



Weekly update on Cyclone Gabrielle recovery activity

Cyclone Recovery Directorate

- MPI established a Cyclone Recovery Directorate to ensure appropriate engagement and support for national and regional recovery work. The directorate aims to enable faster and effective delivery of recovery initiatives, support collaboration across MPI branches, and provide visible support networks for the regions.

Operations Reach and Muster

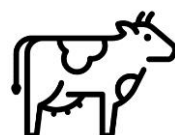
- Operation Reach continues to receive demand for helicopter supply drops into areas that remain isolated. There was a drop-off of diesel and petrol for critical farming on 21 April. Demand for supplies will remain in areas where bridges and roads across Tairāwhiti may not be fixed for 3-4 months.
- As road access is reinstated to most areas of Hawke's Bay, stock movements are returning to business-as-usual models. Analysis is underway to ensure the farms that continue to be impacted by roading infrastructure disruption can access the services of Operation Muster.
- MPI and Federated Farmers restarted the national Feed Coordination Service to support farmers recovering from the cyclone. The service helps match people with grazing or supplementary feed for sale to those who need it. 10,000 bales of feed and more than 3,000 hectares of grazing have been donated through the national Feed Coordination Service since mid-February.

All-of-Government engagement

- MPI is working with the Department of Internal Affairs, Te Puni Kōkiri, and the Ministry for the Environment on management of sediment and debris from the cyclone.

MPI National Feed Survey Assessment

- AgFirst has resumed the nationwide stock feed assessment. The most recent report was released at the end of March.
- The feed situation on the East Coast and in the Hawke's Bay remains the most at risk as some communities are still isolated and experiencing significant delays in getting stock off farm to prepare for winter. At this point feed levels are still adequate.
- Higher than average liveweights recorded at recent weaner sales suggest that feed demand will be higher than normal on finishing and dairy grazing properties this winter unless farmers have reduced the total number of stock units to be carried over.



30,821 livestock moved through Op Muster

Since the start of March 2023, over 30,000 livestock have been transported in Hawke's Bay through Operation Muster.



4 engagement events

There was 1 online, 2 Hawke's Bay, and 1 Northland/Auckland engagement events last week. In April, there have been 21 engagement events with primary sector partners.



33 isolated farms

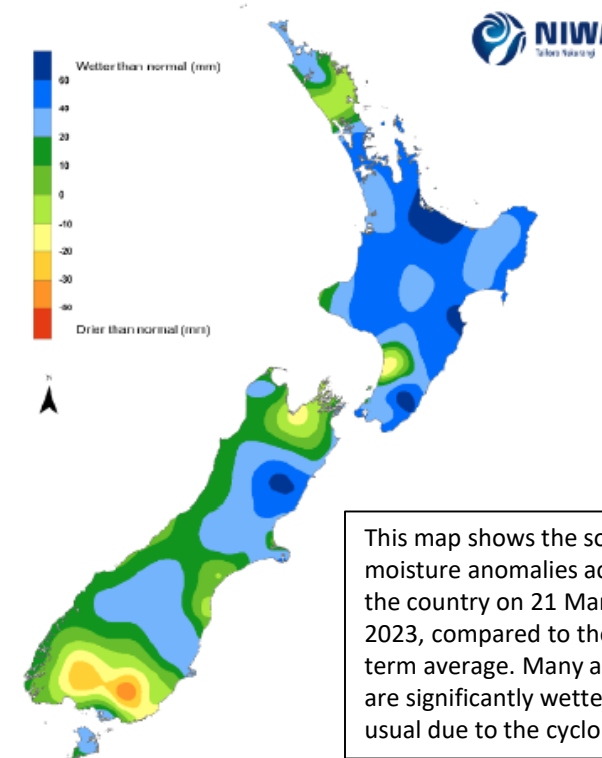
MPI is maintaining active contact with 28 farms in Tairāwhiti and 5 farms in Hawke's Bay where access is restricted.



Produce costs up 21% in March

The Grocery Supplier Cost Index rose 10.3% in March, with produce up 21%. There were large increases in apples, pears, potatoes, kiwifruit, and kūmara in the wake of the cyclone.

Soil moisture anomaly (mm) at 9am on 21/03/2023



Key Updates

Regional updates:

- NIWA marine scientists will be in Hawke's Bay between 17 and 29 April 2023 onboard the research vessel *Ikatere*. Scientists will be mapping about 200km² of the seabed to measure the effects of the cyclone on the marine environment, including the impact of large volumes of sediment.
- The Northland Rural Support Trust (RST) held a dinner for kūmara growers on 18 April in Northland. Around 54 people attended. At the dinner, the RST announced financial support of \$1,000 in food vouchers per grower and packhouse, and the Northern Wairoa Vegetable Growers Association and Vegetables New Zealand Incorporated announced that the MPI funding application for the kūmara seed contingency fund was approved.
- In the Manawātū, on 21 April a bailey bridge was installed on Pohangina Road as a replacement for Makiekie Bridge. This will allow vehicles up to 46 tonnes to access this rural community.
- The New Zealand Farm Forestry Association plans to deliver a series of 18 seminars regionally across New Zealand during May and June 2023. The free seminars will deliver information on the range of benefits of planting trees, outline species options and forestry regimes, provide information on where to find funding and support, and promote the new advisory service to attendees as an avenue for further free advice. The seminars planned in Hawke's Bay and Gisborne will contribute to post-cyclone support to landowners who are wanting to plant to enhance sustainable land management.
- RSTs have received more than 1000 calls to their 0800 Rural Help line since the Cyclone. The number of new calls and cases are slowing but the provision of ongoing support and 1:1 case-work, which is often complicated and time-consuming, is increasing.

Grocery supplier costs up 10.3%pa in Mar

Annual % change

