



**5 July
2023**



Community update

Karekare cyclone recovery

We will be sending out this update regularly when new information related to Karekare's recovery is available. We hope that the information in the updates will be relevant for most community members.

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Have we got your details?

If you've received this newsletter via email, then we're all good – we have your correct contact details.

If it has been passed on to you by someone else or you're reading it via a website or social media channel, please [sign up via this online form](#). (Privacy and spam regulations don't allow us to use our contact details from existing council information for general communications, so if you would like to receive updates, we need you to [sign up via this online form](#).)

We hope that the information in the updates will be relevant for most community members, so please also help us spread the word on this update to your neighbours and friends in Karekare.

Simon says... An update from Simon Fraser, Community Liaison Lead for Piha and Karekare



With the Recovery Office's work progressing well, but with still a lot of work to do, I'm pleased to let the community know my role as Community Liaison Lead for Piha and Karekare has been extended until the end of the year. This will allow for continuity for the community, particularly as we prepare for the risk categorisation process to be finalised and significant infrastructure remediation work to begin, including the restoration of Piha Road.

As we roll into the winter months, the wet weather continues in both Auckland and the rest of the country. Rainfall and ground saturation data in Auckland are exceeding historic highs – but we just need to look out the window to see how wet the ground and our surroundings are! I want to thank both the Piha and Karekare communities for their resilience and patience so far. The passion and connection you have for your community and surrounding environment is something truly special!

With it now being over four months since the cyclone. Please know we are working as quickly as possible to provide you with the certainty you need. With the scale, complexities and long-term ramifications of this recovery work for residents, it's critical we get things right the first time to avoid any further disruption.

We're also seeing a huge draw on technical expertise and equipment to support recovery work, not only across Auckland but across the whole North Island as some areas continue to be affected by the wild weather. The result of this is that recovery work can't commence as quickly as we would like, particularly when it requires in-demand geotechnical or engineering expertise, or specialist roading equipment, for example.

As always, please feel free to reach out to me with any recovery-related queries – either through email at karekare@aucklandcouncil.govt.nz, or at one of my drop-in clinics (dates below) at the Piha Community Library, or if you see me out and about in the community.

Drop-in clinics

Simon Fraser, Community Liaison Lead for Piha and Karekare, will be available to discuss any recovery-related issues from Cyclone Gabrielle and Auckland Anniversary weekend floods at the Piha Community Library, 10am to 12noon, Monday July 10, Monday July 17, Monday July 24 and Monday July 31.

Can't make these times? Feel free to email Simon at karekare@aucklandcouncil.govt.nz.

Auckland Transport (AT) update

The initial phase of repair works on Lone Kauri Road and Karekare Road is nearing completion and should be completed within the next week, weather dependent.

Some additional drainage works will be continuing at Lone Kauri Road over the next few weeks, which will be undertaken under standard stop/go signage. We thank you for your patience with the works team throughout this time.

AT will begin the next phase of permanent slip repairs in approximately 8-10 weeks' time. Additional road closures and traffic management will be in place to support these works as and when they occur. We'll provide updates on this next phase of the road repair programme ahead of works re-commencing.

Cordons

With the initial phase of repair work on roads into Karekare approaching completion, we are reviewing the cordon access restrictions into the area.

The current cordon restrictions were put in place using emergency powers under the Civil Defence Emergency Management Act 2002 to "restrict or prohibit public access to prevent, limit or reduce the consequences of an emergency." As safety issues with roading access are nearing resolution and mitigations put in place, the Group Recovery Manager needs to review the cordons, taking into account the public interest for freedom of movement. We intend to complete this review over the coming week as previously advised.

AT has undertaken an assessment of both Lone Kauri and Karekare Roads and is comfortable that an increase in the volume of traffic will not compromise the road. However, as the roading authority they reserve the right to close the road or put other controls in place if high levels of rainfall are recorded in the area to reassess it again to ensure safety.

Please also note that we are also reviewing security arrangements and concerns in conjunction with the NZ Police, and we will keep you updated about this in coming updates. In the meantime, please continue to ensure houses are secure and call the Police in the first instance to report any suspicious behaviour.

With that in mind, we propose to review the cordons at the top of Lone Kauri Road and Karekare Road with the options of removing 'residents only' access restrictions on either Thursday 13 July or Monday 17 July, both at 6am. Weight restrictions (3.5 tonnes) and 30 km/h speed restrictions will remain in place until further notice.

If you'd like to provide any feedback regarding the proposed change to the Karekare cordons, please email Simon at karekare@aucklandcouncil.govt.nz before 5pm, Tuesday 11 July. We will confirm with the community if the proposed cordon changes are going ahead on Wednesday 12 July.

With the recent rainfall and current soil saturation in the area, there is the potential for small slips to occur over the coming months. The AT team are ready to respond and clear these slips should they occur.

Central Government update

On Friday 30 June, Minister Grant Robertson [issued a press release with an update](#) about central government and councils' plan for sharing the costs of buying out high risk (Category 3) properties.

The key details are:

- More time is required to work through the policy and parameters.
- This includes how properties will be categorised, and which homeowners will be offered a voluntary buy out.
- Central government now expects to have details of the cost-sharing arrangements resolved by the end of July (previously end of June).

Minister Robertson said, "I want to reassure people who want certainty so they can relocate or rebuild their home, that this is a priority for the Government."

Building Assessments update

Updated placard status numbers in Karekare as of Monday 3 July:

- Red 1 – 3
- Red 2 – 8
- Yellow 1 – 9
- Yellow 2 – 11
- White – 101

There are different reasons why these numbers may differ each week, including:

- If remedial action has been confirmed and approved by the council's compliance team, then the placard can be noted as closed and removed off the list.
- It is identified as a duplicate and removed.
- It was confirmed as one placard for a building with multiple postal addresses but sits in our system as one legal property.

Visit the [Auckland Council website](#) to learn more about what the placard colours mean.

Clarification – the difference between Rapid Building Assessments, Risk Categorisation, and interim Geotechnical updates

Following feedback from the community, we wish to clarify the different assessment processes that have been enacted since Cyclone Gabrielle and as the weather Recovery continues. The table below outlines the differences and connections between these processes:

	Identifiers	Purpose	Connections	Where to go for more information
Rapid Building Assessment (RBA)	Building Placards (Red/Yellow/White)	A rapid building assessment is a central government process that we carry out to ensure that a building is safe to use following an extreme weather event. Is a statutory obligation under the Civil Defence Emergency Management Act 2002 and Building Act 2004.	All reds and yellows are assigned an RBA case manager	Placards issued to properties after a natural disaster
Risk Categorisation	Category 1, 2 and 3	Three risk categories were announced by the New Zealand Government to apply a framework for homes affected by recent extreme weather and residential properties that may be considered high risk in future events.	Risk Categorisation for properties in Piha and Karekare will be finalised following the completion of GHD's investigation into long term risk from wide-scale land instability	Property categorisation and resolution in storm affected areas
Geotechnical field mapping – initial results	Brown/Purple/No colour	To give an initial	Also allows for a refined approach to reassessment of RBA placards in some areas	22 June Piha community update 22 June Karekare community update

For further questions regarding these processes, please contact:

- Your RBA case manager if you are a Red or Yellow Stickered property owner for question related to the RBA process
- Simon at karekare@aucklandcouncil.govt.nz for any other questions

NEMA's Cyclone Gabrielle Welfare Support Grant for Community Organisations Extended

The National Emergency Management Agency's (NEMA) Cyclone Gabrielle Welfare Support Grant has [extended its deadline for applications to 31 August](#).

The grant is available to reimburse costs already incurred by marae, iwi, and recognised community organisations (including rural groups, Pacific organisations, and ethnic service providers) to care for people who were affected, displaced, or isolated during the state of national emergency.

[Visit the NEMA website for information on eligibility and the application form.](#)

Rubbish collection for flood-damaged household goods

If your property has been downgraded from a red placard and you now need to get damaged household goods removed, please call Auckland Council on 09 301 0101 to arrange collection. You will be entitled to two free collections.

Need mental health support?

If you need mental health support, such as help with anxiety, financial help, support for young people, or you'd like to know how you can help others, please visit the [Auckland Council website for a list of available services](#).