

**Report 19.155**

12/04/2019

File: CCAB-21-290

**Confirmed Minutes of the Civil Defence and Emergency Management Group meeting held in the Council Chamber, Level 2, Upper Hutt City Council, 838 Fergusson Drive, Upper Hutt, on Friday, 12 April 2019 at 9:00am**

**Present**

|                                   |                                       |
|-----------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| Mayor Wallace (Chair)             | (Hutt City Council)                   |
| Mayor Booth (from 09:15am)        | (Carterton District Council)          |
| Mayor Guppy                       | (Upper Hutt City Council)             |
| Mayor Gurunathan                  | (Kapiti Coast District Council)       |
| Mayor Lester (from 09:15am)       | (Wellington City Council)             |
| Mayor Napier                      | (South Wairarapa District Council)    |
| Councillor Laidlaw (from 09:55am) | (Greater Wellington Regional Council) |
| Mayor Patterson                   | (Masterton District Council)          |

**Also present**

Deputy Mayor Izzy Ford (from 09:05am) (Porirua City Council)

A minute's silence was observed for those who died in, and continue to be affected by, the recent tragic event in Christchurch. An expression of appreciation was noted for the work of the frontline service personnel involved in responding to the event.

1 **Apologies**

*Moved* (Mayor Wallace/ Mayor Gurunathan)

*That the CDEM Group accepts the apologies for absence from Mayor Tana and for lateness from Mayor Booth, Councillor Laidlaw and Mayor Lester.*

The motion was **CARRIED**.

2     **Public Participation**

There was no public participation.

3     **Confirmation of the minutes of 14 December 2018**

**Report: 18.617**

File: CCAB-21-272

*Moved*

*(Mayor Wallace/ Mayor Napier)*

*That the CDEM Group confirms the minutes of the meeting of 14 December 2019, Report 18.617.*

The motion was **CARRIED**.

The committee accorded priority to Item 5 on the agenda *Update on EMSR Legislative Changes* to proceed before Item 4 on the agenda *Lessons Learned from the Nelson Fires*.

4     **Update on EMSR Legislative Changes**

**Brief**

Rachel Hyde, Principal Policy Advisor, Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet, provided the Committee with an update on the Emergency Management System Reform Programme (EMSR). This programme is a multi-year work programme that will move towards a system that works as one to reduce risks to life and property and facilitate speedy recovery. The programme includes legislative reform (amending the CDEM Act) and operational work. The EMSR reform programme is focused on delivering better responses to natural disasters and other emergencies.

She informed the Committee about non-legislative work that the Ministry of Civil Defence and Emergency Management is currently carrying out. For example, developing a Common Operating Picture (COP) and working on Fly-In Teams (FIT) that should be operational by the end of August. Currently there is a business case in progress for the development of the National Crisis Management Centre (NCMC.) There is also work being carried out around the New Zealand Response Teams (volunteer teams) and how to make them consistent around the country.

The aim is for the amended legislation to come into force during this term of government. Draft legislation will come to the CDEM Group later in 2019. The purpose of this is to check for understanding and any unexpected or unintended consequences that the amended legislation causes. In amending the CDEM Act the focus is on strengthening, modernising and professionalising the emergency management system. The amended legislation also seeks to clarify who is responsible both regionally and nationally, better provide for iwi/Māori participation in emergency management and drive a focus on building the capability and capacity of the workforce. Currently the legislation only has a Local or National Declaration of an Emergency, it doesn't refer to a Regional Declaration of an Emergency.



The key proposals for legislative amendment include strengthening of Joint Committee governance. For example, the ability to appoint a controller jointly during an emergency, speeding up tsunami warnings, enabling iwi to participate in planning for and responding to CDEM emergencies, protecting volunteers (including FIT) from liability and developing regulations to support the professionalism of the workforce.

Mayor Booth and Mayor Lester arrived at the meeting during consideration of this item.

## 5 **Lessons Learned from the Nelson Fires**

### **Brief**

Roger Ball, Group Controller, Nelson/Tasman CDEM Group, presented to the Committee about his personal reflections on the recent fires. He explained that two councils were involved (Nelson City Council and Tasman District Council) and they operated out a shared Emergency Operations Centre (EOC). The fire was visible and proximate to population and lifeline services on Tuesday 5 February 2019. At the peak of the event approximately 3500 people were evacuated from their homes. The fire was mainly in plantation forest but also included farmland and houses. The response was initially led by FENZ (Fire Emergency New Zealand) on 6 February 2019. The estimated cost was forty million dollars with an economic impact of fifty million dollars. A transition notice was implemented during the recovery phase (this has now concluded).

At one point during the emergency it was suggested there needed to be national leadership but decision-making around the declaration remained local. Throughout the event there was more than three hundred staff who staffed the EOC. Work was carried out in cooperation with other agencies (for example, the New Zealand Defence Force provided catering for the evacuees). The damage to private residential property was not significant but there was significant damage to farms and forestry plantations, some of which are still burning underground. This stage of the recovery is mainly about tasks like repairing fences and firebreaks. Currently the Mayoral Relief Fund, with Lotteries Commission Funding of one million dollars, is paying for this work.

Compounding issues with the fire was the drought in the Tasman District and the new start fires (of which there were four - two of which were deliberately lit). The EOC briefs started with the Controller and ended with the Mayor, with other agencies (for example FENZ, NZDF, Ministry for Primary Industries, etc.) in between. Social media was an interesting issue. The size of the social media team had to be increased and extra resources borrowed from Police and FENZ. Social media posting was scaled back when the move from response to recovery occurred.

Community meetings were held in a church that put on a morning tea. This provided the opportunity to speak with the public before and after the more formal meeting. This worked really well. There was a spontaneous community centre that proved more popular than the formal centre. The volunteers in this spontaneous centre were thanked every day on social media. An animal welfare centre was set up in the showgrounds.

The Sunday after the fire started (Sunday 10 February) Te Tau Ihu (Nelson-Marlborough tribes) mandated a couple of individuals to be representatives. Police, FENZ and DOC made their business as usual iwi representatives available to the

Controller. They were present for discussions with Mayors around declaration and transition and were treated as partners rather than stakeholders. Karakia were used to open and close briefings and community meetings.

Roger Ball outlined to the Committee the challenge of sustaining 24/7 shifts in the EOC and advised how elected representatives need to be ready for news deadlines. In Nelson/Tasman the decision was made to keep the agencies, physically, as close together as possible. At the end of each day the Controller, the senior FENZ officer and the senior Police officer met to discuss the priorities for the next day and how to support each other. The question was posed, with unified command, should these people sit together all the time during an event?

Roger summarised the key lessons learnt as: keeping clarity of roles, the importance of relationships, keeping the community with you, co-location of agencies and integration of recovery. Response is easier than recovery. In recovery you lose resources and people are less forgiving as the CDEM brand retreats and other brands that aren't so popular come to the fore.

The meeting adjourned at 10:25am and reconvened at 10:30am.

Cr Laidlaw arrived at the meeting during consideration of this item.

## 6 **Updating of CEG Terms of Reference**

**Report: 19.140**

File: CCAB-21-278

Jeremy Holmes, Regional Manager, Wellington Civil Defence and Emergency Management, spoke to the report. The changes to the CEG Terms of Reference are in anticipation of legislative changes. They have been amended to include iwi and ambulance services, with minor wording changes made, for example, changing Fire Service to FENZ.

*Moved*

*(Mayor Wallace/ Mayor Patterson)*

*That the CDEM Group:*

- 1. Notes the progress made over the past three months.*
- 2. Notes the input to progress the matter going forward.*
- 3. Approves the proposed changes to the CEG Terms of Reference.*

The motion was **CARRIED**.

## 7 **Appointment of new CEG Chair**

### **Discussion**

Mayor Wallace noted that Tony Stallinger's contract was coming to an end and the Group needed to appoint a new Coordinating Executive Group (CEG) Chair. Peter Kelly's name had been identified as the preferred nominee. Mayor Guppy said he was supportive of the appointment. It was agreed that the appointment would be a good fit given Peter's background.



*Moved*

*(Mayor Wallace/ Mayor Patterson)*

*That the CDEM Group:*

1. *Acknowledges the work Tony Stallinger has done over his time as CEG Chair.*
2. *Appoints Peter Kelly, Chief Executive, Upper Hutt City Council, as CEG Chair.*

The motion was **CARRIED**.

## 8 **Group Plan Update**

**Report: 19.141**

File: CCAB-21-280

Jeremy Holmes, Regional Manager, Wellington Civil Defence and Emergency Management, spoke to the report. He indicated that the draft Group Plan was now out for public consultation. Once it had been consulted on, it would go to the Minister for review before coming back to the Joint Committee for approval.

*Moved*

*(Mayor Wallace/ Mayor Napier)*

*That the CDEM Group:*

1. *Receives the report.*
2. *Notes the content of the report.*

The motion was **CARRIED**.

## 9 **Iwi Engagement Update**

### **Brief**

Jeremy Holmes, Regional Manager, Wellington Region Emergency Management Office, provided an update on the Iwi Engagement Plan which had come out of the Ministerial CDEM (TAG) Review. Ara Tahi has appointed two of three iwi reps for CEG. They are reviewing the content of the Group Plan and working with WREMO and local council reps to identify marae who would like a greater role in emergency management. Through this work training requirements and possible infrastructure upgrades will be identified. MCDEM is working with Te Puni Kōkiri to identify any central government funding that may be able to help.

*Moved*

*(Mayor Wallace/ Mayor Lester)*

*That the CDEM Group:*

1. *Notes the progress made on iwi engagement over the past quarter.*
2. *Note the intended way forward for the next quarter for iwi and marae engagement in the region.*

The motion was **CARRIED**.

11 **WREMO Quarterly Report 1 October 2018 to 31 December 2018**

**Report: 19.137**

File: CCAB-21-286

Jeremy Holmes, Regional Manager, Wellington Region Emergency Management Office, spoke to the report. He noted that the Committee had been provided with a verbal summary of the content at the last meeting. The main area of risk that needed to be monitored on an ongoing basis was the number of staff attending training. While numbers had been good towards the end of year, around the anniversary of the Kaikoura earthquake, numbers had been lower since the start of the new year.

*Moved*

*(Mayor Wallace/ Mayor Guppy)*

*That the CDEM Group:*

1. *Receives the report.*
2. *Notes the content of the report.*
3. *Approves the report as an accurate record of those activities occurring in the second quarter of 2018/2019.*

The motion was **CARRIED**.

12 **CDEM Group appointments**

**Report: 19.138**

File: CCAB-21-287

Jeremy Holmes, Regional Manager, Wellington Region Emergency Management Office, spoke to the report. He noted that the main changes to CDEM Group appointments were the result of some staff changing organisations within the Group and others moving on to other employment.

*Moved*

*(Mayor Wallace/ Mayor Guppy)*

*That the CDEM Group:*

1. *Receives the report.*
2. *Notes the content of the report.*
3. *Confirms the following changes to the controller appointments:*
  - a. *Adding James Jefferson and Janice McDougall (Kapiti Coast District Council), Moana Mackey and Adrian Glen (Wellington City)*
  - b. *Removing James Jefferson (Porirua City Council), Stephen Cody, Gunther Wild and Kane Patena (Wellington City Council).*

The motion was **CARRIED**.

Mayor Gurnathan tabled a letter he had written to the Acting Chief Executive of the Capital and Coast District Health Board following the recent region-wide Exercise Ngateri. He said he wanted the other members of the Committee to be aware of developments in the area.

**Next meeting: 21 June 2019**

The meeting closed at 10:50am



Ray Wallace

Chair, Wellington Civil Defence Emergency Management Group.

Date: 21 June 2019