

# WAIKAI

## Community Response Plan





## Waikaia Community Response Plan 2022

If you would like to become part of the Waikaia Community Response Group or have any questions, please email [ems@cdsouthland.nz](mailto:ems@cdsouthland.nz)

### Community Response Planning

The more prepared a community is, the more likely it is that the community will be able to look after themselves and others. This Plan contains a short demographic description of the Waikaia area, information about key hazards and risks, information about Community Emergency Hubs where the community can gather, and important contact information to help the community respond effectively. Members of the Waikaia Community Response Group have developed the information contained in this plan and will be Emergency Management Southland's first points of community contact in an emergency.

### Community Response Groups into Recovery

Community Response Groups will be vital during the recovery of a community. They will be able act as a connection between the community and the recovery team. They will have key local knowledge and understand the effects of decisions on the local community and will be able to identify areas of most importance to the community and suggest ways to work towards the communities' end goals. The process around community recovery will be described in greater depth in the Southland Recovery Plan which can be found on our website.



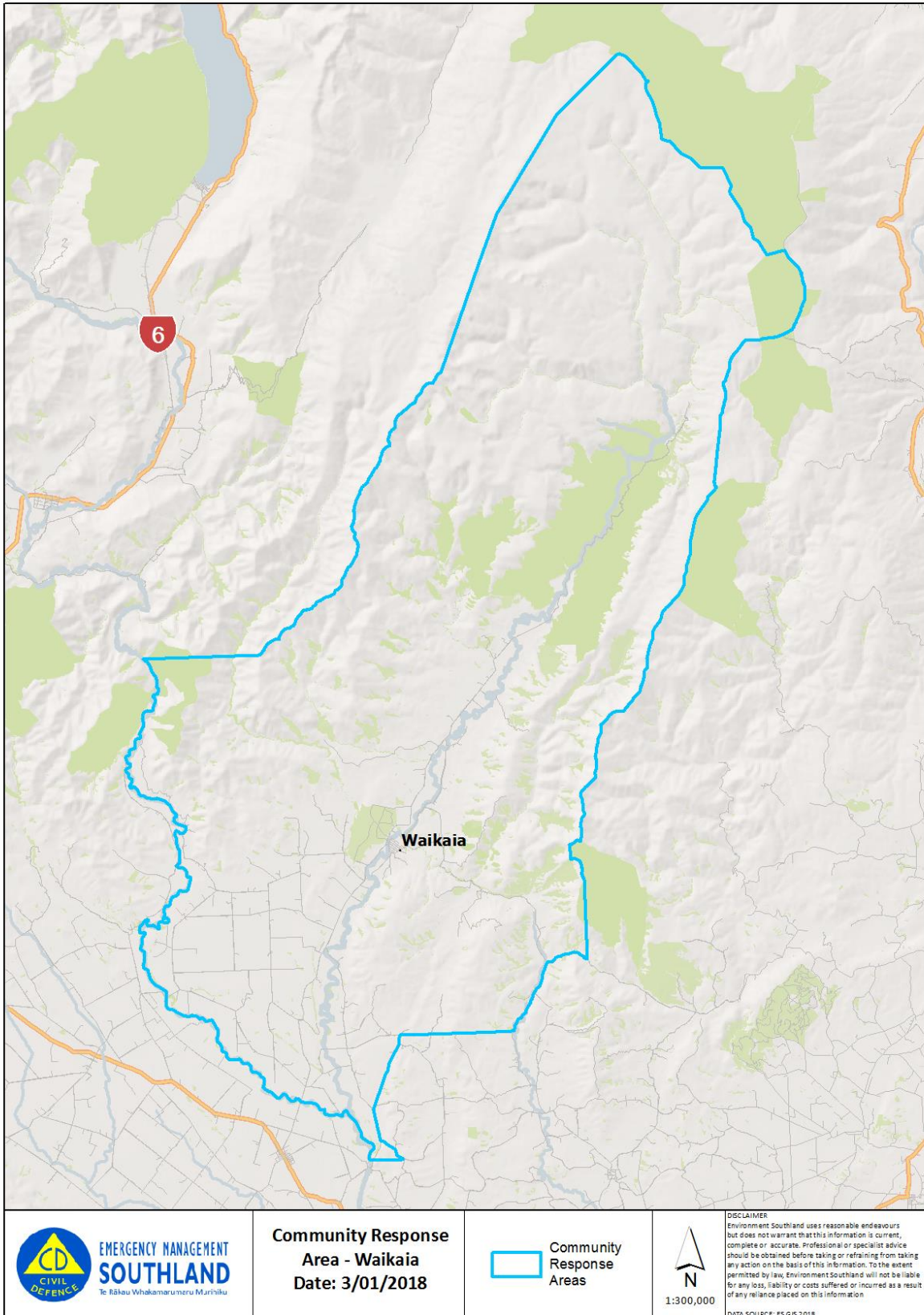


Figure 1: Waikaia Community Response Area

## Demographic details

Waikaia, previously known as Switzers is an old mining town in Northern Southland. It sits within the Mararoa-Waimea Ward of the Southland District.

The Waikaia area has always had a strong farming profile, however, was originally a hub for gold mining and railway activities.

- Waikaia has a population of approximately 100.
- Waikaia is primarily an agricultural town, with employment in agriculture and forestry being the largest industry, although tourism is growing in the area.
- Local tourism is a significant draw with Piano Flat situated north of the Waikaia township and is popular with families, fishermen, hunters and trampers.
- the township has no medical centre or pharmacy (the closest being Lumsden or Gore). The closest police and ambulance stations are in Riversdale, 24 km south of the township. There is a local fire brigade who are very active in the community;
- the broad geographic area for the Waikaia Community Response Plan includes Waikaia, Freshford, Wendonside, Waiparu, Piano Flat and the backcountry up Porters and Old Man Range, see map above for a more detailed indication. This is not to limit the area but to give an indication of the extent of the geographic district. Flexibility needs to be maintained considering that a specific disaster may render existing geographical boundaries irrelevant.

## Identified potential vulnerable sub communities

- Schools: Waikaia (approx roll 15)
- Home based childcare providers
- Elderly in the community
- Rurally isolated people including migrant employees
- People with disabilities
- People with high-risk medical conditions – the DHB can source this information if needed





## Hazard and Risk information

Potential hazards and risks for the Waikaia area include:

### Weather

- Heavy snow fall could impact on the delivery of essential goods to the region
- The geography and landscape of the Waikaia area can intensify the tunnelling effect of high winds and pose a significant hazard to those travelling and to buildings
- Heavy Rain can result in flooding and can trigger landslides
- The Waikaia area is a drought-prone area based on climate and soil type. This will affect the area with the demand for water to service the town, as well as local farming industry.

### Flooding

- Waikaia has been affected historically by flooding, including the 1978, 1984, and 2020 floods with the Waikaia River running through the district. Bridges are vital infrastructure that also carry telecommunications, water and other services across rivers, these could also be impacted by flooding. Many areas in the community rely on bridges to connect with homes and employment, this leads to isolated communities.



Figure 2: Waikaia Potential Flooding Zone

### Agricultural and biosecurity

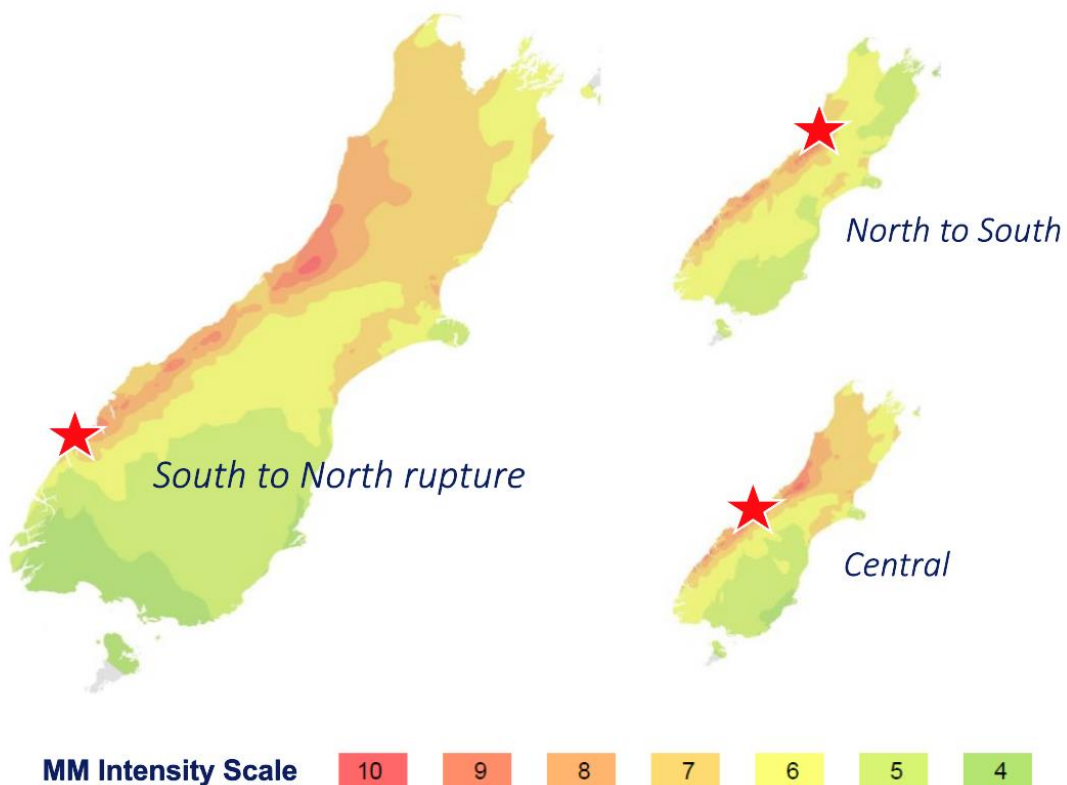
- Waikaia plays a role in the agriculture community. With 1.5 million hectares of farmland in Northern Southland, any impacts to livestock or for land use could have major economic and health impacts especially psychosocial impacts.

### Pandemic

- The recent outbreak of COVID-19 has reinforced the risk of pandemic in New Zealand. This has a direct impact on the health and wellbeing of the community, as well as psychosocial impacts.

## Earthquake

- The Fiordland region has frequent earthquakes and like much of the South Island, Waikaia and Garston would be affected during an Alpine Fault earthquake. Scientists have said there is a 75% chance of it happening in the next 50 years along with an 82% chance it will be magnitude 8 or larger. The most likely impacts for the area would be loss of lifelines causing isolation, damaged buildings, damaged roads, likely loss of communications, water supply, sewage and power. It could cause changes to the natural environment creating slips and affecting roading and possibly affecting waterways and underground water sources. Additionally, recent research on the Nevis Fault (running between Wanaka and Garston) indicates that it can produce large earthquakes (magnitude 7 range).



Images: Conrad Zorn. Based on Brendon Bradley et al. (2016)

Figure 3: Estimated ground movement intensity based on a Magnitude 8 Alpine Fault earthquake

In the event of an emergency, communities may need to support themselves for up to **10 days** before assistance arrive. Think about what you need to support yourself both at home and away from home if you need to evacuate.

## Community Emergency Hubs

Community Emergency Hubs provide pre-identified places where the community can gather in the event of an emergency. Not all Hubs will be suitable during an emergency, and it is up to the community to decide at the time. It is possible that a new venue will need to be found, but the concept of a location where the community gather is vital during a response as people seek immediate support, shelter, comfort and information.

Each pre-determined location will be provided with a hub guide and be able to access advice from Emergency Management Southland if they require further information or support.

In the Waikaia area, Community Emergency Hub locations identified by the community are:

- Waikaia Recreation Centre, Wylam Street, Waikaia
- Waikaia Hotel, Blaydon Street, Waikaia
- Waikaia Fire Station, Newburn Street, Waikaia

Don't forget, if you are opening a hub it might pay to think about bringing some basics, such as:

- Water
- Tea, coffee, milk
- Food
- Toilet paper
- First aid kits
- Blankets
- Torches
- Lighters
- BBQ
- Lighting
- Generators
- Your community VHF radio which is stored at the Waikaia Fire Station





Figure 4: Waikaia Aerial



## Key identified local resources

### Building supplies

Organisation	Phone	Other details
Square Up Building	027 300 7780	jamie@squareupbuilding.co.nz
Waimea Building Ltd	027 261 6304	
Southernwide Building Ltd	03 203 9098	admin@southernwidebuilding.co.nz
Jones & Cooper	03 208 4794	Gore
Placemakers	03 209 0055	Gore

### Water Supply and Plumbing

Organisation	Phone	Other details
Water Treatment Plant (SDC)	0800 732 732	Water and Waste Services Staff at SDC
Austin Bros	03 202 5890	Riversdale
Laser Plumbing	03 208 6299	Gore
Bill Sheddan Plumbing Ltd	03 208 5841	Gore
Allen Plumbing & Gas	027 435 8231	Gore

### Southland District Council

Organisation	Phone	
Waikaia Library Book bus	0800 732 732	
SDC Office	03 248 7307	www.southlanddc.govt.nz
	0800 732 732	
SDC Community Partner		
Ardlussa Community Board Chair		Richard Clarkson
Southland District Council Ward Councillor	0800 732 732	

### Electrical Services

Organisation	Phone	Other details
Added Energy Ltd	0800 586 7336	Lumsden
Area South Electrical Ltd	0274 445 844	
Austin Bros	03 202 5890	Riversdale
Laser Electrical	03 208 0441	Gore
Dore Electrical	027 488 9834	Gore
Prime Electrical	027 208 6440	Gore
PowerNet	0800 808 587	

## Schools, Rest home, Medical and Community Organisations

Organisation	Phone	Other details	
Waikaia School	03 2027729		office@waikaia.school.nz
Waikaia Playgroup		Sally Gunton	
Waikaia Plunket		June Dean	
Gore Medical Centre	03 208 9222		Gore

## Additional resources

Organisation	Phone	Other details
Waikaia Store, Café and Post Office	03 202 7818	37 Blaydon St, Waikaia
Waikaia Hotel	03 202 7821	38 Blaydon St, Waikaia
Switzers Museum		39 Blaydon St, Waikaia

## Community Response Group Contact lists

### Emergency Management Southland

Duty Advisor	03 211 5411	0800 76 88 45	ems@cdsouthland.nz
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### Key local emergency service contacts

For urgent matters please dial 111

Police	Riversdale Police	03 202 4140	111/105	1 Lincoln Street, Riversdale
	Eric Browne			
Fire	Jamie Deans			
St John	Debbie Blatch			

### Community Emergency Hub key holders

Waikaia Recreation Centre	David McKee	
Waikaia Hotel	Wendy Jayne Williamson	

### Community Response Group Members

Ray Dickson			
Mairi Dickson			
Jane Clutha			
Jo Leask			
Louise Ferguson			
Neville Sharp			
Dave Williams			
Brent Mowat			
Kathy Wilson			
Bronwyn Campbell			
Alwyn McCurdy			

Anita Williamson			
Candace & Crosbie Grieve			
John McCurdy			
Jeannie Dyer			
Robyn Sage			
Phil Payne			
Krystal Turnbull			
Helen Christie			
Chris Waples			
Linda Waples			
Shirley Walker			
Janet McKee			
Doreen Jones			
Joan Hayward			
Paul Collins			
Corey McDowell			
Andrew Sharp			
Roseanne Ferris			
Heather Glozier			
Ray Christie			
Bill Christie			
Stacey Cunningham			
Jamie Deans			
Murray Ford			
Scott McKee			
Tina Mann			
Mikey Nguyen			
Ken Ruddenklau			
Jake Sole			



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## **Southland has NO Civil Defence sirens**

Please take note of natural warning signs as your first and best warning for any emergency. Fire Brigade sirens are not used to warn of Civil Defence emergencies