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Committee CDEM Group  
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## Group Controller's Report

### 1. Purpose

To update the Wellington CDEM Group about operational civil defence emergency management activities which do not require CDEM Group decision-making.

### 2. Background

The CDEM Group Office and the Territorial Authority Emergency Management Offices are required to conduct activities in accordance with the CDEM Act 2002, the Wellington region CDEM Group Plan, and work programmes as set out and approved by the respective councils.

This report reflects the work that has been carried out since the last meeting of the CDEM Group.

### 3. Public Education

The Civil Defence Emergency Management Act 2002 (the Act) requires each CDEM Group to promote and raise public awareness of hazards and risk. The CDEM Group has a *CDEM Group Public Education Strategy* in place and the public education initiatives outlined below were carried out according to the Strategy.

#### It's easy: get prepared for an emergency

The "It's easy" booklet has been completed and is now being utilised by all the territorial authorities around the region. This booklet has been awarded the International Association of Emergency Managers (IAEM) Council 2010 Global Award for Public Awareness in a Local Emergency Management Agency).

#### Get Ready Week (11 October – 17 October)

This year's focus was on tsunami evacuation zones. A new booklet "It's easy:

know your tsunami zone” has been developed to introduce the concept and encourage people to contact their local council for more detailed advice.

#### Earth Rocks (23 and 24 October)

‘Earth Rocks’ is held every alternate year held at Te Papa over the Labour Weekend with the theme focused on earthquake preparedness. The “It’s easy: get prepared for an emergency” booklet was put to good use and about 10,000 booklets were distributed to visitors.

#### Radio advertising

The Wellington CDEM Group has signed a 12 month contract with Mediaworks Radio Airwaves. This contract includes a minimum of one hundred and fifty 30 second radio advertisements per month. The advertising is broadcast across The Edge, More FM, The Breeze, Solid Gold and Radio Live. The Public Education Group is working on a schedule to ensure the radio advertising is utilised to achieve appropriate reach.

### **4. Planning**

#### Sharing of services

In early 2009 Chief Executives from the Wellington region have identified a number of opportunities where potential benefit could be found for sharing services. Emergency Management was one of the areas identified and consequently a working party of officers was established to pursue these opportunities. This work is still ongoing.

#### Support to Canterbury

The National Crisis Management Centre (NCMC) was activated shortly after the Darfield earthquake on 4 September 2010 and the Wellington Region CDEM Group was formally notified within an hour of the earthquake happening.

CDEM Groups around New Zealand were requested to provide support and resources to Canterbury and the NCMC. A number of Wellington CDEM Group’s staff were rostered to assist at the NCMC.

The Wellington Region CDEM Group office also co-ordinated support demands from Christchurch via the NCMC. Greater Wellington Regional Council and all the territorial authorities in the region have made resources available to support Canterbury. In total eighteen emergency management officers, four public information managers, forty welfare staff, ten building inspectors and several water and waste water repair teams had been deployed from the Wellington region.

### **5. Projects**

The following projects are in progress and due for completion during the 2010/2011 period:

## Group website upgrade

The CDEM Group website was originally developed and hosted by *Clone (Auckland)*. *Clone* went into receivership and is now unable to provide support to the website. The CDEM Group Office agreed to join Greater Wellington's *Silverstripe* site. The first phase of the transition has been completed with the temporary Group site now on the main Greater Wellington website. Phase two is in progress.

## CDEM Group Public Information and Media Management Plan (review)

The CDEM Group Public Information and Media Management Plan outlines how the Wellington CDEM Group will manage and coordinate the media and provision of public information in a regionally significant emergency event. The original plan was implemented in 2007, and is now due for a formal review. Lessons learnt and recommendations from the latest exercises will be incorporated into the plan.

## CDEM Group Regional Rescue Strategy (review)

The Wellington CDEM Group currently has four registered local response teams (Upper Hutt, Hutt City, Wellington and Victoria University) to its disposal. These teams only have light rescue capability. It is important that we develop appropriate search and rescue capability to save lives and to protect property in the event of a major disaster. Reviewing the plan is in progress.

## CDEM Group Road Access Restoration Plan (review)

Due to the topography and geography of the Wellington region, access will be a critical issue following a major disaster event. Without access cities and districts will be isolated from each other.

Both State Highways 1 and 2 are extremely vulnerable to earthquakes. Good access will urgently be required to get resources into the affected areas.

Reviewing the Plan is in progress and meetings are planned with the New Zealand Transport Authority (NZTA) to discuss State Highways restoration and with territorial authorities regarding local road networks restoration.

## CDEM Group Public Education Strategy (review)

It is necessary to review the CDEM Group Public Education Strategy to ensure it is consistent with national strategies and incorporates new research and learnings. A new work programme will be developed to address the gaps identified in the 2010 community preparedness survey results. The review is underway.

## CDEM Group Recovery Plan (review)

The Group Recovery Plan was approved in 2008 for a 3 year period. The plan provided the framework for Recovery across the region and has been followed by the development of local recovery plans and arrangements.

It is acknowledged by the Civil Defence Emergency Management (CDEM)

sector that more emphasis and development is required for recovery planning, including the commitment of council resources to the process. This is reflected in the Wellington Region CDEM Group Plan as a recovery objective, i.e. *'Gaps in recovery planning are identified and a strategy for addressing these is developed'*. The review of the Group Recovery Plan aims to meet this objective.

### Ongoing CDEM Group activities

The CDEM Group Office and the territorial authority Emergency Management Offices are required to carry out ongoing projects as set out in the CDEM Group Plan. These activities include: local hazard analysis, resource management plan reviews, Business Continuity Plan (BCP) development, LTCCP consultation with emergency management organisations, asset management planning, public training, formal agreements prepared as necessary for response and recovery, hazardous substances industry advocacy, volunteer training and professional development programmes. Updates on all of these projects are available from the CDEM Group Office.

## 6. Training and Exercises

### Training

The Controller and Recovery Manager training and development programme was approved by CEG and has now been running for the past three years. The programme was made up of four theoretical courses and an exercise to gauge the knowledge and skills obtained over this two-year training programme. The practical exercise was designed and successfully delivered on 3 September 2010.

A new programme will be finalised in February 2011 and will be reported at the next CEG meeting for approval.

### Exercises

***Exercise Tangaroa*** - was a whole of government exercise and was held on 20 October 2010. More than 100 agencies have participated in the exercise. The exercise focused on a tsunami threat that required decision-making about warnings, information and evacuations from a distant source tsunami that originated in South America.

***Exercise Phoenix VII*** - was the annual Wellington Civil Defence Emergency Management Group (WRCDEMG) exercise. Exercise Phoenix VII was held on Thursday 11 November 2010 using the well established scenario for the Phoenix exercise series. The aim for Exercise Phoenix VII was to *'exercise and evaluate GECC roles and processes'*. The exercise also made provision for a separately run 'Greater Wellington Water Group' exercise, using the same scenario but with some challenging issues.

Both exercises were carried out successfully and the objectives for each were met. Exercise reports will be tabled at the next CEG meeting.

## **7. Recommendation**

*That the Civil Defence Emergency Management Group:*

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

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