some rural communities were not well-equipped to handle major adverse events	Support remote community groups to develop greater resilience to adverse weather events	Support rural communities with psychosocial support, loss of seasonal work, crops, and income	Complete Ministry of Primary Industries along with Federated Farmers, Rural Support Trust, Horticulture NZ, and Northern Wairoa Vegetable Growers Association provided targeted assistance and support to meet the local needs of our rural communities

Key short-term recovery priorities Kaipara District Council | Kaipara te Oranganui

Issue/consequence	Desired outcome post-recovery	Actions	Status at 30 June 2024
Welfare centres were affected by the event	Enhanced power and comms capability for welfare centres/ Community-Led Centres	<p>Manage donated generators</p> <p>Distribute generators (identify locations, deliver, register)</p> <p>Administer continued offers of help and match to needs</p> <p>Work with CDEM to develop welfare centre resilience</p>	<p>Complete</p> <p>Welfare centres are more resilient for future events with the distribution of donated generators</p> <p>NCDEM have worked with Kaipara district communities to prepare localised community response plans</p>
Marae, including those who opened as Community-Led Centres, were affected during event, reducing their ability to support communities	Marae across Kaipara district more prepared for future events	<p>Consult with Kaipara district marae leaders to consider their recovery issues and priorities regarding their preparedness for future adverse events</p> <p>Promote civil defence preparedness, initiate ongoing discussions with marae leaders and NCDEM</p>	<p>Complete</p> <p>NCDEM and marae leaders have had ongoing kōrero regarding their preparedness for future adverse events</p>
Damage to local businesses' premises and inventory	Local businesses rebound	Support local businesses adversely affected by recent weather events through funding agencies available to assist with building damage and loss of inventory	<p>Complete</p> <p>Northland Inc managed a funding package of \$8 628 865 for Northland businesses. Businesses were able to apply for grants of between \$5000 to \$40 000 to support their recovery</p>
Farmlands affected by flood waters	Farmers supported and more resilient for future events	<p>Communicate with, and provide education to, affected landowners</p> <p>Facilitate discussions about future risk</p>	<p>Educational sessions for farmers and people with lifestyle blocks on future resilience and preparedness completed 2023 and 2024</p> <p>NAET will continue with this work as part of BAU</p>
Roads throughout the region significantly damaged	Safe access restored as quickly as possible for critical lifeline routes	<p>Restore access where possible to reconnect isolated communities and critical lifeline links throughout the transport network</p> <p>Use temporary traffic management to manage access while reducing risk to road users</p> <p>Clear roadside debris and slips where safe to begin restoring level of service</p> <p>Begin damage assessments and investigations into medium- and long-term solutions/interventions</p> <p>Quantify damages and submit emergency recovery funding application to Waka Kotahi</p>	<p>Ongoing</p> <p>Assess current network, undertake longer-term network planning to build more resilient networks</p>

Key short-term recovery priorities Kaipara District Council | Kaipara te Oranganui

Issue/consequence	Desired outcome post-recovery	Actions	Status at 30 June 2024
Many fallen trees and debris on roadsides	Roadsides clear and safe	Clear roads, driveways, and fallen tree and debris damage to property	Completed Enhanced Task Force Green activated to provide support to farmers, growers, and other producers Provided assistance with clean-up activities including removing debris from properties; fixing and re-installing fencing; cleaning stock troughs, clearing driveways, and removing fallen trees
Damage to wastewater network	Reinstate KDC's wastewater network	Assess damage, make repairs, inspect network, report issues, restoration, timelines	Immediate repairs completed as of July 2023 Action plan for remaining repairs being determined
Physical damage to water treatment plants	Physical damage is repaired	Assess damage, make repairs	Immediate repairs required completed as of July 2023 Action plan for remaining repairs being determined
KDC pump stations affected during cyclone	Pump stations that can maintain integrity during prolonged power disruptions due to adverse weather events	Assess network of pump stations, complete individual assessments, upgrade batteries, make improvements to Scada systems	Immediate repairs required completed as of July 2023 Action plan for remaining repairs being determined
Embankments damaged	Improve land drainage in vulnerable areas to improve the resilience to adverse weather events	Assess damaged embankments and make necessary repairs	Central government funding sought
Damaged houses as a result of recent adverse weather events	Kaipara residents have safe homes	Continue to conduct any Rapid Building Assessments (RBAs) as and when KDC are notified by property owners who have been impacted by flooding and/or ongoing land slips Provide guidance to affected property owners on steps to take with insurers, or access to support networks for uninsured properties Provide guidance related to building exemptions and/or building consents for remedial work	Many residents experienced damage to their homes that resulted in repairs to ensure their homes were made safe. Most of these residents have now returned home A small number of residents who experienced severe safety issues with their homes were unable to return and continue to work with their insurers and EQC

Key medium-term priorities Kaipara District Council | Kaipara te Oranganui

Issue/consequence	Desired outcome post-recovery	Actions	Status at 30 June 2024
Community want to know about planned works, funding, and progress	Informed community	Ongoing communications with current information on power outages, road closures, funding options	Information about support options and how they can be accessed, road closures, and power outages are communicated through Council's multiple communication channels including print media, social media, and community engagement
Iwi affected by the weather events	Expectations being met	Continued engagement and support for iwi affected by the weather events	Ongoing Works completed at Te Houhanga Marae flood resilience programme allowing for the connection to Dargaville reticulation network
Roads throughout the region significantly damaged	Restore level of service to before Cyclone Gabrielle and 24 Feb weather events	Carry out detailed geotechnical investigation and design Continuation of road asset reinstatement/rehabilitation	Works continues to ensure critical roading networks remain open through proactive planning and maintenance
Damage to wastewater network	Provide greater resilience to KDC's wastewater network for future adverse events	Assess damage, make repairs, inspect network, assess damage, report issues, complete restoration	Works completed to improve Ruawai's Wastewater Treatment Plant catchment Works planned to improve Waiatua Dam protection for improved drinking water during flood surge
Strain on existing water treatment infrastructure as a result of recent adverse weather events	Ensure water treatment infrastructure matches demands of community	Plan and scope stormwater infrastructure	Central government funding received to improve flood resilience of stormwater in Mangawhai
Embankments damaged, and new embankments may be needed	Improve land drainage in vulnerable areas to increase resilience to adverse weather events	Identify areas needing additional/reinforced embankments	Central government funding received to improve flood resilience of stormwater in Dargaville
Damage to stopbanks	Improve stopbank resilience for future adverse events	Assess effect of future weather events on remediation	Central government funding received to improve flood resilience of stormwater in Dargaville
Fallen trees	Affected homes/landowners are identified and connected with Enhanced Taskforce Green project	Remedial actions are undertaken, and land is cleared of fallen trees and debris	Ongoing Ngā Manga Atawhai project launched to provide assistance to Kaipara residents with the removal of fallen trees Removed trees in waterways across Kaipara district

Key medium-term priorities Kaipara District Council | Kaipara te Oranganui

Issue/consequence	Desired outcome post-recovery	Actions	Status at 30 June 2024
Mangawhai Heads Surf Lifesaving Club may need to be relocated	Work with Mangawhai Heads SLSC to find new permanent location for club rooms	Work with Mangawhai Heads SLSC to find solutions to relocate the damaged building	Ongoing Continued talks between the Mangawhai Heads SLSC, Council, and central government
Damaged properties as a result of recent adverse weather events	Ensure Kaipara residents can return to safe homes	Ongoing management of enquiries into building exemptions and or building consents for remedial work Process building consent applications and complete inspections through to issuing Code Compliance Certificates	Ongoing Residents with severe safety issues identified in their homes continue to work with their insurers and EQC Council provide ongoing assistance to affected residents in terms of building exemptions and building consents for remedial work where appropriate
Land already affected by stability issues at risk of further slippage resulting in damage to buildings	Ensure land in use is fit for purpose and doesn't pose unforeseen hazards	Monitor unstable land and communicate risk profile to relevant stakeholders	Council assessed the suitability and feasibility of central government's Future of Severely Affected Locations programme (FOSAL) and decided not to adopt the programme

Key long-term priorities Kaipara District Council | Kaipara te Oranganui

Issue/consequence	Desired outcome post-recovery	Actions	Status at 30 June 2024
Affected individuals and communities have diverse needs, wants, and expectations	Enable people to manage their own recovery through access to information and a range of services those individuals and households who are most vulnerable and do not have the means to finance their own recovery	Continue to proactively respond to the needs of the Kaipara residents as recovery efforts progress	Continue to refer affected residents to relevant government agencies
Ongoing economic hardship for Kaipara residents impacted by the Jan–Feb adverse weather events	Support organisations working in the Kaipara district, strengthen community connections, enhance wellbeing, and build resilience	Community and business groups meet regularly to explore opportunities to support the community and reinvigorate the Kaipara district	Ongoing

Key long-term priorities Kaipara District Council | Kaipara te Oranganui

Issue/consequence	Desired outcome post-recovery	Actions	Status at 30 June 2024
Insufficient marae and community-led civil defence preparedness for future events	Kaipara district maraes and communities feel they are prepared and have adequate resources to manage future events	Identify key recovery steps for the local economy, ensure eligible businesses are supported by MBIE funding	Ongoing Engagement with our business owners to develop an approach to generate economic renewal Work continues on the Council's Recovery-focused Long Term Plan 2024-2027
Slowed or negative economic recovery or renewal	Facilitate local businesses, industry, and regional economic recovery and renewal	Identify key recovery steps for the local economy, ensure eligible businesses are supported by MBIE funding.	Ongoing Engagement with our business owners to develop an approach to generate economic renewal Work continues on the Council's Recovery-focused Long Term Plan 2024-2027
Negative impacts to the rural sector	Stimulating the renewal and growth of the rural sector with a return to full production	Rural sector is producing at the same level (or higher) as pre-Jan-Feb 2023 extreme weather events	Ministry for Primary Industries along with Federated Farmers, Rural Support Trust, Horticulture NZ, and Northern Wairoa Vegetable Growers Association continue to provide support growers and farmers
Widespread outages to electricity and telecommunication networks	Resilient telecommunication and electrical networks that are not susceptible to outages in future events	Continue to raise concerns with telecommunication and electrical network suppliers to Northland	Ongoing
Damage to transport networks across the Kaipara district	Improvements made to roading network to mitigate impacts of future events	Complete asset and critical lifelines assessments and traffic modelling for future resilience and improvement activities Include modelling outcomes and potential projects into Asset Management Plan so external funding support can be sought for construction of new resilience improvement opportunities that are identified	Kaipara District Council and Whangārei District Council have developed a joint panel of contractors to complete remaining emergency recovery repairs, helping to save money and time for both councils Final recovery repairs are complex. The work is planned over the first two years of Council's Recovery-focused Long Term Plan 2024-2027
Stormwater inundation	Coordinate and undertake mitigation strategies to reduce future impacts on the natural environment where appropriate	Improve flood resilience of assets such as stopbanks and embankments	Council has completed and is currently working on multiple flood resilience programmes

Key long-term priorities Kaipara District Council | Kaipara te Oranganui

Issue/consequence	Desired outcome post-recovery	Actions	Status at 30 June 2024
Damage from fallen trees within road corridor	Ensure trees planted in the road corridor are maintained and do not cause disruptions to the roading and electrical network in future events	Support programmes to maintain trees in road corridor	Council has an ongoing programme to assess and monitor trees in the road corridor Where trees are identified as a safety issue, they may be removed after taking into account a technical assessment by an arborist, the feasibility of alternative solutions, and Unitary Plan requirements
Reduced water network resilience due to Civil Defence emergency	Improve water supply and treatment resilience	Improvements made to three waters network to ensure network is compliant and resilient to future events	Work continues on the Council's Recovery focused Long Term Plan 2024-2027
Damage to public assets such as community parks and facilities	Coordinate preservation of community assets	Develop a long-term plan to repair and rebuild affected community facilities and infrastructure	Work continues on the Council's Recovery focused Long Term Plan 2024-2027
Landslips	Continue to identify landslide restoration requirements using the most appropriate design and resilience options	Monitor unstable land and communicate risk profile to relevant stakeholders	Ongoing
Structures in low-lying and flood prone areas are at potential risk in future flooding events	Ensure risk reduction is considered in planning for rebuilding and reconstruction	Understand the impacts of events on the local environment, land remediated or retired	Ongoing



Whangārei District Council

Actions outstanding from Response phase

Issue/consequence	Desired outcome post-recovery	Actions	Status at 30 June 2024
Displaced residents	People provided with temporary accommodation	Identify who still requires support after emergency accommodation ends	Completed
Water treatment and supply disruptions	All water treatment plants operating – Whangārei Heads – water supply temporary overland	Restore all water treatment plants	Completed
Storm damaged homes	Flood- and slip-damaged homes assessed to be habitable	Continue rapid building assessments (RBAs)	Completed
Ongoing emergency welfare needs	Emergency welfare needs met	Provide emergency welfare services and support	Completed
Agricultural sector still impacted	Understand needs of ag sectors (stock farming, dairy, horticulture, poultry, aquaculture)	Intelligence gathering affected by communication and access issues	Completed
Roads closed	All roads open	Road opening works prioritised and undertaken	There were over 265 (Whangārei) road closures because of Cyclone Gabrielle The cost of road repairs from the impacts of Cyclone Gabrielle are \$16.3m

Key short-term recovery priorities Whangārei District Council

Issue/consequence	Desired outcome post-recovery	Actions	Status at 30 June 2024
Ongoing emergency welfare needs	Emergency welfare needs met	Provide emergency welfare services and support Activate a Mayoral Relief Fund to support affected community	Mayoral (Disaster) Relief Fund was activated. All funds were distributed of \$371 500 between March and the beginning of April 2023 The fund was made up of central government funding and contributions from fundraising efforts from fellow district councils in other parts of New Zealand unaffected by the cyclone
SH1 Brynderwyns slips, limited access and risk of further closures Detour routes on local roads damaged and not suitable for traffic volume and type Substantial additional transport and travel costs and social disconnection impacts Reduced road safety and increased carbon emissions	SH1 open Resilient and suitable detour routes available for planned and unplanned events	Raise with Ministers Weekly condition assessment and reporting Assess routes and provide cost estimate (IBC) for works including works required to bring the routes up to standard/LOS Carry out works to remain open	Completed NZTA completed repair works on the Brynderwyns between the end of March and end of June 2024. District council detour routes were the only access through from Northland to Auckland for this period which has had an economic impact on the region Whangārei District Council delivered ongoing maintenance to its detour routes in support of NZTA repairs The cost to Council for the detour is \$141 500 of local share (of total \$1.24m)

Key short-term recovery priorities Whangārei District Council

Issue/consequence	Desired outcome post-recovery	Actions	Status at 30 June 2024
Damage to local roads, slips, slumping, damaged surface, culverts, and water tables	Restored level of service and reduced risk of reoccurrence	Assess damage and repair work required. Prioritise and prepare work programmes Undertake damage repair works	Completed assessments Repair work is prioritised, and works being undertaken The cost to Council for road repairs is \$1.2m of local share (of total \$16.3m)
Localised flooding of buildings due to overwhelmed stormwater systems/reticulation, including blocked culverts	Reduced risk of building flooding from stormwater	Undertake water table and culvert clearing Assess damage and impacts and evaluate and report on risk reduction options (including more frequent inspection and clearing)	Completed Assessments undertaken in relation to stormwater flooding and locations at risk. Drains cleared/re-established: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Riverside • Morningside • Okara Drive • Ruakaka • Waipu Cove • Tanekaha Drive Work underway in Springs Flat and Kamo
Fallen trees and vegetation H&S, road safety, access issues and damage to infrastructure	Clearance and removal of fallen trees and problem green waste Restoration of safe access and amenity LOS	Assess damage and work required. Prioritise and prepare work programmes Clear and dispose of trees and green waste including within transport corridors & parks, and on farms and other private property	Council contractors completed most green waste issues Some impacted areas of parks have not been completed due to their complex nature and costs Some of these areas have allocated funding through the council's Long Term Plan for repairs. Other damaged areas will remain impacted for years to come
Slips and coastal erosion posing risks to (or from) council infrastructure, property, and community assets	Risk assessment and monitoring of significant slips, and coastal erosion	Slip assessments and monitoring programme established Preliminary risk assessments and prioritised remedial works programme prepared	Most slips have been assessed and the new Coastal Protection Works Policy developed Slip monitoring is in place for one slip and all other slips are being worked through normal council processes
Damage to Whangārei Heads Road water supply reticulation due to land slips and subsidence	More resilient water supply reticulation to Whangārei Heads (McLeods Bay to end)	Temporary and damaged or high-risk pipeline replaced and reinstated below ground	The temporary overland water pipe which was installed following the road slip which damaged the existing underground pipe is scheduled for replacement this financial year. Cost estimate \$1m
Risk to Whangārei Heads wastewater reticulation due to land slips and subsidence	Risk to wastewater infrastructure understood and managed	Risk assessment of failure of wastewater to Whangārei Heads due to slip undertaken and risk mitigation plan prepared	To be completed as part of the assessment of Parua Bay pumpstation. This work has commenced
Storm- and slip-damaged homes that have been assessed as unsafe and uninhabitable	Storm-damaged homes assessed to be safe and habitable or a plan in place to make safe or removed	Continue RBA if needed and establish a follow-up process to promote resolution	Council has amended the designation under the Building Act to include only Red & Yellow stickered buildings (not the whole district). Council is responding to requests to remove or change placards applied as repairs are undertaken or further engineering information is received to justify such changes

Key short-term recovery priorities Whangārei District Council

Issue/consequence	Desired outcome post-recovery	Actions	Status at 30 June 2024
Marine and coastal structures damaged	Make safe all access and flood protection structures	Assessment of all public coastal assets Develop prioritised programme of recovery with cost estimates	Assessment of all public coastal assets has been completed Prioritised programme to be developed this year
Rural sector impacts	Determine impacts and needs	Complete initial impacts and needs assessment for wider rural sector	Completed with support from the Rural Support Trust and Enhanced Task Force Green Council provided financial contribution of \$50 000 to Enhanced Task Force Green, led by Te Roroa and supported by the Ministry of Social Development, for the clean-up of rural properties in the Whangārei district
Farmland affected by slips and floodwaters	Remediate farmland affected by slips and floodwaters	Support provided for on-farm clean-up and remediation	As above
Widespread and prolonged telecommunications networks failure during and following cyclone	Resilient telecommunications networks. Including emergency services and support monitoring and operation of essential infrastructure	Request and advocate for significantly improved telecoms network resilience including backup power supplies	The Northland Mayoral Forum have continued to lobby central government in relation to transport, roads, power supply, and communications improvements and investment for Northland prior to and since Cyclone Gabrielle Meetings with MPs and progression in this area is a priority for all the Mayors and Chair of the four Northland councils
Learning from the impacts of this event Failing to use learnings from a major event will contribute to repeat impacts and increasing risk of worse impacts	Useful damage/ impact and hazard data, maps, and other learning available for consideration in planning, strategy and policy development, and decision-making	Establish processes to capture and record/map damage/impacts, and learnings from the event	Ongoing Discussions are underway regarding GIS and mapping support within a response and utilising a regional approach to this by sharing resources A Natural Hazard Plan Change is underway for the Whangārei District Plan. Engagement and consultation has been undertaken with the community
Psychosocial recovery of the community	Preserving community spirit and unity forged through adversity	Continue communications with communities Review need	Completed from response and recovery in 2023 During 2024, communications have continued with specific communities on areas still impacted by the cyclone and wider communications from Council have supported the ongoing recovery work e.g. Brynderwyns repairs, detour routes, placarded homes, and the progress of the reinstatement of the underground water pipe supply

Key short-term recovery priorities Whangārei District Council

Issue/consequence	Desired outcome post-recovery	Actions	Status at 30 June 2024
Loss of community support/ understanding of ongoing work		Keep community informed	<p>As above, Council has endeavoured to communicate with those people in the community still affected by the impacts of Cyclone Gabrielle</p> <p>Transportation impacts were addressed, through funding in the long-term plan 2024–2034, the impacts and ways Council will address these has been highlighted in the Long Term Plan as another form of communication to ensure community understand planned future work</p>

Key medium-term priorities Whangārei District Council

Issue/consequence	Desired outcome post-recovery	Actions	Status at 30 June 2024
Road network damage	<p>SH1 Brynderwyns open</p> <p>Local roads repaired to restored LOS and reduced risk of re-occurrence</p>	<p>SH1 Brynderwyns repaired to safe opening</p> <p>Programmed rehabilitation of affected roads</p> <p>Outstanding roading recovery and resilience improvement works, geotech assessments, options, estimates, and IBC prepared for input into RLTP preparation</p>	<p>A funding request for roading recovery and resilience improvements commencing with a single stage business case has been submitted in the Regional Land Transport Plan 2024–27</p> <p>With steady progress made across the delivery of emergency works activities, and the majority of reestablishment works now completed outside of remaining complex sites, council business is quickly returning to desired levels of service on our roading network. Deferred pavement activities, which were unable to be completed due to cyclone damages are on track to be completed this Financial Year 2024–2025</p>
Detour routes for SH1 Brynderwyns	Resilient construction to incorporate shared path combined with water/sewage alongside road	Reinstate road and any utilities	<p>Detour routes through Cove Road, Mangapai, and Paparoa–Oakleigh Road were impacted because of the 2024 Brynderwyn road closure while NZTA undertook repair works</p> <p>With State Highway 1 through the Brynderwyn Hills now reopened (early July 2024), Council are currently in the process of working with NZTA to determine traffic load impacts and the value of respective reinstatement costs to be undertaken</p>
Major infrastructure damage Whangārei Heads Road	Resilient construction to incorporate shared path combined with water/sewage	Reinstate road and utilities along Whangārei Heads Road – Castle Rock – Urquharts	Investigation underway for repair of Stormwater Assets associated with Whangārei Heads/Reotahi Road slip and programmed to be replaced in 2024/25 financial year. Budget is \$1m

Key medium-term priorities Whangārei District Council

Issue/consequence	Desired outcome post-recovery	Actions	Status at 30 June 2024
Active slips relating to infrastructure and community assets	Slip monitoring and risk mitigation	Follow up on active slips and execute work to mitigate risk	Slip monitoring in place for roading assets. Need to expand for other slips this year
Public tracks and walkways, beach access damaged and safe access reduced or lost	Safe public access restored	Restoration works undertaken	Tracks and walkways have been repaired except for Drummond Track which requires significant engineering and hapū engagement

Key long-term priorities Whangārei District Council

Issue/consequence	Desired outcome post-recovery	Actions	Status at 30 June 2024
Road network damage (following on from short- and medium-term)	Completion of outstanding repairs and rehabilitation Resilient and fit-for-purpose roading network including SH1, detour routes, and local roads	Works completed as per funded programmes Agreed and supported programmes in Regional Land Transportation Plan 2024	A single stage business case along with the pre-implementation, property, and full implementation has been submitted in the 2024–27 Regional Land Transport Plan Meetings with MPs and progression for transportation in Northland continues to be a priority for all the Mayors and Chair of the four Northland councils
Water network and water security risks	Improve water supply resilience including additions to reticulated networks and support for community not on network	Water network resilience improvement and community water security improvement options developed and included in Long Term Plan 2024–2034	Council will be undertaking planning for the Government's Local Waters Done Well. The issue of water resilience will likely be in the scope of the new entity
Underslips and coastal inundation stability issues throughout roading network	Full remediation of district roading network	Included in Long Term Plan RLTP, and NLTP for funding	Underslips which occurred and impacting on roading networks within coastal areas have been repaired through the initial emergency works programmes, delivered through to 20 June 2024 Phase 3 repairs included in Long Term Plan 2024–2034. Resilience Construction Framework Procurement Plan has been developed and expected to be tendered in August 2024
Coastal inundation and flooding of central Whangārei city	Reduced inundation and flooding risks for city centre and coastal infrastructure	Inundation risk reduction strategy developed along with climate adaption strategy Reinvigorate the Whangārei Flood Risk Reduction Working Group to review and pursue this	City Centre Flood Strategy funded in WDC and NRC Long Term Plan 2024–2034. Resources confirmed and validation/business case is commencing

Key long-term priorities Whangārei District Council

Issue/consequence	Desired outcome post-recovery	Actions	Status at 30 June 2024
Stormwater attenuation improved	More area in city centre to accommodate coastal inundation	Evaluate options of flooded properties in low-level areas for attenuation purposes	WDC has approved funding for stormwater attenuation associated with the Northern Growth Area and flood mitigation for Springs Flat/ Waitaua and Mangakino Streams Concept modelling is near completion Feasibility study complete by June 2025 Consents and land purchase by June 2026 Construction by June 2027
Structures in low-lying and flood-prone areas		District Plan to consider not allowing building in low lying areas (floodplains, swamps) and areas of instability	Plan Change 1: Natural Hazards (PC1) was notified in May 2023. PC1 includes new flood and instability hazard mapping for the District Plan and new rules to better manage new development and reduce risk within the mapped hazard areas. PC1 is still going through the statutory plan change process
Flood- and slip-prone areas	Prevent further built development to avoid increasing or reduce risk	Include information and learnings from event into district planning Land remediated or retired	If hazard mapping is updated in the future based on information from Cyclone Gabrielle, this could be considered for incorporation into the District Plan as part of a future plan change

Flooding in Whangārei's Walton Street. Photo by Michael Cunningham, NZME



Appendix B: Northland CDEM's role in disaster recovery

Under the *Civil Defence Emergency Management Act 2002*, CDEM Groups are responsible for 'the four Rs' of reduction, readiness, response, and recovery.

Northland CDEM's approach to this is outlined in the *Northland Civil Defence Emergency Management Group Plan 2021–2026*.

The Group Plan outlines the strategic direction of CDEM engagement, participation, planning, collaboration,

response coordination, management and governance, and how CDEM provides resilience to the people of Northland.

The Group Plan includes a dedicated section on emergency recovery, including recovery planning, functions, structure, management arrangements, and a five-year Recovery Action Plan. The current recovery from Cyclone Gabrielle follows the direction set out in this wider Group Plan.

Legislative definition of recovery

Section 4 of the CDEM Act provides the following definitions of recovery and recovery activities:

recovery means the co-ordinated efforts and processes used to bring about the immediate, medium-term, and long-term holistic regeneration and enhancement of a community following an emergency

recovery activity means an activity carried out under this Act or any civil defence emergency management plan to deal with the consequences of an emergency, including, without limitation,—

- (a) the assessment and ongoing monitoring of the needs of a community affected by the emergency; and
- (b) the co-ordination and integration of planning, decisions, actions, and resources; and
- (c) measures to support—
 - (i) the regeneration, restoration, and enhancement of communities across the 4 environments (built, natural, social, and economic); and
 - (ii) the cultural and physical well-being of individuals and their communities; and
 - (iii) government and non-government organisations and entities working together; and
- (d) measures to enable community participation in recovery planning; and
- (e) new measures—
 - (i) to reduce risks from hazards; and
 - (ii) to build resilience.



Responsibilities of the Group Recovery Manager

CDEM Groups are required to appoint a Group Recovery Manager, a statutory role that has both powers under the Act, and responsibilities set out in the *National Civil Defence Emergency Management Plan Order 2015*.

Under section 157 of the Order, the Group Recovery Manager:

- (b) undertakes planning and manages, directs, and co-ordinates activities for the recovery throughout its duration and, if necessary, establishes a CDEM Group Recovery Office to manage the recovery function; and

(e) co-ordinates the recovery activity of the relevant territorial authorities, lifeline utilities and agencies; and

(f) determines and prioritises major areas of recovery; and

(g) develops the group recovery action plan, to establish time-frames for the implementation of recovery activities; and

(h) co-ordinates advice on regional assistance; and

(i) provides regional-level co-ordination of public information related to recovery.

Northland's recovery planning

The Initial Regional Recovery Action Plan for Cyclone Gabrielle was issued on 23 March 2023 (three weeks after the transition from response to recovery), and the final was issued on 28 April (eight weeks after transition) as *Cyclone Gabrielle 2023 Regional Recovery Plan for Northland | Te Mahere Whakaoranga mō Te Tai Tokerau*. This plan was strongly informed by community consultation, and included community voice throughout the plan. The consultation was published separately in August 2023 as *Cyclone Gabrielle and Tai Tokerau Northland: Stories of community resilience and messages of support for the rest of Aotearoa New Zealand*.

Governance

The Cyclone Gabrielle Recovery Governance Group comprised the following members, drawn from the Northland CDEM Group (Joint Committee) and Coordinating Executive Group (CEG):

- Mayor Vince Cocurullo (WDC)
- Councillor Jack Craw, then Rick Stolwerk (Deputy Chair, Northland CDEM Group)
- Mayor Craig Jepson (KDC)
- Mariameno Kapa-Kingi (Te Kahu o Taonui)
- Chair Tui Shortland (NRC)
- Deputy Mayor Kelly Stratford (Chair of Northland CDEM Group)
- Snow Tane (Te Kahu o Taonui)
- Mayor Moko Tepania (FNDC)
- Mark Trüdinger, Northland CDEM Group Recovery Manager.

Governance oversight of the cyclone recovery returned to the Northland CDEM Group (Joint Committee) on 5 December 2023.



Appendix C: List of funding to Northland

This section contains the funding that we are aware of that came to Northland for Cyclone Gabrielle recovery. There may be other sources of funding not captured here – this funding was usually delivered directly by government agencies or non-government organisations. (If you know of other funding, please contact Northland CDEM and we can include in revisions to this report.)

Fund/funder	Purpose/recipients	Amount
ANZ New Zealand	Rural Support Trust Northland	\$100 000
Cyclone Gabrielle Appeal Trust Fund	161 organisations across Northland	\$3 586 028
DIA Recovery Structure funding	To support recovery structure costs for the region	\$600 000
DIA Regional Recovery Fund	To support Marae Preparedness	\$1 139 700
DOC	Heritage and Visitors	\$1 300 000
DOC	Biodiversity	\$900 000
DPMC	Recovery structure costs	\$660 000
Local Government Flood Resilience Co-investment Fund Tranche 1	7 flood mitigation and early warning projects across Northland (4 KDC, 3 NRC)	\$8 885 000
Local Government Flood Resilience Co-investment Fund Tranche 2	4 flood mitigation and early warning projects across Northland (3 KDC, 1 WDC)	\$3 030 000
Mayoral Relief Fund – FNDC		\$537 775
Mayoral Relief Fund – KDC		\$532 619
Mayoral Relief Fund – WDC		\$371 500
MBIE (via Northland Inc)	Cyclone Gabrielle Business Recovery Grants	\$8 626 865
MBIE	Taitokerau Business Resilience Project (Northland Inc)	\$500 000
MBIE	Tourism project (Northland Inc)	\$500 000
Ministry of Housing and Urban Development	60 relocatable cabins for iwi / Māori providers	\$10 500 000
MPI	Farmer and grower recovery grants	\$11 470 000
MPI Initial mobilisation fund	Northern Wairoa Vegetable Growers Association, Vegetables NZ, Onions New Zealand	\$439 500
MPI	Additional funding to Rural Support Trust Northland	\$262 726
MSD Civil Defence payments		\$3 559 401
MSD – Community Food Funding	Community food providers	\$945 000
MSD – Enhanced Task Force Green (ETFG)	Support for farmers in Te Kaipara post Cyclone Gabrielle	\$772 000
MSD – Iwi Partnership Fund	Capability & Capacity Building and Emergency Preparedness funding into iwi	\$438 600
MSD – Mental Wellbeing Fund	Mental wellbeing initiatives	\$200 784

MSD – NIWE Employment	Funding for employment initiatives	\$2 800 222
MSD – Social Sector Recovery Funding	Resilience and preparedness initiatives	\$535 425
National Resilience Plan Phase 2	Urgent maintenance and upgrade works for Kaitaia Airport*	\$5 400 000
Northland Regional Council	Removing trees from rivers project	\$500 000
MBIE Community Renewable Energy Funds programme		\$1 300 000 (approx.)
Red Cross New Zealand Disaster Fund	Community organisations across Northland	\$1 078 770
TPK	Tranche 1 (in emergency response / into transition)	\$150 000
TPK	Tranche 2	\$1 680 000
TPK	Kāinga Rua fund	\$111 700
TPK	Critical repairs to NIWE impacted Māori homes	\$9 470 000
Total known funding to Northland**		\$82 883 615

In addition to the above list, central government has provided funding for Council-controlled roads and state highways managed by NZ Transport Agency Waka Kotahi (NZTA). This funding does not meet the amounts needed to rebuild the roads affected in Northland, and we await the outcomes of future funding announcements.

* 'Funding injection to support Kaitāia Airport's resilience', located at <https://www.beehive.govt.nz>, 5 October 2023.

** This total should not be quoted – it is indicative only, based on funding that we are aware of.

MPI also provided national funding for the following projects that included Northland:

Organisation	Project description
BML Consulting	Implementing the Lifestyle Block Support Programme to support underserved lifestyle block rural communities impacted by Cyclone Gabrielle.
Seafood Sector Network Trust (FirstMate)	Wellbeing and resilience programme for those in the seafood sector and their whānau in cyclone-affected areas.
Rural Support Trust	Extra funding to support recovery efforts from the North Island weather events and support the delivery of free and confidential assistance to farmers and growers facing challenges.
New Zealand Oyster Industry Association Inc	Supporting the New Zealand farmed Pacific oyster industry's recovery from marine farm damage resulting from Cyclone Gabrielle and other recent storm events across the top of the North Island.
Horticulture New Zealand Recovery Project	Coordinating community-led recovery, increasing community members access to the support needed for their recovery, delivery of specialised support and information resources, support for the movement of community coordinators and specialist advisors into and around isolated regions, and providing expert advice to inform decision-making and management actions.
Rapid Relief Team NZ	Community events providing meals and fencing supply packs to farmers, with mental health advisers, financial advisers, and farm advisers present.

Appendix D: Organisations involved in this recovery

Many organisations and government agencies have been involved in the recovery over the last 18 months. Schools, marae, workplaces, rūnanga, sports and service clubs, churches and religious organisations, and more have all assisted their communities to rebuild and recover.

Here is a short list of groups, organisations, and government agencies who have worked directly with Northland Civil Defence Emergency Management on formal recovery projects, or supported the recovery in many ways. Of course, there are many other groups who have just got on with supporting their communities that we haven't even heard about – and that's how civil defence works in New Zealand.

We've tried to capture everyone we've worked with directly, but if we've forgotten anyone, please let us know, and we'll add you to future editions of this report!

155 Whare Āwhina | Whare Āwhina o 155

1News

2degrees

Adapt Research

Adaptterra

AgFirst

Ahipara CRG

Akerama CRG

ANZ New Zealand

Aotearoa Recovery Forum

Auckland Emergency Management

Australian Institute for Disaster Resilience

Australian Journal of Emergency Management (AJEM)

Avail Pacific Limited

Baylys Beach Community Centre Trust

Bay of Island Veterinary Services

Beef + Lamb New Zealand Ltd

Bland Bay CRG

BML Consulting

Brendan Morris Consulting

Calders Design and Print

Canterbury Civil Defence Emergency Management Group

Chorus

Citizens Advice Bureau

Community Wellbeing Recovery Network

Connecting People

Crown Infrastructure Partners | Hanga Ngātahi

Cyclone Gabrielle Appeal Trust Fund

Cyclone Gabrielle Recovery Governance Group

Cyclone Recovery Taskforce, Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet

Cyclone Recovery Unit, Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet

Dairy NZ

Department of Conservation | Te Papa Atawhai

Department of Internal Affairs | Te Tari Taiwhenua

Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet | Te Tari o te Pirima me te Komiti Matua

Department of the Premier and Cabinet (South Australia)

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Far North Holdings

Far North Vets

Federated Farmers of New Zealand

Fire and Emergency New Zealand | Whakaratonga Iwi

FMG

Fonterra

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 Whakaora Kai Food Rescue Northland
 Whakapara CRG
 Whakapirau CRG
 Whakapirau Residents and Ratepayers Association
 Whananaki CRG
 Whangārei Community Networkers
 Whangārei District Council
 Whangārei Heads CRG

Appendix E: Acronyms list

ADMS	Advanced Distribution Management System
AWEM	MPI's Animal Welfare Emergency Management team
CDEM	Civil Defence Emergency Management
CDC	Civil Defence Centre (sometimes known as an 'evacuation centre')
CEG	Coordinating Executive Group [for CDEM]
CLC	Community-Led Centre (sometimes known as an 'evacuation centre' or community hub)
COWs	Cells On Wheels
CREF	Community Renewable Energy Fund [MBIE]
CRG	Community Response Group
DIA	Department of Internal Affairs Te Tari Taiwhenua
DOC	Department of Conservation Te Papa Atawhai
DPMC	Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet Te Tari o te Pirima me te Komiti Matua
ECC	Emergency Coordination Centre
EDB	Electricity Distribution Business
EGL	Enabling Good Lives, a social movement instigated through Whaikaha – Ministry of Disabled People
EOC	Emergency Operations Centre
EQC	Earthquake Commission Toka Tū Ake (Natural Hazards Commission as of 1 July 2024)
ETFG	Enhanced Task Force Green
EWA	Emergency Works site Assessment
FAR	Funding Assistance Rate
FNDC	Far North District Council Te Kaunihera o Tai Tokerau ki te Raki
FOSAL	Future of Severely Affected Locations programme
GIS	geographic information system
GP	General Practice/s [doctors]
ICNZ	Insurance Council Of NZ – Te Kāhui Inihua o Aotearoa
KDC	Kaipara District Council Kaipara te Oranganui
LOS	loss of service
LSBCC	Lifestyle Block Community Champion
MBIE	Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment Hikina Whakatutuki
MHUD	Ministry of Housing and Urban Development – Te Tūāpapa Kura Kāinga
MoE	Ministry of Education Te Tāhuhu o te Mātauranga
MPI	Ministry for Primary Industries Mantū Ahu Matua
MSD	Ministry for Social Development Te Manatū Whakahiato Ora
NAL	North Auckland (rail) Line
NCDEM	Northland Civil Defence Emergency Management Te Rākau Whakamarumarū o Te Tai Tokerau
NEMA	National Emergency Management Agency Te Rākau Whakamarumarū
NGO	non-government organisation
NIWE	North Island Weather Events [including the Auckland Anniversary Severe Weather Event, Cyclone Gabrielle, and others]
NRC	Northland Regional Council Te Kaunihera ā rohe o Te Taitokerau
NZTA	NZ Transport Agency Waka Kotahi
OMS	Outage Management System
RCG	Rural Carrier Group – government-funded cell sites
SLSC	Surf Life Saving Club
SME	small and medium-sized enterprises
TAS	Temporary Accommodation Service [MBIE]
TPK	Te Puni Kōkiri, Ministry of Māori Development
WDC	Whangārei District Council

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Cyclone Gabrielle and Tai Tokerau Northland: Stories of community resilience and messages of support for the rest of Aotearoa New Zealand (August 2023), available from <https://www.nrc.govt.nz/resource-library-summary/plans-and-policies/civil-defence/cyclone-gabrielle-stories-of-community-resilience/>

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Koia rā e Rongo, whakairia ake ki runga

Kia tina! Tina! Hui e! Tāiki e!



NORTHLAND
EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

GROUP