

**Minutes of the meeting of the
Canterbury Civil Defence and Emergency Management
Group Joint Committee
held at Airport Commodore Hotel, 449 Memorial Avenue,
Christchurch, on Friday 28 February 2020 at 1.00 pm**

Present

Joint Committee:

Ashburton District Council
Environment Canterbury
Hurunui District Council
Mackenzie District Council
Selwyn District Council
Timaru District Council
Waimakariri District Council
Waimate District Council

Mayor Neil Brown
Cr John Sunckell
Mayor Marie Black
Mayor Graham Smith
Mayor Sam Broughton
Mayor Nigel Bowen
Mayor Dan Gordon
Mayor Craig Rowley

Kai Mataara

Te Rūnanga o Ngāi Tahu

Elizabeth Cunningham

CEG Members

Environment Canterbury
Ashburton District Council
Christchurch City Council
Hurunui District Council
Kaikoura District Council
Mackenzie District Council
Timaru District Council
Waimakariri District Council
NZ Police
Fire & Emergency NZ
Canterbury District Health Board
National Emergency Management Agency
St John
Canterbury Lifelines Utilities Group
CDEM Group Controller

Bill Bayfield
Hamish Riach
Rebecca Newton
Hamish Dobbie
Angela Oosthuizen
Suzette van Aswegen
Bede Carran
Jim Palmer
Inspector McKay
Brian Keown
Dr Sue Nightingale & Megan Gibbs
Peter Cameron
Wally Mitchell
Mark Gordon
Neville Reilly

In attendance

Canterbury District Health Board

Timaru District Council
Environment Canterbury

Dr Josh Freeman
Dr Ramon Pink
Hamish Sandison
Tracy Tierney
Leigh Griffiths
Elaine Greaves
Miles McConway

1. **Welcome**

Deputy Chair, Councillor John Sunckell welcomed everyone to the meeting, and acknowledged those in attendance to speak to items 6 and 7 of the agenda.

2. **Apologies**

Apologies were received and accepted from Mayor Lianne Dalziel and Mayor Craig Mackle and an apology for late arrival was provided by Elizabeth Cunningham.

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 Canterbury Civil Defence Emergency Management Group Joint Committee:

1. **Receive and adopt the minutes of its meeting held 29 November 2019, subject to changing reference to MCDEM on page 1 to NEMA.**

Mayor Broughton/Mayor Rowley
CARRIED

5. **Matters arising from the minutes**

There were no matters arising from the minutes.

6. **Novel Coronavirus COVID-19**

Refer to page 9 of the agenda.

Hamish Sandison, Emergency Preparedness Co-ordinator, Community and Public Health, provided an overview of the situation regarding the Novel Coronavirus COVID-19 covering:

- What COVID-19 is and its history to date
- Risk of COVID-19 entering New Zealand
- Symptoms of the virus and how it is spread
- Prevention methods through good hand hygiene and cleaning and disinfecting surfaces
- Testing for the virus
- Work had started on a vaccine
- Ministry of Health maintains preparedness for a pandemic with an up to date Pandemic Plan

- New Zealand is prepared and ready to deal with an outbreak
- Getting through together/caring for people who may need to self-isolate
- Looking after ourselves
- Where to get further information – Ministry of Health is the sole point of truth.

Dr Sue Nightingale (Chief Medical Officer), Dr Josh Freeman (Clinical Director Microbiology) and Dr Ramon Pink (Medical Officer of Health) took questions in relation to:

- Border controls
- Timeline for a vaccine
- Strategy for keeping the virus out of New Zealand
- Secure supply of medicines, particularly anti biotics
- How long the virus survives and who is most at risk
- Confidentiality of situation report updates
- Management of cruise ships arriving in Akaroa Harbour
- Panic buying and the need for educational messaging to the general public.

Elizabeth Cunningham arrived at 1.25pm and was absent for items 1-3 and part of item 4.

Neville Reilly advised discussions were ongoing with the Ministry of Health as to how practical help could be provided to members of the public affected by isolation and in need of food and provisions. NEMA was also considering providing welfare support if needed.

The Chair thanked Canterbury District Health Board representatives for their update, noting it was well prepared.

7. Rangitata River Flood Response

Refer to page 11 of the agenda

Leigh Griffiths (Manager River Engineering, Environment Canterbury) provided a PowerPoint presentation outlining the background to the event, what happened, the role of Flood Managers at Environment Canterbury; and the work undertaken. Although the event was well forecast, it was difficult to know how severe it would be until closer to the time. The Flood Controller role included the following:

- Predictions of peak flow and time
- Providing a continuous information flow with Timaru CDEM
- Information for the public
- Collection of data during and after the event
- Physical works response
- Assessing residual risk.

Residual risk included the following:

- \$700,000 spent towards physical work at the time the presentation was put together
- Large amount of berm vegetation lost
- Gravel bunds not 'engineered'
- The catchment remaining vulnerable – it may be years until risk was lowered.

The importance of berms was noted regarding the management of the river and the purpose of the River Management Scheme would need to be reviewed, together with future funding.

Tracy Tierney, Local Controller during the response, acknowledged the value of utilising the Rapid Relief Team. Self-funded, the team fed everyone, provided pastoral care and talked to a lot of farmers. Tracy highly recommended using the Team and provided a PowerPoint covering:

- Images of flooding in affected areas (SH1, Route 72, main trunk line damage near SH1, various affected areas at Arundel and a dwelling inundated on Rangitata Island Road)
- Traffic queues leaving Geraldine on SH79 heading towards Arundel Bridge on Route 72
- Environment Canterbury's contractors working to close the South Branch of the Rangitata River
- Severely damaged power pylons
- Rapid Relief Team in action feeding locals at the Rangitata Island Community meeting
- Red Cross Welfare Centre in Timaru.

An overview was provided on how the event transpired, together with key elements that went well and key learnings. Stand-outs included the value of partnerships and having a single source of truth. Established relationships enabled things to flow much better and working with other agencies worked particularly well.

Mayor Bowen shared observations on how well the event was managed by staff, through the Group Controller, together with agencies and local rūnanga. It was interesting to note how the organisation had the ability to carry on 'business as usual', highlighting how participation by key people assists in developing a culture of staff involvement. The response received from neighbouring territorial authorities was also much appreciated. There had been an issue around signage provided by NZTA not delivering appropriate messaging. There was also difficulty contacting NZTA during the event, which advised it had no authority to change signs given it was not a state highway. Regardless of that, there was no information posted on the NZTA website to indicate that the bridge was out. The Group Controller advised he would relay these concerns to NZTA and seek a response.

Mark Gordon (Canterbury Lifelines Utilities Group) advised there was a desire within NZTA to have maps that showed an all-of-transport system and publish it in one place. From a Lifelines point of view, apart from the Transpower pylons that were destroyed, the event also identified telecommunications being vulnerable.

The Chair thanked Mayor Bowen, Tracy Tierney and Leigh Gibbs for their observations and providing an insight into the cause of the flood and response and recovery to date, including key learnings from the event.

Resolved:

That the Canterbury Civil Defence Emergency Management Group Joint Committee:

1. **Receive the information.**

Cr Sunckell/Mayor Bowen
CARRIED

8. Appointment of Local Controllers

Refer to page 13 of the agenda.

Neville Reilly presented a report detailing recommendations from Kaikōura District Council to appoint David Clibbery and Murray Dickson; and from Waimakariri District Council to appoint Liz Ashton, Matthew Bacon and Don Young to the position of Local Controller.

It was noted that all nominees had the ability and experience to be capable controllers during an emergency.

Resolved:

That the Canterbury Civil Defence Emergency Management Group Joint Committee:

- 1. Appoint David Clibbery, Murray Dickson, Liz Ashton, Matthew Bacon and Don Young as Canterbury CDEM Group Local Controllers.**

Mayor Gordon/Mayor Broughton
CARRIED

9. Group Controller's Report

Refer to page 15 of the agenda.

The Group Controller's report was taken as read. It was noted Mayor Broughton would be opening the Canterbury CDEM Group volunteers' one day conference on 21 March 2020 at the Lincoln Events Centre, and all members were encouraged to attend if able.

The financial report for the period 1 July 2019 to 31 January 2020 was noted. The proposed 9.8% general rate increase as part of Environment Canterbury's annual plan included funds to replenish the CDEM Reserve. The role and importance of the Reserve Fund was acknowledged, and it was noted the Group was well on the way to realising it.

Resolved:

That the Canterbury Civil Defence Emergency Management Group Joint Committee:

- 1. Receive the Group Controller's report.**
- 2. Consider registering to attend or visit the Canterbury CDEM Group Volunteers' one-day conference on 21 March 2020 at the Lincoln Events Centre.**
- 3. Note the financial report for the period 1 July 2019 to 31 January 2020.**

Mayor Rowley/Mayor Brown
CARRIED

Other Business

Further discussion took place around what Civil Defence could provide in support of a potential outbreak of Coronavirus COVID-19. It was agreed public education was the best thing the Group could do and be prepared to provide welfare support for people isolated and needing assistance with shopping etc.

It was noted the Ministry of Health had the lead on this situation and messaging needed to be consistent. It was suggested it would be timely for all to review their Business Continuity Plans.

Peter Cameron talked about the impact of the transition from MCDEM to NEMA which was not discussed at the last CEG meeting but will go to the next CE Forum. The main impact will be regionalisation – how do we do this in Canterbury? Future discussions are planned regarding a best model and options would be brought back to this forum.

There were some questions around LACs and the purpose of the Local Advisory Committee and the Group Controller would be taking this back to CEG, then back to the Joint Committee.

Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Joint Committee would be held on Friday, 22 May 2020 at the later start time of 2.00 pm and be held at the Justice Precinct, Lichfield Street, Christchurch.

The meeting concluded at 2.22pm

Confirmed

Date 4 Sept 2020

Chair

