



MINO-4284 Emergency Work Response in the Wairarapa Region

28 August 2023

Emergency Work Response updates on transport infrastructure rebuild following severe weather events in the Wairarapa region

Waka Kotahi NZ Transport Agency's response:

Wairarapa Council has faced significant damage from recent storm events, including Cyclone's Hale (2023) and Gabrielle (2023). These weather events have resulted in widespread and severe impacts that warranted a National State of Emergency Declaration.

The eastern coastal corridor of the Wairarapa region experienced a level of damage and disruption similar to some of the worst affected areas of the country. Parts of the rural South Wairarapa were further affected through flooding and landslides, cutting off several roads to coastal and hill farms.

Events like these have highlighted the vulnerability of critical infrastructures such as the local roading network. In addition, the impacts of the severe weather events have created further trauma and vulnerabilities in the resilience of Wairarapa communities because of the damage (or risks of damage).

Summary of impacts and consequences on transport infrastructure due to severe weather events:

Information referenced from the Cyclone Gabrielle Recovery Action Plan by Wairarapa Recovery:

Environment	Summary of Impacts	Consequences (short-term)	Consequences (Longer-term)
Built	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Roothing infrastructure damaged or disrupted.• Rural infrastructure damaged or destroyed.• Utilities like power and water supply networks disrupted• Properties flood damaged• Closure of Masterton-Castlepoint Road, and all roads east of the closure point, for 3-4 days	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Temporarily cut-off and isolated• Unable to communicate• Residents temporarily displaced• Residents now needing to clean-up and repair damages• Additional pressure on family budgets• Farmers/horticulturalists experiencing additional costs, disruption to business activity and loss of livelihood• Damage to the roading network	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Anxiety over the ongoing vulnerability of some built infrastructure (e.g., roads not built to cope with climate change, houses built in flood zones etc.)• Total roading recovery costs in Masterton district is likely to be greater than \$10 million. A number of roads in the district still require further engineering assessment and a



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Economic

- Closure of Tora, White Rock, Hinekura & Pahaoa roads for 3-4 days
- included massive over and under land slips, flooding and debris, culvert and subsoil stormwater systems washed out, damage to bridging abutments at Homewood, Mataikona, Tinui. Silt laden swale drains and culverts and fallen and dangerous trees on and over the road corridor.
- Cost of initial roading response in Masterton district estimated at \$1,350,000.
- Disruption and damage to farming and horticultural infrastructure, crops and stock
- Temporary loss of access to places of business
- Damage to some local businesses in places like Tinui
- Unexpected cost of repairing damaged businesses
- Disruption to income earning capacity
- Impact on cashflow
- Loss of usable land for agriculture
- Uninsured crops
- 38 individuals and groups received funding through the Wairarapa Mayoral Fund, with \$269,454 distributed.
- 13 business received funding through the MBIE Business Support Grant process with \$250,000 paid
- A number of farmers and agriculture businesses received funding through MPI.
- Higher cost of insurance
- Higher business costs in general
- Higher levels of debt
- Need to adjust business practices to mitigate future risk
- High level of economic stress which could impact physical and mental health
- Business failure

programme of work to reinstate prior levels of service on at least 17 roads in the district.



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Social

- Lost connectivity
- Social isolation
- Disrupted routines
- Lack of capacity to prioritise community interaction
- Closure of roading network in eastern part of Masterton district isolated many communities, particularly Tinui, Castlepoint, Riversdale and Mataikona
- Road closures in South Wairarapa isolated Tora, White Rock, and Hinekura/Pahaoa communities.
- Feelings of anxiety/depression
- Rising levels of mental and physical health issues
- Suicide/depression
- Residents leaving the area
- Family violence
- Higher level of ongoing need for welfare services – particularly mental health

If affected communities are not supported effectively, the built, economic, and social issues as outlined in the table above are expected to increase in risk.

Although this has outlined several risks and issues surrounding recovery, it has also indicated that there are opportunities to advance local resilience and risk mitigation work programmes through access to central government recovery funding.

Waka Kotahi expects to receive claims of the following amounts from Councils in 2023-24:

Masterton

- Cyclone Gabrielle - \$12,280,173 (requested)
- Cyclone Hale (January 2023 Flooding Event) - \$2,824,362 (requested)

Carterton

- Cyclone Gabrielle - \$602,286 (estimated)
- Cyclone Hale (Storm Event) - \$2,277,582 (estimated)

South Wairarapa

- Cyclone Gabrielle - \$525,687 (estimated)
- 22 June 2022 (Hinekura Road) – options are still under review.



In 2022-23 we approved the following amounts for a range of events, including Cyclones Hale and Gabrielle. The Funding Assistance Rates (FARs) varied from 52% to 97% (depending on the Council's base FAR), with repairs to Cape Palliser Road funded 100% by Waka Kotahi.

The total expenditure for each council is as follows:

Masterton

- Total cost: \$9,619,673
- Waka Kotahi share: \$7,982,805
- Masterton share: \$1,636,868

Carterton

- Total cost: \$1,523,712
- Waka Kotahi share: \$1,215,696
- Carterton share: \$308,016

South Wairarapa

- Total cost: \$3,218,453
- Waka Kotahi share: \$2,775,201
- South Wairarapa share: \$443,252