HOLDING THE LINE

WHEN INFRASTRUCTURE MEETS AROHA

Responding to the impacts of Cyclone Gabrielle.

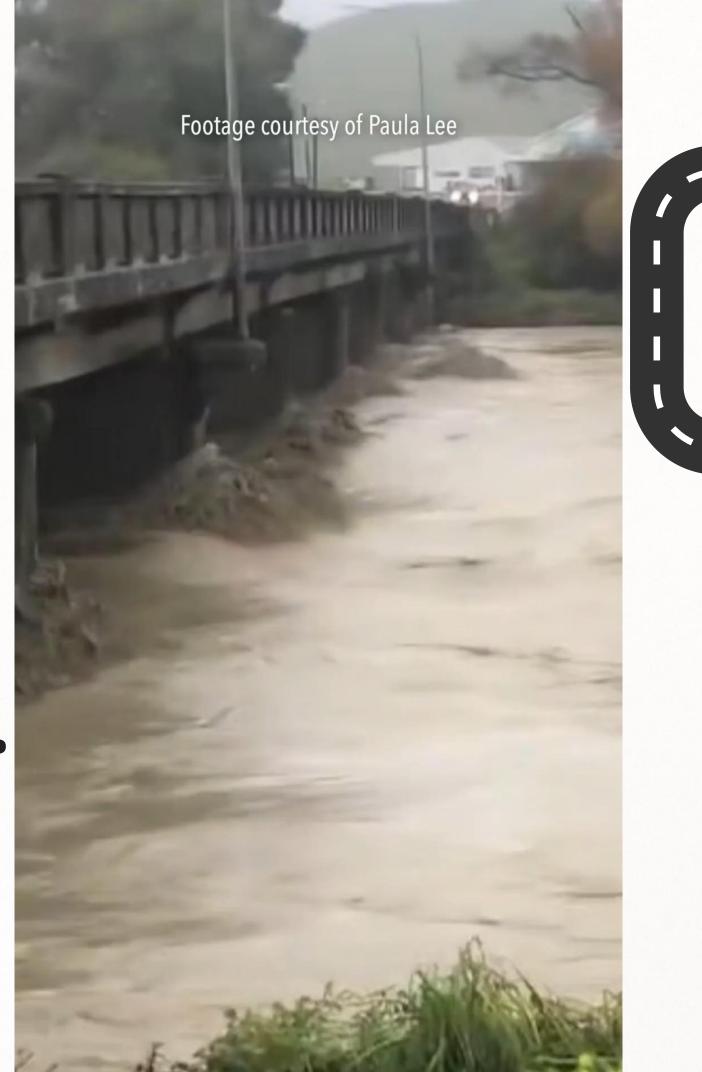


Ricky Kuru

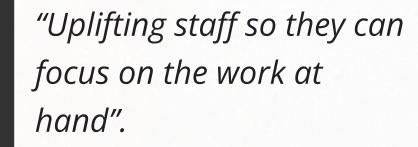


# He aha te mea nui o te āo?

It is people.









"Flow on effect to their whānau and wider communities". What were some of the "straight out responses done ASAP?"

## Safety & Recovery Responses

Our resources were available to support our whānau and wider community.

#### Access to the 35

Our whānau had restored vehicle access to some hard to reach places.

#### Pride & Self-Determination

Our staff and contractors had roles that meant they were contributing to the overall recovery process.





Why was Pourau Road so important?



## Who made Pourau Road Possible?









## Community Feedback

#### Co-Governance In Action

"An example of co-governance. A locally led initiative to benefit everyone supported by local & central government. Too much Kuru Contracting" - Kimiora.



#### Independence Regained

"THANKYOU Kuru Contracting - your team has given us back our independence once again. Look forward to driving the new road" -Dorris.



## Local Solutions to Local Problems

"Nga mihi nui Kuru Contracting...local solutions to local problems, keeping our whanau connected by thinking outside the mainstream" - Alison.







## Thanks... Any questions?



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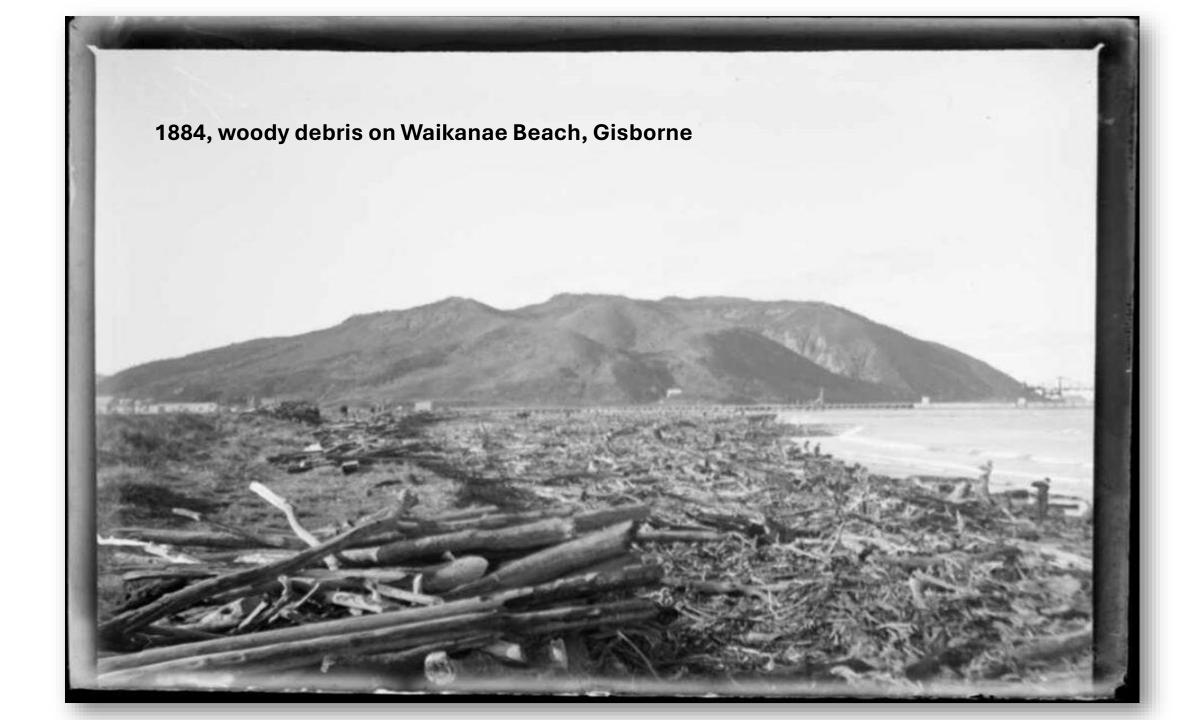




#### **Brief Overview**

- A great way to learn is to reflect
- There's a long history of woody debris in Gisborne
- Between 2018 and 2023 there were 14 extreme weather events in Gisborne
- Three states of emergency in 2023 alone
- Cyclone Gabrielle's impact on Gisborne was massive
- Lets go back in time and paint a picture!





#### 1960 – 1962, woody debris Waikanae Beach, Gisborne





Above: Sunday, 9 a.m.
After Waikanae Beach had
been practically cleared
of debris ready for the
holiday season, all the
work was undone in 24
hours, and the beach was
once again blanketed in
a thick and tangled covering of driftwood.



#### HEAVY RAIN CAUSES FLOOD SCARE

A recenty-four hour deluge of ruin, totalling 2,65 ins between 9a.m. Monday, May 3 and 9a.m. Tuesday, May 4, threatened hourse in the lower Groham Road area, actually entered one, and gave cause for concern over the countryside in general.

Sharp rises in the rivers, with high tides affecting the dispersal of water, almost precipitated floods of major proportions. However, the rain wased and the danger

ABOVE-A large amount of driftwood and debris

piled up against the Gladstone Road bridge.

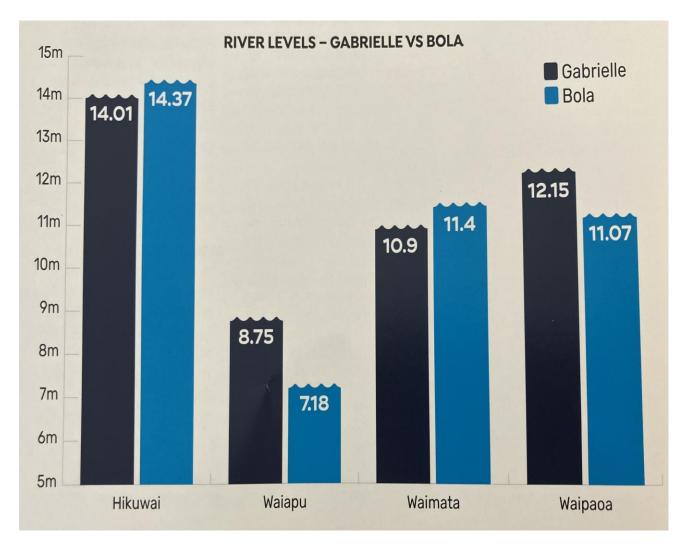
RIGHT - Workmen use chainness to free the block-

BELOW - The extent of the pile up is seen in this shot from up river.



#### Bola vs Gabrielle

- Cyclone Bola March 1988 reported as a 1 in 100year event
- Cyclone Gabrielle February 2023 set new benchmarks 35 years later
- Gabrielle was more extreme in rainfall intensity, and had higher flood levels – was a 24-hour extreme rain event
- Bola rain lasted days, with rivers near peak levels for almost a week
- But the biggest by product of Bola was how land use changed
- Hill country farms were destroyed and farmers walked away
- The forestry industry bought up land and started planting pine – encouraged by the Government to plant a tree wherever they could fit one in-ECFP
- Risk report at the time did identify debris



Source: Gisborne District Council



14 extreme weather events 2018 –2024 Tairāwhiti

June 2018 – Queen's Birthday storm Tolaga Bay

July 2020 – Heavy rain event SH35

June 2021 – Heavy rain event

November 2021 – State of Emergency

March 2022 – State of Emergency

November 2022 – Heavy rain event

January 2023 – Cyclone Hale, State of Emergency

February 2023 – Cyclone Gabrielle, State of Emergency

February 2023 – Mangapapa, heavy rain event

June 2023 – State of Emergency

September 2023 – Heavy rain event

October 2023 – Ex tropical cyclone Lola

November 2023 – Heavy rain event

June 2024 – Heavy rain event



## Debris caught on bridges

- Pictured is Wi Pere St bridge in Gisborne
- One of many bridges around the region that had woody debris caught up.









#### Te Karaka

- Community of around 400 evacuated to two hills, and were unable to get back for almost 24 hours
- Large response from induvial forestry companies who helped on the ground
- Huge impact on iwi, forest industry
- Forestry work stopped for weeks because there was no access
- Even though council applied pressure
- Heavy machinery was either redeployed or unable to access areas because of the high groundwater level
- Industry offered as much capability as it had to council
- However, Council was reluctant to use forestry contractors on public roads



- Gisborne lost its main water supply for six weeks after Cyclone Gabrielle
- There were ten breaks along the water pipeline
- The highest risk forest in this region sits above this pipeline
- Company gave up trying to get consent to harvest to help solve problem

#### Treated differently

- Press coverage was overwhelming negative after Gabrielle
- Environmental/social commentators drove negative commentary
- Significant loss of social licence in our community
- Council has created a disabling business environment in this region
- Focussing the blame on forestry took focus off Council and their lack of Consent oversight, maintenance on roads, etc.



## Eastland Wood Council response after Cyclone Gabrielle

#### What went right

#### Became the public face and voice of the industry, meant no single company had to

Allowed forestry companies to knuckle down, sort themselves out, neigbours out and the community

Maintained employment, businesses and commerce

Source for all media enquiries

take the heat

Connected key industry regional players.

### Good things that came out of it

Council, EWC, contractors have started to work together more closely

Council needs capacity in response mode after these events – and forestry can help.

Created access to further lobbying opportunities with Ministers, the Ministerial Inquiry into Land Use (MILU) report authors, the Mayor and the CEO of Council

EWC became focal point for some public recovery funding and delivery of projects to the region.

Communication and Emergency management plan

TFAG and TAG projects-Model for further collaboration on land use change and consenting process

## What we'd do differently

Tell our story to the media better

Thought we were doing the right thing working with council and other stakeholders the story would come out. It didn't

Forestry contributed more to the cleanup than any other organisation but was never acknowledged.

Engage with Forest Owners Association (FOA). When you've got regional issues they have people better placed, more politically savvy.

FOA have access to experts— make sure there's a strategy to deal with emergencies Better centralised capability information

#### Strong Relationships

- There are strong relationships between competing forestry organisations, that is something we've done right
- While we compete in the forest, outside of it we work to make the working environment better
- Strong inter -company relationships is key.
- United voice avoids being 'picked off'
- The loss of social licence was only from certain parts of the community ("townies"," politicians", environment groups and the media).
- Forestry was out there every day talking to the people affected and we built strong relationships with the community it was just under the radar.
- Encouraging related businesses to tell their storey
- Strong advocacy with Central govt-Banging on the door
- Getting along side council staff at all levels.





#### Lessons learned

- We are telling forestry's stories more-over and over again.
- Make sure EWC is represented by someone independent of daily forestry operations but knowledgeable of the industry
- Social licence has improved "grown ups in the room"
- There's been some change of tone from Council. Level of communication is significantly better-"Are they listening but not hearing?"
- Industry still sees GDCs approach as a significant overreach. Can not do business under those conditions.

#### Highly complex situation – Transition



The problems associated with forestry, large-scale weather events and land use in Gisborne are highly complex – the issues we face here cannot be solved by industry alone. We are part of the problem and need to be part of the solution.

We can not do that if the business is no longer.



There needs to be collaboration between a number of parties



Tell our storey more convincingly



**END** 



### COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

**POST GABRIELLE LEARNINGS** 

LAWRENCE YULE - HAWKE'S BAY REGIONAL RECOVERY AGENCY

#### **HAWKE'S BAY RECOVERY**

#### Locally-led, Regionally-Coordinated, Nationally-supported

Coordinate recovery across region

Coordinate
with, assure
and advocate
to
Government

Support regional partners – councils and mana whenua

Programming, phasing and sequencing

- Regional Recovery Agency established March 2023, by the region and with Government support
- Reports to Matariki Governance Group (Councils and mana whenua)
- Role: to coordinate and prioritise recovery activity across partner agencies within the region and with Government and its agencies.
- Acts as 'systems integrator' ensuring recovery activity is joined up and effective.

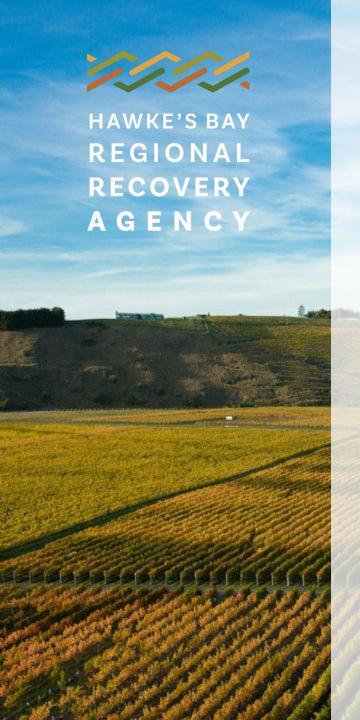




#### **CYCLONE GABRIELLE**

#### PRIMARY SECTOR IMPACT

- Primary industries bore brunt of output losses
- Destruction of large areas of cropping, orchards, vineyards; significant damage for pastoral farms
- Initial cost estimates:
  - Forestry: ~165M crop damage
  - Horticulture: ~\$520M direct costs + \$56M replanting
  - Pastoral: ~\$180M direct costs
- Overview of damage:
  - Major damage to forestry and fishing sectors
  - Mass loses in vege/cropping production, apple orchards and grape crops
  - Agriculture significant loss of stock, grazing, tracks, fences, bridges
  - Significant silt deposits affecting large areas of orchards and vineyards Esk, Heretaunga Plains



#### **CYCLONE GABRIELLE**

#### **OVERALL IMPACT**



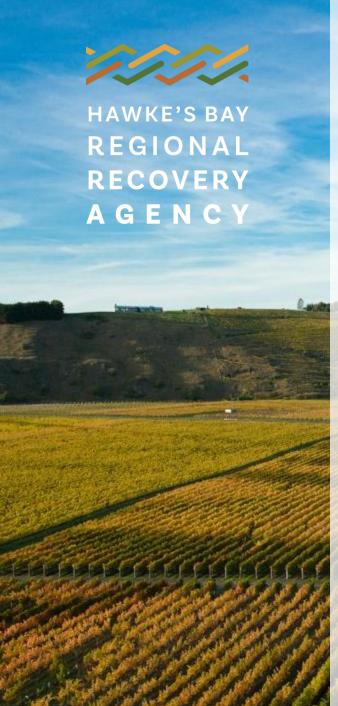


#### **CYCLONE GABRIELLE**

#### **INFRASTRUCTURE DAMAGE**

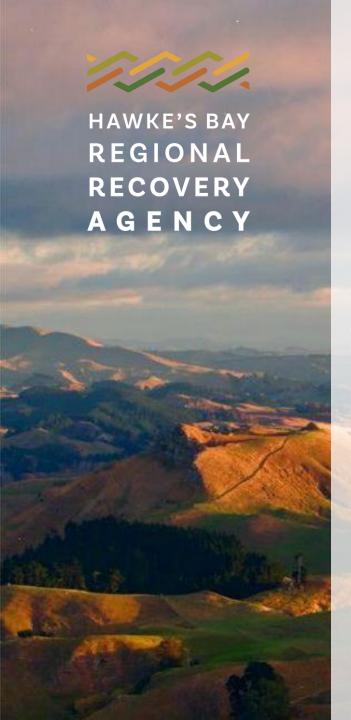


- Napier, Hastings, Wairoa and Central Hawkes Bay lost connectivity.
- Large scale electricity and telecommunication outages.
- Rail corridor impassable and Napier to Wairoa line remains closed.
- Significant Roading damage. In Hastings District multiple linked bridge failures from debris dams.
- Stop banks largely worked as designed with overtopping and scouring failure mechanism.
- Civil Defence plan was overwhelmed.



## CYCLONE GABRIELLE COMMUNITY RESILIENCE

- Community response was most efficient but highlighted a gap in resilience.
- Reviews have led to a stronger focus on individual community resilience.
- The emergence and funding of Community Hubs.
- Approx 60 across the region.
- Provisioning of equipment and training.
- Connectivity through Starlink and generators.
- Community require live data to make informed decisions.
- Multiple sources of data and the emergence of Al.



#### **FORESTRY**

#### **IMPACTS AND OPPORTUNITIES**

- Pan Pac
- Road and Rail access. Impact on Napier Port.
- Debris most not derived from forestry.
- Whole trees and Erosion and River Management plantings.
- Forestry generally had a very positive impact on preventing land movement and erosion.
- Repurposing of forest harvesting resources in road opening, debris cleanup and land clearance.
- Significant disruption to harvesting plans due to access.
- Social licence impacts- unfairly negative.



