

Civil Defence Emergency Management Group Meeting Minutes

Meeting held in the Council Chamber
36 Water Street, Whangārei
on Tuesday 3 June 2025, commencing at 11:30 am - 1:00pm

Tuhinga/Present:

Chairperson, FNDC Deputy Mayor Kelly Stratford
Deputy Chairperson, WDC Mayor Vincent Cocurullo
FENZ Representative, Wipari Henwood
KDC Councillor, Gordon Lambeth
NEMA Representative, Mike Gillooly
NZ Police Representative, Matthew Srhoj (online)
NRC alternate Tui Shortland (online)
WDC alternate Nicholas Connop

I Tae Mai/In Attendance:

Full Meeting

CEG Chair, Simon Weston
NRC Secretariat, Haylee Labelle
NRC GM Community Resilience, Louisa Gritt
NEMA Senior Regional Emergency Management Advisor, Matthew Bramhall
KDC Gillian Bruce
Deputy CEG Chair, Jason Marris
Welfare Specialist, Kylie Cox
Emergency Management Recovery Specialist, Mark Trudinger
Emergency Management Specialist, Bill Hutchinson
Emergency Manager, Damian Rio
Emergency Management Specialist, Laura Exton
Emergency Management Specialist, Kori Puckey
Emergency Management Specialist, James Harvey
Emergency Management Specialist, Tony Devanney
Emergency Management Iwi Engagement, Papanui Polamalu
Emergency Management Response Specialist, Jenny Calder
NRC Natural Hazards Advisor, Anna Talbot

The Chair opened the meeting at 11.45am with a karakia. As per Standing Order 11.5 'Meeting lapses where no quorum' this was 15 minutes after the advertised start time of the meeting to allow for members who were known to be travelling to the meeting but delayed.

Ngā Mahi Whakapai/Housekeeping (Item 1.0)

Ngā whakapahā/Apologies (Item 2.0)

Moved (Stratford / Cocurullo)

That the apologies from Councillor Stolwerk for non-attendance be received. Noted apologies from non-members – Ruben Garcia, Cr MacDonald, Cr Robinson, Zach Woods, Brendon Gray

Carried

Nga whakapuakanga/Declarations of Conflicts of Interest (Item 3.0)

It was advised that members should make declarations item-by-item as the meeting progressed.

Confirmation of Minutes - 4 March 2025 (Item 4.1)

Report from Haylee Labelle, Personal Assistant Community Resilience

Moved (Lambeth / Stratford)

That the minutes of the Civil Defence Emergency Management Group meeting held on 4 March 2025, be confirmed as a true and correct record and that these be duly authenticated by the Chair.

Carried

Secretarial notes: Amendment made to 4 March 2025 minutes for Deputy chair Vince Cocurullo to part meeting attendance.

Receipt of Action Sheet (Item 5.1)

Report from Haylee Labelle, Personal Assistant Community Resilience

Moved (Stratford / Cocurullo)

That the action sheet be received.

Carried

National Emergency Management Agency Update (Item 6.1)

Report from Mike Gillooly, NEMA representative

Moved (Cocurullo / Lambeth)

That the report 'National Emergency Management Agency Update' by Mike Gillooly, NEMA representative and dated 21 March 2025 be received.

Carried

Secretarial notes: Budget decisions were made before this meeting with some agencies required to find savings. NEMA's budget remained unchanged at \$53 million for the 2025-2026 financial year and while there were no cuts to the current budget, there was no additional funding for the Resilience Fund. Agencies were invited to make submissions for increased funding for cost pressures or specific projects. NEMA is recruiting three staff members as they were not asked to find 6% savings for staff.

Explained the Emergency Management System Improvement Programme, which includes 15 initiatives recommended by the Minister for Emergency Management to improve the system.. The programme will be funded on a case-by-case basis, and the Minister will make announcements in June regarding the programme.

The Minister intends to introduce a new bill into Parliament this term (Emergency Management Bill). The team received over 400 submissions, and they are working to meet the timeframes for the bill.

Coordinating Executive Group Chairpersons Report (Item 7.1)

Report from Damian Rio, CDEM Emergency Manager

Moved (Lambeth / Cocurullo)

That the report 'Coordinating Executive Group Chairpersons Report' by Damian Rio, dated 12 May be received.

Carried

Secretarial notes: Discussed the recent testing of the tsunami sirens, The new network of 89 tsunami sirens was tested across the region. Some issues were identified, related to the activation process and cell phone/satellite connections including the length of time the sirens were activated and connection problems. While there were some issues with the activation process activation identified, including the length of time the sirens were activated and connection problems. The overall test was positive and the remaining sirens will be online in September.

Discussed the ongoing costs associated with the new tsunami sirens, including software fees and the need for spares. Each council will need to cover these costs. Some councils are facing challenges in covering the increased costs, leading to discussions about funding and prioritisation.

CEG chair reminded the committee to ensure that civil defence and emergency management training is included in the induction for new elected members. This will help them understand their responsibilities and the importance of funding for emergency management.

Actions:

1. NRC to provide a breakdown of the ongoing costs for tsunami sirens and final costs to each council.
2. All Councils to ensure that civil defence and emergency management training is included in the election training for new elected members

Membership and appointments – Northland CDEM Group (Item 7.2)

Report from Kylie Cox, Emergency Management Specialist and Damian Rio, CDEM Emergency Manager

Moved (Stratford / Cocurullo)

1. That the report 'Membership and appointments – Northland CDEM Group ' by Kylie Cox, Emergency Management Specialist and Damian Rio, CDEM Emergency Manager and dated, 21 May 2025 be received.

Carried

Secretarial notes: The police provided an update on their emergency management structures and business continuity plans. Mentioned that they have identified some gaps that need to be filled. Gave thanks for being included on the bill.

FENZ provided an update that we have a respite from fire but there is more rain predicted. Trying to be prepared and pre-position available resourcing. Flood modelling work will assist in the preparations. Improving technology will support their efforts moving forwards.

Community Response Planning and Marae Preparedness Planning (Item 8.1)

Report from Papanui Polamalu, Emergency Management - Iwi/hapū Engagement Advisor; Damian Rio, CDEM Emergency Manager; Tony Devanney, Emergency Management Specialist; Bill Hutchinson, Emergency Management Specialist and Kylie Cox, Emergency Management Specialist

Moved (Stratford / Lambeth)

That the report 'Community Response Planning and Marae Preparedness Planning' by Papanui Polamalu, Emergency Management - Iwi/hapū Engagement Advisor; Damian Rio, CDEM Emergency Manager; Tony Devanney, Emergency Management Specialist; Bill Hutchinson, Emergency Management Specialist and Kylie Cox, Emergency Management Specialist and dated 15 April 2025, be received.

Carried

Secretarial notes: The committee addressed the issue of scheduling conflicts with the annual Northland CDEM Forum and council meetings. They agreed to communicate to coordinate with all Councils to avoid such conflicts in the future.

Group Recovery Manager provided an update on the recovery efforts following Cyclone Gabrielle. He showcased a visual representation of nearly 1000 data points of the various projects and funding received, including solar systems, community response groups, and temporary accommodation. The data collected from the Cyclone Gabrielle recovery efforts will be used for future projects and strategic planning. This includes identifying areas that need solar systems and combining data with national hazard status. Data will be combined with national hazard status to strategically plan the locations of resources in communities. MBIE has offered over \$1 million to fund 14 more sites for solar systems, allowing for strategic placement based on collected data.

The committee discussed the need for more accurate weather data and mentioned the inadequacy of current weather stations in Northland. They highlighted the importance of having good data to inform accurate forecasts and for emergency response and planning.

Actions:

- 1. Investigate the possibility of obtaining more weather stations for Northland.**
- 2. Add the CDEM annual forum coordination with Councils to the July CEG agenda for the chair to address**

Submission on Emergency Management Bill (Item 8.2)

Report from Damian Rio, CDEM Emergency Manager

Moved (Cocurullo/ Lambeth)

1. That the report 'Submission on Emergency Management Bill' by Damian Rio, CDEM Emergency Manager and dated 13 May 2025, be received.
2. That That the Northland CDEM Group Joint Committee retrospectively approve the attached submission on the Emergency Management (EM) Bill Discussion Document.

Carried

Secretarial notes: The consultation process included several workshops attended by different groups and the Minister, setting a positive tone for future submissions.

The CEG chair, CDEM chair and deputy CDEM chair acknowledged the hard work done by the team in preparing the submission, highlighting the thoroughness and organisation of the process. NEMA acknowledged for thoroughness.

The group need to be ready to come together in October to read/workshop the bill.

Whakamutunga (Conclusion)

The meeting concluded at 12.32pm.

Un-confirmed