



TOITU TAIRĀWHITI

NGATI POROU - TE AITANGA A MAHAKI - RONGOWHAKAATA - NGAI TAMANUHIRI

PANUI

4 MAY 2020

COVID-19- State of our Nation

	Total	Change in last 24 hours
Number of confirmed cases in New Zealand	1,137	1
Number of probable cases	350	-1
Number of confirmed and probable cases	1,487	0
Number of cases currently in hospital	4	-4
Number of cases currently in hospital	9	2
Number of recovered cases	1,276	10
Number of deaths	20	0

The Ministry of Health today announced New Zealand has no new cases of COVID-19 in the past 24 hours. There are no additional deaths to report. Of our cases, 1,276 are reported as recovered – an increase of 10 on yesterday. 86% of all confirmed and probable cases are now considered as recovered. Director-General of Health Dr Ashley Bloomfield said, “these were encouraging figures”. But today is one moment in time, the real test will come later this week as we factor in the incubation period of this virus. That is when we will be able to consider any new cases which might emerge in the community because of the step from Level 4 to Level 3.

We cannot afford to squander all the hard work and effort of the past weeks. We saw at the weekend that it can be easy to start slackening off. We need to maintain discipline, continue pushing on and sustain the advantage we have fought so hard for."

TOITU TAIRAWHITI

Rau Tipu Rau Ora (Tairawhiti COVID-19 Response and Recovery Plan)

The Toitu Tairawhiti Chairs participated in the Rau Tipu Rau Ora Governance group discussion on the preparation of the Regional Response and Recovery Plan on Friday. The Draft Vision for Rau Tipu Rau Ora is *Tairawhiti households, whanau, commerce, essential services, and communities **stand strong together** in the face of the immediate and long-term impacts of the Global Pandemic, COVID-19.*

The five focus areas of Rau Tipu Rau Ora are

- Community Recovery – coordination of support for physical and psycho-social health of our whanau and local communities
- Economic Recovery - investment and support to businesses, workers, employment opportunities and associated training pathways.
- Built Environment Recovery - housing and infrastructure needs.
- Natural Environment Recovery – Biodiversity, and a circular economy approach
- Our Future – tailored communication, funding, finance, research, governance, coordination, and project management of Rau Tipu Rau Ora key initiatives.

In preparing Rau Tipu Rau Ora we have drawn on existing regional documents including;

- Tairawhiti 2050.
- Tairawhiti Economic Action Plan.
- Manaaki Tairawhiti Plans and Priorities.
- Sector/agency and iwi plans
- COVID-19 lessons (forestry, Lock Down, available data)

The Rau Tipu Rau Ora Governance group is hoping to have the draft Response and Recovery Plan completed within the next fortnight, at which stage Toitu Tairawhiti and other members of the governance group will socialise the plan with whanau, hapu and iwi/Maori organisations across Tairawhiti.

Once Rau Tipu Rau Ora has been communicated to our communities the Governance group will present the plan to Central Government, key Ministers and Senior Officials, to inform them of our vision, focus, outcomes sought and key actions. We want to impress upon Central Government that we have a plan that is responsive to our circumstances and needs, builds on our strengths, and provides a response and recovery roadmap for Tairawhiti. The next step will be to identify how we can work with Central Government, private and public sector organisations and more importantly our own people to implement Rau Tipu Rau Ora.

Proposed RMA Legislation Changes

Toitu Tairawhiti CE's will also be focussed on reviewing proposed special legislation that will fast-track resource consenting and designation s6 and accelerate infrastructure and development projects, including local government projects (e.g. upgrading three waters infrastructure and community facilities and assets) and private developments.

The rationale for the proposed changes to the RMA Legislation, as advised by the Government is to ensure that the legislation will;

- help to deliver projects that will alleviate housing challenges,
- encourage active transport (i.e. walking and cycling), and
- enhance the environment or advance other green initiatives.

It will complement the Infrastructure Industry Reference Group's work to identify infrastructure projects that are 'shovel-ready' or will be within six months. The legislation will also support smaller projects that may generate fewer jobs in total, but collectively provide significant critical employment in hard-hit regions.

These proposals will also free up local authorities to deal more promptly with other planning and building consents within their systems

Toitu Tairāwhiti will, along with other Iwi across the country hold the Government to account to ensure that the appropriate controls and safeguards are in place to ensure that the proposed powers are used appropriately and consistently with the legislation's purpose and ensure that the principles of the Treaty of Waitangi (Treaty) are taken into account, Treaty settlements are upheld, and the environment is not sacrificed.

Transitioning from Level 3 to Level 2

There is much speculation about the Prime Ministers proposed announcement on Thursday, that the country or specific parts of the country will move to Alert Level 2. Tairāwhiti is likely to be one of the regions, if they take a regional rather than national approach, that could transition to Level 2, based on our low COVID -19 case track record.

While transitioning to Alert Level 2 has merits in terms of the stimulus it would provide to our local economy, this is countered with fears of increasing health risks arising from increases in the numbers of non-residents and non-essential workers coming into our region. All the good work that whānau across our rohe, our Health Organisations and Providers, our community checkpoints, local Police and Civil Defence Coordinators have done, may all be undone, if we do not put in place the appropriate mechanisms, checkpoints etc, to monitor and stem the flow of needless travel in and around Tairāwhiti. *Kia Whitiki Kia Mataara.*

REGIONAL PICTURE

Overview

Tairāwhiti still only has 4 confirmed cases of COVID-19, all of which have since recovered.

Tairāwhiti Police report good compliance over the weekend, notably good social distancing being observed in public areas.

GDC Summer and Freedom Camping Compliance officer has reported no change with freedom camping sites up the coast with the change to Alert level 3. Gisborne however has seen an increase in freedom campers from outside the region. These tourists have travelled from as far as Auckland. With no permanent Police checkpoints monitoring SH2 north and south, movements from outside the region are likely to continue.

Hauora

The risk that flu season coincides with the Covid-19 means Tairāwhiti cannot afford to have low vaccination rates this year. Five of our eight community pharmacies in Gisborne are able to offer influenza vaccine.

Registration and needs assessment

ECC Welfare function have developed a COVID-19 Request for Support from Tairāwhiti Civil Defence Household Assessment form. This form does away with the Awhina assessment which proved to be problematic. Those that have been directly affected by COVID-19 are required to submit this form to receive welfare assistance from Tairāwhiti Civil Defence. Anyone that does not meet the criteria are referred to other agencies such as Manaaki Tairāwhiti and MSD. Urgent referrals are sent to House of Break Through (HOB).

Vulnerable communities

- ☐ The Uawa checkpoint closed as at 2300hrs last night. It has been replaced by daily tasking and directed patrol for the reserve teams, which will continue to travel to the area daily. They have been tasked with high visibility patrolling in both Tolaga Bay and Tokomaru Bay, 8PZ's and 8PL's.

- ☐ Moving forward police have agreed to maintain a highly visible Police presence in the area, conducting quality community reassurance to prevent the spread of COVID 19 in the area and reduce the chances of people from outside our region bringing the virus here.
- ☐ The checkpoint at Wharekahika remains unchanged. There is a second checkpoint at Whakaangi Te Araroa which is being run by the community.

Education

There is a focus on engaging, encouraging and education rather than enforcement across agencies. Councils who have been contacting businesses proactively to help ensure they understand COVID- 19 requirements are in line with this approach.

Transport

Vehicle numbers at checkpoints is not readily available as at the completion of this report but overall good compliance was noted

The Uawa community safe zone (CSZ) on Saturday between 0700 and 1700 noted 68 vehicles with two being turned around and sent back to Gisborne. As of 03 1230 May, only 18 vehicles noted from 0700. Good compliance overall.

GDC are waiting for Alert Level 2 guidelines from government to plan for Public Transport.

Toitu Tairawhiti Te Runanganui o Ngati Porou (TRONP) and Te Runanga o Turanganui a Kiwa (TROTAK) are working on an action plan to implement their recommendations on Bidfood welfare packages that are distributed to Iwi groups.

Local Businesses

Some non-essential businesses have opened in Alert Level 3. Notably are fast food franchises and locally owned and operated restaurants that have since adapted to Alert Level 3 guidelines and are providing take away orders via phone bookings.

Wage subsidy Uptake

370 Tairawhiti Businesses have taken the wage subsidy.

3826 employees have received a wage subsidy.

\$25m wage subsidies paid.

Beneficiary Insights

- 700 additional people on benefit.
- 31% under 24
- 68% of the 700 additional are Maori or Pacific Islander (usually 72 – 73%)
- Many businesses in crisis and will not recover – aware of 9 businesses closing
- Many are not well placed to go online quickly
- Rent case by case – landlords offering 25-50% rent reductions for those able to operate partially under essential services.
- Level 3 will not help these retail businesses, other than being able to possibly open their **online shopping functions**.

Rural Report

- Shearing can occur at level 3 subject to the safe work practise requirements to keep people safe. Shearing contractors must operate in a way that minimises the risk of Covid-19 transmission.
- The New Zealand Shearing Contractors Association have developed further guidance available through the following link. https://www.nzshearing.co.nz/files/1025_2020042292452-1587504292.pdf
- MPI is working with the industry sector groups to consider issues that are raised. MPI is also talking regularly to sector leaders about how best to meet farmer needs.
- Drought continues to be a major worry with impacts on pasture performance, feed, and water supply.
- Inability to move or sell stock has increased stock numbers on site, creating additional work and stress on farming resources.
- General apprehension over future commodity prices.
- Increasing concerns about poaching, stock rustling and hunter safety under Level 3.

NATIONAL PICTURE

Government -COVID-19

1.

The government has [announced](#) a law change that will fast-track eligible development and infrastructure projects under the Resource Management Act to help get New Zealand moving again. The sorts of projects that would benefit from quicker consenting included roading, walking and cycling, rail, housing, sediment removal from silted rivers and estuaries, new wetland construction, flood management works, and projects to prevent landfill erosion.

2. Government support to help restore international air freight capacity has added 56 weekly cargo flights from New Zealand, with more to come, Transport Minister Phil Twyford has [announced](#). The International Air Freight Capacity scheme adds capacity for high-value export cargo and maintains trade links with key global markets. It also ensures there are essential imports such as medical supplies.
3. Education Minister Chris Hipkins has [announced](#) a \$20 million fund to help eligible tertiary learners access digital devices and internet connections to continue their study disrupted by COVID-19.

Helpline

Call Healthline if you suspect you have COVID-19 symptoms: 0800 358 5453

- For any other COVID-19 related queries, contact the government helpline: 0800 779 997
- Need to talk? Call or text 1737
- Visit allright.org.nz for practical mental health and wellbeing advice
- Essential business enquiries essential@mbie.govt.nz or 0800 22 66 57
- Report breaches of self-isolation 105.police.govt.nz

KIA MATAARA, KIA MANAWANUI

