



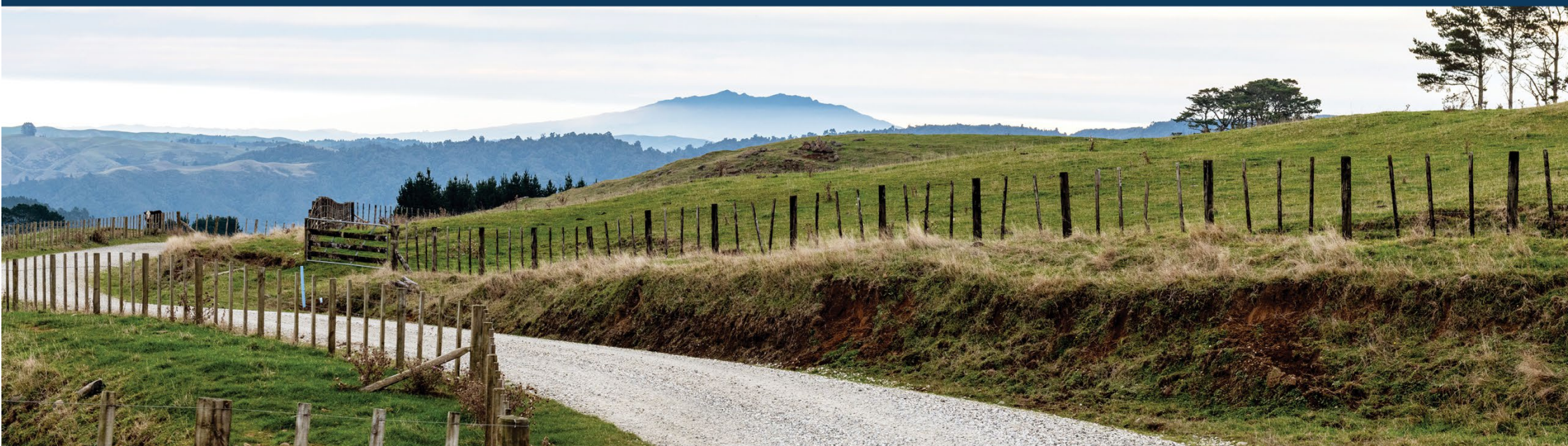
TE KAUNIHERA Ā-ROHE O
ŌTOROHANGA
DISTRICT COUNCIL

The Road to **RECOVERY**

RECOVERY PLAN

14 FEB EVENT

LAST UPDATED 22 June 2026



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1. Executive summary

Ōtorohanga transitioned from response into recovery following the February 2026 severe weather event on 25 February 2026. Recovery activities take time and will require sustained coordination across councils, lifelines, agencies, iwi/hapū, community organisations, and the private sector.

Both Waipa and Ōtorohanga districts council 's declared a State of Emergency independently for this event, and the response was delivered through a highly coordinated and shared approach through the Western Waikato CDEM agreement, with a jointly operated Emergency Operations Centre (EOC). This approach demonstrated the value of collective capability, aligned decision-making, and strong inter-organisational relationships - and it provides a strong foundation for recovery.

As the response phase concluded, recovery arrangements transitioned to separate recovery programmes led by each council, reflecting the different impacts, priorities, and statutory responsibilities within each district. While recovery is delivered through each council's own recovery structure, both councils will maintain strong coordination where systems, partners, and recovery issues overlap.

Recovery phase takes into account how the activities are governed, coordinated, and delivered over what is usually a medium- to long-term period. In particular, balancing:

- maintaining strong place-based recovery for affected communities,
- making best use of limited recovery capability,
- ensuring clear accountability to elected members and communities, and
- supporting staff sustainability over time.

Recovery also requires disciplined choices about what can be progressed through the recovery programme, what will need to be managed through longer-term planning and business-as-usual processes, and what may need to be deferred, re-scoped, or not progressed where no feasible delivery or funding pathway exists. This reflects the reality that recovery is not simply about restoring everything to its previous state, but about making transparent, evidence-based decisions on priorities, affordability, and the best use of limited capacity and resources.

This Recovery Plan sets out our approach to recovery across the four recovery environments - Built, Community, Natural, and Economic - and brings together the actions, what success looks like, and key dependencies that may affect timing.

As recovery planning progresses, this plan is updated and maintained through the Recovery Action Plan tables which capture the actions, responsibilities, and priorities.

The recovery programme also aligns with Ōtorohanga District Council's wider strategic frameworks, including the **Economic Wellbeing Strategy and Te Punga o te Hapori**, ensuring recovery actions support both immediate restoration and the long-term resilience of the district's economy.

2. Event summary and impacts overview

From 13–14 February 2026, a severe weather system delivered over 170mm of rainfall, resulting in significant river and surface flooding across Ōtorohanga and Waipā districts. Based on current assessments, this event is being described as a **1-in-250-year flood**.

A “1-in-250-year” flood does not mean it happens only once every 250 years. It means that, based on the best available historical data and modelling, a flood of this size has around a 0.4% chance of occurring in any given year. In other words, it is rare, but it can happen at any time - including more than once within a shorter period.

Across the two districts, the event affected people, homes, access routes, water services, rural operations, and the natural environment. In some areas, road and bridge damage and ongoing restrictions have reduced access to essential services and created longer travel times. In Ōtorohanga, building impacts have required assessments and follow-up with affected households, alongside significant local road disruption. In Waipā, water supply impacts have affected Pirongia, and closures and safety concerns have affected key reserves and tracks.

The event also caused damage to council-owned facilities and community assets, including parks and reserves infrastructure, community buildings, walkways, playgrounds, carparks, and older persons housing. Impacts included flooding damage, slips, erosion, and damage to structures and surfaces.

Essential three waters infrastructure was also affected across multiple locations, including water, wastewater and stormwater assets such as pump stations, treatment plants, pipelines, intakes, electrical systems, monitoring

equipment and stormwater infrastructure. In some cases, temporary operational measures were required to maintain services, including generator and pump hire, contractor works, and contamination clean-up.

One person lost their life in the early stages of the event. This is acknowledged respectfully here as part of the overall impact of the event on the community.

Recovery takes time. Some issues can be resolved quickly through temporary reinstatement, while others require specialist assessment, design, funding decisions, and permanent works. This plan brings together what we know now and sets out how we will prioritise and coordinate recovery so our communities can recover safely and with confidence.

Event Snap-Shot – total impact across both Waipā and Ōtorohanga Districts – as at 25 February 2026 first day of Recovery



EVENT OVERVIEW

1 in 250 year event
180 staff deployed
from 12 councils
11 Day EOC activation



DAMAGED OR CLOSED

5 Council buildings/facilities
6 Playgrounds

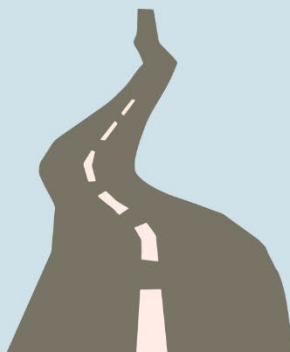
COMMUNITY IMPACT

21 Displaced households
133 Displaced people
362 Welfare needs assessments
3 Pop-up community hubs
3 Marae provided support
230 Properties without power
4 Farms dumped milk
1 School closed



PLACARDED BUILDINGS

1 Red 23 Yellow 33 White



ROADING NETWORK

25 Local roads closed
3 State highways closed
3 Bridges closed
13 Culverts damaged
2 Culverts blocked
10 Roads blocked by trees
207 Slips on roads
31 Drop outs



WASTE CLEARED

23.27 tonne (known)

3. Recovery approach and framework

Purpose of this plan

This Recovery Plan sets out how Ōtorohanga District Council, alongside iwi and our partners, will coordinate recovery from the February 2026 event. While the plan reflects shared recovery issues across both districts, it is primarily focused on Ōtorohanga District Council's recovery responsibilities, priorities, and actions. It provides:

- a shared understanding of the impacts and priorities,
- a clear approach to how decisions will be made and work will be sequenced, and
- a transparent picture of the actions underway and planned across the four recovery environments (Built, Community, Natural, Economic).

In the natural environment in particular, many activities sit with partner agencies, especially Waikato Regional Council, which has a key leadership and delivery role for river, catchment, and related natural hazard work. In those areas, this plan records how Ōtorohanga District Council will coordinate, support, and interface with partner-led activity as part of the wider recovery picture.

This plan is designed to be useful and updateable. As impacts are confirmed and priorities change, actions, milestones and timing will be refreshed.

What 'recovery' means

Recovery is the coordinated work that helps our communities **restore, rebuild and strengthen** after an emergency. It includes immediate stabilisation

(making things safe and functional), restoration (repairing and reinstating services and access), and longer-term improvements where they are agreed, practical and affordable.

Recovery is not just about assets. It is also about people's wellbeing, livelihoods, and the health of the natural environment. Many **issues are interconnected** - for example, road access affects household wellbeing, business continuity, rural operations, and how quickly repairs can progress.

How we will deliver recovery

We will deliver recovery through a coordinated approach that:

- is **trauma informed**
- is **risk-based**
- is **community-informed** and grounded in local priorities,
- is **partner-enabled**, recognising many actions sit with lifelines and government agencies, and
- is **transparent and measurable**, so communities can see what's happening, what will take time, and why,
- provides for a **managed transition from response into recovery**, and over time from recovery into business as usual.

How this plan will be used and updated

This plan will be reviewed and updated as recovery progresses. Updates will reflect:

- new impact information (including community and iwi feedback),
- delivery progress and changes in sequencing or timing,

- emerging risks and constraints that may affect sequencing, timeframes and delivery confidence, and
- funding and approval decisions as they are confirmed.

The Recovery Action Plan tables in Section 12 provide the “working” view of priorities, milestones, dependencies and indicative funding pathways. Where an action is led by a partner agency, this plan records that relationship and how we will coordinate, rather than duplicating the partner’s work programme.

4. Vision, outcomes and principles

Alignment with council community outcomes

Recovery is not separate from the council's long-term direction for the district. This Recovery Plan supports the delivery of Ōtorohanga District Council's community outcomes of **People, Place and Partnerships**, and reflects the council's commitment to **weaving the future together**

In the context of recovery, this means:

People – supporting the wellbeing, safety and resilience of individuals, whānau and communities as they recover from the impacts of the event.

Place – restoring and strengthening the district's infrastructure, natural environment and community spaces so that Ōtorohanga continues to be a safe and thriving place to live, work and visit.

Partnerships – working collaboratively with iwi/hapū, neighbouring councils, government agencies, community organisations and the private sector to deliver recovery in a way that reflects shared priorities and collective effort.

Our recovery vision

*Supporting the recovery of people, place and livelihoods
through partnership - strengthening community
wellbeing for the future*

Ōtorohanga will work with our communities, iwi/hapū, partners to support recovery that is **safe, well-coordinated**, and **fit for the future**. Our focus is on restoring what matters most – people, place and livelihoods, through genuine

partnerships and strengthening community wellbeing and improving resilience where it is practical and affordable.

Recovery Objectives

Our operational goals guide recovery work and decision-making. They help the Recovery Team prioritise work, Governance make decisions and Sector groups align their actions

1. Restore essential services and infrastructure safely and efficiently.
2. Support affected communities to recover wellbeing and resilience.
3. Enable economic recovery for local businesses and rural sectors.
4. Protect and restore natural environments affected by the event.
5. Strengthen resilience where practical and affordable.
6. Provide a clear pathway from recovery to Business As Usual.

Recovery Outcomes

Our outcomes describe what success looks like - the state we want communities to reach because of recovery.

Community - Whānau and community wellbeing

We will support whānau and communities to be safe, well, and connected, with clear pathways to the right help and deliberate follow-up so no one is missed.

Built - Lifelines, infrastructure and access

We will restore and strengthen critical lifelines and infrastructure so they are reliable and more resilient where feasible (not just 'back to how it was'),

including safe access and connectivity and practical waste and clean-up systems that support communities and the economy.

Natural - Te taiao and places of significance

Where practical we will look to protect and restore te taiao, manage land stability and environmental risks, and safeguard sites of significance, supporting long-term restoration alongside cultural values.

Economic - Stability and recovery for livelihoods

We will help households, businesses and farms to stabilise and recover by restoring access, reducing disruption, and supporting local livelihoods to get back on their feet.

Principles guiding recovery decisions and delivery

These principles describe how we will prioritise work, make decisions, and communicate trade-offs over time.

1. Safety first

We will protect the health and safety of people, animals and property in all recovery decisions.

2. Locally-led, coordinated where it matters

Recovery will be locally led, with coordinated approaches across councils and partners where impacts, networks and dependencies are shared.

3. Community-informed and equitable

Recovery priorities will reflect community needs and lived experience, with deliberate action to ensure people don't fall through the cracks.

4. Clear choices and transparent trade-offs

We will be open about priorities, timeframes, affordability and

constraints, and explain what can happen now, what will take time, and why.

5. Build back smarter, where justified

Where it is practical and affordable, recovery decisions will focus on reducing future risk and improve resilience-not just reinstate pre-event settings.

Principles guiding engagement, including iwi/hapū

Engagement is part of recovery delivery. We will engage early enough to inform decisions and close the loop so people can see how feedback has shaped outcomes. We will work in ways that reflect:

1. **Whakaute** (respect),
2. **Pononga** (truthful and genuine engagement),
3. **Kanohi ki te kanohi** (meeting in person where it matters), and
4. **Tikanga ā iwi** (following iwi protocols and practices).

Mā tini mā mano ka rapa te whai.
By many, by thousands, the work will be accomplished.

6. Recovery governance and structure

Recovery works best when there is clear leadership, clear decision rights, and a practical way to coordinate across partners and communities. This section describes how recovery will be governed and how accountability will be maintained.

Governance structure (decision-making and oversight)

Recovery governance will sit with Council as a whole, with oversight and direction provided through Council meetings as required. This reflects that recovery is a council-wide responsibility and that key recovery decisions, priorities, risks, and trade-offs need to be visible through normal governance channels.

The role of governance is to:

- confirm shared recovery priorities and sequencing,
- provide oversight of major risks, constraints and delivery confidence,
- resolve cross-boundary trade-offs and dependencies, and
- ensure recovery remains aligned to the agreed outcomes and principles.

Day-to-day recovery coordination will be led by the Recovery Lead, who will manage the operational coordination of recovery activity across the four recovery environments: Built, Community, Natural, and Economic. The statutory responsibilities of the Recovery Manager remain unchanged, with the Recovery Manager retaining overall accountability for recovery under the Civil Defence Emergency Management framework. Sector leads will be in place for as long as necessary and are responsible for coordinating activity within their area, maintaining visibility of progress, risks, and dependencies, and reporting these through the Recovery Lead and Recovery Manager as appropriate.

To support meaningful partnership in recovery decision-making, an invitation was shared with PSG iwi CE's to participate in the Recovery Governance Group. This is highlighted further in the next section of the plan.

Operational delivery will continue through council teams, partner agencies, lifeline utilities, community organisations, and contractors delivering the actions set out in this plan. Recovery coordination will focus on maintaining a shared view of priorities, dependencies, and risks; identifying issues early; and ensuring matters are escalated to Council where governance input is required.

Reporting will be provided through Council meetings as required, with the level of detail and frequency stepping down over time as recovery stabilises and more work transitions into business-as-usual programmes.

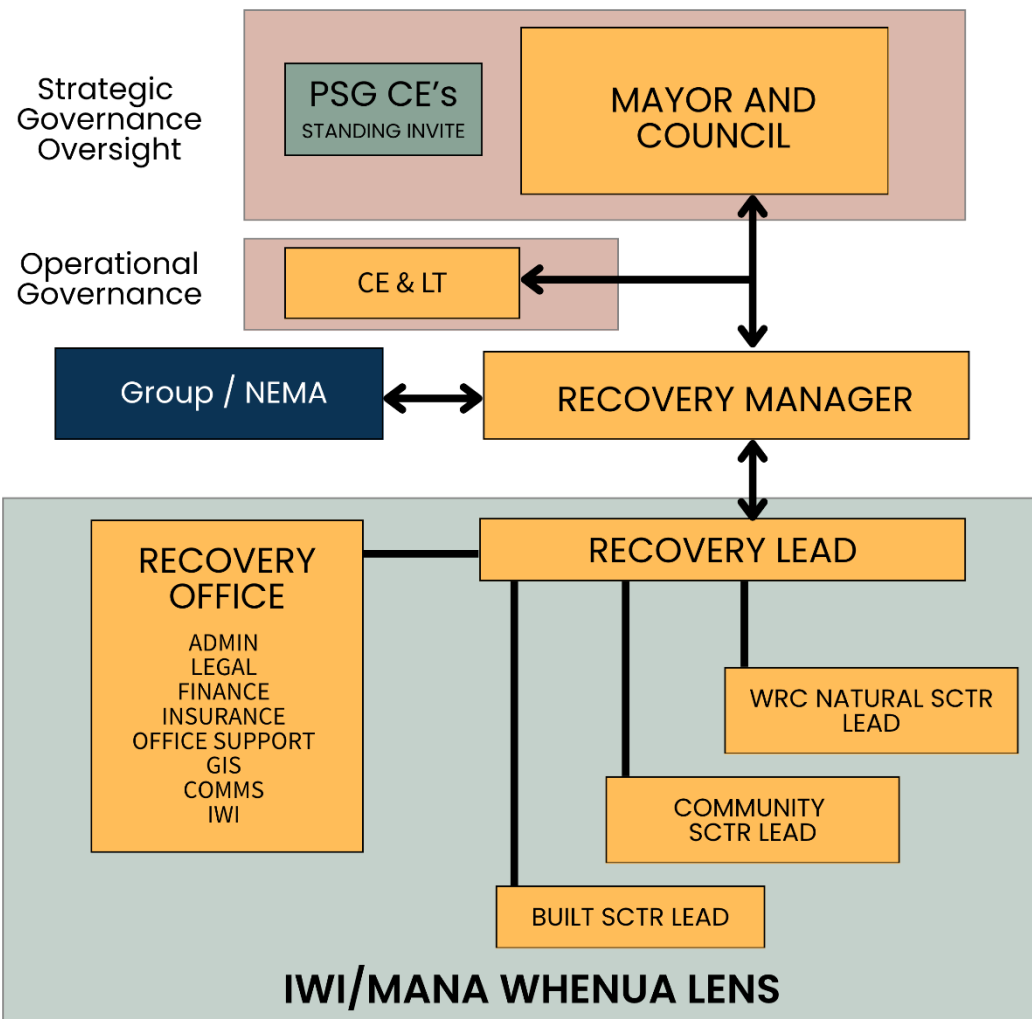
Staff sustainability and transition to BAU

Recovery requires sustained effort over time. Governance and delivery arrangements will be designed to:

- protect staff sustainability,
- reduce duplication and unnecessary reporting load, and
- enable a staged transition of work into BAU programmes, including Annual Plan and LTP planning cycles.



ŌTOROHANGA DISTRICTS COUNCILS RECOVERY STRUCTURE



7. Working with iwi/hapū and embedding Te Tiriti and tikanga

Recovery will be stronger when it reflects the values, priorities and lived experience of mana whenua and our wider communities. For this event, Council will work in a way that is consistent with Te Tiriti o Waitangi and supports meaningful engagement with iwi and hapū where recovery decisions or activities affect cultural wellbeing, sites of significance and te taiao.

Governance participation

(Post Settlement Governance Entity iwi chairs)

An invitation was shared with PSG iwi CE's to participate in recovery governance discussions. Feedback indicates their preferred involvement is through ongoing information sharing rather than direct governance membership. We will continue to keep them informed through regular reporting and updates, work directly with relevant hapū on place-based matters as needed, and escalate issues likely to be of interest or significance. A standing invitation remains should that preference change over time.

Council will continue to nurture its connections established before and during response through direct engagement with relevant hapū, marae and Māori organisations where recovery activity affects particular places, values or communities.

Tikanga-informed delivery on the ground (site protocols)

Where recovery works occur in or near waterways, urupā, wāhi tapu, marae, or other culturally sensitive areas, we will apply **existing site protocols**.

Council acknowledges that partner organisations such as Waikato Regional Council and Waka Kotahi have established their own direct relationships and engagement processes with iwi. Where recovery works intersect with council responsibilities, community concerns, or cross-agency issues, councils will work alongside those organisations to support coordination, maintain visibility of matters affecting local communities, and advocate where appropriate for timely and culturally respectful engagement.

Cultural wellbeing and recognition in recovery milestones

Where requested, and where safe and practical, opportunities for karakia or blessing may be supported at key recovery milestones such as reopening or return moments::

- a home or street when residents are able to return,
- a school when it reopens or returns to normal operations,
- a bridge, track, reserve, or access route when it reopens.

Ehara taku toa I te toa takitahi, engari he toa takitini

Our strength is not that of an individual, but that of the collective

8. Built environment recovery

The built environment includes the infrastructure and services our communities rely on every day - roads and bridges, water and wastewater services, public facilities, and the practical systems that keep people connected, safe, and able to get on with daily life.

Impacts overview

Key built environment impacts:

- **Significant access disruption** across state highway and local road networks, including the **SH39, 31 and 3 closure** and multiple local road and bridge closures and restrictions.
- **Bridge and structure constraints**, including closures and weight limits affecting freight, rural operations, and community connectivity – farm water supplies, fences sheds and bridges
- **Water supply impacts in Waipā**, affecting **Ōtorohanga residents supplied by the Waipa reservoir**.
- **Building impacts in Ōtorohanga**, including yellow and white placarded homes and buildings
- **Significant waste and debris volumes** from damaged homes and rural properties, creating clean-up and disposal challenges
- **Damage to Waikeria Prison culverts** and farm roading within the farming portion of the property

What we are prioritising (built environment priorities)

Our built environment recovery priorities have focused on the areas below.

- **Restore and maintain safe access and connectivity** for communities, essential services, and the local economy, including rural production routes.
- **Stabilise and strengthen lifelines and critical services**, moving from temporary fixes to more durable solutions where needed.
- **Support affected households where building impacts** have created uncertainty, repair needs, or displacement risk.
- **Manage debris and waste safely and efficiently**, with disposal options that work for both town and rural communities.
- **Repair and reinstate council-owned facilities and critical three waters infrastructure**, including water supply, wastewater, stormwater systems, and damaged community assets, to ensure safe and reliable services for residents.
- **Improve the evidence base for recovery and future decision-making**, including flood and hazard mapping where this is needed to inform household, infrastructure, and land-use decisions.

Housing impacts and household recovery pathways

A significant part of recovery for Ōtorohanga relates to homes that received yellow placards following the event. These properties include both owner-occupied, rental homes and community halls, and the reasons for placarding vary across locations.

For some households, recovery may not simply be a matter of repair. It may involve difficult decisions about future safety, repair options, insurance processes, and whether a property remains suitable to live in over the longer term. In some locations, the scale of flooding has also required updating councils hazard information to better understand future risk, including the impacts of climate change.

Council will work with affected households and communities to better understand these issues, provide clear points of contact, and support informed decision-making as recovery progresses. This includes direct engagement with residents and property owners, as well as further technical work where needed to clarify hazard and flood risk in affected areas.

Housing impacts intersect both the Built and Community recovery environments. Technical assessment and property decisions sit within the Built environment, while household wellbeing and support pathways are addressed through Community recovery actions.

The specific actions that support affected households, address technical risk assessment, and coordinate council engagement are outlined in the Recovery Action Plan tables in Section 12.

Indicative costs and funding (high-level)

Costs and funding pathways will vary across projects and partners. Some works are council-funded, some are partner-funded (for example state highways), and some will require co-funding or confirmed cost-recovery pathways. Council will

work to maximise available NZTA subsidy opportunities and make use of infrastructure insurance cover where eligible, alongside any other relevant recovery funding mechanisms. As scopes are finalised, we will update this plan and supporting reporting with clearer cost ranges, funding assumptions, and timeframes.

	Rough Order Costs
3Waters	\$940,000
Community Facilities	\$500,000
Roading	\$4,000,000

9. Community environment recovery

The community environment focuses on people - whānau wellbeing, housing stability, access to essential services, community networks, and the supports that help people get back on their feet. Social impacts can have a long tail: even when visible disruption reduces, stress, fatigue, financial pressure and housing challenges can emerge or intensify over time.

Our focus is to support communities to recover in a way that is safe, connected and equitable, with clear pathways to help and deliberate follow-up acknowledging that some issues take time to appear.

Impacts overview

Key community impacts identified to date include:

- **Psychosocial impacts** following the event, including stress and fatigue, particularly where clean-up or repair is prolonged.
- **Housing impacts and displacement risk** with follow-up required after building assessments to ensure households have clear next steps and support where needed.
- **Access disruption and isolation** affecting the ability of some people to reach services, schooling, and essential supplies, especially in rural areas.
- **Education disruption** across several schools, including significant flood impacts at Ōtorohanga Primary School. The school was heavily affected, with major reinstatement works required including carpets, plumbing, internal linings, possible playground contamination, and

damage to the uninsured school pool. Students operated from temporary arrangements including Ōtorohanga South School, with the school moving back into its site in April 2026.

- **Cultural wellbeing impacts**, including access needs and damage for marae/urupā and support for cultural priorities.
- **Rural Environment** including disrupted farm operations and daily routines due to access constraints (including milking routes), longer clean-up timeframes, increased costs from detours and restrictions, and a higher risk of isolation where services and support are harder to reach.

What we are prioritising (social and community priorities)

Our community recovery priorities have focused on the areas below.

1. **Support wellbeing and psychosocial recovery**, recognising needs can increase after the response period and that some households, including children and families directly affected by flooding, land instability or housing disruption, may continue to experience stress or trauma as recovery progresses.
2. **Ensure housing stability and follow-up** for households affected by the event.
3. **Reduce isolation and maintain access to essentials**, particularly for rural communities and those with limited transport or connectivity.

4. **Support continuity for Ōtorohanga Primary School and affected community services**, including restoring access & communications where disrupted.
5. **Work in ways that are equitable and culturally safe**, with genuine partnerships.

Indicative costs and funding (high-level)

At this stage, the main identified costs in the community environment relate to psychosocial support. Psychosocial support is expected to be delivered and funded through Health New Zealand or other relevant health pathways.

	Rough Order Costs
Psychosocial Support	\$TBC

4. **Support continuity for Ōtorohanga Primary School and affected community services**, including restoring access & communications where disrupted.
5. **Work in ways that are equitable and culturally safe**, with genuine partnerships.

Indicative costs and funding (high-level)

At this stage, the main identified costs in the community environment relate to psychosocial support. Psychosocial support is expected to be delivered and funded through Health New Zealand or other relevant health pathways.

	Rough Order Costs
Psychosocial Support	\$TBC

10. Natural environment recovery

The natural environment includes te taiao - waterways and catchments, land stability, reserves and tracks, biodiversity, and the places that hold environmental, cultural, and community value. Impacts in this environment can be complex and may change over time, particularly after further rainfall, as debris and sediment continue to move through catchments.

Recovery activity in the natural environment, especially in relation to rivers, catchments, drainage, erosion, and natural hazard management, primarily sits with Waikato Regional Council (WRC) and other partner agencies. Ōtorohanga District Council's role is to maintain visibility of impacts affecting local communities, coordinate and advocate where appropriate, and ensure these partner-led activities are reflected in the wider recovery picture.

Impacts overview

Key natural environment impacts identified to date include:

- **Waterways and tributaries affected** by sediment, debris and physical damage, with potential downstream effects after future rain events.
- **Hill country landscapes affected** by landslips, with potential for further erosion and associated soil loss and debris movement, and downstream water quality impacts after future rain events
- **Flora and fauna impacts not yet fully known**, with a need for further assessment and monitoring over time.
- **Reserve and track closures** due to safety concerns and slope/land stability risks, including impacts in the Pirongia area and other affected reserves and tracks.
- **Partner-managed natural areas affected**, including closures and restoration needs in places managed by agencies such as DOC.
- **Sites of significance potentially at risk**, including where erosion, slips, or access loss creates cultural and environmental impacts.

What WRC and others are prioritising (natural environment priorities)

The natural environment recovery priorities have focused on the areas below.

1. **Reduce immediate risk to people and communities** by keeping unsafe areas closed and addressing known hazards (e.g., slope instability in a rural setting).
2. **Stabilise and protect waterways**, including debris/sediment hotspots and areas at risk of further damage.
3. **Build a clear picture of ecological and cultural impacts**, including monitoring and assessment that can be updated as conditions change. This includes drawing on existing monitoring programmes and scientific assessments.
4. **Restore access to reserves and natural spaces safely**, recognising the importance of these places for recreation, wellbeing, and community connection – D.O.C. lead.

11. Economic recovery

Economic recovery focuses on the ability of households, businesses, farms, and the wider local economy to stabilise and regain momentum after disruption. For this event, the most immediate economic impacts have been driven by **access constraints**, disruption to **rural production**, and the flow-on effects of detours, delays, and prolonged clean-up. Some impacts are visible quickly (e.g., milk dumping, reduced trade), while others emerge over time through fatigue, repair costs, and reduced productivity.

Our focus was to support stability first - restoring access, reducing disruption, and ensuring practical support pathways are clear. Recovery actions therefore focussed on restoring access for rural producers, supporting local businesses affected by disruption

Impacts overview

Key economic impacts identified to date include:

- **Rural production disruption**, including food crops, dairy production and other primary sector activity. This included constrained milking access, milk dumping in the early stages of the event, and the risk of early dry-off had disruption persisted. It also includes impacts on vegetable and produce growers supplying regional markets such as Hamilton and Cambridge.
- **Increased operating costs** for farms and contractors due to detours, delays, and vehicle restrictions.
- **Business impacts from SH39 closure**, a key freight and logistics route between the west coast of the North Island and Auckland/Northland, with detours increasing transport costs and travel times for freight operators.
- **Repair and replacement costs** for damaged farm infrastructure and materials (e.g., fencing, farm races, culverts, bridges, stream embankments, barns and sheds)

- **Prolonged clean-up burden** reducing productivity and adding ongoing cost and fatigue for households and rural operators including the removal and disposal of silt and debris deposited on farmland.

What we are prioritising (economic recovery priorities)

Our economic recovery priorities are to:

1. **Restore access that enables livelihoods**, especially rural production routes and key freight connections.
2. **Support rural communities and farm operations** with practical outreach and clear pathways to help and advice.

12. Recovery Action Plan

This section brings together the actions that will guide recovery across the four environments: **Built, Community, Natural, and Economic**. The tables are designed to be practical and transparent - showing what we will do, what success looks like, key milestones, dependencies, and indicative funding pathways. These actions will be refined as more information becomes available and as priorities are confirmed with communities, iwi/hapū, partners and agencies.

How to read the Action Plan tables

- **Scope:** actions are marked **W** (Waipā), **Ō** (Ōtorohanga), or **WŌ** (shared across both districts).
- **Duration bands:**
 - **SHORT** = 0–3 months
 - **MED** = 3–6 months
 - **LONG** = 6–24 months
 - **MED–LONG** = spans medium to long-term delivery
- **Status definitions:**
 - **Completed** – The recovery action has been delivered to the point intended in this plan, or the required recovery intervention has been finished and no further recovery-specific coordination is needed. Any remaining work, if required, sits within normal business-as-usual activity.
 - **Underway** – The recovery action is actively in progress. Work has started and is being coordinated or delivered, but key milestones, decisions, or implementation steps are still to be completed.
 - **Ongoing** – The recovery action remains active over time because it involves continuing monitoring, coordination, support, advocacy, or relationship management rather than a single defined completion point. It may not have a clear short-term end date, but it still requires recovery visibility or oversight.
- **Funding pathway (indicative):** funding and cost pathways may sit with councils, partner agencies, co-funding arrangements, or other avenues. The pathway shown is an initial view and will be confirmed as scopes and partner commitments are finalised.
- **Dependencies:** many actions rely on factors such as access, weather windows, geotechnical assessments, specialist availability, procurement lead times, or partner agency programmes - these are noted to help explain why some actions take longer.

BUILT ACTION PLAN

This table summarises the key built environment recovery actions, including access, lifelines, buildings, and waste/debris. It shows what success looks like, the expected duration, and the main dependencies that may affect timing.

Note: These actions form a live recovery programme and will be reviewed and updated as recovery progresses. Timeframes, dependencies and funding pathways are indicative and may change as impacts are confirmed, partner programmes develop, and priorities are refined.

Environment	Issue & consequence	Recovery action	Scope	What success looks like	Duration & milestones	Interdependencies	Agencies involved	Funding pathway (indicative)	Status
Built	SH39 closure affecting access, travel times, freight, rural operations and Pirongia economy	Maintain a coordinated interface with Waka Kotahi to align detours, local road prioritisation, public updates and messaging, and escalate issues where required to support timely access solutions and minimise impacts on communities and the local economy.	WŌ	Safe and predictable access along SH39 is restored, with clear timeframes communicated and reduced disruption for communities, freight and local businesses.	MED \n• Confirm WK programme + decision points (TBC) \n• Align detour routes + local maintenance priorities \n• Staged reopening criteria agreed \n• Post-reopen monitoring through wet season	WK engineering decisions; weather windows; contractor capacity; detour route condition	Lead: Waka Kotahi; Waipā; ŌDC	Waka Kotahi - NZTA	Completed to reduced level of service
Built	Uncertainty about future flood and hazard risk in areas where homes received yellow placards following the February event. Clearer risk information is required to inform	Commission updated flood and hazard modelling for affected locations, including climate change projections, to inform household, insurance and council decision-making.	Ō	Clear, accessible hazard information is available and used to support informed repair, rebuild or future planning	MED–LONG. Scoping and commissioning of modelling; technical assessment completed and findings communicated.	Technical specialists, insurance processes, district planning frameworks, community engagement.	Lead: ŌDC, Waikato Regional Council, technical specialists, insurers.	Council funded planning or resilience budgets where applicable.	Completed

Environment	Issue & consequence	Recovery action	Scope	What success looks like	Duration & milestones	Interdependencies	Agencies involved	Funding pathway (indicative)	Status
	repair, rebuild or longer-term planning decisions.			decisions by households, insurers and council.					
Built	The event highlighted locations where stormwater, drainage and culvert systems were unable to cope with the volume and intensity of rainfall, contributing to flooding and property impacts.	Review the performance of stormwater, drainage and culvert assets in affected locations and use the findings to inform recovery decisions, asset management planning, and future prioritisation of resilience improvements.	Ō	Priority locations for improvement are identified and incorporated into asset planning, improving resilience of stormwater and drainage systems over time.	MED-LONG. Event review completed; priority locations confirmed; findings fed into asset management plans and future programme prioritisation.	Technical assessment, flood/hazard modelling, funding availability, future planning and capital works processes.	Lead: ŌDC <i>asset team, roading/stormwater teams</i> , technical specialists, Waikato Regional Council where relevant.	Council funded for initial review; future works through asset management, renewals, Annual Plan and/or LTP processes where required.	Underway
Built	Council-owned facilities and community assets have been affected including parks and reserves infrastructure, community buildings, walkways, playgrounds, carparks and older persons housing. Damage affects safety, usability and community	Assess damage, prioritise repairs, and deliver staged reinstatement of affected council-owned facilities and community assets, focusing first on safety, service continuity and assets that support community wellbeing and connection.	Ō	Affected facilities and community assets are made safe, repaired in priority order, and progressively returned to normal use.	SHORT-MED \n• Confirm full asset damage schedule and priorities \n• Complete immediate safety works and make-safe actions \n• Confirm repair scopes and delivery programme \n• Deliver staged reinstatement and reopening	Contractor capacity; insurance processes; specialist assessments; weather; procurement lead times	Lead: ŌDC; contractors; insurers (where applicable); iwi/hapū (where applicable)	Council-funded / insurance / co-funding with central government	Underway

Environment	Issue & consequence	Recovery action	Scope	What success looks like	Duration & milestones	Interdependencies	Agencies involved	Funding pathway (indicative)	Status
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access to important local facilities and spaces.

Built	Damaged water, wastewater and stormwater infrastructure across multiple locations, including pump stations, treatment plant components, pipelines, intakes, electrical systems, monitoring equipment and stormwater assets. Temporary operational responses have been required to maintain service continuity.	Progress assessment, repair and reinstatement of damaged three waters infrastructure, including reactive works already underway, and confirm any longer-term resilience improvements required as permanent solutions are developed.	Ō	Essential three waters services remain safe and reliable, temporary measures are progressively removed, and damaged assets are repaired or reinstated	SHORT-MED \n• Confirm asset damage, response costs and recovery scopes \n• Complete urgent repairs and service continuity measures \n• Confirm permanent repair or replacement pathways \n• Deliver staged reinstatement and resilience improvements where justified	Specialist parts and equipment; contractor capacity; procurement lead times; insurance; weather; technical assessments	Lead: ŌDC; contractors; specialist suppliers; insurers (where applicable)	Council-funded / insurance / eligible infrastructure recovery funding (TBC)	Underway
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Built	ŌDC local road closures limiting resident access and connectivity, (incl. rural routes) affecting residents and rural productivity	Prioritised inspection, temporary reinstatement, then enduring repairs; maintain safe resident access where possible. Restore community-	Ō	Roads reopen safely, restrictions reduce over time, and permanent repair pathways are in place for	MED-LONG \n• Condition checks completed \n• Temporary access reinstated (where safe) \n• Permanent scope/options confirmed with indicative funding	Contractor capacity; geotech; detour pressures from SH39; weather	Lead: ŌDC; contractors	Council-funded NZTA (TBC)	Completed
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Environment	Issue & consequence	Recovery action	Scope	What success looks like	Duration & milestones	Interdependencies	Agencies involved	Funding pathway (indicative)	Status
		critical access first, then durability upgrades; align priorities with rural needs and essential services		remaining sites. Residents and rural operators have safe, reliable access; restrictions reduce progressively	pathway \n• Works delivered and restrictions reduced/removed				
Built	ŌDC roads “open with caution” creating safety and reliability risk	Targeted repairs/maintenance to remove “caution” status; keep status current	Ō	Roads are progressively removed from the “open with caution” list as risks are addressed, with more routes returned to normal operating status over time.	SHORT-MED \n• Reinspect and confirm controls \n• Prioritise quick wins \n• Remove from list as risk reduced \n• Ongoing wet-season monitoring	Weather; contractor capacity	Lead: ŌDC	Council-funded NZTA (TBC)	Completed
Built	Mangati Bridge closed severing local connectivity	Structural assessment → interim option (if feasible) → repair/replace pathway; clear access alternatives	Ō	Safe crossing restored (temporary or permanent) with clear timeframes	MED-LONG \n• Structural/load assessment complete \n• Interim option decided (yes/no) \n• Repair/replace option selected \n• Works delivered + restrictions lifted \n• Karakia at reopening where requested/agreed/safe	Bridge engineers; procurement lead times; weather; tikanga protocols where works are in/near waterways or sensitive sites	Lead: ŌDC; bridge specialists; iwi/hapū (where applicable)	Council-funded NZTA (TBC)	Completed

Environment	Issue & consequence	Recovery action	Scope	What success looks like	Duration & milestones	Interdependencies	Agencies involved	Funding pathway (indicative)	Status
Built	Ōtorohanga building impacts (RBA yellows) causing uncertainty and potential hidden displacement	Confirm case pathway: hazard assessment → next steps → repair/return/reinstate → support/referrals; track case progress;	Ō	Affected households have clear next steps; unsafe homes addressed; people supported into stable arrangements	SHORT-MED \n• Confirm case list/status \n• Next-step guidance issued \n• Case follow-up underway \n• Review for “hidden hardship” cohort \n• Karakia at return (home/street) where requested/agreed/safe	Insurance timelines; contractor capacity; support agencies	Lead: ŌDC; assessors; MSD/NGOs (TBC); iwi/hapū (where requested)	Council funded	Underway
Built	Community-critical sites disrupted (schools / connectivity)	Support continuity and reopening in coordination with lead agencies; interim arrangements;	WŌ	Sites are safe and functional; whānau know how to access services	SHORT-MED \n• Interim arrangements confirmed \n• Repair/connectivity milestones agreed \n• Karakia at reopening where requested/agreed/safe	MoE/telecom lead times; contractor capacity	MoE lead for school; telecoms lead for connectivity; relevant council; iwi/hapū (where requested)	Partner-funded (MoE/telecom) + council support	Completed
Built	Waste, debris and clean-up logistics (damaged-home debris and rural/on-farm waste), under access constraints	Clarify roles; set up disposal/collection arrangements; coordinate sustained clean-up capacity; align guidance	WŌ	Waste and debris are removed safely and efficiently; disposal options are understood; health/amenity risks are managed; community has clear guidance	SHORT-MED \n• Roles/responsibilities confirmed including operational lead vs support \n• Disposal/drop-off and collection options confirmed (incl. rural access) \n• Priority sites and high-volume areas cleared \n• Ongoing clean-up programme in place	Access constraints; contractor capacity; disposal capacity; hazardous waste requirements; tikanga/CIA where disposal/clean-up affects waterways or sensitive sites	Leads: Waipā and ŌDC, reselectively; contractors, WRC; (where relevant); iwi/hapū (where applicable)	EOC related costs via council / Private / Mayoral Fund where applicable	Completed

Environment	Issue & consequence	Recovery action	Scope	What success looks like	Duration & milestones	Interdependencies	Agencies involved	Funding pathway (indicative)	Status
Built	Reopening/return moments (bridges, roads, tracks, schools, homes) – confidence and transition	Following confirmation of practical completion by the relevant asset owner or lead agency, provide for culturally appropriate reopening/return moments where requested (e.g., karakia/blessing), and reflect this in planning.	Ō	Reopenings and returns occur safely, are clearly communicated, and reflect culturally appropriate practices where requested.	SHORT-MED (as works complete) \n• Identify likely reopening points \n• Confirm requests and agreed approach \n• Plan logistics and safety \n• Deliver and close-out	Safety constraints; mana whenua availability; timing certainty	Leads: Waipā & ŌDC ; asset owners; iwi/hapū (where requested)	TBD (low cost; logistics)	Underway

COMMUNITY ACTION PLAN

This table sets out the social and community recovery actions to support wellbeing, housing stability, access to essential services, and community support pathways. It includes actions to ensure people aren't missed as needs change over time.

Note: These actions form a live recovery programme and will be reviewed and updated as recovery progresses. Timeframes, dependencies and funding pathways are indicative and may change as impacts are confirmed, partner programmes develop, and priorities are refined.

Environment	Issue & consequence	Recovery action	Scope	What success looks like	Duration & milestones	Interdependencies	Agencies involved	Funding pathway (indicative)	Status
Community	Psychosocial impacts (trauma, stress, fatigue) emerging after	Establish clear wellbeing support pathways and referral “front door”; targeted	WŌ	People know where to get help; wellbeing needs are identified early;	MED-LONG \n• Confirm psychosocial support pathways and contacts \n• Targeted outreach plan agreed	Access constraints; service capacity of providers; community	Leads: Waipā & ŌDC, ŌSWHA ; Health NZ/Te Whatu Ora (TBC);	Health NZ	Ongoing

Environment	Issue & consequence	Recovery action	Scope	What success looks like	Duration & milestones	Interdependencies	Agencies involved	Funding pathway (indicative)	Status
	the event; clean-up longevity increases wellbeing pressure	outreach in affected areas; consistent wellbeing monitoring and messaging		support is accessible and culturally safe	(place-based) \n• Monitor wellbeing trends and adjust supports \n• Review after any subsequent rainfall events	connectivity; trust/confidence	MSD; NGOs; iwi/Māori providers <i>Noting delivery and funding is the responsibility of Health NZ</i>		
Community	Households living in yellow-placard homes face complex recovery decisions and require clear information and support to navigate repair, insurance and housing options.	Provide coordinated council engagement and support for affected households, including clear points of contact and connection to relevant agencies and services.	Ō	Affected households understand their recovery pathways, have a clear council contact point, and are connected with appropriate support services.	SHORT-MED. Initial engagement completed; ongoing support as recovery decisions progress.	Hazard assessment outcomes, insurance processes, housing availability, community support services.	Lead: ŌDC , community organisations, insurers, relevant government agencies (e.g. MSD).	Council + partner supports (TBC)	Ongoing
Community	Household displacement / housing insecurity (including “hidden” hardship)	Confirm displaced/at-risk households; case follow-up pathway (assessment → next steps → support); ensure no-one falls through gaps	Ō	Affected households have clear next steps and stable arrangements; support is proactive and fair	SHORT-MED \n• Confirm displaced/at-risk list and status \n• Establish case follow-up process \n• Connect households to supports (financial, accommodation, repairs navigation) \n• Review for hidden hardship cohort	Insurance timelines; repair contractor capacity; data sharing; privacy considerations	Lead: ŌDC ; MSD; TAS; MBIE/housing supports (TBC); NGOs; insurers (TBC)	Council + partner supports (TBC)	Ongoing

Environment	Issue & consequence	Recovery action	Scope	What success looks like	Duration & milestones	Interdependencies	Agencies involved	Funding pathway (indicative)	Status
Community	Access disruption and isolation impacting daily life (healthcare, school, essential services), especially rural	Identify “community-critical access” needs and link them to roading priorities; coordinate service continuity for affected areas	WŌ	People can access essential services; vulnerable households are not isolated for prolonged periods	SHORT-MED \n• Identify priority households/areas/communities at risk of isolation \n• Put interim supports in place (as needed) \n• Review as routes reopen	Road reopenings/weight restrictions; communications outages; provider capacity	Leads Waipā & ŌDC ; Health NZ/Te Whatu Ora (TBC); emergency services (TBC); community providers	Council / partner (TBC)	Completed
Community	Education disruption (school impacted) and whānau disruption	Coordinate reopening/continuity support with MoE; ensure whānau have clear info on arrangements (<i>per Comms Plan</i>)	Ō	Tamariki can attend safely; whānau understand timelines and arrangements	SHORT-MED \n• Interim arrangements confirmed (if required) \n• Site remediation milestones agreed \n• Reopening/return to normal operations \n• Karakia/blessing at reopening where requested/agreed/safe	MoE delivery timeframes; site safety; contractor capacity	Lead: MoE ; school leadership; iwi/hapū and ŌDC; (where requested)	Partner-funded (MoE) + council support	Completed
Community	Loss of phone/internet at Hauturu School reducing safety, coordination and whānau access	Restore connectivity; establish interim comms workaround; ensure whānau know how to contact school (<i>per Comms Plan</i>)	WŌ	School has reliable comms; whānau can contact and receive updates	SHORT \n• Interim contact method in place \n• Provider restoration plan confirmed \n• Connectivity restored and tested	Telecom restoration; power/network resilience	Lead: Telecom provider(s) ; MOE; Otorohanga; school leadership	Partner-funded (telecom/MoE) + council support	Completed
Community	Rural support needs (place-based impacts; risk that	Proactive outreach in identified localities; connect whānau/farms to	WŌ	Rural communities are supported early; needs are	SHORT-MED \n• Confirm priority localities and outreach plan \n• Outreach	Access constraints; connectivity; availability of	Lead RST ; Waipā & ŌDC; MPI; Rural Cluster Group; MSD;	RST	Ongoing

Environment	Issue & consequence	Recovery action	Scope	What success looks like	Duration & milestones	Interdependencies	Agencies involved	Funding pathway (indicative)	Status
	dispersed households are missed)	rural support and wellbeing services; ensure “come to us” isn’t the only pathway		identified and addressed without relying on self-reporting	delivered (door-knock / phone / community connectors) \n• Referral pathways confirmed and used	rural support partners	iwi/community connectors		
Community	Cultural wellbeing impacts (marae/urupā access constraints; tikanga-based needs)	Work with mana whenua to confirm impacts and priorities; enable safe access restoration where possible; embed tikanga into reopening/return moments	Wō	Cultural wellbeing needs are recognised and addressed; access to sites of significance is restored safely where feasible	SHORT-MED \n• Confirm impacted sites and access issues (with mana whenua) \n• Prioritise safe access restoration options \n• Karakia/blessing at return/reopening where requested/agreed/safe \n• Embed agreed tikanga/site protocols into relevant works	Dependent on Built works (bridges/roads); site safety; partner roles (DOC/WRC etc.)	Lead: Iwi/hapū; councils; relevant asset owners/partners	TBD / partner/council (site-specific)	Underway
Community	Animal welfare and companion animal impacts adding stress for households	Clarify support pathways for animal welfare; integrate into welfare referrals where needed	Wō	Households can access animal welfare support; animal welfare issues don’t become a barrier to recovery	SHORT-MED \n• Confirm animal welfare contact pathways \n• Ensure welfare partners know referral options \n• Monitor and respond to emerging issues	Access constraints; SPCA/animal welfare capacity	Leads Waipā & ŌDC; SPCA/animal welfare (TBC); MPI (TBC)	Partner-funded / co-funded (TBC)	Completed

NATURAL ACTION PLAN

This table outlines actions to stabilise and restore te taiao, including waterways, reserves and tracks, ecological impacts, and sites of significance. It also highlights where tikanga, partnership, and cultural impact considerations may shape how work is delivered.

Note: These actions form a live recovery programme and will be reviewed and updated as recovery progresses. Timeframes, dependencies and funding pathways are indicative and may change as impacts are confirmed, partner programmes develop, and priorities are refined.

Environment	Issue & consequence	Recovery action	Scope	What success looks like	Duration & milestones	Interdependencies	Agencies involved	Funding pathway (indicative)	Status
Natural	Waterways and tributaries affected (sediment/debris, bank damage, water quality), with potential downstream impacts after future rain	Coordinate catchment-wide assessment and clean-up sequencing; confirm hotspots; align public advice	WŌ	Priority waterways are stabilised; risks are understood and managed; communities and mana whenua have confidence in the approach	MED-LONG \n• Confirm priority waterways/hotspots and clean-up plan \n• Monitoring approach agreed (incl. where/when/how often) \n• Priority clean-up/repairs completed \n• Review after significant rain events; adapt plan	Access constraints; weather; debris movement; disposal capacity; technical assessments	Lead: WRC; councils; contractors; Health NZ (as needed); iwi/hapū (where applicable)	Partner-funded (WRC) + council support / co-funding (TBC)	Underway
Natural	Flood debris, erosion and stream damage on private land are creating ongoing clean-up, cost and land-use impacts for some landowners.	Waikato Regional Council and relevant agencies to confirm affected sites, communicate responsibilities and available support, provide technical guidance where needed, and continue advocating for any feasible	WŌ	Affected landowners have clear information on responsibilities, access to practical advice, and visibility of any support or funding pathways available. Priority sites are identified and unmanaged risks reduced where possible.	MED-LONG \n• Confirm scale and location of affected sites \n• Clarify responsibilities and current funding position \n• Provide information and technical guidance to affected landowners \n• Identify any cases suitable for Mayoral Relief Fund or other assistance \n• Continue advocacy where broader support is warranted	Waikato Regional Council river management decisions; landowner access; agency technical advice; any relief funding criteria; central government settings	Lead: WRC; councils; affected landowners; iwi/hapū where applicable; central government agencies if required.	Recovery action WRC supported by councils <i>Clean up: Primarily landowner-funded. Limited case-by-case support may be available through relief funding such as the Mayoral Relief Fund. Central government</i>	Ongoing

Environment	Issue & consequence	Recovery action	Scope	What success looks like	Duration & milestones	Interdependencies	Agencies involved	Funding pathway (indicative)	Status
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funding
assistance

*funding
unlikely at
this stage.*

Natural	Forestry / land disturbance interface increasing sediment/debris risk and compounding impacts on waterways and infrastructure	Align land management, clean-up, and monitoring expectations; clarify responsibilities and acceptable outcomes	WŌ	Sediment/debris risks are reduced; responsibilities are clear; community concerns are addressed	MED-LONG \n • Confirm risk locations and responsible parties \n • Agreed mitigation/clean-up actions underway \n • Monitoring and compliance approach confirmed \n • Review after major rain events	Weather; enforcement levers; access; technical monitoring	Lead: WRC; MPI (as relevant); landowners/industry; councils; iwi/hapū (where applicable)	Partner/industry/regional council (TBC)	Underway
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Natural	Ecological impacts from flooding not yet fully understood; changes to stream habitat, channel form and riparian condition may affect biodiversity and water quality.	Coordinate ecological monitoring and impact assessment with partner agencies; use existing State of the Environment monitoring and riparian surveys to understand changes and identify priority areas for restoration or management.	WŌ	Ecological impacts are clearly understood and priority locations for restoration or management are identified early.	MED-LONG \n • Confirm monitoring partners and datasets \n • Complete post-event ecological assessments \n • Identify priority sites for restoration or management \n • Integrate findings into catchment and restoration planning	Monitoring stand-down periods after disturbance; seasonal survey windows; specialist capability; access to sites.	Lead: WRC; DOC; iwi/hapū (where applicable); specialist consultants	Partner-funded (WRC) + potential co-funding (TBC)	Underway
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Environment	Issue & consequence	Recovery action	Scope	What success looks like	Duration & milestones	Interdependencies	Agencies involved	Funding pathway (indicative)	Status
Natural	Flooding has damaged riparian margins and vegetation in some catchments, increasing erosion risk, weed invasion and habitat loss.	Work with regional partners, community groups and landowners to develop riparian restoration opportunities, including fencing and native planting programmes where appropriate.	WŌ	Priority riparian areas are stabilised and restoration programmes are underway with landowner and community involvement.	MED-LONG \n • Identify priority restoration catchments \n • Confirm partner programmes and funding pathways \n • Support community or landowner-led planting initiatives \n • Implement staged planting and restoration over seasonal windows	Planting season windows; landowner willingness; funding availability; community partner capacity.	Lead: WRC; Waikato River Authority; Waikato River Care; Puniu River Care; Taiea te Taiao; Waipā Rere Noa; councils; iwi/hapū	Partner-funded / grants (WRA, community funding) + landowner contribution	Planning Underway
Natural	Debris accumulation, vegetation growth or localised blockages in waterways and culverts may affect water flow and contribute to ongoing erosion or flood risk concerns.	Share community observations and field intelligence with partner agencies and incorporate into catchment assessments to help identify priority locations for debris management or remediation.	WŌ	Priority locations affecting water conveyance are identified and incorporated into wider catchment management or river maintenance programmes.	SHORT-MED \n • Collate community observations and field assessments \n • Share information with partner agencies \n • Confirm priority locations for investigation \n • Integrate findings into ongoing catchment management programmes	Agency monitoring programmes; field assessments; weather events; operational capacity.	Lead: WRC; councils; landowners; community groups	WRC	Underway

ECONOMIC ACTION PLAN

This table sets out actions to support households, businesses, farms and rural productivity, with a focus on restoring access and reducing disruption. It includes outreach and support pathways, and how economic recovery will transition back into BAU programmes over time.

Note: These actions form a live recovery programme and will be reviewed and updated as recovery progresses. Timeframes, dependencies and funding pathways are indicative and may change as impacts are confirmed, partner programmes develop, and priorities are refined.

Environment	Issue & consequence	Recovery action	Scope	What success looks like	Duration & milestones	Interdependencies	Agencies involved	Funding pathway (indicative)	Status
Economic	Rural production disruption (milking access constraints; milk dumped; early dry-off risk) causing immediate income loss and compounding stress	Prioritise access routes that enable daily farm operations; coordinate rural support outreach; ensure clear pathways to practical support and advice (<i>per Comms & Engagement Plan</i>)	WŌ	Affected farms regain reliable access; production disruption reduces; rural households feel supported	SHORT-MED \n• Identify farms/areas with critical access needs (as available) \n• Prioritise “milking-critical” routes in roading programme \n• Rural support outreach delivered \n• Review ongoing constraints and adapt	Dependent on road/bridge reopening; contractor capacity; weather windows; communications reach	Leads: Waipā & ŌDC ; RST; MPI; Rural Cluster Group; dairy companies (TBC); iwi/Māori land entities (where applicable)	Partner-funded / co-funded (TBC)	Completed
Economic	Access constraints driving increased operating costs for farms and contractors (detours, delays, vehicle limits)	Track and communicate stable access routes and restrictions; coordinate with lifelines/roading leads to reduce uncertainty	WŌ	Businesses can plan with predictable information; detour impacts are reduced over time	SHORT-MED \n• Confirm stable detour/access routes \n• Regular update rhythm for restrictions (<i>per Comms Plan</i>) \n• Prioritised restrictions reduction plan confirmed	Dependent on SH39 and local road programmes; signage/enforcement; contractor capacity	Leads: Waipā & ŌDC ; Waka Kotahi; key business networks (TBC)	Process / council-funded (TBC)	Completed

Environment	Issue & consequence	Recovery action	Scope	What success looks like	Duration & milestones	Interdependencies	Agencies involved	Funding pathway (indicative)	Status
Economic	Supply chain and freight disruption (including detours and heavy vehicle constraints)	Identify critical freight routes and constraints; coordinate restrictions reduction priorities with roading programmes	Wō	Freight movement stabilises; heavy vehicle constraints reduce	MED \n• Critical freight constraints identified \n• Restrictions reduction priorities agreed \n• Review and adjust through wet season	Dependent on bridge load ratings and road resilience works	Leads: Waipā & ŌDC ; Waka Kotahi; freight operators (TBC)	Council/partner (TBC)	Completed

13. Transition back to BAU and exit triggers

Recovery is time-bound. As impacts stabilise and delivery becomes clearer, recovery activity will progressively transition into normal council and partner business-as-usual (BAU) programmes. This section explains how we will scale down recovery coordination over time, what “done” looks like at a practical level, and how work will be handed over so accountability remains clear.

Transition approach

We will transition to BAU in stages, rather than waiting for every action to be complete. In practice this means:

- recovery coordination will reduce as risks stabilise and work becomes routine,

- projects and programmes will be transferred into BAU capital and operational work programmes (including Annual Plan and LTP planning and budgeting cycles), and
- reporting will shift from recovery-specific updates to BAU performance and project reporting.

This approach supports timely delivery and ensures recovery does not become a permanent structure.

What triggers a transition to BAU

The timing of transition will vary across the four recovery environments. In general, recovery can step down when:

- recovery issues have been worked through sufficiently for decisions to be made about what is feasible, necessary, and affordable to progress,
- actions that will continue have clear funding, ownership, and delivery pathways,
- some matters have been intentionally deferred, re-scoped, or transferred into longer-term planning and asset management processes,
- partner-led programmes are established with clear responsibilities and timeframes, and
- community impacts are reducing, with ongoing needs able to be met through BAU channels or other agreed arrangements.

Transition to BAU triggers by recovery environment (end states)

These triggers are intended to be practical and testable. They will be confirmed and refined as recovery progresses.

Community

- **Welfare/support:** Nil open welfare/support cases without a documented support plan and responsible lead agency/owner.
- **Housing stability:** All displaced households have a stable accommodation pathway and next steps confirmed (including repairs/insurance navigation where required).

Built

- **Access:** Critical access routes are reopened or operating under stable, managed restrictions with funded work programmes in place.

- **Programme maturity:** Temporary works have either been replaced with permanent solutions or are incorporated into approved BAU programmes (with budgets, timeframes, and accountabilities).
- **Property/building cases:** Outstanding building safety and follow-up cases are transferred to BAU regulatory/customer pathways with clear responsibility.

Natural

- **Priority risks stabilised:** Priority environmental risks (e.g., debris/sediment hotspots, unsafe areas) are stabilised and have an ongoing management/monitoring plan.
- **Reopening pathways:** Reserve/track reopening decisions are made, with remaining restoration works programmed into BAU asset or partner programmes.
- **Ongoing monitoring:** Environmental monitoring and reporting are handed to BAU and partner agency programmes.

Economic

- **Rural disruption reduced:** Immediate rural disruption is addressed through restored access and stable support pathways, with remaining support transitioning to BAU rural/economic programmes.
- **Business impacts managed:** Targeted business support activity is embedded into BAU economic development functions and partner networks.
- **Constraints stabilised:** No critical economic constraints remain unmanaged (or they sit within funded BAU programmes with clear owners).

Governance and reporting step-down

As transition to BAU triggers are met, recovery governance and reporting will step down in a controlled way and then transition into normal BAU reporting.

14. Funding and support pathways

Recovery will rely on a mix of council funding, partner agency programmes, insurance pathways, and potential central government support. Given the scale of impacts relative to local capacity, external support may be needed for some recovery actions to proceed in a timely and sustainable way.

The funding pathway identified for each action is indicative only and reflects the best current view at the time of drafting. It does not confirm funding availability or approval. Funding will depend on the nature of the action, eligibility criteria, insurance outcomes, partner decisions, and future council budget processes. Some actions may not have a confirmed funding source and may need to be prioritised, deferred, re-scoped, transferred to longer-term planning processes, or not progressed

Council-funded recovery

Councils will fund a range of recovery activity through operating and capital programmes, including repairs, reinstatement, and ongoing service delivery. Where recovery work is significant, councils may need to re-sequence business-as-usual programmes and consider Annual Plan and Long Term Plan implications. Council funding is largely drawn from rates and user charges, so decisions about what is funded, and when, must balance urgency, affordability, and fairness across the district...

Decisions about step-down will be made transparently, based on progress, residual risk, and confidence that BAU structures can manage remaining work.

Partner agency funding (examples)

Many recovery actions sit with, or are supported by, partner agencies. Examples include Waka Kotahi / NZTA for state highway recovery works, Waikato Regional Council for aspects of river and catchment response, DOC for conservation land and assets it manages, and the Ministry of Education for school property remediation where it is the lead agency. Other support may also come through rural, community, and social service programmes.

Government support to local authorities for eligible infrastructure recovery

Following an emergency, and subject to Cabinet approval and eligibility settings, the Government may provide financial support to local authorities for eligible essential infrastructure repair or rebuild costs above a defined threshold. Eligibility and approval processes apply, and funding pathways will be confirmed as recovery scopes and cost estimates are refined. Where recovery issues extend beyond the practical capacity of councils, landowners, or partner agencies acting alone, councils will work with regional and central government partners to seek practical and equitable solutions.

Welfare and household financial support (government agencies)

Households affected by an emergency may be eligible for support through normal government welfare pathways, including one-off assistance for essential costs such as food, clothing, bedding, accommodation, and loss of income. Temporary Accommodation Service may also support displaced households while homes are repaired and families work towards returning home.

Temporary accommodation support (TAS)

The **Temporary Accommodation Service (TAS)** can support households displaced after a civil defence emergency to find temporary accommodation while their home is repaired and they work towards returning home. Where temporary accommodation needs arise in our districts, TAS will be one of the key referral pathways.

Mayoral Relief Fund (community relief)

The Ōtorohanga Mayoral Disaster Relief Fund has been activated to provide one-off financial assistance for people and organisations in the district experiencing hardship as a result of the February 2026 severe weather event. It is intended as a last-resort support mechanism where other options, such as insurance or government support, are unavailable or insufficient. Subject to fund criteria, assistance may be available for essential household needs, debris clearance, insurance excesses, and replacement of essential uninsured or underinsured items. The fund may also support small businesses, community organisations, and marae experiencing event-related hardship.

Rural and primary sector support

Rural recovery will be supported through a mix of local, regional, industry, and government pathways, including MPI / On Farm Support and the Rural Support Trust. In practice, support may include practical advice, wellbeing support, rural outreach, help navigating assistance, and coordination of emerging rural issues. Depending on need, this may also involve processors, sector groups,

animal welfare networks, Waikato Regional Council, and other rural partners. Specific support offers and contact pathways will be confirmed as recovery progresses.

How people will find out what support is available

Information on available support, eligibility, and how to apply will be shared through council channels. Where support pathways are led by partner agencies, councils will work to align information so communities receive clear and consistent guidance.

15. Glossary and acronyms

This section explains acronyms and key terms used in this Recovery Plan. It will be updated as partners and delivery arrangements are confirmed.

Acronyms

- **BAU** - Business as usual (normal council/agency operations and programmes).
- **CIA** - Cultural Impact Assessment (a tool that may be considered for significant works where cultural values or sites of significance may be affected).
- **CDEM** - Civil Defence Emergency Management.
- **CE** - Chief Executive.
- **CIF** - Collective Impact Framework (the approach used to align outcomes, measures, actions and communication across partners).
- **DOC** - Department of Conservation.
- **EOC** - Emergency Operations Centre.
- **LTP** - Long Term Plan.
- **MBIE** - Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment.
- **MED** - Medium duration (in this plan: 6 weeks–6 months).
- **MED-LONG** - Medium to long duration (spans medium and long timeframes).
- **MoE** - Ministry of Education.
- **MoH** - Ministry of Health (*note: health functions now sit under Health NZ/Te Whatu Ora; used here only where referenced in partner discussions*).
- **MPI** - Ministry for Primary Industries.
- **MSD** - Ministry of Social Development (Work and Income).
- **NGO** - Non-government organisation.
- **ŌDC** - Ōtorohanga District Council.
- **ŌSWHA** - Ōtorohanga Support House Whare Awhina.
- **PSG** - (CDEM) Partner/Sector Group (*confirm local naming if different*).
- **RBA** - Rapid Building Assessment.
- **RST** - Rural Support Trust.
- **SHORT** - Short duration (in this plan: 0–6 weeks).
- **TAS** - Temporary Accommodation Service.
- **Te Tiriti** - Te Tiriti o Waitangi / Treaty of Waitangi.
- **Waka Kotahi** - Waka Kotahi NZ Transport Agency.
- **WDC / Waipā** - Waipā District Council.
- **WŌ** - Applies across both Waipā and Ōtorohanga districts.
- **WRC** - Waikato Regional Council.

Key terms

- **Action Plan tables** - The tables in Section 12 that list recovery actions, what success looks like, duration/milestones, dependencies, agencies involved, and indicative funding pathways.
- **Backbone support** - The small coordination function that maintains a shared picture of impacts, priorities, dependencies and progress across councils and partners (without taking over delivery).
- **Critical lifelines** - Essential networks and services that communities rely on (e.g., transport, water services, power, telecommunications).
- **Dependencies** - Things that must happen first, or constraints that influence timing (e.g., geotech, design, procurement lead times, weather windows, contractor capacity, partner programmes).
- **Iwi/hapū** - Māori tribal and sub-tribal groups with mana whenua interests in places affected by recovery actions.
- **Karakia** - Prayer/incantation. In this plan, karakia/blessing may be provided at return/reopening moments where requested, agreed with mana whenua, and safe/practical.
- **Mana whenua** - The iwi/hapū with customary authority and responsibilities over an area.
- **Mauri** - Life force/essential quality (often used when describing the health of wai/waterways and te taiao).
- **Mahinga kai** - Food gathering places/activities and associated customary practices.
- **Recovery environments** - The four areas used in this plan to organise recovery: Built, Social/Community, Natural, and Economic.
- **Sites of significance** - Places with cultural, historical, spiritual, or environmental significance (may include wāhi tapu and urupā).
- **Te taiao** - The natural environment.

WEAVING THE
FUTURE, TOGETHER
KOTAHITANGA



TE KAUNIHERA Ā-ROHE O
ŌTOROHANGA
DISTRICT COUNCIL