



## Weekly update on Cyclone Gabrielle recovery activity

### Regional Recovery Planning Across the Country

- Auckland Council held a public sector leads workshop to discuss phase two of the Auckland recovery plan last week. Further information will be available in coming weeks.
- MPI is connecting primary sector stakeholders to the Regional Recovery Agency so their input can be collated into the initial draft of the regional recovery plan.
- In Tararua, the 100-day recovery plan is in place until 15 June. A formal needs assessment is underway and closes on 9 June. This assessment will inform the long-term recovery plan.
- In the Wairarapa, the Regional Recovery Plan is in its early stages of development. Central and local government agencies are working with rural stakeholders to advance progress. The next step is to set a date for a follow-up Regional Recovery Group meeting.



A power pole knocked over on Paroa Station in Tairāwhiti.



### \$61.85 million paid in grant applications

As at 29 May 5,409 applications for farmer and grower recovery grants have been approved and paid, totalling \$61.85 million in value.



### Insurance claims from the cyclone over \$890 million in damage

In March insurance companies across the country reported receiving 40,000 claims worth over \$890 million for damage from the cyclone.



### Apple crop estimated to be down by 20 percent due to cyclone damage

New Zealand Apples and Pears has estimated this season's apple crop will be down by 20 percent due to cyclone damage. In Hawke's Bay it is estimated that around 33 percent of fruit is affected.



This was previously a bridge on Pourau Station in Tairāwhiti.

### Key Updates

- Agriculture Minister Hon Minister O'Connor visited Tairāwhiti on Tuesday 30 May to meet with local farmers and rural community members on the progress of the recovery. The Minister visited three farms in the region and attended a community meeting with local rural professionals to discuss the recovery.
- Sediment testing is underway in Northland, Tairāwhiti and Hawkes Bay to establish soil nutrient levels, potential contamination, and the likely impacts on growing conditions. At each site, sampling of sediment type, texture, density, visual soil assessment, and worm counts were taken. The results of this work will help farmers make decisions about soil quality and the application of soil supplements. The sampling programme is due to be completed by the end of June 2023.
- Indicative land categorisations across the Hawke's Bay [were provided to impacted residents last week](#). A comprehensive community conversation is due to take place in mid-June between residents and councils once they have more information on keeping the communities safe during any future extreme weather events.
- A helicopter drop delivered fuel and fencing supplies to Tahunga in Tairāwhiti last week. Three further drops of fuel and fencing supplies are planned this week.
- Budget 2023 is also investing \$10.15 million to help clean up woody debris. Further information about the EOI process in Tairāwhiti is available at <https://www.gdc.govt.nz/council/news/expressions-of-interest-for-clearing-large-woody-debris>.