

REGIONAL HAZARDS ADVISORY

Issued by: Waikato Regional Council

Date/time: 6/01/2018 1300 hours

Overview of event

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

Type of Event		Area affected
Severe Weather		
Heavy Rain	✓	Coromandel East coast - Pauanui South
Potential River Flooding	✓	Tidally influenced rivers, especially the Piako and Kuaeranga Rivers
Current River Flooding		
Coastal Erosion	✓	Severe, especially Thames Coast Road between Tararu and Te Puru
Coastal Storm Inundation	✓	Possible coinciding with king tides (Firth of Thames: Sat 6 th 23:53; Sun 7 th 12:23)
Lifelines		

WRC Regional Hazards Response Status:

Normal	Monitoring	Activated
		✓

Local Coromandel & Waihou/Piako Flood Response Room Status:

Flood Room Not Activated	Flood Room Activated
	✓ (Saturday day-time)

Regional Flood Response Room Status:

Flood Room Not Activated	Flood Room Activated
	✓ (Saturday day-time)

Summary

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.

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.

Warnings and alarms

Severe weather advisory

WARNING	WATCH	Severe Weather Watch – Localised heavy rain Pauanui to Te Puke
	✓	

MetService Alerts:

Severe Weather Watches

Issued 12:16pm Saturday 06 Jan 2018

Gale force winds across central New Zealand are expected to ease this afternoon. **Brief heavy rain possible during Sunday morning between Pauanui and Te Puke.** A deep low between the North Island and Chatham Islands is slowly moving southwards. Strong to gale winds associated with the low are slowly easing over the country. Heavy rain that the low brought to New Zealand has now eased. A trough is expected to slowly move northwest over the western Bay of Plenty and southern Coromandel Peninsula during Sunday morning.

There is a chance that this trough could bring a brief period of heavy rain to the coastal towns and communities between Te Puke and Pauanui during the morning, possibly bringing 40 to 60mm during a 2-3 hour period. Due to the recent rains and flooding in this area, this amount of rain could cause problems for people living in, or travelling through, this region. People are advised to remain up to date with the latest forecasts in case this parts of the Watch is upgraded to a full Warning, or other areas are added. **There is some uncertainty in timing and location of this heavy rain and some of the locations within this area may see little rain.**

For up to date weather information please visit the Metservice website:

www.metservice.com.

Current River Status

Early warning river level alarms

The most up to date rainfall and river level information should be obtained from the Waikato Regional Council website:

<http://www.waikatoregion.govt.nz/Services/Regional-services/River-levels-and-rainfall/>

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

Coastal Information

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 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)
 - Saturday 6th at 13:44
 - Sunday 7th at 02:10 and 14:35