

## Mayoral Relief Fund Criteria and Process – February 2023 extreme weather events

**Fund opened:** Thursday 24 February 2023

**Fund closes:** 5.00pm Monday 3 April 2023

### 1 Background

The Kaipara District Council Mayoral Relief Fund (the fund) has been established to assist residents and ratepayers most severely affected by the February 2023 extreme weather events.

The fund is made up of contributions from the Government and donations from private parties. The fund can only be used to assist those severely affected by February 2023 extreme weather events.

The local authority (Council) has discretion in setting its own criteria for how the funds are disbursed.

### 2 Purpose

The fund provides assistance on a one-off basis for extraordinary circumstances, where real hardship can be shown. The fund is a last resort measure when other financial means are not available.

Other funding sources available for those impacted by Cyclone Gabrielle are as follows:

- **Ministry of Social Development (MSD) Civil Defence Payments:** These are available for people affected by Cyclone Gabrielle and other February 2023 extreme weather events in the Northland Region. Payments cover the costs of food, bedding, clothing, accommodation, or loss of income. Applications are made by phone on 0800 400 100.
- **Private Insurance:** The applicant should contact their insurer to see whether their situation is covered or not.
- **Other Government Agencies:** Some other government agencies, including the Ministry for Primary Industries are offering financial support or assistance.

It is intended that these grants go some way towards helping alleviate the emotional and financial stress experienced by individuals and families impacted by February 2023 extreme weather events.

### 3 Scope

The fund can only be used to assist those who have been severely impacted by February 2023 extreme weather events. The fund cannot be used for anything else.

Examples of how the fund can be used, for impacts as a result of February 2023 extreme weather events:

- Dealing with septic tank overflow.
- Filling water tanks.
- Clearing debris and flood damaged items from properties.
- Supporting individuals/families faced with hardship as a result of an emergency.
- Koha to a marae, team or individual who assisted in clean-up at their expense – for example a local rugby team that helps out.
- Refreshments for organisations/people (such as marae and community organisations) who help with clean-up.
- Conducting repairs on properties that are not covered by insurance.
- Assisting people with basic needs – clothes, bedding etc where the individual/family does not have the capacity to buy their own insurance cover (and it has not been covered by the MSD Civil Defence payment or other payments).
- Small businesses impacted by February 2023 extreme weather events.
- Replacement of articles that cannot be insured by people – for example footpaths etc. **Note** that the Ministry for Primary Industries has a grant available for farmers and growers to assist in clean-up and recovery, including fences.
- Payment of insurance excess.

## 4 Eligibility Criteria

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The fund is open to affected individuals, families, community organisations, businesses and marae.

In order to be eligible for the fund:

- Applicants must be experiencing hardship because of the February 2023 extreme weather events.
- Applicants are, or were at the time, a permanent resident (owner or occupier), ratepayer, or owner of a business within the Kaipara district at the time of the February 2023 extreme weather events.
- Applicants must not be eligible for any other funding assistance from other sources for the same items.
- Applicants must not have been provided funding assistance from other sources for the same items.
- Only one application will be considered per household.

The applicant may be asked to provide evidence that the funds they are applying for relates to financial hardship incurred as a result of the February 2023 extreme weather events.

Council is in the process of working with MSD and other government agencies to ensure funding is provided by the appropriate source.

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## 5 Application Process

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Applicants must complete the Mayor Relief Fund application form and then submit the completed application to [mayoralrelieffund@kaipara.govt.nz](mailto:mayoralrelieffund@kaipara.govt.nz) by 5.00pm, Monday 3 April 2023. Applications will be assessed by the Kaipara District Council recovery team.

Applicants will be advised of the outcome of their application within five (5) working days of application.

The application form requires individuals to provide personal information in order to process the application. Council will meet its legislative obligations under the Privacy Act 2020.

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## 6 Reporting and Records

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NEMA requires the following information from Council, in relation to Government contributions to the Mayoral Relief Fund (Source: [Disaster Relief Factsheet](#)):

- Report on expenditure within six months of receiving the fund. Any unspent monies must be returned to the Crown.
- Provide a high-level report which outlines how funds were spent and the rationale.

Kaipara District Council must maintain the following records:

- Consolidated register of applications which records the applicant details and decision made by the panel.
- All applications and supporting documentation submitted.
- Record of Decision documents.