

**To: Coordinating Executive Group (CEG) Chairs**

**Cc: CDEM Group Managers, NEMA Senior Leadership Team and Regional Emergency Management Advisors.**

Tēnā koutou katoa,

Welcome back to a new and exciting year for emergency management. I hope many of you have managed to set some time aside for your families and get some well-earned rest. I acknowledge however not everyone was able to fully step away from their emergency management roles.

The CDEM Sector is a critical function of Central and Local Government and it only functions as well as it does thanks to your continued support. The past couple of years have been especially difficult for those in the CDEM Sector and it is clear the worst effects of the pandemic have been significantly dampened thanks to your efforts. It has been no easy feat, especially with the number of concurrent events that have taken place, so I'm sure that I speak on behalf of all of those in Aotearoa when I thank you for your remarkable leadership, none of which has gone unnoticed. I ask that you relay to your teams that their extraordinary mahi is recognised and immensely valued.

I am sure that you are all aware of the devastating effects of the Hunga Tonga-Hunga Ha'apai volcano eruption on Tonga. This event has given us a stark reminder of the tsunami threat faced by Aotearoa and has raised the importance of a nationally uniform understanding of tsunami warnings and advisories. To support us in achieving this, we have created the attached public information guide for your use. Please direct any questions to Roger Ball ([roger.ball@nema.govt.nz](mailto:roger.ball@nema.govt.nz)).

On the topic of information sharing, I would like to thank you for your continued support to the Trifecta Programme and your engagement with the Trifecta webinars earlier this month. We look forward to receiving your written feedback through the survey on our [online platform](#), which will remain open until February 11.

The remainder of this letter includes our latest Trifecta and COVID-19 updates; introduces a number of significant projects within the communications and public education space; provides an update on the progress of NEMA's 24/7 Monitoring, Alerting, and Reporting (MAR) Project; introduces a significant partnership for NEMA; and recognises a number of internationally significant appointments.

To end my message, I would like to reiterate that the CDEM Sector cannot remain as successful as it is without each and every one of you. As such, I want to emphasise that looking after our personal health and wellbeing – and that of our whānau - must remain a priority, as we must look after ourselves if we are to effectively look after our communities.

As the pandemic moves past the challenges of the current variant, I hope to get around the country and meet with you face to face. In the interim we will continue to work as closely as we can with you to ensure we keep communities safe.

Ngā mihi



**Dave Gawn**

Te Tumu Whakahaere, Te Rakau Whakamarumaru  
Chief Executive, National Emergency Management Agency

## Trifecta

Contact: [Trifecta@nema.govt.nz](mailto:Trifecta@nema.govt.nz)

Thank you to those able to attend the online introductory sessions in the week of 17 January. The six sessions were well attended with over 350 external people able to join. The discussions at the meetings were highly constructive and provided us with valuable insights, including positive feedback.

We heard concerns regarding the timeframe for engagement, and connection to other reforms. We are aware an earlier introduction would ensure time for local government submissions ahead of Triennial Local Body Elections. There will also be opportunities for engagement on the work to review the CDEM Plan and Guide.

We look forward to receiving written feedback on the policy proposals via the [online platform](#) before the closing date of 11 February 2022. You are welcome to contact [Trifecta@nema.govt.nz](mailto:Trifecta@nema.govt.nz) if you have any questions about how to complete the online feedback.

This is not a formal consultation or public consultation, rather we seek feedback on early options before final policy proposals are provided to Ministers, from the perspective of emergency management professionals. When the Bill is introduced to the House, Cabinet papers will be proactively released, and Regulatory Impact Statements (which include options analysis, costs, and benefits) will be shared. The opportunity for formal submissions (e.g. from CDEM Groups and local authorities) at the Select Committee process, will allow more time for your internal engagement and with the benefit of further detail.

We have done our best to ensure that the online introductory session invites and supporting material were provided to CEGs, but we are aware that some CEG members may not have received this. NEMA does not hold a central mailing list of local emergency management staff, please email [Trifecta@nema.govt.nz](mailto:Trifecta@nema.govt.nz) so we can update our distribution lists. Thanks again for your support to ensure this reaches the right people.

Minister Allan is hosting a stakeholder engagement meeting with Māori practitioners in the Emergency Management System on February 16<sup>th</sup> to gather their views and ideas to inform the design of the policy, from their perspective. She would also like to hold an engagement meeting with Mayors and Chief Executives before then. More on this once the details are confirmed.

## COVID-19

Contact: Roger Ball (Manager, National Operations) [roger.ball@nema.govt.nz](mailto:roger.ball@nema.govt.nz)

New Zealand is now moving into a new phase of the pandemic with the Government preparing for Omicron spreading rapidly in the community and consequential impacts on the Health sector, workforces and supply chains in particular. I appreciate this also affects the local government space and the essential services provided to your communities. As you will be aware, the Government is implementing a three phased approach with changes to testing, case investigation, contact tracing, isolation and quarantine requirements at each phase (information can be found [here](#)).

CDEM Coordinating Executive Groups will need to factor in Omicron, and the Government's new approach, into their readiness and response planning for both COVID and concurrent emergency events.

NEMA continues to support the All-of-Government response to COVID-19 as New Zealand moves into COVID Protection Framework Red setting and Phase One. We are working to understand the implications of the essential worker 'test to return' approach in Phase Two. This involves helping to identify essential staff across sectors including local government and

CDEM functions. We are working closely with central agencies and CDEM Groups to advocate for the CDEM sector's needs during this time of rapid national and regional planning.

CDEM Groups will not be required to provide COVID-19 welfare support under the Care in the Community programme to ensure they can focus on other emergency responses. However, they may engage or provide support at a regional level if requested and agreed with all agencies involved, potentially through the Regional Leadership Group coordination. Potential support includes coordination or assistance with distribution of kai boxes, if commercial and provider capacity is overwhelmed.

Should CDEM Groups agree to support the Care in the Community response, there is no expectation that new assessment systems are set up – these are already in place between Health and MSD. MSD is working on how it could potentially cover costs of any support that CDEM may provide – where it falls outside NEMA's reimbursement provisions. Any services and related cost recovery will need to be agreed prior to any work undertaken.

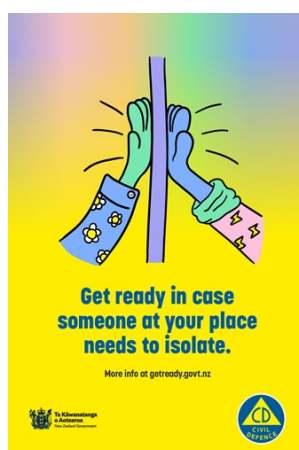
CDEM Groups are asked to continue their active support to Regional Leadership Groups in coordination of the Government's phased response to Omicron. Thank you again for your ongoing work to support the All-of-Government response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

## Get ready for COVID-19 campaign

Contact: Anthony Frith (Manager Communications): [Anthony.frith@nema.govt.nz](mailto:Anthony.frith@nema.govt.nz)

NEMA and the CDEM sector continue to collaboratively support the COVID-19 response. The latest (and most colourful!) contribution is our "Get Ready for COVID-19" campaign. This positive, practical and gently humorous campaign, which can be found on social media, online advertising, and street posters, promotes getting ready for COVID-19 through two calls to action – helping others get vaccinated, and getting your household prepared for self-isolation.

The two-pronged campaign leverages CDEM's established credibility in promoting household preparedness and "neighbours helping neighbours". The campaign has been developed in close collaboration with the Unite Against Covid unit and the Ministry of Health. The [Get Ready](https://getready.govt.nz) website has also been updated with a dedicated page promoting COVID-19 preparedness.



## Public Education

Contact: Anthony Frith (Manager Communications): [Anthony.frith@nema.govt.nz](mailto:Anthony.frith@nema.govt.nz)

### ***Te Hīkoi a Rūaumoko***

Approximately 740 kura, kaupapa, and decile 1 – 6 schools across Aotearoa have received copies of Te Hīkoi a Rūaumoko – Rūaumoko's Walk. This book has been written for tamariki mokopuna to help teach them about the natural warning signs of tsunami.

The writing of this book was a joint venture between Hawke's Bay Emergency Management Group, Te Puni Kōkiri, Ngāti Kahungunu Iwi, Te Ūranga Waka, and the Ministry of Education. This book can be found online at <https://www.hbemergency.govt.nz/assets/Documents/Education/Ruaumokos-Walk-Te-Hikoi-a-Ruaumoko.pdf>

### ***Protect our Whakapapa activity book***

NEMA is collaborating with Creative Natives on a pilot project to develop and distribute an emergency preparedness activity book, under the Protect our Whakapapa brand, to Māori communities in remote rural areas. Protect our Whakapapa is a grassroots kaupapa that shares simple, practical information and resources from a Māori worldview. The initiative will enable NEMA to reach communities that we have difficulty reaching through our standard channels and it will educate tamariki and their whānau about emergency preparedness through play.

6,000 copies of the activity book, together with a bag and colouring pencils, will be distributed to communities in Tairāwhiti, Te Waipounamu and Muruwhenua, targeting local primary schools, kura, hauora, rūnanga, marae, community groups, clubs, whare wānanga, and groups, kaupapa and whānau that have or teach young children.

### ***New preparedness campaign programme***

In the first half of 2022, NEMA will be developing a new preparedness campaign programme which seeks to reverse Aotearoa's trend of complacency in emergency preparation during peacetime. Through utilising targeted campaigning for Māori and Pacific people, this campaign will evolve from a "one size fits all" approach, to one that seeks to appeal to these communities' values, lifestyles, strengths and barriers.

Acknowledging the many communities within Aotearoa, NEMA has committed significant resource into researching Culturally and Linguistically Diverse communities (particularly Asian communities) to inform future preparedness campaigns targeting them.

### ***Get Ready website – advice for disabled people.***

NEMA has redesigned the advice for disabled people section within the Get Ready website to improve its accessibility and usability. This work, particularly the wording and structure of the pages, was well supported by the Ministry of Social Development. The new format provides a series of pages that are easy to navigate and hold relevant information. The content includes specific advice for people who have mobility issues, hearing or visual impairments, or use disability assist dogs, as well as general advice on preparedness planning.

This updated section can be found at <https://getready.govt.nz/advice-for-disabled-people/>

## ***National Tsunami Evacuation Map***

NEMA is currently building an online map which will allow people anywhere in Aotearoa to find out if they are in a tsunami evacuation zone. The map will take tsunami evacuation data from the sixteen different regional maps and it will be built with accessibility in the front of mind.

This national map is expected to be ready in the first half of 2022 and will initially be released as a public education tool on the Get Ready website. Once complete, this will be promoted with an awareness campaign encouraging people to familiarise themselves with their evacuation zones.

## **NEMA 24/7 Monitoring Alerting and Reporting Centre**

Contact: Nick Davies (Team Leader, Duty Operations) [nick.davies@nema.govt.nz](mailto:nick.davies@nema.govt.nz)

Work is continuing towards the development of the operating model for the new 24/7 centre which will go live on 30 June 2022. This centre will ultimately replace NEMA's on-call duty system and will monitor the inputs of a range of partner organisations (e.g. GNS Science, MetService, CDEM groups, etc). Once established, this will provide NEMA with real-time situational awareness of potential and emerging risks. NEMA looks forward to having a dedicated 24/7 team, as this will enable greater response times, information quality and flow, and ability to continue with non-response work programmes.

This project has now moved into a phase of significant recruitment, with the 17 positions advertised now being shortlisted. This recruitment includes 5 Watch Leaders and 12 Watch Officers. Strong interest has been received and we look forward to filling these roles soon.

## **MoU signed between NEMA and the Ministry of Pacific People's**

Contact: Alan Cassidy (DCE, Strategic Enablement) [Alan.Cassidy@nema.govt.nz](mailto:Alan.Cassidy@nema.govt.nz)

The first of December marked NEMA's second anniversary and the formalisation of a significant partnership between NEMA and the Ministry for Pacific Peoples (MPP). The Chief executives of NEMA and MPP together signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between the organisations. This MoU will better enable progress towards a safe and resilient Pacific community in Aotearoa by empowering them before, during, and after emergencies.

The MoU formalises a strategic relationship instigated by Carolyn Schwalger, NEMA's former Chief Executive, to ensure Pacific peoples' values, experiences and aspirations are at the centre of government emergency management decision making.

The Senior Leadership Teams of both agencies were to meet in February to develop a first joint NEMA and MPP agency work programme and to give effect to the MoU. This meeting is now being rescheduled due to the Red COVID Protection Framework setting.



## Pacific Tsunami Warning System: Meeting of the Intergovernmental Governance Group

Contact: Jo Guard [Jo.Guard@nema.govt.nz](mailto:Jo.Guard@nema.govt.nz)

New Zealand has been a member of the Pacific Tsunami Warning System (PTWS) since it was established in 1965. New Zealand, and more specifically NEMA, relies heavily upon the operational arm of the PTWS for notifications of Pacific based earthquakes that may trigger a tsunami. Since the catastrophic Indian Ocean tsunami of 2004, the PTWS expanded its focus to cover holistic tsunami hazard-risk mitigation by establishing working which focus on hazard identification, coordination between national warning centres and emergency management, emergency management response, and public awareness. Over the years, New Zealand has been active in all these structures.

The PTWS is governed by an Intergovernmental Coordination Group (ICG) which meets every two years. The ICG met virtually over four days throughout November-December and a number of New Zealanders were elected to structures of the PTWS:

- David Coetzee (NEMA): Vice Chair of the ICG/PTWS; and member of the Disaster Risk Management & Awareness Working Group
- Sarah-Jayne McCurrach (EQC): Co-Chair of the Working Group on Understanding Tsunami Risk; Co-Chair of the Task team on the UN Ocean Decade; and Co-Chair of the Task Team on Future Goals and Performance Monitoring
- Bill Fry (GNS Science): Chair of the Tsunami Detection, Warning & Dissemination Working Group; Chair of the Task Team on Integrated Sensor Networks; and member of the Task Team on the UN Ocean Decade
- Ashleigh Fromont (NEMA): Chair of the Disaster Risk Management & Preparedness Working Group (replacing David Coetzee who has been chairing this Working Group for a number of years), and member of the Task Team on Minimum Competence Levels for Tsunami Warning Centres
- Benita Murray (NEMA): Member of the Tsunami Detection, Warning & Dissemination Working Group and the Task Team on Integrated Sensor Networks
- Sara Mitchell (NEMA): Member of the Exercise Pacific Wave Task Team (in the past, NEMA's own Jo Guard played a pivotal part in the establishment of this exercise regime, Co-Chairing the Task Team from 2011 to 2018).

Exercise PacWave is a biennial tsunami exercise conducted across the Pacific Ocean basin. The next exercise will be held during the period September to November of 2022. NEMA's Exercise Team will be in touch about NEMA's involvement in this exercise closer to the time. In the meantime, check out [this video](#) that was made in the lead-up to this meeting of the ICG to promote the IOC's Pacific Wave Exercises; it also tells a bit more about the PTWS.