

Confirmed Public minutes of the Wairarapa Committee meeting on Tuesday 28 February 2023

Committee Room, Greater Wellington Regional Council | Te Pane Matua Taiao
34 Chapel Street, Masterton at 10.05am

Members Present

Councillor Staples (Chair)
Mayor Caffell
Mayor Connelly
Councillor Gaylor (via Teams)
Hon. Mayor Mark
Councillor Ponter

Greater Wellington District Council
Masterton District Council
South Wairarapa District Council
Greater Wellington District Council
Carterton District Council
Greater Wellington Regional Council

Karakia timatanga

The Committee Chair opened the meeting with a karakia timatanga.

Public Business

1 Apologies

There were no apologies

2 Declarations of conflicts of interest

There were no declarations of conflicts of interest.

3 Public participation

There was no public participation.

The Chief Executive introduced new staff – Lian Butcher, General Manager, Environment Group.

4 Cyclone Gabrielle Update [Oral report]

Wayne O'Donnell, General Manager, Catchment Management and Andy Brown, Team Leader Investigations, Strategy & Planning, introduced the report. The Committee Chair then invited the Chief Executive and Mayor of each territorial authority to speak on their respective responses.

Masterton District Council

David Hopman, Chief Executive, Masterton District Council discussed Masterton's experience with cyclone Gabrielle. On Thursday 16 February the Emergency Operations Centre (EOC) was activated. However, declaration of a state of emergency wasn't sought as no one was refusing to evacuate or in danger. Emergency services were coping and there was funding for welfare made available without needing to declare a state of emergency. The army provided people to help with the response and they were utilised effectively. 700 people were without power.

But the number could have been as high as 1700 ratepayers if the coastal communities were included. On Monday 20 February the EOC was stood down and the district passed into the recovery stage of the emergency.

There is still work to be done now that Masterton is in the recovery stage of the response. They are working closely with Carterton District Council and South Wairarapa District Council to coordinate a recovery plan with support from Wellington Regional Emergency Management Office (WREMO). The short-term objectives include creating a recovery action plan in consultation with key stakeholders, ensuring services are coordinated across Wairarapa. Short to medium-term issues include setting up a framework for responses to ensure success in future responses in the medium to long-term.

Mayor Caffell discussed the damage in Tinui and the work of the emergency management team. The roads are quickly being cleared and there is a lot of support within the community. He also acknowledged Greater Wellington's work in pole planting.

Carterton District Council

Geoff Hamilton, Chief Executive, Carterton District Council discussed Carterton's experience with cyclone Gabrielle. The incident management team was stood up on Friday 17 February. They also had 14 tonnes of sand available for people to collect. The Flatpoint community was isolated for 27 hours without power. There was a minor slip at Waiohine, with a few residents being blocked in. However, these residents were still contactable. This event has showed the vulnerability of rural roads in an emergency.

Hon. Mayor Mark acknowledged Greater Wellington's role in communicating what people could and could not do through the website guidelines.

South Wairarapa District Council

Harry Wilson, Chief Executive, South Wairarapa District Council discussed South Wairarapa's experience with cyclone Gabrielle. South Wairarapa had a similar experience as Carterton. A number of roads were cut off; however, all residents were contactable. Fixing the roads have been a substantial cost and they were fortunate to

receive a 72% subsidy. They are looking to see if there is emergency funding available through Waka Kotahi to help offset this cost.

Committee discussion

The Committee discussed reviewing the process used to monitor catchments in floodplains. There is a current reliance on infrastructure such as stopbanks. Communities will also need to consider where homes are located and look to move away from building near rivers.

5 Wairarapa Flood Protection Update – February 2023 – Report 23.34 [For Information]

Sharyn Westlake, Team Leader, Floodplain Management Plan Implementation, spoke to the report.

6 Public Transport Update – February 2023 – Report 23.58 [For Information]

Samantha Gain, General Manager, Metlink, spoke to the report.

Karakia whakamutunga

The Committee Chair closed the meeting with a karakia whakamutunga.

The meeting closed at 11.28am.



Councillor A Staples

Chair

8 August 2023.

Date: