

**Civil Defence Emergency Management
Group Meeting
Tuesday 6 June 2023 at**

AGENDA

Civil Defence Emergency Management Group Meeting Agenda

Meeting to be held in the Council Chamber
36 Water Street, Whangārei
on Tuesday 6 June 2023, commencing at

Recommendations contained in the agenda are NOT decisions of the meeting. Please refer to minutes for resolutions.

MEMBERSHIP OF THE CIVIL DEFENCE EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT GROUP MEETING

NZ Police Representative
Superintendent Tony Hill

NRC Councillor Jack Craw

FNDC Councillor Kelly
Stratford

WDC Mayor Vincent Cocurullo

FENZ Representative Wipari
Henwood

NEMA Representative Chloe
Marshall

KDC Councillor Gordon
Lambeth

KARAKIA / WHAKATAU

RĪMITI (ITEM)

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Alan Bee, NRC Hydrology Monitoring Officer, will provide a presentation to the group on rainfall and hydrology

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TITLE: Confirmation of Minutes - 29 November 2022


From: Erica Wade, Personal Assistant - General Manager Community Resilience

**Authorised by
Group Manager/s:** Louisa Gritt, Group Manager - Community Resilience, on

Ngā mahi tūtohutia / Recommendation

That the minutes of the Civil Defence Emergency Management Group meeting held on 29 November 2022, be confirmed as a true and correct record and that these be duly authenticated with the Chair's electronic signature.

Attachments/Ngā tapirihanga

Attachment 1: Unconfirmed minutes 29 November 2022 [↓](#) 

Civil Defence Emergency Management Group Meeting
29 November 2022

CDEM Group Meeting Minutes

Meeting held in the Council Chambers, 36 Water Street, Whangārei
on Tuesday 29 November 2022, commencing at 11.30am

Tuhinga Present:	Cr Jack Crow	NRC Representative
	Cr Kelly Stratford	FNDC Representative
	Mayor Vince Cocurullo	WDC Representative
	Cr Gordon Lambeth	KDC Representative
	Wipari Henwood	FENZ Representative
	Tony Hill	NZ Police Representative
	Chloe Marshall	NEMA Representative (Observer)
I Tae Mai In Attendance:	Alistair Wells	FNDC Controller / Contractor
	Bill Hutchinson	NCDEM
	Brendon Gray	NCDEM
	Cliff Metcalfe	NCDEM
	Evania Arani	NCDEM
	Gerry McGregor	Department of Corrections
	Graeme MacDonald	NCDEM
	Jenny Calder	NCDEM
	Cr Joe Carr	NRC
	Cr John Blackwell	NRC
	Laura Exton	NCDEM
	Mark Trüdinger	NCDEM
	Mayor Moko Tepania	FNDC Alternate Representative
	Cr Nicholas Connop	WDC Alternate Representative
	Rachel Hill	NCDEM
	Cr Rick Stolwerk	NRC Alternate Representative
	Sarah Boniface	NCDEM
	Zach Woods	NCDEM
	Rachael King	Meeting Secretary

The Meeting Secretary declared the meeting open at 11.31am

1.0 KARAKIA WHAKAMUTUNGA

Mark Trüdinger

2.0 NGĀ WHAKAPAHĀ | APOLOGIES

Vince Cocurullo (for lateness)

Jason Marris

Secretarial Note – agenda order changed

Civil Defence Emergency Management Group Meeting
29 November 2022

6.0 ADMINISTRATIVE

6.1 Appointment of Civil Defence Group Chair and Deputy Chair

Moved (Craw / Lambeth)

THAT the report 'Appointment of Civil Defence Group Chair and Deputy Chair' by Graeme MacDonald, Emergency Manager and dated 27 October 2022, be received.

THAT FNDC Councillor Kelly Stratford be elected Chair of the Northland CDEM Group joint committee.

Carried

Moved (Stratford / Connop)

THAT NRC Councillor Jack Craw be elected the Deputy Chair of the Northland CDEM Group joint committee.

Carried

3.0 NGĀ WHAKAPUAKANGA | DECLARATION OF CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

- It was advised that members should make declarations item-by-item as the meeting progressed.
- Cr Kelly Stratford advised that she is a member of the NEMA Ministerial Committee

4.0 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

4.1 Confirmation of Minutes

Moved (Connop / Henwood)

THAT the minutes of the Civil Defence Emergency Management Group meeting held on 6 September 2022, be confirmed as a true and correct record.

Carried

5.0 RECEIPT OF ACTION SHEET

5.1 Receipt of Action Sheet

Moved (Craw / Connop)

THAT the action sheet be received.

Carried

- An update was provided on Item 2: Multi Agency Co-ordination Centre – at the CEG meeting this morning the four CEs agreed to move ahead, looking at how to raise the funding shortfall and will report back to next meeting
- Item 3 update – the Waipapakauri AM mast was decommissioned in July and removed in September – this has now been reinstated and is operating again. Ohaewai and Otaika masts were also due to be removed – funding has now been secured to keep them operational.

11.41am – Vince Cocurullo joined the meeting

Civil Defence Emergency Management Group Meeting
29 November 2022

6.0 ADMINISTRATIVE

6.2 Northland CDEM Group, CEG and Group Appointments

Moved (Cocurullo / Craw)

THAT the report 'Northland CDEM Group, CEG and Group Appointments' by Graeme MacDonald, Emergency Manager and dated 18 November 2022, be received.

THAT the delegations for declarations of emergencies are noted.

Carried

- The requirements for a quorum were clarified – all members (or alternates) must be present in order to form a quorum

7.0 NATIONAL

7.1 National Emergency Management Agency November Update

Moved (Cocurullo / Craw)

THAT the report 'National Emergency Management Agency November Update' by Graeme MacDonald, Emergency Manager and dated 18 November 2022, be received.

THAT Graeme MacDonald and Chloe Marshall arrange for an MPI Rep to speak to the next meeting regarding a plan for foot and mouth

Carried

8.0 GROUP

8.1 CEG Chair's Report

Moved (Connop / Stratford)

THAT the report 'CEG Chair's Report' by Graeme MacDonald, Emergency Manager and dated 18 November 2022, be received.

Carried

Agreed Actions:

- Recovery Workplan was due to be attached, however, this wasn't, to be circulated following the meeting
- Tsunami Siren Replacement Project presentation – to be circulated following the meeting

9.0 OTHER BUSINESS

9.1 Meeting Dates for 2023

- Tuesday 7 March
- Tuesday 6 June
- Tuesday 5 September
- Tuesday 5 December

Agreed Action:

- Diary invitations will be sent out following this meeting

Civil Defence Emergency Management Group Meeting
29 November 2022

KARAKIA WHAKAMUTUNGA

Kelly Stratford

The meeting closed at 12.46pm

UNCONFIRMED

TITLE: **Receipt of Action Sheet**

From: Erica Wade, Personal Assistant - General Manager Community Resilience

Authorised by Louisa Gritt, Group Manager - Community Resilience, on
Group Manager/s:

Whakarāpopototanga / Executive summary

The purpose of this report is to enable the meeting to receive the current action sheet.

Nga mahi tutohutia / Recommendation

That the action sheet be received.

Attachments/Ngā tapirihanga

Attachment 1: Action Tracker [↓](#) 

CDEM Group - schedule of actions						as of 29 November 2022
Action Item	Meeting date	Item	Action	Responsible staff	Status	Notes
1	8/09/2021	Item 6.7 Multi-Agency Coordination Centre Verbal Update	Report on the Multi-Agency Coordination Centre to go to the Northland Forward Together meeting on 23 November 2021.	Graeme Macdonald	In Progress	<p>28/10/2022 - Postponed due to funding shortfall being worked through.</p> <p>16/08/2022 - The 25 July 2022 request was postponed due to other priorities on FNT agenda.</p> <p>14/06/2022 - Postponed for other priorities. This will be presented at Northland Forward Together Meeting 25 July 2022.</p> <p>01/03/2022 - the 23 November 2021 meeting was postponed. Currently working on rearranging which meeting to bring this report to in 2022.</p> <p>10/11/2021 - it was agreed that this should be moved to a Northland Forward Together in 2022.</p>
2	6/09/2022	Item 8.2 Update on Civil Defence Community Response Plans in Northland	Sarah Boniface is to present updates at the next meeting, after maps go live in October 2022.	Sarah Boniface	New	

TITLE: **Membership and appointments – Northland CDEM Group**

From: Graeme MacDonald, Emergency Manager

Authorised by Jim Lyle, Acting GM - Community Resilience, on
Group Manager/s:

Executive summary/Whakarāpopototanga

Whakarāpopototanga | Executive Summary

This report provides an up-to-date list of members and key appointments for the Northland CDEM Group. The list of key appointments is available on the Northland CDEM Group plan webpage. Key appointments are also referenced in the group plan.

Ngā mahi tūtohutia | Recommendation(s)

1. That the report 'Membership and appointments – Northland CDEM Group' by Graeme MacDonald, Emergency Manager and dated 25 May 2023, be received.

Tuhinga | Background

Membership of the Northland Civil Defence Emergency Management Group:

- Councillor Stratford FNDC - Chair of CDEM Group
- Councillor Craw NRC
- Mayor Cocurullo Mayor, WDC
- Councillor Lambeth KDC
- Wipari Henwood Commander, Fire and Emergency NZ
- Tony Hill District Commander Superintendent, NZ Police
- Chloe Marshall NEMA (observer)

Membership of the Coordinating Executive Group:

- Jonathan Gibbard CEO, NRC
- Janice Smith FNDC
- Simon Weston WDC
- Jason Marris KDC
- Wayne Ewers Inspector, NZ Police
- Graeme Quensell Assistant Area Commander, Fire and Emergency NZ
- Sarah Hoyle Northland Health
- Ben Lockie St John Ambulance
- Chloe Marshall NEMA (observer)
- Liz Philips Interim MoH Representative
- Russell Watson Northland Lifelines Group

- Evania Arani Northland Welfare Coordination Group
- Hone Dalton Iwi Representative
- Mariameno Kapa-Kingi Iwi Representative
- Snow Tane Iwi Representative

Group Controllers:

- Graeme MacDonald
- Alistair Wells
- Calvin Thomas
- John Burt
- Simon Weston
- Victoria Harwood

Local Controllers for the Whangārei District:

- Calvin Thomas
- Simon Weston
- Victoria Harwood

Local Controllers for the Kaipara District:

- Alistair Dunlop
- John Burt

Local Controllers for the Far North District:

- Alistair Wells
- Jacine Warmington

Group Welfare Managers:

- Chris McColl
- Evania Arani
- Raewyn Smythe

Local Welfare Managers:

- Amanda Bennett (KDC)
- Benethan Sirett (WDC)
- Jenny Rooney (KDC)
- Paula Ulrich (WDC)

- Toby Hoey (WDC)

Group Recovery Managers

- Graeme MacDonald
- Jenny Calder
- Mark Trudinger

Local Recovery Managers

- Janice Smith (FNDC)
- John Burt (KDC)
- Vacant (WDC)

New Appointments

The following recommendations for new appointment are being made to the CDEM Group -
Ken Ward, Local Controller, FNDC.

- CIMs level 4 training complete.
- Sponsored by NZ Police and achieving Post Graduate Diploma in Applied Management via Australian Institute of Police Management.
- Many years working in Leadership, Management and Command training at NZ Police College and setting up pass / fail competency based promotional courses.
- Lots of experience in major incident rooms – playing various roles in murder enquiries and public order events.
- Emotional intelligence notably via qualification as accredited facilitator of MBTI / FIRO B personality profiles which assist others to understand themselves and others.

Jenny Calder, Group Controller, NRC

- 6 years Northland CDEM Group
- 4 years as the Group Recovery Specialist and additionally as the Local Recovery manager.
- Extensive experience with NZ Emergency Management Assistance Team, including deployments, exercised coordination and operational deployment experience to various emergencies in NZ.
- Completed the RRANZ Controllers course.

Louisa Gritt, Group Controller, NRC.

- Diverse background including a career in the UK and NZ Defence Forces.
- Led NZ's first shore-based international piracy operations and was awarded a Distinguished Service Decoration.

- Retired from the Royal New Zealand Navy as a captain, went on to lead the Whangārei Department of Conservation (DoC) operations team with her most recent position at DoC being Manager of Regional Improvement.
- Overseen and assisted in the recent response to Cyclone Gabrielle.

Attachments/Ngā tapirihanga

Nil

TITLE: NEMA – Update since November 2022

From: Graeme MacDonald, Emergency Manager

Authorised by Jim Lyle, Acting GM - Community Resilience, on
Group Manager/s:

Whakarāpopototanga / Executive summary

Attached for the information of the group is the May 2023 update from the National Emergency Management Agency, prepared by Chloe Marshall, Senior Regional Emergency Management Advisor, for NEMA.

Ngā mahi tūtohutia / Recommendation

That the report 'NEMA – Update since November 2022 ' by Graeme MacDonald, Emergency Manager and dated 25 May 2023, be received.

Attachments/Ngā tapirihanga

Attachment 1: NEMA update [↓](#) 



National Emergency Management Agency Update

Written on 12th May 2023 as an update for the upcoming Northland Coordinating Executive Group and Joint Committee meetings.

State of National Emergency – North Island Severe Weather Events

NEMA Overview

1. The New Zealand Government declared a State of National Emergency (SoNE) on 14 February 2023 in response to Cyclone Gabrielle and the North Island Severe Weather Event. Key points to note are:
 - The declaration was extended three times, each extension lasting an additional seven days.
 - The declaration was terminated on 28 February for the Bay of Plenty region and on 3 March for Northland, Auckland, Waikato, and the Tararua District.
 - These regions and district entered a 90-day National Transition Period pursuant to a formal notice by the Minister for Emergency Management under section 94A of the Act.
 - Similarly, the declaration encompassing Tairāwhiti and Hawke's Bay was terminated on 14 March and they are now also in a 90 day transition period.
 - The National Coordination Centre (NCC) was in operation for a total of 54 days, having initially activated on 27 January. The NCC stood down on 22 March 2023.
 - NEMA alongside other Central Government Agencies continues to support Group and Local Recovery Offices.
 - A Cyclone Recovery Unit has also been established (more information below).
2. At the peak of the response, 17 ECCs and EOCs were activated across the North Island. NEMA provided support to these operations with the deployment of approximately 460 surge staff from around the country. This figure does not include other agencies and group-to-group deployments. New Zealand Response Teams (NZRT) from several regions contributed a total of 1,290 days of volunteer support throughout the response. International assistance was enabled from the Australian Disaster Assistance Response Teams (DART), the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), and the Fijian National Disaster Management Office, National Fire Authority and Republic of Fiji Military Forces. We wish to thank all Groups, Partners and Agencies who have supported the response and continue to support the recovery.

Cyclone Recovery Unit

3. Recovery from Cyclone Gabrielle will be co-ordinated nationally by a Cyclone Recovery Unit hosted by DPMC. It will be led by Katrina Casey. The Unit will co-ordinate the Government's recovery work and provide secretariat support for the Taskforce that is headed by Sir Brian Roche.
4. The focus of both the Unit and the Taskforce is to ensure that central government is aligned with and supporting regional and local recovery efforts – very much a locally led, centrally



supported model. The Unit will work closely with NEMA's Recovery team, to ensure local recovery managers and offices are supported.

Severe Weather Emergency Legislation Bill

5. The [Severe Weather Emergency Recovery Legislation Bill](#) (SWERL Bill) passed its third reading in Parliament on Thursday 6 April. The SWERL Bill is the second bill in response to Cyclone Gabrielle. The bill aims to ensure that Government agencies and Crown entities, and affected local authorities and communities, can appropriately respond to, or recover from the recent severe weather events, or both. This includes providing the Government with flexibility to facilitate, enable, and expedite the recovery.
6. The Act makes the following amendments to the Civil Defence Emergency Management Act 2002 (CDEM Act), Resource Management Act 1991 (RMA), Local Government Act 2002 and Food Act 2014 and the Food Regulations 2015—
 - the CDEM Act to address issues relating to concurrent declarations of states of emergency and notices of transition periods under the CDEM Act to ensure emergency powers are available when needed, these provisions are in place until 1 October 2024; and
 - aspects of the RMA for a limited time to deem certain emergency preventive or remedial actions carried out by owners or occupiers of rural land to be permitted activities (until 1 April 2024) and extend time frames for advising local authorities and applying for retrospective consents for emergency work (until 1 October 2024). This recognises that it may not be possible for those dealing with the impacts of the weather events to comply with all RMA planning and regulatory requirements or meet existing time frames for retrospective consents; and
 - the Local Government Act 2002 to—
 - enable local authorities and Civil Defence Emergency Management Groups to meet by audio or audio-visual link and the members to be counted as present (until 1 October 2024); and
 - enable local authorities to amend their current long-term plans in relation to water infrastructure and services to take action to respond to damage caused by the recent severe weather events and improve the resilience to future weather events; and
 - registration and verification requirements in the Food Act 2014 and the Food Regulations 2015, to allow an extended period for a food business to renew its registration and to continue operating during the time a registration may have expired. This recognises that it may not be possible for affected communities (particularly isolated communities) to undertake their regulatory requirements for food businesses and allows those businesses to remain open.

North Island Severe Weather Events After Action Review



7. The severe weather events of 27 January and 14 February 2023 (Cyclone Gabrielle), collectively referred to as the North Island Severe Weather Events, with the subsequent State of National Emergency, provide an opportunity to reflect on a large scale, concurrent, multi-region response. NEMA is conducting an After-Action Review (AAR) to identify actions that need to be undertaken to ensure that NEMA is ready for future large and potentially catastrophic natural hazard events. NEMA's review is focused on NEMA's role and actions and is not an all of government review. NEMA has completed the majority of its hot debriefs and is now planning an internal after-action review workshop in mid-May.
8. Planning is underway for a national level after action review workshop likely to be held in July or August after CDEM Groups and other agencies have completed their own debrief and review processes. Further information will be provided in due course.

Trifecta Programme

Emergency Management Bill Update

9. The Minister has [confirmed](#) that the Emergency Management Bill will be introduced to the House of Representatives in early 2023, we hope the Bill will be introduced to the House of Representatives sometime soon. There will be an opportunity to provide feedback via the Select Committee process. This will occur following the introduction of the Bill to the House, and its First Reading. The Select Committee will set the timeframe. We encourage submissions on the Bill when it is before Select Committee - your views, experiences, and ideas for improving the law continue to be an essential part of setting up Aotearoa New Zealand to get better outcomes for emergency management.
10. We anticipate that the Cabinet paper outlining the final policy decisions will also be proactively released at a similar time as the Bill is introduced.
11. An out-of-cycle letter will be sent to CEG Chairs once the Bill is introduced to the House, along with more information about the Bill and what it proposes.

Appointments of NEMA's Deputy Chief Executives

12. As of 13 March, John Price formally began his statutory appointed role as Director of Civil Defence Emergency Management and Deputy Chief Executive Emergency Management of NEMA. Roger Ball will return to his role as National Manager of Operations and National Controller.
13. Jenna Rogers has now been appointed as the new Deputy Chief Executive Strategic Enablement of NEMA. Jenna has been acting in the role for almost a year and we are pleased to announce this permanent appointment.

Chloe Marshall | Senior Regional Emergency Management Advisor
National Emergency Management Agency Te Rākau Whakamarumaru
E: Chloe.Marshall@nema.govt.nz Ph: 027 283 4773

TITLE: CEG Chairs Report

From: Jenny Calder, Emergency Management Recovery Specialist; Graeme MacDonald, Emergency Manager; Sarah Boniface, Emergency Management Specialist; Bill Hutchinson, Emergency Management Specialist; Laura Exton, Emergency Management Specialist – Kaipara; Evania Arani, Emergency Management Specialist; Brendon Gray, Emergency Management Specialist - Tsunami Projects and Zach Woods, Emergency Management Communications Specialist

Authorised by Group Manager/s: Jim Lyle, Acting GM - Community Resilience, on

Whakarāpopototanga / Executive summary

This report provides a summary of activities undertaken by or directly related to the Northland Civil Defence Emergency Management Group over the period since the last CEG meeting in November 2022.

Ngā mahi tūtohutia / Recommendation

That the report 'CEG Chairs Report' by Jenny Calder, Emergency Management Recovery Specialist; Graeme MacDonald, Emergency Manager; Sarah Boniface, Emergency Management Specialist; Bill Hutchinson, Emergency Management Specialist; Laura Exton, Emergency Management Specialist – Kaipara; Evania Arani, Emergency Management Specialist; Brendon Gray, Emergency Management Specialist - Tsunami Projects and Zach Woods, Emergency Management Communications Specialist and dated 25 May 2023, be received.

Background/Tuhinga

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1. BEREAVEMENT

John Titmus, who was the MCDEM and NEMA representative on this group since its inception in 2003 passed away on 23 April 2023. John will be remembered for his active engagement and support of the Northland CDEM Group, and the relationships that he had across the CDEM sector.

2. ACTIVATIONS AND RESPONSE

Jenny Calder, Response Specialist

Cyclone Hale

On Monday 2 January 2023, MetService issued both a Heavy Rain and Strong Wind Watch for Northland. This was upgraded to a Heavy Rain Warning – Orange on Tuesday 3 January as we expected 110 to 160 mm of rain to accumulate in the north and east and 200 to 250 mm expected for eastern hill areas. After 36 hours of rainfall, the weather warning was lifted on Thursday 5 January.

CDEM monitored the weather system, shared information and updates with stakeholders, agencies and community groups. Surface flooding occurred in some areas with a number of rivers reaching flood thresholds before receding.

Both Waka Kotahi and Northland Transport Alliance attended to and resolved incidents throughout the network, with a majority of reported incidents being trees down. Agencies and stakeholders operated in enhanced BAU to manage the impacts, with no Civil Defence issues to report.

On Sunday 8 January 2023, a deepening subtropical low weather system was named as Cyclone Hale. At 8pm on Monday 9 January, the MetService issued a Heavy Rain Warning - Orange for

Northland. Water levels in rivers were already up due to rain the previous week so were monitored closely by the CDEM Duty officer and Northland Regional Council Hydrologists.

Northland CDEM provided updates and information as it came to hand and attended National updates to ensure both regional and national overview was maintained. A small number of local roads were closed due to flooding and slips, and flights into and out of the Whangārei airport were cancelled. SH1 and 15 were also impacted with slips and flooding respectively.

Agencies and stakeholders operated in enhanced BAU to manage the impacts.

The weather warning was lifted on Tuesday 10 January at 9pm.

On **Thursday 26 January 2023**, a Heavy Rain Warning – Orange and thunderstorm watch was issued by MetService for a period of 24 hours. Agencies, stakeholders and communities were updated of the incoming.

Late afternoon on Friday 27 January CDEM was advised of flash flooding in Maungaturoto. One home was impacted, and the occupants evacuated to stay with family.

On **Saturday 28 January**, the MetService issued further Orange weather warnings, with both severe thunderstorm and strong wind watches.

The weather system was moving relatively slowly, bringing a lot of rain which was a cause for concern considering the water tables and river levels were still high from the amount of rain through January.

On the morning of Sunday 29 January, the MetService upgraded the weather warning to a Red Heavy Rain Warning. The watch for Severe Thunderstorms and Strong Winds remained.

Metservice were predicting rainfall amounts of 120 to 170 mm in the north and east (with lesser amounts in the west). Localised falls were predicted to reach 170 to 270 mm with peak rates of 10 to 20 mm/h (mainly in the north and east). Further Localised falls were predicted to increase 25 to 40 mm/h for a period of 27 hours from early Tuesday 31 January through to early Wednesday 1 February.

With the upgraded weather warning, Northland CDEM team activated the ECC, commenced planning and moved to advise stakeholders, agencies and community response groups, and public information was shared through multiple media channels.

A multiagency meeting was scheduled to ensure a coordinated multiagency response and to provide situational overview for all partners and agencies. Additional resources from NZDF were requested.

A State of Emergency for Northland was declared at 1pm Tuesday 31 January. An Emergency Mobile Alert to advise and inform the public was sent to mobile phones.

Fortunately, the weather (rain and wind) did not reach the levels forecast, however the impacts to the region included flooding, damage to the roading network and multiple road closures, including Brynderwyns (SH1), trees down in some areas and a number of power disruptions. Agencies and stakeholders worked to ensure restoration of services as quickly as possible.

The State of Emergency was lifted at 10am Wednesday 1 February.

Cyclone Gabrielle

On **Wednesday 8 February 2023**, the MetService advised a Tropical Cyclone was expected to bring severe weather to northern New Zealand from Sunday (12 February) onwards. This weather system was named as Cyclone Gabrielle.

Initial forecasts indicated the weather impacts would be felt in Northland from early Sunday 12 February with more significant impacts being felt from Monday 13 February. This was identified through a Heavy Rain Watch received on Thursday 9 February.

The GECC stood up and commenced planning on Thursday, linking with stakeholders and partners, calling a multiagency meeting and getting information out to the public to enable communities to plan and prepare for the incoming weather.

Agencies and stakeholders also commenced their planning, providing updates into the GECC. The first sitrep was sent from the GECC on Friday 10 February. All three district councils began preparing to stand up EOC's. Requests were made to NZDF for resources and NEMA for surge staff.

Over the weekend, the rainfall warnings moved to Orange and then to a Red Warning on Sunday 12 February. As Cyclone Gabrielle was tracking close to the coast, higher localised rainfall accumulations were forecast, and the wind warning also updated to a Red warning. This weather was expected to be over Northland through to last Tuesday 14 February.

As the Cyclone made landfall, impacts across Northland included flooding, downed trees, major power outages, communication outages, slips, roading network damage and closures. Evacuations occurred in low-lying areas of Dargaville on both Monday 13 and Tuesday 14 February.

In preparation for the incoming weather and likely impacts a State of Emergency declaration for Northland was made, effective from 4:30pm 12 February. This was later rescinded as a National State of Emergency was declared at 8:43am, 14 February, including Northland. The state of national emergency was extended on Tuesday the 21st of February, Tuesday the 28th of February, and Tuesday the 7th of March, with each extension lasting an additional seven days. On 3 March, the State of National Emergency concluded for the Northland Region.

The weather warnings for Northland were lifted on Wednesday 15 February.

The response for Gabrielle commenced the transition into recovery over the later part of the week 20 – 24 February.

Mangawhai Severe Thunderstorm Event

Between 12 noon and 10 pm on **Friday 24 February 2023** the Hakaru at Tara rain gauge near Mangawhai recorded 373 mm of rain, with 240 mm recorded in the 3-hour period from 5 pm. High intensity rainfall from thunderstorm activity occurred in and around Mangawhai causing flooding and damage to roads.

Roads into and out of Mangawhai were cut off, and several road users were trapped in vehicles either because of slips or flood waters.

Kaipara District Council Civil Defence Emergency Management set up in Mangawhai two evacuation centres and centres were set up in Waipū and at Kaiwaka. Two community led centres were also set up in Mangawhai. These centres provided overnight shelter and welfare assistance. Temporary overnight accommodation was arranged at two of the youth camps in Mangawhai. Overall, several hundred people were estimated to have made use of these facilities.

Fire and Emergency NZ carried out several rescues as cars were driven into flood waters. Two Unimog's and a Swift water rescue team were also deployed from Auckland, and both were stood down and returned to Auckland shortly after 11.00 pm.

By 11.00 pm the thunderstorm activity moved away to the south and the rain eased. State Highway one was blocked at Topuni by flooding and slips overnight but has reopened this morning. Several local roads were damaged including the Cove Road and Kaiwaka – Mangawhai Roads.

For the period 12 noon to 10 pm Friday 24 February Brynderwyns had 40 mm of rain. This second weather event within days of Cyclone Gabrielle caused major damage to some of the minor roads and disrupted one of the alternate routes into Northland whilst the Brynderwyns were closed. Debriefs across agency and for the Group Emergency Operations centre are scheduled within the next month.

NRC has also provided several support surge staff to assist in the Hawkes Bay response and recovery. These include CDEM and other NRC staff.

February – May Weather events

Cyclones Judy and Kevin sitting to the North of New Zealand were reported by MetService on **26 February 2023**. Initial forecasts showed the potential for one or both cyclones to make landfall on Northern New Zealand early March. The GECC actively monitored these weather systems. Fortunately, both weather systems passed to the Northeast of New Zealand.

The MetService also advised of thunderstorm warnings for Northland. These thunderstorms brought localised downpours to a number of areas across the region for the evening of Monday 27 February.

On **Friday 28 April 2023** the MetService issued a Heavy Rain Watch and a Strong Wind Watch for Northland. This was upgraded to a Heavy Rain Warning - Orange on Saturday 29 April, with the strong wind watch remaining in place and easterly gales forecast.

The warning was lifted on Monday 1 May, however a Heavy Rain Watch was again issued for Northland the following day, increasing to a Heavy Rain Warning – Orange on **Wednesday 3 May**. These warnings remained in place through to **Saturday 6 May** when the weather eased.

Northland ECC stood up multi agency briefings from Tuesday 2 May to enhance a coordinated and collaborated response and provided information to stakeholders and the public.

An IMT, located at the Kaitia Fire Station was established Wednesday 3 May, with the FNDC EOC activated on Thursday 4 May.

During the period through to Saturday 6 May, some power unplanned outages occurred, however these were restored relatively quickly while flooding and multiple road closures occurred across the district. Impacts were predominantly in the far north and north west areas. Resources from the NZDF, NEMA and FENZ deployed into the region to assist were released on Saturday 6 May once the threat of severe weather had passed.

The next weather warning came through on **Monday 8 May 2023** advising of Severe Thunderstorm Watch. Later the same day, MetService issued a Heavy Rain Warning – Orange for Northland which was to remain in place through to the evening of Tuesday 9 May.

On Tuesday 9 May, a multi agency meeting was held by the GECC to provide regional coordination. Information was shared with stakeholders and via public channels.

The GECC stepped into monitoring mode and was ready in support of the district council. An IMT was stood up at the FNDC to actively monitor the weather system and subsequent impacts.

Widespread flooding and road closures occurred across the region. Although no whānau were asked to evacuate during this weather event, a community led welfare centre was opened in Moerewa to support impacted whānau and delayed travellers.

This weather system cleared Northland late Tuesday 9 May.

Transpower lines risk

On **27 February 2023** Transpower advised of a potential risk to the high voltage lines coming into Northland and the intended mitigation. Northland CDEM proactively shared information to enable businesses to check business continuity plans and for the public to take steps to prepare households. The CDEM team were poised to support the lead agency in the event a power failure occurred.

Tsunami Advisory - Kermadec trench earthquake.

At 12.59 am on Saturday 12 November the Pacific Tsunami Warning Centre issued a Tsunami Threat Message for a 7.3 m earthquake, at 12. 42 pm 10 km deep in the Kermadec Islands.

The initial message from the PTWC included an assessment that hazardous tsunami waves from the earthquake were possible within 300 km of the epicentre along the coasts of - Kermadec Islands.

At 1.06 pm NEMA sent out a National Advisory: Earthquake being assessed with general guidance to the public.

At 1.12 pm NEMA sent a second National Advisory : Earthquake being assessed message with update content including details of the earthquake origins.

A third duplicate message was also sent at 1.26 pm.

The PTWC released a final tsunami threat message at 1.43 pm advising that there was no longer any tsunami threat from this earthquake.

At 1.57 pm NEMA issued a National Advisor: No threat to New Zealand. (1 hour and 15 minutes after the event).

The concerns previously expressed to NEMA officials regarding the relevance of the Long or Strong Get Gone message, the delays and confusion of messaging and the inclusion of PTWC assessments into NZ information have again been raised with NEMA officials. It should be noted that the travel time for a tsunami from the southern end of the Kermadecs to Northland is approximately 45 minutes and up to 2 hours for the northern Kermadecs.

3. CDEM GROUP OPERATIONS

Graeme MacDonald, Emergency Manager

Ministers visit.

On Tuesday 2 May the Minister for Emergency Management Hon Kieran McAnulty, the new Deputy Chief Executive of NEMA John Price and several Wellington officials visited Northland. The Minister met informally on the Tuesday evening with the CDEM Professionals for the region and took the opportunity to thank them for the work that had gone into the Cyclone Gabrielle response and more recent responses.

On Wednesday 3 May the Minister hosted a breakfast meeting with Mayors, Chairs, Chief Executives and members of the Northland CDEM Group. This was an opportunity to discuss a number of matters from the recent Cyclone Gabrielle response and recovery.

CDEM Personnel

Since the last meeting Damian Rio has taken up the role of Emergency Management Specialist. Evania Arani has moved into the Welfare Specialist role and there is currently a vacancy for Emergency Management Specialist (Whangarei). Senior Sergeant Cliff Metcalfe who has been on

secondment from the police since the middle of last year has completed his secondment and has returned to the Police. During his secondment Cliff has developed a Tsunami Response Plan focused on actions after a significant inundation. He has also facilitated public information boards and increased awareness of tsunami risks to Northland amongst police people. Cliff's deployment has also strengthened and enhanced the operational relationship between police and CDEM.

Appointments - Controllers, Local Welfare Managers and Local Recovery Managers

The recent series of weather events, and the prolonged nature of the Cyclone Gabrielle response highlighted weaknesses or more accurately the lack of appointments to Controllers roles, at both Local and Group level, Welfare Managers and appointments of Local Recovery Managers.

The previous Group Welfare specialist had been working on strengthening the knowledge and capacity of Local Welfare Managers. After the past six months and the number of events we have been faced with this year we have now had resignations from members of the Far North and Whangarei District Council welfare team. Group Welfare Specialist, Evania Arani is planning to work with the district councils over the next quarter to build on the capacity and capability in the welfare space.

The Whangarei, Kaipara and Far North Councils all appointed new Local Recovery Managers after the response to Cyclone Gabrielle. Either no pre-event appointments for recovery managers had been made, or those that were appointed were not considered for the appointments.

In the past 12 months three Group level controllers have left the NRC, and there has been a number of changes in local level controllers. (Note: Two qualified Controllers from outside the Northland region were brought in as surge support to Kaipara and Far North District during the response phase to Cyclone Gabrielle).

Three new appointments for Controllers, one local and two group are included in the CDEM agenda for approval. Louisa Gritt, Jenny Calder as Group Controllers and Ken Ward as a Local Controller in the Far North District.

Deployments

Four NRC people were deployed to Hawkes Bay during March to assist during the National State of Emergency - Candice Rameka (Bio Security), Grace Calder (Bio Security) Lahi Hapu (Environmental and Reg Services) and Jenny Calder (CDEM) were deployed into various locations and roles to provide much needed surge support. In addition, Jenny Calder has volunteered, whilst on annual leave, with Task Force Kiwi for two separate weeklong periods to provide clean up assistance to home owners and businesses.

Evania Arani and Jenny Calder were invited by NZ Police to Operation Waitangi from 4 – 6 February as observers to provide comment on the IMT set up. This was invaluable in continuing to cement interagency relationships and opportunities for CDEM to provide support.

CDEM Forum

Jenny Calder, Response Specialist

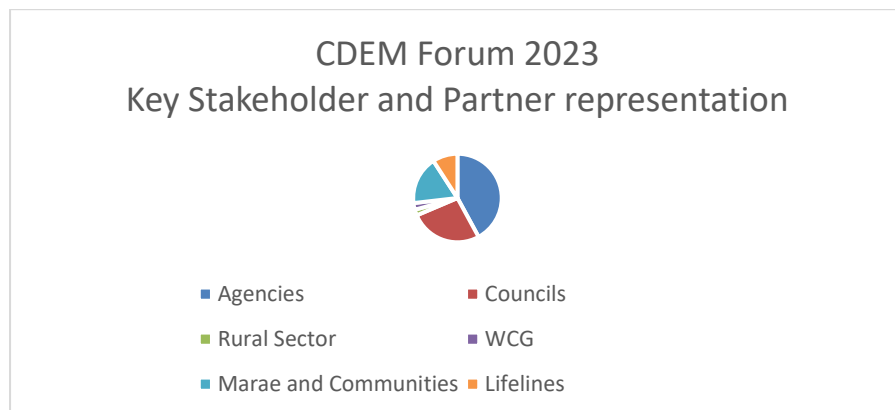
On Wednesday 3 May, Northland CDEM hosted the annual CDEM Forum with over 250 delegates at Semenoff Stadium. Following a hiatus in 2021 due to the Covid Omicron resurgence, the opportunity to meet *kanohi ki te kanohi* was welcomed by those attending.

The Forum began with a Mihi Whakatau, led by FENZ, and formal opening by Cr Kelly Stratford, Chair, Northland CDEM Group.

A thought-provoking presentation was made by the keynote speaker, David Parson, Director, Crisis Management Australia. This was followed by sector and Iwi updates, presentations from GNS,

NZMAT, NZ EMAT, Taskforce Kiwi, USAR, NRC and CDEM's very own Brendon Gray who updated the Forum on the current Tsunami Project.

Forum attendees were from across the rohe, representing a number of marae and community groups, agencies and sectors, making for a successful day as shown in the graph below.



We thank all our speakers, partner agencies and supporters who made the Forum possible and we look forward to hosting the event again in 2024.

4. WHANGĀREI DISTRICT UPDATE

Damian Rio, Emergency Management Specialist (EMS) and Evania Arani, Emergency Management Specialist (EMS) now Welfare Specialist

Activities undertaken by the Whangarei Emergency Management Specialists for the past six months have been centred around back-to-back monitoring and response to the impact of ongoing severe weather events. Whangarei District Council have activated their Civil Defence Emergency Operations Centre three times over this time after a number of events impending the district.

Our priority and focus have been in supporting communities with Community Response Planning because of what has been occurring.

Community Engagement Activities

Community and engagement activities for the past six months include:

- Bi-Annual Tsunami Alarm testing
- Ongoing engagement with the Pārua Bay Community Response Group to complete an update of their Community Response Plan.
- Attendance at the Tutukākā Community Response Group meeting
- Ongoing engagement with the Hikurangi Community Response Group to finalise their updated Community Response Plan.
- Waipu Community Response Group Meetings - Cyclone Gabrielle Debrief and discussions around plan review.

- Whananaki Community Response Group Meetings – Cyclone Gabrielle Debrief and discussions around plan review.
- Mangakahia Community Meeting – Meeting to re-establish a Community Response Group.

Whangārei District Council CDEM Capacity and Capability

The Whangārei District Council annual exercise will be held on 26 May at the Whangārei Cricket Pavilion. This exercise is being planned and rolled out by Gerrard Moore. At the time of writing fifteen Whangārei District Council Staff have registered to attend.

5. FAR NORTH UPDATE

Far North CDEM Activities – Sarah Boniface, Emergency Management Specialist Far North; Bill Hutchinson, Emergency Management Specialist Far North

Activities undertaken by the Far North Emergency Management Specialists for the past quarter have been centred around back-to-back monitoring and response to the impact of ongoing severe weather events, (x 8) including being part of and supporting Incident Management Teams in Emergency Operations Centres that have been established in both Kaitia and Kaikohe and the response to three tsunami advisory threats.

Our priority and focus have been in supporting communities with Community Response Planning because of what has been occurring.

Summary of meeting and activities undertaken include:

- Community and Community Response Group Meetings (includes reviews of community response plans) Moerewa, Okaihau, Kawakawa, Tapuaetahi, Waimamaku, Panguru, Russell
- Te Hiku Development / Whiti Te Muka engagement relative to addressing family harm during emergency events.
- Mental Health Association – advice on emergency planning
- Anne West Kindergarten - Evacuation Plan Assistance,
- Keynote Speaker – NZ Business and Professional Women's National Conference
- Keynote Speaker – Parengarenga Inc – Engagement post and during emergency events
- Attendance at FENZ meetings re Cape Reinga Wildfire outcome
- Far North District Council CDEM Readiness and Preparedness meetings x 3
- Community Weather Event De-briefs (Rawene, Kawakawa, Karikari)
- Attendance at Council and Stakeholders Weather Event Debriefs
- Cyclone Gabrielle Recovery Meetings
- Bi-Annual Tsunami Alarm testing
- Attendance at Lifelines and Welfare Coordination Group meetings

6. KAIPARA UPDATE

Laura Exton, Emergency Management Specialist – Kaipara

It has been an incredibly busy year thus far in the Kaipara District – as it has been across the entire region.

The Kaipara District was one of the worst affected areas in Te Tai Tokerau during the February extreme weather events (this encompasses Cyclone Gabrielle, as well as the Mangawhai Thunderstorm event on Friday 24 March), with many communities isolated for days, and Civil Defence Centres and Community Led Centres being established across the district. You can see a full overview of the Kaipara District Council's response in Attachment 1: 'Kaipara District Council February Extreme Weather Events Response Overview.'

Following these events, the focus has been on facilitating debriefs with the Kaipara District Council and with Kaipara communities, and taking up engagement opportunities to educate the community on personal preparedness, re-engage with dormant Community Response Groups, or support the creation of new ones.

The following engagement has taken place:

- **Thursday 12 January – Glinks Gully** – starting a new Community Response Group
- **Tuesday 28 February – Mangawhai** Community Response Group debrief
- **Tuesday 28 February & Monday 27 March – Pouto**, reigniting their Community Response Group
- **Friday 17 March – Kaipara District Council** Emergency Operations Centre staff debrief
- **Wednesday 22 March & Tuesday 28 March** – Kaiwaka debrief and onboarding a new CRG coordinator / members
- **Monday 17 April – Ruawai** Community debrief
- **Thursday 27 April – Dargaville** Community Organisations debrief
- **Monday 1 May & Monday 15 May – Baylys Beach** Community Response Group information session – starting a new group
- **Tuesday 9 May – Te Kopuru** – meeting with an interested community member to get a group formed
- **Wednesday 10 May – Kaipara District Council Elected Members** induction and feedback session

There are also multiple existing active Community Response Groups who are refreshing their Community Response Plans, and applying for funding for preparedness items and activities through the various funds available in the wake of Cyclone Gabrielle.

An action plan is being created for the Kaipara District Council to capture the actions and learnings gleaned from the February extreme weather events, and turning it into an actionable, prioritised plan for response improvement.

7. WELFARE COORDINATION GROUP (WCG) UPDATE

Evania Arani, Emergency Management Welfare Specialist

The WCG next meets on 1 June 2022. Items on the agenda include the following.

Presentations

- Rural Support Trust – Ex tropical cyclone response and recovery in the rural sector,
- Kaitia Incident Management Team Iwi liaison – Iwi operational lens.

Group Discussion

- Six months of events – Lessons learnt and what be done differently.

- Cluster leads will provide updates on the Work Programme.

Local Welfare Managers (LWM)

Rachael Hill, previous Group Welfare specialist had been working on strengthening the knowledge and capacity of LWM. After the past six months and the number of events we have been faced with this year we have now had resignations from members of the Far North and Whangarei District Council welfare team. Group Welfare Specialist, Evania Arani is planning to work with the district councils over the next quarter to build on the capacity and capability in the welfare space.

8. NORTHLAND LIFELINES GROUP UPDATE

Laura Exton, Emergency Management Specialist – Kaipara

The Northland Lifelines Group (NLG) met on Friday 24 March. The core focus of this meeting was to debrief from the recent Cyclone Gabrielle and Mangawhai Thunderstorm event, reflecting on what was done well, what could have been done better, and opportunities for improvement.

Some core themes were:

- For most, this was the most significant response since Cyclone Bola in 1988.
- As a group, the NLG worked together well to share information and coordinate resources.
- Regular meetings of the NLG is vital for a successful, coordinated response. Strong relationships are key.
- Daily NLG meetings during Cyclone Gabrielle were essential to maintaining collaboration and a common operating picture.
- There is more work to be done regarding prioritisation of key transport routes or critical infrastructure assets in Te Tai Tokerau.
- Hazards from trees were a critical issue during Cyclone Gabrielle – Northpower estimated that approximately 99% of the damage to their network was caused by vegetation and trees. They also blocked roads, restricted access to critical infrastructure and services, and posed a high risk to the safety of crews working to clear roads or restore critical infrastructure and services. They also damaged underground infrastructure when uprooted.
- The NLG Chair, Sarah Irwin, made a submission on behalf of the NLG regarding MBIE's proposed amendments to the Electricity (Hazards from Trees) Regulations 2003.

The next Northland Lifelines Group meeting is to be held on Friday 28 July.

9. CDEM COMMUNICATIONS UPDATE

Zach Woods, Emergency Management Communications Specialist

Media / Social Media and Webpage Visits

CDEM Facebook page insights, Jan 1 –May 1, 2023:

- Page visit: 296,765
- Facebook Page followers: increased 7,841
- Total FB page followers as of May 2023: 37,161

- Estimated page reach*: 447,288

**This is provided by Facebook and is based on the number of people who saw any content from your Page or about your Page.*

These stats followed the usual trend of increasing around larger weather events. The most notable increases were around Cyclone Hale Jan 9, State of Emergency and Red Heavy rain warning Jan 31, and of course Cyclone Gabrielle – which saw a significant increase in reach and views from Sunday 12 Feb to Thursday Mar 2, when the national state of emergency ended.

The majority of communications from Civil Defence Northland since the last meeting have focused on the response to and recovery from weather events – with the exception of Tsunami siren testing and some media on the new Tsunami sirens.

The most viewed and engaged with posts have predominantly centred around infrastructure and impact updates related to Cyclone Gabrielle.

Northland CDEM Web section insights, Jan 1 –May 1, 2023:

- Total page visits: 45,321
- Most popular sections visited: In an Emergency, 15,951
- Most popular topics in that section: is it open or closed, 9,054
 - What's the latest news: 3,577
 - Food safety in power cuts and floods: 1,614

The website views followed a similar trend to the Facebook page and increased during weather events – infrastructure updates (mainly roading) and impacts were also the most sought-after information.

Media

There were also numerous media updates and engagements during all of the recent weather events. Interviews on RNZ and More FM Northland were the majority of radio engagements. NZ Herald (mostly via the Northern Advocate) and Stuff published articles containing Civil Defence Northland updates during these events – mostly sourcing these from our Facebook page but engaging with us for any further comments or questions when required. Newshub and One News interviews were also utilised during these events.

Two Emergency Mobile Alerts were issued over this period – both to announce regional states of emergency. The first on January 31, 2023, 1:54 PM, the second February 12, 2023, 4:30 PM.

10. RECOVERY

Mark Trüdinger, Emergency Management Recovery Specialist

- Worked with more than 500 key stakeholders to prepare the Cyclone Gabrielle 2023 Regional Recovery Plan for Northland / Te Mahere Whakaoranga mō Te Tai Tokerau.
- Facilitated regular meetings with Local Recovery Managers, Welfare Coordination Group (as the Community Wellbeing Recovery Programme Group), Lifelines (as Critical Infrastructure Recovery Programme Group), and coordinated with Northland Adverse Events Team (as Rural Recovery Programme Group).
- Worked with CDEM Chair to form the Cyclone Gabrielle Recovery Governance Group.
- Plan included contributions drawn from more than 300 community members, whose voice is woven throughout the Plan.

- As possible 'firsts', the Plan includes a joined-up approach by the rural sector about actions they will take, as well as by Lifelines/critical infrastructure of steps they will take to increase resilience for future extreme weather events.
- Have presented the Plan's strategy, content, and community engagement model to the CDEM sector, with multiple online workshops for other Recovery specialists, Group Recovery Managers, CDEM Group Managers, and community engagement teams (approx. 100 registrants). Also presented a dedicated session to Auckland Emergency Management.
- Completed Part 1 of the Response and Recovery Leadership Development Programme ('RRANZ'; Massey University/NEMA course).
- Have been asked to present our approach to Recovery at future RRANZ courses, and the equivalent emergency management sector leadership course in Australia.
- Have been asked to write up our approach for *Disaster Prevention and Management: An International Journal*.

11. TSUNAMI SIREN TESTING

Laura Exton, Emergency Management Specialist

The twice-annual tsunami siren network testing occurred on Daylight Savings, Sunday 2 April 2023. The test involves activation of the network at 1000hrs for 10 minutes, and again at 1030hrs for 30 seconds. The lights flashed for the full duration of the test. This ensures the network is operating as per design specifications, and also provides an opportunity for Northland CDEM, Northpower, and Top Energy Control Centre staff to practice activation procedures.

Emergency Management Specialists from all three districts, along with the Northland CDEM Communications Specialist, coordinated various methods of advertising in the lead up to the testing with included advertisements on various media channels and engagement with volunteer community response groups.

Both networks (Northpower and Top Energy) were successfully activated on the day.

The Emergency Management Specialists for each district are working through the test results and actioning those that need addressing with the relevant network operator.

12. COMMUNITY RESPONSE PLANNING GIS INTEGRATION UPDATE

Sarah Boniface, Emergency Management Specialists

Community Response Planning

Northland Civil Defence Emergency Management Group (NCDEM) have utilised the contracting resources of Raewyn Smythe to help assist in the updating of the Community Response Plans in particular around the financial arrangements during and after a response. Work is currently focused on the plans in the Far North and once completed attention will be given to the Whangarei District Council and Kaipara District Council plans.

Interactive Map

Towards the end of 2022 Northland Civil Defence Emergency Management Group (NCDEM) in conjunction with the Northland Regional Council GIS team created a Community Response Plan interactive map/viewer. The platform has been designed to be a live public facing portal displaying the spread of community response groups and Marae preparedness groups across the Northland region. Unfortunately this has not been able to be completed due to the Northland CDEM ongoing

response to emergency events and staff changes within the Northland CDEM and Northland Regional Council GIS team.

Marae Preparedness

The Marae Preparedness plan refresh has now been completed. The Northland CDEM team had scheduled to work with a cross section of Marae groups across the Far North in January and February of this year to undertake further planning and consultation using the new template. The team had also planned to consult with a number of key stakeholders and partners before launching a week long roadshow in March to promote the document. This has been postponed due to a number of events the team have had to monitor and respond to this year.

Post Ex Tropical Cyclone Gabrielle there has been a huge demand from Marae requesting plans, advice, and support. This has made this piece of work a priority and with that in mind and while the demand is there the team has sought feedback from a number of key people, at the time of writing this report, no feedback has been received and CDEM staff have made the decision to start working with the interested groups to undertake Marae preparedness planning. The document has been created in template form with suggested text to help with the development of the plan, however Northland CDEM will continue to support Marae with what best suits their individual planning needs and arrangements.

13. MULTI AGENCY COORDINATION CENTRE

Graeme MacDonald, Emergency Manager

Multi Agency Coordination Centre

A meeting was held with the FENZ Deputy Chief Executive Sarah Sinclair, the NRC Chief Executive and personal involved in the Multi Agency Centre proposal on 21 April. The purpose of the meeting was to understand FENZ and councils' position on the development of the MAC.

A site visit was undertaken, and discussion was had around the various options for establishing an ongoing agreement for ownerships and occupancy. Before any agreement can be reached more work is required on the approach and delivery model.

A further meeting was scheduled on 26 May 2023, to discuss FENZ and council options for ownership and ongoing occupancy and discussing if there is common ground to proceed.

14. TSUNAMI SIREN REPLACEMENT PROJECT UPDATE

Brendon Gray, Emergency Management Specialist – Tsunami Projects

PowerPoint presentation.

15. PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Jenny Calder, Emergency Management Response Specialist

Northland CDEM have a series Coordinated Incident Management System (CIMS) and related function courses planned for throughout the 2023 calendar year to align with the training fund provided by National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA).

The following table shows attendance numbers for the completed March courses, and attendance booked for May, July, September and November courses.



There has been increased demand for training post Cyclone Gabrielle however during 2022 all courses were undersubscribed despite efforts from the Emergency Management Officers repeatedly impressing on council staff the importance of attending and completing training.

Of the 100 CIMS course places offered during 2022, only 58 were taken up by councils, key partners and agencies.

For 2023 all CIMS4 courses are full however the exercise days are particularly lacking in uptake and there is still capacity for staff to attend functions training days.

The table below shows the Training schedule for 2023 and intended course participation numbers.

Date	Course	Course Capacity	Registrations
22 May	CIMS 4	20	20
23 May	CIMS 4	20	20
24 May	EOC/Response Manager	14	14
25 May	Planning	14	14
26 May	Exercise - WDC	25 +	22
24 Jul	CIMS 4	20	20
25 Jul	CIMS 4	20	20
26 Jul	Welfare	14	6
27 Jul	Logistics	14	12
28 Jul	Exercise – FNDC	25 +	3
11 Sep	CIMS 4	20	20
12 Sep	CIMS 4	20	20
13 Sep	Welfare	14	7
14 Sep	Intelligence	14	14
15 Sep	Exercise – FNDC	25 +	3

13 Nov	CIMS 4	20	20
14 Nov	CIMS 4	20	20
15 Nov	Planning	14	7
16 Nov	CIMS 4	20	20
17 Nov	CIMS 4	20	20

CDEM team training

The CDEM team continue to work with Winsborough to strengthen both individual and team resilience.

Laura Exton is continuing her Diploma in through Massey University and Brendon Gray is completing He Papa Reo.

Deployments

Evania Arani and Jenny Calder were invited by NZ Police to Operation Waitangi from 4 – 6 February as observers to provide feed back on the IMT set up. This was an invaluable opportunity and further cements the working relationship between agencies.

Attachments/Ngā tapirihanga

Attachment 1: Kaipara District Council February Extreme Weather Events Response Overview [!\[\]\(73002692dd5e7a64e60946be3158e719_img.jpg\) !\[\]\(42837a1907e26cf155e215b5440e265d_img.jpg\)](#)

Kaipara District Council Civil Defence

February Extreme Weather Events Response Overview

April 2023



Prepared by:

Laura Exton, Emergency Management Specialist - Kaipara
with input from John Burt, Ruby Mitchell, Amanda Bennett, Jenny Rooney, Fleur Denize, Brian
Armstrong, Linda Osborne

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Tropical Cyclone Gabrielle

The Kaipara District Council Cyclone Gabrielle response began on Thursday 9 February 2023 with a monitoring, preparation, and planning phase. During this preparation phase steps were taken to ready activation of the Emergency Operations Centre (EOC) in Mangawhai, and an Incident Management Point (ICP, *also referred to as an Incident Management Team (IMT) during the response*) in Dargaville. Other preparations that were made were:

- Connected with the Community Response Group Coordinators throughout the Kaipara district to ensure they were ready to activate their Community Response Plan if necessary, and communicate key messages to their community networks.
- Determined a suitable location for a Dargaville Civil Defence Centre, if required.
- Connected with the predetermined Mangawhai Civil Defence Centre locations to ensure they were available if required.
- Sent out public communications through multiple channels educating the public about the weather that was coming, where to seek further information, and how to get prepared (the first of these was on Thursday 9 February via KDC Facebook and Antenna app).
- Implemented essential operational tasks:
 - Ensured all fleet vehicles were filled up with petrol and electric vehicles charged.
 - Established accounts with Four Squares and supermarkets throughout the Kaipara district in preparation for emergency welfare supplies.
 - Hired generators from Mangawhai Hire.
 - Identified which staff were available to work in an EOC / ICP.

At that point Gabrielle was classified as a category 1 Tropical Cyclone, sitting off the North-Eastern coastline of Australia in the Coral Sea, becoming a category 3 cyclone on Thursday 9 February. Gabrielle eventually followed a track past the north of New Zealand and out to the East of New Zealand before finally being reduced to a storm on Thursday 16 February.

Cyclone Gabrielle is officially the [costliest tropical cyclone](#) on record for the Southern Hemisphere, including the deaths of 11 people in total and the displacement of over 10,000.

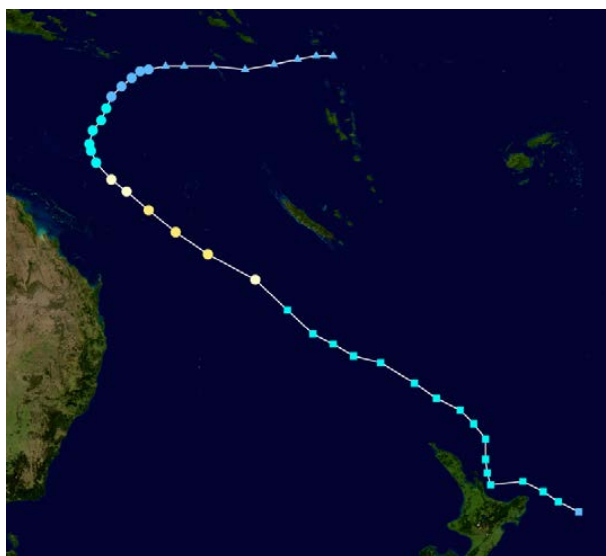


Figure 1 Path of Cyclone Gabrielle Feb. 2023 (Wikipedia)

Over the days following the cyclone classification, Gabrielle's effects started to be felt initially in the Far North before moving down the region. The KDC EOC was in 'monitoring and preparation' mode during this time and was activated with full staff capacity from Monday 13 February.

On Sunday 12 February at 1630 a Regional State of Emergency was declared by Graeme MacDonald as the Group Controller. This state of emergency was initially declared so that evacuations could occur in a reasonable timeframe and before nightfall, with a specific focus on supporting Fire and Emergency New Zealand (FENZ). Consultation was sought from FENZ, NZ Police, Hato Hone St Johns, and the local controllers before the State of Emergency was declared.

At 0843 on Tuesday 14 February a National State of Emergency with an initial period of seven days was declared by Prime Minister Chris Hipkins and Minister for Emergency Management Kieran McNulty. This was only the third time that a National State of Emergency had been declared in New Zealand. This was extended for an additional seven days, one week later.

During the first two weeks of the response, wind speeds reached 159kph for sustained periods and, in some places, gusts of 165 kph. The lowest pressure recorded was 958hPa.

For Northland the peak rainfall intensity was 63mm/h for a sustained period on the Poutō Peninsula, with Glenbervie Forest recording over 420mm throughout the event, and Whangarei having 183.8mm over 24 hours and recording five times the average rainfall for this time of year. Cape Reinga recorded 141kph winds.

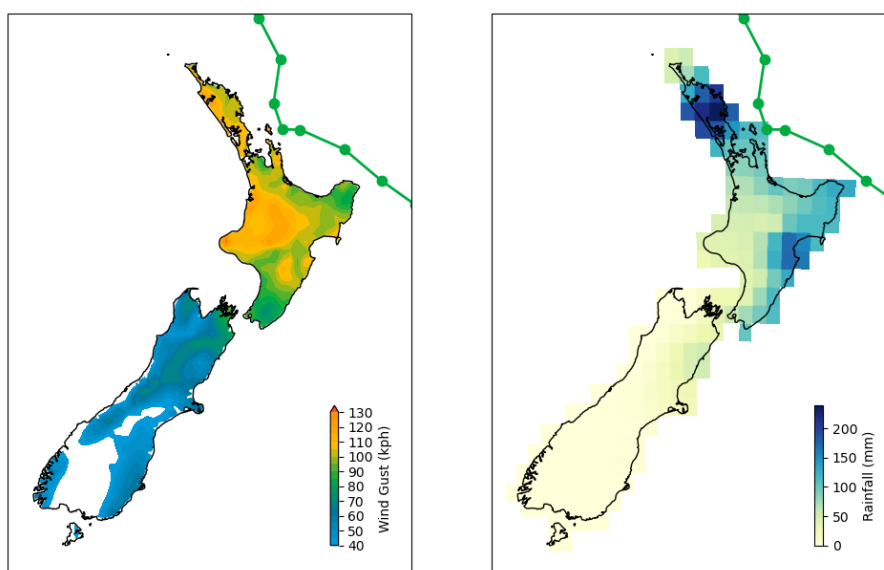


Figure 2 Wind and Rain estimates - Source: Guy Carpenter & NOAA Climate Prediction Center

In the Bay of Islands, a wave buoy recorded a wave height of 10.9m and a wind speed of 95kph. The average coastal surge across impacted areas exceeded 500mm. Seven vessels in the Northland region sunk at their mooring due to rain or waves, and a further 17 ran aground. Three beacons were destroyed. All shipping was suspended in Northland's harbours during Cyclone Gabrielle.

The impacts of Gabrielle were spread across the region of Te Tai Tokerau, and even worse further south in parts of Tāmaki Makaurau, across Tāirāwhiti, and Te Matau a Maui. This document only

looks at Cyclone Gabrielle in the Kaipara District, and the Mangawhai extreme weather event that occurred Friday 24 February – collectively referred to as the ‘February Extreme Weather Events.’

EOCs and ICPs

For the first time in recent history all three district councils (FNDC, KDC, and WDC) EOC’s along with the Northland Regional Council (NRC) ECC were activated at once. The ECC was established at the NRC offices on Water Street, Whangarei.

The KDC EOC was activated in a planned location in Mangawhai: the building at 1C Molesworth Drive. This office has power resilience, with the building recently being rewired (funded by the Kaipara District Council) to enable generator capability. There was a generator available if/when required.

Communications in Mangawhai were significantly affected for a number of days during the week of Cyclone Gabrielle, with Spark services going down for a period of time. The EOC team utilised Microsoft Teams and Vodafone/2 Degrees for communication during this time instead of their KDC-issued mobile phones until the Spark service got back up and running.

At its peak, the EOC was operating with over 25 staff including surge staff.

The KDC ICP was activated in a planned location in Dargaville: the office at 32 Hokianga Road. The office currently does not have power resilience, however KDC has been in discussions with the property owner to enable generator capability. Dargaville did experience intermittent power outages during the initial days of the response. Communications were largely unaffected in Dargaville during this event.

At its peak, the ICP was operating with over 15 staff including surge staff.

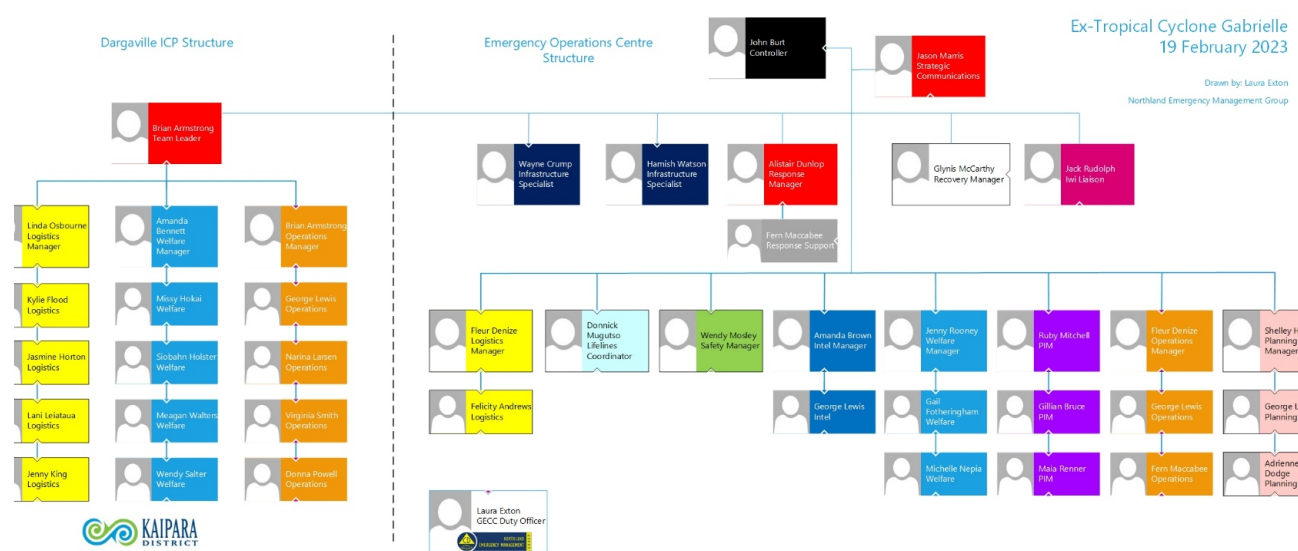


Figure 3 snapshot of the general CIMS Structure for KDC EOC and ICP

Having the two different offices, one on the east coast and one on the west coast, worked well and ensured we were able to provide response services to the district as a whole. Communications worked well, with Microsoft Teams and regular meetings being key to connectivity between the two offices and avoid segregation. However, there is room for improvement to ensure the EOC and ICP are working together seamlessly.

The Dargaville office was well set up to act as an ICP, with built-in technology, meeting rooms, and the visibility desired under a CIMS structure-based environment. This made a great base for ICP staff to work from. There are improvements to be made regarding the building's power resilience and utilising the space for multi-agency coordination.

During the power outage in Dargaville and cellphone network outage in Mangawhai, challenges arose due to an inability to communicate – this has been identified through our staff debrief process and will be addressed moving forward.

The staff debrief also identified some functional flaws with the Mangawhai offices that will be addressed for the future, including improved soundproofing, desk setup and IT setup.

Table 1 EOC and ICP Locations

	Kaipara District
EOC	KDC Offices – Mangawhai – 1C Molesworth Drive
ICP	KDC Offices – Dargaville – 32 Hokianga Road

Surge Staff

Due to the length and significance of the response, the ECC requested 10 surge staff from the National Crisis Management Centre (NCMC) over the course of the event. Four of these specialist staff were deployed to support the Kaipara District Council response in various functions as identified by the Kaipara District EOC Controller. They were made up of Emergency Management Assistance Team (EMAT) members, as well as members from other Regional CDEM Groups.

KDC received 1 Controller, 1 Intelligence Manager, 1 Logistics Manager, and an EMAT member who provided support and guidance for the Dargaville ICP.

As mentioned previously in this report, the EOC and ICP utilised more than 40 staff members from within KDC (this does not include those who continued to support and manage business-as-usual services during the response, or provided support from outside the EOC), as well as some ex-staff members who assisted in the welfare centres.

The New Zealand Defence Force (NZDF), through the ECC, provided staff and three Mercedes Benz Unimog vehicles, all of which were highly utilised. The Unimogs were tasked by the KDC ICP and supported the response by:

- Gaining access to otherwise inaccessible areas,
- Delivering water in co-ordination with local iwi,
- Supporting outreach missions into remote communities in western Kaipara, and
- Delivering Starlink satellite stations to multiple areas cut-off from essential lifeline services i.e., power and telecommunications.

There were also 12 Red Cross staff members and 6 Rapid Assistance Team (RAT) members who were deployed to the Kaipara District, through a request made to the ECC. These team members supported activities in the Kaipara such as outreach, rapid response assessments, welfare deliveries, and some physical labor where required.

CDCs and CLCs

Throughout the response several Civil Defence Centres (CDCs) were opened and operated by KDC. A number of Community Led Centres (CLCs) we are also activated.

Table 2 CDC and CLC locations and pax

	Cyclone Gabrielle	Mangawhai extreme weather event 24 February
CDC Location (pax)	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 58 Hokianga Road, Anglican Church – 88 registered Dargaville High School – 63 registered 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Mangawhai Golf Club – 26 registered Mangawhai Council Offices – 98 registered
CLC Count (est. pax)	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 43 Tirarau Street, led by Te Ha Oranga – approx. 30 Parirau Marae, led by Ruawai CRG – approx. 85 <p>There were also multiple CLCs that opened during the day to provide service to their communities – whether that be kai, charging stations, or a hot cup of tea.</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Mangawhai Library Hall - 36 Kaiwaka St Johns Hall - 45 Waipu, led by the Waipu CRG – less than 10 Kaiwaka Primary School – 45 students and adults stayed overnight Otamatea High School – 45 initially with 8 being cared for overnight at the school

In addition to Cyclone Gabrielle, Kaipara also faced an extreme weather event in the Mangawhai area on Friday 24 February. With the EOC still activated, staff continued operations to support the Mangawhai event. A number of people became displaced by flooding, damaged roads and the danger of travelling in the weather. This number was exacerbated by the closure of SH1 through the Brynderwyns, which meant all light traffic was being diverted via Mangawhai/Waipu. KDC opened CDCs at the Mangawhai Golf Club (with the support of the Mangawhai Community Response Group) and Mangawhai KDC Council office, and supported two CLCs. One CLC shelter was opened by local volunteers at the Mangawhai Library Hall and a CLC in Kaiwaka was set up by the local Kaiwaka Community Response Group.

A number of people who were unable to return home or stay with friends and family during the Mangawhai extreme weather event were accommodated at either the Moir Point Christian Camp (86 pax) or the Campbell Park Christian Camp (82 pax).

Not all Community Led Centres are accounted for in this report, as many did not need assistance from the KDC EOC or ICP, operated independently and therefore did not advise the KDC EOC of their operation.

Many marae also opened their doors and supported the community, these were in turn supported by the Ministry of Social Development along with the KDC to provide food and support.

Outreach

Between Saturday 18 February and Wednesday 22 February, the KDC EOC and ICP conducted community outreach to meet with community members in isolated communities and assess their needs. The mission of this outreach was to gain a stronger situational awareness of the more isolated parts of the Kaipara District, and to connect and show aroha with these communities.

West Coast

Teams were made up of one Red Cross member, one RAT member, and one KDC staff member, who worked well combining the skills and expertise of the trained professionals with the local knowledge of KDC staff members.

Areas included in the outreach were (but not limited to) Poutō Peninsula, Ruawai and surrounding areas, Kaihu/northwest coast, Pukehuia, Tangiteroria, and Tangowahine. Red Cross teams also carried out wellbeing checks on those with impacted homes in the Dargaville township.

Any data collected from the outreach teams was then sent back to the EOC, who sifted through the data and actioned requests for assistance or support.

East coast

Teams were made up of one RAT and one KDC staff member, who worked well, combining the skills and expertise of the trained professionals with the local knowledge of KDC staff members.

Areas included in the outreach were (but not limited to) Mangawhai, Kaiwaka, Maungaturoto, Paparoa, Pahi, Otamatea, Oruawharo, Ararua, Whakapirau, Tinopai and surrounding areas.

Impact and Evacuations

Dargaville evacuations

At approximately 4pm on Monday 13 February, it was communicated via social media and the Antenno app (and the Elected Members were notified) that the Dargaville Holy Trinity Anglican Church at 58 Hokianga Road was open as an 'evacuation centre' if it was needed. A request was made for people to bring their own bedding and food. You can see the Facebook post for this communication [here](#).

At approximately 0400hrs on Tuesday 14 February the Awakino River started breaching its stopbanks. There were areas of Dargaville that needed immediate evacuation – specifically, Awakino Point. Residents were evacuated to the evacuation centre at the Anglican Church.

At the time, SH14 was completely cut-off due to a number of fallen trees and power lines across the road. The ECC worked with lifeline utilities and FENZ to gain access to Dargaville for emergency services via SH14 to send extra resources to support the evacuation.

Other areas in Dargaville such as Mangawhare and Finlayson Park Avenue were subject to a self-evacuation recommendation from emergency services.

Ruawai self-evacuations

On the afternoon of Wednesday 15 February, FENZ and NZ Police supported Ruawai township residents to self-evacuate, after the FENZ weather information provider, NIWA, forecast a potential overtopping of the stopbanks overnight. It is important to note that the Kaipara District Council weather information provider, MetService, and the NRC hydrology team did not agree with the NIWA forecasts.

Some community members chose not to self-evacuate. Those who did self-evacuate either stayed with family and friends or evacuated to the Community Led Centre set up by a Ruawai Community Response Group (RCRG) member at Parirau Marae. The Kaipara District Council Welfare team had been in touch with the RCRG prior to the event to discuss preparations, and there had been an account set up at the local Four Square specifically in the event food was needed to supply a Community Led Centre. This was utilised by the RCRG member.

Up to 80 people were accommodated at the Community Led Centre that evening and returned to their homes that night, once there was no longer an immediate threat. Two generators were delivered to the marae by the EOC team to support the community response.

Mangawhai extreme weather event (24 February)

On Friday 24 February, a thunderstorm warning was issued for Auckland, including the Mangawhai area. At approximately 1500, just as the KDC EOC was preparing to stand down, it became clear that the thunderstorm activity was causing significant issues – Mangawhai was receiving a record amount of rainfall, and flooding was cutting the area off from all sides, including the official light traffic detour route along Kaiwaka/Mangawhai Rd and Cove Rd for SH1 through the Brynderwyns. SH1 at Topuni also closed.

FENZ were receiving multiple calls from vehicles trapped between slips or on flooded roads, unable to leave. A number of calls also came in from homes and properties being flooded.

Community Led Centres were set up in Kaiwaka and Waipu to support people who could not travel. The Otamatea High School remained open overnight to accommodate school students who could not return home. Two Civil Defence Centres were established, at Mangawhai Village and Mangawhai Heads, with a Community Led Centre at the Mangawhai Library Hall. Displaced peoples (approx. 130), most of which were in transit, were accommodated at two different Mangawhai Campgrounds overnight.

Between 12 noon and 10pm on Friday 24 February the Hakaru rain gauge near Mangawhai recorded 373mm of rain, with 240mm recorded in the 3-hour period from 5pm to 10pm.

Significant and long-lasting damage occurred to the local roading network and other critical infrastructure during this event. This has lengthened the road to recovery, which is anticipated to take years.

Power outages

Power outages were widespread and had significant impact across the district. They caused communications loss for thousands of homes and businesses, and loss of integral functions in multiple sectors including the primary industries. This includes businesses such as dairy farms that were unable to collect milk, retail that was unable to operate, Department of Corrections who had

difficulty retaining prisoners where power supply loss occurs or were unable to track convicted persons on electronic monitoring, health care providers that were unable to provide required levels of care, and many other impacts to individuals.

At its high point there were more than 45,000 homes and businesses throughout the Northland region without power.

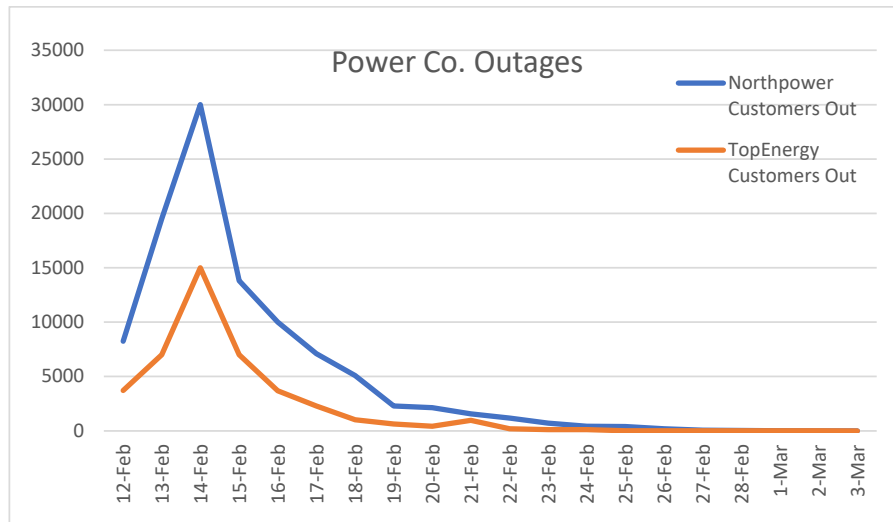


Figure 4 Graph of Power Company Customer Outages over response period



Figure 5 Image of power outages in Northland region, 14 February 2023
(Source: Top Energy)

Both local power providers (Top Energy and North Power) provided regular updates to the ECC via twice daily multi-agency briefings (attended by the KDC Controller, and daily Northland Lifelines Group meetings (attended by a KDC EOC staff member).

The roading network

There was extensive damage to the Northland roading network with 185 individual roads being closed at various times throughout the event, and 158 on a single day (excluding the main highways) at its peak.

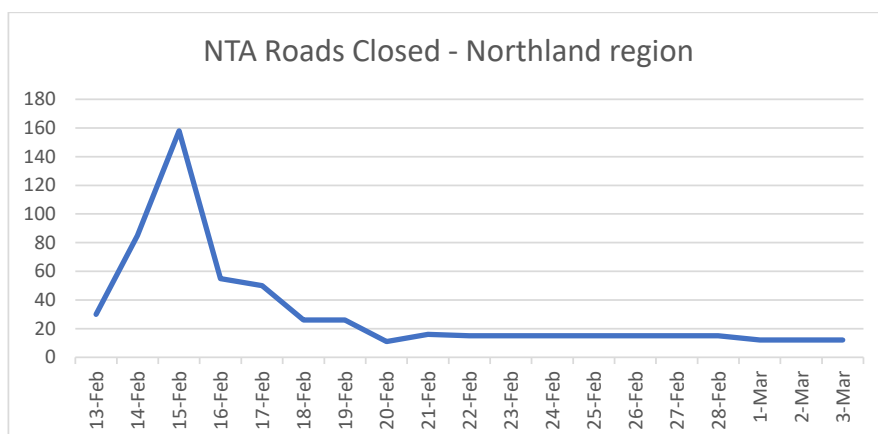


Figure 5 Graph of closed NTA managed roads over repsonse period

Road closures were a result of slips, both under slips and over slips, flooding, fallen trees or debris/blockages, scouring and damaged bridges.

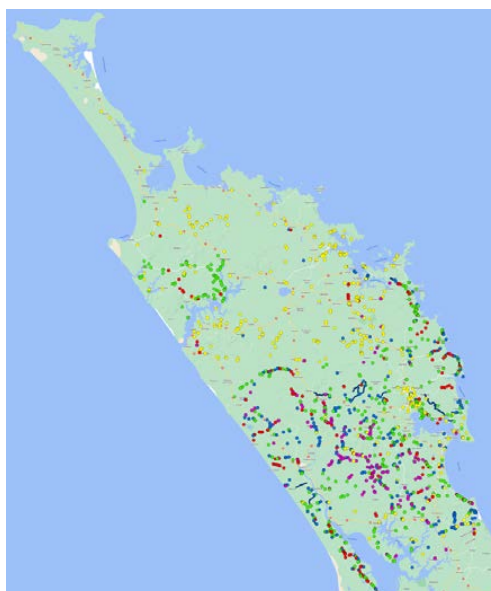


Figure 6 Locations of NTA roading resources dispatched to address issues.

At its most significant point, all main highways to Te Tai Tokerau from Tāmaki Makaurau including SH1, SH12, SH14, and SH16 and all alternate detour routes were closed. This cut off Dargaville, Whangarei, Kaikohe, Kerikeri, Kaitiaki, and all other communities from vital supply lines for a number of days. The local supplies were enough to see people through while routes were cleared, and extra supplies were flown to more affected areas using an RNZAF NH-90 helicopter and some delivered using NZDF Unimog. However, supplies were dangerously close to being depleted and, had the weather impacts gone on for an extra day or two, significant supply lines would have needed to have been established using alternate transport methods.

Telecommunications

Communications issues were significant and caused by power supply issues and/or physical damage to lines and towers. More than 200 communications towers were down in the Northland region for two days, causing an almost complete loss of mobile phone connectivity across the rohe, and over 26,000 fibre/broadband based internet connection outages.

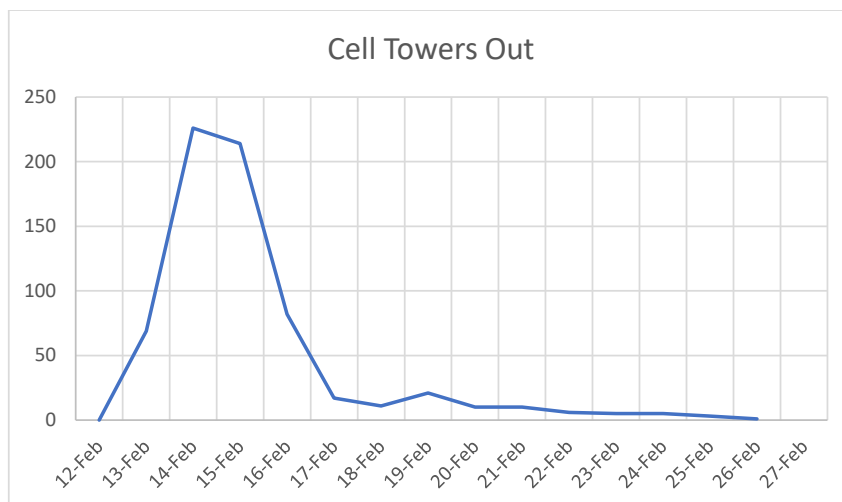


Figure 7 Graph of Cell phone towers down

With the public having a high reliance on mobile device technology, this made communications very difficult, especially to remote areas. As the graph shows above, some areas were without communications for a substantial period, and other methods were employed including the deployment of StarLink kits for satellite communications.

Rapid Building Assessments

Rapid Building Assessments (RBA) resulted in Red (Entry Prohibited) and Yellow (Restricted Access) stickers being issued to residences including several forced evacuations. Most of the red stickered properties initially occurred in the Dargaville area with several riverbanks bursting or overtopping in conjunction with high tides slowing the release of water down the rivers.

Several red stickers were issued by FENZ, in relation to the evacuation of properties in Dargaville during the initial flooding of the area. The RBA process resulted in these stickers being removed as there were no signs of property damage – as indicated on the graph below.

Residents from stickered homes were offered emergency accommodation if needed, and transitioned into temporary accommodation with MBIE after two weeks (as per legislation).

Stickered homeowners and residents were contacted on a regular basis during this time and were also given a KDC staff member's contact details to reach out to any time they had questions.

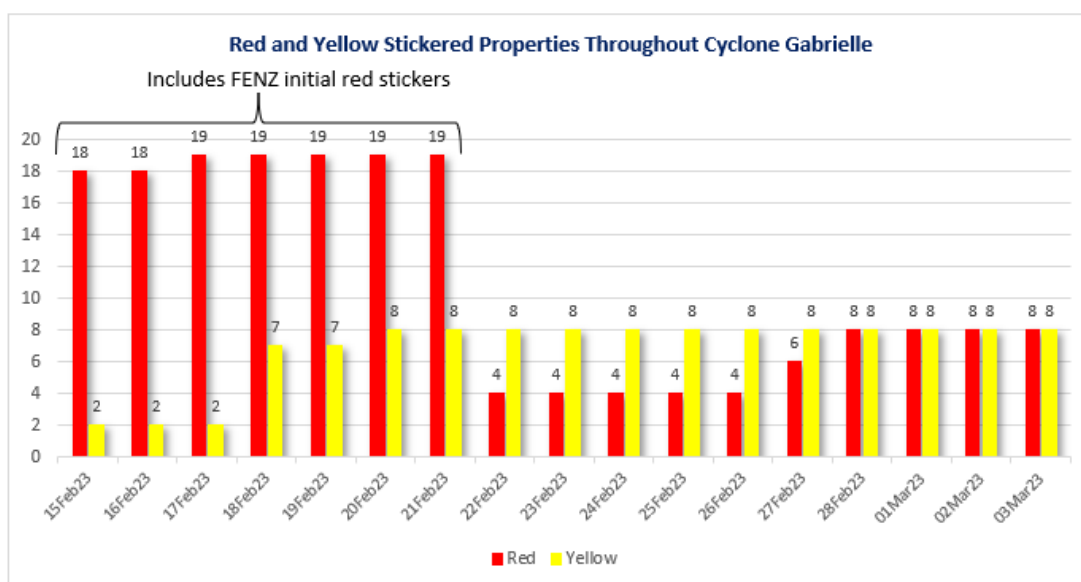


Figure 8 Number of Red and Yellow stickered houses in the Kaipara District

Overall Regional Picture

The combined graphic of the impacts (below) shows two significant phases:

1. The initial impact period, where people are under the immediate impacts of high winds and rain, and with the outages those incur, and
2. The secondary outage where homes are declared dangerous or uninhabitable several days into the event.

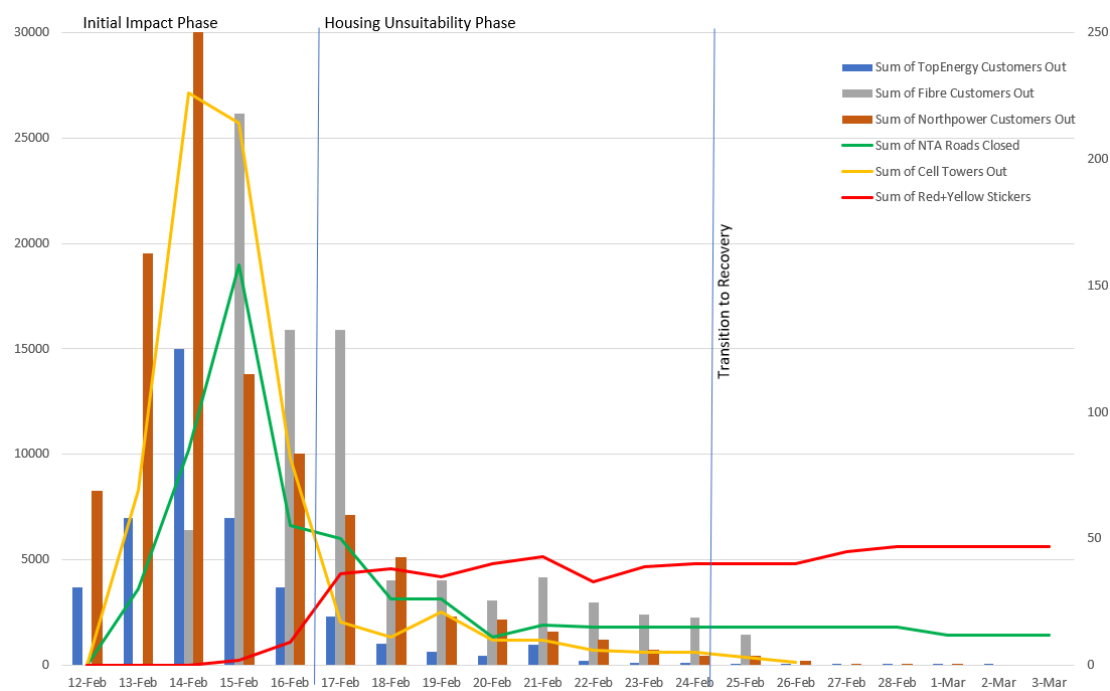


Figure 9 Overlapping impacts of Gabrielle

The second phase shows a drastic reduction on the infrastructure and lifelines impacts, but a large upswing in the number of homes that are not safe to be occupied as the Rapid Assessment phase is undertaken. This causes a large increase for the Welfare function.

Engagement and Communications

The ECC held multi-agency briefings twice daily over Microsoft Teams. Representation at these hui included FENZ, NZP, DHB, lifeline utilities group members, MSD, and key Iwi representatives. The KDC Local Controller attended these meetings. These key stakeholders provided intelligence into, and received a daily summary situation report from, the ECC Intelligence function.

The KDC EOC produced daily summary situation reports which were distributed to the ECC, and the EOC function managers.

The KDC Iwi Liaison Manager held the position of Iwi Liaison in the ICP, and worked to ensure KDC were supporting Iwi as best as possible to support their community and whānau.

Throughout Cyclone Gabrielle a key public communications tool was Facebook. Information on the impending weather from MetService and how best to prepare from Civil Defence Northland was shared via KDC social media from Thursday 9 February. One Civil Defence Northland Facebook post, posted at 2200 hours on Sunday 12 February warning about the upcoming cyclone, had a [reach](#) of over 110,000 people. Although a broad-reaching, fast, and well-utilised platform; Facebook is heavily reliant on mobile device technology which was, as discussed previously, highly impacted during this event.

Facebook is just 'one tool in the toolbox' to communicate with the public. The KDC EOC Public Information Manager (PIM) and team utilised a variety of platforms to disseminate key messaging to the public. This included the Antenno app – a mobile app KDC uses to send notifications direct to phones, as well as the KDC website, local paper pages, and media networks. Key messages were regularly sent (sometimes multiple times a day) to targeted media, including national and local radio stations. The PIM function also supported the Kaipara outreach response with physical information sheets.

The ECC issued an Emergency Mobile Alert (EMA) on Sunday 12 February to all mobile phone towers in Northland to announce the State of Emergency Declaration. At that point cell phone towers were unaffected by the cyclone. An EMA would have been considerably less beneficial after that point with the majority of Northland's cell tower being unavailable.

Welfare Phone Line

A dedicated KDC Welfare phone line was set up on Sunday 12 February to provide a 24/7 direct line for staff to assess the safety and immediate needs of residents. Actions carried out during the shift included triaging welfare calls, monitoring and updating the welfare spreadsheet, encouraging people to relocate to family and friends in the first instance if they felt unsafe, working with Logistics to match accommodation needs as required, and providing up-to-date information and advice of the situation.

Recovery Phase and next steps

On Sunday 26 February, the Cyclone Gabrielle Response phase ended for the EOC and ICP, however KDC staff continued to work tirelessly to ensure a smooth transition to recovery.

Following this formal transition from response to recovery, Tai Tokerau moved out of a State of Emergency on Monday 27 February. The National State of Emergency was extended on Monday 6 March for a further seven days.

A Local Recovery Manager was appointed on Monday 27 February to lead the recovery for the Kaipara District Council.

The KDC EOC and ICP staff attended a debrief on Friday 17 March. There they discussed and acknowledged what went well, identified what didn't work so well, and brainstormed solutions to improve the response to future events.

On Wednesday 19 April a smaller group of KDC EOC and ICP staff members met to discuss the outcomes from the debrief and begin the process to create a KDC Response Improvement Action Plan.

The KDC Response Improvement Action Plan will outline proposed actions, timeframes, and the funding or support required from KDC to enact them.

A debrief for the KDC Elected Members is being held on Wednesday 10 May.



Figure 10 Photo courtesy of Northpower



Caveat and Disclaimer

The data and statistics that form this overview were extracted from various reports and responses during the event. Much of that data was a “point in time” and formed part of a report that spanned a different timeframe than the data piece itself. This does result in some numbers varying from other reports that look to be over the same period. These show as inaccuracies or differences but are generally accounted for in either the previous or next timeframe.

Every effort has been taken to try to ensure the most accurate information, however inaccuracies in information supplied to the Northland Group Emergency Coordination Centre and Kaipara District Council Emergency Operations Centre have undoubtedly occurred due to the nature, rapidity, and ferocity of the event.

Cover photos supplied by: anon.

TITLE: Cyclone Gabrielle Response and recovery

From: Mark Trudinger, Emergency Management Recovery Specialist and Brendon Gray, Emergency Management Specialist - Tsunami Projects

Authorised by Group Manager/s: Jim Lyle, Acting GM - Community Resilience, on

Whakarāpopototanga / Executive summary

This report covers the Response and Recovery phases that pertain to Cyclone Gabrielle. There are two key documents, one for each of the phases.

The report also covers an overview of the new debrief, lessons learnt, and action tracker process for the Northland CDEM Group that has been implemented since Cyclone Gabrielle.

Ngā mahi tūtohutia / Recommendation

That the report 'Cyclone Gabrielle Response and recovery' by Mark Trudinger, Emergency Management Recovery Specialist and Brendon Gray, Emergency Management Specialist - Tsunami Projects and dated 25 May 2023, be received.

Background/Tuhinga

Attached are the two core documents covering the Response (Attachment 2) and Recovery (Attachment 3) phases for Cyclone Gabrielle.

Lesson Learnt and Action Tracker (Attachment 1).

Part of a Response for any large event is to undertake debriefs and obtain lessons and actions from differing perspectives. Northland Emergency Management Group undertook three strategic levels of debrief:

- CIMS Functional level,
- Northland CDEM (ECC) level, and
- External Stakeholder level.

Debriefs were also held externally at EOC level, and by other stakeholders.

The aim of these is to obtain lessons and actions to improve performance across all responses. Stakeholders across the levels were asked to provide feedback on things that went well, and issues that arose. These responses were collected and collated into an Actions Tracker document (attachment supplied contains a subset of the lessons). The core basis behind the collation is following the OILL process for lessons management, but modifying it into an actions tracker. This is the first time this process has been used within Northland CDEM and will be used going forward in future large responses.

As a result of the feedback through this process, 82 observations were raised, resulting in over 120 raw actions (some are repeated) that will now be collated and prioritised into an action plan with short, medium, and long term pieces of work. This is ongoing.


Some of the key observations are around:


- A need to increase staff capability and resources,
- The benefits of early engagement with stakeholders,

- The benefits of early declarations for FENZ and NZP,
- The strength of existing relationships and the growing trust across the sectors,
- The desire to extend the visibility of the common operating picture across agencies via a GIS platform, and the lack of GIS resource for CDEM,
- The impacts that communications outages had.

The actions tracker will also be used outside of responses as part of a continual improvement process for Northland CDEM Group. Lessons learnt and actions can be added at any time by CDEM staff as they arise and will form a great tool for business improvement.

Attachments/Ngā tapirihanga

Attachment 1: Response Actions Register [↓](#) 

Attachment 2: Cyclone Gabrielle Response Overview [↓](#) 

Priority/Urgency

HighLowMedium(blank)

Reported by

BillBrendonCliffJenny

Function

Control/ResponseIntelligenceLogisticsOtherPIMPlanning

Strategic (CDEM/CEG)Operational (ECC)Strategic (CDEM/CEG)Tactical (EOC)

D	Reported by	Reported on (date)	Observation (what did you see)	So what? Impact	Recommended Courses of Action	Function
1	Brendon	10/03/2023	We were better prepared because of the event that we had had the week before	We could hit the ground running, staff were familiar with their roles We were able to get a consistent product out on time	1. Have equipment ready to go at all times. 2. ensure that we pack down effectively at the end of each event to make sure we are ready for the next one	Intelligence
2	Brendon	10/03/2023	Staff that already had some experience in this area were most useful	We were able to respond effectively from start. We felt prepared as best as we could be before the event	1. Where possible use experienced staff for key positions. 2. Look for opportunities to grow wider NRC staff experience to build capacity and capability. 3. Develop resource requirements for prolonged response.	Control/Response
3	Brendon	10/03/2023	GIS were on site although not right at the start. Theirs is limited GIS support from within NRC	Although we started behind the curve with Giss we were able to catch up quickly. It was easy to just talk to the GIS person and make small adjustments to get our products rather than wait for draft product to arrive that was way off the mark. Need a lot more GIS integration and we have several GIS requirements from different perspectives. Need a GIS Workshop and resulting workflow	1. GIS staff to be part of preparation phase leading up to an event. 2. GIS resourcing to be investigated 3. Workshop required to align projects and needs	Intelligence
4	Brendon	10/03/2023	Hydro were also on site but not in the ECC. Team were invited to eat with ECC and opportunities were found to make them feel part of the team	Risk that hydro feel isolated from team. Good flow of information and positive responses to requests for data.	1. Continue to look for opportunities to build relationship with hydro. 2. Consider having hydro in meetings in the ECC.	Intelligence
5	Brendon	10/03/2023	Wider NRC staff were made available and supported the CDEM team	Early engagement with GMs worked well and staff were willing to help and could be released. Shutting down the NRC BAU mean that staff were available to support	1. Engage early with GMs regarding release of staff. 2. Look for opportunities to grow wider NRC staff experience to build capacity and capability. 3. Develop resource requirements for prolonged response.	Control/Response
6	Sarah	10/03/2023	Interagency and partner collaboration was really good - Hale good practice run	Able to get ECC set up quickly and leverage off existing relationships	Maintain strong working relationships with key stakeholders. Identify any relationship gaps.	PIM
7	Sarah	10/03/2023	FENZ went out of their way to make staff available and location	IMT was established quickly and was up and running with few issues. Well located with good facilities	1. Continue to build relationship with FENZ. 2. Thank you letter?	Other
8	Sarah	10/03/2023	FNDC set up EOC straight away, staff turned up on time and ready to go.	Made Sarah role much easier. Capability here much improved	1. Continue to build staff capability to support Sarah. 2. Develop resource requirements for prolonged response.	Other
9	Bill	10/03/2023	Good support from NRC staff Pre established relationships made working together easier	established relationships with key stakeholders are really important	1. Maintain strong working relationships with key stakeholders. 2. Identify any relationship gaps.	Other
10	Bill	10/03/2023	Good GIS input from FNDC -	Great support provided helping with overall picture including live streaming, dashboards, facilitated work on the ground. Staff were able to pull information together from a number of agencies to provide Far north COP.	1. Engage GIS staff early. 2. Investigate if there are lessons for ECC to learn from FNDC GIS staff member.	Intelligence
11	Laura	10/03/2023	The iwi liaison function worked really well	Working together meant efforts were not duplicated and resources could be allocated more effectively.	1. Keep iwi liaison as part of EOC. 2. share learnings from this with other EOCs.	Control/Response
12	Laura	10/03/2023	Lots of support from KDC staff. Good support from CEO KDC	EOC well resourced although not all staff had experience.	1. Encourage KDC to run exercise to develop resource requirements for prolonged response.	Control/Response
13	Laura	10/03/2023	Lifelines - having two LUCs worked well	W We were able to focus on sitrep and get information out in time as well as deal with issues and inquiries	1. Have two LUCs in the EOC. 2. Develop resource requirements for prolonged response.	Intelligence
14	Cliff	10/03/2023	Info coming in was good, good level of detail	Planning was easier because had good information to work from	1. Maintain current process for information exchange	Planning
15	Cliff	10/03/2023	Interagency interoperability was good	Information sharing worked well and timely decisions were able to be made. Would have been easier again if we were all co-located	Continue to build relationships. Investigate options where we can be co-located with other key stakeholders to ensure that planning function is aligned with stakeholder plans.	Other

onal (ECC)Tr...

Strategic (CDEM/CEG) Operational (ECC) Tactical (EOC)	Actions	Priority/Urgency	Responsible	Status	Response pertained to (if applicable)
Operational (ECC)	Response manager to ensure pack down time is scheduled as part of the transition to recovery or at the end of an event.	Medium	Brendon	Complete	Cyclone Gabrielle
Operational (ECC)	Run a surge capacity workshop so we can go to the leadership team with a list of specific requirements.	High	Louisa	Not started	Cyclone Gabrielle
Operational (ECC)	Setup MoU with IS&T around getting support on site during events. Investigate options to fund GIS resource dedicated in part to CDEM Once resource obtained, workshop toget all GIS requirements aligned and on paper.	High	Jenny		Cyclone Gabrielle
Operational (ECC)		Low			Cyclone Gabrielle
Strategic (CDEM/CEG)	Establish formal process between Response Manager and Louisa. Promote all staff undertaking training, at GM level	Medium	Brendon	In Progress	Cyclone Gabrielle
Strategic (CDEM/CEG)	Establish regular EOC level stakeholder meetings. NRC CDEM to attend as contributor.	Medium	Jenny		Cyclone Gabrielle
Strategic (CDEM/CEG)		Low			Cyclone Gabrielle
Operational (ECC)		High			Cyclone Gabrielle
Strategic (CDEM/CEG)	Establish regular EOC level stakeholder meetings. NRC CDEM to attend as contributor.	High	Jenny		Cyclone Gabrielle
Operational (ECC)	Setup MoU with IS&T around getting support on site during events. Investigate options to fund GIS resource dedicated in part to CDEM Once resource obtained, workshop toget all GIS requirements aligned and on paper.	High	Jenny		Cyclone Gabrielle
Operational (ECC)	Establish regular EOC level stakeholder meetings. NRC CDEM to attend as contributor.	low	Jenny		Cyclone Gabrielle
Tactical (EOC)	Source shorter "induction" style training for all staff to undertake.	High	Jenny		Cyclone Gabrielle
Tactical (EOC)	Source shorter "induction" style training for all staff to undertake.	High	Jenny		Cyclone Gabrielle
Operational (ECC)		Low			Cyclone Gabrielle
	Establish regular EOC level stakeholder meetings. NRC CDEM to attend as contributor.	High	Jenny		Cyclone Gabrielle



Northland Emergency Management Group



Cyclone Gabrielle Response Overview March 2023

Prepared by : Brendon Gray
Response Manager

Northland Civil Defence Emergency Management Group "Resilient Communities Together"







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Tropical Cyclone Gabrielle

The Northland Civil Defence and Emergency Management Group cyclone Gabrielle response began on Wednesday 8th of February 2023 with a preparation and planning phase. During this prep phase steps were taken to prepare the Group Emergency Coordination Centre (ECC) and to direct Northland regions District Councils to prepare their Emergency Operations Centers (EOC) for the impending cyclone.

At that point Gabrielle was classified as a category 1 Tropical Cyclone, sitting off the North-Eastern coastline of Australia in the Coral Sea, becoming a category 3 cyclone on the 9th of February. Gabrielle eventually followed a track past the north of New Zealand and out to the East of New Zealand before finally being reduced to a storm on Thursday 16th of February.

Cyclone Gabrielle is officially the [costliest tropical cyclone](#) on record for the Southern Hemisphere, including the deaths of 11 people in total and the displacement of over 10,000.

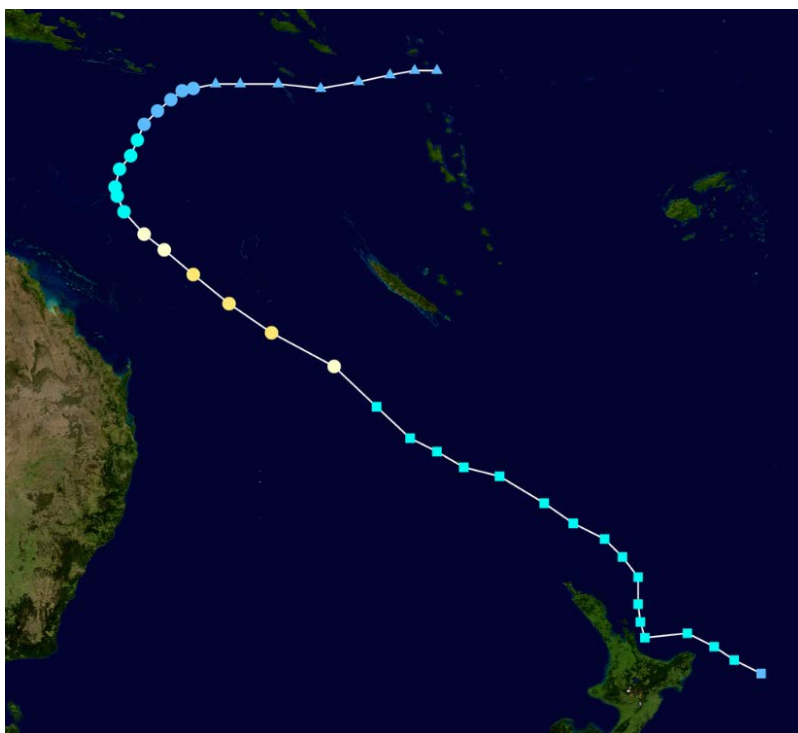


Figure 1 Path of Cyclone Gabrielle Feb. 2023 (Wikipedia)

Over the days following the classification as a cyclone, Gabrielle's effects started to be felt in the Far North initially, resulting in the ECC's and EOC's operating in a "monitoring" mode from Friday the 10th of February, then officially activating in a fully staff capacity from Sunday the 12th of February.

On the 12th of February at 1630 a Regional State of Emergency was declared by Graeme MacDonald as the Group Controller. This state of emergency was initially declared so that evacuations could occur in a reasonable timeframe and before nightfall with a specific focus on being able to support Fire and Emergency New Zealand (FENZ). Consultation was sought from FENZ, NZ Police, St Johns, and the local controllers before the declaration was declared.



At 0843 on Tuesday the 14th of February a National State of Emergency was declared by the Prime Minister Chris Hipkins and Minister for Emergency Management Kieran McAnulty. This was only the third time that a National State of Emergency had been declared in New Zealand. This was extended for an additional seven days, one week later.

Throughout the initial two weeks of the response, winds speeds reached 159kph for sustained periods and, in some places, gusts of 165 kph. The lowest pressure recorded was 958hPa.

For Northland the peak rainfall intensity was 63mm/h for a sustained period on the Pouto Peninsula with Glenbervie Forest recording over 420mm throughout the event and Whangarei having 183.8mm over 24 hours and recorded 5 times the average rainfall for this time of year. Cape Reinga had recorded 141kph winds.

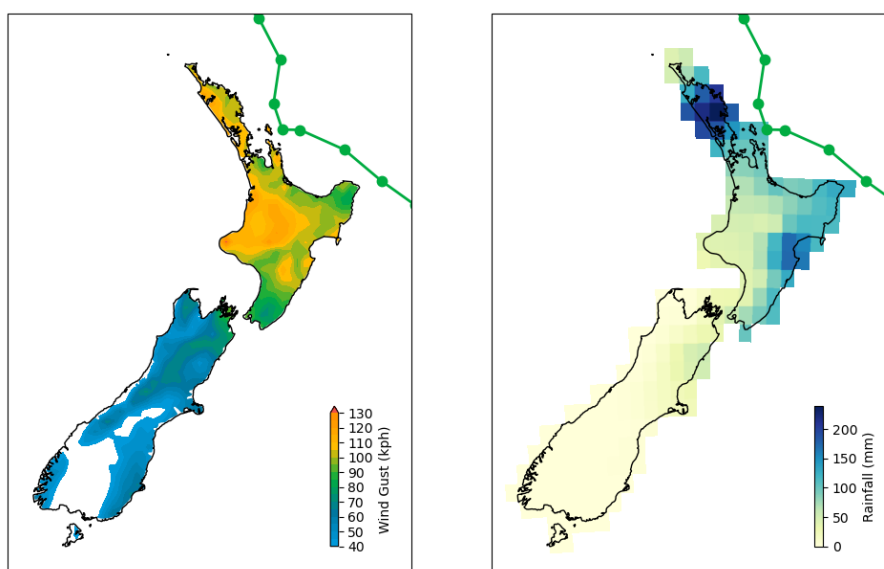


Figure 2 Wind and Rain estimates - Source: Guy Carpenter & NOAA Climate Prediction Center

In the Bay of Islands, a wave buoy recorded a wave height of 10.9m and a wind speed of 95kph. The average coastal surge across impacted areas was over 500mm. Seven vessels sunk at their mooring due to rain or waves, a further 17 ran aground. Three beacons were destroyed. All shipping was suspended in Northlands Harbours during Cyclone Gabrielle.

The impacts of Gabrielle were spread across the region of Tai Tokerau, and even worse further south across Tamaki Makaurau, Tai Rawhiti, and Te Matau a Maui. This document only looks at Cyclone Gabrielle throughout Tai Tokerau.

ECC and EOCs

For the first time in recent history all three District Councils EOC's (FNDC, KDC, and WDC) along with the Northland Regional Council (NRC) ECC were activated at once. The ECC was established at the NRC offices on Water St in Whangarei. These offices have some power resilience, and Whangarei CBDs power supplies and communications were largely unaffected during this event. At its highest the ECC was operating with over 30 staff including liaisons from other agencies.

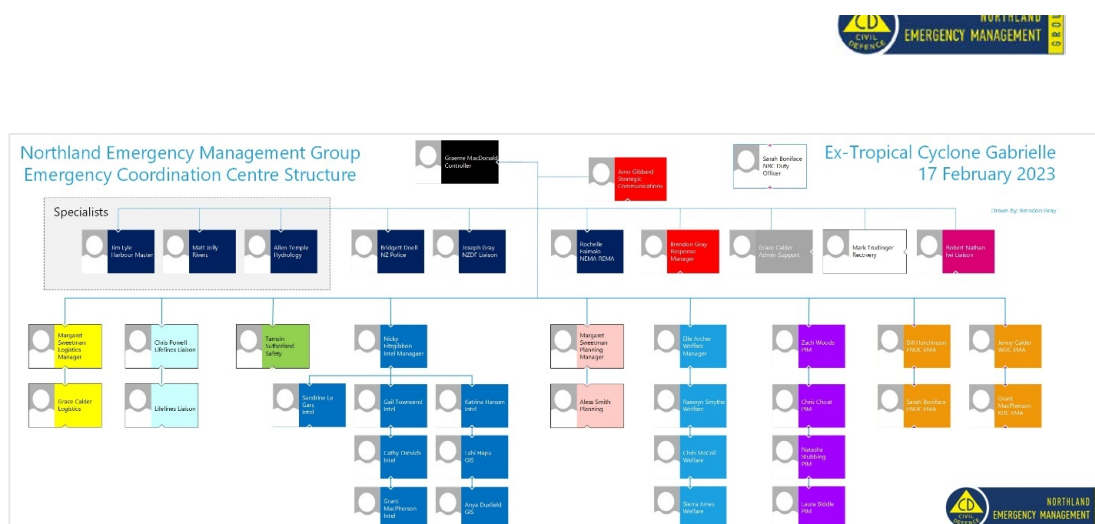


Figure 3 CIMS Structure for Northland ECC at its largest occupancy point

Although functional, this grouping of staff in the NRC offices was far from ideal. The layout of the NRC offices is focused on Business as Usual (BaU) and not based around responses. This causes a lot of disconnection and segregation and removes the visibility desired under a CIMS structure-based environment. The Group Multi Agency Coordination Centre initiative is trying to address this issue by creating a space at the Whangarei Fire Station for responses and in particular the ECC to operate from.

The District Councils all stood up EOC's and in some cases official IMT's over the course of the two weeks.

Table 1 ECC and EOC Locations

	Far North	Kaipara	Whangarei
EOC	FNDC Offices - Kaikohe	KDC Offices - Mangawhai	Forum North – Rust Ave, Whangarei
IMTs	Kaitiaia Fire station	KDC Offices - Dargaville	

Surge Staff

Due to the length and significance of the response, 10 surge staff were request from the National Crisis Management Centre (NCMC) over the course of the event. These staff were deployed across the region in various functions as identified by each EOC or the ECC. They were made up of Emergency Management Assistance Team (EMAT) members, as well as members from other CDEM organisations.

Table 2 Surge Staff over course of response

Controller	Response Manager	Planning Manager	Intelligence Manager	Welfare Manager	Liaison	Logistics Manager	PIM
KDC	FNDC	ECC	KDC	ECC	WDC	KDC	ECC
FNDC		KDC					

The ECC also brought in 31 other staff members from within NRC, the Northland Transportation Alliance (NTA), or the Department of Conservation (DoC) throughout the event.



The New Zealand Defence Force (NZDF) provided staff liaisons to be onsite at the ECC, 3 Mercedes Benz Unimog vehicles, and a NH-90 helicopter, all of which were highly utilised.

CDCs and CLCs

Throughout the response several Civil Defence Centres (CDC) were opened and operated by their respective EOCs, and several official Community Lead Centres (CLC) opened.

Table 3 CDC locations and pax, and CLC counts per district

	Far North	Kaipara	Whangarei
CDC Location (pax)	None	Anglican Church	McKay Stadium (12)
CLC Count (est.)	52		17

Kaipara had a simultaneous thunderstorm event on the 25th and 26th of February. As their EOC was still available, they continued to operate to support that event, and supported CLC's for those that were displaced by the flooding.

Not all Community Lead Centres are accounted for as many did not need assistance from their respective EOC's, were able to operate independently, and therefore did not advise their EOC of their operation.

Many Marae also opened their doors and supported the community, these were in turn supported by the Ministry of Social Development along with the CDEM Group to provide food and support.

Impact and Evacuations

At approximately 0400hrs on Tuesday 14 February the Wairoa River started breaching its banks. There were areas of Dargaville that needed immediate evacuation – specifically, Awakino Point. People were evacuated to the Dargaville Civil Defence Centre (Anglican Church, 58 Hokianga Rd).

On Friday 24 February, a Thunderstorm Warning was issued for Auckland, including Mangawhai. At approximately 1500, just as the KDC EOC was preparing to stand down, it became clear that the thunderstorms were causing significant issues – Mangawhai was receiving a record amount of rainfall, and due to flooding, was completely cut off including the SH1 Brynderwyns detour along Kaiwaka/Mangawhai Rd and Cove Rd.

FENZ were receiving multiple calls from vehicles trapped between two slips or flooded roads, unable to leave.

Community Led Centres were set up in Kaiwaka and Waipu to support people who could not return home to Mangawhai. The Otamatea High School remained open overnight to accommodate school students who could not return home. Two Civil Defence Centres were established at Mangawhai Village & Mangawhai Heads, with a Community Led Centre at the Mangawhai Library. Displaced peoples (approx. 100) were accommodated at two different Mangawhai Campgrounds overnight.

During this event, Mangawhai received over 350mm of rainfall within a 6-hour period, and the damage done to roads added several weeks to the recovery.



Power outages

Were widespread and high impacting as they also caused loss of communications for homes and businesses, and loss of functions in multiple sectors including primary industries. This includes businesses such as dairy farms that are unable to collect milk, retail that is unable to operate, Department of Corrections who can't retain prisoners where power supply loss occurs or track convicted persons that are on Electronic Monitoring, health care providers unable to provide required levels of care, and many other impacts to individuals.

At its high point there were more than 45,000 homes and businesses throughout the region without power.

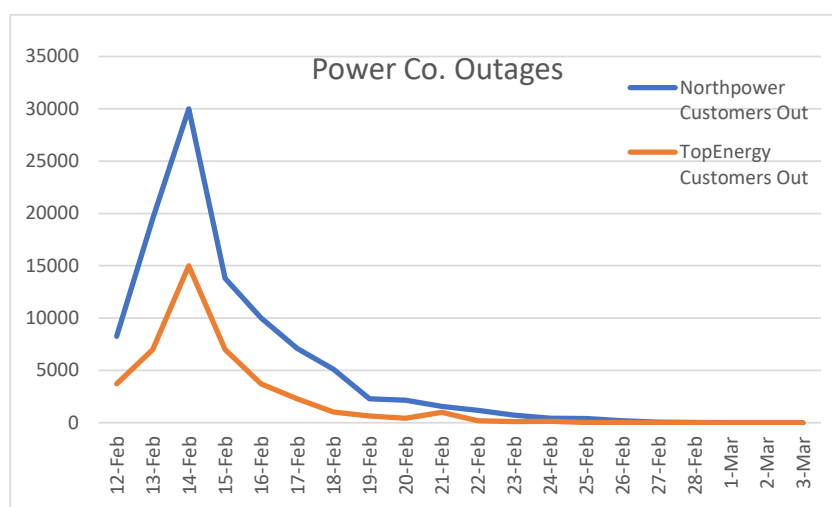


Figure 4 Graph of Power Company Customer Outages over response period

Both local power providers (Top Energy and North Power) provided regular updates to the ECC via twice daily Multi-Agency Briefings. They were also able to provide live GIS feeds into the ECC's joint response dashboard by the end of the event. This functionality will provide great insights for future events.

The roading network

There was extensive damage to the roading network with 185 individual roads being closed at various times throughout the event, 158 on a single day (excluding the main highways) at its peak.

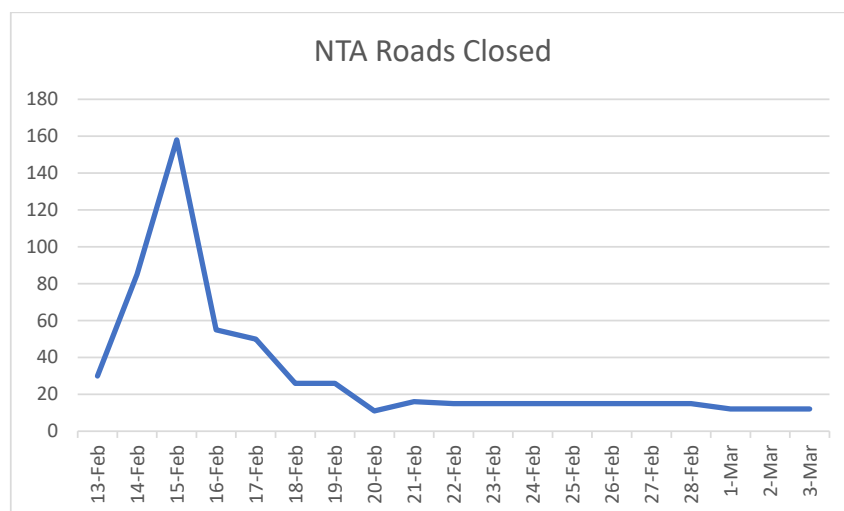


Figure 5 Graph of closed NTA managed roads over response period

Most road closures were due to slips, both under slips and over slips, several were closed due to flooding, and some were due to debris/blockages.

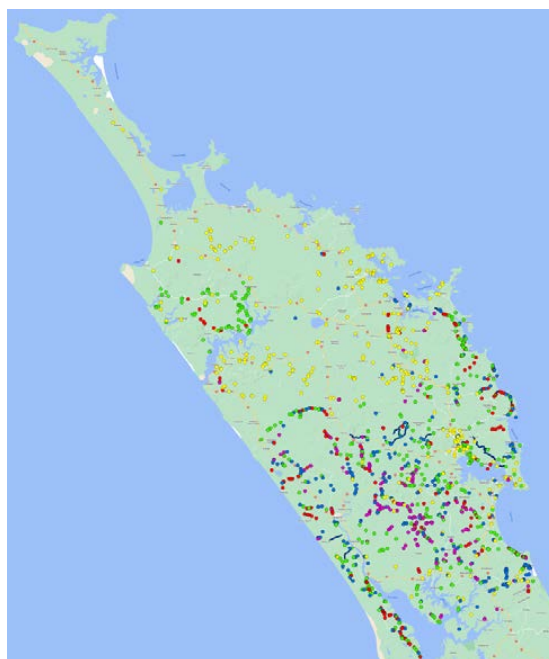


Figure 6 Locations of NTA roading resources dispatched to address issues.

At its most significant point, all main highways to Tai Tokerau from Tamaki Makaurau including SH1, SH12, SH14, and SH16 and all alternate detour routes were closed. This cut off Dargaville, Whangarei, Kaikohe, Kerikeri, Kaitia, and all other communities from vital supply lines for a number of days. The local supplies were enough to see people through while routes were cleared, and extra supplies were flown to more affected areas using an RNZAF NH-90 helicopter and some delivered using NZDF Unimog. However, supplies were dangerously close to being depleted and, had the



weather impacts gone on for an extra day or two, significant supply lines would have needed to have been established using alternate transport methods.

The NTA does not have one overarching GIS view of the roading status, instead relying on each District Council to provide their own views. This is far from ideal, and a piece of work is underway to bring this into a single pane of glass, which could then be added to the ECC's Response Dashboard.

Telecommunications

Communications issues were significant with the majority being through power supply issues, but also physical damage to lines and towers. Over 200 communications towers were down for two days, causing an almost complete loss of mobile phone connectivity across the rohe, and over 26,000 fibre/broadband based internet connection outages.

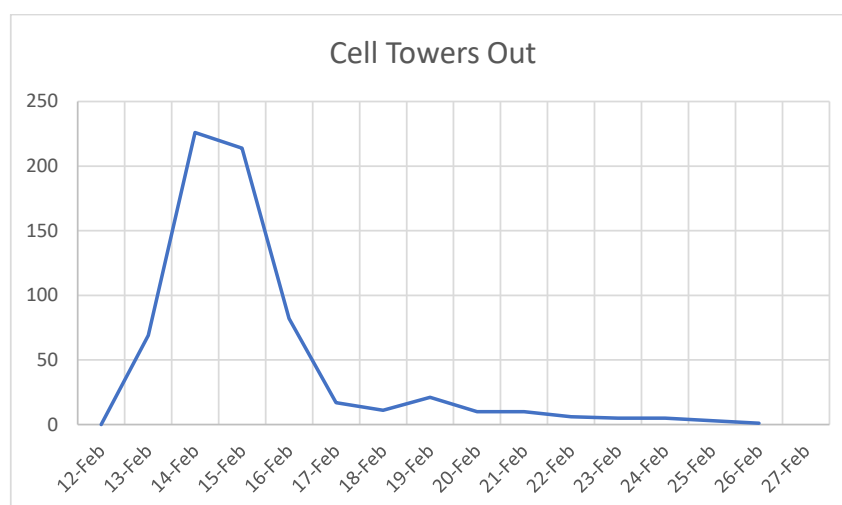


Figure 7 Graph of Cell phone towers down

With the public having a high reliance on mobile device technology, this made communications very difficult, especially to remote areas. As the graph shows above, some areas were without communications for a substantial period, and other methods were employed including the deployment of Star-Link kits for satellite communications. In a few cases the only communications with the "outside world", after a number of days, came as a result of helicopter flights.

Spark were unable to provide a live GIS feed of their operations, however Vodafone and 2 Degrees were and are now part of the overall Response Dashboard. Future work is to be done to include Spark and the RCG network towers onto the dashboard.



Rapid Building Assessments

After the initial impacts started to be felt, Rapid Building Assessments (RBA) resulted in Red (Entry Prohibited) and Yellow (Restricted Access) stickers being issued to residences including several forced evacuations. Most of the red stickered properties occurred in the Kaipara district with several riverbanks bursting or over topping in conjunction with high tides slowing the release of water down the rivers.

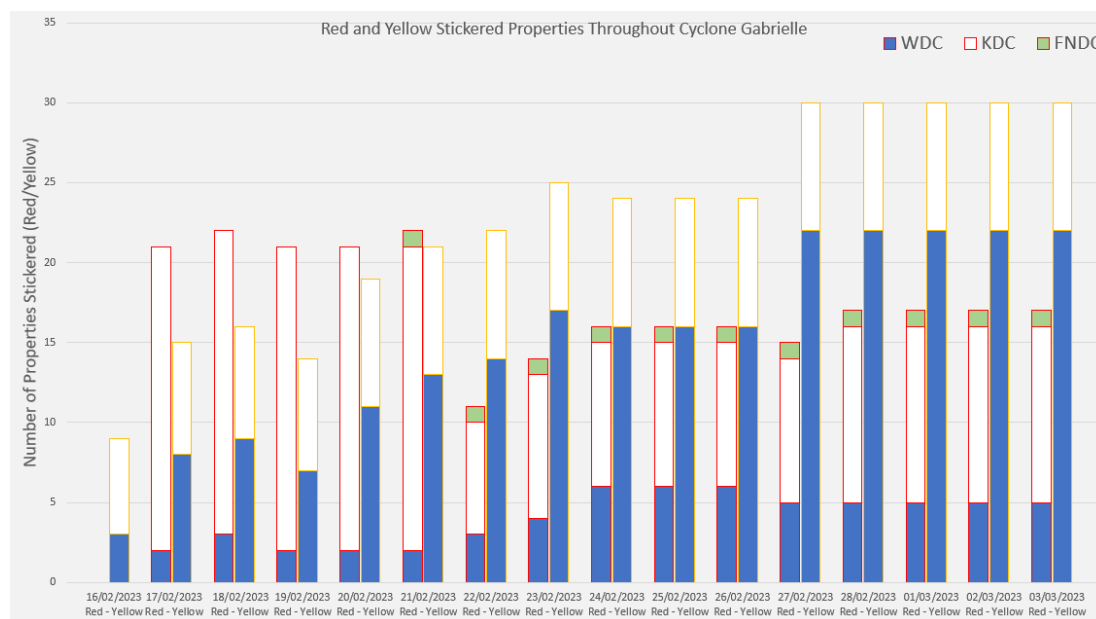


Figure 8 Number of Red and Yellow stickered houses



Overall Picture

The combined graphic of the impacts (below) shows two significant phases:

1. The initial impact period, where people are under the immediate impacts of high winds and rain, and with the outages those incur, and
2. The secondary outage where homes are declared dangerous or uninhabitable several days into the event.

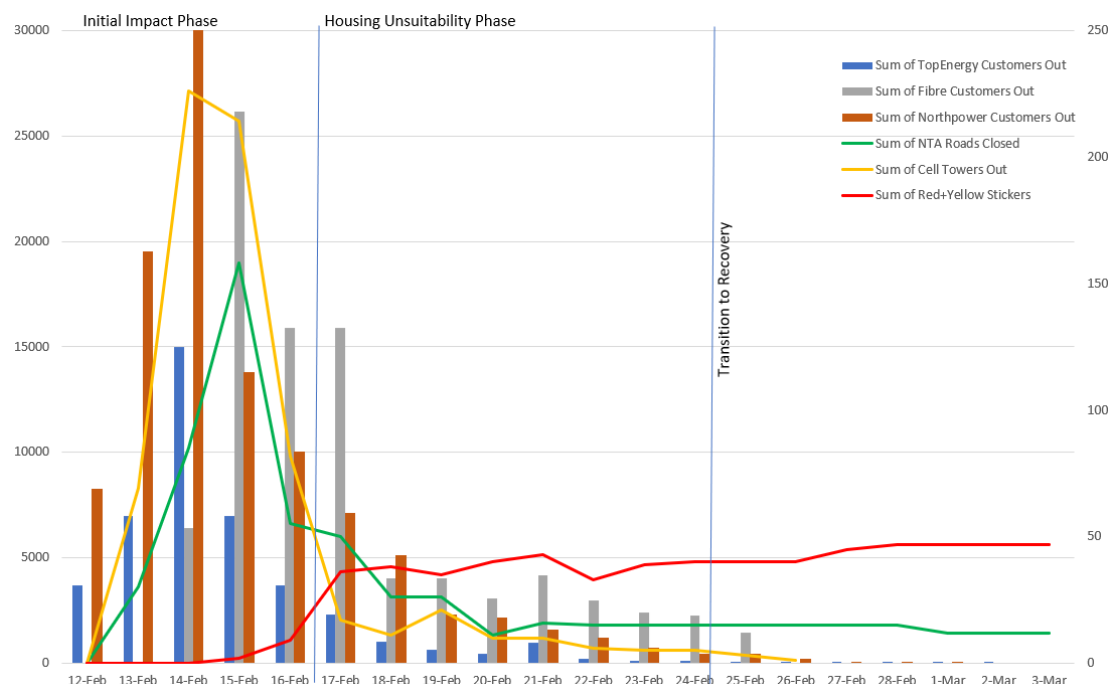


Figure 9 Overlapping impacts of Gabrielle

The second phase shows a drastic reduction on the infrastructure and lifelines impacts, but a large upswing in the number of homes that are not safe to be occupied as the Rapid Assessment phase is undertaken. This causes a large increase for the Welfare function.

Engagement and Communications

Key stakeholders were involved in multi-Agency briefings held twice daily over Microsoft Teams. This included support agencies such as FENZ, NZP, DHB, lifeline utilities group members, MSD, etc. as well as the core CDEM groups and key Iwi representatives. Stakeholders provided intelligence into, and received a daily summary situation report from, the ECC Intelligence function.

Throughout Cyclone Gabrielle a key public communications tool was Facebook. The initial post, at 2200 hours on Sunday the 12th of February warning about the upcoming cyclone, had a [reach](#) of over 110,000. Although a broad reaching, fast, and well utilized platform; Facebook is heavily reliant on mobile device technology which, as discussed previously, was highly impacted during this event. Facebook was heavily used throughout the response.



An Emergency Mobile Alert (EMA) was issued on Sunday the 12th to all mobile phone towers in Northland. At that point cell phone towers were unaffected by the cyclone. An EMA would have been considerably less beneficial after that point with the majority of Northlands cell tower being unavailable.



Recovery Phase

On Saturday 25th February, the Cyclone Gabrielle Response phase ended for the ECC. FNDC EOC had stood down two days earlier, and the Whangarei and Kaipara EOC's stood down on that day also.

Following this formal transition, Tai Tokerau moved out of a state of Emergency on the following Monday, 27th of February, the National State of Emergency was extended on the 6th of March for a further 7 days.

For Northland, the recovery phase continues..



Figure 10 Photo courtesy of Top Energy

Caveat and Disclaimer

The data and statistics that form this overview were extracted from various reports and responses during the event. Much of that data was a “point in time” and formed part of a report that spanned a different timeframe than the data piece itself. This does result in some numbers varying from other reports that look to be over the same period. These show as inaccuracies or differences but are generally accounted for in either the previous or next timeframe.

Every effort has been taken to try to ensure the most accurate information, however inaccuracies in information supplied to the Northland Group Emergency Coordination Centre have undoubtedly occurred due to the nature, rapidity, and ferocity of the event.

Cover photo supplied by: anon.