



Hastings District Council

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OPEN A G E N D A

HASTINGS DISTRICT RURAL COMMUNITY BOARD MEETING

Meeting Date: **Thursday, 21 May 2020**

Time: **1.00pm - Extraordinary
meeting**

Venue: **Via Zoom**

Members	Mr N Dawson (Chair) Mr M Buddo, Mrs S Maxwell and Mr J Stockley Councillors Kerr (Deputy Chair) and Siers <i>Quorum=4</i>
Officer Responsible	Group Manager: Corporate (Mr B Allan)
Manager: Democracy & Governance	Mrs J Evans (Ext 5018)

Hastings District Rural Community Board – Terms of Reference

The Community Board is a separate entity to Council. The role of the Community Board is set out in Section 52 of the Local Government Act 2002. The Council is authorised to delegate powers to the Community Board.

Membership (6 members)

- Chair (elected by the Board).
- Deputy Chair (elected by the Board).
- 4 Elected Community Board Members.
- 1 Mohaka Ward Councillor.
- 1 Kahuranaki Ward Councillor.

Quorum – 4 members

DELEGATED POWERS

General

- 1) To maintain an overview of services provided by Council within the Community Board's area.
- 2) To represent, and act as an advocate for, the interests of the community represented.
- 3) To consider and report on all matters referred to the Board by Council, or any matter of interest or concern to the Community Board.
- 4) To communicate with community organisations and special interest groups within the community.
- 5) To undertake any other responsibilities that are delegated to it by Council.
- 6) To appoint a member of the Community Board to organisations approved by the Council from time to time.

LONG TERM PLAN/ANNUAL PLAN/POLICY ISSUES

Authority to make a submission to the Long Term Plan/Annual Plan process on activities, service levels and expenditure (including capital works priorities) within the Board's area or to make a submission in relation to any policy matter which may have an effect within the Board's area.

ROADING AND TRAFFIC

Authority to exercise the Council's powers and functions in relation to roads within the Board's area under the following sections of the Local Government Act 1974:

- Section 335 (vehicle crossings);
- Section 344 (gates and cattle stops);
- Section 355 (overhanging trees).

Authority to exercise the Council's statutory powers (including any relevant powers conferred by bylaw) over roads within the Board's area in respect of;

- Road user behaviour at intersections.
- Controls on stopping or overtaking.
- Controls on turning.
- Pedestrian safety.
- Footpath maintenance and improvements.
- Accident investigation studies, lighting and other safety works.

For the avoidance of doubt, nothing in this delegation authorises a Community Board to deal with a matter, in the exercise of delegated authority, in a manner which is in conflict with any policy or decision of Council or any standing committee of Council in relation to the same matter.

HASTINGS DISTRICT COUNCIL
HASTINGS DISTRICT RURAL COMMUNITY BOARD
MEETING

THURSDAY, 21 MAY 2020

VENUE: Via Zoom
TIME: 1.00pm - Extraordinary
meeting

A G E N D A

1. Apologies

At the close of the agenda no apologies had been received.

At the close of the agenda no requests for leave of absence had been received.

2. Conflict of Interest

Members need to be vigilant to stand aside from decision-making when a conflict arises between their role as a Member of the Council and any private or other external interest they might have. This note is provided as a reminder to Members to scan the agenda and assess their own private interests and identify where they may have a pecuniary or other conflict of interest, or where there may be perceptions of conflict of interest.

If a Member feels they do have a conflict of interest, they should publicly declare that at the start of the relevant item of business and withdraw from participating in the meeting. If a Member thinks they may have a conflict of interest, they can seek advice from the General Counsel or the Democratic Support Manager (preferably before the meeting).

It is noted that while Members can seek advice and discuss these matters, the final decision as to whether a conflict exists rests with the member.

3. Confirmation of Minutes

Minutes of the Hastings District Rural Community Board held Monday 2 March 2020.
(Previously circulated)

4. Drought Relief Funding

5. Additional Business Items

6. Extraordinary Business Items

REPORT TO: HASTINGS DISTRICT RURAL COMMUNITY BOARD

MEETING DATE: THURSDAY 21 MAY 2020

FROM: GROUP MANAGER CORPORATE
BRUCE ALLAN

SUBJECT: DROUGHT RELIEF FUNDING

1.0 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY - TE KAUPAPA ME TE WHAKARĀPOPOTOTANGA

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to seek a recommendation from the Rural Community Board to Council for funding to be made available to support the rural community through the ongoing impacts of a prolonged drought.
- 1.2 While farmers in Hawke's Bay are well accustomed to dealing with drought, the drought from the 2019/20 summer has been more prolonged than normal and has stretched farmers' ability to source feed. Most of the North Island has been affected and the drought conditions across the North Island were declared a "large scale adverse event" by the Agricultural Minister, Damian O'Connor, on 12 March 2020.
- 1.3 There is a proposal being put forward by the Rural Advisory Group to utilise the recently established Hawke's Bay Disaster Relief Trust to gather funding to support farmers in their approach to get sufficient quality feed to get them through the winter.
- 1.4 This proposal contributes to the purpose of local government by primarily promoting the Social and Economic Wellbeings and more specifically through the Council's strategic objective of assisting people in need and ensuring that a resilient and job-rich economy is maintained in our rural sector.
- 1.5 The preferred option is for the Rural Community Board to recommend to Council to make a \$200,000 contribution to the Hawke's Bay Regional Drought Relief Fund which will be held in Trust by the Hawke's Bay Disaster Relief Trust and funded from the Rural Flood and Emergency Event Reserve.
- 1.6 Council's contribution will form part of a larger fund from Central Hawke's Bay District Council, Central Lines and the Hawke's Bay Regional Council that will look to attract additional funding from Central Government and wider fundraising efforts.

2.0 RECOMMENDATIONS - NGĀ TŪTOHUNGA

- A) That the Hastings Rural Community Board receives the report titled Drought Relief Funding.
- B) That the Hastings Rural Community Board recommends to Council that the Council approves a contribution of \$200,000 to the Regional Drought Relief Fund, to be held in Trust by the Hawke's Bay Disaster Relief Trust and to be funded from the Rural Flood and Emergency Event Reserve.
- C) That the Hastings Rural Community Board recommends to Council that Council considers an allocation from the 2019/20 Rating Surplus (if there is sufficient surplus to allocate) from Rating Area 1 to be allocated to the Rural Flood and Emergency Event Reserve.
- D) That the Hastings Rural Community Board recommends to Council that the Chief Executive, Mayor and the Chair of the Hastings Rural Community Board be delegated the authority to develop and appropriate criteria for applications to the fund with the Rural Advisory Group.

3.0 BACKGROUND – *TE HOROPAKI*

- 3.1 Attached as **Attachment 1** is the report to Council which requests Council's support to fund a contribution of \$200,000 to the Hawke's Bay Regional Drought Relief Fund which will be held in Trust by the Hawke's Bay Disaster Relief Trust and funded from the Rural Flood and Emergency Event Reserve. That report along with local and national drought Situation Reports provide the necessary background to this request and that report and the options contained in it should form the basis of the Rural Community Board's decision making.

4.0 DISCUSSION - *TE MATAPAKITANGA*

- 4.1 It is recommended that the funding required to make this contribution is made available from the Rural Flood and Emergency Event Reserve. However given the nature of this event response, the RCB may consider requesting Council consider the allocation of additional funding to this reserve from any 2019/20 rating surplus if there is sufficient surplus to allocate.

5.0 OPTIONS - *NGĀ KŌWHIRINGA*

- 5.1 The Options available to Council and the rural Community Board have been outlined in the Council report which is attached.

6.0 NEXT STEPS - *TE ANGA WHAKAMUA*

- 6.1 The next steps for this recommendation to be implemented have been outlined in the Council report which is attached.

Attachments:

- | | | |
|---------------------|---|--------------------|
| 1 ↓ | Council Report Drought Relief Funding 21 May 2020 | 20/373 |
| 2 ↓ | Situation Report 16 Rural COVID-19 | CG-16-2-00198 |
| 3 ↓ | NEMA NCC Drought Situation Summary 18-05-2020 | EMG-01-14-10-20-78 |

SUMMARY OF CONSIDERATIONS - *HE WHAKARĀPOPOTO WHAIWHAKAARO*

Fit with purpose of Local Government - *E noho hāngai pū ai ki te Rangatōpū-ā-rohe*

The Council is required to give effect to the purpose of local government as set out in section 10 of the Local Government Act 2002. That purpose is to enable democratic local decision-making and action by (and on behalf of) communities, and to promote the social, economic, environmental, and cultural well-being of

communities in the present and for the future.

Link to the Council's Community Outcomes - *E noho hāngai pū ai ki te rautaki matua*

This proposal promotes the Economic and Social Wellbeings of communities in the present and for the future.

Māori Impact Statement - *Te Tauākī Kaupapa Māori*

There are no known impacts on Tangata Whenua.

Sustainability - *Te Toitūtanga*

Supporting our rural community through this difficult drought situation will improve the economic sustainability of many farmers and the wider primary sector economy.

Financial considerations - *Ngā Whaiwhakaaro Ahumoni*

The funding identified to support this initiative has been sourced from the Rural Flood and Emergency Event Reserve.

Significance and Engagement - *Te Hiranga me te Tūhonotanga*

Council's Significance and Engagement Policy has been considered in relation to this decision and while the expenditure being requested is unbudgeted, it is not of such a significant value that would require a consultative process with the community.

Consultation – internal and/or external - *Whakawhiti Whakaaro-ā-roto, ā-waho*

There has been no external engagement.

Risks: Legal/ Health and Safety - *Ngā Tūrarū: Ngā Ture / Hauora me te Haumarū*

There are no identified risks.

Rural Community Board - *Ngā Poari-ā-hapori*

The Rural Community Board is being asked to make a recommendation to Council on this matter.

REPORT TO: COUNCIL

MEETING DATE: THURSDAY 21 MAY 2020

FROM: GROUP MANAGER CORPORATE
BRUCE ALLAN

SUBJECT: DROUGHT RELIEF FUNDING

1.0 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY - TE KAUPAPA ME TE WHAKARĀPOPOTOTANGA

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to seek approval from Council for funding to be made available to support the rural community through the ongoing impacts of a prolonged drought.
- 1.2 While farmers in Hawke's Bay are well accustomed to dealing with drought, the drought from the 2019/20 summer has been more prolonged than normal and has stretched farmers' ability to source feed. Most of the North Island has been affected and the drought conditions across the North Island were declared a "large scale adverse event" by the Agricultural Minister, Damian O'Connor, on 12 March 2020.
- 1.3 There is a proposal being put forward by the Rural Advisory Group to utilise the recently established Hawke's Bay Disaster Relief Trust to gather funding to support farmers in their approach to get sufficient quality feed to get them through the winter.
- 1.4 This proposal contributes to the purpose of local government by primarily promoting the Social and Economic Wellbeings and more specifically through the Council's strategic objective of assisting people in need and ensuring that a resilient and job-rich economy is maintained in our rural sector.
- 1.5 The preferred option is for Council to make a \$200,000 contribution to the Hawke's Bay Regional Drought Relief Fund which will be held in Trust by the Hawke's Bay Disaster Relief Trust and funded from the Rural Flood and Emergency Event Reserve.
- 1.6 Council's contribution will form part of a larger fund from Central Hawke's Bay District Council, Central Lines and the Hawke's Bay Regional Council that will look to attract additional funding from Central Government and wider fundraising efforts.

2.0 RECOMMENDATIONS - NGĀ TŪTOHUNGA

- A) That the Council receives the report titled Drought Relief Funding.
- B) That the Council approves a contribution of \$200,000 to the Regional Drought Relief Fund, to be held in Trust by the Hawke's Bay Disaster Relief Trust and to be funded from the Rural Flood and Emergency Event Reserve.
- C) That the Chief Executive, Mayor and the Chair of the Hastings Rural Community Board be delegated the authority to develop and appropriate criteria for applications to the fund with the Rural Advisory Group.

3.0 BACKGROUND – TE HOROPAKI

- 3.1 The large scale drought conditions across much of the North Island are being felt with particularly harsh conditions across much of Hawke's Bay. A Situation Report prepared by the Hawke's Bay Regional Council (HBRC) as at 14 May 2020 is attached as **Attachment 1** and the NEMA National Coordination Centre Weekly Situation Report as at 18 May 2020 is attached as **Attachment 2** details the current situation.

Rainfall and Potential Evapotranspiration

- 3.2 The 2019-20 drought began its development in November and followed a wetter than average early spring. November was not only a month of below normal rainfall, but temperatures were very hot. Daytime temperatures reached 3°C above the monthly average and the average potential evapotranspiration (PET) rate for the month was the highest recorded on the Ruataniwha Plains for November since monitoring began in 2007. PET is the amount of moisture that would be lost by evaporation and transpiration from a reference crop, such as grassland, if sufficient moisture is available.
- 3.3 Both December and January had below normal rainfall and temperatures between 0.5-1°C warmer than average. The dry conditions that developed during late spring and into summer rapidly worsened in February when all but northern areas of the region received approximately 10% of normal February rainfall. Temperatures were again very hot and reached 3°C above the February average, resulting in high but not record rates of PET.
- 3.4 March brought some rain to northern Hawke's Bay and to the south coast. However the remainder of the region received less than half the March average and even the rain on the south coast didn't bring its total into the month's normal range. The region received only 30% of average April rainfall and the areas worst affected were the Heretaunga Plains (13%), Tangoio (14%), southern Hawke's Bay (15%) and the Ruataniwha Plains (23%).

Current farming conditions

- 3.5 Currently 173 farms have been surveyed across the region with most indicating they are currently 'managing' or have no immediate issues. Assistance has already been given to 16 farms, and assistance is in progress for a further 16. Of the farms surveyed, 60% have indicated their pasture is in 'Poor' or 'Very Poor' condition and 45% are finding it 'Difficult' or 'Extremely Difficult' to offload livestock.
- 3.6 A dashboard has been constructed to visualise and monitor information obtained through telephone surveys of farmers being conducted by the Rural Support Trust. This illustrates the challenging conditions most farmers are experiencing.



Rural Advice Group (RAG)

- 3.7 The RAG is comprised of volunteers from the primary sector, be they farmers, business owners or on farm professional service providers. They are industry leaders and have strong networks into the rural environment. They understand the primary sector well and have the confidence of those on the land to support them. It is important that we continue to support them in this vital leadership role.
- 3.8 The response to the drought is being led out of the RAG with strong support from HBRC/CHBDC staff and the CDEM Group. It is an important guiding principle throughout this response that this is a community (landowner) led response. It will continue to be led by the RAG with support from CDEM and central/local government. The decision making around appropriate ways to support the rural community is for the RAG.
- 3.9 The rural economy is vitally important to Hawke's Bay, particularly in the COVID-19 environment where a lot is being done to help the economy recover.
- 3.10 There is a severe feed shortage in the North Island and feed for livestock is now desperately required to ensure farmers can get their livestock through the winter and it is wider recognised that if feed can be sourced that is financially sustainable, then it is beneficial for farmers to purchase that feed rather than destock. Ensuring farmers can hold stock during the winter also enables a quicker recovery for the rural economy after the drought which has obvious benefits for the wider Hawke's Bay economy.

4.0 DISCUSSION - TE MATAPAKITANGA

- 4.1 A proposal has been put forward by the Rural Advisory Group (RAG) for the utilisation of the Hawke's Bay Disaster Relief Trust to be a vehicle to gather funding from Local, Regional and Central Governments and fundraise from the wider community and those corporate organisations that support the rural sector.

Hawke's Bay Disaster Relief Trust

- 4.2 The local authorities of Wairoa District Council, Hastings District Council, Napier City Council, Central Hawke's Bay District Council and Hawke's Bay Regional Council are establishing a fund for the primary purpose of providing financial and any other relief or assistance to meet the welfare and other needs of people who have suffered any injury, damage or loss following a disaster that qualifies as an "emergency" under the Civil Defence Emergency Management Act 2002 (or any later replacement thereof), whether natural or otherwise, within the boundaries of the Hawke's Bay Region.
- 4.3 The establishment of a Hawke's Bay Disaster Relief Trust was consulted on by the five Hawke's Bay Councils in 2019 and the Trust Deed was signed off in March 2020.
- 4.4 The Local Authorities and the Trustees will establish a Charitable Trust to hold, promote and manage, for the above primary purpose, the Fund comprising such money, property and investments which may have been acquired by the Local Authorities for this purpose.
- 4.5 The Trustees shall comprise the Mayors of Wairoa District Council, Hastings District Council, Napier City Council, Central Hawke's Bay District Council and the Chairperson of the Hawke's Bay Regional Council (or another person put forward by their respective Local Authority to be a trustee in their place). There may, in the discretion of the Trustees, be up to two independent Trustees who are not representatives of any Local Authority and who, if appointed, may be appointed by the other trustees at any meeting of the Board of Trustees.
- 4.6 The development of criteria and a process for determining eligibility for financial support from the fund is currently underway by the RAG. It is important that these are transparent, equitable and targeted to areas of high need. These will become the basis for disbursement of funding from the Trust fund to those in need.
- 4.7 It is proposed that any funds provided by Council would be paid into the Trust Fund for subsequent disbursement by the Trust at the direction of the RAG, following the agreed criteria and conditions noted above.
- 4.8 The Trust Deed provides for the Trust Board to delegate in writing its powers, including the setting of criteria for the distribution of funds and the decisions to distribute funds. This power to delegate is necessary if the RAG is to have the authority to make decisions about how and where funds are to be used.

The Proposal

- 4.9 The intent is to attempt to create a \$2m fund using the central/local government and public appeal.
- 4.10 The combined contributions from each council, the crown and any public appeal would be banked with the HB Disaster Relief Trust.
- 4.11 This funding would be used to directly subsidise the cost of transporting feed to the region. The most likely scenario would be for feed to be shipped in bulk from Timaru/Lyttelton directly to the Napier port for subsequent road transport to farm. It may also be used for coordinated movement in bulk via rail and/or road if that is more effective. The intent would be to support bulk freight rather than small amounts that may be less cost effective.

- 4.12 To give a sense of the scale of the feed demand and subsequent costs, this rough estimate provides a little more context. It uses baled green feed, but it is recognised that baled green feed is in limited supply currently and that grain may be the only viable option in many cases.
- 4.12.1 Assume 400 'farms' at 200ha/farm needing feed across the region, noting not every farm needs feed but 400 is increasingly the figure we are seeing in need.
- 4.12.2 Using baleage as a surrogate for general feed demand, 2.3 bales/ha is needed to meet feed demands for winter or 184,000 bales across all farms.
- 4.12.3 Each bail weighs 500kgs, so total weight of baleage is 92 million kgs or 92,000 tonnes.
- 4.12.4 Using road freight at approximately \$45/bale this would total \$8.2m. This would be the least efficient method of transport, hence the interest in bulk freight and using shipping if possible.
- 4.12.5 This approach may require the 'chartering' of a coastal freighter, coordination of feed to fill it and shipping to Napier. There are examples of this occurring already with some shipments of grain from Timaru already reaching Napier. RAG are working on obtaining estimates of the costs of charters and the likely volumes/weights that could be moved.
- 4.13 The farming community fully accept that getting additional feed in during a drought is a cost of doing business, however the extenuating circumstances of this drought have made getting feed more difficult and expensive. It is this cost of transport through a coordinated approach and through achieving economies of scale that the Drought Relief Fund is looking to support.
- 4.14 The proposal is for HBRC, HDC and CHBDC to make contributions to the Trust and for a request to Central Government to be made for commensurate contributions as well.
- 4.15 At the time of writing the following contributions had been approved or were being considered:

Central Hawke's Bay District Council	\$50,000	Approved
Central Lines	\$50,000	Approved
Hawke's Bay Regional Council	\$100,000-\$200,000	Subject to Council approval 20 May 2020
Hastings District Council	\$200,000	Subject to Rural Community Board recommendation and Council approval
Total up to	\$500,000	

Financial Considerations

- 4.16 If HDC was to make a financial contribution to the HB Disaster Relief Trust this financial year then it would be unbudgeted expenditure. There is no available budget capacity in 2019/20 to accommodate any funding request, nor is there any budget capacity in the draft 2020/21 budget.
- 4.17 While it is the rural community that will directly benefit from this initiative, there are benefits to the wider economy of supporting farmers through this drought and enabling them to recover quicker. There could be consideration for funding to be provided from Rating Area 1 as well as Rating Area 2.
- 4.18 At the start of the 2019/20 financial year, Rating Area 2 had the following reserve balances.

Reserve Description <i>(Interest bearing Y/N)</i>	Balance (\$)
Rural Flood and Emergency Event Reserve (Y)	1,286,179
Rural Fire Contingency Fund (N)	6,457
General Purpose Reserve - Rating Area 2 (N)	559,683
Capital Reserve - Rating Area 2 (N)	1,778,708
Transportation NZTA Fund Reserve Rating Area 2 (N)	639,177

- 4.19 While the Rural Flood and Emergency Event Reserve is predominantly used to support significant flood and rain events, there is a potential to use part of these funds to support this drought situation. The Rural Flood and Emergency Event Reserve is of significant importance to the Rural Community Board as significant rain events can have a big impact on the rural road network and these reserves have been called upon in the past to fund remedial works in conjunction with NZTA funding.
- 4.20 There are no corresponding Reserves for Rating Area 1 that could be made available for funding towards this Drought Relief fund.
- 4.21 Services and activities are generally funded across both rating areas based on either a population basis or a discounted population basis acknowledging the reduced access to Council facilities that the rural community has.
- 4.22 The Contingency budget is rated 80% Rating Area 1 (RA1) and 20% Rating Area 2 (RA2) and it could be suggested that the reverse of this could apply to providing this support to the rural community, acknowledging the impact that the rural sector has on the Hawke's Bay economy and the need to support the economy from a number of fronts post COVID-19 and the drought.
- 4.23 Given the current lack of RA1 funding opportunities, it might be more appropriate for Council to consider an allocation from the RA1 2019/20 rating surplus (if there is one) to make a contribution to the Rural Flood and Emergency Event reserve.
- 4.24 Council's Significance and Engagement Policy has been considered in relation to this decision and while the expenditure being requested is unbudgeted, it is not of such a significant value that would require a consultative process with the community.
- 4.25 The Rural Community Board will be considering this request at a Special meeting on May 21st, immediately prior to this Council meeting. The outcome of that meeting and the recommendation of the Rural Community Board will be provided to Council at the Council meeting.

5.0 OPTIONS - NGĀ KŌWHIRINGA

Option One - Recommended Option - Te Kōwhiringa Tuatahi – Te Kōwhiringa Tūtohunga

- 5.1 That Council provide \$200,000 of unbudgeted funding to the Regional Drought Relief Fund, held in Trust by the Hawke's Bay Disaster Relief Trust, to be funded from the Rural Flood and Emergency Event Reserve.

Advantages

- If Council is to decide to provide funding to this cause, it will join CHBDC and Central Lines who have committed a combined \$100,000 and HBRC who are being asked to commit either \$100,000 or \$200,000 on 20 May 2020. The combined contribution of potential funds to kick-start this appeal will be \$500,000 and will create good impetus to achieving the goal of raising \$2m.
- Council can at its discretion determine a lesser amount of say \$100,000 and this in itself will make a good contribution towards making this appeal worthwhile and something that is of sufficient scale to make a difference.
- There is a greater degree of confidence that if the regions Councils contribute to this appeal, then Central Government will also.
- There is currently funding available in Council's Rural Flood and Emergency Event Reserve and the impacts being felt across the rural sector from this drought are in line with the emergency criteria of this reserve.

Disadvantages

- The key disadvantage of contributing to this appeal is in using the Rural Flood and Emergency Event Reserve for this purpose. The Rural Community Board have managed to build up this reserve over many years and it was called upon in 2018/19 following a number of significant rain events which required a draw-down of this reserve.
- This approach hasn't been undertaken before in Hawke's Bay and is unproven in its deliverability. However with the creation of the Hawke's Bay Disaster Relief Trust, there is now a vehicle with the appropriate governance and controls to ensure the best and most appropriate outcomes can be achieved.
- Given the impacts of climate change, this sort of event may become more common and if Council makes a decision to contribute funding, then a precedent has been set for further drought events.

Option Two – Status Quo - Te Kōwhiringa Tuarua – Te Āhuatanga o nāiane

- 5.2 The status quo is for Council to not contribute to this Regional Drought Relief Fund. This option is not the preferred option with this drought significantly impacting on farmers and the rural economy. The nature of this drought has made it very difficult for farmers to independently source feed in an

economically sustainable way and an intervention of this nature has the potential to have significant benefits.

- 5.3 The Drought Relief Fund has the potential to improve the economic recovery of many farms by ensuring they hold stock through the winter.

6.0 NEXT STEPS - *TE ANGA WHAKAMUA*

- 6.1 If Council was to approve a financial contribution the following are the next steps:

- Finalise the establishment of the Hawke's Bay Disaster Relief Trust.
- Formalise and agree on the criteria for the applications to the fund to be made.
- Work with other funding agencies to reach the \$2m funding target.
- Empower the Rural Advisory Group to secure all necessary feed to support our farming community through this difficult time.

Attachments:

- | | | |
|---|---|--------------------|
| 1 | Situation Report 16 Rural COVID-19 | CG-16-2-00198 |
| 2 | NEMA NCC Drought Situation Summary 18-05-2020 | EMG-01-14-10-20-78 |

SUMMARY OF CONSIDERATIONS - *HE WHAKARĀPOOTO WHAIWHAKAARO*

Fit with purpose of Local Government - *E noho hāngai pū ai ki te Rangatōpū-ā-rohe*

The Council is required to give effect to the purpose of local government as set out in section 10 of the Local Government Act 2002. That purpose is to enable democratic local decision-making and action by (and on behalf of) communities, and to promote the social, economic, environmental, and cultural well-being of communities in the present and for the future.

Link to the Council's Community Outcomes - *E noho hāngai pū ai ki te rautaki matua*

This proposal promotes the Economic and Social wellbeings of communities in the present and for the future.

Māori Impact Statement - *Te Tauākī Kaupapa Māori*

There are no known impacts for Tangata Whenua.

<p>Sustainability - <i>Te Toitūtanga</i></p> <p>Supporting our rural community through this difficult drought situation will improve the economic sustainability of many farmers and the wider primary sector economy.</p>
<p>Financial considerations - <i>Ngā Whaiwhakaaro Ahumoni</i></p> <p>The funding identified to support this initiative has been sourced from the Rural Flood and Emergency Event Reserve.</p>
<p>Significance and Engagement - <i>Te Hiranga me te Tūhonotanga</i></p> <p>Council's Significance and Engagement Policy has been considered in relation to this decision and while the expenditure being requested is unbudgeted, it is not of such a significant value that would require a consultative process with the community.</p>
<p>Consultation – internal and/or external - <i>Whakawhiti Whakaaro-ā-roto, ā-waho</i></p> <p>There has been no external engagement.</p>
<p>Risks: Legal/ Health and Safety - <i>Ngā Tūrarū: Ngā Ture / Hauora me te Haumarū</i></p> <p>There are no identified risks.</p>
<p>Rural Community Board - <i>Ngā Poari-ā-hapori</i></p> <p>The Rural Community Board have been consulted and will be making a recommendation to Council at their meeting on 21 May 2020.</p>

CDEM Group SOP3




Item 4

SITUATION REPORT			
Event name:	COVID19 & HB Dry - (HB Rural focus)	TO:	Group ECC
Date and time:	Thursday, 14 th May 2020	FROM:	
File ref:		Report number:	HBRC - 16
PROMPTS		COMMENT	
1. Emergency Response Status	<input type="checkbox"/> Level 1 Alert <input type="checkbox"/> Level 2 Activation <input type="checkbox"/> Level 3 Local Declaration <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Level 4 Local Declaration <input type="checkbox"/> Level 5 Nat Declaration	Drought conditions across the North Island were declared a "large scale adverse event" by Agriculture Minister Damian O'Connor on 12 th March 2020. This event includes several regions. NZ is now in Covid-19 Alert level 2.	
2. Ground	Affected Areas Introduction Explain geographic location of event(s)	Dry conditions throughout Hawke's Bay, with western areas the worst affected. CHB/ Waipukurau/Waipawa/Takapau - very dry West of SH 50 – extremely dry Kereru/Marekakahoe/ Mangatahi – very dry Patoka/ Puketitiri – drier than usual but generally ok Te Pohue/ Tutira/ North – drier than usual but generally ok. Coastal – Porangahau to Manakuri, Māretotara – very dry Most areas in the Waioa district are reported to be generally OK, but the Putere area still has challenging conditions. In summary most people are ok. The drought is bigger in most minds than COVID 19. COVID is another issue on top of it. Some areas are also dealing with constraints of TB outbreak control.	
	Describe the landscape before the event		
	Describe the known hazards in the area		

Attachment 2

CDEM Group SOP3

<p>3. Situation</p>	<p>Current Summary:</p> <p>Describe the event, incl extent or area affected (incl map ref)</p>	<p>Rainfall from 11- 14 May</p> <p>Below is the map since Monday. Many places have had less than 5 mm, some along the southern coast had 5-10 mm and a handful in the northeast and ranges had more than 10 mm.</p> 
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Item 4

Attachment 2

CDEM Group SOP3

Item 4

Attachment 2

RAINFALL REPORT FOR MAY 2020				
Area	Station	Months Total (mm)	Historic Mean (mm)	%Average
Waikaremoana	Terapitiki	8	44	18
	Rocky Pad	94.5	187	50
	Nga Tuho	13.5	107	15
	Mt Manuka	143	257	56
	Eussey Knoll	14	130	11
	Waikaremoana %			36
Northern Hawkes Bay	Kopuwhara	15	129	12
	Ruakituri	21.8	158	14
	Pukeorapa	44	236	19
	Manu Mare	20.5	136	15
	Ardham	10	119	8
	Waioa	21.5	130	16
	Cricewood	5	53	5
	Kotemaori	8	128	6
	Northern Hawkes Bay %			12
Tangolo	Kaiwaka	13.2	107	18
	Te Rangi	37	129	29
	Maungarua	35.5	59	37
	Te Puhue	31.8	110	29
	Wainau	3.2	100	5
	Glengary	14.5	79	18
	Tangolo %			23
Kaweka	Nganene	60	152	39
	Otutu	84	158	53
	Te Koa	26	184	14
	Ngamatea	15.2	81	20
	Kaweka %			36
Ruahine	Parks Peak	32.5	244	13
	Glenwood	35	155	18
	Moorcock	53.5	210	26
	Ruahine %			26
Heretaunga Plains	Crownthorpe	1	57	2
	Awanui	2	43	5
	Freec	13	56	23
	Endge Pa	2.4	43	6
	Ohiti	1.5	62	2
	Keirunga	3	57	5
	Heretaunga Plains %			7
Ruaitaniwha Plains	Tapainu Road	8	59	14
	Waipukurau	3.4	64	13
	Shag Rock	7	74	5
	Tukipo	11	79	14
	Ongaonga	3.2	66	14
	Owenas	7.4	87	5
	Ruaitaniwha Plains %			12
Southern Hawkes Bay	Mangaorapa	10	110	9
	Waipapoa	5.5	128	5
	Een Nevis	13	51	14
	Waingford	13.5	79	23
	Maraetotara	7	70	10
	Southern Hawkes Bay %			12
Hawkes Bay Region				16

Drought conditions across the North Island were declared a "large scale adverse event" by Agriculture Minister Damian O'Connor on 12th March 2020. The Rural Advisory Group is the lead agency for the drought response in Hawke's Bay, and is working in partnership with the East Coast Rural Support Trust and HBCDEM.

NMWA's NZ drought index (as at 14th May) classifies eastern parts of the region as dry but very or extremely dry on the Heretaunga Plains, Ruaitaniwha Plains. Drier than usual conditions have occurred for six consecutive months in many parts of the region. February was particularly severe due to only 10% of normal rainfall falling in many areas and temperatures 3°C above normal contributing to record levels of potential evapotranspiration. The Nov-Feb totals in the Ruahine Range and Ongaonga were the lowest recorded in 50-60 years.

April rainfall was well below normal in all areas of the region and particularly low in the Heretaunga Plains (13%), Tangolo (14%), southern Hawke's Bay (15%) and the Ruaitaniwha Plains (23%). November to April rainfall accumulations are lower than during the 2012-13 drought except in the Kaweka Range and Waikaremoana. Rain in the first two weeks of May delivered 33% of average May rainfall to Waikaremoana and the Kaweka Range, 25% to Tangolo, the Ruahine Range and 15% elsewhere.

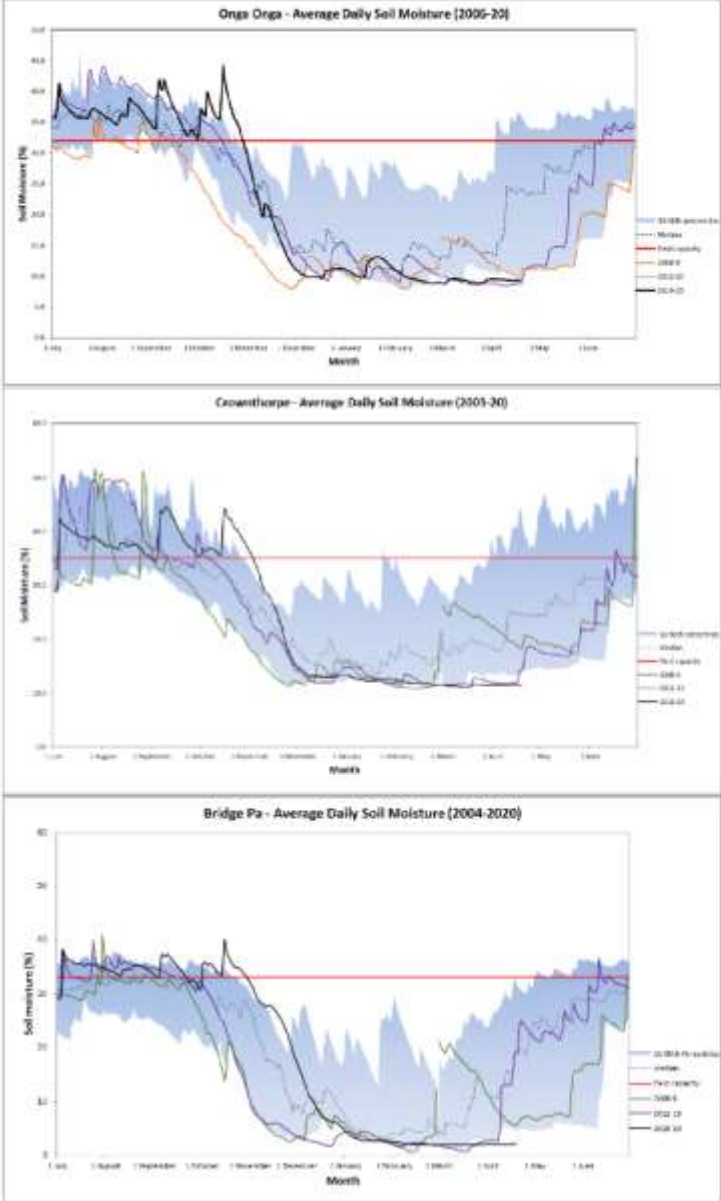
CDEM Group SOP3

		<p>The Australian Bureau of Meteorology isn't anticipating a positive Indian Ocean Dipole (IOD) event this coming spring and instead picking either a negative or neutral IOD. A positive event tends to bring drier weather. It also foresees either a neutral ENSO or La Niña rather than El Niño. However it cautions that model forecasts made at this time of year aren't all that reliable.</p> <p>Weather Outlook</p> <p>Since Monday many places have had less than 5 mm, some along the southern coast had 5-10 mm and a handful of sites in the northeast and ranges had more than 10 mm. Occasional rain or showers continue through until about Wednesday while the easterlies remain. Model rainfall accumulations suggest much of the region will see between 10-20 mm over that time, with some areas in the far north getting 20-30 mm.</p> <p>Soil Moisture</p> <p>Soil moisture remains static and at its lowest recorded level for the time of year at Bridge Pa, Ongaonga and Crownthorpe. Soil moisture levels at Taharua have dropped below median levels but are at field capacity north of Wairoa. Soil temperature ended the weekend at 13-14°C in most places, though more like 9°C at high elevations.</p>
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	List significant consequential incidents and locations	
	Impact on people, populations/communities – number displaced, hospitalised, deceased	

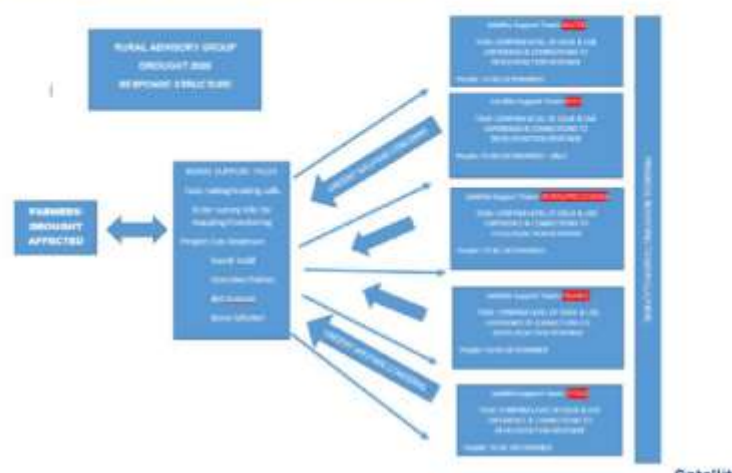
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	Impact on infrastructure, services, utilities, access/road closures	<p>Covid-19 level 4 response has put pressure on meat processing plants to adapt processes to ensure worker safety and reassurance of protection from Covid-19 transmission. Works are able to continue as an essential service but adapting processes for Covid-19 has plants currently running at around 50% of normal capacity.</p> <p>This may improve as new processes become familiar.</p> <p>The top concern for farmers is assurance that works will stay operational. This keeps open one of the main solutions for addressing the feed supply / demand imbalance.</p> <p>The works have stayed operational throughout the levels and have managed well, but at a lower than normal capacity. Still a concern for farmers around being able to get stock into the works in a timely way.</p>
	Impact on land, water, buildings, structures, animals	In addition to the ability to offload stock, connection to sources of feed supply is the other main immediate solution.
	<p>Predicted:</p> <p>Known threats which could cause further problems: Event forecast e.g weather forecast, Volcanic alert status, predicted ashfall, aftershocks, storm surge, tides etc. and/or predicted physical/socio-economic threats</p>	<p>many of the main concerns raised by farmers is below:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • FEED – As the temperatures begin to cool concern mounts for the ability of pastures to recover in time to provide feed for winter, assuming we get worthwhile rain. Many have been feeding supplements which are also difficult, if not impossible, to source and expensive (uneconomic in many cases). Feed is becoming more of a concern. North Island MPI Feed co-ordinator employed – Ali Forbes who is based in HB. • WATER – most are finding a way to get water to/for stock. Most dams are dry and many causing problems as sheep traps. Domestic water catered for, with some interruptions for some but not insurmountable • WATER/RAIN – Rain is still desperately needed in most areas. • TB – for Movement control areas this is another compounding factor. • OFF LOADING STOCK – This remains the key concern. A lot of difficulty getting killing space, long wait time to get stock in, sale yards all now shut down due to COVID-19, grazing elsewhere in NI not an option as other places dry too. Looming, in a couple of cases current, animal welfare issues. Sale yards will open under alert level 2. • COMPLIANCE – is some relaxing of PC 6 compliance within the Tukituki possible in these difficult times? "Consent to Farm" an additional stress they could do without. HBRC has recently clarified an approach with some flexibility to how to meet regulatory deadlines, and has clarified a response to questions on stock access to water and feed in riparian areas. These are on the HBRC website. • PHYSICAL WORKLOAD – weeks of feeding out is taking its toll. • Of these issues the two main immediate concerns are access to offloading stock and ensuring enough feed to get through the winter.
4. Mission	<p>A clear brief statement of current intent, stating the strategic aim.</p> <p>Example: To minimise the impact of flooding in xxxx locations from the source xxxxx</p>	<p>Mission is to Build community resilience by</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identifying the problem • Identifying any barriers • Enable the Implementation of the solution • Monitor the results

CDEM Group SOP3

5. Execution/ Planning	General outline of planned response	<p>Currently setting up a structure as below with Rural Advisory group being supported to form sub-groups to address areas of critical issues (in red)</p>  <p>Team leaders:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Water – Kevin Mitchell• Feed – Mark Harris• Logistics – Tim Aitken• Finance – David Todd• Welfare – Lon Anderson• Animal welfare – Karen Philips• Maori liaison – Tiki Marra• Wairoa – Fenton Wilson										
	<p><u>Summarise</u> main activities or tasks. Status e.g. yet to commence, underway, complete, etc.... The objectives in your IAP should be the source.</p>	<table><tr><th><u>What</u></th><th><u>Who is Lead Agency</u></th><th><u>When: Date/Time</u></th><th><u>Status</u></th><th><u>Constraints</u></th></tr><tr><td><p>Calls to farmers in affected areas to keep an up to date database of issues and needs related to specific geographical areas</p><p>Communication to farmers on solutions available, particularly platforms to sell stock, access feed and financial assistance.</p></td><td>Currently Rural Support Trust (RST)</td><td>current</td><td>173 farmers called</td><td>Time resource</td></tr></table>	<u>What</u>	<u>Who is Lead Agency</u>	<u>When: Date/Time</u>	<u>Status</u>	<u>Constraints</u>	<p>Calls to farmers in affected areas to keep an up to date database of issues and needs related to specific geographical areas</p> <p>Communication to farmers on solutions available, particularly platforms to sell stock, access feed and financial assistance.</p>	Currently Rural Support Trust (RST)	current	173 farmers called	Time resource
<u>What</u>	<u>Who is Lead Agency</u>	<u>When: Date/Time</u>	<u>Status</u>	<u>Constraints</u>								
<p>Calls to farmers in affected areas to keep an up to date database of issues and needs related to specific geographical areas</p> <p>Communication to farmers on solutions available, particularly platforms to sell stock, access feed and financial assistance.</p>	Currently Rural Support Trust (RST)	current	173 farmers called	Time resource								
	<p>Any additional comments on support, possible constraints – external/internal - resources, access, authority, risks</p>	<p>There are likely to be time resource constraints for Rural Support Trust in calling all farmers in affected areas and logging issues. This could be supported by HBRC catchment staff.</p> <p>Assistance with physical labour associated with feeding supplements as drought continues.</p>										

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6. Administration/ Logistics	<u>Vital Resources</u> Tell us what you can't get, or haven't got and have requested? Staffing, safety (PPE), etc	<p>Vital resource has been the quick development of a GIS based tool to capture phone survey data so that areas of need can be spatially represented. Can now filter the data by date/catchment area or district. The farming ratings for the GIS tool have been updated to reflect more accurately the evolving situation.</p> <p>Approval was given for the use of the rates database to overcome the constraint of lack of up to date contact information. It has not had to be used. The plan to contact all farmers was scaled back after realising the number made this unrealistic. The number and spread of farmers contacted has given a good situational awareness of the issues that need attention.</p>
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	<p>us what you can contribute? Are there opportunities for agency support?</p>	<p>RST Update</p>  <p>Given the shift in sentiment we have felt it appropriate to re-define the ratings on the dashboard to more accurately reflect the evolving situation. Having said that we have not been through the Dashboard and "re-rated" every contact. The definitions below provide some revised context:</p> <p>Farm Situation Rating: How is the farm positioned to cope with the current event.</p> <p>No immediate issues: the farm is operational and the situation in hand with no immediate issues.</p> <p>Managing: Currently have options for maintaining farm operation. There are elements of their system that they are having to Manage to keep the farm operational - e.g. Gates left open to provide access to dams where some dams are dry, water systems having to be topped up with carted water, stock that would normally be off the property are being carried and additional feed purchased to feed them.</p> <p>Not coping: Options to keep the farm system operational have/are running out. They have expressed a need for help.</p> <p>Urgent help required: Assistance is essential to maintain the farming operation i.e. prevent loss or harm</p> <p>Since Monday the focus continues to be feed and the frustrating lack of rain. There have been some showers but no material rain to speak of.</p> <p>The HB Drought Facebook page continues to generate much interest (3724 members this morning). The "Rapa Feed Run" has become a focus with the generosity of the Wairarapa farming community coming to the aid of their HB counterparts. We are expecting at least 3 truck and trailers this weekend. Co-ordination and distribution will need some management. This is underway.</p> <p>Ali Forbes, the North Island Feed Co-ordinator appointed last week, has had an induction of fire to say the least. If we are able to continue to communicate the process, and the rationale for it, for feed co-ordination – "Contact mpifeed@gmail.com with a feed budget/feed plan. We need this so we can understand the priorities of feed as some people will need feed now, while others may not need it for some time" in the first instance then this will help. Once the feed on offer is understood by Ali she can then work with the RST/RAG Group to ensure it is distributed where it is most needed.</p> <p>The influx of donated feed will also, has already, bring with it some discourse. Some of those who have invested heavily to this point in supplementary feed will be disappointed (to use a euphemism) to see the "late comers", now in a desperate feed situation, receiving donated feed. We will need to keep this in mind and be prepared for some robust discussions (another euphemism).</p> <p>Evidence is mounting, mainly via posts to the HB Drought FB page, that there are a growing number of small holdings/ lifestyle blocks that have been caught short for feed. We will need to keep these people in our sights over the next wee while but our focus has to be economic farming units. My view is that there will be a similar situation for larger farming businesses. Our sample size is a small percentage of the total number of farms in HB but we feel it is representative of the bigger picture based on what we are seeing and hearing.</p> <p>We have been called in to one situation where the financier has had what appears to be a significant negative shift in their level of support very quickly.</p>
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		<p>As per the Dashboard we have at least 18 farms we are working closing with.</p> <p><u>OSPRI Update</u></p>   <p>One additional herd in [redacted] has tested positive for infection in the past week.</p> <p>Investigations into one herd has closed with no infection identified; one new investigation has begun .</p> <p>A total of 70,432 animals have been tested since 1 November 2019.</p> <p>71 pre-movement tests have been completed since February, a further 26 tests have been allocated to AsureQuality.</p> <p>Cattle or deer over the age of 3 months going to sale, require a clear test within 60 days prior to movement.</p> <p>Note: For infected herds, two clear, whole-herd tests six months apart are required to achieve clear status.</p> <p>Compensation support for farmers: OSPRI can provide compensation to help farmers with infected herds. Compensation criteria, as agreed by all OSPRI stakeholders, can be found here.</p> <p>COVID-19 RESPONSE UPDATE</p> <p>Possum control contractors are now resuming operations in Hawke's Bay while complying with Alert Level 3 safety restrictions.</p> <p>Information about primary sector business and operations under Alert Level 3 is available here .</p> <p>TB testing of animals in the extended movement control area in Hawke's Bay continues as an essential service under the all-of-government response classification and is unaffected by the shift to Alert Level 3; OSPRI and AsureQuality are managing testing procedures to protect the health and safety of farmers and testers.</p>
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CDEM Group SOP3

		<p>OSPRI offices remain closed and staff continue to work from home, dedicated case management of infected herds in Hawke's Bay is continuing via phone and email; the Contact Centre (0800 482 463; 8am-5pm) remains open.</p> <p>OSPRI's Hawke's Bay TB response webpage features the latest information for farmers – go to www.ospri.co.nz/hawkes-bay</p>			
	Advise calculated expenditure for Category A & B (actual and forecast)				
7. Command	<p>Are you using your normal management structure to respond? Who is managing your response?</p> <p>If different than normal show basic team structure & lines of control and reporting including any additional key contact information not included in SOP1.</p>	 <p>We are operating in the Welfare area of the CDEM response for the region. The Group Emergency Coordination Centre have the lead and we are focused on the rural community as part of their network of networks.</p> <p>Governance – Wade Nilsson / Lochie MacGillivray / Tania Kerr Lead/Controller – Iain Maxwell Intelligence – Lisa Harrison Planning – Brendan Powell Operations – Monique Benson / Dean Evans Logistics – Fiona Clark / Dean Evans PIM – Jenny Keown GIS support- Darrel Hall / Helen Munroe / Lee Tupuola Admin support – Rohana Sergent / Jolene Townshend</p>			
8. Communications	Explain systems/ networks being used and any that are not available	<p><u>Primary</u></p> <p>Comms plan has been developed</p> <p>Rural support Trust network</p> <p>Radio</p> <p>Beef and Lamb e-news</p>	<p><u>Other</u></p> <p>Newspaper</p> <p>Rural Newsletter</p>	<p><u>At risk</u></p>	<p><u>Not available</u></p>
9. Recovery	Initial forecasts of restoration & priority needs				
	Briefly state possible long-term implications	Prolonged mental and financial stress particularly for landowners affected by the combination of drought, Covid-19 impact and TB responses.			

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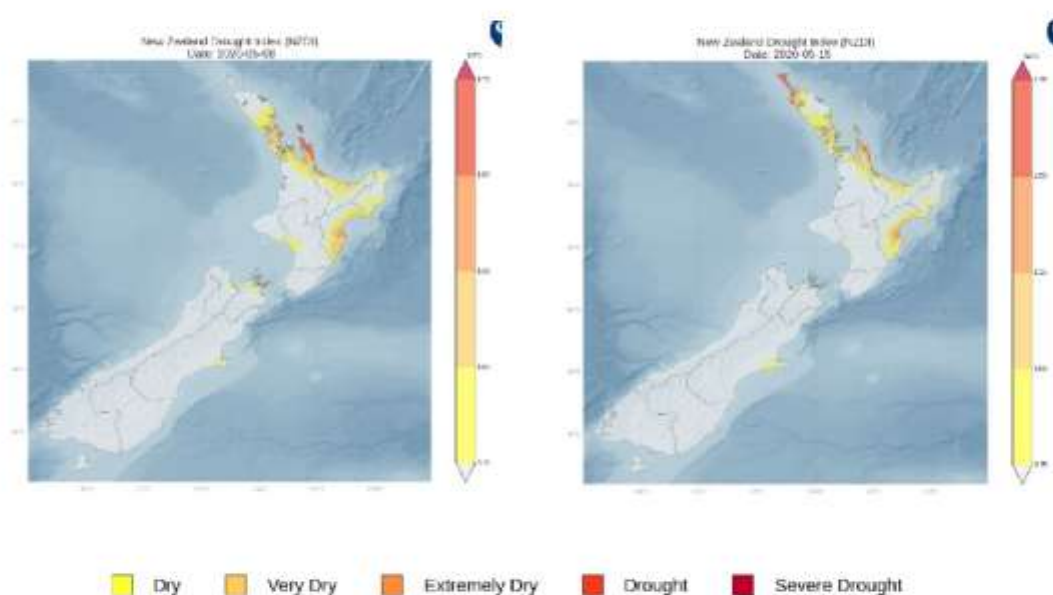
Item 4

NEMA National Coordination Centre (NCC) Weekly Situation Summary Issued: 1100 hrs, Monday 18 May 2020	
Events: Drought	Declaration status: A national transition period came into force at 1221 hours 13 May 2020 for the COVID-19 pandemic. It expires 1221 hours 10 August 2020, unless extended or terminated earlier.
Activation status: NEMA NCC Mode 1 Enhanced Monitoring since 0800 hours 17 February 2020	Next update: 1100 hrs, Monday 25 May 2020

Situation Summary

Overview

- Northland, parts of Waikato (Hauraki and Coromandel), western Bay of Plenty, and the East Coast of the North Island (Gisborne, Hawke's Bay, and Taranaki), remain the most drought-impacted regions.
- The Central Hawke's Bay has been a particular focus for this week, with increased media enquiries and coverage, and a surge in reported animal welfare issues. There is rising commentary around concerns for the mental health of farmers and associated agri-businesses throughout Hawke's Bay.
- Key issues from drought continue to be too many animals on farm (as a result of slowdown in processing) with insufficient feed either now or through to early spring.
- On 16 May, Auckland Council introduced mandatory water restrictions across the region.



Source: National Institute of Water & Atmospheric Research (NIWA). [New Zealand Drought monitor](#) (Updated 18 May 2020)

Attachment 3

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Weather Forecast

- North Island: Showers in the east and south and mainly fine elsewhere. Isolated showers for eastern Coromandel and Northland Wednesday to Friday.
- South Island: Isolated showers in the west developing Wednesday, turning to rain south of the Glaciers on Thursday. Mainly fine elsewhere with early frosts.
- Areas of morning cloud or fog for parts of the country throughout the week.

Source: Meteorological Service of New Zealand. [MetService Extended Forecast](#) (Updated 18 May 2020)

CDEM Groups

CDEM Groups continue to monitor ongoing dry conditions and are conscious of the implications of a lack of potable water on the management of COVID-19. However, CDEM Groups are largely focused on the response to COVID-19 so drought responses are being undertaken by other teams within territorial authorities. The following notes are compiled from updates from the CDEM Groups and/or council websites:

Northland

- The past week has been non-eventful for rainfall and Northland needs back-to-back months of normal or higher than normal rainfall to escape this hydrological drought.
- There is little substantial rain in the forecast for the coming week. The following week may see some showers across eastern Northland.
- The river flows have changed little with the small amount of rain during the week and many continue to recede – 40% of river stations are currently below drought flows. Although rivers are still low, some are starting to show signs of recovery.
- The flows in the Awanui River have improved and, as a result, no Water Shortage Direction was requested/required this week. There may be a decision and media release this week on relaxing Level 4 water restrictions for Kaitiāia.
- The Whau Valley Dam level dropped slightly to 44% (down 1% on last week). It is expected to take at least 150mm of rainfall per month and about 1000mm by October/November to see improvements in storage volumes.
- The demand for tank refills for residential households is reducing, with only 11 tank refills required in the previous seven days. Private water carriers reported an increase in deliveries, however this is partly due to increased business-as-usual activities as COVID-19 restrictions ease.
- Current water restrictions across Northland:
 - **Level 4** restrictions are in place for Kaikohe/Ngāwhā, Kaitiāia, Kawakawa/Moerewa, Rāwene/Omanaia and the entire Kaipara District;
 - **Level 3** restrictions are in place for Kerikeri/Waipapa, Waitangi/Opua/Paihia, Ōmāpere/Opononi, and the entire Whangārei District; and
 - **Level 2** restrictions are in place for Ōkaihau.
- Kaipara's Maungaturoto water is struggling to supply the volume of water required by Fonterra's Maungaturoto plant that restarted on 4 May.
- Fonterra's Kauri plant shut down from 8 May and the Water Shortage Direction for the take from Mangaharuru has not been renewed.
- In the Far North District, a significant leak in the Opononi supply pushed consumption above the 25% target and E-Coli testing at Sweetwater bore showed clear results over three consecutive days.

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- Works are **continuing** to connect the Wairua River to the Porotū Water Treatment Plan as an emergency take for Whangārei District. **Work on the Hātea River pipeline is due to start soon to upgrade the current line which cannot handle the present demand.**
- Since 13 March, **262** water deliveries have been coordinated by the CDEM Group. **After a significant decrease last week, an increase in deliveries in all districts this week reflects a return to business comprising activities like new builds and swimming pool refills.**
- Te Puni Kōkiri, iwi and CDEM are working together to ensure the immediate water needs of priority groups are met.
- Northland Rural Support Trust client queries **remain** complex. **The number of contacts from retired people is increasing as they struggle with financial issues and psychosocial concerns over technology socialisation. There is a concern that lack of pasture growth may result in an increase in animal welfare cases.**
- **Discussions about preparation for future droughts are planned with the CDEM Co-ordinator for the Kaitiāia area.**

Source: Northland Emergency Management Group. Northland Drought Situation Report #23, including MetService Northland Regional Council 4 Week forecast (Issued 1200 hrs 15 May 2020)

Auckland

- **On 15 April, the total volume of water stored in Auckland's dams dropped below 50 per cent for the first time in more than 25 years. As of 11 May, total dam storage is 46%; the historical average for this time of the year is 77%.**
- **Mandatory Stage 1 water restrictions came into effect on Saturday 16 May. The restrictions apply to all properties (residential, commercial, and other non-domestic water users) connected to Auckland's metropolitan water supply network. Stage 1 restrictions prohibit the residential use of outdoor hoses or water-blasters.**
- **The Auckland ECC Lifelines function has transitioned to an on-call capacity for the COVID-19 response, but continues to work closely with Auckland Council and its critical contingency operators (CCOs) on the ongoing drought response [from AKGEOC SitRep 15 May]**

Source: Auckland Council. [Watercare – drought response](#) (Updated 18 May 2020)

Source: Auckland Emergency Management (AEM). AEM SitRep #44 (Issued 1500 hrs 15 May 2020)

Waikato

- Water restrictions remain in place:
 - **Level 4** – Total watering ban remains permanently in place in the Thames Valley until further notice.
 - **Level 2** – Alternate day watering restrictions are still in effect in parts of Thames Coromandel, Matamata-Piako, Waitomo, and Hauraki Districts.
- All water restrictions have been lifted in Hamilton City and the Waikato, Waipa, Ōtorohanga, Taupō and South Waikato Districts.

Source: [Thames-Coromandel District Council](#), [Matamata-Piako District Council](#), [Waitomo District Council](#), [Hauraki District Council](#), [Smart Water](#), [Ōtorohanga District Council](#), [Taupō District Council](#), and [South Waikato District Council](#) websites (Updated 18 May 2020)

Hawke's Bay

- The southern half of the region **has entered** its seventh month of below normal rainfall, and there is no sign of the drought breaking. Rain in the first **two weeks** of May delivered **33%** of average May rainfall to Waikaremoana and the Kaweka Range, 25% to Tangoio, 20% to the Ruahine Range and **15%** elsewhere. **All the major rivers remain above the minimum cut-off flow rate for irrigation bans.**

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- Soil moisture levels remain static and at the lowest recorded level for the time of year at Bridge Pa, Ongaonga and Crownthorpe. Soil moisture levels have dropped below median levels at Taharua, but are at field capacity north of Wairoa.
- There is rising commentary around concerns for the mental health of farmers and associated agri-businesses throughout Hawke's Bay as the long period of 'feeding out' daily continues. The magnitude of the problem cannot be readily measured at the present time and there are well-founded fears about what impacts could arise in 1-2 months' time should some of these vulnerable farms be hit by a cold southerly.
- The current support structures are reliant on a number of highly trained personnel who are carrying out extensive work to assess and understand the problems and issues. If the worst occurs and a cold-snap causes exacerbation of current feed constraints or animal welfare concerns, there is the real likelihood of support agencies being unable to meet the rising demand.
- Work is underway to start reviewing affected areas and establish the 'risk potential' in the hardest hit areas (Sherenden, Crownthorpe, Wairere, and West SH50). Estimates indicate that up to 20% of farmers in these areas may be adversely affected to the extent of requiring support.

Source: Hawke's Bay CDEM Group. Hawke's Bay CDEM Group SitRep (Issued 1500 hrs 15 May 2020)

National-level Actions Taken

Government Support

- The Government has declared this drought a large scale adverse event. The area covers all of the North Island and the top of the South Island (Marlborough, Tasman, and Kaikōura) down to North Canterbury (Hurunui, Waimakariri, and Selwyn) and the Chatham Islands.
- On Thursday 12 March, the Government announced a major new drought relief package to support communities in Northland and elsewhere in the North Island facing acute water shortages. The package included:
 - \$10 million to respond to immediate and pressing needs such as delivering water for consumption, sanitation, wastewater systems, stock welfare and horticulture
 - \$421,000 to extend the reach of Rural Assistance Payments
 - \$2 million to support farmers and growers following the large-scale adverse event classification

National Emergency Management Agency

- The National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA) is working with Watercare and local councils to progress implementation of the \$10 million financial assistance package. Scoping and assessment on infrastructure projects to determine eligibility for funding under the assistance package continues. The eligibility is assessed based on needs such as delivering water for consumption, sanitation, wastewater systems, stock welfare and horticulture. Currently several communities (Kaikohe, Kaitaia, Omanaia, Rawene, Kawakawa, Moerewa and Morrinsville) have identified issues with community drinking water supplies.
- Arrangements for tanker deliveries where they are needed remain in place and deliveries are progressing. NEMA is responding to specific and urgent drought related water delivery needs in various locations as they arise.
- Tanker deliveries to rural residents continue in the Northland Region, Thames-Coromandel District and Hauraki District. As of 15 May, 159 deliveries had been made in the Thames-Coromandel District, 25 deliveries had been made in Hauraki District and 263 deliveries had been made in Northland.

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- NEMA officials have contacted Auckland Council to determine if similar support is needed for their rural residents and marae, particularly for the area immediately adjacent to the Hauraki District.
- The National Emergency Management Agency's Regional Emergency Management Advisors are actively engaging with affected CDEM Groups.

Source: National Emergency Management Agency

Ministry for Primary Industries

- The National Operations Centre remains the point of contact into MPI for any drought-related queries.
- Key issues from drought continue to be too many animals on farm (as a result of slowdown in processing) with insufficient feed either now (not enough soil moisture) or through to early spring (having fed out winter feed early to address current shortfalls).
- Northland, parts of Waikato (Hauraki and Coromandel), western Bay of Plenty, and the East Coast of the North Island (Gisborne, Hawke's Bay, Taranaki), remain the most drought-impacted regions, while Southland still has feed shortages arising from the 3-5 February 2020 flooding.
- The Central Hawke's Bay has been a particular focus for this week, with media enquiries and a surge in eight reported animal welfare issues.
- Processing capacity is increasing (currently 80-90% of average) and will further improve under COVID-19 Alert Level 2. Further sale yards will also be opening.
- An emerging animal welfare issue is lightweight stock, and whether these will be fit for transport or marketable even if processing steps up.
- Associated with these issues, is a growing concern from Rural Support Trusts that mental health and wellness issues are growing significantly but are underreported while people are under lockdown. They are gearing up (training, resources, community events) in anticipation of greater face to face contact resuming under COVID-19 Alert Level 2.
- A range of voluntary and community-based support is gaining momentum including Facebook pages and donations of feed where people are able.
- The horticulture sector reports autumn harvesting is starting to wrap up, and the kiwifruit crop was very good. Their main concerns have been access of fruit and vegetables to the domestic market (due to lockdown of independent retailers and restaurants), and potential labour shortages if overseas workers leave when they can get home.

Source: Ministry for Primary Industries. Weekly email update from the National Operations Centre (sent 1645 hrs 14 May 2020)