

9 October 2023

Tēnā koe

Te Tai Tokerau Resilience Action Plan

I am writing to you as the Chair of the Cyclone Gabrielle Recovery Governance Group which has had oversight of the development of the Te Tai Tokerau Resilience Action Plan. This Action plan was commissioned by Minister Davis to provide a list of short-, medium- and long-term priorities for building Northland's resilience informed by our "End of the Road" communities to put Northland in a position to seek funding for strengthening regional resilience.

This work was undertaken between June and September 2023 and involved engaging with remote communities, reviewing existing plans and strategies, talking with infrastructure providers and social service providers about what they see as the priority actions for resilience and the issues to address in servicing remote communities. The work included ensuring the action plan was consistent with the region's recovery and climate adaptation plans.

The key outputs for this project, the Te Tai Tokerau Resilience Action Plan and Te Tai Tokerau Resilience Action Plan – Rationale and Approach, are included at attachments 1 and 2.

These documents set out the process for determining priorities for lifting resilience in Te Tai Tokerau, the priority actions for remote communities and the wider region and the arrangements that will need to be in place to support delivery of these actions.

Priority Actions for Remote Communities

The project team worked with remote communities in designing the approach to resilience, putting their experience and recommendations at the centre of the development of the Action Plan. As part of this, the communities developed a vision of what a resilience community looks like and the outcomes that would support this vision.

Vision:

People living safely and well in their homes and on their whenua in the face of increasing natural hazards.

Outcomes:

1. Whanau and communities are prepared for responding to events
2. Community connections are strong
3. Homes are places that support resilience and self-reliance of whanau
4. Whanau can access their homes and whenua
5. Whanau are self-sufficient in the face of disruptions to external services and supplies
6. Whanau and communities make informed choices about living with natural hazards and climate change impacts.

Based on the vision and outcomes, remote communities identified priorities for action in the following areas:

- Establishment of **Manaaki hubs** to support communities during natural hazard events
- Improvements in the standard of **housing** quality
- Equipment and advice to lift **self-sufficiency** in energy, water, food and health
- Repairs to unusable **private roads and access ways**
- Communication of natural hazards **risk information**
- Community event **response planning**
- **Flood risk reduction** assessments and works
- **Climate change** adaptation planning and solutions
- 'Last kilometre' **telecommunications**
- Support for those **sleeping rough**
- Addressing the **impact of forestry trucks** on rural communities and rural roads

These aligned with the priorities identified in our discussions with social service providers who work with remote communities.

Priority actions for Wider Regional Resilience

The project team reviewed existing plans and met with infrastructure providers to understand what was needed to increase the wider resilience of the region as a whole. Roading and power were identified as foundational infrastructure that supported the delivery of other activities.

Actions are underway across the region to strengthen resilience through existing work programmes. Existing activities are set out in *Te Tai Tokerau – Rationale and Approach*. Below is a list of the key areas for building resilience and the areas where further investment is required:

- **Major byways** – strengthening detour routes, exploring an alternative to the Brynderwyns
- **Local roads** – continued repair of local roads, addressing drainage related defects
- **Alternative modes of transport** – upgrade Kaitaia airport, explore coastal shipping
- **Power** – investigating secondary sources of power for critical infrastructure and services
- **Telecommunications** – access to satellite systems as they become available, advocating for an agreed performance requirement during extended power outages
- **Water supply and 3 waters** (required work already underway)
- **Flood mitigation** – implementation of regional strategy
- **Land drainage systems** – additional modelling
- **Climate change projections** – provision of information to communities
- **Climate adaptation strategy** – tangata whenua planning, council-iwi partnership
- **Business resilience** – investing in building business understanding and awareness
- **Tree removal** – Nga Manga Atawhai programme
- **Emergency Management** – establish a Multi-Agency Coordination Centre in Whangarei

Implementation of the Action Plan

Lifting the resilience of Northland communities will be a joint effort, involving contributions from government agencies, councils, infrastructure providers, iwi, hapū and local communities over several years. Leadership and cross-agency coordination will be key to prioritising and delivering on the Action Plan to achieve regional resilience.

Should Te Tai Tokerau receive funding linked to this action plan, several issues will need to be addressed in implementing the Action Plan. These include:

- coordination of the activities of providers when engaging with communities,

- implementing the Action Plan in a manner that can be responsive to the circumstances of individual communities,
- continuing to include community voice in future decision making about resilience, and
- putting in place arrangements that support resilience being an ongoing focus for the region.

It was agreed at the Recovery Governance Group meeting that this Action Plan would be taken forward to the Regional Leadership Group for consideration of ownership moving forward.

In the meantime, the attached documents can be used as a reference of our communities' voices when you are seeking funding opportunities.

Ngā mihi

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Kelly Stratford', with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Kelly Stratford

Chair

Cyclone Gabrielle Recovery Governance Group

Attachments

1. Te Tai Tokerau Action Plan
2. Te Tai Tokerau Resilience Plan: Rationale and Approach.