

Report to CDEM Joint Committee – Decisions Required

File No: 35 00 05
Date: 1 March 2017
To: CDEM Joint Committee
From: Group Controller/Manager – Lee Hazlewood
Subject: New CDEM Legislation and Implications for Recovery

Purpose

To provide the Joint Committee with information regarding the need for an additional resource within the GEMO to meet the new requirements surrounding Recovery legislation and the transition from response.

Decisions Required

1. Whether or not to receive the report
2. Whether or not to note that additional resources within the GEMO and Group will be required as a result of the Civil Defence Emergency Management Amendment Act 2016
3. Whether or not to approve the development of a business case to support the provision of this additional resource
4. Whether or not to appoint a sub-committee to approve the business case, for submission to the Waikato Regional Council annual plan
5. Whether or not to appoint (re-confirm) Greg Ryan as the Group Recovery Manager
6. Whether or not to appoint a Local Recovery Manager, as the Alternate Group Recovery Manager. (Kurt Abbott of Waikato District Council is currently being considered)

Recommendations:

1. ...That the report “**New CDEM Legislation and Group Recovery Manager Position Request**” (Doc # 10044322 dated 1 March 2017) be received.
2. ...That the Joint Committee note that additional resources within the GEMO and Group will be required as a result of the Civil Defence Emergency Management Amendment Act 2016
3. ...That the Joint Committee approve the development of a business case to support the provision of this additional resource
4. ...That a sub-committee of the Chair and two – three members be appointed to approve the business case, for submission to the Waikato Regional Council annual plan
5. ...That Greg Ryan be appointed (re-confirmed) as the Group Recovery Manager
6. ...That a Local Recovery Manager be appointed the alternate Recovery Manager position (Kurt Abbott, pending confirmation of appointment at Waikato District Council)

Background

The Civil Defence Emergency Management Amendment Act 2016 came into force on 10 November 2016. The intent of the legislation is to enable a smoother and more effective transition from the response phase to recovery following an event. It places greater onus on CDEM Groups working with the community and planning for the recovery phase before emergencies happen, focusing on creating more resilient communities.

The leadership and operational role of the Group Recovery function has sat within the role of *Team Leader - Strategy and Planning* with the business-as-usual application of recovery planning and support sitting as an additional task of the *Group Welfare Manager*.

Under previous legislation, the team leader's Group Recovery function was one of business-as-usual leadership of recovery actions necessary around the Group's member councils, representation at inter and intra-regional recovery forums/meetings and acting as the potential Group Recovery Manager for small incidents. In the event of a larger incidents, it was anticipated that the expertise and skills required for the role would likely have the Team Leader replaced after the initial phases of the response by someone such as a former CEO. In this case, the staff Group Recovery Manager would probably serve in an advisory capacity to the newly appointed individual.

Noting the earlier limited role of the Group Recovery Manager, in legislation and practice, it was felt that this function, administratively supported by the Group Welfare Manager, could easily sit as an additional duty for an existing GEMO staff role.

It was advised earlier in 2016 that new recovery legislation was on the way and that all indications were that it would increase our obligations surrounding recovery. The CEG had been advised by the Group Controller/Manager that a change to the Group Recovery Manager function was likely, necessitating an increase in staff resources. The Joint Committee had also been socialised on a number of occasions that this may occur. However, the extent of the change and therefore the level of resource required could not be assessed with the limited information available. The commitment was made to research the impacts upon the act coming into force and return to governance with a recommendation.

Current situation

After reviewing the information available it is clear that the new legislative requirements will require greater coordination of local activities and strong persuasive leadership (particularly in the championing of issues and needs in the executive/elected space). Therefore, a more focused and consolidated role of Group Recovery Manager needs to be created; An individual dedicated to the promotion, development and integration of recovery requirements from a business-as-usual perspective and likely someone that, through their skills and expertise, could maintain the operational role of Group Recovery Manager throughout an event or at least be seen as a strong deputy (rather than an advisor) to any post-initial response appointee.

As further support to the provision of an additional resource to serve the group's members, it should also be noted that a number of reviews are ongoing across several Ministries as a result of the Kaikōura earthquake. These reviews are likely to result in a number of additional responsibilities falling onto groups either directly or as a coordination function across councils. Consequently, there is a high likelihood that requirements may increase demands on other areas of the GEMO and not only the Group Recovery function.

Action to Date

The building of an accurate business case in time for the standard annual plan process (WRC) was not viable due to the information available at the time. More information has since come to light regarding expectations, but this still does not contain all the nuances of the operational requirements due to the fact that it will be some time after the implantation of the act before MCDEM issues the typical Directors Guidelines. However, certain key functions, as detailed below, and expectations have been laid out that provide us with a strong indication of the needs and certain legislative deadlines that must be met:

- CDEM Group Plan must by 1 June 2018 provide for the strategic planning for recovery from the hazards and risks listed in the CDEM Group Plan.
- Appoint a Group Recovery Manager and alternative by 1 June 2017.

To ensure compliance with the new legislation and to ensure these roles are filled, it is proposed that the current Group Recovery Manager be re-appointed (on an interim basis) and an alternate also be appointed on an interim basis, until such time as the full scope of the legislative changes are known.

After consultation with the Joint Committee Chair regarding the timing issue, it was his decision to raise the potential for an additional funding request to the Councillors of WRC during their budget deliberations. The Chair indicated to the council that more time was necessary to review the needs and asked the membership for additional time so that the Joint Committee and CEG can establish the best course of action. The recommendation from the CE was to submit, if it becomes necessary, via the CE submissions process. The deadline for this process is in 22 May 2017.

To this end, this outline report has been provided in preparation for the provision of an initial business case.

Due to the next Joint Committee meeting being post the May 2017 deadline, it is recommended that the Joint Committee appoint a sub-committee, with delegated authority to approve the business case. Note, the CEG has taken a similar action, with the CEG chair, Messer's Fox and Bellamy, given authority to approve the business case for CEG.

Recommendation

- That the report be received
- That the Joint Committee note that additional resources within the GEMO and Group will be required as a result of the Civil Defence Emergency Management Amendment Act 2016
- That the Joint Committee approve the development of a business case to support the provision of this additional resource
- That a sub-committee of the Joint Committee Chair and two – three members be appointed to approve the business case, for submission to the Waikato Regional Council annual plan
- That Greg Ryan be appointed (re-confirmed) as the Group Recovery Manager
- That a Local Recovery Manager be appointed the alternate Recovery Manager position (Kurt Abbott, pending confirmation of appointment at Waikato District Council)

END OF REPORT



Lee Hazlewood
Group Controller