



**5 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



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 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 10, Monday July 17, Monday July 24 and Monday July 31.

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

Auckland Transport (AT) update

Planning and design work to ensure long-term, sustainable solutions for repairing damage to Piha, Glenesk and Rayner Roads is nearing completion. We expect to share updates on this work in the coming weeks ahead of construction works, which will begin in a staged approach over the next few months.

Both bridges on North Piha Road - Wekatahi/Melville Stream Bridge and Marawhara Culvert - have been assessed. At present, there have been no structural integrity issues identified with either bridge, and they are safe to use.

Initial repairs have been completed on the Wekatahi/Melville Stream Bridge, with a permanent repair solution currently being developed.

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 Piha as of Monday 3 July:

- Red 1 – 10
- Red 2 – 9
- Yellow 1 – 15
- Yellow 2 – 9
- White – 155

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 indication of potential wide-scale land stability from the geotechnical field mapping and review of evidence collected from the community.	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 piha@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.

Supporting the Piha Matariki Festival 2023

Auckland Council and the Waitākere Ranges Local Board is pleased to be supporting the Piha Matariki Festival from 14 - 17 July 2023. The Waitākere Ranges Local Board, through the Event Partnership Fund, has recently approved a small grant to support promotion of this community event and help bring everyone together following the extreme weather events earlier this year.

You can find more information about the Piha Matariki Festival at www.pihamatariki.com.

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](#).



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

