

Remaining focused on recovering

After the February cyclone, as we transitioned into recovery mode, the Tararua District Cyclone Gabrielle Recovery team designed a 100 day plan. That plan was focused on understanding the challenges ahead for our people, properties, businesses and infrastructure.

Now we're about to finalise our Long Term Recovery Plan – these are the pieces of the puzzle that will take us the next

two or three years to finish. And being able to finish all the elements in this plan is dependent on the impact of further weather or other emergency events.

There's a few things in there that might create some delays. There's things we can't control. But what we can control is how we respond to the



Don Cameron

challenges we're facing each day. It's hard at times to stay positive, to remember to be grateful for even the smallest wins, but that's why it's also important to remember we're all in it together.

We've attracted expertise and funds from around the country to help our little district move forward. We

really appreciate that councils, organisations and individuals from everywhere in Aotearoa have sent koha through for our Mayoral Relief Fund, and the Government has been supporting our roading and infrastructure and other needs to the tune of many millions. For this aroha, we're extremely grateful.

For the latest updates on Recovery, visit www.tararua.govt.nz/recovery.

We all need a bit of support from time-to-time to get back on track. If you or someone you know is struggling, there is free help available. Free call or text 1737 any time 24 hours a day. You can also call lifeline on 0800 543 354 or text HELP to 4357.

Cyclone impacts



2,378 road network faults recorded



91 high complexity faults



440 medium complexity faults



1847 low complexity faults



41 bridge waterways cleared, 14 structural faults, 6 bridge railing faults



473 dropouts identified (551 open from historic events)



Approx 200 farms impacted (slips, flooding etc)



9 roads closed in total across the region



3 properties red stickered. 13 yellow stickered



Ladies who lunch

Rural Support Tararua hosted 90 people at their recent Ladies Lunch.

Rural Recovery Lead Jane Tylee was grateful to entertainer Lisa O'Neill for "an energy lifting and entertaining session, just what we needed before heading into a busy lambing and calving season."

RST Tararua also wanted to shout out to Joy & Roz from Raffaelli Catering who put on a fantastic lunch.

Tararua receives Lottery funding for Starlinks

A Tararua District Council application for funding Starlink satellite hubs has been granted by the Lottery Grants Board.

Isolated areas of the district were unable to communicate during the February cyclone and that prompted the Tararua District Cyclone Gabrielle Recovery Team to work with the district Emergency Management Officer Peter Sinclair (pictured right with a Starlink) to identify how to build resilience.

"Lessons learned from Cyclone Gabrielle Response efforts and also from other Councils has shown that we can now cost-effectively and easily deploy modern systems to isolated areas in order to enable those communities to access the outside world," Built Recovery Lead Mike Dunn says.

Lotteries has granted \$8196 to purchase the Starlink systems, which will be housed in the district's four council service centres in Dannevirke, Eketahuna, Pahiatua and Woodville. Other hubs would be stored by the Mr Sinclair for use in the event of an emergency.



"Getting these satellite communication hubs out to areas affected by emergency events will ensure there is a central location from which communities can access the internet, which will mean they can call, video and send through updates," Mr Dunn says.

■ For any recovery enquiries, phone the Council's Customer Service team - 06 374 4080 (North) or 06 376 0110 (South), or email: info@tararua.govt.nz.

Roads will take time

It's likely to be another two or three weeks (weather-dependent) before the road through the Marainanga Gorge is open. Tararua Alliance Contract Manager Andrew Desmond says further work might still be required at some stage.

"We've done some ground testing in the gorge – core samples, to work out what it's like under the road. There's some dense rock underneath and if we can dig down to it, we might be able to stabilise the bit we haven't touched. We've completed the 300 metres towards the Coast, there are another 300 metres back towards the bridge that are still quite vulnerable," he says.

Mr Desmond said as recovery moves into the medium to long-term complexity jobs, the work focus is moving to planning and design for these bigger jobs.

Tararua Alliance is looking for more engineering resource.

"We're recruiting – two supervisors will start shortly to oversee medium complexity field operations. We've got a new project engineer on board and we will need another shortly."

"Our 160 day grace period for emergency works re resource consents is nearly running out, so we're having to get back into the consenting space. So that's a lot of work and extra time. For instance, all the slip material that's been cleared, we're having to go through the major dump sites and get them consented."

"In the meantime, we're asking people to look out for deterioration of roads. With around 600 dropouts we can't keep eyes on them all the time. About 34% of our 1960km of roads have dropouts on them, generally a lot of those roads get formally inspected once a month, some of those back country roads even less so. We really appreciate hearing from people if they notice things are not looking good in their area. Contact the Tararua District Council."

Other updates:

- With Otanga Rd an options report is being developed to present to council.
- In the past couple of weeks Ngapaeruru Rd (Te Uri) opened.

Friday 25 August - Save the date!

The Recovery team is working with Rural Support Tararua to bring Te Radar to our community for a chinwag and some fun!

The Back on Track event will involve afternoon tea in affected communities and a fun fundraiser event the evening of Friday 25 August.

Back on Track is a Recovery campaign initiated to focus on re-establishing ourselves following the cyclone. We understand things have been and continue to be tough for some. We want to look forward and plan events and

communications that reflect our resilience as a community.

The venue, time and details of the events are yet to be finalised, but we want to acknowledge comedian/raconteur/farming advocate Te Radar has offered his time for free to support the Tararua recovery.

Put the date in your calendars and keep an eye on our website www.tararua.govt.nz/recovery, and Rural Support Tararua's Facebook page www.facebook.com/RuralSupportTararua.