



NOTICE OF MEETING

EMERGENCY SERVICES SPECIAL COMMITTEE

I hereby give notice that an Ordinary Meeting of the Emergency Services Special Committee will be held on:-

DATE: **Tuesday, 1 October 2002** **TIME:** **9.30 am**

VENUE: **Civic Centre, 6 Waipareira Avenue, Lincoln, Waitakere City**

to consider the business as set out herein and to take any necessary action connected therewith.

24 September 2002

Sharon Simiona
COMMITTEE SECRETARY

Telephone (09) 836 8000 extn 8820

MEMBERSHIP:

Councillors	DQ	Battersby, JP (Chairperson)
	VS	Neeson, JP (Deputy Chairperson)
	RP	Dallow, QPM, JP
	AC	Fenton
	GW	Russell

Mayor, Bob Harvey, QSO, JP (ex officio)
Deputy Mayor, Carolynne Stone (ex officio)

(Quorum 2 members)

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(The reports and recommendations contained in all agendas are reports and recommendations only and are not to be construed, in any way, as Council policy until adopted.)

**AGENDA FOR AN ORDINARY MEETING OF THE EMERGENCY SERVICES SPECIAL
COMMITTEE TO BE HELD IN THE CIVIC CENTRE, 6 WAIPAREIRA AVENUE,
LINCOLN, WAITAKERE CITY, ON TUESDAY, 1 OCTOBER 2002
COMMENCING AT 9.30 AM.**

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**AGENDA FOR AN ORDINARY MEETING OF THE EMERGENCY SERVICES SPECIAL
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LINCOLN, WAITAKERE CITY, ON TUESDAY, 1 OCTOBER 2002
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1 APOLOGIES



2 URGENT BUSINESS

Section 46A(7) and (7A) of the Local Government Official Information Act and Meetings Act 1987 provides that where an item of business is not on the agenda, it may only be dealt with at the meeting if:

- (i) the item is a minor matter; and
- (ii) the Chairperson has explained at the beginning of the meeting (when open to the public) that the item will be raised for discussion, why the item is not on the agenda, and why it cannot be delayed until a subsequent meeting; and
- (iii) the Committee resolves to deal with the item.

No resolution, decision, or recommendation may be made in respect of the item except to refer the item to a subsequent meeting for further discussion.

NOTE: Urgent Business need not be dealt with now and may be delayed until later in the meeting.



3 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

Ordinary - Tuesday, 6 August 2002

RECOMMENDATION

That the minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of the Emergency Services Special Committee held on Tuesday, 6 August 2002, as circulated, be taken as read and now be confirmed.



4 **CIVIL DEFENCE EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT GROUP AND THE AUCKLAND ENGINEERING LIFELINES GROUP**

PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

The purpose of this report is to inform the Emergency Services Special Committee of the role of the Auckland Engineering Lifelines Group and to update on the progress towards a partnership between the Auckland Engineering Lifelines Group and the Auckland Civil Defence Emergency Management Group.

BACKGROUND

The Auckland Engineering Lifelines Group was initiated by the Auckland Regional Council in late 1995. The "Group" includes representatives of the major lifelines (power, water, gas, transport routes, telephone) together with representatives from the local and regional councils within the region. The primary objective was to reduce the impact of all known hazards on the Lifeline services of the Auckland region. This project was based on and followed similar projects in Wellington and Christchurch.

In July 1997 a Stage One Report "Hazards and Network Utility Information" was produced. It was a reference document that set out the extent of hazards investigated and the likely effect of these hazards on lifeline networks. Lifeline Network maps were produced as part of the Report to enable the vulnerability of the "utilities" to be evaluated and quantified.

In November 1999 a Final Stage One Report was published which:

- Examined the effect of direct damage to lifeline services, by major natural hazards;
- Assessed the vulnerability of the lifelines services to damage affecting more than one lifeline service at a time;
- Identified interdependencies between the lifelines services;
- Identified practical strategies for reducing risk;
- Helped the Auckland Engineering Lifelines Group partners identify and implement mitigation strategies for their own networks, and co-ordinate these with the plans of other networks.

Three copies of the Hazards and Network Utility Information report were allocated to Waitakere City Council and the Emergency Services Section copy will be available for perusal at this Committee meeting.

Currently there are 16 national Lifelines projects underway, among those not yet completed are two Projects relating to the Recovery phase:

- "The Performance of Buried Services post-quake"
- "Monitoring Fire Post-Quake"

The Auckland Engineering Lifelines Group / Auckland Regional Council November 2001 Technical Publication on Priority Emergency Routes in Auckland Region is a valuable reference document in our emergency management planning.

STRATEGIC CONTEXT

The 1998 January – February Mercury Energy power crisis of the Auckland Central Business District aptly demonstrated the strategic significance of Utilities lifelines network problems.

ISSUES

Since the completion of the "First Report" (in "Background" above) the Auckland Engineering Lifelines Group has continued to meet regularly and to work towards improving their Contingency Plans and mitigation strategies against the hazards which have been identified as putting their lifelines at risk.

Over the past three years, seminars and study days have been held to up-date the local councils and emergency services, on the status of the readiness of Utilities to cope with the major identified hazards.

The most recent of these was on 20 August 2002 in the Auckland Regional Council at which reports were presented by various lifelines services as to the projects they were working on at present. In précis, some of these reported on were:

- WaterServices Limited looking at the security of their headwaters, reservoirs, water treatment plants and wastewater facilities. They already have a Regional Drinking Water Incident Continuity Plan.
- United Networks to set up a back-up control centre in Auckland away from damage by the volcanic hazard. They are investigating the Waitakere area for this.
- Telecom have been looking at the effect on their network of a Wellington earthquake
- Transit NZ producing a register of Detour Routes for all Auckland Motorways and Highways.
- An Emergency Communications System is seen by all utilities as a priority project

At this Seminar, Tim Jago who until his recent departure, carried out the Emergency Manager/Project Manager role for the Auckland Civil Defence Emergency Management Group, made a presentation on the Auckland Engineering Lifelines Group – Auckland Civil Defence Emergency Management Group partnership which was most helpful. Some of this PowerPoint presentation will be presented today at the meeting.

CONCLUSION

As the Auckland Civil Defence Emergency Management Group works towards clarifying its role in the future, it is already well down the track to setting up working partnerships with organisations which also have roles in emergency management. The Auckland Engineering Lifelines Group is one of these with a major part to play in the management of and recovery from any future emergency which affects the supply of lifelines services to the public.

RECOMMENDATION

That the information be received.

Report prepared by: Heather E Smith, Manager, Emergency Services Section.



5 THE WAITAKERE CITY COUNCIL RURAL FIRE PLAN 2002

PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

The purpose of this report is to introduce the Emergency Services Special Committee to the recently approved annual review of the Waitakere City Council Rural Fire Plan.

BACKGROUND

Under the Forest and Rural Fires Act 1977, local councils are given certain responsibilities and powers for maintaining a rural fire organisation for the purpose of fire reduction and/or management in the rural fire district where they have one in their district.

The main document used in meeting these responsibilities is the local Rural Fire Plan which, unlike the tri-ennial local Civil Defence Plan, is required to be rewritten by September of each year.

The Forest and Rural Fires Act 1977 sets out the requirement for preparing a Rural Fire Plan and the National Rural Fire Authority's Code of Management Practise sets out precise requirements for the content of each rural fire plan.

STRATEGIC CONTEXT

The Emergency Services Section works to meet council's responsibilities under Forest and Rural Fires Act 1977 which set out the management of rural fire as a statutory responsibility of the Council. Rural Fire Services contribute to Council's goals of community well-being and environmental protection, by providing prevention and suppression of fires which can endanger life, property and the natural environment.

ISSUES

The Chief Executive has the delegated authority to sign Fire Plans. Prior to final approval, the plan in draft form is checked by a "Plan Group" of the Auckland Regional Rural Fire Committee against the requirements of the National Code of Management Practise.

Copies of the plan are distributed to the Mayor, the Chairman of the Emergency Services Special Committee, the Chief Executive, the Rural Fire Forces at Bethells, Karekare, Waitakere Village. Copies are also given to the Auckland Regional Parks office at Arataki, the nine NZ Fire Service brigades within Waitakere City, the NZ Fire Service Regional office and Control room.

Copies of the Rural Fire Plan will be available for perusal at the Emergency Services Special Committee meeting and the section on "daily Rural Fire Danger reporting" will be explained.

CONCLUSION

The City's Rural Fire Plan has now been reviewed. The Plan is presented for the Emergency Services Special Committee's information.

RECOMMENDATION

That the information be received.

Report prepared by: Heather E Smith, Manager, Emergency Services Section.



6 INTERIM REPORT ON REWRITE OF CIVIL DEFENCE PLAN

PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

To inform the Emergency Services Special Committee of the progress on the review of Council's Local Civil Defence Plan. This plan will cease to be legally operative on 22 December 2002, three years from the date of its approval by signature of the Auckland Regional Council (as per Section 37 Civil Defence Act 1983)

BACKGROUND

Under Section 34 of the Civil Defence Act 1983 - *"every territorial authority shall prepare a local civil defence plan to deal with all matters of civil defence within its district"*. It was initially thought that the new legislation, the Civil Defence Emergency Management Bill 2000, would have been enacted by the time the Waitakere City Civil Defence Plan 1999 – 2002 became inoperative.

Under this new legislation an Auckland Regional Civil Defence Emergency Management Group Plan will be required and this may remove the need for each local Territorial Authority under a Civil Defence Emergency Management Group to write a plan in the same depth and detail as is now required. However, it is likely that the new Act will not now come into force before mid-2003 at the earliest, meaning that a review of the local Civil Defence Plan is required prior to December 2003.

STRATEGIC CONTEXT

Under Section 34 of the Civil Defence Act 1983 (see "Background" above) the tri-ennial preparation of a local Civil Defence Plan and the maintenance of a local civil defence organisation are statutory responsibilities of the Council. Civil Defence activities form part of the Council's approach to community well-being, being focused on reducing the susceptibility of the City and its communities to civil defence emergency events, and giving Council and the community the capacity to respond and recover from such events.

ISSUES

Life of the "New" Local Plan

This Civil Defence Plan will be known as the Waitakere City Civil Defence Plan. December 2002 to December 2005, even though the new Civil Defence Emergency Management Act will undoubtedly come into force during that three year period. Immediately following the enactment of the new Act, there will be a two year transitional period during which time those regions which have not as yet begun to set up an emergency management group will need to start from scratch while those regions, like Auckland, which have a Civil Defence Emergency Management Group, will be able to move ahead with the writing and authorising of their Civil Defence Emergency Management Group Plan.

Content of the New Plan

While previous Waitakere City Civil Defence Plans have concentrated on setting down the RESPONSE and RECOVERY phases of the emergency activation, the 2002-2005 plan is set out in four parts reflecting the four phases of Civil Defence Emergency Management, Reduction, Readiness, Response and Recovery. This will enable the plan to be adapted for use in the new legislative environment, once the Bill becomes law.

The new plan will outline the civil defence/emergency management structures, functions and powers of the Waitakere City Council in general, and of its Emergency Management Section in particular, in providing for the four parts of emergency management as follows:

- Part 1 **REDUCTION / PREVENTION / MITIGATION**
This section identifies the risks and hazards to which this city is vulnerable, and sets out the ways in which the Council works as a whole and with other partners, to reduce, prevent or mitigate the impacts of these risks and hazards.
- Part 2 **READINESS**
This section describes the organisation and the City's readiness for any future emergency:
- Declaration procedures
 - The area by Map
 - Contact information (names and addresses)
 - Committees with which the Council and particularly the Civil Defence Emergency Management section liaises and works
 - Any Agreements and Memoranda set up for emergency management purposes
 - Emergency resources and equipment
 - Volunteer groups associated with council's response to disaster.
 - Training policy and Exercises
- Part 3 **RESPONSE**
This section sets out the Response Procedures in place for activating the Emergency Operations Centre and for responding to emergencies.
(In previous 3-yearly Plans, this section constituted the greater part of the civil defence plan.)
- Part 4 **RECOVERY**
This section sets out the current plans, procedures and staffing to meet the requirement for the post-disaster activity which works towards the restoration of normal services and life.

Consultation process in the preparation of this review

Internal consultation is being carried out to ensure appropriate input into the plan and coordination under it.

External consultation will be carried out with the regional Civil Defence Emergency Management Officers Group, and with the Ministry of Civil Defence Emergency Management before bringing the final draft to this Committee for approval. From there it will go to the Auckland Regional Council for approval in accordance with Section 35(2) of the Civil Defence Act 1983.

CONCLUSION

The Plan will meet the requirements of the current Civil Defence Act 1983, but will also move in the direction forecast by the Civil Defence Emergency Management Bill, which will become law sometime during the life of this Plan.

RECOMMENDATION

That the information be received.

Report prepared by: Heather E Smith, Manager, Emergency Services Section.



7 CIVIL DEFENCE EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT GROUP ADMINISTRATIVE ARRANGEMENTS

PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

The purpose of this report is to provide an update on Civil Defence Emergency Management Group administrative arrangements, and to present to the Emergency Services Special Committee a report prepared by the Auckland Regional Council for the Civil Defence Emergency Management Group Committee.

BACKGROUND

A1 - A2

Council has received a number of reports relating to the administrative arrangements around the Civil Defence Emergency Management Group. The outstanding matters in relation to the administrative arrangements are the status of the Committee and the funding allocation. The Auckland Regional Council has linked the two matters, stipulating that they will reduce their current level of funding to the Civil Defence Emergency Management Group if the proposal currently included in the Civil Defence Emergency Management Bill for a joint committee of the local authorities to govern Civil Defence Emergency Management Group is enacted. Council has found this position hard to understand, and has tried to persuade the Auckland Regional Council to re-think. Council's views are well covered in correspondence sent to the Auckland Regional Council by the Committee's Chairman, Councillor Battersby. This correspondence is attached at pages A1 to A2.

STRATEGIC CONTEXT

Civil Defence Emergency Management is a responsibility of the Council under the Civil Defence Act. It forms part of Council's overall strategic framework in that it contributes to community wellbeing by reducing the risk and likely impact of disasters and emergency events, readying and building community resilience to the impacts of such events, developing Council's capability to respond to emergency events, and developing the City's recovery capability. Given the urban nature of the Auckland region, there are strong reasons for a regional approach to civil defence emergency management. This approach is required by the proposed Civil Defence Emergency Management Bill currently before the House.

ISSUES

A3 - A4

To date no agreement has been reached on administrative arrangements by the existing Civil Defence Emergency Management Group. As the Auckland Regional Council have pointed out in their reply to Councillor Battersby (copy attached at pages A3 to A4) each Council will determine how much it contributes. The Auckland Regional Council may well have determined to contribute 16% of a nominal figure, but it is up to each of the other contributing Councils to determine how much they are prepared to fund. In the end, some agreement is going to need to be reached, and it may well depend on the approach taken to finding what is in the regional budget and should be shared, and what should be picked up by individual authorities, including the Auckland Regional Council.

A5 - A8

The Auckland Regional Council has prepared a report for the Civil Defence Emergency Management Group Committee which is attached at pages A5 to A8. The Civil Defence Emergency Management Group Committee has asked that this report be circulated to all Councils. It is noted that the Committee has not yet adopted any funding formula. Only the Auckland Regional Council have specified what they consider to be an appropriate funding formula and what they are prepared to pay, which is 16% of the total funding.

Funding requirements for future years for the Civil Defence Emergency Management Group have not yet been determined as the work programme is still under development. It is likely though, that under the funding allocation proposed by the ARC, Council's required contribution might rise from \$11,000 in the last financial year, to anywhere between \$50,000 and \$100,000 for the 2003/2004 Annual Plan. This is obviously something that staff and the Council's representative, Councillor Battersby, are working hard to avoid.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. That the information be received.
2. That the Emergency Services Special Committee give some direction on administrative arrangements for the Civil Defence Emergency Management Group.

Report prepared by: Ross McLeod, Director: Corporate and Civic Services.





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Refer: Cr Battersby : Council :
Civic Centre

18 April 2002

Jo Brosnahan
Chief Executive
Auckland Regional Council
Private Bag 92012
AUCKLAND

Dear Jo

AUCKLAND REGION CIVIL DEFENCE EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT ARRANGEMENTS - RESOURCING AND RELATED ISSUES

I have been asked by Waitakere City Council's Emergency Services Special Committee to write to the Auckland Regional Council in relation to governance and resourcing arrangements for Civil Defence and Emergency Management within the region.

As you would be aware the region as a whole has been working to review arrangements for Emergency Management in line with the progress of the new legislation being introduced in this area. While this work has seen some disagreements between Councils and the other parties involved, generally it has been marked by positive co-operation. A large measure of this is due to the role played by Craig Shearer as Chairperson of the Co-ordinating Executive Group.

Two of the key issues arising out of the work done to date have been the governance structure of the Civil Defence Emergency Management Group and ongoing resourcing of regional work.

By way of background, the new legislation requires the establishment of region-wide Civil Defence Emergency Management Groups. The Auckland Region has established such a group in advance of legislation in order to be prepared to meet new requirements. The Civil Defence Emergency Management Group Committee is currently a committee of the Auckland Regional Council with the membership established to provide representation from the other territorial local authorities. This is appropriate under the provisions of the existing Civil Defence Act. The proposed legislation provides for Civil Defence Emergency Management Group to be joint committees of the local authorities involved. This would mean that rather than the Auckland Regional Council being statutorily the lead agency, it would be an equal participant with the other local authorities. The legislation provides that the Regional Council would be the administering authority for the Civil Defence Emergency Management Group, but the scope of this role is not clearly defined.

It is our understanding that the Auckland Regional Council has been opposed to the joint committee approach, preferring instead the current approach of the committee being a committee of the Auckland Regional Council. Staff from the Auckland Regional Council have signalled that should the legislation be enacted in its current form, the Council will withdraw much of the current funding and work programme in support of the Civil Defence Emergency Management Group (i.e. no longer fund the Emergency Management Office from regional rates) and take a narrow interpretation of the administrative role (i.e. Committee Secretary type services only).

We would like the Auckland Regional Council to consider this issue further before making a decision on the basis outlined above. Waitakere City Council has always supported the concept of a joint committee, but with continued support from the Auckland Regional Council. This view is based on the notion that the role or service under consideration should be carried out by the body most appropriate to do so, based on whether it is regional or local in scope, the nature of the role, and who it impacts or affects (and how). It is also based on the view that the governance structure and the funding arrangements are not linked in this instance.

AI

The role of the Civil Defence Emergency Management Group envisaged in the proposed legislation is focussed on regional governance and co-ordination for readiness, reduction, and response and recovery planning across the region. It involves a number of Councils and other parties with equally important roles. It involves co-ordinating regional work undertaken by the Emergency Management Office, regional work undertaken by a number of authorities and organisations jointly, and work done by individual authorities and organisations. The role is one that involves and impacts on the regional council and the Territorial Local Authorities jointly and requires input from all of the parties. On this basis Council believes a joint committee structure is appropriate, a view which is reflected in the proposed legislation.

In terms of the management and funding of the Emergency Management Office, Waitakere's view has been based on the same principle – that role or service under consideration should be carried out by the body most appropriate to do so. The Emergency Management Office role is principally around conducting regional work either directly or by commissioning external assistance. This is a regional executive role, which would seem best served by centralisation in one organisation. Input from other Councils is provided via the Co-ordinating Executive Group. On an initial view, the Auckland Regional Council would seem best placed to undertake and resource this work. Given its regional focus, the majority of this work would also seem to be best funded from regional rates.

Staff from the Auckland Regional Council have signalled that it may significantly reduce funding to its current regional Civil Defence work programme (notably the Emergency Management Office and the Civil Defence Emergency Management Plan) should the joint committee structure be adopted in legislation. This is based on concerns with the governance arrangements under a joint Committee. In this Council's view there is little difference in governance arrangements between a joint Committee and an Auckland Regional Council Committee. Both structures have all Councils equally represented. Unless the Auckland Regional Council was proposing a veto power over the committee's decisions (which to this stage it has not suggested), there appears to be no difference.

Waitakere City Council has no problem with contributing some amount to regional work in this area. Indeed in the current year and in 2002/2003 some funding is to be provided. However, Council would be concerned at the additional funding requirement were the Auckland Regional Council to reduce its funding to one eighth of the regional requirement as proposed. In this circumstance, Council would likely seek a detailed review of the current administrative, support and operational resources deployed on a regional basis to ensure all possible reduction in cost.

I note that the current funding and governance arrangements will remain in place for 2002/2003. I would ask that the Waitakere City Council's view be put before the Auckland Regional Council when it is considering this issue in future years. It may be useful if you could copy this to your Council presently. Continued resourcing and involvement by the Auckland Regional Council would do much to ensure the continued effectiveness and regional co-operation associated with the Civil Defence Emergency Management Group.

I would be happy to discuss this issue with your Council, you or any of your staff.

Yours sincerely

Derek Battersby, JP
Chairman
Emergency Services Special Committee

cc: Craig Shearer, Auckland Regional Council
Neil Morrison, Chairman, Civil Defence Emergency Management Group



Auckland
Regional Council
TE RAUHI TANGA TAIAO

5 June 2002

Derek Battersby, JP
Chairman
Emergency Services Special Committee
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Dear Derek

Thank you for your letter of 18 April 2002 regarding funding arrangements for the Auckland CDEM Group. I apologise for the delay in writing but the issue you are concerned about was due to be debated by CDEMG Committee on 21 May, so I thought I should wait for the outcome of this meeting before writing back to you. I am also aware that Craig Shearer has discussed this issue with you.

You have raised the issue of long term funding of the CDEMG role. Your Council in particular seems concerned that the ARC may reduce the funding commitment it currently makes to support the work of the CDEMG Committee. You have said "staff from the ARC have signalled that it may significantly reduce funding to its regional civil defence programmes should the joint committee structure be adopted in legislation". In fact the Council itself has already considered this issue. At its meeting of 12 February 2002 in relation to the issues you have raised, the Strategic Policy Committee resolved:

- b) That the Council's position in the event of a joint Committee for CDEM is established be:
 2. That the basis of funding CDEMG Committee approved activities undertaken regionally is through the annual planning process of each council, with the ARC paying 16% of CDEMG activity costs and the balance by way of a per capita levy on all other councils.
- c) That the Council supports the EMO to continue to be domiciled within the ARC after any joint CDEMG Committee is established.
- d) That in the event the legislation requires a joint Committee for the CDEMG Committee, then the Committee be established by July 2003.

This position is one my Council has maintained for some time, and is not new to the other councils in the region. The ARC has always believed that funding should follow responsibility. If the responsibility is to be jointly shared, then so should the funding.



You have suggested that there is little difference in governance arrangements between a joint Committee and an ARC Committee. The key difference though is one of accountability. Under the current arrangements the public can easily identify, through the ARC's Annual Plan process, the role of CDEM in the regional context. They can also easily call the work of the Committee to task, through the ARC.

At this stage the CDEMG Committee does not have a fixed position on this matter, and would prefer to move to a consensus position. At its meeting of 21 May it resolved:

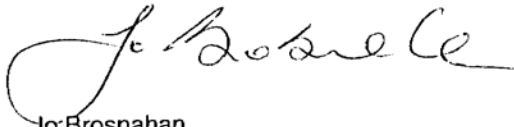
"That the ARC distribute a document for discussion to each council outlining its position in detail with regard to funding a joint Committee".

Staff in the Hazards Management section are preparing the document and I intend canvassing the views of ARC councillors again on this matter. Hopefully the document will provide a clearer picture and assist in resolving this issue.

The decision on the level of funding the ARC puts into a future joint Committee must ultimately rest with the ARC itself.

I hope that we can continue talking through this matter so that it can be satisfactorily resolved for all parties.

Yours sincerely



Jo Brosnahan
Chief Executive



- 6 SEP 2002



Auckland
Regional Council
TE RAUHITANGA IAIAO

544307

3 September 2002

Mr Ross McLeod
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Dear Ross

Please find attached the CDEMG Administrative Arrangements report that went to the CDEMG Committee Meeting on 2 August 2002.

The Committee resolved that this report be circulated to all Councils in the region for their information, and that they be advised of the need to fund CDEMG activities in the 2002/03 year, or upon enactment of the CDEM Bill, whichever is the later.

Yours sincerely

Craig Shearer
Director
Strategic Policy

Chief Executive	
Corporate Services	✓
Community Dev't	
Education	
Strategy & Ops	
Human Resources	
City Infrastructure	
Maori Issues	

SECRETARY'S MEMORANDUM

File Ref: E099-01

Date: 12 August 2002

To: Michelle Daly/Louise Chick

Action	Info	Comments:

For the Meeting of the:	Civil Defence Emergency Management Group Meeting
Held on:	2 August 2002

Committee Secretary

C.1 CIVIL DEFENCE EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT GROUP - ADMINISTRATIVE ARRANGEMENTS E099-01

Tim Jago, Manager Hazards and Emergency Management: 16 July 2002

C.1.1 BACKGROUND

At its May meeting this Committee requested that the ARC report its position in detail with regard to funding a joint committee. This coincided with Waitakere City Council corresponding with the ARC directly, seeking clarification.

The ARC's response to Waitakere, which explains the ARC's position in detail, is attached for members' information.

C.1.2 ARC POSITION IN SUMMARY

The ARC's position in the event of a Joint Committee for CDEM being established is:

1. That each council represented directly on the Joint Committee has one vote.
2. That the basis of funding CDEMG Committee approved activities is through the annual planning process of each council, with the ARC paying 16% of CDEMG activity costs and the balance by way of a per-capita levy on all other councils.

3. That the ARC supports the EMO to continue to be domiciled within the ARC after any Joint Committee is established.
4. That in the event the legislation requires a Joint Committee for the CDEMG Committee, then the Committee be established by July 2003.

C.1.3 JOINT FUNDING AND SHARED ACCOUNTABILITY

The ARC has maintained for some time the philosophy that funding should follow responsibility. Therefore, if responsibility is to be jointly shared – as in the case of a Joint Committee – then funding should be shared also.

For CDEMG purposes, the ARC would prefer the Committee to be established as a Committee of the ARC. In this way, accountability for the Committee is clearly with the ARC, as is responsibility for a transparent annual planning process.

In the absence of this clear accountability, and with only one vote out of eight to influence how CDEMG group funds are expended, the ARC is not inclined to contribute more than its equitable share. This share has been assessed as 16% of approved CDEM Group costs.

C.1.4 ARC WILL MEET COSTS OF STATUTORY ACTIVITIES

The ARC is at pains to emphasise it will continue to fund at appropriate levels, its statutory work in the areas of natural hazards mitigation (an activity pursuant to the Resource Management Act 1991), and regional civil defence readiness planning and regional civil defence response coordination (pursuant to the Civil Defence Act 1983).

The ARC has committed to fund, until the end of the 2002/03 financial year, the Emergency Management Office (EMO) of the new CDEM Group, and to provide administrative support to the group. The ARC also funds the costs of developing the new group CDEM plan. (The EMO is a discretionary activity the ARC has agreed to fund, as there is compelling logic for having the EMO located adjacent to the ARC's secretariat, and the hazards management unit of the ARC. Under proposed legislation, regional councils will mandatorily be the administering authorities of CDEM Groups).

Another way of looking at it, is that the EMO assumes some of the conventional tasks the ARC has traditionally been responsible for under the Civil Defence Act, such as ensuring consistent emergency management readiness and response planning across the region, and regional advocacy on emergency management issues. The EMO will also have new responsibilities, including maintenance of a regional disaster recovery strategy, addressing technological hazards, and the inter-action with regional groups such as the Auckland Engineering Lifelines Group (AELG), and those significant private sector organisations and government agencies that new legislation will clearly state have emergency relevant functions.

It can be considered that this role will generate additional costs in future years. These costs have to an extent been offset by the move to close a duplicate Emergency Operations Centre (EOC) at the Regional Council in favour of that maintained by Auckland City.

On a comparative basis, project for project, the ARC has committed in each of the 00/01, 01/02, and 02/03 financial years to increased expenditure on hazards management, civil defence and emergency management, and CDEMG activities. The ARC is not alone in this trend, with other councils also allocating some increased resourcing to these activities.

C.1.5 CONCLUSION

The ARC has set forth a clear position in respect of funding CDEMG approved activities as from 1 July 2003. It will meet 16% of total agreed costs, with the balance being shared by way of a per-capita levy on all other councils.

The ARC will continue to meet the costs of its statutory activities pursuant to the Resource Management Act 1991, and the Civil Defence Act 1983.

The ARC is also prepared to host the EMO functions of the CDEMG because of the logic of having the EMO domiciled close to the hazards management unit and secretariat that also work closely with the CDEMG.

The ARC continues to contribute equitably and responsibly to regional civil defence and emergency management activities, and in the absence of any specific requirement to do so, for the 2002/03 year to meeting the costs associated with administering the new CDEMG, and also development of a new regional CDEM Plan.

Because of their "joint" responsibility, the member councils on the CDEMG Committee under the new legislation will need to increase their contributions if the same level of activity is to occur.

RESOLVED

- a) That the report be received.
- b) That this report be circulated to all Councils in the region for their information, and that they be advised of the need to fund CDEMG activities in the 2002/03 year, or upon enactment of the CDEM Bill, whichever is the latter.