

For locals, by locals

Employing and upskilling Hawke's Bay contractors for the cyclone recovery.



The widespread impacts of Cyclone Gabrielle were devastating, especially on top of an already extraordinarily wet summer season. The response and recovery phases for the impacted communities are both local and personal.

In collaboration with Mayor Alex Walker and Central Hawke's Bay District Council (CHBDC), Stantec has been exploring a key challenge: how to get more local contractors involved in the initial response phase works to help set them up for recovery within the district and across the region. Drawing on the experience of local and non-local tier 1 contractors is essential for the delivery of complex and large-scale works. However, investing and employing locally brings a wide range of benefits. We're listening to the community to help figure out how locals can work locally; thus far, we've held a series of meetings with head

contractors and with local contractors, respectively.

"Right now, we're talking about response as opposed to rebuilding and resilience," says Stantec's Broader Outcomes Leader, Karsten Stevenson.

"We're aware there's only so much money around so we want to work smarter, not harder—with the added aim of reducing maintenance and minimising the risk of exacerbating existing road failures slipping further next time there's an event".

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The response phase involves minor and non-complex works. Stantec and CHBDC have embraced the 2020 Procurement Policy and Strategy with a focus on public value, supported by the mandate of the Mayoral Taskforce for Jobs and CHBDC's Infrastructure Delivery team. David Keracher, Stantec's Major Projects Leader notes, "if you can make complex design simple, it not only creates greater public value by increasing the breadth of spend across the district—it also becomes more palatable and viable for local contractors with diverse skillsets and levels of experience wanting to grow their business".

Giving a larger number of local contractors exposure to what is ostensibly Waka Kotahi-funded work has the

potential to help upskill and provide pre-qualification pathways where there haven't been before. Stantec and CHBDC are working closely with the community to provide additional training on procurement and health and safety pathways. Together we've hosted numerous contractor engagement, networking, and information sessions; these forums have enabled tier 1 and local contractors to meet in an informal but structured environment to initiate working together on delivery for the response and recovery.

To further support this, we're providing guidance on CV preparation, Totika and SiteWise health and safety training forums, and procurement training on the GETS (Government Electronic Tender Service) process.

The benefits of selecting local contractors extend further still. Fewer kilometres travelled by trucks reduces carbon emissions, and local knowledge of consented disposal sites or quarries adds time-saving value. To support the use of local CHB contractors, we have included an incentivised weighting in our tender on the use of locals. Broader outcomes are now weighted 30 percent, with a particular focus on social and economic wellbeing.





With more response funding, we believe we can make a positive difference for Central Hawke's Bay and beyond by supporting, employing, and training local. Here, we can also reduce the potential quantum risk of the required recovery-funded work. Our approach would help Waka Kotahi spend taxpayers' money responsibly while helping the community support one another and build each other up. Recovery works will continue for the next four to eight years, and they involve rethinking the entire roading network. There is also significant work in the wider Hawke's Bay region, such as the redevelopment of Napier's Inner Harbour, and even significant roading and infrastructure programmes within Hastings District, Wairoa, and Gisborne. The response and recovery efforts

in Central Hawke's Bay can only stand to benefit the wider regions.

The impacts of Cyclone Gabrielle are felt far and wide—working with the community in mind is more important now than ever before.

Communities are fundamental.

Whether around the corner or across the globe, they provide a foundation, a sense of place and of belonging. That's why at Stantec, we always design with community in mind.

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