BURNSIDE BRIDGE
QUICK FACTS



Burnside Bridge (Takapau) was badly damaged during Cyclone Gabrielle in Feb 2023 and has been closed since due to structural instability.

It is one of four remaining cyclone-damaged bridges in Central Hawke's Bay.

KEY FACTS

Built: 1921

Length: 99 m, single-lane

Damage: Severe cracking from high river flows and flood debris during Cyclone Gabrielle

Status: Unsafe for any load; permanently closed unless removed or rebuilt (rebuild not funded)

FUNDING REALITY

The site has up to **$560,000** in government cyclone-recovery funding, but this can only be used to **make the site safe, not rebuild.**

A replacement bridge is estimated to cost up to **$9.6 million** + Demo costs), assessed by NZTA as uneconomical due to low traffic volumes and a short 5 km detour.

OPTIONS CONSIDERED

REPLACE THE BRIDGE
Up to **$9.6 million**; not fundable.

BUILD A LOW-LEVEL FORD
Also exceeds NZTA funding parameters, and does not meet criteria.

REMOVE THE BRIDGE
Only viable and affordable option within available funding.

RECOMMENDED PATH

- **Demolish** the bridge and **make the site safe**
- Fits within the **$560k** allocation
- Removes long-term **maintenance costs**
- Eliminates all residual **safety risks**
- Must be completed within NZTA's cyclone-recovery **funding window**
- Saves **ratepayers** significant future costs

NEXT STEPS

Formal decision to Council on

4 JUNE 2026