



**20 July
2023**



Community Update

Piha cyclone recovery

We will be sending out this update regularly when new information related to Piha's recovery is available.

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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 Piha.

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



I hope you all managed to find some time to relax and connect with loved ones over the Matariki long weekend - I know I certainly appreciated the extra time to reflect, catch up on some life admin and sleep-ins!

It was really great to see the Piha Matariki Festival be such a success, including seeing the restoration of some of the community's mana after such a tough start to the year.

We're continuing to work as swiftly and effectively as we can to help progress the recovery efforts.

It was great to see this week one of these initiatives coming to fruition, with the government's [announcement of additional accommodation support for displaced residents](#). This has come about due to some strong advocacy from the community, as well as behind-the-scenes lobbying from Recovery Office staff.

Finally, I wanted to note that public consultation began this week on Local Board plans for 2023. The Waitākere Ranges Local Board plan includes initiatives to support the recovery efforts, such as community resilience plans to help prepare for future emergencies, supporting the West Coast Gallery, and the restoration and enhancement of ecosystems in the Waitākere Ranges Heritage Area. I encourage you to have your say on the proposed plan for 2023, and you can find [further details online](#).

As always, please feel free to reach out to me with any recovery-related queries – either through email at piha@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 24 and Monday July 31.

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

Central Government Update

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 access 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 4 September.

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.

Auckland Transport (AT) update

We are awaiting confirmation from AT about a start date for works to repair damage to Piha, Glenesk and Rayner Roads.

For any new roading or existing roading issues, such as potholes or clogged road culverts, please feel free to [report these to AT online](#).

Geotech Update

GHD's current focus for Piha is continuing to review property files and assessment of information gathered so far and providing evidence to support the review of RBA placards where possible. Field mapping and GIS database work has been completed.

Information that is being included in the above review and assessment includes LiDAR (which stands for 'Light Detection and Ranging'- a 3D remote sensing method that uses light to measure and produce pictures of the exact distance of an object), aerial photographs, desktop studies of available historical data, anecdotal evidence collation, reviews of geological maps and NZ Geotechnical Database, field mapping, geomorphological interpretation and assessment of Auckland Council information.

The methodology being used for by GHD is the [Australian Geomechanics Society Landslide Risk Management method \(AGS-2007\)](#). This method was originally developed in 2007 and is widely used as best practice by the geotechnical industry across New Zealand. This has been used in assessing land stability in other parts of the country, such as the Port Hills following the

Christchurch Earthquakes. The system considers the individual likelihood of a landslide occurring, of it reaching a dwelling and of residents being impacted.

GHD has advised that the landslide risk assessment work is on track against the estimated timeline, which was outlined in the [25 May Newsletter](#).

Rapid Building Assessments (RBA) Update

Updated placard status numbers in Piha as of Wednesday 19 July:

- Red 1 – 10
- Red 2 – 8
- Yellow 1 – 16
- Yellow 2 – 9
- 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.

In our last update, we clarified the difference between Rapid Building Assessments, Risk Categorisation, and interim Geotechnical updates, following feedback by residents. Please find this information [here](#).

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.](#)

Welfare Workshops

Over recent weeks, the Recovery Office has had conversations with Piha locals about mental wellbeing courses, which are a great way to come together to learn more about mental health with others who are on a similar journey.

With thanks to the NZ Disaster Relief fund, the Tāmaki Makaurau Recovery Office has arranged for a free community workshop for the Piha community.

The ‘Cyclone Recovery Matters’ course will be held on: [Sunday 23 July, 1pm – 4pm at the Karekare Surf Club](#)

[Register here](#)

This course will be facilitated by the Red Cross for Piha and Karekare residents, and helps people manage their emotions and the responses that people around them have to a disaster.

As outlined on the [event page](#), “Come and unpack the science of stress and its impact on how we feel, function, and relate to others. The workshop provides practical tips and tools to help yourself—or those you’re supporting—through the recovery process.

Learning outcomes

1. Understand the impacts on people after an event and recognise distress responses.
2. Be aware of responses in recovery.
3. Learn about Dr Rob Gordon’s ‘four processes of recovery’.
4. Be reminded of how to look after yourselves

The course will run for 3 hours, please bring a drink bottle. Capacity is limited to 24 people. Due to activities the workshop can only proceed with a minimum of 10 people.

If there is demand, we will look to run another session for Karekare and Piha at a later date.”

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](#).

Waitākere Ranges Regional Park

Our staff are continuing to assess damage and accessibility, with a view to opening more areas as soon as possible, while considering the impact on the community. This includes geotechnical assessment on some tracks.

We ask the public to respect all closures and not remove any barriers or signage currently in place. This is for people’s own safety, and to not add to environmental damage in the area, including the threat of spreading kauri dieback disease.

We continue to encourage visitors to check our [map of open and closed tracks](#) on the Auckland Council website before heading out.

Tracks that have recently reopened:

- Byers Loop (2 June)
- Mercer Bay Loop (17 June) – please note that Comans Track has a barrier in place (pink line in image below), as it still needs repairs.



Damaged tracks are likely to reopen in the short to medium term:

- Comans Track
- Ahu Ahu Track
- Gibbons Track
- Muir Track
- Slip Track
- Caves Track (Whatipu)

Damaged tracks that will not be open for some time:

- Laird Thomson Track
- Tasman Lookout Track
- Marawhara Track
- White Track
- Lion Rock Track
- Lake Wainamu Track (full loop)

Damaged tracks awaiting geotechnical reports:

- Gannet Track / Takapu Refuge

- Quarry Track
- Lookout Track
- Edwin Mitchelson Track
- Auckland City Walk
- Knutzen and Kitekite tracks (including access to Kitekite Falls)
- Zig Zag track

Please note no geotechnical reports for these tracks have been received, hence the lack of progress with these tracks.

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.

Weather this weekend

MetService has issued a heavy rain watch for Auckland and Great Barrier Island from 8pm Thursday 20 July until 2pm Friday 21 July, and a strong wind watch from 10pm Thursday 20 July until 6am Friday 21 July.

Check their [website](#) for updates.

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Previous newsletters

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



Need help?



Visit: <http://www.aucklandcouncil.govt.nz/piha-community-newsletters>
Enquire: piha@aucklandcouncil.govt.nz or rbacomms@aucklandcouncil.govt.nz



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

