

General Circular

Investment: No 23/01

Subject	Special Emergency Works Funding Assistance Rate for territorial local authorities impacted by Cyclone Gabrielle and the late January 2023 heavy rainfall event.
Circulation	All Approved Organisations Waka Kotahi (Transport Services) Local Government New Zealand Office of the Auditor General
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Date	6 th April 2023

Purpose

This general circular sets out the Special Funding Assistance Rate (FAR) approved by the Waka Kotahi NZ Transport Agency to be applied to eligible emergency works associated with Cyclone Gabrielle and the January 2023 Auckland Anniversary weekend flood events (North Island Weather Events (NIWE)).

Background

The Cabinet in February 2023 approved an appropriation of \$250 million to the National Land Transport Fund for the period to 30 June 2023 to support the transport sector initial response works for NIWE.

This has enabled the Waka Kotahi Board to approve a Special Funding Assistance Rate (Special FAR) for initial response works for approved organisations impacted by these events.

Special Funding Assistance Rate

The Waka Kotahi Board has approved a time limited Special FAR for the period until 30 June 2023 of normal FAR plus 40%, to a maximum of 100%.

The Board may also consider bespoke FAR adjustments above the Special FAR (up to 100%) based on evidence of financial hardship.

For Waka Kotahi (state highways) and KiwiRail activities, the Emergency Works FAR is their normal FAR of 100%.

Eligibility Criteria

The Special FAR applies to initial response works in relation to NIWE only. The initial response phase covers the work necessary to reopen a road or other facility, where practicable, to at least a single-lane facility for safe use by traffic or to minimise risk of further damage. The recovery phase (permanent reinstatement - work that is required to restore the road network to its former, or a similar, condition) is not included under the Special FAR.

Approved Organisations are required to create their Emergency Works requests by completing the template in Transport Investment Online in the usual way for all years. Waka Kotahi will review the request and complete funding approval in the usual way:

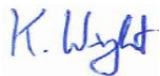
- the Special FAR applies to costs incurred up to 30 June 2023, and
- the balance over the remaining years of the request will be processed in line with usual Emergency Works policy (in the interim).

Events and eligible costs that qualify for the Special FAR will:

- have been incurred in the period of the Auckland Anniversary weekend floods and /or Cyclone Gabrielle in February 2023.
- cover the initial response (i.e., emergency works and developing solutions for reinstatement or permanent solutions) costs of the events
- be clearly defined, named, and described, as Auckland anniversary weekend flooding event and /or Cyclone Gabrielle.
- for approved organisations impacted by both events, a single application may be made but we expect that as far as is practical approved organisations will maintain separate records of their response and reinstatement costs for managing each event.
- conform to the [Work category 141](#) standard eligibility criteria and conditions of funding for emergency works.
- be subject to an end of year audit and review of the above.

Funding of works beyond 1 July 2023

Waka Kotahi is working with the sector and government to understand the likely total costs and funding implications for the full recovery from the effects of Cyclone Gabrielle and the Auckland Anniversary weekend flood events. We expect that announcements on the government response to these events will become clearer in late May or early June 2023. We will then be able to determine what if any additional funding assistance beyond the Waka Kotahi standard enhanced Emergency Works FAR of normal FAR + 20% may be available for reinstatement and recovery works.



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