

## 18. CANTERBURY CIVIL DEFENCE EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT GROUP

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The purpose of this report is to advise the Committee on the formation, and the first two meetings of the Civil Defence Emergency Management Group (CDEMG) that has been set up for Canterbury. The CDEMG is required to be set up by the new Civil Defence Emergency Management Act. The CDEMG is made up of the Mayor or other appointed member from each of the 10 Councils within the Canterbury area, plus Environment Canterbury. Councillor Sue Wells is the Christchurch City Council representative on the CDEMG.

The following is a summary of the decisions and actions made in the first two meetings of that group:

1. Mayor Arps from Hurunui District Council was elected as the Chairman of the CDEMG and Mayor Scorringe of McKenzie District Council was elected as the Deputy Chairman.
2. The CDEMG confirmed that its start date was 28 April 2002. This date is important because the group now has two years from that date in which to prepare a CDEM Plan for the Canterbury region. While two years may sound a reasonable time, there is a lot to do in the preparation of that plan, and the date of next year's elections will create some difficulties in having the plan considered and supported by all of the Councils as part of that process.
3. The Group confirmed that it would not use any casting vote, as it was considered that there if there was a need to use a casting vote then the Group had failed.
4. The Group approved the basis of funding of the CDEMG. The budget is to be approved by the CDEMG, and collected as a uniform targeted rate, based on Capital Value, by Environment Canterbury.
5. The Group has set up a subcommittee to get around a legal issue, that because the Group is a Standing Joint Committee of all of the Councils, then there is a legal opinion that a quorum for the group is in fact the full 11 members. Because it is highly likely that at least one or more of the members may not be able to attend a particular meeting for some reason, it was decided to set up a subcommittee so that normal quorum rules would apply.
6. The Group has set up the Co-ordinating Executives Group (CEG), which is made of the Chief Executive Officer, or other person, from each of the Councils, plus representatives from Police, Fire Service, Health Boards, the business community, the rural community, rural fire, Ministry of Civil Defence and Emergency Management, the Group Controller, Engineering Lifelines, and St Johns Ambulance. The Co-ordinating Executives Group will co-ordinate most of the work required to be carried out in preparing the new CDEM Plan, and the other work necessary for Civil Defence and Emergency Management in Canterbury. CEG has set up a group of Committees, which mirror a number of working parties that have been established for some time. The Christchurch City Council representative on CEG is the Director of Operations (Ken Lawn).
7. A budget for the 2003/04 financial year was presented to the group. It provided for a total rates requirement of \$770K, which is very close to the amount that Environment Canterbury had indicated in its Draft Annual Plan would be the amount required to be collected. However, that amount is an increase from previous expenditure by Environment Canterbury in this field of \$205K and also involved a shift of other costs previously treated as Environment Canterbury costs, of \$67K. Because of the short time period available for the consideration of that budget (because of the time of formation of the Group relative to the preparation to the Draft Annual Plan) the Group was not entirely happy with that level of increased expenditure, although it is acknowledged that the costs associated with Civil Defence and Emergency Management will increase. The Group has set up a working party which will work through those increases and recommend back to the Group at a meeting before the beginning of July as to whether all that increased spending is justified. No expenditure of that increased amount is to be undertaken until it has been approved.

8. The Group has also discussed the appointment of a Group Controller. Mr John Lamb is currently Regional Controller for Environment Canterbury, and Local Controller for Christchurch City and Banks Peninsula. John Lamb wishes to retire and it is necessary to replace him. The current role of Regional Controller continues under the old Civil Defence Act until the new plan is in place in two years time, at which there will need to be a Group Controller. It is considered important that whoever replaces John Lamb as Regional Controller should also progress to be the Group Controller under the new arrangements. There was some discussion as to whether this role should be combined with the Emergency Management Office Manager, and also whether there needs to be a separate Local Controller for Christchurch City Council and for Banks Peninsula. Those discussions are ongoing, and in the meantime an Acting Regional Controller and Local Controller is likely to be appointed until that matter is concluded.

**Chair's**

**Recommendation:** That the information be received.