

Civil Defence Emergency Management Group Meeting

Tuesday 9 December 2025 at 10:00 am - 11:30am

AGENDA



Civil Defence Emergency Management Group Meeting Agenda

Meeting to be held in the Council Chamber
36 Water Street, Whangārei
on Tuesday 9 December 2025, commencing at 10:00 am - 11:30am

Recommendations contained in the agenda are NOT decisions of the meeting. Please refer to minutes for resolutions.

MEMBERSHIP OF THE CIVIL DEFENCE EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT GROUP MEETING

The meeting will be chaired by the current CEG chair (Simon Weston) until item 6.1

KDC Councillor, Gordon Lambeth	WDC Mayor, Ken Couper	NRC Councillor, Colin Kitchen
FNDC Councillor, Kelly Stratford	NEMA Representative, Shona Morgan	FENZ Representative, Wipari Henwood
NZ Police Representative, Matthew Srhoj		

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TITLE: **Presentation of Minutes - 2 September 2025**

From: Haylee Labelle, Personal Assistant Community Resilience

Authorised by Louisa Gritt, Group Manager - Community Resilience, on 01 December 2025
Group Manager/s:

Ngā mahi tūtohutia / Recommendation

1. That the minutes of the Civil Defence Emergency Management Group Meeting held on 2 September 2025 be noted.
2. Note that in accordance with Northland Regional Council Standing Orders, the last minutes of the triennium have been approved by the Chair and the Chief Executive Officer.

Attachments/Ngā tapirihanga

Attachment 1: CDEM Minutes [↓](#) 

Civil Defence Emergency Management Group Meeting
2 September 2025

Civil Defence Emergency Management Group Meeting Minutes

Meeting held in the Council Chamber
36 Water Street, Whangārei
on Tuesday 2 September 2025, commencing at 11:30 am - 1:00pm

Tuhinga/Present:

Chairperson, FNDC Deputy Mayor Kelly Stratford
Deputy Chairperson - WDC Mayor, Vincent Cocurullo
KDC Councillor, Gordon Lambeth
NRC Councillor, Rick Stolwerk
WDC alternate, Nicholas Connop
NEMA Representative Mike Gillooly
FENZ Representative Wipari Henwood
NZ Police alternate, Dean Robinson

I Tae Mai/In Attendance:

Full Meeting

NRC CDEM Emergency Manager, Damian Rio
NEMA Representative, Shona Morgan
NRC GM Community Resilience, Louisa Gritt
NRC Emergency Management Partnership Manager, Brendon Gray
FNDC GM Community & Engagement, Ruben Garcia
NRC Welfare Specialist, Kylie Cox
Emergency Management Specialist, Bill Hutchinson
Emergency Management Specialist, Kori Puckey
Emergency Management Specialist, James Harvey
Emergency Management Specialist, Tony Devanney
Emergency Management Response Specialist, Jenny Calder
NRC EA to the Chair, Rae Hetaraka – (online)
Emergency Management Iwi Engagement, Papanui Polamalu (online)
Emergency Management Specialist, Laura Exton (online)
Emergency Management Communications Specialist, Zach Woods – (online)

The Chair declared the meeting open at 11.30am with karakia.

Ngā Mahi Whakapai/Housekeeping (Item 1.0)

The chair informed that the meeting would be recorded for the purpose of minute taking support

Ngā whakapahā/Apologies (Item 2.0)

Moved (Stratford / Cocurullo)

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That the apologies from NRC Councillor Shortland, FNDC alternate Moko Tepania and NZ Police Representative Matthew Shroj for non-attendance be received.

Carried

Secretarial notes: Apologies were noted for the following attendees: Jason Marris, Simon Weston, Cr Robinson, Cr MacDonald, Guy Holroyd, Michael Day

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.

Receipt of Supplementary Report (Item 4.0A)

Report from Haylee Labelle, Personal Assistant Community Resilience

Moved (Cocurullo / Stratford)

That as permitted under section 46A(7) of the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987 the following supplementary report be received – Group Controller Appointment

Carried

Secretarial notes: Entered as item 7.4 on the agenda

Confirmation of Minutes - 3 June 2025 (Item 4.1)

Report from Haylee Labelle, Personal Assistant Community Resilience

Moved (Cocurullo / Lambeth)

That the minutes of the Civil Defence Emergency Management Group meeting held on 3 June 2025, and the be confirmed as a true and correct record and that these be duly authenticated by the Chair.

Carried

Receipt of Action Sheet (Item 5.1)

Report from Haylee Labelle, Personal Assistant Community Resilience

Moved (Stolwerk/ Cocurullo)

That the action sheet be received.

Carried

Secretarial notes: Discussed the development and implementation of a Community Resilience Induction Package to ensure all incoming and existing elected members receive civil defence and emergency management training, with staff tasked to create and share the package across councils.

Confirmed that all councils are required to include civil defence and emergency management training in the induction process for newly elected members, as outlined in the action sheet, with staff responsible for preparing the necessary materials.

The induction package aims to ensure elected members understand their roles and responsibilities in civil defence, especially given recent emergencies and the unique situation of having experienced members like the chair

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Staff are actively developing the induction package under the community resilience space with NRC, which will be shared with new elected members and included in council induction processes, covering not just civil defence but also adaptation and other relevant topics.

National Emergency Management Agency Update (Item 6.1)

Report from Shona Morgan, NEMA Representative - Senior Regional Emergency Management Advisor

Moved (Stratford/ Cocurullo)

That the report 'National Emergency Management Agency Update' by Shona Morgan, NEMA Representative - Senior Regional Emergency Management Advisor and dated 20 August 2025 be received.

Carried

Secretarial notes: Shona introduced herself. She will be attending CDEM in place of Mike Gillooly who has now taken a different position within NEMA.

Explained that new requirements for group plans include specific provisions for people effected disproportionately during emergencies, coordination of community assistance, and management of animals during emergencies. The CDEM group plan is up for review next year – it will be prudent to start planning soon.

A targeted consultation is underway regarding Section 33 of the National Plan, focusing on how financial support to local authorities is managed, and groups are encouraged to submit feedback to ensure local authorities understand available government support. CDEM group is invited to provide feedback during the process.

The current legislative proposal is for CEs to be appointed as controllers, with the ability to delegate, and council members were advised to provide feedback during the Select Committee process, with the timeline for submissions expected towards the end of the year. Feedback can be provided as individual councils but the CDEM group will do its own.

CEG Chair Report (Item 7.1)

Report from Damian Rio, CDEM Emergency Manager

Moved (Stratford/ Stolwerk)

That the report 'CEG Chair Report' by Damian Rio, CDEM Emergency Manager and dated 28 August 2025 be received.

Carried

Secretarial notes: Clarified that NRC has a core team of 13 staff, dedicated to civil defence, with additional council staff trained in incident management to support during events. KDC has one assigned civil defence staff member, but 50 council employees are trained and can be mobilised for emergency response, while still being paid by their respective councils. The number of trained staff fluctuates as personnel join or leave, and the council can provide updated figures on trained staff upon request.

Discussed the effectiveness of various communication channels for emergency messaging, emphasising a multi-channel approach that includes radio, social media, council websites, and phone trees, with radio remaining the most trusted source according to recent surveys. Outlined the main

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channels used: RNZ and local broadcasters, Facebook as the primary social media platform, and council websites for updates, with ongoing exploration of additional social media options. Mike highlighted that radio remains the most trusted source of information during emergencies, as confirmed by NEMA surveys and local feedback, though the council continues to use all available channels to ensure message consistency and accuracy. Noted the importance of tailoring communication to different demographics, ensuring accurate information is disseminated, and addressing misinformation, especially for rural and isolated communities.

Discussed the coverage and effectiveness of the Emergency Mobile Alert System, noting improvements in message delivery, ongoing network upgrades, and the impact of 3G network closure. Observed that nearly all phones now receive emergency alerts, with only a few exceptions, and Zach confirmed that network coverage is continually improving, though not yet at 100%. Zach participates in the EMA users group, which meets quarterly to discuss system updates, and noted that the closure of 3G is expected to improve coverage, with ongoing efforts to address connectivity gaps. Zach is in contact with the rural connectivity group to address issues related to network upgrades and vandalism, ensuring isolated communities remain connected during emergencies.

Discussed the status of the Tsunami Sirens project, clarifying the difference between constructed and completed sites, operational requirements, and ongoing efforts to secure funding for sites lacking mains power connectivity. Explained that a site is considered completed once it is constructed, connected to satellite, cell phone, and mains power, with some sites currently operational via solar power only. Sites lacking mains power are outside the existing budget, and the CES forum is exploring funding options to complete these installations, with 90 sites constructed and operational via satellite or cellular connectivity.

Discussed the near-completion of documentation for the Multi-Agency Coordination Centre, with the CE forum monitoring progress and plans to provide a programme update once finalised. Early discussions are underway regarding future collaboration and co-location of agencies within the centre, aiming to enhance joint operations and resource sharing.

KDC asked to note that item 15: Wairoa River Model gives the impression that the whole river was cross sectioned, they believe only a very small percentage was completed – wanted this noted for the record that it is misleading.

Actions:

- 1. Confirm how long NRC has collected rates for the Multi-Agency Coordination Centre and the current amount held. (CDEM)**
- 2. Share data on the percentage of people receiving Emergency Mobile Alerts following recent tests.** – Information provided in the chat by Zach at the meeting: The latest information on the EMA systems reach from NEMA In May 2025: John Price, Director, National Emergency Management Agency says NEMA's test of the system(28/05/2025) say the alert successfully transmitted to all parts of New Zealand with cell phone reception. "Our 2022 survey showed nine out of ten people received an alert or had been with someone who had. Given this year's transmission was successful, we can safely estimate between 5 and 6 million phones received the alert."

Membership and appointments – Northland CDEM Group (Item 7.2)

Report from Damian Rio, CDEM Emergency Manager and Kylie Cox, Welfare Coordination Group Representative

(Cocurullo/ Stratford)

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1. That the report 'Membership and appointments – Northland CDEM Group' by Damian Rio, CDEM Emergency Manager and Kylie Cox, Welfare Coordination Group Representative and dated, 30 July 2025 be received.
2. That the CDEM Group notes the new iwi representative is Thomas Hohaia replacing JJ Ripikoi and Hone Dalton, effective 29 May 2025.
3. That the CDEM Group approves the removal of Shona Morgan, Joanne Tasker and Sian Leith and Paula Ulrich from their appointed CDEM roles for Whangārei District Council.
4. That the CDEM Group notes the transition of John Burt, Local Controller appointment from Kaipara District Council to Whangārei District Council (replacing Shona Morgan) effective 1st September 2025; and
5. That the CDEM Group notes that John Burt will continue as a Group Controller on behalf of Whangārei District Council effective 1st September 2025.
6. That the CDEM Group approves the appointment of Tracey Deane, Kaipara District Council and Esther Powell, Far North District Council as Local Recovery Managers in accordance with CDEM Act 2002 s. 30 (1).

Carried

Declarations During Elections (Item 7.3)

Report from Damian Rio, CDEM Emergency Manager

(Stratford/ Cocurullo)

That the report 'Declarations During Elections' by Damian Rio, CDEM Emergency Manager and dated 20 August 2025, be received.

Carried

Secretarial notes: Presented on the authority to declare emergencies during the election period, clarifying the legislative process, the role of outgoing members, and the Minister for Emergency Management's authority during the transition, with council members seeking practical guidance. It is important for members to be aware of the gap and the process.

During a state of emergency, the chair of the CDEM group is the first to declare, followed by the deputy chair or another CDEM group member, and if unavailable, the mayor or a nominated council member of the affected district, with authority shifting to the Minister for Emergency Management during the post-election gap.

Outgoing council members retain authority to declare emergencies until official election results are announced, after which only the Minister can declare until new members are sworn in, as per the Local Government Act and emergency management legislation.

The Chief Executive Officer is responsible for convening the first council meeting to swear in new members, potentially creating a 10-15 day gap where only the Minister can act, with the group controller and CE coordinating with emergency services during this period

Group Controller Appointment (Item 7.4)

Report from Damian Rio, CDEM Emergency Manager

(Stolwerk/ Cocurullo)

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1. That the report 'Group Controller Appointment' by Damian Rio, CDEM Emergency Manager and dated 27 August 2025, be received.
2. That the Civil Defence Emergency Management Group committee approve the appointment of Damian Rio as a Group Controller.
3. That the Civil Defence Emergency Management Group committee notes that Damian Rio continues with his Controller Development plan, due to be completed by mid-November 2025.

Carried

Community Response Planning and Marae Preparedness Planning (Item 8.1)

Report from Damian Rio, CDEM Emergency Manager; Papanui Polamalu, Emergency Management - Iwi/hapū Engagement Advisor; Laura Exton, Emergency Management Specialist – Kaipara and Kori Puckey, Emergency Management Specialist

(Stolwerk/ Cocurullo)

That the report 'Community Response Planning and Marae Preparedness Planning' by Damian Rio, CDEM Emergency Manager; Papanui Polamalu, Emergency Management - Iwi/hapū Engagement Advisor; Laura Exton, Emergency Management Specialist – Kaipara and Kori Puckey, Emergency Management Specialist and dated 30 July 2025, be received.

Carried

Secretarial notes: The CDEM Group has prioritised expanding community response planning and Marae fitness, resulting in improved resilience and more efficient resource allocation during emergencies. Staff efforts have been instrumental in increasing the number of prepared communities, with the benefits evident during recent emergency responses, particularly in remote areas.

Discussed the outcomes of the 35 Marae project, highlighting key messages around water, food, and safety, practical resilience measures in isolated communities, and ongoing efforts to secure funding and resources for vulnerable groups. Papanui reported that coastal Marae focus on high tide and tsunami risks, inland Marae on flooding and water supply, and forested areas on fire risk, with consistent emphasis on supporting vulnerable groups such as elders and disabled individuals. Isolated communities have increased their resilience by installing water tanks, acquiring generators, and establishing multiple response hubs for different hazards, with plans to implement solar arrays for alternative energy. Many communities struggle to afford emergency supplies and infrastructure, prompting efforts to concentrate resources at Marae and seek funding streams to support food and equipment for households. Desalination plants are being considered for isolated communities to ensure water supply during emergencies, though cost remains a barrier to widespread implementation.

The chair then opened the floor to Police and FENZ to share any updates we should be aware of.

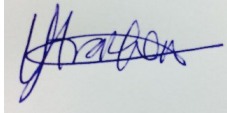
- *Police: Despite vacancies, support from across the country ensures that frontline service delivery remains unaffected, with resources focused on operational needs.*
- *FENZ: Paid staff are undertaking low-level industrial action, which has not affected frontline operations, with ongoing negotiations aimed at resolution. Early discussions with CDEM Emergency Manager are exploring future collaboration and co-location within the Multi-Agency Coordination Centre to enhance joint emergency management efforts. Expecting a La Nina weather pattern this summer.*

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Whakamutunga (Conclusion)

The meeting concluded at 12.27pm with karakia by the chair

Confirmed as a true and correct record:



Chair Kelly Stratford



Chief Executive Officer Jonathan Gibbard

(In accordance with Standing Order 28.4 'Minutes of the last meeting before election' – The Chief Executive and the relevant Chairpersons must sign the minutes of the last meeting of the local authority before the next election of members)

TITLE: **Receipt of Action Sheet**

From: Haylee Labelle, Personal Assistant Community Resilience

Authorised by Louisa Gritt, Group Manager - Community Resilience, on 24 November 2025
Group Manager/s:

Whakarāpopototanga / Executive summary

The purpose of this report is to enable the meeting to receive the current action sheet.

Nga mahi tutohutia / Recommendation

That the action sheet be received.

Attachments/Ngā tapirihanga

Attachment 1: Action Sheet [↓](#) 

CDEM Group - schedule of actions						
Action#	Meeting date	Item	Action	Responsible staff	Status	Notes
2	3/06/2025	CEG Chair Report (7.1)	All Councils to ensure that civil defence and emergency management training is included in the election training for new elected members	Councils / Emergency Manager	In Progress	20/8/25 Being developed as a component of the Community Resilience Induction Package for briefing newly elected councillors.
1	2/09/2025	CEG Chair Report (7.1)	Confirm how long NRC has collected rates for the Multi-Agency Coordination Centre and the current amount held.	Group Manager Community Resilience	Completed	GM provided the requested information to the requestor
2	2/09/2025	CEG Chair Report (7.1)	Share data on the percentage of people receiving Emergency Mobile Alerts following recent tests.	Emergency Management Communications Specialist	Completed	2/9/25 - Information provided in the chat by Zach at the meeting: The latest information on the EMA systems reach from NEMA In May 2025: John Price, Director, National Emergency Management Agency says NEMA's test of the system(28/05/2025) say the alert successfully transmitted to all parts of New Zealand with cell phone reception. "Our 2022 survey showed nine out of ten people received an alert or had been with someone who had. Given this year's transmission was successful, we can safely estimate between 5 and 6 million phones received the alert."

TITLE: Election of Civil Defence Group Chair and Deputy Chair

From: Damian Rio, CDEM Emergency Manager

Authorised by Group Manager/s: Louisa Gritt, Group Manager - Community Resilience, on 01 December 2025

Whakarāpopototanga | Executive Summary

The purpose of this report is to elect a Chair and Deputy Chair for the Northland Civil Defence Emergency Management Group.

Ngā mahi tūtohutia | Recommendations

1. THAT the report 'Election of Civil Defence Group Chair and Deputy Chair' by Damian Rio, CDEM Emergency Manager and dated 28 November 2025, be received.
2. That in the event more than one nomination for Chairperson is received, "System A" as specified in Clause 25 of Schedule 7 to the Local Government Act be used for the election of the Chairperson.
3. THAT _____ be elected Chair of the Northland CDEM Group Committee.
4. THAT _____ be elected the Deputy Chair of the Northland CDEM Group Committee

Tuhinga | Background

The Northland CDEM Group Committee is constituted under the requirements of the Civil Defence Emergency Management Act 2002.

This is the first meeting of the group of the new triennium, and a Chair and Deputy Chair should be appointed.

The Coordinating Executive Group Chair will call for nominations for election to the office of Chairperson. A mover and seconder will be required for each nomination. Any nomination that is moved but not seconded, will be deemed to have lapsed.

If only one nomination is received, that person will be declared to be elected. Should more than one nomination be received, the CDEM Group members will be called upon to decide which of the two systems of voting (as specified in Clause 25 of Schedule 7 to the Local Government Act) is to be used to make the appointment. The two systems are as follows:

System A

- (a) Requires that a person is elected or appointed if he or she receives the votes of a majority of the members of the local authority or committee present and voting; and
- (b) Has the following characteristics:
 - (i) There is a first round of voting for all candidates; and
 - (ii) If no candidate is successful in that round there is a second round of voting from which the candidate with the least votes in the first round is excluded; and

- (iii) If no candidate is successful in the second round there is a third; and if necessary a subsequent, round of voting from which, each time, the candidate with the fewest votes in the previous round is excluded; and
- (iv) In any round of voting, if two or more candidates tie for the lowest number of votes, the person excluded from the next round is resolved by lot.

System B

- (a) Requires that a person is elected or appointed if he or she receives more votes than any other candidate; and
- (b) Has the following characteristics:
 - (i) There is only one round of voting; and
 - (ii) If two or more candidates tie for the most votes, the tie is resolved by lot.

It should be noted that resolving by lot will be conducted by putting each person's name on the same size piece of paper and put in a box from which the name is drawn by the CEG Chair.

In accordance with the Terms of Reference, the committee comprises of representatives from each of the four councils. All representatives have authority to vote and make decisions for their respective organisations without further approval. The NZ Fire Service and NZ Police are represented by their respective District Commanders in an observer capacity.

Considerations

1. Options

No.	Option	Advantages	Disadvantages
1	System A	Carries a lesser likelihood that the Chairperson of CDEM Group Committee could be determined by lot.	More complex.
2	System B	Simple system	Carries a higher likelihood that the Chairperson of CDEM Group Committee could be determined by lot.

The staff's recommended option is that, in the event more than one nomination be received for Chairperson, System A be applied.

2. Significance and engagement

CDEM Group Committees must elect a Chairperson and therefore in relation to Section 79 of the Local Government Act 2002 and council policy, this issue is considered to be of low significance.

3. Policy, risk management and legislative compliance

This report is submitted for consideration by CDEM Group Committee pursuant to the statutory requirements of Schedule 7 of the Local Government Act 2002.

Being a purely administrative matter, Climate Impact, Environmental Impact, Community Views, Māori Impact Statement, Financial Implications and Implementation Issues are not applicable.

Attachments/Ngā tapirihanga

Nil

TITLE: **National Emergency Management Agency Update**

From: Shona Morgan, NEMA Representative - Senior Regional Emergency Management Advisor

Authorised by Group Manager/s: Louisa Gritt, Group Manager - Community Resilience, on 24 November 2025

Whakarāpopototanga / Executive summary

Attached is the November update from the National Emergency Management Agency

Ngā mahi tūtohutia / Recommendation

That the report 'National Emergency Management Agency Update' by Shona Morgan, NEMA Representative - Senior Regional Emergency Management Advisor and dated 24 November 2025 be received.

Attachments/Ngā tapirihanga

Attachment 1: NEMA Update [↓](#) 



NEMA Update

Northland CDEM Joint Committee

9 December 2025

Update on Emergency Management Bill

Following consultation earlier this year on the discussion document on strengthening New Zealand's emergency management legislation, Cabinet has agreed to a series of policy proposals for a new Emergency Management Bill.

The Cabinet paper provides details on the 21 proposals, but in summary the Bill will:

- clarify who is in control during emergencies (particularly when undeclared) and clarify accountabilities at the local level.
- improve how Civil Defence Emergency Management Group plans are developed and with whose input, given they drive change on the ground.
- provide for representation of iwi Māori, rural communities and the wider community on Coordinating Executive Groups.
- expand the tools available to improve assurance of the system, e.g. through rules or Compliance Orders.
- expand the lifeline utilities/essential infrastructure providers that can be recognised under the legislation (e.g. certain digital services and solid waste).

The Cabinet Paper has been proactively released and is available on NEMA's website: [Emergency Management Bill » National Emergency Management Agency](#)

Government intends to pass the new Emergency Management Bill during this term of Parliament. The public will have another opportunity to make submissions during the Select Committee process.

Emergency Management System Improvement Programme (EMSIP)

As you will recall, Cabinet agreed to the [Strengthening Emergency Management Roadmap](#) in principle, subject to further policy work, the passage of enabling legislation, and availability of new funding through future Budgets.

NEMA is currently working to further develop the evidence base and business cases that need to underpin the Roadmap's key initiatives, including the Emergency Management Sector Operational Systems Modernisation and Uplift (EMS-OS) Programme.

EMS-OS is a key strengthening initiative for the emergency management sector, designed to improve how information is managed and shared before, during, and following emergencies. The programme will establish a common operating picture to enable better situational awareness, produce intelligence, deliver coordination, and support decision-making across the Sector.

This includes:

1. **Incident Intelligence:** a shared capability for near real-time situational awareness and the production of intelligence products.
2. **National Warning System:** modernising how emergency warnings are issued.
3. **Resilient Communications:** exploring the use of technologies like Low Earth Orbit satellite internet to ensure connectivity during emergencies.
4. **Operational Systems for NEMA:** enhancing tools for national coordination.
5. **Feasibility Study:** a view to deliver common operating tools and associated processes for the CDEM Sector.



The budget bids (for FY26/27) are likely due at Treasury in **December 2025**. We will provide further updates on the progress of this work in due course.

ShakeOut 2025

NEMA would like to acknowledge and thank you for your support of ShakeOut 2025.

ShakeOut is a powerful reminder that we live in a beautiful, but often hazardous country. As we know, earthquakes, tsunamis, and floods can strike without warning, which is why it is so important that we all take part in ShakeOut - a national day of action to prepare for a major natural disaster.

This year more than 765,000 people signed up to take part.

NEMA organisational changes

Change of National Controller

The Manager, National Operations and National Controller, Wendy Wright, has resigned from NEMA. Charlie Blanch, Chief Advisor National Operations has been confirmed as the National Controller while recruitment is underway for Manager, National Operations. Charlie has previously been an Alternative National Controller.

Change of hosting responsibilities for NEMA

The hosting responsibilities for NEMA transferred from the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet (DPMC) to the Department of Internal Affairs (DIA) on 25 September 2025. Following a Cabinet decision, this move aligns NEMA with a larger, more operationally focused organisation that is well-suited to provide the necessary corporate support to departmental agencies. The transfer is also consistent with long-standing Machinery of Government principles, ensuring agencies are hosted within entities that maximise efficiency and effectiveness

Shona Morgan | Senior Regional Emergency Management Advisor
National Emergency Management Agency Te Rākau Whakamarumaru
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TITLE: Membership and appointments – Northland CDEM Group

From: Damian Rio, CDEM Emergency Manager

Authorised by Group Manager/s: Louisa Gritt, Group Manager - Community Resilience, on 26 November 2025

Whakarāpopototanga | Executive Summary

This report provides an up-to-date list of members and key appointments for the Northland CDEM Group. The list of key appointments is available on the Northland CDEM Group plan webpage.

Ngā mahi tūtohutia | Recommendation(s)

1. That the report 'Membership and appointments – Northland CDEM Group' by Damian Rio, CDEM Emergency Manager and dated 18 November 2025, be received.
2. That CDEM Joint Committee note the appointment on the CEG of Medical Officer of Health – David Sinclair.
3. That CDEM Joint Committee note the resignation of Alternate Group Welfare Manager – Raewyn Smythe.
4. That CDEM Joint Committee approve the appointment of Tony Phipps as Local Recovery Manager, Whangārei District Council, pursuant to section 30 (1) Civil Defence Act 2002.

Tuhinga | Background

Membership of the Northland Civil Defence Emergency Management Group:

Councillor Stratford	FNDC
Councillor Kitchen	NRC
Mayor Couper	WDC - Mayor
Councillor Lambeth	KDC
Wipari Henwood	Commander, Fire and Emergency NZ
Superintendent Matt Srhoj	Northland Police District Commander
Shona Morgan	NEMA (observer)

Membership of the Coordinating Executive Group:

Simon Weston	Chair of CEG – CEO, WDC
Jonathan Gibbard	CEO, NRC
Ruben Garcia	FNDC delegated representative
Jason Marris	Deputy Chair of CEG - CEO, KDC
Wayne Ewers	Inspector, NZ Police
Graeme Quensell	Assistant Commander, Fire and Emergency NZ
Sarah Boniface	Health New Zealand/Te Whatu Ora
Ben Lockie	St John Ambulance
David Sinclair	Medical Officer of Health
Sarah Irwin	Northland Lifelines Group
Kylie Cox	Northland Welfare Coordination Group
Thomas Hohaia	Iwi Representative - Te Kahu o Taonui
Snow Tane	Iwi Representative
Shona Morgan	NEMA (observer)

Controllers:

Group Controller(s)	Local Controller(s) Whangārei District	Local Controller(s) Kaipara District	Local Controller(s) Far North District
Damian Rio	Simon Weston	Jack Rudolph	Alastair Wells
Jenny Calder	Victoria Harwood	Alistair Dunlop	
Graeme MacDonald	Calvin Thomas		
Alastair Wells	John Burt		
Simon Western			
Victoria Harwood			
John Burt			

Welfare Managers:

Group Welfare Manager(s)	Local Welfare Managers Whangārei District	Local Welfare Managers Kaipara District	Local Welfare Managers Far North District
Kylie Cox	Toby Hoey	Jenny Rooney	Ange Simonsen
Chris McColl (Alternate)	Kate Biddlecombe (Maternity Leave until June 2026)	Siobhan Holster	Kara-Mia Rogers
			Kirsty Roper

Recovery Managers:

Group Recovery Manager	Local Recovery Manager Whangārei District	Local Recovery Manager Kaipara District	Local Recovery Manager Far North District
Mark Trudinger	To be appointed	Tracey Deane	Esther Powell
Jenny Calder			

New Membership CEG: Medical Officer of Health – David Sinclair

David Sinclair is a senior public health leader with the National Public Health Service (NPHS), appointed as Medical Officer of Health to the Northland Coordinating Executive Group in 2025. He provides strategic oversight for emergency management planning and public health risk governance across Auckland and Northland.

Although based in Auckland, Dr. Sinclair maintains strong engagement with Northland through regular collaboration with Health NZ / Te Whatu Ora, ensuring integrated planning and strengthened regional preparedness.

Group Controller update

Louisa Gritt, Group Manager Community Resilience, Northland Regional Council (NRC) has stepped down from the position of Group Controller.

Resignation of Alternate Group Welfare Manager – Raewyn Smythe

We acknowledge the resignation of Raewyn Smythe from her role as Alternate Group Welfare Manager for Northland, effective October 2025. Raewyn has been a valued member of the Northland Civil Defence Group for over two decades, including approximately 15 years as Local Welfare Manager at FNDC. Her commitment continued post-retirement through her involvement with the Northland CDEM Group and her contracted support to NRC.

Raewyn's contributions have been significant, with deployments across New Zealand, notably during the Christchurch Earthquakes in 2011 and Edgecumbe Floods in 2017. Raewyn manned the 0800 number for welfare support during COVID where her knowledge and WCG contacts were valuable, and more recently in support of FNDC's Emergency Operations Centre during Cyclone Gabrielle to name a few. Her dedication and commitment to Civil Defence Emergency Management has been deeply appreciated.

We extend our sincere thanks and gratitude for Raewyn's outstanding service and wish her all the best in her future endeavours. A suitable replacement is currently being considered from within NRC staff.

Local Recovery Manager appointment: Tony Phipps - Whangārei District Council

Whangārei District Council has proposed reappointing Tony Phipps as Local Recovery Manager on a contract basis, effective November 2025. Tony previously held this role during the post Cyclone Gabrielle recovery period and brings over 25 years of experience in Civil Defence, including prior service as Group Controller and Community Resilience Group Manager at Northland Regional Council. This appointment was endorsed by the CEG at the meeting on 08 October 2025.

As this appointment falls outside the Joint Committee approved process for recruiting and appointing Local Recovery Managers, Northland CDEM will work alongside Whangārei District Council to support this arrangement in terms of training, pre-disaster recovery planning, and ongoing recovery readiness.

Attachments/Ngā tapirihanga

Nil

TITLE: CEG Chair's Report

From: Kori Puckey, Emergency Management Specialist; Zach Woods, Emergency Management Communications Specialist; Rongomaiwahine Glassie, Emergency Management Specialist; Tony Devanney, Emergency Management Specialist; Bill Hutchinson, Emergency Management Specialist; Damian Rio, CDEM Emergency Manager; Kylie Cox, Welfare Coordination Group Representative; Papanui Polamalu, Emergency Management - Iwi/hapū Engagement Advisor; Laura Exton, Emergency Management Specialist – Kaipara; James Harvey, Emergency Management Recovery Support Advisor; Brendon Gray, Emergency Management Partnership Manager; Mark Trüdinger, Emergency Management Recovery Specialist; Jenny Calder, Emergency Management Response Specialist and Sarah Gauden-Ing, Natural Hazards Specialist

Authorised by Group Manager/s: Louisa Gritt, Group Manager - Community Resilience, on 27 November 2025

Whakarāpopototanga / Executive summary

This report provides a summary of activities undertaken by or directly related to the delivery of the Northland Civil Defence Emergency Management Group plan over the period since the last CEG meeting in October 2025.

Ngā mahi tūtohutia / Recommendation

That the report 'CEG Chair's Report' by Damian Rio, dated 10 November 2025 be received.

Background/Tuhinga

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1. Activations and Response
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9. CDEM Communications Update
10. Māori Relationships Update
11. Section 17a Review Update
12. Tsunami siren replacement Project Update
13. Tsunami inundation mapping Project Update
14. Multi Agency Coordination Centre
15. Professional Development and Engagement
16. Natural Hazards update
17. Recovery

1. Activations and Response

No activations have occurred in the past quarter; however, the team have actively monitored two situations. Additionally, following a call for surge staff to support Nelson-Tasman in response to a severe weather event, Emergency Management Special (EMS), Kaipara, Laura Exton, deployed in the CIMS Welfare function.

On Tuesday **29 July 2025** a weather event that caused significant flooding in the Waiomio Valley was actively monitored while the Far North District Council provided support for impacted whanau.

On Wednesday **30 July 2025** at 11:25 NZST a magnitude 8.8 earthquake occurred off the east coast of Kamchatka (far east coast of Russia). This event was actively monitored as the earthquake had the potential to cause a tsunami event that would impact Taitokerau.

At 12:57pm NEMA advised a beach and marine threat. As this still has the potential to cause injury and/or damage, communications continued to be shared, and monitoring of the event returned to the remit of the on-call duty officer.

Throughout the day, information was shared with agencies and stakeholders, the group controller participated in national controller calls, supporting the use of the Emergency Mobile Alert (EMA) to ensure our coastal communities received the warning and associated messaging.

2. Northland CDEM Group

Operational Activities

The Northland CDEM Group Office continues to deliver on its objectives through coordinated district-level implementation of the 2025-2026 work programmes. Key progress has been made in community engagement, tsunami preparedness, and emergency response capability across all districts. Emergency Operations Centres (EOC) have received IT upgrades and staff training, and the Group has supported recent weather responses and national tsunami advisories. Service Level Agreements (SLA) for 2025–2026 have been finalised with all territorial authorities. The Group also remains actively engaged in national policy development, including the Section 33 and Section 17A reviews.

Capability Development

Capability development remains a priority, with ongoing investment in training, leadership, and inter-agency coordination. Planning is underway for Exercise Whakahaumaru 2025, and welfare coordination has been strengthened through structured engagement with Local Welfare Managers. Marae preparedness planning has progressed significantly, supported by NRC Rivers team and the Māori Relationships Advisor role. Engagement with national and regional stakeholders continues to reinforce inclusive, community-led resilience across Te Taitokerau.

3. Far North CDEM Update

Activities undertaken by Emergency Management Specialist are relative to the 2025-2026 Work Plan as outlined in the Far North District Council Service Level Agreement and include:

- **Community / Stakeholder Engagement** - Community engagement to support and enhance Marae and Community resilience and reviews of community response plans (Northland Fijian Community, Mangōnui, Kerikeri, Moerewa, Te Rawhiti, Ngati Kahu Iwi, Haititaimarangai Marae, Waiora/Ngataki Marae, Taipa Marae, Manukau Marae, Age Concern Kaitaia, Fire and Emergency New Zealand, Health NZ, Far North District Council – CDEM arrangements relative to councils roading network / Regional Accessibility Strategy planning / Local Welfare arrangements, Hone Hato St John – supporting community initiatives, Far North Holdings – Tsunami planning Opuia Marina)
- **Service Level Agreement** - finalise and sign off for 2025-2026 year for CDEM Services between Far North District Council and Northland Regional Council.
- **Tsunami Information Boards** – District wide replacement of signage to reflect update of Tsunami Zones.
- **Operational IT** - Review of IT and updates of FNDC Emergency Operation Centre laptops
- **Section 17A Review** – attendance and participation at meetings and process, relative to the Sec 17A Review of Northlands CDEM capability and capacity.
- **Professional Development** – ongoing professional development, Response and Recovery Aotearoa New Zealand – Leadership Capability Programme (Kori Puckey)

4. Kaipara CDEM Update

Activities undertaken by the Emergency Management Specialist – Kaipara relative to the 2025-2026 Work Plan as outlined in the KDC Service Level Agreement include:

- **New Tsunami Evacuation Zone Boards** – 10 new tsunami evacuation boards are ready to replace the old evacuation boards.
- An overview of **community engagement activities** conducted for this quarter can be viewed in the *Community Response Planning and Marae Preparedness Planning* agenda item.
- **EOC SharePoint & Teams** – EOC staff training for the new KDC SharePoint & Teams environment has been completed.
- **Starlink Setup Training in Mangawhai** – a session was held to train EOC staff on how to set up and operate the CDEM Starlink unit stored in the Mangawhai EOC.
- **Governance Engagement** – supporting CDEM involvement in the 2025 Elected Member induction planning.
- **Annual Dargaville Community Evacuation Plan hui** – this meeting was rescheduled for Thursday 2 October.
- **Function Manager development** - bi-monthly function manager hui have continued; recruitment is ongoing to fill gaps in Function Manager roles. New Function Managers this quarter include an Intelligence Manager (West), Logistics Manager (East), Recovery Manager, Safety Manager, and Welfare Manager (East – in development, not yet appointed).
- **All Staff presentation** – EMS presented at KDC's quarterly All Staff hui to raise awareness of Council's Civil Defence responsibilities, how to get involved, and shared some personal preparedness tips.
- **Service Level Agreement (SLA)** - SLA to reflect agreed workplan for 2025/2026 has been signed off by both KDC and NRC.
- **Submission on Section 33 (S.33) review** – KDC have made a submission to NEMA regarding a review of S.33 of the Guide to the National Plan.
- **Section 17A review** – KDC have been fully engaged in the 17A review of Northland Civil Defence Emergency Management.
- **EOC Staff** – There are 52 staff in the KDC EOC team, a net increase of 2 staff on last quarter.

5. Whangārei District CDEM Update

Recent work undertaken with the Whangarei District Council (WDC) includes the following:

- **New Tsunami Evacuation Boards** – We have 64 new tsunami evacuation boards printed and ready to replace the old evacuation boards.
- **Section 33 review** – A submission was made by WDC regarding contents of Section 33 of guide to the Act.
- **Section 17A review** – WDC has been fully engaged in the 17A review of Northland Emergency Management.
- **Function Lead Training** – Development continues with WDC EOC Function Leads as they conduct monthly training to cover all aspects of the EOC operations. This will build on their current function/EOC knowledge and focus on how the WDC EOC operates.
- **EOC Staff** – We currently have 58 staff in the EOC. A few more have recently completed CIMS4 and some Function training.
- **SLA** – NRC Chief Executive has signed this, and we are now working through the workplan.
- **WDC Duty Officer Training** – Training for the current WDC Duty Officers was provided in August, along with a Contract Variation for each person.

6. Services Level Agreements

All three Service Level Agreements (SLA) have been received, as noted in the previous agenda item regarding work programmes.

The SLA framework, referenced in the draft Section 17a report, may be progressed as a dedicated work programme. This will include exploring opportunities to reframe and strengthen future agreements to better align with strategic priorities and service delivery expectations.

7. Welfare Coordination Group (WCG) Update

The third Northland WCG meeting for 2025 was held on 4 September, Key highlights included:

- **Animal Welfare in Emergencies:** The Ministry for Primary Industries (MPI) delivered a presentation focused on animal welfare considerations during emergency events.
- **PIM and Welfare Interoperability:** Zach Woods, Communications Specialist (NCDEM), provided insights into the integration between Public Information Management (PIM) and Welfare functions during emergency responses.
- **Tsunami Siren Replacement Project:** A Tsunami Specialist from NCDEM presented an update on the tsunami siren replacement project across Northland. Agencies were reminded that testing of the new sirens is scheduled for the final week of September.

The WCG continues to make steady progress on its 2025/26 work programme, ensuring alignment with strategic objectives.

Stakeholder Engagement

Over the past quarter, the Group Welfare Specialist has actively engaged with a wide range of national and regional stakeholders, including central government agencies, local councils, community response groups, and sector partners. Notable engagements include:

- National Group Welfare Managers Forum
- Te Tai Tokerau Rural Support Trust collaboration events
- Northland Lifelines Group
- Northland Adverse Events Team (NAET)
- Fale Pasifika, NZ Red Cross, Salvation Army
- Multiple government agencies including MSD, MPI, MBIE TAS / AIR, Oranga Tamariki, Kāinga Ora and NEMA
- Participation in S.17 A review
- Far North District Council, Kaipara District Council & Whangarei District Council LWM's

Welfare Coordination Group (WCG) inductions/refreshers are being extended to members.

Alternate Group Welfare Manager (Chris McColl) attended the NEMA Group Welfare Managers Forum on 17 July 2025.

Efforts continue to strengthen relationships and coordination across all participating agencies, with a focus on enhancing welfare capability, confidence and readiness.

Welfare Management and Capability Development

During the past quarter, the structured implementation has continued whereby group, alternate and Local Welfare Managers (LWM) meet every six weeks. This arrangement enables the Group Welfare Manager and Alternates to regularly check in on the training progress of appointed LWMs identifying any challenges and provide targeted support.

Weather event 29 July 2025

A targeted response was initiated by Far North District Council to support five families, with needs assessments conducted by the LWM. As a result, emergency household goods and services were provided to those identified as requiring assistance. All councils continued to operate under Business as Usual throughout the event.

National Tsunami Advisory – Beach and Marine Threat subsequent to M8.8 Earthquake 30 July 2025

All LWMs monitored the event in case an activation was required. Discussions were held regarding potential impacts within their regions. LWMs were ready to deliver and support if impacts were observed across Northland.

8. Northland Lifelines Group Update

The Northland Lifelines Group (NLG) met on 15 August 2025, where Northland Waste, Transpower and the National Cyber Security Centre (NCSC), presented to the group.

- Northland Waste clarified the capabilities and capacity they have in an emergency event.
- Transpower spoke about their time frames regarding getting generation up and running after a black out or brown out situation.
- NCSC spoke mostly about the risk of remote systems being hacked e.g. Water treatment plant machinery being hacked, adding toxic amounts of chlorine to drinking water, etc.
 - Key take way for this one, was to limit remote systems for infrastructure like this and/or build in physical limitations to make it impossible.

9. CDEM Communications Update

CDEM Facebook page insights, June 1, 2025 – Sept 1, 2025

- Page visit: 42,531
- Facebook Page followers: increased by 1002
- Total FB page followers as of Sept 1, 41,253

We continued to see good growth this period on our Facebook page with good engagement on our response related posts.

The top performing post over this period was the first post about the Kamchatka, Russia Tsunami Advisory from July 30:

<https://www.facebook.com/civildefencenorthland/posts/pfbid0JXHSRvr6DXukpSBXLXdfEmKF4Q4deAYXg9JmnpJP3E8eD8Qhz5Z94x5TcKYRnQuWl> with 165,263 reach.

Second was a post for the Orange Heavy Rain and Strong Wind Watch around July 10:

<https://www.facebook.com/civildefencenorthland/posts/pfbid02CHadQkbfYVhPuQKTb9sCMS1LRFeuFfLX7Xmi7d778RKavScgDfAUbr5mtAuVu279l> with 121,587 reach.

Third was a post for an Orange Heavy Rain Warning and Severe Thunderstorm Watch around July 29:

<https://www.facebook.com/civildefencenorthland/posts/pfbid026K4FmgQmpiFGFexcbjsVag3mK6ezMzmVDv9EZJWVDTQTSCkjWB1Xf8AcMAgqnerxl> with 66,457 reach.

The highest non-response related post was a post promoting NEMA's get ready school challenge:

<https://www.facebook.com/civildefencenorthland/posts/pfbid0nAAN9m1bR3LQiHo4zJLuMCfCMBKBY4eT4YBNQ8AAqb1jVhHfGmmGK8EeKtANhAfil> with 3,036 reach.

Northland CDEM Web section insights, June 1, 2025 – Sept 1, 2025

Total page visits: 9687

- Most popular pages:
 1. Listen-to-the-tsunami-siren-sounds: 2221
 2. CD home page: 1862
 3. Tsunami-evacuation-zones: 1154

Website views were relatively standard over the period. The top three pages this period are generally the most popular topics.

10. Māori Relationships Update

Over the past quarter, we have had the privilege of engaging with Tangata Whenua across Te Taitokerau. These hui have provided valuable opportunities to kōrero, share updates, and continue strengthening relationships with our communities.

Marae Preparedness Planning – Flood Affected Māori Communities and Marae

In collaboration with the Northland Regional Council (NRC) Rivers & Natural Hazards team, we are nearing completion of the flood mitigation programme which has included preparedness planning for Māori communities and Marae. Despite some hui being rescheduled due to tangihanga and adverse weather, significant progress has been made:

Of the 42 Marae and Hau Kāinga we have supported during the 35 Marae project:

- 28 plans have been completed or updated with final approval received
- 5 completed plans are awaiting final approval
- 7 Marae are in the final draft phase, delayed slightly due to unforeseen circumstances
- 2 Marae stepped away from the project, but we are hoping to resume kōrero with the whānau later

Building Stronger Internal Relationships

Efforts are underway to enhance cross-team collaboration within NRC. Our successful partnership with the Rivers team has demonstrated the value of integrated approaches. We are now working to build similar relationships with:

- Climate Change & Natural Hazards Team
- Environmental Services Group
- Hills & Erosion Team
- Te Tiriti Partnerships & Engagement Team

This collaborative approach will enable us to deliver more effective and holistic outcomes for Marae and whānau.

Supporting Te Puni Kōkiri Resilience Funding Programme

Te Puni Kōkiri has engaged Civil Defence to support a pilot initiative aimed at enhancing Marae Resilience Planning. Initial funding has been allocated to Marae affiliated with Ngāti Hine and Te

Rorooa. We continue to support the expansion of this kaupapa to additional rohe, hapū, and whānau clusters, building on the strong foundations laid by Ngāti Hine and Te Rorooa.

Renewable Energy Fund Projects

Preparations are underway to support successful applicants of the Efficient Energy Commission Agency (EECA) Community Renewable Energy Fund. We will work alongside communities to implement energy resilience initiatives, while also assisting in the development or refinement of their community response plans.

Interest Across Te Taitokerau

It is encouraging to see increasing engagement from hapū and Tangata Whenua regarding Marae Preparedness Planning. Additionally, other agencies have expressed interest in forming genuine partnerships in this space. Our overarching goal remains to empower whānau across Te Taitokerau to be confident, connected, and resilient in the face of adverse events.

11. Section 17a Review Update

From 24–29 August 2025, Simplexity engaged regional stakeholders through 63 interviews to assess emergency management capability across four domains: risk management, response and recovery, community resilience, and governance, aligned with the National Disaster Resilience Strategy.

Key strengths: strong community engagement, marae preparedness, infrastructure resilience, and effective public information systems.

Areas for improvement: business continuity planning, integrated response coordination, volunteer management, and clarity on funding and performance monitoring.

The final report has been received and presented to regional CEs. It includes 12 recommendations, which are currently being prioritised before presentation to the wider CEG membership. CEs are reviewing roles and responsibilities, as well as options for future funding and delivery models. Once this is completed, the report, along with the prioritised recommendations, will be submitted to the CDEM Group JC for consideration in the new year.

12. Tsunami Siren Project Update

The focus over the past quarter has been on improving the communications to previously constructed sirens ahead of the September test. This has evolved contractors updating firmware and re-cabling nearly thirty of the previously constructed sirens.

Electrical contractors are also being sent to each site to provide more accurate quotes for the remaining mains power connection, as was requested out of the CE's Forum. The quotes will then be provided back to the CE's Forum to determine a plan around connecting the last of the sirens. This was required as a separate piece of work as there is insufficient budget within the project to do so.

There are still three sites requiring construction (Mitimiti, Rawhiti, and Waitangi) and one that is to be relocated at the request of WDC.

Rawhiti and Waitangi are on a single resource consent that is held up due to design issues of a poupou that was part of the agreement for construction. We are working with Ngati Kawa to progress this.

Mitimiti has a new location that has been identified, and work is underway to get appropriate approval for the site.

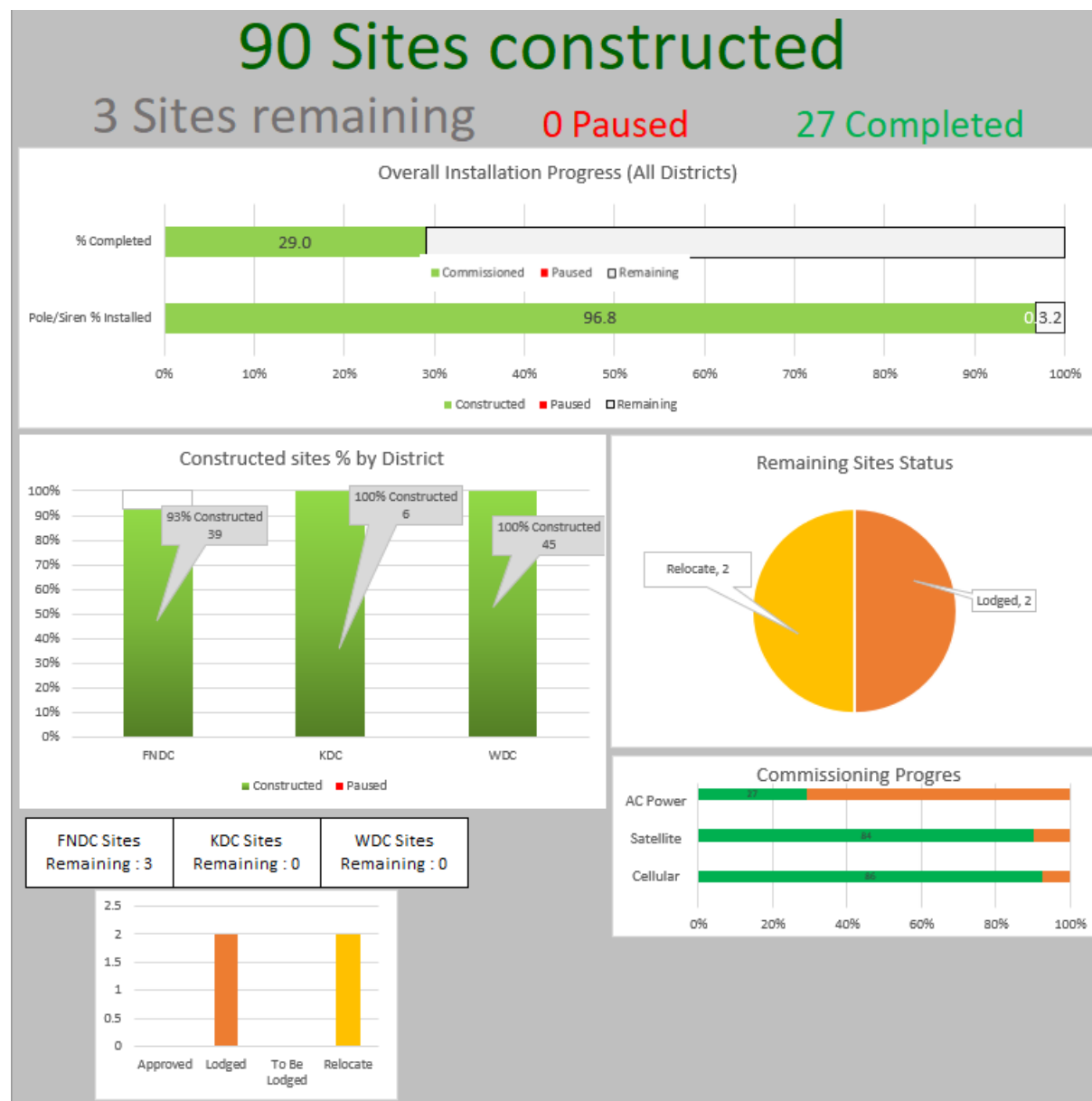


Figure 1 - Dashboard of roll-out progress TSRP

13. Tsunami Inundation Modelling Project Update

Work is well underway on replacing the Tsunami Evacuation Boards with the new blue zone versions, beginning in the Far North.

District	Replaced	Remaining
Far North	27	0
Kaipara	0	10
Whangarei	5	65

The maps within our response plans are also being replaced and the national tsunami evacuation zone maps have been updated.

- By mid-November, the replacement of the Tsunami Evacuation Boards was completed.

14. Multi Agency Coordination Centre (MACC)

A binding Heads of Agreement has been executed between the four Northland Councils, confirming funding commitments and responsibilities, with a binding Development Agreement with Fire and Emergency New Zealand (FENZ) for site occupation and construction also now signed.

Design work is progressing, with concept floor plans and a 3D model developed to support the procurement of lead architect and detailed design services. This procurement is underway. Site surveys, including topographical, underground services, and asbestos are completed. Site contamination assessments have been carried out in compliance with NESCS.

Investigations confirm that a resource consent will be required before construction begins. Planning discussions with WDC have also identified key District Plan considerations.

NRC's commercial building at 88 Robert Street has been selected as a temporary location for FENZ operations during construction.

A revised project timeline will be issued following the appointment of the Lead Design Consultant.

15. Professional Development and Engagement

Training

The Coordinated Incident Management System Level 4 (CIMS4) and CIMS functions training courses held in September were reasonably well attended; however, some late withdrawals of council staff due to work loads and illness saw lower numbers overall.

The Coordinated Incident Management Courses for November is capacity, with the exercise day well subscribed. One function day has been cancelled due to low registration numbers.

A summary of attendance at the September training is shown in the table below.

Course	Attendees					
	KDC	NRC	WDC	FNDC	CDEM	Agency
CIMS4	5	4	2	4	1	15
CIMS Functions	10	6	5	2	4	7

- Coordinated Incident Management System (CIMS) Level 4 training was delivered from November 3–6, incorporating the Intelligence Function course and an ECC/EOC exercise. 28 staff from across council and agencies attended the exercise

Whakahaumarū Exercise 2025

Exercise Whakahaumarū planning continued, developing injects and scenario building.

A series of stakeholder briefings for the participating agencies and organisations were held to support the exercise engagement and preparation.

Several agencies and organisations indicated that they would use the exercise as an opportunity to strengthen and/or develop response, business continuity and safety plans.

Participating agencies and organisations included:

• 2 Degrees	• Ngāti Hine Health trust
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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Department of Corrections • Fire and Emergency New Zealand • Hato Hone St John • Hauora Hokianga • Inland Revenue Department • Kāinga Ora • Ministry for Primary Industries • Ministry of Social Development • National Emergency Management Agency – Lifelines 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New Zealand Defence Force • Rural Support Trust • Salvation Army • Tai Timu Tai Pari Ltd • Top Energy • Far North District Council • Kaipara District Council • Whangarei District Council • Northland Regional Council
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- Exercise Whakahaumarū was conducted on November 19. Internal and multi-agency debriefs are currently underway, with findings to be consolidated for feedback and review.

16. Natural Hazards Update

Risk Portal

Please see the separate paper and presentation on Resilience Explorer.

Early Flood Forecast Modelling

An internal cross council project team for the implementation of a region wide flood early warning system has been established, and the hydrology team have begun the process of assessing the trial system.

Flood modelling

NRC are working with Kaipara District Council to finalise the ground truthing plan for the Wairoa Flood Hazard Models and to undertaking the ground truthing the proposed hazard maps with the Dargaville and Kaipara Communities. The Wairoa Flood Model has been updated with the cross-section data.

NRC staff are undertaking the QA review of the Whangarei and Waima/Punakitere Flood Models and associated hazard maps. Once passed we will then work with our GIS team to add them to our hazard map.

To support our ongoing flood modelling programme, we are working to finalise our flood modelling guideline and specifications. These specifications will be used on future tenders to ensure that we request and contract in a consistent manner. We have identified our 2025/26 modelling programme and are investigating any supporting information, such as LIDAR and cross section surveys, that would support those models.

Whangarei Urban Flood Strategy

Whangarei District Council and NRC have partnered together to investigate options and the possible cost benefits to reduce the flood risk to central Whangarei. This is a complex flood issue which includes fluvial (riverine) flooding, pluvial (rainwater) flood and overwhelming of the stormwater system with the added challenge of possible storm surge and the inability for flood water to drain from the low-lying coastal basin at high tide. The flood risk will increase with climate change and sea-level rise. The flood issue is also complicated due to the overlapping roles and responsibilities

between the two councils and other entities. We have contracted the work to a consortium lead by BECCA.

Overtopping modelling

Water Technology are working on the on the proof of concept for overtopping modelling on the Awanui Flood scheme. This work will show what will happen if the flood protection works (such as stop banks and levees) are overtopped which would occur when the volume of water in the river exceeds the capacity of riverbed and any flood protection. We will then work through our other flood protection schemes.

Natural Hazard data on LIMs

Amendments to the Local Government Official Information and Meetings (LGOIMA) Act mean that from 17 October local councils must include information about natural hazards in any Land Information Memorandum (LIM) requests and that regional councils must provide local councils with all their natural hazards information for inclusion into LIMs and make information accessible on websites. The purpose of this amendment is to improve public access and awareness of natural hazards

NRC already provide data to our local councils and our website hosts GIS hazard information and the technical reports. We are working with our local councils to implement the details of the LGOMIA requirements including providing plain language summaries of technical reports.

Website and Natural Hazards Portal Refresh

We are working to refresh the natural hazards section of NRC website to improve access to our hazard information, especially as we anticipate additional traffic with the updated LIM data. We will also work to improve the layout and accessibility of our geospatial data in our natural hazard's portal enabling the public to find and understand the information.

17. Recovery

Regional Recovery Coordination

Coordination of Northland Recovery Managers' meetings and training continues. The Cyclone Gabrielle lessons management document has been finalised, this will help inform the regional Recovery Framework, which is currently under development with input from Local Recovery Managers.

National working parties and collaborations

Supported NEMA's recovery capability programme and national Recovery Scorecard Tool development. Facilitated engagement with the Natural Hazards and Resilience Platform to improve post-event science coordination.

Sector Engagement and Innovation

Led planning for the 2025 EMPA Conference Recovery panel. Co-hosted the inaugural Trans-Tasman Recovery Learning Community of Practice (LEARNZA). Presented at the Australian Disaster Resilience Conference and hosted the Community Wellbeing Recovery Network to explore intersections of catastrophic risk and recovery planning.

Attachments/Ngā tapirihanga

Nil

TITLE: **Agency Updates**

From: Haylee Labelle, Personal Assistant Community Resilience

Authorised by Louisa Gritt, Group Manager - Community Resilience, on 26 November 2025
Group Manager/s:

Whakarāpopototanga / Executive summary

This report provides the opportunity for FENZ, Police and other agencies to provide an update to the CDEM Group

Ngā mahi tūtohutia / Recommendation

That the report 'Agency Updates' by Haylee Labelle, Personal Assistant Community Resilience and dated 19 November 2025, be received.

Background/Tuhinga

Verbal update to be provided by agencies

Attachments/Ngā tapirihanga

Nil