



Mangauika Road bridge has reopened as of Friday, February 27.

After the storm: the road to recovery

Waipā District is transitioning to a recovery phase after the State of Emergency response to a one-in-250-year weather event that caused severe flooding and slips in mid-February.

Timeline of events:

- Saturday, February 14:** Mayor Mike Pettit declares a State of Emergency following damage to roads, reserves and infrastructure in the western side of the district.
- Friday, February 20:** Declaration extended for another seven days.
- Wednesday, February 25:** State of Emergency declaration lifted, transition to recovery begins.

Council teams will continue assessing roads, water networks, and other critical infrastructure, while working closely with partner agencies to ensure support reaches those who need it most.

Reconnecting Waipā

The mid-February storm caused significant damage to infrastructure across the western side of the district and Wharepapa South. At its peak, 12 local roads were closed, along with more than six reserves and tracks. In total, 133 people across Waipā and Ōtorohanga were displaced.

The response from emergency services, iwi, contractors, volunteers, council staff and the community has been outstanding.

At the time of print:

- All Waipā residents have returned home, and only a small number of Ōtorohanga residents remain displaced.
- All local roads are open to residents - some restrictions remain in place. Corcoran Road is open to residents only at particular times of the day.
- State Highway 39 remains closed between Te Tahi and Ngutunui Roads while repairs are underway on the damaged Mangati Bridge. A temporary bridge is expected to be installed by mid-March.
- Some tracks and reserves remain closed while we continue to assess damage and address safety risks. Pirongia Forest, Sainsbury Road Reserve, Kakepuku Mountain Track and Pirongia Mountain tracks are still closed, but Pirongia Esplanade Track and Mātakitaki Pā have now reopened.

Water update

The whole of the Waipā District has moved to Water Alert Level 2 in response to the impacts of storm damage.

This includes Pirongia residents, who had been under strict emergency conservation measures since February 14.

The flooding saw critical infrastructure at Te Tahi Water Treatment Plant destroyed. This put it out of operation and disrupted water supply to Pirongia, as well as reducing capacity and resilience across the entire district.

A new backup connection was completed at the Frontier Road reservoir in Te Awamutu, which has now been flushed, tested and brought into operation.

Alert Level 2 requires residents and businesses to reduce non-essential outside water use. This will help protect supply for the whole Waipā community.

In Alert Level 2, sprinklers can only be used on alternate days – even-numbered addresses on even dates, and odd-numbered addresses on odd dates – between 6am–8am and 6pm–8pm. Residents are also asked to avoid hosing footpaths and driveways, use trigger nozzles on hoses, cover pools, and shorten showers.



The team working on the new connection for Pirongia at Te Awamutu's Frontier Road.

Mayoral Disaster Relief Fund

If you're a Waipā resident, ratepayer, business owner, community group or marae and you've been affected by the recent flooding and storm damage, we may be able to help.

To find out more visit: waipadc.govt.nz/relieffund

Pick up a form from: Waipā District Council office (101 Bank Street, Te Awamutu), or Te Awamutu Library (Selwyn Lane).

Want to make a donation?
Help our community get back on its feet

Waipā District Council – Mayoral Relief Fund
Bank account: 12 3122 0084701 20

If you would like a receipt, please include your phone number as the payment reference.



Your Elected Members

Get in touch: waipadc.govt.nz/our-council/our-team/mayor-and-councillors

