

Hazards Understanding, Maps and Models

Ruawai Adaptive Pathways Community Panel meeting

7 March 2023

Present: Anna Kurnow, Malcolm Joynt, Emma Philips, Tahlia Johnson, Tina McCullough, Joseph Dragicevich, Kay Pua, Warwick Simpson, Nicky Reid, Rob Battcher, Sara McKinley, Leisha Gent, Beau Wrathall, Beverley Pullar, Jo Forsyth, Ian Beattie, Matua Ben Hita, Matua Toko Retimana, Matua Rex Nathan, Jack Rudolph, Sian John, George Olsen, Nick Lewis, Mitch Crotty, John Blackwell, Kim Wall, Matt de Boer, Mark Schreurs

Apologies: Kelly Retimana, Ngaroimata (Grace) LeGros, Lyvia Fitzgerald, Matua Haki Toka, Mark Vincent

Aim:

1. Review the purpose of this pilot scheme, a community-led adaptive pathway plan
2. Record responses and reflections on experience of recent weather event Cyclone Gabrielle
3. Identify what is meant by “hazard”
4. Introduce the hazard model and maps to the panel

Objectives:

The participants will be able to

1. Reaffirm the purpose of the Ruawai Adaptive Pathways community panel
2. Share observations, experiences, responses to and reflections on Cyclone Gabrielle
3. Understand what is meant by the term “hazards”, level of exposure and degree of vulnerability
4. Interpret, understand and use the hazard model and the maps
5. Consider their risk tolerance / intolerance

Opening/karakia

Introductions

Kaumātua led. Panel members introduced to NRC staff, NRC elected members, Royal HaskoningDHV consultants, KDC staff

1. Reaffirm the purpose of the Ruawai Adaptive Pathways community panel

- Presentation by Sian John of Royal HaskoningDHV
 - Reintroduced the Panel members to the Ministry for the Environment adaptive pathways planning cycle and explained that we are now in step 2 of this cycle ‘Hazard and sea-level rise assessments’
 - Explained the role of the Panel and their engagement with the community on values and tolerance thresholds which forms the next step

2. Through kōrero share observations, experiences and reflections on Cyclone Gabrielle

The following questions were discussed in small groups – some key points from these discussions are noted here

- **What places / locations did you see most affected?**
 - Specific locations named where flooding was observed
 - duration of flooding in different areas noted
 - interruption to power and communications discussed
 - road and access issues discussed
 - effect of the wind on trees and structures noted
- **What parts of the community were most affected?**
 - Impact on the school grounds
 - Kumara farmers – loss of crops
 - Dairy farmers – dealing with loss of power for extended period
 - Named specific areas where flooding was deeper and/or sat for longer
- **What impact affected you the most positive/negative?**
 - Individuals spoke about the negative impacts of the cyclone on themselves and others these included effect of flooding on farms/crops and property, power outages, wind damage, communication issues
 - The positive community spirit during and after the event and the work of community-based organisations was widely noted
- **What would be your key takeaway?**
 - Needing to be better prepared for future events e.g., generators, pumps, water, communication
 - Improved evacuation plans/help for evacuation centres, more effective communication from Council
 - The vulnerability of the schools
- **What were the positives about the Ruawai community?**
 - Work of first responders (especially the Ruawai Volunteer Fire Brigade)
 - The efforts put in by Northpower to restore power
 - The sharing of resources amongst the community/farmers
 - Community pulling together during and following the event
 - Parirau Marae efforts recognised as an evacuation centre

3. Understand what is meant by “hazards”, level of exposure and degree of vulnerability

- Presentation by Nick Lewis of Royal HaskoningDHV outlining
 - Introduction to key concepts of hazards, flooding, rainfall, sea level rise
 - How these interact and the expected changes
 - Clarify panels understanding of hazards, exposure, vulnerability, risk, thresholds in this context

4. Interpret, understand and use the hazard maps

- Presentation by Matt de Boer of Northland Regional Council
 - Describing the development of the updated hazard mapping and modelling
 - What it means, how to interpret the maps and the limitations
- Using laptops, facilitators helped small groups to explore, discuss and understand what the map is showing/demonstrating for selected scenarios. Some of the key discussion points are noted below
 - Duration of flooding is important to know
 - Frequency of inundation is important
 - Need to ensure drainage happens as quickly as possible
 - How Cyclone Gabrielle fits with rainfall and flood events e.g. 1:50, 1:100 type event

Going forward, next steps

- Next steps:
 - Upcoming wider community engagement: hazards understanding, community values and risk and impact tolerance levels
 - i. Survey – available via Ruawai Adaptive Pathways website opens 17 March and closes 6 April
 - ii. Community Drop-in days – Friday 31 March and Saturday 1 April at Ruawai Tokatoka War Memorial Hall
 - iii. Targeted workshops for local businesses and farmers – Panel members suggested names of those to be invited

Closing - karakia