

WRC Regional Flood Situation Report

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

Advisory: 05

Issued by: Waikato Regional Council- Regional Hazards

Date/time: 06 January 2018 –1430 Hours

Next Advisory: **None for this event**

Status: **Remediation phase**

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
✓	

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 (But steady)
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 Sunday am.

Coromandel Peninsula	NORMAL
West Coast rivers	NORMAL (except Awakino which is ELEVATED but falling)
Coastal waters	KING TIDES

Latest Situation

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.

Severe winds have eased and the low pressure system that caused severe coastal inundation on Friday is moving away from the country. Tide levels will return to more normal levels by Monday (i.e., no longer in a King tide phase).

Heavy rain is possible for the east coast of the Coromandel Peninsula from Pauanui south on Sunday morning. This is likely to affect the Coromandel from between day break to midday and could result in 40-60mm falling in 2-3 hours. Note that High tide is predicted at midday. However, there is considerable uncertainty associated with this prediction due to the unpredictable nature of these localised systems.

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

The event has seen major coastal inundation due to King tides. This has been reported as a 200 year event. The impact has been experienced along the Thames Coast with coastal flooding to low lying areas.

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 6th at 23:24
 - Sunday 7th at 11:55

- Thames
 - Saturday 6th at 23:51
 - Sunday 7th at 12:21
- Raglan Harbour Entrance (West Coast)
 - Sunday 7th at 02:10 and 14:35

Weather

Severe Weather Watch – Localised heavy rain Pauanui to Te Puke - There is a chance a trough could bring a brief period of heavy rain to the coastal towns and communities between Te Puke and Pauanui during Sunday morning, possibly bringing 40 to 60mm during a 2-3 hour period.

No other 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

Hydrology – As of 14:30 6/01/2018

Coromandel Zone

Rivers

Site	River level (m)	Flow (cumecs)	Trend
Waiwawa	0.566	17.526	Falling
Opitonui	0.529	1.383	Slow rise
Tapu	0.266	2.081	Steady
Tairua	1.633	12.108	Falling

Rainfall (mm)

Site	Last hour	Last 12 hours	Last 24 hours	Predicted 12 hours
Castle Rock	0.0	2.0	18.5	31.2
Pinnacles	0.0	3.0	30.5	32.4

Waihou/Piako Zone

Rivers

Site	River level (m)	Flow (cumecs)	Trend
Shaftesbury (Waihou)	16.093	73.607	Slow rise
Te Aroha (Waihou)	9.111	80.396	Slow rise
Queens Head (Ohinemuri)	0.706	7.108	Falling
Karangahake (Ohinemuri)	12.336	19.342	Falling
Puke Bridge (Waihou)	2.245		Rising
Waharoa (Waitoa)	45.835	2.055	Steady
Piako P-T Road (Piako)	5.148	2.413	Rising
Kauaeranga	6.523	12.583	Slow fall
Mellon Road (Waihou)	6.085	3.657	Slow rise
Maukoro Landing (Piako)	1.788		Rising

Rainfall (mm)

Site	Last hour	Last 12 hours	Last 24 hours	Predicted 12 hours
Te Aroha Racecourse	0.0	1.5	6.0	0.3
Kaimai	0.0	1.0	6.0	1.1

Golden Cross	0.0	1.5	9.5	12.5
Queens Head	0.0	1.5	15.0	
Maukoro Landing	0.0	0.0	8.0	0.5
Maungakawa	0.0	0.5	9.0	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:

- **Decision to move into Remediation Phase** for event and return to BAU. An Operational Inspection Plan is prepared commencing Monday 07 Jan.
- Big Sandy Bay: tidal influence impacted on housing and properties; no issues with stream and river behind properties, however debris across road, road reserve and in properties with a couple of houses and garage flooded.
- Port Charles: Carey Road road and reserves remain flooded but sea water is flowing out. Drain behind houses remains is blocked; no flooding of homes but could be a risk if unattended.
- Inspections planned for Big Sandy Bay and Port Charles.
- 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 and Kopu carpark, but is estimated to be .8m below yesterday and more representative of a BAU King tide.
 - Coastal road damaged and covered in sand and rocks, staff reviewed Tararu flood assets and no issues were discovered
 - HDC and Hauraki Rail trail confirmed Trail from Thames to Kaiaua remains closed as assessments are undertaken
 - 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
 - Overtopping did not occur during the night (midnight high tide) or at noon today.
 - Staff onsite at Ngatea during midday high tide estimate the height as being 1 metre below Super King high tide therefore more representative of a BAU King tide
 - 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.
 - Campbells floodgate additional damage noticed on landward side of stopbank which is being investigated.
 - Staff onsite at Ngatea during high tides
 - 05.01.18 midnight tide was approx. 0.5 m below bank height therefore no overtopping occurred.
 - 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:

- Reports of a small number of houses flooding at Friday morning high tide in Kawhia. This is being investigated.
- Intel is still be collected/verified for the West Coast.
- 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.
- 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.

Waihou/Piako (Hauraki):

- Some localised closures to district roads due to debris.
- Front Miranda Road closed

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.

Next Situational meeting NONE PLANNED FOR THIS EVENT
Next Sit- Rep report by NONE FOR THIS EVENT

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 schemes 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:	www.metservice.co.nz
Roading (NZTA):	onthemove.govt.nz
Roading (AA):	www.aa.co.nz/travel/roadwatch

Roading (local): Relevant Territorial Authority

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