

Frequently Asked Questions

MANAWAHE ROAD - FLOODING

Why isn't Whakatāne District Council pumping the area?

While continued pumping at this site is not sustainable, Council will commence pumping the floodwaters in an effort to reinstate safe access across the flooded section of Manawahe Road. This is a short-term interim solution. We have concerns about the longevity of this option, particularly if we continue to get more heavy rain, however re-instating access is a priority as Manawahe Road is an important route. While the emergency pumping occurs, we will continue to investigate more enduring/sustainable short term solutions, and a long-term resilient solution to this issue and will keep you updated with how this is progressing.

What is Whakatāne District Council doing about flood affected properties?

Council has worked closely with the owners of the properties with the flooded houses and provided relevant evidence to support their insurance claims.

When is the road going to be open again?

We will lower the floodwater by pumping to a depth whereby the road will be safely navigable (less than 300mm of surface water). Once the water level has been lowered, we will inspect the surface of the road and, assuming it is sound, the road can be re-opened with caution under reduced speed restrictions. We will also monitor floodwater levels over the next few days and then review whether or not further pumping is required.

At this stage we are unsure how long it will take to lower the water down to a level where we are able to inspect the road. However, we will keep you updated with this.

My property is flooded, can I have a rates remission?

Details of our [Rates Remission for a Unit Affected by Natural Calamity](#) policy can be found online. Applications can be made through this policy and will be considered if they meet the appropriate criteria.

Why hasn't Mclvor Road been fixed?

Mclvor Road continues to be used as a detour. Vegetation control has been completed, and pre-grading work has also been done. Re-metaling of the road is underway (approximately 1200T out of the 3500T programmed has been placed). This work will continue for another week. Within some of the shaded areas of the road, the metal is quite wet, so caution is needed when driving.

The level of maintenance and service to the road will increase due to the expected increase in traffic. We continue to look into what further improvement options for the road are achievable, particularly given the vulnerability of SH30 at Rotomā.

Why wasn't the issue sorted when the flooding started last year?

Last year the flooding did not threaten the Council road. It was confined to private land and therefore the property owner's responsibility to manage.

Prolonged bad weather has seen the water level continue to rise and covered the road surface around the 18 kilometre mark in early May. The road was closed on 12th May 2023 for safety reasons. The water level at the deepest point on the road is approximately 500mm on the inside of the corner and 350mm on the outside. The water level has not significantly dropped since the road closure.

What are you doing?

Council has assembled a dedicated team to work promptly on the practical options available in both the short and long term. This group includes representatives from Bay of Plenty Regional Council, Waka Kotahi, engineering specialists, Rotorua Lakes Council and Kawerau District Council. We are working to first identify the cause of the issue to help inform any long-term solutions. We will continue to keep you updated with our findings and plans.