

HE TUKUNGA PĀPĀHO

MEDIA RELEASE

Subject: **Local State of Emergency for Haumoana lifted, residents can go home**

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The local State of Emergency for Haumoana has been lifted as at 12.04pm following the ending of the Orange weather warning and sea levels no longer posing a threat.

About 90 homes were re-evacuated in Haumoana last night, and two families and around 30 RSE workers spent the night at the Haumoana School hall, which remained closed to students but available to the community this morning.

After meeting with other agencies this morning and assessing the impact of the high tide this morning, it was considered the situation had stabilised enough to lift the evacuation notice and allow people to return home.

Hastings mayor Sandra Hazlehurst thanked the community for the co-operation shown over the past few days.

“Fortunately, we have come out the other side of this event with no major damage, and it’s good to see a bit of sunshine today.

“My thanks to the people of Haumoana for their patience waiting to return to their homes – we know it’s been inconvenient, but we wanted to do everything we could to ensure people were safe.

“We are very grateful to Haumoana School for allowing us to use their hall for a shelter – it’s a big disruption and the decision to respond in this way was not taken lightly and was informed by the best advice we could get from all the partner agencies involved.

Mrs Hazlehurst also acknowledged Recovery Minister Mark Mitchell’s announcement of \$100,000 for a Mayoral Relief Fund in a visit to the District community of Haumoana yesterday.

“My thanks also go to the teams in all the agencies, including our council teams, for putting in some long hours this week, in trying conditions, to keep the community safe.

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“We are so lucky it was not worse and at this time our thoughts go to our neighbours in Wairoa who are really suffering at the moment.”

Residents who were evacuated and went to stay with friends and family are being contacted via phone where contact details were provided to let them know it is safe to return.

Additional Information

Septic Tanks: Council recommends that residents of properties with septic tanks that were impacted by flooding check gully traps and outlet filters for debris or clogging and limit water use in the home till their septic tank system restores itself and the water table falls. If people have concerns they are advised to get the system professionally checked and cleaned.

Rapid Building Assessments: Council’s building team had inspected around 40 properties in the affected area. Four properties have been issued yellow placards meaning parts of the home have restricted access or there is only short-term access. 15 properties received a white placard which means the house can be used. Council officers have spoken to the property owners involved. Enquiries regarding building assessments can be made to buildingrecovery@hdc.govt.nz.

Roading update – the District’s roading network held up well, with just one significant slip on Ellis Wallace Road in Eskdale. Contractors are working on minor slips – please continue to drive with care. Please check the NZTA Waka Kotahi Journey Planner for updates on the state highway network.

Flooding/inundation - The Hawke’s Bay Regional Council is working to restore the sea crest at Haumoana Beach and has advised pump stations are working well.

A wave warning is still in place for Cape Turnagain to Māhanga until 8am Friday morning – please check forecasts and warnings before undertaking marine activities.

Insurance - If your property has been damaged as a result of inundation or flooding, please contact your insurance provider.

ENDS

MEDIA ENQUIRIES

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