

WRC Regional Flood Situation Report

Event name: Low- January 2018

Advisory: 02

Issued by: Waikato Regional Council- Regional Hazards

Date/time: 05 January 2018 –1700 Hours

Next Advisory: 06 January 2018 –1030 Hours

Status: Tier 1 –Regional

RFLO 027 229 2958 RFC 027 499 2120

Overview of event

Emergency contact details: 0800 800 401.....ask for..... Regional Flood Liaison or Regional Flood Coordinator

Refer to **UPDATED** for information that has been updated since the last situation report

Refer to **NEW** for information that is new to the situation report

WRC Regional Hazards Response Status:

Normal	Monitoring	Activated
		✓ (Business hours and Saturday day time)

Local Coromandel and Hauraki Flood Response Room Status:

Flood Room Not Activated	Flood Room Activated
	✓ (Business hours only and Saturday day time)

Regional Flood Response Room Status:

Flood Room Not Activated	Flood Room Activated
	✓ (Business hours and Saturday daytime, after hours Regional Flood Response Team)

River Catchment Zone “Status Table”

River system	Advisory status
Lake Taupo	NORMAL
Upper Waikato River	NORMAL
Central Waikato River	NORMAL
Waipa River	NORMAL
Lower Waikato River	NORMAL
Piako River (incl Waitoa River)	ELEVATED due to coastal influence (Observed at Ngatea)

Waihou River (incl Ohinemuri River)	ELEVATED
Coromandel Peninsula	NORMAL
West Coast rivers	NORMAL
Coastal waters	KING TIDES (Thames- 5/1 at 22:57, 6/1 at 11:22 & 23:49 Whitianga- 5/1 at 22:28, 6/1 at 11:25 & 23:49)

Latest Situation

A rapidly deepening low caused heavy rain and high winds across the upper north island overnight Thursday and into Friday morning. This is now moving off to the south-east of New Zealand, however high winds and low barometric pressure are still impacting the Waikato, especially in coastal areas. These weather conditions, in addition to the current King tide cycle is causing significant coastal inundation at high tide, notably in the Firth of Thames.

For the latest MetService alerts refer to the WRC Advisories found in the 'Event Information' section on the Flood Room Live page.

<https://www.waikatoregion.govt.nz/services/regional-services/regional-hazards-and-emergency-management/flood-room/events/>

Tides

We are currently in a 'King Tide' phase with larger than normal tide ranges. The combination and coincidence of high tides, low barometric pressure and high winds is causing significant coastal inundation, especially in the Firth of Thames. Peak level at Tararu Tide Gauge was 2.8 m RL at high tide Friday 5th January (Tararu Vertical Datum). Previous recorded peak water level was recorded at the tide gauge in 1995 of 2.4 m RL.

The King tide component of high tides will remain relatively constant over the next few days. However wind conditions will be more favourable for lowering wave heights in the Thames/ Kaiaua/ Miranda areas. Conversely, westerly wind conditions north of Te Kouma will add significant wave component to the high tide this evening (23:49).

Overall for most of the Firth of Thames coastline, tonight's King tide are estimated to be between 0.2-0.5m lower than this morning's (Friday) high tide. Tomorrow morning (Saturday 6th) the King tide is estimated to be 0.1-0.5m lower than this morning's (Friday). These reductions are due to the majority of the area having reduced wind strength and change in direction (Western Coromandel from Te Kouma North are potentially the exception to this).

Based on analysis of the tide gauge by NIWA in 2015 from 1990 to 2015:

- 1% AEP (100 year ARI) water level was estimated at 2.5 m RL (Tararu Vertical Datum).
- 0.5% AEP (200 year ARI) water level was estimated at 2.6 m RL ((Tararu Vertical Datum).

High Tide times (NZDT) sourced from NIWA tide forecaster:

- Whitianga
 - Friday 5th at 22:28
 - Saturday 6th at 11:24 and 23:49
- Thames
 - Friday 5th at 22:57
 - Saturday 6th at 11:22 and 23:49

Hydrology

Coromandel Zone

Rivers- updated 1700 5/1/18 Hours

Site	River level (m)	Flow (cumecs)	Trend
Waiwawa	0.966	44.513	Rising
Opitonui	0.536	1.444	Falling
Tapu	0.488	6.845	No Change
Tairua	1.906	26.859	Rising

Waihou/Piako Zone

Rivers- updated 1700 Hours 5/1/2018

Site	River level (m)	Flow (cumecs)	Trend
Shaftesbury (Waihou)	15.763	66.253	Rising
Te Aroha (Waihou)	8.920	73.617	Rising
Queens Head (Ohinemuri)	0.988	12.508	Falling
Karangahake (Ohinemuri)	12.568	30.961	Rising
Puke Bridge (Waihou)	2.387		Rising
Waharoa (Waitoa)	45.790	1.599	Rising
Piako P-T Road (Piako)	2.434	5.316	Falling
Kauaeranga	7.009	39.492	Falling
Mellon Road (Waihou)	6.000	2.918	No Change
Maukoro Landing (Piako)	1.806		Falling

Summary issues

The majority of the rainfall has eased therefore further issues are likely to be related to King tides, low barometric pressure and high winds combining to cause coastal inundation.

Coromandel:

- Wind forecasts predicted to bring high coastal inundation in the upper northern Coromandel, (from Te Kouma north to Port Jackson) with high tides at Thames (22:57) and Coromandel Harbour (22:25). Winds will have eased slightly by tomorrow morning.
- Coromandel town river flood scheme functioning presently but forecasts indicate a possible overtopping of coastal defences in Coromandel town with possible coastal flooding in low lying areas over the high tide period tonight.

Hauraki:

- Thames Area/ Kauaeranga River
 - Tararu township inundated with tide, CD evacuated people from motels and low lying houses, likely inundation again at high tide tonight.
 - Number of houses and vehicles flooded in low lying Thames area particularly from Kopu to Thames, likely to again happen at high tide tonight.
 - Coastal road damaged and covered in sand and rocks, staff reviewed flood assets today.
 - SH25 Kauaeranga spillway operating as of ~10:00 and water is still on SH25. It is likely to operate in the next couple of high tides.
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- Piako
 - Staff onsite at Ngatea
 - Sandbagging occurring where stopbanks are overtopping at low points on river road and Kaihere road. Piping of water under stopbank at Doug Leonards Floodgate which is being monitored. Mitigation in place to sheetpile location if necessary.
 - River water peaked at 12.15pm now receding.
 - Trees on stopbank (southern Ngatea) fallen due to wind causing damage to bank. Mitigation underway.
 - The impact has also been experienced up the rivers with some minor stopbank overtopping along foreshore and Piako river stopbanks in Ngatea within the last 2 hours. The tide is now receding and overtopping has ceased.
 - The schemes are otherwise operating as designed.
- Kaiaua/ Miranda
 - Significant coastal inundation, ~30-40 houses affected. CDEM needs assessment underway.
 - Hauraki DC, Rock Armouring section of East Coast Road in Kaiaua District

Other Zones:

- Waikato
 - Marine Parade and Bridge (Raglan) inundated at high tide but receding. Camp ground OK.
- Otorohanga
 - Kawhia harbour- some localised coastal inundation.

Roads

Coromandel

- Closures
 - (1124hrs, 5 Jan 2018) SH25 Thames to Manaia – closed until further notice.
 - TCDC notification 11am 5 Jan – Port Jackson Road closed north of Urarima Stream approx. 8.5kms north of the Colville Road intersection due to the high sea level. Expected to reopen later today once the tide recedes and debris removed.
 - NZTA currently assessing Thames Coast Road.
- Area Warning
 - Nil
- Hazards
 - TCDC notification 11am 5 Jan – Water tank fall of a truck on tight bend and blocking the road on SH25 between Whitianga and Taiura. Emergency services on route. TCDC awaiting update from NZTA

Hauraki

- Closures
 - Miranda and East Coast roads closed. Likely to remain closed after tide recedes in order to clear debris and sand.
 - SH2 closed west of Ngatea due to trees.

Rivers and Schemes

All rivers receding except the Waihou and Piako Rivers. These rivers are highly susceptible to King tide cycles.

Next Situational meeting TBC Hours 6th January 2018

Next Sit- Rep report by TBC Hours 6th January 2018

Waikato Regional Council response

Flood response management

The regional response flood room is active during business hours. After hours the Regional Flood Response Team will be active.

The Regional Hazards Team have activated the 'Virtual Flood Room' to inform regional zones, external agencies and the public.

Flood Room Live: <https://www.waikatoregion.govt.nz/services/regional-services/regional-hazards-and-emergency-management/flood-room/events/>

www.waikatoregion.govt.nz

Any remaining flood management enquires should be directed to the Regional Flood Coordinator on (027) 499 2120.

Operations

The Waikato Regional Council manages several flood protection scheme around the Waikato Region. These consist of networks of stopbanks, pump stations and flood gates.

The Waikato Regional Council is monitoring these networks during the current period. Any problems with this infrastructure should be reported immediately to the Waikato Regional Council on (027) 499 2120.

Media

All media inquiries should be directed to the Waikato Regional Council senior communications advisor (media) on 07 859 0782 or 021 756 310 – Stephen Ward.

Further information

National

Metservice: www.metservice.co.nz
Roading: www.aaroadwatch.co.nz

Local

Waikato Regional Council: www.waikatoregion.govt.nz
Genesis Energy: www.genesisenergy.co.nz
Mercury: www.mercury.co.nz
Waikato CDEM Group: www.waikatoregioncdemg.govt.nz