



Media release

Wednesday December 1, 2021

Wellington region heavy swell warnings available on metservice.com

From Tuesday 30 November, MetService introduced heavy swell warnings for the Greater Wellington region (Kāpiti, Wellington and Wairarapa), on metservice.com and the MetService App.

MetService Marine Weather Services Manager, Michael Martens states; “We’ve worked closely with the Wellington Region Emergency Management Office (WREMO), Greater Wellington Regional Council, and councils throughout the region to introduce this service. We provide these agencies with key information on forecasted heavy swell events and are delighted to introduce a system which directly provides communities in the Wellington region with real-time information on heavy swell events.”

WREMO Regional Manager Jeremy Holmes says from an Emergency Management point of view, this new warning system will give coastal residents time to get their whānau and properties prepared before a heavy swell arrives.

“We have seen, particularly on Wellington’s South Coast, the impacts heavy swells can have on people and properties when they arrive without warning. Thanks to the collaborative effort of everyone involved, this warning system will help ensure the safety of coastal residents, as well as lessen the damage to their properties.”

Warnings display the combined wave, swell and wind wave height, direction, and wave period (for combined waves and swell only), atmospheric pressure, high tide information and the time the warning is in place for. The Kāpiti-Porirua area covers Ōtaki to Cape Terawhiti, Wellington covers Cape Terawhiti to Turakirae Head, and

Wairarapa will cover Turakirae Head to Mataikona.

“We know the impact of large waves and heavy swell events can be considerable, so in 2020 in partnership with Wellington South Coast community groups, MetService successfully trialled a localised warning system for the South Coast. We are pleased to extend this service to provide more information to communities to enhance their preparedness in heavy swell events,” Martens adds.

MetService encourage people that live, work, or recreate in coastal areas within the region to sign up to receive severe weather email alerts when swell thresholds are met by visiting metservice.com/warnings.

Following the introduction of heavy swell warnings in the Wellington region, MetService will continue to work closely with coastal hazards specialists at Regional Councils and emergency management providers throughout New Zealand, to introduce a national wave warning service by late 2022.

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An example of a heavy swell warning covering the Wellington region:

