

**CANTERBURY CIVIL DEFENCE EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT GROUP
JOINT COMMITTEE**

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD AT ENVIRONMENT CANTERBURY,
200 TUAM STREET, CHRISTCHURCH,
ON FRIDAY 24 FEBRUARY 2017 COMMENCING AT 8.00 AM**

PRESENT

Joint Committee:

Ashburton District Council
Christchurch City Council
Environment Canterbury
Hurunui District Council
Kaikōura District Council
Mackenzie District Council
Selwyn District Council
Timaru District Council
Waimakariri District Council
Waimate District Council

Mayor Donna Favel
Mayor Lianne Dalziel (Chair)
Councillor John Sunckell
Mayor Winton Dalley
Mayor Winston Gray
Mayor Graham Smith
Mayor Sam Broughton
Mayor Damon Odey
Mayor David Ayers
Mayor Craig Rowley

CEG Members

Ashburton District Council
Christchurch City Council
Hurunui District Council
Selwyn District Council
Timaru District Council
Waimakariri District Council
Ministry of Civil Defence & Emergency Management
NZ Fire Service
NZ Police
Group Controller

Andrew Dalziel
Alicia Palmer
Hamish Dobbie
David Ward
Bede Carran
Jim Palmer (Deputy Chair CEG)
Peter Cameron
Steve Turek
Craig McKay
Neville Reilly

IN ATTENDANCE

Karen McNamara & Jenna Roberts (Ministry of Civil Defence & Emergency Management)

Darrin Woods (Christchurch City Council Principal Rural Fire Officer), Dave Brash (National Recovery Manager), Al Lawn, Murray Sinclair, Sandra James, Cr David Bedford & Miles McConway (Environment Canterbury), Louise McDonald (minutes)

1. WELCOME

Mayor Dalziel welcomed everyone to the meeting and thanked them for agreeing to change the meeting start time.

2. APOLOGIES

There were no apologies from the Joint Committee.

Apologies were received from the following members of the Co-ordinating Executive Group (CEG): Bill Bayfield (Environment Canterbury), Superintendent John Price (NZ Police)

3. CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

No conflicts of interest were declared.

4. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

Refer to page 1 of the agenda.

Resolved

That the minutes of the meeting held on 9 December 2016 be received and adopted.

Mayor Smith / Mayor Broughton
CARRIED

5. MATTERS ARISING

There were no matters arising from the minutes

6. PORT HILLS FIRE RESPONSE UPDATE

Darrin Woods, Christchurch City Council's Principal Rural Fire Officer, was welcomed to the meeting. Two maps "Port Hills Complex Fire Status 23 Feb 2017 @1700" were tabled.

Mr Woods provided an update on the Port Hills fire. There are still some areas of concern including the adventure park and forestry skid sites. The event is not over yet and cordons are still in place with resident only access in some areas. Some recreational tracks are still closed.

Three street meetings were held on 23 February meetings with residents. He had attended the Worsleys Road meeting where some homes were destroyed and other people are still out of their homes.

The issue of the jurisdiction was raised. Mr Woods explained that on the Monday night when the fire started in Early Valley Road, in the Selwyn District. The Selwyn District response included notifying Christchurch City Council. There is a Memorandum of Understanding between Selwyn and Christchurch City Rural Fire to assist neighbouring areas.

The second fire originated in a car park off the Summit Road in the Christchurch City area, on a Department of Conservation boundary. The need for a regional response was identified early and a regional incident management team was put in place. It had the capability equivalent of a national incident team.

The meeting stood and observed a minute silence in respect of helicopter pilot Steve Askin who had lost his life while fighting the fire.

Mayor Broughton thanked Mr Woods and his team for the amazing job that they had done. Steve Askin's death was a major turning point in the response and it reinforced the priority of human life.

Mayor Broughton reflected on the lesson from this event is that you can never be too prepared.

Mayor Dalziel also acknowledged the hard work and effort of those fighting the fires. She said that the incident reinforced the need for accurate, focused communication that supported what people needed to know. People need to know the complexity of the situation, in this event the statistics regarding the steep slopes, energy and intensity of the fire would have helped peoples understand what was happening. A review of the communications will be undertaken.

Neville Reilly commented on the timing of the declaration and noted how quickly the fire moved. He explained that what was done and what needed to be done, could be done without the declaration, but that an earlier declaration might have given people a heightened sense of urgency.

Mayor Dalley stressed the need for direct contact between the CDEM Group and Mayors so that Mayor have the confidence to reassure their community. Mayor Dalziel agreed and said that a lesson from this event was to bring the Group into the process early so that they can provide advice.

Mayor Ayers recommended that Mayors establish a backup plan for their Deputy Mayor and Councillors for when the Mayor is away. This should include a check list.

Resolved

That the Canterbury Civil Defence Emergency Management Group Joint Committee receive the Port Hills fire response update.

Mayor Rowley / Mayor Odey
CARRIED

7. RESPONSE TO HURUNUI/KAIKŌURA EARTHQUAKE

Refer to page 7 of the agenda.

Neville Reilly introduced this item and spoke to his report. He highlighted the issue of staffing and the difficulty for small councils to staff an Emergency Operations Centre (EOC). He thanked all the councils for the assistance provided by their staff.

It was noted that it is not always understood that people working in Civil Defence are from the Fire Service, NZ Police, welfare and councils

Hurunui

Mayor Dalley thanked all the councils across New Zealand that had assisted in the earthquake response. He said that the response from the local community was fantastic.

Looking to recovery, teams are in place and a plan was presented to the Hurunui District Council on 23 February. The economy has been affected by the closure of State Highway 1 with a decline in tourist numbers. The package from Central Government was gratefully received, but more support will be needed and a one size fits all approach will not be sufficient.

Support for business means support for people, families and the community. More work needs to be done on the implications of the closure or relocation of businesses on the income to the community.

A successful initiative has been using a mobile caravan to hold meetings in remote areas to help people with information including insurance, earthquake commission and temporary housing.

Mayor Dalley explained that an important lesson from this event was that every event is unique and that local knowledge is essential for decision making. Communities must be empowered not disempowered.

Kaikōura

Mayor Gray spoke to a PowerPoint presentation 'Kaikōura Earthquake Response and Recovery' that had been prepared for the Co-ordinating Executive Group (CEG).

He supported Mayor Dalziel's comments about the importance of communications. Daily public meetings were held in Kaikōura and these worked very well.

In a town of 3,500 there were approximately 1,000 tourists trapped in Kaikōura. With no road or rail access the issue of supplies of food and fuel was critical, so it was important to evacuate tourists quickly. The support of the defence services was appreciated.

The hospitality provided by the Takahanga Marae was really appreciated and key to the response.

There has been extensive damage to infrastructure, particularly on State Highway One north of Kaikōura. There is a lot of frustration in the community but there is a lot of work to be done in a hazardous area.

In terms of recovery it is good to see people visiting Kaikōura, but business is only 35% of what it was this time last year. It is very difficult for small businesses that rely on the summer season to keep going through the year.

Key to recovery in Kaikōura is getting the harbour operational, this includes dredging and blasting in the harbour to enable tourist and fishing vessels access.

Mayor Gray thanked all the councils for their support.

Mayor Dalziel thanked the Mayors for their presentation and on behalf of the CDEM Group expressed solidarity and admiration for how both councils worked together and responded to the earthquake.

Resolved

That the reports from Kaikōura and Hurunui District Councils, and the Canterbury Group Emergency Coordination Centre on the response and recovery following the Hurunui/Kaikōura Earthquake on 14 November 2016 be received.

Mayor Smith / Mayor Broughton
CARRIED

8. REPORT FROM NATIONAL RECOVERY MANAGER

Refer to page 8 of the agenda.

Dave Brash explained his role is to assist with co-ordination to support local recovery and help with access to central government.

A forum of Chief Executives from District Health Boards, Ngāi Tahu, Councils and New Zealand Transport Agency has been established to allow better co-ordination. This Group could report to the Joint Committee.

Mr Brash noted the point made earlier in the meeting regarding local decision making and said that the Ministers are looking at that. Recovery Plans developed by Councils will be used in discussions with Ministers for budgeting and prioritising of resources.

Work is being done with farmers on land issues which will be part of the longer term recovery. Another emerging matter is hazards including dams, near Lyell Creek and rock falls. An important discussion to be had alongside the recovery is regional economic development.

Mr Brash was encouraged to advise central government that when addressing land use issues this needs to include what land use is now not sustainable. For this to be successful it is very important to be driven by farmers not imposed from Wellington.

Resolved

That the report from the National Recovery Manager on the progress of recovery in Hurunui and Kaikōura be received.

Mayor Favel / Mayor Rowley
CARRIED

Item 10 was then considered

10. REVIEW OF RESPONSE TO HURUNUI/KAIKŌURA EARTHQUAKE

Refer to page 13 of the agenda

Neville Reilly presented this item.

Resolved

That the Civil Defence Emergency Management Group Joint Committee authorise a panel consisting of the Joint Committee Chair, the Mayors and Chief Executives of Hurunui and Kaikoura Districts, with the Co-ordinating Executive Chair to develop a Terms of Reference and then commission a review of the response to the Hurunui/Kaikoura Earthquake, taking into account the intended of the Ministry of Civil Defence Emergency Management review and other reviews.

Mayor Gray / Mayor Dalley
CARRIED

9. APPOINTMENT OF GROUP RECOVERY MANAGER

Neville Reilly tabled a revised report (to replace the report on page 9 of the agenda). He explained that following the Port Hills fires the Group may wish to appoint a Group Recovery Manager earlier than recommended in the first report.

Mr Reilly confirmed that this appointment would not alter the current arrangements in Hurunui and Kaikoura where they are working directly with the National Recovery Manager. The Group Recovery Manager would be available for support if requested.

Resolved

That for the purposes of the Port Hills Fire response and recovery, the Civil Defence Emergency Management Group Joint Committee appoints Sandra James to be Group Recovery Manager until such time as a recruitment process can be undertaken to recruit and appoint a Group Recovery Manager.

Mayor Ayers / Cr Sunckell
CARRIED

11. CHRISTCHURCH JUSTICE AND EMERGENCY SERVICES PRECINCT

Refer to page 14 of the agenda

Resolved

That the Christchurch Justice and Emergency Services Precinct Update report be received.

Mayor Dalziel / Mayor Gray
CARRIED

12. GROUP CONTROLLER'S REPORT

Refer to page 17 of the agenda

Resolved

That the Group Controller's report be received.

Mayor Dalziel / Mayor Gray
CARRIED

13. MINISTRY UPDATE

Peter Cameron tabled an Update of Ministry of Civil Defence & Emergency Management Programmes dated 24 February 2017.

Resolved

That the Ministry of Civil Defence & Emergency Management report be received.

Mayor Dalziel / Mayor Gray
CARRIED

14. GENERAL BUSINESS

Appointment of Local Recovery Manager for the Selwyn District Council

Mayor Sam Broughton tabled and presented a report for the appointment of a Local Recovery Manager for Selwyn District.

Resolved

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

Mayor Dalziel / Mayor Broughton
CARRIED

Appointment of Local Recovery Manager for the Christchurch City Council

Mayor Lianne Dalziel tabled and presented a report for the appointment of a Local Recovery Manager for Christchurch City.

Resolved

That the Canterbury Civil Defence Emergency Management Group Joint Committee appoint Murray Sinclair to the role of Local Recovery Manager for the Christchurch District.

Mayor Dalziel / Mayor Broughton
CARRIED

15. NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be held on Friday 26 May 2017.

The meeting closed at 10.15 a.m.

CONFIRMED

Date: 26 May 2017

Chairperson:

