

The Tararua District has the fourth largest roading network of any New Zealand council, and ours was hit hard by Cyclone Gabrielle.

In the 2357 roading network faults eventually tallied, we have quite a number of very complex issues to resolve. Our teams have already

resolved 1025 of the faults - in some places, we've been able to clear up slip mud and rocks and things are back to normal. In other places, our work to re-establish a resilient road may take years.

In today's Tararua District Cyclone Recovery advertisement



Don Cameron

we've decided to focus on explaining what's happening with our roading network, as best we can, as of June 2023. Things will change and they will improve. Any weather events this winter or even over the next couple of years will have the potential to impact our programme, but what we're

hoping is that we will end up with resilient routes around our district which provide reassurance to our residents.

For further information about any of our work, visit our Recovery web pages – [www.tararua.govt.nz/Recovery](http://www.tararua.govt.nz/Recovery).

If you are having an ongoing problem because of the cyclone, please make sure you report it via

the Antenna app - [www.tararua.govt.nz/contact-us/antenna](http://www.tararua.govt.nz/contact-us/antenna), or ring the Tararua District Council 24 hours / 7 days a week: 06 374 4080 (North) or 06 376 0110 (South).

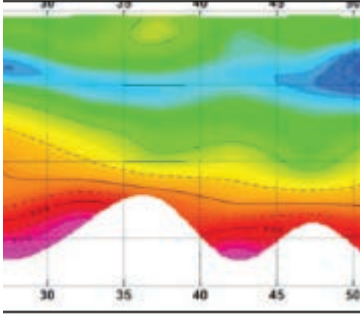
Thanks and be careful out there!  
*Don Cameron*  
Local Recovery Manager

Geological ground assessments on Ormondville - Te Uri road



Anyone out and about on the Ormondville-Te Uri road recently would have wondered what they were looking at. As part of our geological ground assessments, a string of microphones are dragged along and a large weight/hammer dropped on to the road, this sends sound waves through the ground beneath to provide an understanding of the underlying ground density.

Tararua Alliance Project Manager Blake Hedley says the information gained is important. "We need to know how the hill above the road will react if we



undertake earthworks and cut into it. "This is a technique I don't think we've ever used in the Tararua District before – the way the different colours depict different ground density is pretty cool!"



Coast Road – 2.2km from Pongaroa

**Job:** Culvert outlet repair and outlet stabilisation  
**What's going on?** Flows from existing culvert had scoured the outlet on the downslope to the adjacent stream. The culvert has been relocated and enlarged to accommodate increased flows expected due to the increasing severity of weather events. Rock rip-rap outlet protection has been used and the dropout repaired with a "terramesh" wall.  
**Outcome:** The road has been reinstated to full width, with surfacing scheduled for spring.

Marainanga Gorge update



**Job:** Work is progressing to provide temporary access along Coast Road at the Marainanga Gorge.  
**What's going on:** Rock rip-rap (uniformly graded large rocks) has been recovered from the riverbed and laid along the southwest embankment where the original downslope "toe" of the old road formation used to be. The existing remaining road has been benched down and compacted as fill material. At the southern end, the road has been lowered and moved into the gorge as additional fill.

Higher quality material has been imported to construct the foundation to create a more resilient road that is less likely to erode during high flows. To provide additional protection, a layer of geo-fabric is being placed along the face of the fill, then lined with small rip-rap, before the large recovered rock rip-rap is placed over this. Work crews will return to complete the final pavement construction. We anticipate that the final road height will be lower than the previous road, but wider. A lower road may result in water occasionally overtopping the embankment.  
**Outcome:** Once access is restored, the Tararua Alliance is planning to place the works on hold to seek funding and allow more detailed engineering considerations to be made.

Our planned approach to repairing our roading network

Cyclone Gabrielle

Initial investigation and immediate repair phase  
(February/March 2023)

- Identification of faults
- Immediate repairs: eg: Removing falling trees, clearing slips, opening and closing roads etc
- Received \$10million from Waka Kotahi to do this work

Short to medium term repair phase  
(March – December 2023)

- Maintaining/re-establishing roading access
- Assessment of faults (including repair options and cost of repairs)
- Request for funding submitted to Waka Kotahi for further \$23million to complete short to medium repairs
- Design & engineering if needed
- Procurement of contractors
- Construction / Repair

Longer-term planning  
(December 2023 – ongoing)

Council is working closely with Waka Kotahi and Government to secure funding for long-term planning and construction for medium to complex work, and building resilience into our network. We'll let you know when we know more.

Cyclone impacts



2,357 road network faults recorded



3 roads still closed



489 dropouts on our roads



246 flood site areas on our roads



14 bridges require structural foundation work



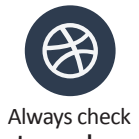
8 major river systems inspected



Approx 200 farms impacted (slips, flooding etc)



3 properties red stickered. 13 yellow stickered



Always check [www.tararua.govt.nz](http://www.tararua.govt.nz) for the latest cyclone-affected roading updates.