

FLOOD MEETING
MINUTES**MEETING:**

Wednesday 20 June, 5pm
Reynolds Hall, Tolaga Bay

ATTENDED BY:

Approximately 150 community members, Council staff, Councillor Pat Seymour, Media, Ministry of Social Development rep, Rural Support Trust coordinator, Chair Uawanui Committee.

PANEL:

- Council Chief Executive, Nedine Thatcher Swann
- Director Community Lifelines, David Wilson
- Director Environmental Services and Protection, Nick Zaman
- General Manager Tairāwhiti Roads, Dave Hadfield
- Science Manager, Lois Easton
- Uawa-Tāwhiti Councillor, Pat Seymour
- Civil Defence Emergency Manager, Louise Bennett
- Civil Defence Recovery Coordinator, Patrick Willock
- Eastland Wood Council Chief Executive, Kim Holland
- Ernslaw One rep and Eastland Wood Council Chair, Iain McInnes
- Hikurangi Forest Farms rep, Ian Brown
- PF Olsen rep, Warren Rance

**KARAKIA/ WAIATA
MIHI**

Whitiaua Ropitini opened the meeting at 5pm.
Victor Walker welcomed everyone on behalf of the community.

INTRODUCTION

Nedine Thatcher Swann gave an introduction.
Expressed sadness for the impact large scale rain event has had on people and the environment.
Council and forestry were here to answer the questions of the community and provide commitment to actions going forward.
Not all questions could be answered as an active investigation was underway.
Assured that council was doing all in its capacity to be responsive as possible to the needs of the community.
Civil Defence Emergency Management responsible for looking after people, in warning, responding to and recovering from events.
Team of investigators underway with assessment.
We're looking into the full picture of how we can support and how central government can support too.
Want to hear from the community the issues that we need to be aware of.
Aware of Council's regulatory role and role in wellbeing of the community.

COMMENTARY

ACTION REQUIRED

1. FORESTRY COMPANIES INVOLVED

Hana Walker: Who were the companies involved? Does GDC have involvement with these blocks/ownership of the trees. Were landowners here?

Response: Nick Zaman: Companies involved are PF Olsen, Ernslaw One, Hikurangi Forest Farms and one other smaller block. Companies were represented on the Panel. GDC isn't involved with these forests but some trees were planted under the East Coast Catchment Board subsidised scheme.

2. RESPONSIBILITY FOR DEBRIS

Hana Walker: Who's responsible? This has been coming. Those responsible need to send in gangs to clean up and pay for it. We don't want any more pine trees.

Response: No further response provided.

Question to answer – who's responsible

3. RESPONSIBILITY FOR DEBRIS / FORESTRY PRACTICES

Des McGrannachan: Lived by the river for 30 years. Forestry practices disgraceful. An accident waiting to happen. Skid sites are left a mess, poorly put together. They (forestry companies) all know about it. No one is accepting responsibility. Pollen and trucks have an impact. Don't want excuses, stop arguing the point and fix it.

Response: No response provided.

Question to answer – who's responsible

4. SAFETY OF PEOPLE

Resident: We were lucky there was no loss of life. Very thankful for that.

Response: No response required.

Education on preparing for natural disasters

5. SAFETY OF PEOPLE

Kerehama Blackman: Want communication to people downstream on the flats. Are we safe?

Response: Nick Zaman: I can't talk about the investigation, however in terms of safety Council can't give that 100% assurance, it could happen again.

Kerehama Blackman: We pay rates and you can't tell us that we're safe? We can see the logs left on hills above houses, It's obvious where they're going? Are you monitoring and are you regulating it?

Response: Nick Zaman: We want to assure you that we take this investigation very seriously. I can't comment on this ongoing investigation, what I can say in general terms where we find significant non-compliance on any activity there's an option for us to take a prosecution. As we go through any process, when we find something that needs fixing we will issue notices for what needs to be done to make that safe. That's what I can assure you of. I can't assure you of what's going to happen if we have a big event. We do have systems in place in terms of warnings, but that's what we're here for to make sure this never happens again.

Provide information on risk

Provide information on monitoring and regulation

6. SAFETY OF RIVERS

Susie TeRure Puha: Kids jump off bridges in summer. This needs to be addressed before then or will you pay for lifeguards at the school pool? Forestry was sold to us for employment, but slash is not managed well. The Wood Council need to ensure its cleaned up, made safe for the community. Was involved in the meeting in 2014 and aware of the investigation done by Council with school that found it is forestry slash on beaches, is it your responsibility to manage resource consent to make sure it doesn't get there.

Response: Lois Easton / Nick Zaman: Study done by Council with the school found 70% of wood on the beach was forestry slash. We have changed policy to increase monitoring of all industries and the ability to charge to do that monitoring, more regulatory requirements are in our Freshwater Plan. Work is underway with forestry companies to meet regulation and educate about practices. Time to hear from forestry what they're doing about this?

Provide information on risk

Provide information on monitoring and regulation

7. PREPARED FOR FLOODING

Resident: Understand we can't control nature. But we've had previous floods, shouldn't there be a programme for responding to floods?

Response: No response provided.

Provide information on recovery plan

8. RESPONSIBILITY FOR COSTS

Bruce Jefferd: They own the logs and profits that are sent overseas, they also own the slash left on the beach. The mess belongs to them. We don't want Council to pay it should be those forests.

Response: No response required.

Question to answer – who's responsible

Question to answer – who pays

9. ALTERNATIVE USE FOR SLASH

Jessie Thatcher: Why are the gates locked? Why can't we go in to get wood?

Response: Ian Brown: There are health and safety considerations. There may be more opportunities for organised collections for firewood.

Forestry to identify access for firewood

10. IMPACT TO BEACHES

Johnathan Thatcher: The impact to beaches will impact camping and tourism. When will it be cleaned up? More logs still at sea, will impact kaimoana. A number of logs at sea will keep coming in and all around our coastline.

Response: Ian Brown: Forestry have started cleaning at wharf end and will be continuing this week with another contractor. Will be sending machinery to help clear roads. Have pulled that machinery off the beach to assist with roads. More resources sent in the next few days. We're aware it impacts the kaimoana.

Question to answer – when will beach be cleared.

11. IMPACT TO ROADS / ALTERNATIVE ROUTES

Des McGrannachan: Roads are costing ratepayers more because of impact of trucks. No benefits of profits going back into local roads. Why don't they build and pay for their own roads through the forestry blocks? Would Council accept the recommendation to put a road out there and take off the main road?

Response: Nedine Thatcher Swann: Presentation came to Council committee, would require a large scale assessment of impacts, engagement and consultation, time to go through, and funding towards. There is no Council funding towards investigating and no decision on an alternative route.

Resident encouraged to submit to the LTP

12. CONSENT MONITORING

Bob Jackman: There are more than 3500 consents, 1250 are active forestry. Does council have sufficient staff to monitor consents and what frequency? Do you monitor?

Response: Nedine Thatcher Swann: Yes staff have monitoring role. Previously how our staffing was organised was best, how we're organised now, yes we can still monitor those consents, that's our function.

Response: Nick Zaman: In terms of regional consenting we have 3 staff to monitor all consents. Policy has changed and charges are coming into effect to be able to charge back for monitoring and to get more staff. We're in recruitment process. Part of monitoring is onus on companies as consent holders to report how they are complying and ensure staff comply and are following best practice.

Bob Jackman: Are you relying on forestry self-monitoring? Is the level of staffing insufficient?

Response: Nick Zaman: No it is part of monitoring.

Response: Nedine Thatcher Swann: Although there are 1250 consents doesn't mean we need to visit every forest every week, sometime requirement is annually. Staff to monitor is managed over time. It's not a weekly visit.

Bob Jackman: Are you suggesting you've been understaffed?

Response: Nedine Thatcher Swann: The number of consents in the last year or so has increased substantially and will increase in future. More staff resources are needed to monitor sufficiently into the future.

Bob Jackman: If council's monitoring capacity is compromised, should you then be investigating or should central government? Seems council is implicit in the responsibility for this event.

Response: Nedine Thatcher Swann: We are absolutely undertaking the investigation.

Provide information on monitoring
Question to answer – who's responsible

13. IMPACT ON BEACHES

Susie TeRure Puha: Will Council also be investigating effects on kaimoana of all the sediment in rivers / sea? In conjunction with the community with Uawanui and the school, we are devastated to see logs taken out and sat on sediment? How fast will this investigation happen and when do we know what we can and can't collect?

Response: Nick Zaman: Yes we'll be investigating effects on environment.

Question to answer – effects on kaimoana,
ecology of waterways and when it will be done

14. IMPACT ON BEACHES

Kerehama Blackman: How will the beaches be cleaned up? Every year it happens. Has been buried before and is unsafe, or stacked up. Driveway by the wharf has been cleared but others will be picked up, logs get washed out and back in at high tide. Boaties use the river too, but there's no diggers over there.

Response: Lois Easton: Yes we'll likely burn off to get rid of all the wood, and want them out of the sea as soon as possible, so they can have time to dry. Will not be burying it.

Question to answer – when will beaches be
cleaned and how

15. MEDIA REPORTING

Kim Cranswick: Seen several adverse events in 58 years, seen bad farming practices resulted willow washed down. Large tracks cut and end up down the river. Large industry on the coast because incentivised in 80s for employment, and stability after Bola. Top soil was stripped off after Bola, if trees weren't planted what would it look like today. Who controls the media, this has been sensationalised?

Response: Nedine Thatcher Swann: We don't control what they media say, but we do put out our own information to the media. The public can also contact the media freely we have no control over this.

16. FORESTRY PRACTICE

Shaun Mitchell: Mine was one of the families heavily affected by flood, we lost everything. Have been part of the forestry for 20 years. Improvement is required. There has been some improvement to slash management. What's coming down is wood that's left on hills, not what is handled. Every forest owner around Mangahaeia knows all those rivers lead to here. Offshore owners need to put more money into cleaning up practices, more catchers. Message to forestry companies to clean up. Let's get together as a community, it does provide employment for generations, but need to get it together.

Response: No response provided

Forestry identify practices for improvement
Identify work programme for clean up with community

17. ENVIRONMENT PLANS

Mere Tamanui: Are whanau / Hapu environment plans valid? How can they help?

Response: Lois Easton: Yes they are. We really want to work with whanau/ Uawanui Centre of Excellence to identify impact on environment and actions going forward to improve the environment. Currently only 2 iwi plans mandated.

Mere Tamanui: Council is working on Joint Management Agreement for monitoring mechanisms, could Council work with Uawanui to implement something like that? Do plans provide a legal platform?

Response: Lois Easton: Yes we would be keen to work with you on that. Yes plans are given status under the RMA. Any iwi or hapu can make a management plan and they have effect on resource consents and regional plan making.

Work with Uawanui on identifying impacts, plans and actions

18. ANAURA BAY

Linda Tatara: Hikurangi Forest Farms are coming to Anaura have started some discussions few years ago. Have had GDC staff member say slash on the beach is normal. This is the first time ever we've had slash on our beach, we have photographs. We've drafted a land use document and are disappointed HFF said they would not plant natives unless legislated. Will GDC investigate what's considered normal on the beach? Will Hikurangi Forest Farms come to discuss before the harvest gets to our bay?

Response: Ian Brown: Not aware of the comment of planting native, we are keen on consultation. Yes happy to talk to you and have had contact with your representative. Understand the sensitivity of the area. Harvesting in that area north first but will definitely consult before harvesting south.

Response: Lois Easton: Will look at normal on beaches in Tairāwhiti in our assessment, we'll be looking at the effect of this on Anaura. We would be keen to work with you around that.

HFF to meet with Anaura (Pa) regarding harvest consent.

Complete an environmental assessment on beach at Anaura.

19. WAIPARE BLOCK

Bridget Parker: Affected farmer in the district. Has the harvest started at the Waipare block?

Response: Ian Brown: No

Bridget Parker: Will these events have effect on the consent, are they robust enough? Understand some of the neighbours would like to relook at the recommendations around the consent. Would you be open to reviewing the consent with neighbours?

Response: Ian Brown: Unaware of any objections to that consent but we will comply with the conditions.

20. FORESTRY SLASH REPORT

Bridget Parker: How many of you are aware of the report commissioned in October 2017 Cyclone Cook slash investigation in the Mangatokerau catchment. How many have read it?

Forestry to take report to owners

Response: Nedine Thatcher Swann: (Hands raised by Nedine, David Wilson, Lois Easton, Nick Zaman) Yes Council staff members put together the report.

Response: Lois Easton: Acknowledge we've had a number of these events aware of issues in 2014. Investigation began in 2015 following the storm in the Whareratas, to determine what and how these events are happening, the land types. During this work we've made changes to resource consent conditions. Consents issued in the last year are very different to 2 – 5years ago. We will learn again and ensure that consents are capturing what we can to avoid affects changes will be applied to future resource consents.

Bridget Parker: Ask the Wood Council and Forestry representatives to pass this report on to owners. Confirm they have provided it to them and take in what it says about the effect on community and environment. It outlines that this was always going to happen. Report has been done, suggestion not to waste any more money on investigation.

21. FORESTRY SLASH IMPACT

Shaun Mitchell: Is this happening in other areas? Are there solutions from other regional council.

Response: Lois Easton: Yes. Nelson had a similar event we are discussing with Nelson, Marlborough and Horizons councils about how they're dealing with impacts. So there are other across the country also facing this issue.

Shaun Mitchell: Let's learn from them.

Provide information on issue across the country

22. COMMUNITY COMMUNICATION

Kerehama Blackman: Will the council have a follow up hui? Can you come back and tell us how we're going to be kept safe? How it'll be regulated? How will workers be looked after? How long will it take to clean the beach up and repair the damage?

Response: Nedine Thatcher Swann: Yes we will come back to the community on the immediate issues soon, and wider environmental impacts after the investigation in 3 months' time. We'll engage with landowners and farms on access and funding assistance, Taskforce Green and local labour, riparian planting and restoration of waterways. Pulling together a number of streams of work and want community to feed into that.

Questions to answer – (see comments)

23. ALTERNATIVE USE OF SLASH

Lily Stender: This is not an isolated issue, forestry occurs around the world. Are there examples of solutions already in place. Can clean-up crews be brought in after that are skilled, bring out the wood, utilize the wood, overseas they are doing these social enterprise schemes?

Response: No response provided.

24. RESPONSIBILITY FOR COSTS

Hana Walker: Can I ask who pays for Taskforce Green?

Response: Nedine Thatcher Swann: It comes from central government as part of the declaration of the medium-scale adverse event, they fund this.

Hana Walker: What about forestry companies paying for some?

Response: Ian McInnes: Our crews are available to neighbouring farms to assist clean-up.

Hana Walker: We would like to encourage you to go back and pay our boys to clean-up.

25. SAFETY OF PEOPLE/ IMPACT OF SLASH

Des McGrannachan: Can forestry companies assure us it won't happen again? Based on what you do in your forests, that you'll do everything in your power to stop this happening.

Response: Ian Brown: We can't control the weather, but we've improved our practices and will continue to improve them. We'll be looking at our practices and council will be looking at our practices, but can't guarantee.

Linda Tatare: What other industry is allowed to leave their waste on the land untreated?

Response from the floor: Farms

Response: Lois Easton: I would agree with the audience, animal waste is allowed to be left on the land as well. That's forming part of the conversation around the country on water quality. That's an issue.

Resident: Do forestry companies have a current plan so it won't happen again – anything new that you will be implementing?

Response: Ian Brown: We're continually improving, it's a process. Always looking at better ways of doing things, that take place over time.

Response: Kim Holland: 30 years ago it was a good idea to plant the Pine and since we're continually looking to improve what we do. NZ Forest Owner Association are involved in this conversation and with Federated Farmers are meeting. The new Government are supportive and developed forestry advisory group to look at this and we welcome working with council on the investigation into consents. We don't want to impact environment or communities we employ whanau here. The Government has released new national environment standards and Council's Freshwater Plan will align to these standards. We certainly acknowledge the impact of the devastation, we can look at it from a big picture and what we can do to mitigate the effects.

Provide information on improvements to forestry practices

26. IMPACT OF RAIN

Jack Kuru: Impact on workers is not because of the slash because of the rain that closed roads. Council issue resource consent we've worked under, we do work according to consents. Everything can be done according to consent and it can still come down. Don't believe they (Council/ Forestry) all responsible. The rain did this.

Response: No response required.

27. ASSISTANCE WITH CLEAN UP

Hana Walker: Councillor Pat Seymour will continue to push these issues for our community. Is it possible to save money from Shane Jones and the project with the Port? Can something from the Port be put towards the clean up? Specifically Tolaga Bay beach for the 2019 celebration. So can we look at that before we go any further with the Billion Trees project, don't give it all to forestry? Don't put it all back into Pine, revert to natives they're more sustainable to manage. There's value from feedback and working with the community to work towards the solution, cooperate and work together with local expertise - more than just this meeting.

Response: Response provide later.

Work with community members for solutions
Approach the Port for support
Identify support from Shane Jones project

28. ASSISTANCE WITH CLEAN UP

Victor Walker: I want to extend an invitation from us, as chair of Uawawui, we've been working on an environmental strategy. We have sought mitigation for a number of things there has been failure of mitigation as a result of the forestry slash in our waterways. While the investigation has to run its course, we want to sit down and discuss how we can keep

Coordinate recovery plan with Uawawui Committee

people safe and prevent future events or provide warning to the best of our ability. Commitment to get together in the next 2-3 weeks to start work.

Response: Response provided later.

29. COMMUNICATION / RESPONSIBILITY FOR COST

Clare Parker: Farming resident. This is second meeting with council, we want a clear roadmap. Three months is too long it's day 17 and we want to have faith in both. We're against poor management by forestry and how it's policed by council. Will forestry be paying public liability to us.

Response: Ian Brown: Insurance companies will be providing that support to farms insured. We're not able to say while an investigation is underway. We can't discuss at this time.

Clare Parker: So should our insurance premiums go up and clients worried because of the risk that forestry have created.

Response: Ian Brown: I can't answer that.

Clare Parker: Do you have public liability?

Response: Ian Brown: I can't answer that either.

Clare Parker: We didn't get an update from Council. We'd like some immediate compensation and help to clean up. Can we get updates, and direct communication by email?

Response: Nedine Thatcher Swann: Yes council would be keen to engage with Uawanui to work on a plan going forward. Agree yes we'll provide a roadmap and using multiple methods to get information across.

Coordinate recovery plan with Uawanui Committee

Provide a roadmap for actions going forward directly

30. ROAD CLOSURE ARAKIHI

Brooke Whakataka: I'm an Arakihi Road resident, just want to know when my family can go home or safe enough?

Response: Dave Hadfield: Unfortunately it's the worst affected road. Can't give a timeframe, there are some parts that are dangerous, especially for a school bus. We're trying to find a compromise, may be able to get to intersection of Tauwhareparae Road. But it's going to take some time. Our website will have the updates. There are some technical challenges.

31. ALTERNATIVE USE FOR SLASH

Ellen Roe: We have homeless in NZ, is some of the wood not recoverable, can it be processed and used?

Response: Warren Rance: Yes a lot of wood is useable. We would need to manage access to get wood in those areas, but yes it's recoverable, but we don't process it.

Ellen Roe: Could you not transport it as a responsible gesture?

32. ROAD CLOSURES

Resident: I don't blame forestry for the roads it was just bad planning Hauiti Road, Sandy Lane is still a one way road. Water created the issues with road closures. The Wood Council took people up there to show the condition, there's no attention to our roads in the township it's a separate issue.

Response: David Wilson: Disagree somewhat, the roads were closed because of fallen trees, collapsed hillsides and scouring under road. Spending money from rates to keep those roads up. Agree they weren't great in the first place and we do need to step up maintenance definitely. Wouldn't been able to do without the local contractors and assistance.

33. MANAGEMENT OF SLASH

Bob Jackman: Debris Management systems are not uncommon, there's many examples of systems around the world, are there not practices we could be using already?

Response: Kim Holland: Yes we are getting advice from other areas and through the NZFOA. They're in the process of putting out information on slash management, it is about learning from where we are and a collective and collaborative approach to solving it. The NZFOA and Scion forestry science research company would be doing that.

34. CLEAN UP OF DEBRIS

Judy Ruru: Is there a clean-up plan from Council and Forestry? Is there a timeframe.

Response: Ian Brown: We are cleaning slash off neighbours property downstream. There's a group responsibility around the beaches. Want to clean up as soon as possible at the moment it's too soggy, and we'll go in when landowners are ready.

Judy Ruru: Does that include riverbanks and mudflats?

Response: Ian Brown: We have a plan for the neighbouring properties.

Question to answer – when are beaches and rivers being cleaned up

35. FORESTRY IMPACT

Scott Funnel: Responsible for land, and I came here for an investment. We're contracted to plant Pine for another season, try to do as sustainable as possible, it was originally put in for environmental reasons. We Lost 63% of pasture cover in Bola. We were participating in what was meant to be an environmental protector. As an industry we need to look at what we can do, burning or cleaning up skids, must be some forward thinking conservation. Encourage forestry to think about it.

Bridget Parker: Scott do you think the trees are an environmental protector though?

Scott Funnel: Our land and river would be worse if something wasn't there. The practice needs to be improved and its essential to their business ongoing and the economics of the coast. Think everyone will work towards that. But 65mm rain at Arakihi not much will stay on the side of a hill anyway.

Bridget Parker: Was it a natural disaster or normal weather event and was it a manmade disaster? That should be the crux of the investigation.

Response: No response required.

36. FUNDING ASSISTANCE

Norm Thomas: Farmer at Whangara. Can Council tell us what are the recommendations going to government going forward for the assistance associated with a medium adverse event? A number of businesses affected and the economic impact in the longer term. How long, and what is the process long term?

Response: David Wilson: Part of the recovery strategy we need to have conversations with everyone affected to assess what the actual damage and costs to ask Government for an amount of funding and type of assistance and for how long. We need people to tell us and fill out the paperwork.

Provide information on recovery and assistance packages

Promote to community to tell us about damage/ assistance needed.

Response: Nedine Thatcher Swann: There's an immediate recovery response and a wider discussion on a review around forestry. It's a wakeup call for the district in terms of an overhaul and the dependency as a region of the direct impacts, on roads, employers, through to the port and ships. What are the longer term economic activities around provincial growth.

37. IMPACT ON BRIDGES

Resident: Does Council have insurance for the impact on bridges? Wigan bridge moved 30cm and huge loads on bridges. Many will be affected and expensive.

Response: David Wilson: We have a package of insurance but not for those bridges Wigan and Mangatokerau because it's cheaper to replace than to insure.

38. MANAGEMENT OF SLASH

Allan Kearns: To the forestry do you know what your procedures and management practices are for slash?

Response: Warren PF Olsen – Yes. Ian Brown HFF - doesn't know our full details. Iain McInnes - Yes do know.

Allan Kearns: How often are skid sites cleared and what erosion plans are in place?

Response: Iain McInnes: We have rules for a skid or a landing, where we need to pull slash away from waterways. A lot is mid-slope, sitting on hillside, when the hill comes down it brings wood with it. Any wood that we've touched shouldn't be able to get into waterways.

39. ROAD CONDITION

Allan Kearns: Gisborne have the worst roads in the country. Not built to a high standard and they're not structured for logging. We're lucky more accidents don't occur. Have seen one road repaired four times, dirt just thrown on, they're never fixed properly.

Response: Dave Hadfield: East Coast roads when compared across the country are the worst because of the geology and a number of other factors, like long haul distances to get metal. Metal in the other parts of the country is better than here, our teams are building roads with material that is not the best for building roads but that's what we have to work with. Statistics say more accidents are caused by young drivers, this is our most serious risk in terms of deaths and serious accidents. Alcohol and speed are the biggest contributors. We agree maintenance can be improved and our contractors are responsible for better repairs. We know this need to be fixed.

40. ALTERNATIVE USE OF SLASH

Mr Thompson: Over fifty years have lived here and never seen logs in a flood this bad. The number and speed logs were coming past my house. What can the slash be made into or used for something?

Response: Ian Brown: Slash left behind, can't really be turned into anything, it's not really any value. It can be chipped some, but the value of chip is low, need to be sold to Kawerau and expensive to transport. Sawdust again not really. We have constructed an optimization plant which means we leave less on the site, there's something that could be done to a limited extent. Boils down to economics how much people will pay for firewood kindling etc.. is uneconomical.

41. COST OF EVENT

Mr Thompson: How much has it cost so far?

Response: David Wilson: There's a briefing on how much it has cost, on Thursday. So far about \$1.5m has been spent just on work to open the roads, about 240 staff are out on the network.

42. IMPACT OF FORESTRY

Kerry Worsnop: Projections are for forestry to increase from 1.6million tonne to 3.2million tonne by 2020. Is it on track to double in the next year? Do we have capacity for that deal with that volume?

Response: Nedine Thatcher Swann: It is likely to go up 6million tonnes over the next 10 years. That's part of the reason why Council is applying to the provincial growth fund for funding roads we are short in some investment in that area and hope the government comes on board. The industry employs 10% of our people and 9% of GDP. The Port has an expansion proposal to increase storage, and wharf operations. There's the potential with iwi and the Port to look at operations further up the Coast.

Kerry Worsnop: To what extent could we expect this to get worse for rivers, road, environment?

Response: David Wilson: Our roads aren't keeping up, so we do need more money from the Government.

Response: Lois Easton: It's difficult to answer, it's likely there will be more of an environmental impact on streams. The Freshwater Plan has proposed additional rules that are targeted at managing that.

43. ROAD CLOSURE ARAKIHI

Burne McNeil: Resident of Arika Road, affected by this event. Seven farms are affected, is Tairawhiti Roads going to start cleaning the culverts and fill in the watertable? Driving stock down the road to the corner to get stock out and there's a bad section where the watertable is.

Response: Dave Hadfield: The impact on that road has been severe, and in particular this drain. We know it's pressing but we can't provide a timeframe, were trying to open the network and it is a priority.

44. RESPONSIBILITY FOR COST

Maui Tangohau: Where does the buck stop – with Council or Central Government? Central Government is not here, when will Council get a response on immediate, short and long term relief?

Response: Louise Bennett: Civil Defence have a recovery action plan with the short term priorities and long term priorities. We're working with MPI and MSD, and our recovery managers.

Maui Tangohau: Understand agencies are working together but how are they coordinating to support the community?

Response: Louise Bennett: We have David Scott from Rural support trust here, he is coordinating support for farms, MSD are here, Patrick and John from Civil Defence are coordinating this.

Response: Anne(?) Ministry of Social Development: We are working with Council and the Rural Support Trust to set up Enhanced Taskforce Green. The other short term relief, we assist those displaced from work with access and refer people to us for income support.

Response: Nedine Thatcher Swann: Clearly there's an engagement process and communication to communities on what's the plan and how we're coordinating. We need to be working together and communicating back in specifically to Tolaga. We are all working together to make sense of the situation. Council is undertaking the investigation and that takes time to determine the best course of action, the recovery group are managing the recovery, our roads are looking at the bid for funding to restore them, but what I'm hearing is more communication around that plan is what's needed to feed back in so you have confidence in us.

Provide information back to the community on the plan, how agencies are working together.

Patrick Willock: Wanted to address the deeper question around long term. Goes back to the example of 30 years ago we thought we had the answers and there's the risk that we think we've got the answers. We're a forgotten part of the country, a large area, low population and little political sway, solutions designed in Wellington with little input from us.

45. IMPACT OF FORESTRY

Maui Tangohau: In 1996 held the East Coast Forestry Expo and at the time, the speaker Dr Patrick Hauiti Aldwell, said there are issues with forestry and one of those addressing the aftermath.

Response: No response required.

46. IMPACT ON BEACHES

Paora Brooking: Will Council be looking at impact on other beaches, specifically Tikapa? I have footage of 7.5km covered in half of it. The community is crying over it.

Response: Lois Easton: Yes we're aware Tikapa and would like to get your footage. Also aware of issues in Waimata and Waioamatatini are areas that we need to assess.

Contact Paora for footage of Tikapa Assess debris at Tikapa

47. FORESTRY IMPACT

Hana Walker: Planting of pine trees needs to stop, we want assurance no trees will be planted next season. We assume planting pine will stop until it's sorted out. What's the plan for the future? We need something more sustainable.

Response: Lois Easton: Yes we would need to look at what is suitable for the land use, in the future. It is important that it is planted because it will be more at risk. We can't assume that planting pine will stop.

48. IMPACT OF SEDIMENT

Mere Tamanui: Is there a risk the impact of sediment on the Hikurangi Shelf?

Response: Lois Easton: There's a lot of work GNS are doing on the Hikurangi Shelf, but 36million tonnes come down the Waipaoa every year, this is a small event compared to wider East Coast.

CONCLUSION

Nedine Thatcher Swann concluded the meeting with actions from here.

We will be continuing our investigation and will report back to the community but that could be up to 6months. Like any other investigation there's a process of evidence to gather.

We will come back and communicate specifically with this community, answer the questions and issues raised, engage with Uawanui committee. Provide a roadmap of actions specific to this community. If needed will provide staff to assist with iwi resource planning.

People are invited to stay and talk with us after the meeting tell us what the issues are for you.

The meeting closed **7.30pm**

Communicate back to community with specific comms outlined here at the meeting, regular updates and after investigation is complete.

Work with Uawanui Committee to develop solutions.

Council staff to assist with iwi resource planning.