# **Newsline Issue 599 –25 July 2025**

# It was the perfect storm

A perfect storm is an especially bad situation caused by a combination of unfavourable circumstances and that’s what we’ve just been through.

Tasman is prone to flooding, being exposed to severe weather from three points of the compass, which is unusual in Aotearoa.

Two of the worst floods in (relatively) recent times were the 1983 widespread flood and Cyclone Gita in 2018, across Lower Motueka, Riwaka, and Upper Tākaka.

Further back, the 1877 ‘old man flood’ in the Motueka catchment was probably the most severe we have seen in European times.

This latest flood was larger and combined the widespread nature of the 1983 flood with the size of the 1877 flood but also had a cyclone Gita component embedded within it, the likes of the strong easterlies into the Lower Motueka area.

To make matters worse – damage from a single flood can be bad, but floods in quick succession are much more damaging; the saturated conditions result in more runoff, and riverbanks are also much more vulnerable. This was very evident looking at the damage from the second flood compared to the first, in particular the bank erosion and change of river course.

The two-week interval was particularly cruel; saturation was maintained by rainfall in between, but it allowed considerable investment and effort in cleanup, only to have that ripped away.

Meanwhile, Tasman Mayor Tim King is extending his thanks to all the agencies, community groups and volunteers who supported the Nelson Tasman Emergency Management response.

“Our community has faced two major weather events, and we have seen significant impacts across the region. The State of Emergency may be over, but the recovery period will be lengthy, and we will continue to assist those affected.”

# River Z works underway

One of our major roles as a unitary authority is to look after the District’s rivers.

We maintain 285 kilometres of Tasman’s major rivers, including larger waterways such as the Motueka, Wai-iti, Waimea, Dove, Aorere and Tākaka Rivers, which collectively form our River X and River Y management areas.

The majority of smaller rivers and tributaries that feed into them have no active management or ongoing maintenance by us and make up the River Z area.

The effects of the recent weather events have been immense and have compromised properties and the landscape of areas across the District, next to rivers and waterways of all sizes.

As we move into the recovery phase of these flood events, we know that a long-term commitment to river work and community collaboration will be needed to repair flood damage and make our rivers more resilient to future floods.

However, we also know that work needs to begin right away.

We will be starting on a post-flood tree and debris cleanup programme on some of our smaller River Z rivers in the areas affected by recent flooding. This includes Pigeon Valley Stream, Eighty Eight Valley Stream, Pretty Bridge Valley Stream, Stanley Brook, and others. In light of the severity of this event, we acknowledge the importance of doing what we can to help in these River Z areas.

This work will be done in parallel with major river recovery work in the River X and River Y large waterways, following a similar plan of an initial post-flood cleanup and repair of the most vulnerable areas.

# What are we doing about our rivers?

One of the main questions raised by the June/July weather events is what can be done to manage future flood damage and risk to our communities.

The recovery period is still in its early stages and the initial focus will be on protecting key public infrastructure and people at risk.

However, we acknowledge that a significant part of the recovery is ensuring there are measures and actions taken to support resilient rivers and the communities that draw so much from them.

It is hard to overstate just how severe this flood event has been for the District – having endured a 100-year flow event (1% Annual Exceedance Probability) after receiving two months of rain in a 48-hour period around 27 June.

The scale of damage was exacerbated by the subsequent flooding on 11 July, which although smaller than the June flood was still at least a 50-year flow event or larger in many rivers, with even greater damage caused by high winds and saturated ground.

In the short term, we’ve been carrying out reactive management works to protect people and lifeline infrastructure during the series of damaging floods. We’ve also been working with river engineers from around New Zealand, through Te Uru Kahika, who have been offering valuable guidance and assistance.

Broader remedies to restore rivers and protect property will need much more time and effort to implement, as well as significant investment. It will also require many conversations with those affected by the floods and sound long-term planning in order to establish the best way forward.

However, we have to – and will – build back better.

# New look Port Tarakohe ready to go

The dilapidated and unsafe timber wharf is gone; shabby and outdated facilities have been replaced and upgraded – Golden Bay’s Port Tarakohe is now fully open for business.

More than $12 million has been spent on the port upgrade, funded through a $6 million loan from Kanoa, the provincial development investment group within the Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment, on top of the $6.7 million we have invested.

The upgrade is designed to assist the Golden Bay Aquaculture industry.

Examples of the redevelopment work include a new fuel bowser moved to a new site at the end of the floating wharf, making it easier and more convenient for vessels to refuel.

New larger berths have been constructed, with the inner breakwater being extended to provide increased wave protection.

There’s a shiny new modern office and amenities block with the entire roof covered in solar panels to assist with powering the operations of port staff and users.

The inner eastern breakwater has also been extended with new concrete floating berths added to the northern pontoon system and additional fendering added around the existing concrete wharf.

The project also included a ‘resilience ramp’ that in times of disaster response will enable the delivery of supply barges to cater for Golden Bay’s needs when other access points are cut off.

# Next round of mooring licence applications open soon

Our Harbourmaster team is about to roll out phase two of applications for issuing mooring licences across Tasman.

The new system streamlines the management of moorings within designated mooring areas, removing the need for Coastal Permits (Resource Consents).

Applications are being sought on a progressive basis to ensure efficient processing.

* Phase 2, 1 August 2025: Kaiteriteri 2 (commercial), Boundary Bay and Māpua.
* Phase 3, 1 November 2025: Kaiteriteri 1, Motueka 2 (Trewavas Street) and Tapu Bay.
* Phase 4, 1 February 2026: Torrent Bay, Milnthorpe, Otuwhero.

If you’re in Phase 2, please get in touch and apply for a Mooring Licence.

All phases remain open indefinitely. Additional restrictions apply to applications for Kaiteriteri, Torrent, and Boundary Bays. For moorings outside these areas, existing rules remain in effect, and a Coastal Permit will still be required.

After expiration (or earlier), the owner must apply for a Mooring Licence from the Harbourmaster to continue using the site. Moorings that were not previously authorised under a Coastal Permit or as a permitted activity under the TRMP must be removed.

Alternatively, owners of unpermitted moorings must apply for a Mooring Licence or Coastal Permit, and applications will be considered alongside other applicants based on the priority criteria.

For more information and to find an online application form, visit tasman.govt.nz/moorings.

# Work to reduce flooding in Richmond

We are attempting to further reduce the flood risk around Richmond’s Easby Park.

Easby Park is located between Marlborough Crescent and Selbourne Avenue and is about to get further work on it as we try to improve the way its drainage system copes with increased water flow during wet weather.

We’re building a detention area within the park with a secondary intake into the piped section of Reservoir Creek for when the existing primary intake is blocked. We’ve gone out to tender for this part of the job, and construction is planned to start next month.

We’ll also be increasing the flow capacity of catch pits on Selbourne Avenue.

In other work, we’re going to redesign and modify the primary inlet structure so that it is less prone to blocking and make it safer and easier for contractors to clear debris. This is scheduled to be completed later this year or early next year.

We’re also investigating the feasibility of building a coarse debris screen further upstream in Easby Park to capture forestry slash.

# Speed limit changes coming to a road near you

Our long-signalled speed limit reductions are finally on their way.

Our Speed Management Plan based on more than 2,200 submissions, approved by the Council, and certified by the New Zealand Transport Agency in 2024, was somewhat invalidated by a government rule change last year, meaning we had to reconsult to legally change speed limits.

However, the plan still outlines the community’s aspirations for safe and appropriate speed limits and will continue to guide and prioritise future work on speed limit changes. The most recent round of consultation gathered further input from about 300 people.

This first round of changes will target the base speed limits outside rural schools, high-risk rural roads, and Richmond’s McShane Road and Lower Queen Street.

From Monday 28 July, all speed limits around schools on Council local roads (not on state highways) will be reduced to 30 kilometres an hour for the 90 minutes at the   
start and end of the school day. New signs are being erected at each school to remind drivers of the changes and what times they come into effect each school day.

The speed limits on Neudorf Road, Edwards Road, sections of Moutere Highway, Dovedale Road and Motueka Valley Highway will drop to 80 kilometres per hour, while McShane Road will go down to 50 kilometres per hour.

Information about these changes can be found on the NZTA website, speedlimits.nzta.govt.nz.

# Turning waste into resilience

In direct response to the recent storms and resulting damage, the Tasman Alliance, a collaborative partnership between Tasman District Council and Downer NZ Ltd, has been working tirelessly to restore transport links across the District.

Rather than solely turning to traditional quarried materials, the Alliance took a bold step. They repurposed approximately 1,500 tonnes of crushed concrete aggregate, salvaged from waste concrete that would have otherwise ended up in landfills.

This material, once discarded, was reborn as a cost-effective and eco-friendly alternative to quarried gravels. The crushed concrete was deployed across the Tasman network, particularly in storm-affected areas around Tapawera and Motueka.

It was used to fill scours, backfill rock walls, and support general storm repairs, proving its worth not just in cost savings, but in performance.

This initiative didn’t just reduce landfill waste; it also cut down the carbon footprint associated with quarrying and transporting new materials.

By embracing circular economy principles, the Tasman Alliance demonstrated how infrastructure recovery can align with environmental stewardship.

As the region rebuilds, the crushed concrete beneath its roads and walls tells a story of ingenuity, partnership, and a commitment to doing things better.

# Nomination deadline fast approaching

The deadline for nominations for this year’s Council and Community Board elections is looming – papers need to be returned no later than noon on Friday 1 August.

Councillors and Community Board members make important decisions that shape our District, so the job requires dedication, commitment and a passion for the people of Tasman.

It can help enormously if you’re familiar with, and sensitive to, community needs, collaborative decision-making, leadership of people, legislation, and financial and operational systems.

But don’t leave it until the last minute to return your nomination form. If papers are lodged close to the deadline and are wrong, there may not be time to correct them, and they could be invalid. If a nomination is received by the electoral officer or an electoral official after the close of nominations, it will also be invalid.

You can submit nominations online, but they can also be returned by mail, or in person. All supporting documents must be submitted at the same time.

Details of what’s required for nominations can be found in the Candidate Handbook on our website, tasman.govt.nz/candidate-information, or you can pick up a printed copy from our libraries and service centres. You can also watch the video of our candidate information evening on this page.

# Neighbours come together for lunch

It’s always nice to get an invitation to lunch, so when the team from Pinnacle House asked Council staff and contractors from Fulton Hogan working on the Lower Queen Street Bridge to come over, we said yes.

The bridge replacement over Borck Creek is providing a lot of interest for the young adults who use the services of Pinnacle House.

Pinnacle House is a charitable trust that provides day services for individuals with very high special needs who have left school and for whom full-time employment is not an option.

The Pinnacle team organised a fantastic sausage sizzle, along with with hot soup and muffins to raise funds for their chosen charity, Red Nose Day.

We thought we’d help too, and we organised a bake sale for staff at our Richmond office which raised $350 and was presented during the lunch.

Meanwhile, the bridge replacement project is progressing with overnight closures of Lower Queen Street continuing until Thursday 31 July.

... And remember the Headingly Lane intersection at Lower Queen Street is now closed until the project is completed. Access to the Headingly Centre and Grace Church is via Estuary Place and Saltmarsh Lane.

# Scholarships get young people to Outward Bound

Exciting news for youth across our District! Eight young people from Tasman have been awarded scholarships to attend Outward Bound thanks to the Mayor’s Taskforce for Jobs (MTFJ).

This is a national partnership dedicated to supporting young people into employment, training, and personal development opportunities.

The Outward Bound scholarships offer a unique chance for rangatahi to step outside their comfort zones, develop resilience, build confidence, and gain life skills through outdoor challenge and adventure.

Thanks to the strong MTFJ-Outward Bound partnership and the addition of the more accessible eight-day Wakatipu programme, more young people than ever are able to benefit from this life-changing experience.

We’re proud to celebrate the scholarship recipients from Tasman. Kade Hewitt and George Cockfield from Murchison, Ella Brereton, Luka Johnson, Hannah Roborgh and Jenny Willers all from Motueka, and Emily Hadicke and Aynsley Thorpe from Golden Bay.

Tasman’s outstanding achievement in securing eight of the 14 scholarships nationwide, each valued at $3,500, is particularly impressive given the high number of applications Outward Bound received across the country.

This success highlights the vital importance of our ongoing involvement in the Mayor’s Taskforce for Jobs.

# Taiwan cherry – from garden beauty to ecological threat

Our campaign to tackle the invasive Taiwan cherry (Prunus campanulata) continues to gain momentum. It’s good to see more people understanding the serious ecological risk this species poses.

We want to take a moment to thank everyone who has supported our efforts so far. Because of your cooperation, there are now no known Taiwan cherry trees south of Kohatu – a major milestone and testament to the progress we’ve made.

But our work isn’t over yet – under the Nelson-Tasman Regional Pest Management Plan, Taiwan cherry is targeted for eradication.

Originally sold by nurseries for its decorative value, and often mistakenly marketed as sterile, Taiwan cherry has proven to be highly invasive.

From late July to early September, it produces thousands of bright pink flowers that attract pollinators. Birds such as waxeyes, starlings, blackbirds, and kererū then eat the fruit and disperse the seeds widely through their droppings.

The seedlings are shade-tolerant and fast-growing, allowing them to invade native forests and scrublands. Once established, they outcompete native species, disturb natural regeneration, and alter ecosystems. Seedlings form deep roots, making manual removal difficult, while mature trees require chemical treatment to prevent regrowth.

If you planted a Taiwan cherry on your property before 2019, our Biosecurity team will remove it at no cost, and reimburse up to $75 for a suitable replacement tree.

If you spot a Taiwan cherry tree or need assistance with removal, please contact us on 03 543 8400 or biosecurity@tasman.govt.nz.

# Funds available to help following floods

Last week, Central Government announced a further $300,000 contribution to our Mayoral Relief Fund.

Thanks to this and their initial $100,000 kick start, and donations of around $127,000 from the community, the Mayoral Relief Fund now sits at around $527,000.

This fund will help residents access funds to deal with issues in the immediate term following the recent severe weather events.

If you would like to donate to the Nelson-Tasman Mayoral Relief Fund, please deposit funds into the Tasman District Council bank account: 12-3193-0002048-00. Name: Tasman District Council. Please use the reference “Mayoral Relief Fund”.

For residents who want to apply for the fund, please fill out the form at tasman.govt.nz/mayoral-relief-fund by Friday 8 August.

The fund is open to Nelson City and Tasman District residents, ratepayers or not-for-profit organisations who have suffered financial hardship because of the June/July flood events.

Financial hardship is different for everyone. This may include things such as difficulty paying for your essential living costs (such as food, medication, and accommodation), or difficulty paying for additional costs that may not be paid for by your insurer (for example, clean up and disposal of goods).

The fund provides assistance on a one-off basis for extraordinary circumstances, where real need can be shown. It is a last resort measure when people have exhausted other appropriate sources.

The aim is that these grants go some way towards helping alleviate the emotional and financial stress experienced by individuals and families due to the June/July 2025 flood events.

# Golden Bay Community Board

We held our July Community Board meeting at the fire station in Collingwood. We are very grateful to the Collingwood Volunteer Fire Brigade for making this space available for us to use.

We are pleased to be able to bring our meetings to this side of the Bay to make them more accessible to residents out west. Our next meeting in Collingwood is on 15 September – we encourage any residents to contact us ahead of time if they would like to speak on any topic at the public forum.

The recent wild weather has once again brought our vulnerabilities as an isolated community into sharp focus. We would like to extend our thanks to the teams that work tirelessly to repair and maintain our critical infrastructure through these events. You can see information on rainfall, river levels, and road closures on the Council’s website.

Also of concern was damage to the fibre optic cable which resulted in large parts of Golden Bay being without communication for an extended period of time. The Board is seeking a report on how we might mitigate future communication outages.

And a final note to residents, the current triennium is drawing to a close, with local body elections to be held on Saturday 11 October. If you are considering standing for a role on the Community Board or as a Councillor, be sure to submit your nomination by noon on Friday 1 August. Local democracy thrives on participation!

# What’s On In Tasman

### Mohua Repair Café

Sunday 27 July,1.00 pm, Golden Bay Community Hall.

A repair café offers repairs to reduce waste and help the environment. Bring your broken items to be assessed and hopefully repaired by a friendly team of volunteers. A small koha is requested to help cover costs.

### Seniors, stay safe online session

Tuesday 29 July, 10.00 am, Motueka Over 50s Social Hub.

Worried about online scams or unsure what apps are safe? We’re here to help! Join us for a friendly and informative morning all about online safety for older adults. You’ll hear easy-to-understand presentations on common scams and how to spot them, and get one-on-one support with your phone or tablet – like removing unwanted apps or fixing tech issues. Free to attend.

### WRITE writing festival

Saturday 23 and Sunday 24 August, 10.00 am – 4.00 pm, Motueka Library.

This writing festival features eight workshops to encourage and stimulate people to write. Find your voice, practise different writing styles and techniques, and find out what makes writing successful.

Learn about the self-publishing process, writing memoirs and how to negotiate culture in writing. Programmes will be available from 20 July through the Motueka Library, the Motueka Arts Council and WHAM, the Motueka Library writing group. Workshops are free but must be booked in advance at Motueka Library.

### Second Hand Sunday

Sunday 17 August, 9.00 am – 2.00 pm.

Second Hand Sunday is a fun way for Nelson and Tasman residents to declutter and re-home unwanted household goods for free. If you have items you want to give away, simply register online before 10.00 am Friday 15 August to be included on the list of participating addresses. Print off a poster to put on your mailbox and put your items on your driveway at 9.00 am on the day.

A list and map of participating addresses will be available to download from 12.00 pm Friday 15 August. Check out the map to plan your fossicking route and pick up some free second-hand items!

For more information and to sign up, go to tasman.govt.nz/shs.

### It’s on in Nelson Tasman

To keep up with events happening across the region, visit nelsontasman.nz/events.

# Newsline Notices

### Don’t forget your dog rego

All dogs in Tasman need to be registered every year. Any dogs that are still unregistered and unpaid on 1 August will incur a 50% penalty fee. These fees help cover the cost of all dog-related services in Tasman. Visit tasman.govt.nz/dog-registration.

### Vegetation control – roadside spraying

#### Roadside spraying on local roads

We are responsible for the chemical and mechanical control of vegetation within the road reserve. The chemical control is split into two main activities, the control of vegetation around roading infrastructure and dealing with invasive pest plant species.

This includes the use of knock-down and residual herbicides to remove problematic vegetation growing in the road reserve and around street furniture. The active herbicides authorised under our resource consent are norflurazon, oryzalin, simazine, terbuthylazine, glyphosate, metsulfuron, haloxyfop, triclopyr and picloram/triclopyr. Methods for treatment are foliar and basal spraying.

Residents can request that their rural or peri-rural property frontage not be chemically sprayed and instead complete the vegetation control themselves. If you wish to apply for your property to be added to the ‘no spray’ list, please contact Nikki Shepherd on 03 543 7234 or nikki.shepherd@tasman.govt.nz.

#### Roadside spraying on state highways

NZ Transport Agency Waka Kotahi contractors have an ongoing vegetation control programme to ensure roadside vegetation does not affect the safety or operation of state highways.

This programme includes the spraying of chemical herbicides including the following active ingredients: Glyphosate, metsulfuron, terbuthylazine and triclopyr. These sprays are applied from a vehicle via a mechanical arm or boom, or a handheld device.

You can register your property as a ‘no spray’ zone, which requires a commitment to maintain a property’s highway frontage to specifications provided by NZTA, by contacting Luke Atherton on 03 903 2473 or luke.atherton@wsp.com.

### Alcohol applications

Visit tasman.govt.nz/alcohol-notices to see the latest alcohol licence applications.

### Rates rebates

Due to staff supporting the response and recovery efforts, and the Government’s changes to increase eligibility, the processing of rates rebates applications may take longer than usual this year.

### Rural sports funding open

Live rural and need a little help participating in sports? The Sport NZ Rural Travel Fund offers help with travel costs for rural sports clubs and rural school teams. The fund helps young people aged 5 – 19 participate in local sports competitions. This round of funding closes Friday 31 October. Head to tasman.govt.nz/grants for more information and to apply.

### Proposed temporary road closure

Applicant: Westland Car Club  
Event: Rally Sprint  
Location: Matakitaki Road between 1.48km – 11.48km.  
Date and time: Saturday 6 December 2025, from 7.00 am – 7.00 pm.

Objections close 5.00 pm, Friday 5 September 2025. Please send any objections to tania.brown@tasman.govt.nz.

### Council hui

Meetings will take place in person and via Zoom. For details, the Zoom link and recordings of previous meetings visit tasman.govt.nz/meetings-calendar. Unless otherwise stated, all meetings will be held at the Council Chamber,   
189 Queen Street, Richmond.

Submissions Hearing (Draft Richmond Ward Reserve Management Plan Hearing and Deliberations)  
Tuesday 29 July, 9.30 am.

Nelson Tasman Civil Defence Emergency Management Group  
Wednesday 30 July, 9.30 am.

Chief Executive Officer Review Subcommittee  
Wednesday 30 July, 1.00 pm. No public forum.

Tasman District Council  
Thursday 31 July, 9.30 am.

Golden Bay Community Board  
Monday 4 August, 1.00 pm, Tākaka Office, 78 Commercial Street.

Saxton Field Committee  
Wednesday 6 August, 9.30 am.

Creative Communities Subcommittee  
Wednesday 6 August, 10.00 am, Motueka Library, Wallace Street. No public forum.

Strategy and Policy Committee  
Thursday 7 August. 9.30 am.