

8. ADOPTION OF CHRISTCHURCH CITY COUNCIL RURAL FIRE AUTHORITY FIRE PLAN

General Manager responsible:	General Manager City Environment, DDI 941-8608
Officer responsible:	Manager, Civil Defence & Emergency Management
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PURPOSE OF REPORT

1. The purpose of this report is to consider and recommend the adoption of the 2009/14 Christchurch City Council Rural Fire Authority Fire Plan.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

2. Under the Forest and Rural Fires Regulations 2005, the Christchurch City Council Rural Fire Authority is required to adopt a new Fire Plan in the form set out in the Forest and Rural Fire Regulations 2005. Upon adoption by Council, the 2009/14 Rural Fire Plan will replace the Rural Fire Plan 2007/12 Plan adopted by the Council in September 2007.
3. The Forest and Rural Fires Regulations 2005 requires that the 'Readiness' and 'Response' sections of the Plan be reviewed every two years. Any changes made as a result of such review requires the Fire Authority to provide a copy of the amended Plan to the National Rural Fire Authority.
4. The 2005 Regulations also require that the 'Reduction' and 'Recovery' sections must be reviewed not more than 5 years after the plan was first adopted. The opportunity has been taken to review the 'Reduction' and 'Recovery' sections at this time as amendments were required.
5. Changes to current Plan include:
 - (a) The uplifting of gazettal of Bottle Lake Rural Fire District and Chaney's Rural Fire District and incorporating these areas within the Christchurch City Council Rural Fire Authority's area.
 - (b) All topographical maps have been replaced as a result of Land Information New Zealand introducing a new map series to align with international mapping coordinates.
 - (c) Changes have also been made to the following sub-sections (refer **Attachment 1** for details):
 - (i) Readiness, Triggers and Precautionary Measures (sub-section 3.15).
 - (ii) Introduction (sub-section 3.15.1).
 - (iii) Readiness Levels (sub-section 3.15.2).
 - (iv) Alert Procedures for Very High and Extreme Fire Danger (sub-section 3.15.3).
 - (v) Response readiness levels (sub-section 3.18).
 - (vi) Fire weather index trigger points for precautionary measures during low to extreme fire danger levels (sub-section 3.18.1).
 - (vii) Fire Protection Works (sub-section 3.19).
 - (viii) Fire Danger Rating System (sub-section 3.20).
 - (ix) Readiness, Retardants and Suppressants (sub-section 3.26.15).
 - (x) Recovery, Procedure for Cost recovery on Persons Known to Have Caused the Fire (sub-section 5.7.3).
 - (xi) Health and Safety Management at Rural Fires (Appendix N).

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

6. Adoption of the 2009/14 Rural Fire Plan will not require any additional funding.

Do the Recommendations of this Report Align with 2009-19 LTCCP?

7. Yes.

LEGAL CONSIDERATIONS

8. The Council must comply with the provisions of the Forest and Rural Fires Regulations 2005.

Have you considered the legal implications of the issue under consideration?

9. Yes, the adoption of a new Fire Plan meets the requirements of the Forest and Rural Fires Act and Regulations.

ALIGNMENT WITH LTCCP AND ACTIVITY MANAGEMENT PLANS

10. LTCCP Page 117 - Rural Fire Fighting: An approved and operative Rural Fire Plan is in place.

Do the recommendations of this report support a level of service or project in the 2009-19 LTCCP?

11. Yes.

ALIGNMENT WITH STRATEGIES

12. Yes.

Do the recommendations align with the Council's strategies?

13. Not applicable.

CONSULTATION FULFILMENT

14. Not applicable.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that the Council, as the Christchurch City Council Rural Fire Authority, adopt the 2009/14 Rural Fire Plan with the changes as outlined in the following attachment.