

General Circular

Investment: No 24/01

Subject	Special Emergency Works Funding Assistance Rate for territorial local authorities impacted by Cyclones Hale and 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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Purpose

This general circular advises the Special Funding Assistance Rate (FAR) and eligibility criteria approved by the Waka Kotahi NZ Transport Agency to be applied to the initial response phase of the emergency works associated with Cyclone Gabrielle and the January 2023 Auckland Anniversary weekend flood events (together, the North Island Weather Events (NIWE)) and/or from Cyclone Hale.

This General Circular supersedes the earlier general circular *No 23/01 Special Emergency Works Funding Assistance Rate for territorial local authorities impacted by Cyclone Gabrielle and the late January 2023 heavy rainfall event (GC23/01)* and consolidates the Waka Kotahi Board decisions with respect to application of the Special FAR. Specifically, this General Circular removes the 30 June 2023 time limitation, extends the Special FAR to initial response works attributable to Cyclone Hale alone and clarifies the eligibility criteria.

The Special FAR will apply to the 2021-24 three-year National Land Transport Programme (NLTP) period only. Waka Kotahi does not commit to offering this special FAR beyond the 2021-24 NLTP, i.e. not beyond 30 June 2024.

Background

The government's budget (May) 2023 made additional funds available to Waka Kotahi to address response and recovery costs associated with NIWE.

This has enabled the Waka Kotahi Board to approve removal of the 30 June 2023 time limit for initial response works and to extend application of the Special FAR to initial response works attributable solely to Cyclone Hale. This will ensure consistency with the approach taken to application of the Special FAR to eligible emergency works for approved organisations impacted by NIWE.

Special Funding Assistance Rate

The Waka Kotahi Board has approved the application of the Special FAR to all eligible NIWE and Cyclone Hale related initial response costs for approved organisations at a rate of normal FAR plus 40%, to a maximum of 100%.

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 the 2022/23 and 2023/24 years in relation to damage resulting from NIWE and/or Cyclone Hale only. The initial response phase is defined as:

- covering 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, debris clearance from roads, bridges and paths, temporary route reinstatement, emergency bridging installation (e.g. Bailey bridges etc), restoration of drainage, temporary site protection measures, and temporary site traffic management. It also covers minor reinstatements or non-complex recovery, geotechnical and structural investigations and programme scoping, costing and planning for recovery.

Waka Kotahi will apply the Special FAR to initial response costs as follows:

- NIWE includes Cyclone Gabrielle (being the severe weather event which crossed the North Island during the period commencing on 12 February 2023 and ending on 16 February 2023) and the Auckland Anniversary flooding event (being the heavy rainfall commencing on 26 January 2023 and ending on 3 February)
- Cyclone Hale refers to the severe weather event which crossed the North Island during the period commencing on 12 February 2023 and ending on 16 February 2023.
- Where damage has occurred from **both** Cyclone Hale and Cyclone Gabrielle / Auckland Anniversary flooding event, then the entire event is treated as being from Cyclone Gabrielle / Auckland Anniversary flooding event. A single application may be made but we expect that as far as is practical approved organisations will maintain separate records of their initial response and reinstatement costs for managing each event.
- All works will conform to the [Work category 141](#) standard eligibility criteria and conditions of funding for emergency works.

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.

Recovery phase costs

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. Our current default position for funding of subsequent work (i.e. post initial response) is:

- Recovery works (i.e. reinstatement in the same location to a similar level of service) would be funded in line with the Waka Kotahi emergency works policy.
- Rebuild works (i.e. reinstatement or rebuild that incorporate improvements, retreat or realignment) would be funded as capital improvement projects i.e. funded at normal FAR and may trigger the need for a business case approach.

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