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**Committee** Rural Services and Wairarapa  
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## Civil Defence Emergency Management Group

### 1. Purpose

To inform the Committee of the formation and activities of the new Civil Defence Emergency Management Group.

### 2. Background

- 2.1 Under the new Civil Defence Emergency Management Act 2002, regions are required to form new Civil Defence Emergency Management Groups - CDEMG's, by 1 June 2003 and produce a CDEMG Plan within two years of formation.
- 2.2 Until the Group plans are in place existing Civil Defence Plans will remain operative under the old legislation.
- 2.3 A Co-ordinating Executive Group – CEG is required to service each CDEMG, implement their decisions, and oversee the development and implementation of the CDEMG Plan.

### 3. What is new?

- 3.1 The Act establishes a co-ordinated regional approach, whilst allowing for sub- regional approaches where appropriate.
- 3.2 It adds a proactive approach to Civil Defence with a strong emphasis on hazards and emergency management, seeking to ensure resilient communities through:
  - Reduction - eliminating or reducing hazard risk
  - Readiness - ensuring individual and collective preparedness for emergencies

- Response - ensuring proper responses can be made as required
- Recovery - ensuring communities can recover quickly after events

3.3 It recognises that emergency management involves a wide range of agencies. Specific recognition is given to Lifeline utilities such as transport networks, water, sewage, drainage, energy and communications.

#### **4. Wellington Region CDEM Group**

4.1 The Region's Mayors resolved to form a Wellington Region CDEM Group on 15 May 2003. The Chairperson is Wayne Guppy (Mayor Upper Hutt) and the Deputy is Margaret Shields (Chairperson, Greater Wellington).

4.2 The Group's Draft Terms of Reference were adopted and now await adoption by each Council. The Group is to be constituted as a Joint Standing Committee with each Member Council's representative having full authority to vote and make decisions within the Group's Terms of Reference, without further recourse to their Council.

The Group will meet again in August and November.

4.3 The CEG Group was appointed, comprising:

- The Chief Executives Officer of each Council, or a person acting on their behalf.
- Senior members of the Police and Fire Service.
- The Chief Executives Officer of the hospital and health services operating in an area, or a person acting on their behalf.
- Any other persons co-opted by the CDEM Group.

4.4 The CEG Group is responsible to the CDEM Group for:

- Providing advice
- Implementing CDEM Group decisions
- Developing, implementing and monitoring the CDEM Group Plan.

4.5 The CDEM Group Plan has to be completed and operative before 15 May 2005.

## **5. Greater Wellington's Role**

- 5.1 A Group Emergency Management Office will be established within the structure of Greater Wellington, whose Chief Executive will be responsible and accountable for its work. It will be initially staffed by present Greater Wellington Emergency Management staff.
- 5.2 Recognising the isolation of the Wairarapa, there is general agreement that a sub-group should be formed. Assistance from the Wairarapa Division will be given to developing this approach.
- 5.3 Identifying and analysing long term risks to human life and property from natural or man made hazards, and eliminating or reducing their impact is a key requirement of the legislation. Greater Wellington has been undertaking such hazard research over a number of years.

In the Wairarapa, the recently released WELA Lifelines Study provides this hazard information for the Wairarapa. It provides an excellent basis for the work that is now required and a direct involvement by the Wairarapa Division is anticipated.

## **6. Communications**

No additional publicity is proposed.

## **7. Recommendation**

*That the Committee receive this report and note its contents.*

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