



29 March 2023

Tena kotou katoa,  
Ko Andy Watson  
Koromatua, Rangitikei District Council

### **SUMISSION – SEVERE WEATHER EMERGENCY RECOVERY LEGISLATION BILL**

Thank you for the opportunity to submit to this legislation. I have been Mayor of the Rangitikei for the last three terms and have had nine years prior to that as a Councillor and as such I have been through many severe weather events. With regards to the Cyclone Gabrielle event I also co-Chair the Zone 3 councils which include Gisborne, Wairoa, Central Hawkes Bay, Tararua, Napier and Hastings. My and my Council's sympathies are with these communities. They are close financial/social communities and we have, and are, financially supporting them. This legislation will add to our ability not only to support our residents but to add to the logistical support for Hastings in particular.

The Rangitikei District Council wishes to be included within this Bill as a district that is indirectly and directly affected by this weather event. While the early modelling for Cyclone Gabrielle indicated that our district would receive the equivalent of a 500 year return flood as predicted by Horizons Regional Council, later reviews suggested that while the rainfall would be high it was controllable. To give some validity to this claim Horizons have a critical river flow measurement at Mangaweka which was modelled to have a river height of 10.5 meters at peak. In 2004 which is regarded as a 200 year event the river peaked at 8.5 metres. Substantial rain did fall during Cyclone Gabrielle into the Rangitikei catchments causing localised roading damage which is still to be assessed and in some cases the loss of pastures and crops. So the direct effects to us include –

1. Loss of stock and crops.
2. Limited damage to roading, still under assessment.

However the indirect effects are –

1. Loss of road access on the key east/west road, the Gentle Annie, which allows access to and from Hawkes Bay which is critical as part of the recovery and response to this event. One of the advantages of this legislation is for example, the ability under consenting for areas to be declared as able to take soil slip material. The alternative is often a drawn out consenting process with Regional Council. In these circumstances farmers usually offer the land.
2. It is often critical that machinery access is allowed/permitted under short term consents to enable the transfer of livestock or essential machinery under special conditions.
3. In this event the neighbouring affected districts relied on us to provide assistance with staff and community support.

*Making this place home.*

4. The boundary between the Rangitikei and Hastings does not reflect the tribal boundaries of Iwi (Mokai Patea). Mokai Patea in particular have marae in both areas and the legislation outlined under “General Purpose of the Bill” to provide local communities and Maori is important and should cover our district.
5. With these events road access often needs to be controlled during daylight hours, one direction or enable the use of response convoys. In respect to the Hastings/ Rangitikei boundary the same recovery mechanism legislation needs to be common.

The Act as I understand it effectively gives ministerial rights to make orders of council rather than going through exhaustive legislative Local Government process. In doing so the minister or ministers must appoint a review panel to advise and review these actions. With the scale of this event this process must happen.

As such we strongly support the addition of Clause 31 amending the area in Section 329(a) of the Principle Act to include the Manawatu and Rangitikei districts.

I am heavily committed on Council business for the next two days, but happy to answer any questions from the Committee if they arise.

Yours faithfully



Andy Watson  
Mayor – Rangitikei District Council