



**Statement from Koromatua - Mayor Nándor Tánzos,  
Whakatāne District Council  
24 January, 2026**

*On behalf of the Whakatāne District, I extend our deepest condolences to our neighbours in Mount Maunganui and across the wider Western Bay following the tragic loss of lives in the landslides at Mauao and Pāpāmoa.*

*We grieve for those who have passed, for their whānau and loved ones here in Aotearoa New Zealand, and for the communities now carrying this profound loss.*

*We also acknowledge with deep sorrow those lost who came from other countries. Our thoughts are with all who are grieving, near and far.*

*There are no words that can ease such heartbreak.*

*We acknowledge the tireless and challenging work of emergency responders, recovery teams, local iwi, council staff and volunteers. You have carried out your duties with dignity under immensely difficult circumstances, and we thank you for your service during this painful time.*

*To Tauranga City Council, Western Bay District Council and the people of Mount Maunganui, Whakatāne District stands alongside you in solidarity. We share in your sorrow and hold you in our thoughts as you support one another through the days and weeks ahead.*

*E rere ana ngā whakaaro me te aroha ki a koutou i tēnei wā pōuri. E pūkatokato ana te ngākau, e kōrengarenga ana te puna roimata mō rātau kua riro atu rā.  
Kia tau te rangimārie ki runga i ngā whānau me ngā hapori whānui.*