

9. CIVIL DEFENCE

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Corporate Plan Output: Civil Defence	

INTERIM EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AND CIVIL DEFENCE GROUP

The purpose of this report is for the Council to propose using the Canterbury Mayors Forum as the interim Emergency Management and Civil Defence Group for Canterbury.

New legislation dealing with emergency management and civil defence is being prepared by the government, although it is not yet known when this will be introduced to Parliament. It had been anticipated that it would be in the next couple of months, and it may well still be so, although it could yet be next year.

This legislation will revise the way in which we carry out our emergency management and civil defence. One of the things that it will do is to set up an Emergency Management and Civil Defence Group which will be responsible for the co-ordination of our emergency management and civil defence planning and operations. The Emergency Management and Civil Defence Group will be the governance body, made up of Mayors or Chairman of each of the Councils, and the Regional Council within the region.

Here in Canterbury we have agreed to establish an interim or trial Emergency Management and Civil Defence Group so that we can get on with coordinating and improving our planning, preparation and operations for emergency management and civil defence. This covers all of the Canterbury region from Kaikoura to Waimate, but excluding Waitaki which has decided to work with the Otago region. We have already set up a co-ordination and advisory group, which is made up of Chief Executives or their nominees of each of the individual Councils and the regional council, together with some emergency service providers. That coordination and advisory group (CAG) has set up three working parties, which are now actively working on issues in this area. These three working parties are reduction, readiness and response, and recovery.

For the past two years Canterbury Mayors and CEOs have met several times a year in what is now called the Canterbury Mayors Forum.

At the last forum, following a recommendation from the CAG, it was agreed that the Mayors Forum would be an appropriate body to act as an interim/trial Emergency Management and Civil Defence Group until the new legislation is in place. This would save setting up a separate body in the short term. Once its new legislation is in place a formal emergency management and civil defence group will need to be established. While the Mayors Forum has no formal powers to make decisions, it has been used as a sounding board for the proposed changes to emergency management and civil defence.

Recommendation: That the Christchurch City Council agree that the Canterbury Mayors Forum act as the interim/trial Emergency Management and Civil Defence Group for the Canterbury region.

Chairman's Recommendation: That the above recommendation be adopted.