



**20 July  
2023**



# Community Newsletter

## **Muriwai Beach cyclone recovery**

### **Temporary Accommodation Assistance for displaced homeowners**

Yesterday the Government announced that from 4 September, people who were displaced from their homes by the extreme weather events earlier this year will be able to receive interim financial support when their insurance payments for temporary accommodation run out.

#### **How will it work?**

Direct weekly payments will match your actual weekly rent, with different caps for different household situations:

| Household situation  | Maximum weekly payment |
|--|------------------------|
| A couple with two or more children / a single parent with three or more children | \$610                  |
| A couple with one child / a single parent with two children                      | \$560                  |
| A couple with no children or a single parent with one child                      | \$480                  |
| Single person  | \$330                  |

Displaced families eligible for this payment can receive a lump sum payment covering them from as early as 1 June 2023.

Applications can be submitted through [MyMSD](#) from 21 August.

#### **Am I eligible?**

- You must have a tenancy agreement from before 19 July 2023, and have been displaced from the home you own following the extreme weather earlier this year.
- If you are still receiving temporary accommodation assistance from your insurer, you will only be eligible for the package once this cover runs out.

- Payments will not be means-tested, but you will be asked to declare that you have taken reasonable steps to limit the cost of your temporary accommodation and MSD will be able to take into account your wider financial circumstances.
- Payments can only be used for private rentals, not commercial accommodation such as hotels and motels.
- You will not be eligible if you are already receiving the Accommodation Supplement or the Student Allowance Accommodation Benefit.

More information about eligibility criteria and how to access the payments are available in the Government FAQs here: <https://www.beehive.govt.nz/sites/default/files/2023-07/NIWE-TAA-QA.pdf>.

## **Re-placarding**

As part of the ongoing geotechnical assessment of land stability and risk to properties in Muriwai, engineering firm GHD identified a group of properties that are likely to be outside the influence of the debris flows from the main slopes and have not been affected by smaller scale local landslides.

GHD recommended to the council late last week that 11 properties could have their placards downgraded. Final inspections of these properties by compliance staff took place early this week, and property owners have been informed, with a formal placard change letter to follow. In some cases, this will mean that some people can return to their homes, which is great news. The council is really pleased to be able to safely return people to their homes after several months.

The evaluation of the wider Muriwai area is ongoing, and we expect to receive the recommendations by late August. The findings of this report will feed into the separate process of applying the Government's property risk categories to homes in Muriwai, and we're looking forward to being able to provide certainty to more homeowners when we can.

## **Motutara Road water management update**

Further to last week's update, Downer is continuing drain clearance work on Motutara Road and Domain Crescent. This work is expected to take approximately three to four weeks and will include roadside open drains and private driveway culverts on open drains. Healthy Waters is continuing installation of 'scruffy domes' and various other work as required:

- Road sweeping and cleaning of silt deposited on public roads and footpaths as required
- Catchpit cleaning
- Identifying properties that have excessive water flow and install sandbags or silt cloth to reduce impact.

## **Geotechnical update – stage 2**

Further progress has been made on drilling in the past week at Muriwai, with five of the nine boreholes completed and drilling commencing on Domain Crescent. A total of 150 metres have been drilled to date, of the 360 metres proposed.

Currently completed locations are BH-M01 (Oaia Road) and BH-M08, BH-M07, BH-M09 (Motutara Road), BH-M05 (Domain Crescent) and are currently drilling BH-M06 (Domain Crescent) (see Figure 1).

There is one remaining hole to complete on Domain Crescent and two on Oaia Road. Plans are for drilling to be completed in Muriwai in early August.



Figure 1: Drilling locations (Red dots)

## Rates relief - correction

In last week's newsletter we said that owners of uninhabitable properties can still apply for a refund of their February and May 2023 rates instalments. Unfortunately, this was incorrect. The funding allocated for rates relief for uninhabitable properties is now exhausted.

We sincerely apologise for this mistake and we regret that this information was published.

The council's Governing Body will be considering an extension of rates relief for uninhabitable properties on 27 July and the outcome of this decision will be communicated following the meeting.

## Building assessments update

Updated placard status numbers in Muriwai as of Thursday 20 July:

- Red 1 96
- Red 2 6
- Yellow 1 23
- Yellow 2 31
- White 0

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.
- A building with multiple units was allocated a single placard when it should have had a placard allocated for each address.

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

## Watercare update

A recent geotechnical and structural engineering assessment has confirmed that with further repair work, the Muriwai water treatment plant and reservoir could be in operation by the summer.

While repair work gets underway, the temporary reservoir and pump station will remain in operation and continue to be replenished by tankers.

Investigations are ongoing for additional long-term water solutions in the Muriwai area.

## Weather this weekend

MetService has issued a Heavy Rain Watch for Auckland and Great Barrier Island from 08:00 pm Thursday 20th July until 02:00 pm Friday 21st July, and a Strong Wind Watch from 10:00 pm Thursday 20th July until 06:00 am Friday 21st July.

Check their [website](#) for updates.

## 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, you can sign-up to receive this newsletter directly to your inbox.

### Previous newsletters

If you're new to the Muriwai Newsletter, please visit our website to read [previous editions](#).



### Need help?



Visit: [aucklandcouncil.govt.nz/recovery-muriwai](https://aucklandcouncil.govt.nz/recovery-muriwai)  
Enquire: [muriwai@aucklandcouncil.govt.nz](mailto:muriwai@aucklandcouncil.govt.nz)



Write: Auckland Council, Private Bag 92300  
Victoria Street West, Auckland 1142 | DX CX 10032



