



**27 July
2023**



Community Newsletter

Muriwai Beach cyclone recovery

Rates relief approved

This afternoon, Auckland Council’s Governing Body approved full rates relief for uninhabitable properties affected in the extreme weather events in the first half of 2023. This will be for the full rating year – July 2023 to June 2024 and applies to properties uninhabitable as at 30 June 2023.

Red placard properties will be automatically eligible, other uninhabitable properties will need to apply. We know you will have questions about how this will work. We’re preparing more information which will be available online shortly. We will also send you an email update when this is available.

Categorisation update

We understand that affected property owners in your community are seeking certainty about your future as soon as possible. We acknowledge that many people are in stressful situations and are financially stretched, but please be assured we are working as fast as we can to provide certainty on next steps. We hope that the Government’s new temporary accommodation financial support will ease some of the financial burden for many households whose insurance support is running out.

Government proposed buyout programme for Category 3 homes

We are currently in the final stages of discussion and negotiations with central government on funding arrangements for Category 2 and 3 homes. This will be a buyout programme of unprecedented scale and cost to Auckland ratepayers, and we ask for patience as we work through these complex details. We may need to consult with Aucklanders around the funding arrangements and remediation works (e.g. house removal and new infrastructure).

We hope to be able to share details soon – the Cyclone Recovery Minister indicated the Government wishes to complete this process by the end of July, and we will make announcements as soon as possible. We will also be able to set expected timeframes for buyouts in the coming weeks.

We acknowledge that the process has been delayed from the original timeframe set by the Government in May, however there are many significant decisions to be made on extremely complicated issues, and we're balancing the need for certainty quickly with the need to get the process right.

In our previous newsletter, we referred to the technical risk assessment process as 'separate' from the process to determine details for buyouts for Category 3 homes. This is because the technical process to understand which homes will fall into which risk categories has been taking place at the same time as negotiations around the policy and funding for the buyout programme.

Next steps

We will likely have details on what the buyout programme will look like in general before risk categories in Muriwai can be determined, as the GHD geotechnical findings will be available in late August (see below for expected timeline).

Engagement with affected property owners in the geotechnical study area

The planned sequence for communicating the outcome of the GHD programme to homeowners within the GHD study area is:

1. Meeting for affected homeowners within study area on Tuesday 29 August. We will contact this group directly with a meeting invite. A draft copy of the geotechnical report will be provided to property owners ahead of the meeting.
2. At the meeting, Ross Roberts, Head of Engineering Resilience, will explain the report and answer your questions.
3. This will be followed by a 5-day period for feedback before the report is finalised. This is something which has been requested by property owners. Following the close of the feedback period, feedback will be considered, and the report finalised for publishing.

Based on the findings of the report, property owners will receive confirmation of whether their home is inside the risk zone (and therefore in Category 3) or whether they are outside the risk zone and can have their placard downgraded.

Geotechnical update – stage 2

Another drillhole was completed and piezometer (groundwater monitor) installed at Muriwai last week, with six of the nine boreholes completed – a total of 190 metres drilled to date, of the 360 metres proposed. Drilling will be back on Oaia Road for the rest of the week.

Currently completed locations are BH-M01 (Oaia Road) and BH-M08, BH-M07, BH-M09 (Motutara Road), BH-M05 and BH-M06 (Domain Crescent) and are currently commencing drilling BH-M03 (Oaia Road) (Figure 1 – see next page).

There is one remaining hole to complete on Domain Crescent and one on Oaia Road.

Figure 1: Drilling locations (Red dots)

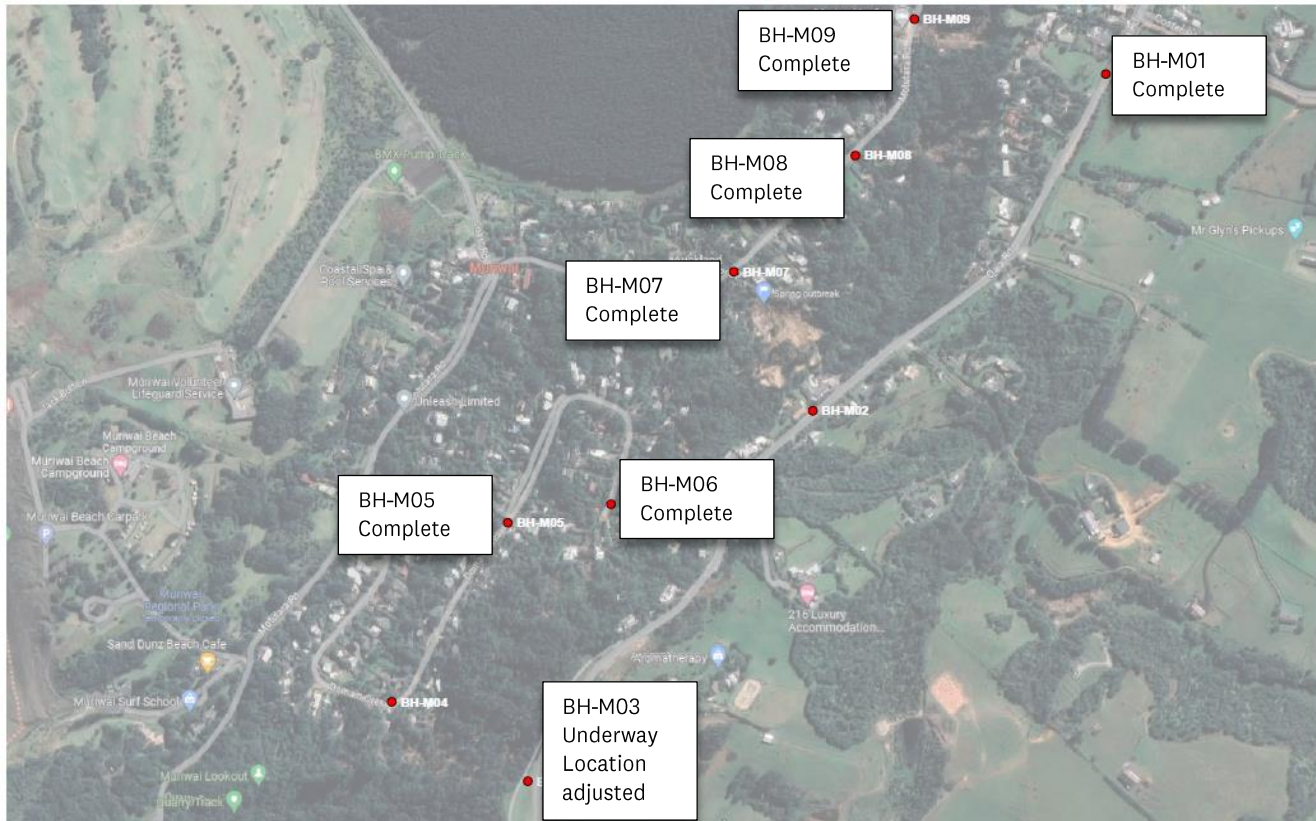
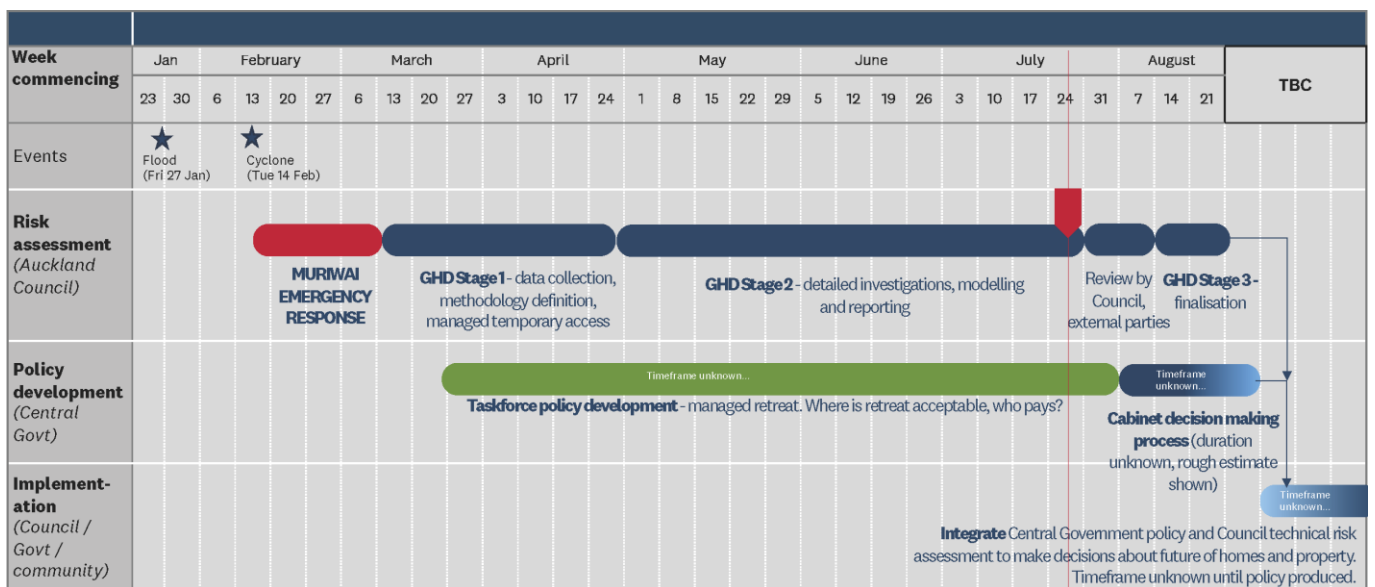


Figure 2: Project timeline



Motutara Road reopening

We are working towards safely reopening Motutara Road as soon as we can – we understand the delays associated with the ongoing bad weather is frustrating. An ongoing GHD geotechnical assessment (separate from the wider assessment of slopes in Muriwai) is critical and will inform a decision on when the road can be reopened. It is possible that further work on the slope may be needed to stabilise the road. We will provide further updates on this as soon as possible. We know your community needs certainty as soon as possible, but we are balancing this with ensuring safety.

As council continues work on water management on Motutara Road, we would also like to acknowledge the work that has been done by community members on clearing drains. We have had feedback that the water situation has improved, and we thank those in the community that have given their time to help with these efforts.

Building assessments update

Updated placard status numbers in Muriwai as of Tuesday 26 July:

- Red 1 96
- Red 2 6
- Yellow 1 22
- Yellow 2 28
- 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.

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
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