

## **Report 02. 123**

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Report to the Environment Committee  
from Rian van Schalkwyk, Manager, Emergency Management

### **Progress with Civil Defence Emergency Management (CDEM) Group and CDEM Plan**

#### **1. Purpose**

To report to the Committee on the progress with the Civil Defence Emergency Management Group and the Civil Defence Emergency Management Plan.

#### **2. Background**

The Civil Defence Emergency Management Bill will repeal the Civil Defence Act 1983 under which Territorial Authorities and Regional Councils have carried out emergency preparedness, response and recovery activities for their respective communities. The Bill was introduced to Parliament on 9 November 2000 and had its first reading on 12 December 2000. At the first reading it was referred to the Government Administration Select Committee. This Committee considered 88 submissions received on the Bill and reported back to Parliament on 12 June 2001. At present the Bill is 22nd on the list and it is unclear whether the CDEM Legislation will be passed through the House this year.

#### **3. Content of CDEM Bill**

Councillors will recall from an earlier report that the Civil Defence Emergency Management Bill establishes the following structural arrangements for CDEM management:

- A CDEM Group comprising elected representatives (preferably mayors and chairpersons) of the constituent local authorities as a joint standing or joint special committee under the Local Government Act 1974
- A co-ordinating and executive group (CEG) comprising chief executive officers of the constituent local authorities plus senior members of the emergency services, health fraternity and lifeline utilities
- Local controllers to direct and co-ordinate CDEM Group resources during declared emergencies
- An operational capacity and appropriate body of emergency management personnel to ensure CDEM delivery to communities (e.g. CDEM Office, emergency operations centres, recovery managers).

To date, the Council has not proceeded with the establishment of the CDEM Group (elected representatives) or a CEG. This is because the legislation is not yet in place, and the Local Government Act 1974 is currently under review. We are mindful that we must be able to fulfil our responsibilities under the **present** legislation. However, our approach within the Region has been to pursue the co-ordinated approach to CDEM planning without the formal structures.

#### 4. **CDEM Plan**

The proposed legislation tightens the requirement that businesses and agencies, which provide critical community services, must have the capability to continue service, be it at a reduced level, immediately after a disaster event. It requires CDEM groups to produce a “Group Plan” at least every five years which must include the following:

- The local authorities that make up the CDEM group
- The hazards and risks to be managed by the CDEM Group
- The measures necessary to manage the hazards and risks
- The objectives of the Plan and the relationship of each objective to the National CDEM Strategy
- Particular actions that may be taken in relation to giving effect to the Plan.

The proposed structure for the CDEM Plan has three parts:

1. A strategic part, which sets out the hazards and risks for the CDEM Group area, identifies key issues, and establishes actions to address risks across the 4 R’s (risk reduction, readiness, response and recovery)
2. An operational part, which outlines principles, agreed agency functions, and management arrangements for operational activities
3. An administrative part, which outlines administrative arrangements, both operational and non-operational in relation to the CDEM Group.

The Emergency Managers within Wellington Region are working together to pursue the spirit of the CDEM Bill, although the formation of the CDEM Group and the Co-ordinating Executive Group will be introduced only after

the legislation is passed. Civil Defence Managers have been working for some time on the joint plan.

They have agreed that a CDEM Group Planning process is an opportunity for them to work together co-operatively and is likely to be more effective than having individual Civil Defence Plans for each authority as required by the current legislation. They have, therefore, begun the process of drafting the framework for the CDEM Group Plan, and begun work on the operational part of the plan (Part 2).

The operational part of the plan is progressing well, mostly because of the work being done for Project Phoenix. Many operational principles, assumptions and goals have been developed through the planning process for that exercise. In this regard an “Emergency Water Group” comprising water asset managers of the local authorities and emergency managers was formed to consider all options in providing water in an emergency. An “Emergency Rooding Strategy” Group is also in the process of being formed. This group comprises transport managers (WRC), rooding managers of TLA’s, representatives of Transit, Transfund, LTSA and emergency managers. Project Phoenix has been a very valuable trigger to begin the CDEM planning process.

So, although on the surface, it may appear as if we are standing still and awaiting new legislation, we are actually carrying out a lot of planning work. All the local authorities in the Region are involved. Consequently, when o if the new legislation is enacted, the Region will have built a good foundation for CDEM planning. In practice, we are looking to structure the CDEM plan in such a way that it could be adopted under the current Civil Defence Act 1983.

### 3. **Recommendation**

*That the report is received and the information noted*

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