



## Weekly update on North Island weather event (incl. Cyclone Gabrielle) recovery activity

### Key Updates

#### Hawke's Bay:

- The Rapid Relief Team in conjunction with the Rural Support Trust (RST) and other groups held a Farmer Community Connect event in Hastings on Friday 21 July. There were over 300 farmer registrations to attend the event and receive donated fencing materials.

#### Wairarapa:

- The RST and other sponsors have organised a Blokes' Mystery Bus Trip on Saturday 29 July for an afternoon/evening off the farm (food and drinks provided) and a minibus with planned activities.
- The Rural Education Activities Programme Wairarapa organised pounamu-making workshops at Homewood Road on 20 July, and Old Castle Point School on 21, 22, and 22 July with a hāngi lunch provided.

#### Tararua:

- The Ladies Lunch in Dannevirke is taking place on 25 July (organised by the RST and targeted at rural women).
- The next Mayors' Taskforce for Recovery Meeting is on 4 August.

#### East Coast:

- The Forest Industry Contractors' Association has organised a meeting in Rotorua next week with industry to discuss current forestry challenges.

#### Feed Coordination Service:

- The Feed Coordination Service has been extended until October. Further information is available here: [National Feed Coordination Service \(fedfarm.org.nz\)](https://www.fedfarm.org.nz)



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### Farmer and Grower Grants



\$64.28 million paid in grant applications

As at 19 July, 5,632 applications for farmer and grower recovery grants have been approved and paid, totalling \$64.28 million in value.

### Trends in Recovery Planning

The government agreed to an Order in Council on 5 July under the Severe Weather Emergency Recovery Legislation Act 2023 to classify open air burning of cyclone and flood waste as a permitted activity for Tairāwhiti & Hawke's Bay.

#### Wairarapa:

- A new Programme Manager for recovery in the Wairarapa has been appointed (Simon Taylor).
- Three fencing funds have been pre-approved by Post Your Support. This funding is part of a contract under the NIWE Time-Critical Need fund.

#### Tararua:

- The Recovery team is looking to launch a campaign to target mental health in the coming weeks.

#### Animal Welfare:

- Further rain in areas affected by Cyclone Gabrielle is causing difficulties feeding out and poor feed utilisation.
- DairyNZ has a web page containing useful information on dealing with wet weather: [Wet weather management - DairyNZ](#)

### North Island Weather Event (NIWE) Fund

MPI is still receiving Expressions of Interest to the NIWE Time-Critical and NIWE Isolated Rural Communities Funds.

Initiatives to receive NIWE funding include:

- Rural Support Trust: \$1.9 million to co-ordinate local recovery services, clean-up efforts, wellbeing events, extension workshops, and provide other specialised support.
- Post Your Support: \$500,000 to support farmers and growers who have had fencing and or growing structures damaged or destroyed by Cyclone Gabrielle.

#### Woody Debris Fund Update

The delivery of the Woody Debris Fund is progressing well:

- \$3.54 million has been distributed to councils to commence woody debris collection.
- \$2 million has been transferred to Te Puni Kōkiri and grant applications are now open.
- The residual \$4.6 million will be progressed into contracts by mid-August 2023.
- Both Hawke's Bay Regional Council and Gisborne District Council have completed significant work, including:
  - Undertaking detailed spatial analysis and geospatial mapping across the regions to determine woody debris volumes, locations, and key risk areas.
  - Determining the likely priority catchments to protect critical infrastructure, with further engagement (incl. with iwi) now underway.
  - Understanding the costs associated with various types of removal/processing.
  - Engagement of suitably qualified contractors.
  - Development of health and safety plans which is critical prior to debris removal occurring.
- Gisborne District Council reported that approx. 1.2 million cubic metres of woody debris is sitting within catchments across the region.