

**Minutes of the meeting of the
Canterbury Civil Defence and Emergency Management
Group Joint Committee
held at Te Hāpua, Halswell Centre, 341 Halswell Road,
Christchurch, on Friday 4 September 2020 at 1.00 pm**

Present

Joint Committee:

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

Mayor Neil Brown
Cr John Sunckell (Deputy Chair)
Mayor Marie Black
Mayor Craig Mackle
Mayor Graham Smith
Mayor Sam Broughton
Mayor Nigel Bowen
Mayor Dan Gordon
Mayor Craig Rowley

In attendance

Co-ordinating Executive Group (CEG)

Ashburton District Council
Environment Canterbury
Hurunui District Council
Kaikoura District Council
Mackenzie District Council
Timaru District Council
Waimakariri District Council
Canterbury District Health Board
Community & Public Health
Fire & Emergency NZ
National Emergency Management Agency
Ministry of Social Development
NZ Police
South Canterbury District Health Board
CDEM Group Controller
CDEM Group Recovery Manager
CDEM Group Welfare Manager

Hamish Riach
Dr Stefanie Rixecker
Hamish Dobbie
Angela Oosthuizen
Suzette van Aswegen
Bede Carran (CEG Chair)
Jim Palmer
Megan Gibbs
Hamish Sandison
Dave Berry
Peter Cameron
Lee-Ann Blanken
Inspector Craig McKay
Penny Dewar (via MS Teams)
Neville Reilly
Baden Ewart
Jessica Petersen

Environment Canterbury

Keri Hodgman (Financial Business Partner)
Louise McDonald (Committee Advisor)

1. Welcome

Deputy Chair, Councillor John Sunckell welcomed everyone to the meeting included those attending virtually via MS Teams.

2. Apologies

Apologies were received and accepted from Mayor Lianne Dalziel and Kai Mataara, 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 28 February 2020.**

Mayor Gordon/Mayor Bowen
CARRIED

Matters arising from the minutes

There were no matters arising from the minutes.

5. Appointment of Local Controller

Refer page 7 of the agenda.

Neville Reilly presented this report.

Resolved

That the Canterbury Civil Defence Emergency Management Group Joint Committee:

- 1. Appoint Symon Leggett as a Canterbury Civil Defence Emergency Management Group Local Controller.**

Mayor Brown/Mayor Rowley
CARRIED

6. Canterbury Civil Defence Emergency Management Group Budget

Refer page 9 of the agenda.

Neville Reilly presented this item, noting that it had been an interesting year, advised that the Group did not have specific budget for emergencies beyond the money held in the reserve. Included in the proposed budget was provision to replenish the reserve.

Keri Hodgman confirmed that the CDEM Group reserve of \$390,000 had been depleted following the Hurunui/Kaikoura earthquakes and now the COVID-19 pandemic.

Neville Reilly confirmed that clarification was being sought from National Emergency Management Agency on whether there would be any amendment to the criteria for government assistance for Civil Defence emergencies as a result of COVID-19.

Responding to a question regarding the Group budget and Environment Canterbury's Long Term Plan Dr Stefanie Rixecker advised that for disruptive events Environment Canterbury has the capacity to borrow, noting that interest rates were currently low.

There was support for reinstating the CDEM reserve and obtaining an understanding of the criteria for Central Government assistance for emergencies.

Resolved

That the Canterbury Civil Defence Emergency Management Group Joint Committee:

- 1. recommends to the Canterbury Regional Council that the Council investigate the future potential costs of disruptive events and the impact of regionalisation on long term budgets.**
- 2. recommends to the Canterbury Regional Council that the Council's Long Term Plan 2021/2031 include provision for the cost of emergencies.**
- 3. recommends to the Canterbury Regional Council the reinstatement of the Canterbury Civil Defence Emergency Management Group reserve to \$750,000 as soon as feasible.**
- 4. seeks further clarification on roles, responsibilities and costs in an emergency.**

Mayor Rowley/Mayor Broughton
CARRIED

Resolved

That the Canterbury Civil Defence Emergency Management Group Joint Committee:

- 1. approves the Canterbury Civil Defence Emergency Management Budget for the 2020/21 financial year.**

Mayor Smith/Mayor Bowen
CARRIED

7. COVID-19 Response Update

Refer to page 11 of the agenda

Neville Reilly introduced this item and invited agency representatives to provide updates on their response to the COVID-19 Pandemic, including resurgence planning.

Canterbury District Health Board (CDHB)

Megan Gibbs advised that the CDHB laboratory was doing surveillance testing for Auckland, border testing, and managed isolation facilities and had just reached 100,000 tests.

The management of isolation facilities was being done in partnership with other agencies, including the Police and the hotels. There was an impact on staff, and they were to be supported by New Zealand Defence staff with oversight to be provided by the Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment.

Ms Gibbs noted that some people returning to New Zealand had other health issues, so it was a complex situation. It was expected that the management of isolation facilities would continue until the borders reopen.

The CHDB is undertaking resurgence planning throughout the organisation so they will be ready to respond to another outbreak. This includes the provision and supply of personal protective equipment.

South Canterbury District Health Board (SCDHB)

Penny Dewar reported that the SCDHB were in a similar situation to the CDHB.

They were focused on testing of Port workers.

SCDHB resurgence plans all in place and ready to implement if required

Community and Public Health (CPH)

Hamish Sanderson advised that Dr Ramon Pink, Medical Officer of Health sent his apologies and provided the following update:

There has been a recent cluster of community-based cases in Auckland, with no known epidemiological link to the border.

Any cases identified in the community at Alert Levels 1 and 2 will have more contacts due to the absence or low level of restriction of everyday activities.

The border response continues to be a key focus, especially effective managed quarantine (isolation if symptomatic, for those entering the country). Cases identified among incoming passengers will have small numbers of close contacts due to their quarantine status.

DHBs and Public Health Units have prepared contingency plans for the upscaling of the response. It is anticipated that case and contact identification and management will need to continue until a vaccine is available.

Community and Public Health's overall goal:

To contribute to minimising the impact of COVID-19 in New Zealand by:

- supporting border control measures, including entry screening, case identification and investigation, and case and contact management in quarantine/isolation facilities
- limiting spread of COVID-19 in our community to reduce morbidity and reduce and/or delay burden on healthcare services
- providing support and guidance to our community, including psychosocial support.

Situation as at 1pm on Friday 4 September

- No community transmission in Canterbury
- 8 cases in isolation facilities
- 3 new cases in Auckland

- Two Singapore Air flights and a Charter flight from South Africa are due in Christchurch next week
- CPH have been conducting contact tracing for cases delegated from Auckland Regional Public Health Service via the National Contact Tracing Service.
- Awaiting signature of new Maritime Border Order which will provide certainty around protocols for dealing with crews of foreign ships arriving in New Zealand Ports.

Community and Public Health Contingency Planning

- Health Protection Officers (HPOs) routinely carry out contact management in respect of notifiable diseases such as norovirus
- Contact management during the first wave of COVID 19, although efficient and effective, put a strain on resources
- Therefore, CPH are augmenting our staff by providing contact management training for other Public Health and CDHB personnel. Three contact management teams have been formed, each of which will comprise a Medical Officer of Health, Coordinator, and up to a dozen investigators, as well as admin staff. CPH are ready to train more staff, if required.
- CPH have also acquired another office and are in the advanced stages of leasing a second one for the purposes of providing workspace for the contact management teams.

Other Preparation

- CPH continue to give advice to agencies for whom a positive case will have special implications. In this regard a member of our staff and an Infection Prevention and Control Nurse Specialist recently visited two youth justice facilities, provided advice, and offered relevant training.

Mr Sandison advised that a maritime border order had just been issued and this provided for isolation requirements for people arriving at ports.

Ministry of Social Development

Lee-Ann Blanken provided an update on the Ministry's work including:

- Processing income relief and wage subsidy payments.
- Staffing the government helpline.
- Dealing with calls to the contact centre
- Resurgence planning
- Wellbeing teams to support those leaving isolation facilities
- Dealing with an increase in their normal business

Members acknowledged the great work being done in Ashburton, Selwyn and by Peter Winstanley in Waimakariri.

NZ Police

Inspector Craig McKay spoke about the management of borders during regional lockdowns. Lessons had been learnt from the Auckland experience; districts are easier to manage than cities; and education rather than enforcement is more effective.

Members stressed the importance of ensuring the movement of fast-moving consumer goods during a lockdown. Council members were keen to be involved in the planning for border controls; to know what is going on and to provide support to the Police.

Neville Reilly advised that CDEM were working with the Police on managing access and that this planning will be shared with the Territorial Authorities.

National Emergency Management Agency

Peter Cameron advised that the Agency was involved in resurgence planning and senior leadership meetings.

CDEM Group

Neville Reilly reported on the Group's work including supporting the national resurgence response; establishing liaison with the District Health Boards and preparing resurgence plans using a variety of scenarios.

The Group was prepared to lead local welfare in support of agencies; support the Police and provide regular updates with councils and partner agencies.

Resolved:

That the Canterbury Civil Defence Emergency Management Group Joint Committee:

1. **Receive the reports by Canterbury Civil Defence Emergency Management Group Co-ordination Executive Group members on their responses to the COVID-19 Pandemic.**

Mayor Rowley/Mayor Broughton
CARRIED

Other Business

Lake Pukaki fire

Mayor Smith reported on the Lake Pukaki fire in the Mackenzie District. An area of 3,000 hectares of wilding pines had been burnt with a lot of damage caused. Properties had been threatened with one destroyed. The fire was still contained but could still be live for about 3 months.

State Highway 80 had to be closed and about 200 people evacuated from Mt Cook. Fire was an issue for camping around the lakes. With the prospect of a long hot summer, there is a need to be on guard.

The visit from the Minister and Peter Cameron was appreciated. Mayor Smith was proud of the team that worked on the fire including welfare and other support.

Dave Berry confirmed that the fire was now contained but not out. Drones are being used to identify hot spots. It was estimated that the cost of this fire could get to \$1.5million.

Peter Cameron said that he was impressed the efficiency of the Mackenzie District's Mayoral Fund in providing support to families; and recommended Mackenzie process to other councils.

Cr Sunckell suggested a report on the lessons from this event would be useful for the Group.

Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Joint Committee was scheduled for Friday 27 November. This meeting may include a visit to the Justice & Emergency Services Precinct, Lichfield Street, Christchurch.

Cr Sunckell thanked everyone for their attendance and contribution and closed the meeting at 2.06pm

Confirmed

Date 27/11/20 Chair 