

Appointment of Local Recovery Manager for the Selwyn District Council

From: Mayor Sam Broughton

1. Purpose

The purpose of this report is to appoint a Local Recovery Manager for the Selwyn District.

2. Recommendation

That the Canterbury Civil Defence Emergency Management Joint Committee appoint Al Lawn to the role of Local Recovery Manager for the Selwyn District.

3. Background

- 3.1 The Chair of the Joint Committee declared a local state of emergency covering the CDEM Group at 6.04pm on 15th February 2017 as a result of the Port Hills fire.
- 3.2 The Chair extended the declaration on 20th February 2017.
- 3.3 Christchurch City Council and Selwyn District Council began putting in place recovery arrangements almost immediately.
- 3.4 Selwyn District Council wishes to have a community led recovery and with this in mind identified Al Lawn as an outstanding candidate for this challenging role.
- 3.5 Al Lawn's background is attached as Appendix A.
- 3.6 We believe Al has the attributes necessary for this position under the new legislation.

Appendix A

Name: Al Lawn

Married for 32 years to Kaye, and has 3 adult children.

Lives on a rural property in the Selwyn district.

Al was in the NZ Police for close to 20 years and was a volunteer firefighter for 15 years. He was Sergeant of the Canterbury Police Alcohol Strategy and Enforcement Team and during his time in the Police he worked in both regional and national advisory roles.

He is now a Commissioner with the District Licencing Committee and a controller for Selwyn District Council, as well as farming a number of lease blocks with his Sons. He has farmed on and off for over 30 years, including many years farming on the port hills.

During the Sept Christchurch earthquake he worked as a Police liaison officer in the Christchurch EOC. He was working as a police sergeant on the day of the February earthquake, carrying out response and recovery activities within the CBD. In the days and weeks following the initial event he fulfilled a number of roles at the CTV site.

Al played a pivotal role in the response to the Kaikoura earthquakes earthquake including providing advice to Controller and ensuring the Emergency Operations Centre functioned efficiently. He was primarily the response manager but also acted as the controller when the controller was on leave.

He completed the National CDEM Controllers course in 2015.

Al has a good understanding of civil defence responsibilities/functions gleaned over many years as a first responder and supervisor. He has a passion for community engagement and empowerment.