

Report	13.1011
Date	13 November 2013
File	Z/01/04/19
Committee	CDEM Group
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Wellington region Natural Hazards Management Strategy

1. Purpose

To update the CDEM Group on the development of the Wellington region Natural Hazards Management Strategy.

2. Background

On 14 June 2013 the Regional Planning Managers Group (RPMG) and the Regional Manager, Wellington Region Emergency Management Office (WREMO) presented a proposal to the CEs for developing a Wellington Region Natural Hazards Strategy (the Strategy). The paper outlined the rationale for the proposal including the benefits of a co-operative regional approach.

The CEs agreed with this approach and endorsed the proposal to develop a Wellington Region Natural Hazard Management Strategy, overseen by the Joint Committee.

The four city councils (PCC, WCC, HCC, and UHCC) and Greater Wellington Regional Council all agreed to participate financially in the programme. Kapiti Coast District Council indicated it was interested in engaging and discussions are underway to facilitate a fuller participation. The three Wairarapa councils are maintaining a watching brief on the project, and retain the option to participate in the programme at some future time.

Briefly, the aim of the Strategy is to provide a coherent and integrated regional framework for natural hazard management that can be used to inform the coordinated and consistent development and/or review of hazard specific management plans and related planning documents, such as District or Regional Plans, Long Term Plans and Asset Management Plans.

3. Regional Hazard Management Strategy

The Strategy will offer regional benefits by delivering greater consistency and efficiency in natural hazard research, risk identification, information management, and co-ordinated hazard planning and risk management.

Currently, most Local Authorities in the region are undertaking district and regional plan reviews and with the formation of WREMO, there is an opportunity to develop an integrated regional strategy for natural hazard management planning. WREMO operates under the Civil Defence Emergency Management Act 2002, within which there are 4 principles of hazard management commonly referred to as the four R's – Reduction, Readiness, Response and Recovery. The first R – Reduction is aimed at reducing the risk and consequences of natural hazard events on the community. The goal is to build greater community resilience to natural hazards. This initiative is also aligned with Strategic Goal 3 of the Wellington region CDEM Group Plan.

Reduction is a hazard management and planning function that involves statutory planning under the Resource Management Act 1991, the Building Act 2004 and the Local Government Act 2002 as well as the CDEM Act 2002. Effective hazard and risk management requires a cooperative inter-agency effort, operating under a range of statutes and regional and local plans. The second generation Civil Defence Emergency Management Group Plan recognises that there needs to be better integration of these planning functions with the other three R's which have traditionally been the focus of Civil Defence activities.

It will also assist regional planning by responding to potential changes to the Resource Management Act, aimed at enhancing greater co-ordination and collaboration in natural hazard management, recommended to the Minister for the Environment by the Technical Advisory Group (TAG) in early 2012.

Furthermore, it is timely to consider a process for reviewing the region's existing natural hazard management and planning practices given heightened community awareness of natural hazards and risks following the Canterbury and Cook Strait earthquakes.

Importantly, the Strategy will not have any regulatory powers or control. Infrastructure and asset planning and decision making on any plans will remain with the individual Local Authorities.

Members of the regional planning managers group have confirmed that the Strategy can be delivered within existing planning programme budgets over the 2013-15 financial years. A letter to confirm this was sent to CEs of all the participating Territorial Authorities on 30 October 2013. Letters were also sent to the CEs of the Wairarapa councils and Kapiti Coast District Council to update them on progress. It is expected that it will cost in the order of \$150-180K with the four participating city councils contributing \$30K each and Greater Wellington Regional Council contributing up to \$50K.

4. Next Steps

A communications plan will be developed in order to manage the information flow to the media and public and to facilitate community engagement. The communications plan will be led by Great Wellington Regional Council, but will involve communications staff from all the participating councils to ensure all parties are in agreement with the process and have access to the same information

Request for Proposals (RFP) will be advertised calling for interested parties to submit plans and estimated costs to develop the regional hazards strategy. The RFP will be advertised on the Government Electronic Tender Service (GETS) website, the Dominion Post, and on participating councils' websites. Individual letters will also be sent to all the major consultancy groups with the capacity to undertake this work.

The first task for the successful consultant will be a 'stock-take' and gap-analysis of existing hazards research and management practices, including policies and rules in the regional and district plans. This will take place in the first half of 2014.

CEG and the Joint committee will be fully consulted throughout this process. This will lead to a draft strategy that will then be consulted with the community.

5. Recommendations

That the CDEM Group:

- 1. Receives the report;*
- 2. Notes the contents of the report;*

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