

# WRC Regional Flood Situation Report

Event name: Tidal low pressure event – 4-5 January 2018

Advisory: 04

Issued by: Waikato Regional Council- Regional Hazards

Date/time: 06 January 2018 –1100 Hours

Next Advisory: 06 January 2018 –TBC

## 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
	✓	

### Local Coromandel and Hauraki Flood Response Room Status:

Normal	Monitoring	Activated
	✓	

### Regional Flood Response Room Status:

Flood Room Not Activated	Flood Room Activated
	✓ (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)	NORMAL at gauge, but will be ELEVATED with king tide cycles.
Waihou River (incl Ohinemuri River)	ELEVATED (Slow rising at Shaftesbury and Te Aroha. These higher flows arriving in the lower reaches may coincide with high tide this morning at ~11:30)

Kauaeranga River	NORMAL at gauge, but will be ELEVATED at Rhodes Park area with king tide cycles. SH25 may be inundated at high tides, particularly Saturday and Sunday am.
Coromandel Peninsula	NORMAL
West Coast rivers	NORMAL (except Awakino which is ELEVATED but falling)
Coastal waters	KING TIDES

## Latest Situation

A rapidly deepening low caused heavy rain and high winds across the upper north island overnight Thursday and into Friday morning. This has now moved off to the south-east of New Zealand. The main driver of any further coastal inundation will be the king tide cycle and existing damage to coastlines and coastal defences increasing vulnerability.

For the latest MetService alerts refer to the WRC Advisories found in the 'Event Information' section on the Flood Room Live page. Note that all Severe Weather Warnings and Watches have been cancelled for the Waikato Region.

<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 and peak wind/waves occurring about the same time has resulted in significant water levels within the Firth of Thames on Friday.

Peak level at Tararu Tide Gauge was 2.8 m RL (Tararu Vertical Datum). Previous recorded peak water level was recorded at the tide gauge in 1995 of 2.4 m RL.

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).

The largest historical water level (not recorded by tide gauge) was that during the 1938 storm of approximately 3.0 m RL (Tararu Vertical Datum).

As the effects of the storm are moving out of the Waikato Region and high tide levels will be reducing, subsequent high tides are unlikely to reach the peak of Friday morning. Coastal water levels will be driven primarily by tidal effects with much less impact from winds and atmospheric pressure.

High Tide times (NZDT) sourced from NIWA tide forecaster (from 8th January, tides are back to 'normal' and out of King Tide phase):

- Whitianga
  - Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> at 11:03 and 23:24
  - Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> at 11:55
- Thames
  - Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> at 11:29 and 23:51
  - Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> at 12:21
- Raglan Harbour Entrance (West Coast)
  - Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> at 13:44
  - Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> at 02:10 and 14:35

## Weather

[No severe weather warnings or watches for the Waikato Region.](#)

[No significant rainfall or wind events predicted in the next few days for the Region.](#)

For up to date weather information please visit [www.metservice.com](http://www.metservice.com)

## **Hydrology – As of 09:30 6/01/2018**

### Coromandel Zone

#### Rivers

Site	River level (m)	Flow (cumecs)	Trend
Waiwawa	0.654	22.733	Steady
Opitonui	0.551	1.578	Steady
Tapu	0.304	2.741	Steady
Tairua	1.711	11.837	Falling

#### Rainfall (mm)

Site	Last hour	Last 12 hours	Last 24 hours	Predicted 12 hours
Castle Rock	0.0	19.0	26.0	0.4
Pinnacles	0.0	35.0	64.0	0.3

### Waihou/Piako Zone

#### Rivers

Site	River level (m)	Flow (cumecs)	Trend
Shaftesbury (Waihou)	16.081	73.156	Slow rise
Te Aroha (Waihou)	9.062	78.78	Slow rise
Queens Head (Ohinemuri)	0.781	8.55	Falling
Karangahake (Ohinemuri)	12.433	23.978	Falling
Puke Bridge (Waihou)	1.106		Rising
Waharoa (Waitoa)	45.835	2.055	Steady
Piako P-T Road (Piako)	2.485	1.741	Steady
Kauaeranga	6.635	17.810	Slow fall
Mellon Road (Waihou)	6.046	2.426	Rising
Maukoro Landing (Piako)	0.700		Steady

#### Rainfall (mm)

Site	Last hour	Last 12 hours	Last 24 hours	Predicted 12 hours
Te Aroha Racecourse	0.0	1.0	9.5	0.4
Kaimai	0.5	1.5	23.5	0.2
Golden Cross	0.0	4.0	16.0	0.3
Queens Head	0.0	4.5	19.0	
Maukoro Landing	0.0	1.0	10.0	0.0
Maungakawa	0.0	4.0	20.5	0.0

## Summary issues

Rainfall and high winds have eased therefore further issues are likely to be related to King tides and existing damage to coastlines and coastal defences.

#### Coromandel:

- Coromandel Zone looking to move into remediation/recovery stage later in day
- Coromandel Town - Three call outs for flooding around Fury creek last night due to tidal influence. No other complaints to Fire known at this time.
- No further flooding, slips or closures (additional to Friday morning) reported.

#### Waihou/Piako (Hauraki):

- Thames Area/ Kauaeranga River
  - High tide affecting river levels and again entered Rhodes Park but did not reach the road.
  - SH25 unlikely to close again due to tide inundation during high tide times
  - 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 Tararu flood assets and no issues were discovered
  - Karaka Stream debris trap has minor debris
  -
- Piako
  - Staff onsite at Ngatea during high tides,
  - 05.01.18 midnight tide was approx. 0.5 m below bank height therefore no overtopping occurred
  - Sandbagging (2000 bags used) will remain in place where stopbanks overtopped at low points on river road and Kaihere road. Piping of water under stopbank at Doug Leonards Floodgate was monitored and did not occur again. Mitigation in place to sheetpile location if necessary.
  - Trees on stopbank (southern Ngatea) fallen due to wind causing damage to bank. Mitigation completed.
  - Campbells floodgate and Limeworks floodgate outlets both experienced scouring due to water flows. These have both been resolved by placement of rock and clay.
- Kaiaua/ Miranda
  - Significant coastal inundation, ~30-40 houses affected. CDEM needs assessment underway.

#### Lower Waikato

- Power outages have occurred in the Franklin Waikato area. Counties Power is working on restoring them on a prioritised basis.
- Four drainage compartments are impacted: Huntly, Huntly West, and Mangatawhiri compartments 2 and 4.
- With moderate rainfall in the Franklin area, there has been no known incidences of flooding due to the power outage.
- Power was restored to Huntly and Huntly West Friday night (5 January).

#### West Coast:

- Intel is still be collected/verified for the West Coast.
- Some instances of flooding of low lying areas have occurred. There are no known instances of flooded houses or road damage at this point in time.
- Low lying areas in Raglan have been under water coinciding with high tides. Puriri Park was underwater. Flooding has been reported on a number of roads in Raglan Friday night (5 January). Signage is in place.

- Kawhia had flooding around Omimiti Reserve in the township.
- No power currently serving Kawhia or Aotea. It is anticipated that it should be restored sometime today (6 January).

## Roads

### Coromandel

- NZTA Website (0800hrs, 6 Jan 2018) still reads SH25 Thames to Manaia – closed until further notice
- TCDC Notification (Weather update #12 07:30 6 Jan 2018) notes local Council roads are open, with Colville Rd open to one and expected to be open to two lanes later today. NZ Transport Agency has advised us that the Thames Coast Road (SH25) is now passable from Te Puru north, but remains closed between Te Puru and Tararu. There is severe damage to the road at Whakatete Bay. If you are trying to leave Coromandel the way out is through Whitianga to Tairua, traffic delays are expected
- WRC Operations have been in contact with NZTA and has been granted access to schemes from south.

### West Coast:

- Surface flooding reported on Marokopa Road and Te Mahoe Road at Mokau. No other reports of significant service or incidents. Debris on roads being cleared by contractor.
- Rocks/obstructions between SH31 and SH39 Junction to Kawhia. Traffic management in place.

## Rivers and Schemes

### Coromandel:

- Te Puru Scheme has a build up of gravel/rocks which will need to be removed. Not an issue now but before next flood event. Otherwise no damage to walls etc. Unnamed stream mouth south of 401 Thames Coast road is blocked, Mike spoken to James Drainage who are in area.
- Waiomu Scheme: Waiomu is in good condition, small tree to be removed. Pohue is blocked at mouth and will need clearing, again before next event.
- Tapu Scheme: to be inspected shortly.
- Coromandel Scheme: Contractor confirms no issues with Coromandel Scheme.
- Grahams Creek inspected 0700 06 Jan– reported in good condition. Good water flow with minor debris build up, scheduled for screen clean today
- All streams Whitianga to Tairua look in good condition from road, little higher than normal but flowing

### Waihou/Piako:

- All rivers receding except the Waihou River. This is not predicted to cause inundation.

**Next Situational meeting 13:30 Hours 6<sup>th</sup> January 2018**

**Next Sit- Rep report by TBC Hours 6<sup>th</sup> 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](http://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 communications advisor (media) on 07 859 2721 or 021369815 – Wendy Valois.

## Further information

### National

Metservice:	<a href="http://www.metservice.co.nz">www.metservice.co.nz</a>
Roading (NZTA):	<a href="http://onthemove.govt.nz">onthemove.govt.nz</a>
Roading (AA):	<a href="http://www.aa.co.nz/travel/roadwatch">www.aa.co.nz/travel/roadwatch</a>
Roading (local):	Relevant Territorial Authority

### Local

Waikato Regional Council:	<a href="http://www.waikatoregion.govt.nz">www.waikatoregion.govt.nz</a>
Genesis Energy:	<a href="http://www.genesisenergy.co.nz">www.genesisenergy.co.nz</a>
Mercury:	<a href="http://www.mercury.co.nz">www.mercury.co.nz</a>
Waikato CDEM Group:	<a href="http://www.waikatoregioncdemg.govt.nz">www.waikatoregioncdemg.govt.nz</a>