



**3 May
2023**



Community update

Piha cordon to be lifted at midday on Friday

We would like to thank the Piha community for the patience and resilience shown as we worked towards being able to safely lift the Piha cordon. We appreciate the past few months have been a time of great uncertainty, and we have always had safety as the key driver in our decision making.

We're really pleased to be able to announce that the cordon restricting access into Piha will be removed at **midday on Friday 5 May**, opening up the area to non-residents again.

The necessary safety and roading assessments and community consultation have been completed and Auckland Council and Auckland Transport (AT) are now confident that the outer cordon at Anawhata Road can be removed without any risk to public safety.

Journey times will be longer travelling to and from Piha than what people were used to before Cyclone Gabrielle, so allowing extra time for your journey is advisable.

Should emergency vehicles need to access the community they will take preference over general traffic.

We will publicly announce the lifting of the Piha cordon later today.

Piha Road

Piha Road will remain as one lane in a section near the main lookout. To keep people safe on Piha Road we have temporary traffic lights in place for the small one-lane stretch into Piha near the lookout. Recent geotechnical assessments show the road can safely cope with increased traffic when the cordon lifts.

Contingency plans are in place to reassess Piha Road if heavy rainfall and/or land movement were to occur, to prioritise the integrity of Piha Road.

Plans for permanent repairs to Piha Road continue, and we will update the Piha community via these community updates once we have completed our technical assessments and initial design work.

Scenic Drive at Elevation café

Scenic Drive will also continue to be down to one lane in a section near the Elevation café. To keep people safe on Piha Road we have temporary traffic lights in place for the small one-lane stretch. Additional geotechnical monitoring equipment is also in place to monitor any changes.

Rayner Road

The residents-only cordon with security presence will remain at the entrance to Rayner Road. This is due to the ongoing safety risk from slips and land instability. Additional geotechnical monitoring equipment is also in place to monitor any changes.

Marine Parade South

The residents-only cordon will remain at the entrance to southern arm of Marine Parade South, with additional security presence. This is due to the ongoing public safety risk from slips and remediations works.

Security

The council has reviewed security arrangements for Piha in conjunction with the NZ Police and there will continue to be a security presence in the area over the coming weeks. This will be reviewed regularly, and changes communicated via these community updates. Community members are reminded to ensure houses are secure and call the Police in the first instance to report suspicious behaviour.

Cordons remain at Muriwai and Karekare

Cordons remain in place at Muriwai and Karekare and access is limited to residents and emergency personnel only.

Auckland Council continues to assess the situation and will provide updates in due course.

Weather update

As we send this update, predicted rainfall intensity and volume over today and the coming days, has the potential to cause surface flooding and slips.

AT and Healthy Waters maintenance teams are on standby across Auckland to respond to any flooding or landslide issues. Existing landslide sites have been made as safe and secure as possible and will continue to be monitored. Drainage systems have been inspected in flood-prone areas to ensure they are operating to their capacity.

Please remain vigilant and if you see any land movement, please report this to Auckland Council by calling (09) 301 0101 or **if it is an emergency, call emergency services on 111.**

If you are out and about on the roads, drive to the conditions.

Auckland Emergency Management recommends that people keep a close eye on the weather forecast and to be prepared if MetService issues any further watches or warnings. As at 9am Wednesday 3 May, there are no weather watches or warnings in place for Auckland.

Preparing for bad weather

- Check your drains and gutters to ensure they aren't blocked. These can cause flooding issues during heavy rain.

- Secure outdoor furniture and items in your back yard.
- Keep an eye on the weather forecast.
- Take extreme care if you are driving in heavy rain, and delay trips if possible. Do not drive through floodwaters.
- **If life or property is at risk, phone 111.**
- Looking out for neighbours, friends and family will also be important, especially if you live, work or travel in an area that is prone to flooding, slips or power outages.
- Fallen trees, blocked drains or debris on public property can be reported to Auckland Council using our online '[Report a Problem](#)' tool.
- If your property is damaged, take photographs for your insurer as early as possible.

Auckland Transport update

Repair programme

We are pleased to advise that Downer has been awarded the contract to manage the repair works for the Piha community. Downer is currently working on the investigation and design process and as soon as this is completed will be providing us with their work programme which we will share in this community update.

We expect Piha Road reconstruction to begin in approximately 3-4 months, once the design and planning work are complete. Once we start construction, it will take 1-2 months to complete.

Rates relief for uninhabitable homes

The application date for rates relief for impacted property owners has been **extended until Friday 5 May 2023**.

In April we contacted placarded property owners with information on how ratepayers with uninhabitable homes could access financial support to help to pay their rates. Placarded customers were contacted via email (or via text where we don't hold an email address) so if you have not heard from our grants team, we may not have contact details for you. You can email the grants team (erfgrants@aucklandcouncil.govt.nz) for application details.

Sign up to our community updates

We will be sending out this update regularly when new information related to Piha's recovery is available. You can [find our first update from 26 April here](#).

Privacy and spam regulations don't allow us to use your contact details from existing council information for general communications, so if you want to receive updates, we need you to [sign up via this online form](#).

We hope that the information in these 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.



Need help?



Visit: aucklandemergencymanagement.org.nz/flood-event-2023/piha-community-information
Enquire: piha@aucklandcouncil.govt.nz or rbacomms@aucklandcouncil.govt.nz



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