

Report 08.803
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Committee CDEM Group
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Group (CEG)

Wellington CDEM Group support for the 'It's Our Fault' project

1. Purpose

To request the CDEM Group to approve financial support to the Institute of Geological and Nuclear Sciences (GNS Science) and the Earthquake Commission (EQC) for the 'It's Our Fault' project.

2. Co-ordinating Executive Group (CEG)

At its meeting on 6 October 2008, CEG endorsed the recommendations in this report.

3. Background

GNS Science is currently leading a research programme called 'It's Our Fault', aimed at positioning the Wellington region to become more resilient to earthquakes. The project entails a comprehensive study of the likelihood of large earthquakes near Wellington, the size of these earthquakes, and their impacts on our communities. The project started at the end of 2006 and significant new results are already emerging, highlighting the need to update assumptions for Wellington's planning and civil defence emergency management preparedness.

The project was introduced through a joint presentation by GNS Science and EQC to the Wellington CDEM Group at its meeting of 2 November 2007. The CDEM Group recognised the importance of the project and the necessity of the information to help enhance community awareness and preparedness for emergencies. Mutual support for the 'It's Our Fault' project was expressed at the meeting.

4. Support required

Currently the project is being supported by Wellington City Council and ACC, each contributing \$100,000 and this is being matched by EQC, providing a current budget of \$400,000. However, the target budget is \$600,000, without which key elements of the programme and important civic applications of its findings will be delayed.

A total contribution of \$100,000 (which will be matched with another \$100,000 from EQC) is requested from the Wellington Region CDEM Group.

5. CDEM Group budget constraints

A 'one off' contribution of \$100,000 may cause severe constraints on some of the smaller member council budgets.

According to the CDEM Group's financial arrangements, Greater Wellington would contribute \$50,000 while the territorial authorities (except Wellington City who already contributed \$100,000) in the region would contribute the other \$50,000. The contribution from each territorial authority would be as follows:

- Kapiti Coast District Council \$8,165
- Porirua City Council \$9,110
- Hutt City Council \$18,370
- Upper Hutt City Council \$7,000
- Masterton District Council \$4,350
- Carterton District Council \$1,320
- South Wairarapa District Council \$1,685.

It is proposed that the payments be spread over two financial years. This will ensure that the full programme of work will be able to be delivered on time.

An outline of the project, including the overall project timeline and a summary of progress to date, is attached as *Attachment 1*.

6. Conclusion

It is of vital importance that we keep up with modern data and technology in building our capacity and capability in emergency management. The most up to date data is required to have effective and efficient civil defence emergency management plans in place and to provide our communities with good reality checks regarding their levels of awareness and preparedness.

Overall the Wellington region is moving in the right direction and several years of public education programmes to promote awareness and preparedness

behaviours have produced very positive results. Our communities are slowly but surely getting more resilient.

For the Wellington region specifically, because of its extreme earthquake risk, it will be of great advantage to support the 'It's Our Fault' project.

7. Recommendations

That the CDEM Group:

- 1. receives the report;*
- 2. notes the contents; and*
- 3. recommends to its members that the sum of \$100,000 to be paid over a period of two years to the Institute of Geological and Nuclear Sciences Limited as the Wellington Region CDEM Group's support for the 'It's Our Fault' project. Payment to be made as follows:*

- Greater Wellington \$25,000 in each of the 2009/10 and 2010/11 years*
- Kapiti Coast District Council \$4082.50 in each of the 2009/10 and 2010/11 years*
- Porirua City Council \$4,555 in each of the 2009/10 and 2010/11 years*
- Hutt City Council \$9,185 in each of the 2009/10 and 2010/11 years*
- Upper Hutt City Council \$3,500 in each of the 2009/10 and 2010/11 years*
- Masterton District Council \$2,175 in each of the 2009/10 and 2010/11 years*
- Carterton District Council \$660 in each of the 2009/10 and 2010/11 years*
- South Wairarapa District Council \$842.50 in each of the 2009/10 and 2010/11 years.*

Report prepared by:

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(CEG)

Attachment 1: 'It's our Fault' Project