



**12 July
2023**



Community Newsletter

Muriwai Beach cyclone recovery

Property categorisation process

We are continuing to work with the Government on what a buyout programme for confirmed Category 3 properties will look like. For updates on this as they come, and more information on the process, see the dedicated section on our website:

<https://www.aucklandcouncil.govt.nz/recovery>.

Letter error for white-placarded properties

Last week, some people in white-placarded properties received a categorisation letter noting in error that their property had received a yellow placard.

We sincerely apologise for any distress, confusion and inconvenience as a result of this error. We understand that this is a challenging time for many people in Muriwai, and regret that we sent a letter with incorrect information.

Corrected letters have been sent, however the only difference will be the colour of the placard noted in the Understanding your individual risk section.

If you have already completed the [online form](#) to provide more information about your property, there is no need to complete it again.

If you haven't completed the form yet, we encourage you to do this soon, as the information you provide will help our technical teams to understand what the next steps are for your individual property.

School bus update

The Ministry of Education has confirmed that school bus services will resume for Muriwai from Monday 17 July, the first day of Term 3. Buses to Waimauku School, Kaipara College, and Massey High School will depart from the car park in the map below.



5555 – Waimauku School

7:35am - Turn left into Waitea Road 7:41am - Depart car park 7:50am - Turn left out of Waitea Road	3:28pm - Turn left into Waitea Road Drop off at Bus turn around 3:43pm – Turn left out of Waitea
--	--

5554 – Kaipara College

7:51am - Turn left into Waitea Road 7:57am - Depart car park 8:06am - Turn left out of Waitea Road	3:45pm - Turn left into Waitea Road Bus will wait at bus turn around until Massey High bus has arrived. Both buses will depart at same time.
--	---

D020309 – Massey High School

7:20am - Turn left into Waitea Road 7:26am - Depart car park 7:35am - Turn left out of Waitea Road	3:55pm - Turn left into Waitea Road Kaipara College bus will wait at the bus turn around until Massey bus arrives. Both buses will depart at same time.
--	--

Rates relief

Owners of uninhabitable properties can apply for a refund of their February and May 2023 rates instalments through [MyAuckland](https://www.aucklandcouncil.govt.nz/MyAuckland). No penalties will be applied to accounts that did not pay these instalments.

On 27 July, Auckland Council's Governing Body (elected councillors) will be considering whether rates relief for uninhabitable properties will be extended.

Sandbags

Five hundred sandbags were delivered last week and are available for collection by residents from the Lower Motutara Road cordon near the fire station. There is a limit of 20 per household.

Motutara Road water management update

A programme of work to manage water-related issues, including silt and blocked drains, on and around Motutara Road is in place. This includes weekly monitoring of the situation by Healthy Waters and Downer staff. Downer carried out drain clearance work last week, and will continue this work as needed. Healthy Waters is installing 'scruffy domes' to prevent debris from blocking drains.

Muriwai beach water quality

Following the extreme storm events in summer and autumn 2023, and the associated damage to infrastructure on the West Coast, the Safeswim team has received numerous queries about the water quality of the local beaches.

Immediately after the storms, precautionary water quality warnings were placed on [Safeswim](#) at all of the West Coast beaches on the advice of independent public health experts.

On 1 February, in the aftermath of the storms, the water quality at Muriwai Beach exceeded the guidelines for swimming published by the New Zealand Government, which are:

- In marine waters, 280 enterococci per 100mL of water
- In fresh water, 280 E. coli per 100mL of water.

This was the first time Safeswim had recorded an exceedance of the swimming guideline at Muriwai in over 400 samples dating back to 1995.

Water quality testing since the storms has been limited due to access restrictions, with regular sampling re-commencing on 19 May 2023 (see Figure 1 map for locations). The recent sampling data collected from Muriwai is summarised in the table below, with the key findings:

- Water quality at all sites along the beach has been within the swimming guideline on all seven samples collected since 19 May 2023.
- Slightly elevated results were observed at the sites at the southern end of the beach on 19 May after moderate rainfall (10mm) in the previous 24 hours.
- The water quality in the Okiritoto Stream is consistently worse than that of the beach and the swimming guidelines are exceeded more frequently – most recently on 22 June 2023 following 20mm of rain in the previous 24 hours.

- The water quality of Māori Bay has been sampled less frequently than Muriwai, but was also sampled on 7 July 2023 and returned a result within swimming guidelines, at 10 enterococci/100mL.
- The stormwater drain below the car park at the southern end of the beach was also sampled on 7 July 2023. This sample was well above the swimming guideline and returned a result of 1,789 E. coli/100mL. This result is consistent with results from other stormwater drains in Auckland and the standard public health advice is to avoid contact with discharges from stormwater drains. Due to damage to properties upstream we advise that swimming near the stormwater outfall should be avoided following heavy rain.

Water quality will continue to be tested at these locations as part of the Safeswim programme.

Table 1: Water Quality Results: (enterococci or E. coli per 100mL)

Date	Muriwai Beach	Muriwai (Surf Tower)	Muriwai North	Okiritoto Stream
7/7/23	10	10	10	52
30/6/23	10	10	10	228
22/6/23	10	10	10	1,700
6/6/23	10	10	10	420
30/5/23	10	10	10	860
26/5/23	10	10	10	120
19/5/23	120	20	10	260
Swimming guideline	280	280	280	550



Need help?



Visit: aucklandcouncil.govt.nz/recovery-muriwai

Enquire: muriwai@aucklandcouncil.govt.nz



Write: Auckland Council, Private Bag 92300
Victoria Street West, Auckland 1142 | DX CX 10032





Figure 1

Building assessments update

Updated placard status numbers in Muriwai as of Tuesday 11 July:

- Red 1 97
- Red 2 6
- Yellow 1 23
- Yellow 2 31
- White 0

There are different reasons why these numbers may differ each week, including:

- If remedial action has been confirmed and approved by the council's compliance team, then the placard can be noted as closed and removed off the list.
- It is identified as a duplicate and removed.
- A building with multiple units was allocated a single placard when it should have had a placard allocated for each address.

Visit the [Auckland Council website](#) to learn more about what the placard colours mean.

Geotechnical update – stage 2

After commencing on 29 June, drilling is progressing well at Muriwai, with two of the nine boreholes completed with a third currently underway – a total of 110 metres drilled to date, of the 360 metres proposed.

Currently completed locations are BH-M01 (Oaia Road) and BH-M08 (Motutara Road), with BH-M07 (Motutara Road) currently being progressed (Figure 2, next page). The next location to be drilled will be borehole BH-M09.

One of the six proposed piezometers (to measure groundwater) have been installed successfully, with the second to be installed upon completion of the current borehole on Motutara Road (BH-M07). Telemetered groundwater monitoring equipment to automate ongoing monitoring of groundwater will be installed once drilling and installation of all locations has been completed.

There are three remaining holes to complete on Domain Crescent, two on Oaia Road, and one on Motutara Road. We thank the community for your patience with traffic management and the teams on site.



Figure 2: Drilling locations (Red dots)

Have we got your details?

If you've received this newsletter via email, then we're all good – we have your correct contact details.

If it has been passed on to you by someone else or you're reading it via a website or social media channel, you can sign-up to receive this newsletter directly to your inbox.

Previous newsletters

If you're new to the Muriwai Newsletter, please visit our website to read [previous editions](#).



Need help?



Visit: aucklandcouncil.govt.nz/recovery-muriwai
Enquire: muriwai@aucklandcouncil.govt.nz



Write: Auckland Council, Private Bag 92300
Victoria Street West, Auckland 1142 | DX CX 10032

