



**BUDGET
2024**

**Hon Simeon Brown
Minister of Transport**

**Hon Mark Mitchell
Minister for Emergency Management and Recovery**

30 May 2024

More than \$1 billion for Cyclone relief, resilience and emergency preparedness

Budget 2024 invests more than \$1 billion in a package of initiatives to further support the rebuild and recovery of communities affected by Cyclone Gabrielle and the 2023 Auckland Anniversary floods to improve New Zealand's emergency preparedness, Transport Minister Simeon Brown and Emergency Management and Recovery Minister Mark Mitchell say.

“Budget 2024 confirms \$939 million in additional funding for the NZ Transport Agency and local councils to continue their response and recovery works. This investment will fund the recovery of the State Highway network and continue to support local councils with the recovery of local roads.

“Investing in the recovery of our road networks to modern standards is critical to restoring vital access to goods, services, and employment opportunities for affected communities across the North Island.

“We're committed to the recovery effort, and a key part of this will be restoring vital transport links across the region as part of our plan to get people and freight to where they want to go, quickly and safely,” Mr Brown says.

“The road restoration programme will be accompanied by targeted funding to support the resilience of communities impacted by Cyclone Gabrielle and the 2023 Auckland Anniversary floods, including additional funds to support the restoration of marae and whenua Māori, removal of woody debris and sediment, the Temporary Accommodation Service (TAS) and local council recovery functions.

“The North Island experienced a series of significant weather events in 2023, and in order to rebuild our economy for all New Zealanders we need to invest in the communities that were affected. The funding we have announced today will help

deliver tangible results for the people of Hawke's Bay and Tairāwhiti as they continue with their recovery," Mr Mitchell says.

Budget 2024 will strengthen New Zealand's emergency preparedness by investing \$10.6 million over the next four years for a new National Emergency Management Facility in Wellington, scheduled to be completed in late 2026.

"Multiple reviews including the recent Government Inquiry, have found that the current 'bunker' facility in the basement of the Beehive is not fit for purpose. We have a dedicated and skilled emergency management workforce, but they've been limited by substandard facilities and systems. This new facility will equip them better to do their job helping communities impacted by emergencies," Mr Mitchell says.

"The Budget also includes \$23 million for non-Government organisations (Surf Life Saving New Zealand, Coastguard New Zealand, New Zealand Land Search and Rescue and Amateur Radio Emergency Communications) to replace assets that were destroyed or damaged in the North Island weather events, as well as providing training for these organisations to improve the response to future severe weather or emergency events.

"The funding we have allocated as part of the Budget will ensure affected communities can rebuild and New Zealand can be more prepared for and resilient to future emergency events," Mr Brown says.

"Budget 2024 brings the ring-fenced National Resilience Plan (NRP) fund to a close. This Fund was established following the North Island weather events to provide funding for then unspecified rebuild and resilience projects. One year on, \$2.76 billion of that fund has been committed to a range of rebuild activities.

"The Government remains committed to funding future rebuild, resilience and climate adaptation projects. These projects will occur through both the Regional Infrastructure Fund and the normal Budget process, with remaining funds in the NRP returned to support this and future Budgets."

Recovery and resilience commitments include:

Roads:

- \$609.3 million over three years to complete state highway recovery works in areas affected by the North Island weather events, ensuring that roads are restored to their previous condition.
- \$330 million over two years to continue the response and recovery work on local roads that were affected by the North Island weather events.

Community resilience:

- Additional funding to support restoration of Māori whenua, marae and other cultural assets severely affected by the 2023 North Island weather events (quantum is commercially sensitive).
- \$27.8 million of further funding for the Temporary Accommodation Service (TAS) to support households who are still displaced by Cyclone Gabrielle and the January 2023 Auckland floods.
- \$27 million for removal and treatment of woody debris in Tairāwhiti that presents an ongoing risk to life, infrastructure, and properties.
- \$16.1 million in new funding for one year to support councils' capability to speed up critical recovery functions including voluntary buyouts, flood protection works, landslip remediation and local transport.
- \$10 million toward completing the remaining essential clearance of Hawke's Bay sediment and debris deposited on residential and commercial properties.

Emergency preparedness:

- \$23 million for non-Government organisations (Surf Life Saving New Zealand, Coastguard New Zealand, New Zealand Land Search and Rescue and Amateur Radio Emergency Communications) to replace assets that were destroyed or damaged in the North Island weather events. This funding also provides targeted training, personal protective equipment, and regional equipment caches for these organisations to improve the response to future severe weather or emergency events.
- \$10.6 million for a new National Emergency Management Facility in Wellington.

Media contacts: Simeon Brown: Ben Craven +64 22 079 2788, Mark Mitchell: Fleur Thompson +64 21 895 619