

## Executive summary

This report reviews the performance and achievements of the Taranaki Civil Defence Emergency Management Group (CDEM Group) on its emergency management functions as set out in the Taranaki CDEM Group Business Plan for the 2006/2007 year (Business Plan).

The key foci for the CDEM Group for the 2006/2007 year centred on participating in three national exercises (Exercise Capital Quake, Exercise Magill and Exercise Cruickshank), responding to three severe weather events and a tsunami warning, participating in the launch of the Ministry led Education Programme 'What's the Plan Stan?' and the recruitment of a new emergency management officer.

The CDEM Group also continued to carry out the following activities in 2006/2007:

- The regular convening of the Civil Defence Emergency Management Group and the Co-ordinating Executive Group to oversee the implementation of the Business Plan and the Civil Defence Emergency Management Group Plan for Taranaki 2004 (the Group Plan).
- The advisory groups continued to meet throughout the year to provide input into the CDEM Group Plan process, and to provide support and specialist expertise across the 4 R's.
- The model of a single regional structure for the organisation and implementation of civil defence emergency management in Taranaki was continued.
- Promotion of civil defence emergency management awareness and readiness within the community.

In addition, Emergency Management staff:

- Responded to a total of 4 National Warning System test messages
- Conducted 10 training courses
- Delivered awareness programmes to 22 community groups.



**Scenes from the Civil Defence Emergency Management Open Day held in March-07**

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# 1 Introduction

## 1.1 Purpose

This report reviews the Taranaki Civil Defence Emergency Management Group's performance and achievements against the CDEM Group Business Plan 2006-2007.

## 1.2 Background

Civil Defence Emergency Management (CDEM) involves the application of knowledge, measures, and practices to ensure the safety and well-being of the public and the protection of property. It includes planning and preparation for emergencies, as well as response and recovery in the event of an emergency. In terms of the obligations of the Council under the Local Government Act, CDEM activities contribute to a prosperous, sustainable, and secure and healthy region.

In response to changes in legislation (under the Civil Defence Emergency Management Act 2002), an *all hazards* approach to emergency management is now required in New Zealand, rather than an emphasis upon geophysical and meteorological hazards alone. The Taranaki Regional Council is the administering authority of the Taranaki CDEM Group. The Council also provides additional support for emergency management through flood reduction activities (i.e. prevention measures), land management advice and assistance, hydrological services (e.g. wind and rainfall monitoring), policy and planning services through the co-ordinated delivery of a CDEM Group Plan, and administration/financial support to the Taranaki CDEM Group.

The Taranaki Regional Council's Emergency Management Office is involved in the day to day administration, recruiting and training of staff across the region, to enable an adequate response at short notice. During the year, the Emergency Management Office continued the development of a single group model for the delivery of CDEM functions throughout Taranaki. The single Taranaki emergency response arrangements were formalised with the approval of the Taranaki Civil Defence Emergency Management Group Plan on 23 November 2004.

## 1.3 Functions of the CDEM Group

The functions of the CDEM Group are defined in the Civil Defence Emergency Management Act 2002.

A Civil Defence Emergency Management group must:

1. In relation to relevant hazards and risks:
  - Identify, assess and manage those hazards and risks
  - Consult and communicate about risks
  - Identify and implement cost effective risk reduction
2. Take all steps necessary on an on-going basis to maintain and provide, or to arrange the provision of, or to otherwise make available trained and competent personnel, including volunteers, and an appropriate organisation structure for those personnel, for effective civil defence emergency

management in its area.

3. Take all steps necessary on an on-going basis to maintain and provide, or to arrange the provision of, or otherwise make available materials services, information, and any other resources for effective civil defence emergency management in its area.
4. Respond to and manage the adverse effects of emergencies in its area.
5. Carry out recovery activities
6. When requested, assist other Groups in the implementation of civil defence emergency management in their areas, (having regard to the competing civil defence emergency management demands within the Group's own area and any other requests for assistance from other Groups)
7. Within its area, promote and raise public awareness of, and compliance with, the Civil Defence Emergency Management Act 2002 and legislative provisions relevant to the purpose of the Act.
8. Monitor and report on compliance within its area with the Civil Defence Emergency Management Act 2002 and legislative provisions relevant to the purpose of the Act.
9. Develop, approve, implement, and monitor a civil defence emergency management group plan and regularly review the plan.
10. Participate in the development of the national civil defence emergency management strategy and the national civil defence emergency management plan.
11. Promote civil defence emergency management in its area that is consistent with the purposes of the Civil Defence Emergency Management Act 2002.

## **1.4 Goals of the CDEM Group**

The goals of Taranaki's CDEM Group as set out in the Taranaki CDEM Group Business Plan 2006 - 2007 are as follows:

1. To increase community awareness, understanding and participation in civil defence emergency management.
2. To reduce the risks from hazards in Taranaki.
3. To enhance Taranaki's capability to manage emergencies.
4. To enhance Taranaki's capabilities to recover from disasters.

## 2 Report on progress

### 2.1 Civil Defence Emergency Management Group



*To increase community awareness, understanding and participation in civil defence emergency management*

The Civil Defence Emergency Management Group is established under the Civil Defence Emergency Management Act 2002 and the Local Government Act 2002.

Members of the Civil Defence Emergency Management Group in 2006/2007 were:

- Cr Roger Maxwell (Chair) Taranaki Regional Council
- Cr Lynn Bublitz New Plymouth District Council
- His Worship Brian Jeffares Stratford District Council
- Her Worship Mary Bourke South Taranaki District Council

The CDEM Group met regularly throughout the year to establish themselves in their role and to carry out their functions under the Civil Defence Emergency Management Act 2002.

The key foci during the 2006/2007 year centred on participating in three national exercises (Exercise Capital Quake, Exercise Magill and Exercise Cruickshank), responding to three severe weather events and a tsunami alert, participating in the launch of the Ministry led Education Programme 'What's the Plan Stan?' and the recruitment of a new emergency management officer.

Members of the CDEM Group also ratified the 2007/2008 CDEM Business Plan, including funding arrangements for the CDEM Group and the Business Plan.

### 2.2 Coordinating Executive Group



*To increase community awareness, understanding and participation in civil defence emergency management*

The Co-ordinating Executive Group (CEG) provides specialist advice to the CDEM Group; implements the decisions of the CDEM Group; and oversees the development, implementation, maintenance, monitoring and evaluation of the CDEM Group Plan.

The CEG consists of representatives from the:

- New Plymouth District Council
- Stratford District Council
- South Taranaki District Council
- Taranaki Regional Council
- NZ Police
- NZ Fire Service
- Taranaki District Health Board
- Ministry of CDEM

- Ministry of Social Development
- Lifelines Advisory Group
- Welfare Advisory Group
- Rural Advisory Group
- An Iwi Advisor
- The Group Controller

The Coordinating Executive Group met regularly throughout the year to establish themselves in their role and to provide specialist advice to the CDEM Group; implement the decisions of the CDEM Group; and to oversee the development, implementation, maintenance, monitoring and evaluation of the CDEM Group Plan.

## 2.3 Advisory Groups



*To increase community awareness, understanding and participation in civil defence emergency management*

There are seven advisory groups that provided support and specialist expertise across the 4 R's of reduction, readiness, response and recovery to the Co-ordinating Executive Group and CDEM Group in Taranaki as follows:

- Hazardous Substances Technical Liaison Committee (HSTLC)
- Rural Advisory Group (RAG)
- Welfare Advisory Group (WAG)
- Lifelines Advisory Group (LAG)
- Egmont Volcano Advisory Group (EVAG)
- Health Advisory Group (HAG)
- Pandemic Influenza Planning Group (PIPG)

Most advisory groups met during the year to establish themselves in their roles and provide specialist support and expertise for civil defence emergency management in the Taranaki region.

## 2.4 Planning

### 2.4.1 Operational planning



*To enhance Taranaki's capability to manage emergencies*

Recognising the one Taranaki response to all emergencies, it was important to ensure that all the documents listed below were updated.

- Emergency Managers Response Guide
- Taranaki Emergency Management Office Activation Guide
- Callout Lists
- Emergency Welfare Centres Guide
- Controllers Guide

- Media Management Guide
- Technical Systems Guide
- Technical Systems Guide – Operating Instructions

All operational procedures, activation guides and call out lists have been amended to reflect the Taranaki emergency response structure, and continue to be updated regularly.

The EOC and emergency response facilities were also retained in a state of readiness. Site inspections were carried out at radio/repeater sites and emergency welfare centres.

Weekly checks on communications system were established with technical maintenance carried out at TEMO.

## 2.4.2 Legislative compliance monitoring required by the CDEM Group Plan



*To enhance Taranaki's capability to manage emergencies*

The CDEM Group has a statutory requirement to promote and raise awareness of compliance with the Civil Defence Emergency Act 2002 and legislative provisions relating to the purpose of this Act.

The main purpose of this compliance monitoring process is to assess each of the statutes having a bearing upon emergency management outcomes, identify any weaknesses in the arrangements for CDEM in Taranaki and to work to collaboratively improve them.

The Ministry of CDEM specified in 2005/06 the following guidelines with regard to compliance monitoring:

<b>Guidelines</b>	<b>Our response</b>
1. List the lead authority and legislative mandate they use for action, against the plan's targets and actions.	This has been covered by Section 4 of the CDEM Group Plan.  <i>Timeframe:</i> this section of the Plan will be reviewed when the Group Plan is reviewed in 2009. No further action is necessary in the interim.
2. Review the list of legislative coverage from the Plan against the suggested list in section 17(3) of the Act and any other legislation, subordinate policy, regulation, method or rule that may have direct relevance for sustainable hazard management in your Group's area.	This is an ongoing exercise carried throughout the year.

<p>3. Where there are obvious gaps between Plan targets and actions and desired legislative coverage, liaise with the appropriate lead agencies and determine if any desired outcomes, timeframes and quality measures need to be monitored by the Group.</p>	<p>This is an ongoing exercise carried throughout the year.</p>
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The CDEM Group has met the requirements of legislative compliance monitoring during the year.

### 2.4.3 Implementation of the Group Plan



#### *To achieve the goals of the CDEM Group Plan and Business Plan*

The *Civil Defence Emergency Management Group Plan for Taranaki* (2004) has a number of implementation action items listed according to particular hazards identified as significant for the region. Progress on these action items has continued during the year under review, and some are reported elsewhere within this report in more detail. A summary of selected action items and the significant actions to implement the items during the year were as follows:-

Provision of education, information and advice to the public-

- An open day at TEMO, involving emergency services and CDEM staff
- Release of a Taranaki tsunami risk report prepared by NIWA following the Solomon Islands tsunami alert.

CDEM Group to equip and maintain an Emergency Operations Centre (EOC) and Emergency Welfare Centres for an effective CDEM response-

- Review of current level of equipment and facilities at TEMO, and consequent upgrade of computer and communication systems initiated.

The CDEM Group to disseminate warnings, as appropriate, in readiness for an emergency response-

- Evaluated options for mass public texting of warnings and other messages and selected preferred service provider- contract about to be signed at end of period under review.

The CDEM Group to prepare guidelines, procedures and action plans to aid staff, the Group Controller and Welfare Manager in responding to emergencies-

- Initiated review and update of internal procedures documents carried out.

The CDEM Group to prepare a recovery guideline-

- Developed draft Recovery Plan.

Undertake a risk refinement project-

- Project brief for evaluating lifelines vulnerability study drafted and circulated.

Development of a CDEM website to raise public awareness of reduction and readiness actions available to mitigate the adverse effects of all hazards in Taranaki-

- The Council website pages were re-developed in 2006-2007, and include CDEM pages.

Investigate and obtain further information on the location of flood hazard zones in the eastern hill country of Taranaki and the identification of buildings/structures which may be threatened in the event of heavy rain by flooding or landslides-

- NPDC commissioned a NIWA report on landslide hazard assessment in the New Plymouth District.

Promotion of channel clearances (both vegetation and silt) and continuation of river control advocacy to raise public awareness of the methods available for reducing adverse flooding effects-

- The Council continued its river control work and reported this to the CDEM Group.

Continuation of the TRC's land management programme to assist in reducing the adverse effects of flooding in the eastern hill country-

- The Council continued its sustainable hill country land use planning and reported this to the CDEM Group.

Operate appropriate flood warning systems, including procedures and protocols for notification of potential floods-

- The Group successfully advocated for an enhanced weather radar installation for North Taranaki - confirmation was received that this is intended for installation at New Plymouth airport by June 2008.

Promote the development of district plan rules or building controls for the use and development of resources in identified local fault hazard zones and hence reduce the adverse effects of an earthquake event-

- The Group sought and received reports from the three district councils on their implementation of 'earthquake prone building' policies.

Continued maintenance of the Taranaki Volcano-Seismic Network to ensure effective monitoring of seismic activity and the activation of early warnings-

- The GeoNet seismic network is to be substantially upgraded in coverage and capability. Discussions surrounding this were

- considerably advanced during the year under review
- The Group received a report on seismic activity for 2005-2006, and noted over 210 earthquakes in Taranaki in the year reported.

Ongoing monitoring of water levels and maintenance of remote rainfall/river level recorders and warning systems in the Waitara River to enable hydrological records to be obtained. Ongoing maintenance and review of flood mitigation work within the Waitara Flood Protection Scheme-

- The Council maintained its flood protection scheme and hydrological monitoring network for the Waitara River and reported this to the CDEM Group.

Preparation of a feasibility study into wind vulnerability in Taranaki-

- In conjunction with NPDC as principal funder, the Group commissioned NIWA to prepare a study into high winds and tornadoes in Taranaki. The report was ready for presentation at the end of the period under review.

## **2.5 CDEM Exercises**

### **2.5.1 National CDEM Exercise Programmes (NEP)**



*To enhance Taranaki's capability to manage emergencies*

### **2.5.2 Exercise Magill**

Exercise Magill took place on 9 November 2006. Exercise Magill was the first in a series of National Pandemic exercises run by the Ministry of Health. Emergency Management Officers and the Taranaki Group Controller took part in the exercise based at the Taranaki District Health Board Emergency Operation Centre.

The exercise highlighted the value of close planning and links between Taranaki District Health Board as the lead agency and TEMO as a support organisation (a model that also extends to other scenarios where an agency other than CDEM would be the lead responding agency).

### **2.5.3 Exercise Capital Quake**

Exercise Capital Quake was a national exercise based on a catastrophic earthquake in Wellington. The exercise ran from 13-16 November 2006. The aim of the exercise was to test New Zealand's all-of-nation arrangements for responding to a major disaster resulting from an earthquake in Wellington. Emergency Management Officers assisted at the National Crisis Management Centre (NCMC) with the national response, gaining both experience that can be applied within Taranaki and an increased familiarity with the scale, scope and methods of delivery of CDEM response at a national level.

## 2.5.4 Exercise Cruickshank

The Ministry of Health, together with the Ministry of Civil Defence Emergency Management held a nation wide exercise on 10, 16, 17 and 23 of May. The exercise tested the management of a national pandemic of bird flu, where all District Health Boards across the country were involved in the “Keep it out”, “Stamp it out”, “Manage it” and “Recover from it” phases of the pandemic.

The Taranaki District Health Board and Taranaki Civil Defence Emergency Management Group both activated their Emergency Management Operation Centres for certain parts of the exercise.



**TEMO during exercise Cruickshank**

Valuable lessons were learnt around communication between the two Emergency Management Operation Centres.

The Group’s main role in the exercise was to manage any issues that arose from the exercise to do with welfare needs of people affected by the pandemic.

## 2.6 Response



*To enhance Taranaki’s capability to manage emergencies*

### 2.6.1 Severe Weather Event 5 – 9 July 2006

#### Brief Overview

Starting on 5 July 2006 rainfall in Taranaki started to have an impact on the infrastructure in the South Taranaki District. On 5 and 6 July this was limited to surface water flooding. TEMO was activated to monitor the situation. On 7 July water levels in the Waitotara River were threatening to flood the town. TEMO was put on a higher level of activation to assist the emergency as required.



**Waitotara Valley 9 July 2006**

State Highway 3 was closed between Wanganui and Waitotara and numerous landslips were reported in the Waitotara and Tangahoe valleys. As result of the landslips households were isolated in their homes. Power lines and telephone cables were damaged because of the high water levels cutting power and

telephones to households in Waitotara.

A welfare assessment flight by helicopter was sent to the isolated areas of the Waitotara and Tangahoe Valleys. While most families were ready to look after themselves some assistance was still necessary. A second flight was arranged for 8<sup>th</sup> July to monitor the situation and recheck the isolated families.

Communication was limited throughout the operation due to the geography of the area, which cannot be rectified due to technical obstacles. The situation can only be remedied by placing more personnel on the ground, which is being taken into account in CDEM planning.

### **2.6.2 Severe Weather Event 21 – 24 October 2006**

Over the period 21-24 October 2006 significant rainfall in the Waitotara River and Moumahaki Stream catchments caused river levels to rise. As a result farm land and road infrastructure in the area were threatened.

TEMO was activated to monitor the situation and field operatives were sent to Waitotara and Moumahaki to report on the status of the rivers and streams.

### **2.6.3 Severe Weather Event 23 May 2007**

On 23 May 2007 New Plymouth and surrounds experienced extraordinary heavy rainfall which led to the Oakura River breaching its banks at Hall Terrace, resulting in the flooding of a number of houses.

Emergency Management Staff visited several of the location after receiving reports of the localised flooding, Staff also responded to a request to assist the fire service with sandbags.

In the area where the Waiwhakaiho River and the Mangorei Stream meet, the unusual amount of rainfall also caused some flooding in the area and a pet boarding kennel needed to be evacuated.

Emergency Management Staff and volunteers assisted with the evacuation.

### **2.6.4 National Tsunami Alert 2 April 2007**

At 10.20 on 2 April 2007 the Ministry of Civil Defence Emergency Management (MCDEM) issued a national tsunami alert following a 7.6 Richter scale earthquake off the coast of the Solomon Islands. The Pacific Tsunami Warning Centre (PTWC) issued a tsunami warning advising that a tsunami had been generated by the earthquake and was expected to arrive in New Zealand, with the west coast most at risk. The tsunami was later predicated to reach New Plymouth at 15.50.

TEMO was activated to a level 1 to monitor the situation and enable quick action to be taken if required. The predicted maximum wave height was less than 1 metre by MCDEM (300 mm by PTWC). Advice was issued by TEMO to local

media regarding the stronger than usual current dangers caused by the tsunami.

The impact of the tsunami in New Plymouth was first recorded at 17.10, at 19.50 the maximum wave height was 330mm above the ambient swell level. A subsequent review of the event has provided new information on the tsunami risk for the region.

## 2.7 Training



*To enhance Taranaki's capability to manage emergencies*

10 training sessions were conducted for EOC and EWC staff.

As discussed, three exercises were conducted during this period - providing a training exercise for the majority of Emergency Management's volunteers, the welfare assessment team, and agencies/services involved in emergency management in the region.

## 2.8 Single regional response capability across the region



*To enhance Taranaki's capability to manage emergencies*

Existing structures, resources, systems, procedures and staff were all reviewed with the objective of the development of a single emergency response for the Taranaki CDEM Group area. This was implemented following the approval of the CDEM Group Plan.

An appropriate emergency management system has been identified, which includes facilities, resources and staff; this was implemented upon the CDEM Group Plan approval.

## 2.9 Public education

### 2.9.1 Presentations



*To increase community awareness, understanding and participation in civil defence emergency management*

Emergency management staff of the Taranaki Regional Council continued to carry out presentations to community groups on request throughout 2006/2007.

Advice to industry and organisations was also given on request, particularly in terms of emergency planning and business continuity.

Public awareness material continues to be disseminated to all public libraries, and information centres.

## 2.9.2 Public Education Strategy



*To increase community awareness, understanding and participation in civil defence emergency management*

The Public Education Strategy was developed in 2004. The purpose of this strategy is to provide a strategic direction for CDEM Group public education activities in the Taranaki region for 2005-2010. The strategy outlines the:

- vision and goals of the public education for the Taranaki CDEM Group;
- issues for delivering public education programmes in Taranaki; and
- objectives for public education, and strategies to achieve those objectives.

The Strategy has been jointly developed by a working group with representatives of New Plymouth, Stratford, and South Taranaki District Councils, the Taranaki Regional Council, and Police, Health, and Fire Services in Taranaki. The Strategy was adopted by the CDEM Group in May 2005.

## 2.9.3 Public Education Plan



*To increase community awareness, understanding and participation in civil defence emergency management*

The Public Education Plan was developed during 2005 to provide a framework and timeline for the implementation of the Civil Defence Emergency Management Public Education Strategy over the five year period 2005-2010.

The Plan has been jointly developed by a working group with representatives of New Plymouth, Stratford, and South Taranaki District Councils, the Taranaki Regional Council, and Police, Health, and Fire Services in Taranaki.

The focus of the five year public education plan is to increase community awareness, understanding and participation in CDEM in the Taranaki region. In particular, the plan concentrates on:

- increasing preparedness and understanding of the significant hazards in Taranaki;
- what individuals need to do and where to find guidance before, during and after an emergency;
- the role of the CDEM Group and its key partnership agencies; and
- the need for public to participate in rebuilding and restoring communities after the emergency event has passed.

Each year a specific targeted campaign for education will be developed that incorporates, to a varying degree, the above objectives. The annual campaigns will concentrate on particular hazards and/or particular messages and will be influenced by the direction of the Ministry and other emergency services' promotional activities.

The focus for the 2006/2007 year was an 'all hazards' approach tying in with the Ministry 's 'Get Ready Get Thru' campaign.

The plan will continue to be implemented over the next three years.

**Get ready and reduce the impact on you and your family**

**In a major emergency you could be on your own for 3 days or more**

- **Make a household emergency plan**  
Decide where to meet or shelter and how to stay in contact.
- **Have an emergency survival kit**  
Food and water for 3 days or more, torch, radio with batteries, toilet paper, plastic bags and bucket, first aid, pet supplies, BBQ or portable cooker and bedding.
- **Have a getaway kit ready for evacuation**  
Family documents, medicines, toiletries, extra clothing, water.
- **Know how to turn off electricity, gas, water and secure your home.**
- **Listen to the radio for civil defence messages** on National Radio, Newstalk ZB, Classic Hits, More FM or Radio Live.
- **If life is in danger phone 111** for Police, Fire or Ambulance.
- **Find out about hazards.**  
Know what to do to survive an earthquake, storm, volcanic eruption, flood or pandemic (widespread disease outbreak).

The Taranaki Civil Defence Emergency Management Group works with all agencies to co-ordinate the reduction, readiness, response and recovery around major emergencies.

The Taranaki CDEM Group is a joint committee of the New Plymouth, Stratford and South Taranaki district councils and the Taranaki Regional Council which administers the Group.

**GET READY GET THRU**

**Contact the Taranaki Emergency Management Office:**  
24 hour 0800 736 222  
or 06 758 1110  
Fax: 06 757 8019  
Email: emo@trc.govt.nz

Visit [www.trc.govt.nz](http://www.trc.govt.nz) or [www.getthru.govt.nz](http://www.getthru.govt.nz)

*An advertisement that featured in the Taranaki Daily News in October 2006*

#### 2.9.4 'What's the Plan Stan?' Educational Programme



*To increase community awareness, understanding and participation in civil defence emergency management*

'What's the Plan Stan?' is a Ministry of Civil Defence Emergency Management (MCDEM) initiative for primary schools, featuring Stan the dog and five children who model what to do in an emergency.

'What's the Plan Stan?' focuses on earthquakes, tsunamis, volcanoes, storms, floods and non-natural disasters.

The initiative has a number of components including:

- A curriculum based teaching resource for schools
- A website [www.whatstheplanstan.govt.nz](http://www.whatstheplanstan.govt.nz)
- Teacher professional development workshops.



**Local teachers at the workshop**

A workshop was held at TEMO in August 2006 to work through the programme with local primary school teachers, to facilitate their use of the programme in classrooms.

## 2.9.5 Open day



*To increase community awareness, understanding and participation in civil defence emergency management*

An open day was held at TEMO on 11 March inviting members of the public to view the emergency operations of all those involved in emergency response. The fire service was there with their kitchen fire displays; the ambulance assisted with a mock car accident; the police were present with the rescue chopper; the red cross rescue unit demonstrated a high-angle rescue of a patient off the roof of the TEMO building; and civil defence displays were set up inside TEMO.



***Emergency services working together at the open day***

### 3 Other matters

#### 3.1 Recruitment of a new emergency management officer



*To enhance Taranaki's capability to manage emergencies*

Des Paulson joined the Emergency Management Team on 1 December 2006 from South Africa. Des has been involved in Emergency/Disaster Management for approximately 15 years. In South Africa, Des worked for a Regional Council as a Disaster Management Officer and later turned to lecturing in Disaster Management for a tertiary institution. With the arrival of Des, the CDEM staffing level returned to its full complement.

#### 3.2 Submissions



*To reduce the risks from hazards in Taranaki*

The Council made a number of submissions throughout the year in view of its functions under the Civil Defence Emergency Management Act 2002. The submissions prepared were on the following:

- The Ministry of Civil Defence and Emergency Management's Proposed National Civil Defence Emergency Management Strategy 2002 - Consultation Draft.
- The Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry's Review of the On-Farm Adverse Events Recovery Framework.
- The Department of Internal Affairs' proposal for a new legislative framework for New Zealand's Fire and Rescue Services and their Funding - A proposal for Stakeholders.
- Support of a MetService weather radar to be installed in Taranaki and to be funded by the Ministry of Transport.
- Request for funding by Internal Affairs for CDEM to support CDEM within the neighbourhood watch function.

#### 3.3 Volunteer staff



*To enhance Taranaki's capability to manage emergencies*

Five additional emergency management volunteer staff were been recruited throughout the year.

### 3.4 Taranaki New Zealand Response Team



*To enhance Taranaki's capability to manage emergencies*

During May the New Zealand Red Cross and the Taranaki CDEM Group hosted a joint information evening regarding the formation of a new response team. Volunteers were invited to listen, ask questions, and decide whether they would like to apply to join this elite squad of people who will be trained to the highest level of response.

The Red Cross is responsible for the team formation and training. The team will be highly trained, physically fit and able to respond to any emergency within New Zealand at short notice.

The team has been endorsed by the CDEM Group and is currently in the process of working towards national registration.

### 3.5 Upgrade of GeoNet



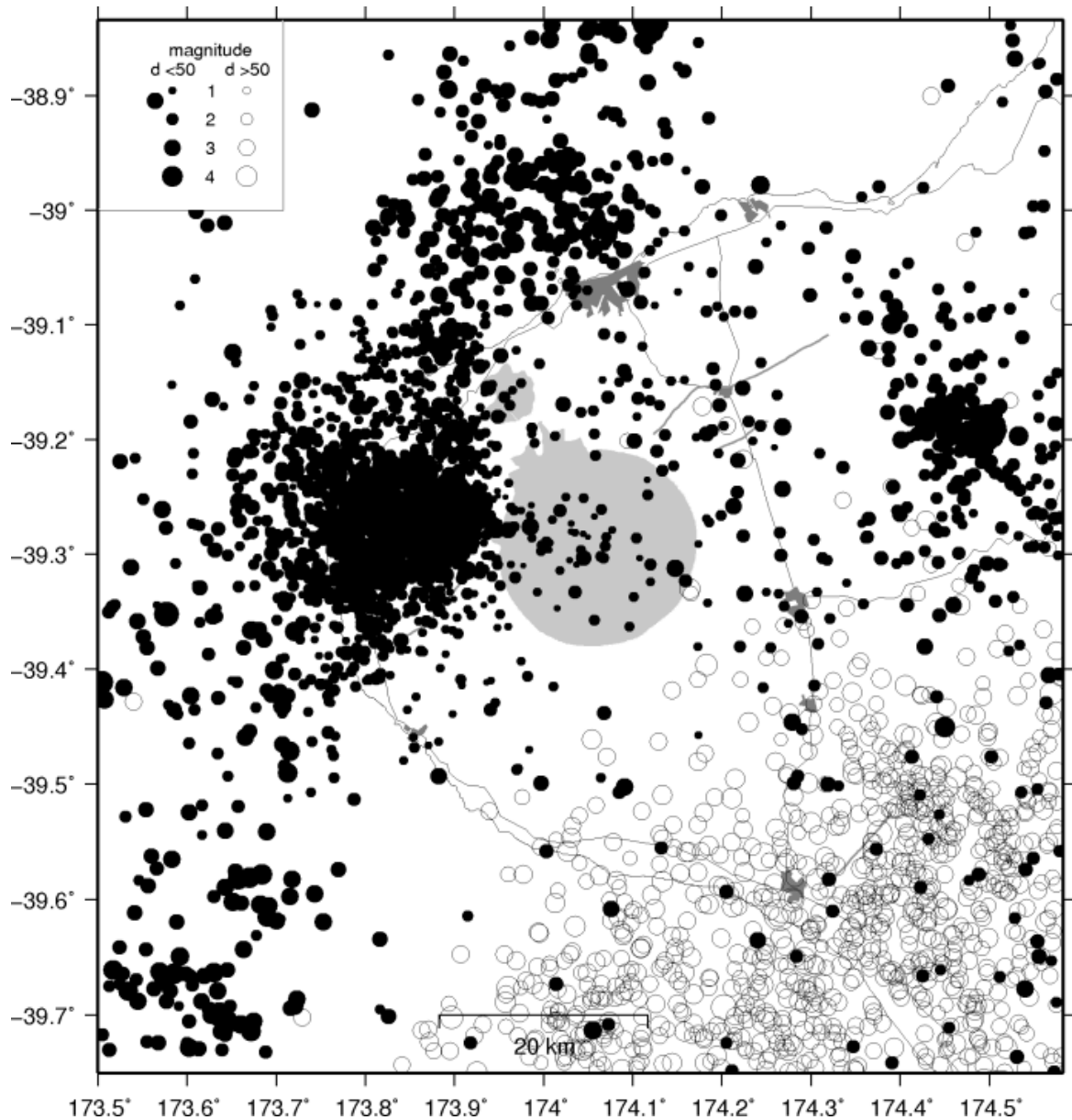
*To enhance Taranaki's capability to manage emergencies*

Although not as seismically active as other regions, Taranaki is still subject to 200 or more earthquakes each year (the vast majority too small for the community to feel) and of course Mt Taranaki is a dormant volcano. Should there be volcanic activity elsewhere in the North Island; Taranaki would be particularly affected also. GNS scientists believe that while New Zealand has not experienced major disruption from earthquake activity since the 1930s-1940s, historical evidence and scientific research show that this is a rather unusual lull and the risk is higher than recent experience might lead people to believe.

GeoNet is a national geological hazard monitoring and warning system run by GNS Science. The Council was a partner in the original GeoNet system for Taranaki commissioned in 1993. More recently, the Earthquake Commission has reviewed the need for and capability of GeoNet for New Zealand, and has identified the value of an upgraded and extended system. The funding for the enhanced system is from EQC and other national sources. The upgraded network will include new motion detection and recording technology, data communication networks that are more robust and of greater capacity, and more modern data management systems. The planned upgrades will be implemented in Taranaki over the next two years, and will include 3 new sites (in addition to the 6 already in use) and upgraded equipment at the existing sites, to give more accurate detection and location of seismic activity in the region. The Council has signed a memorandum on behalf of CDEM Group with GNS covering the mutual commitment to and support of the upgraded GeoNet.

Data and its analysis from GeoNet is reported annually to the CDEM Group, and CDEM staff are alerted to any unusual or heightened activity occurring anywhere in New Zealand. Data is also available publicly on the GNS website. In the 2005-2006 year, there were 210 recorded earthquakes in the region. Since 2002-2003,

seismic activity in Taranaki appears to have reduced. There is no evidence of any seismic activity beneath Mt Taranaki. Most activity occurs in a band running offshore from the southwest to the north east, and lying on the coast between Rahotu and Oakura. There is a second zone of activity that is very deep, and lies along the front of the eastern hillcountry between Waverley and Hawera, and up towards Mangamingi.



**Figure 1 : all earthquakes detected in Taranaki 1994-2006 (Source: GNS report to Taranaki CDEM Group)**

### **3.6 Additional services**

Secretarial and financial services have been provided to the Taranaki CDEM Group, CEG and advisory groups in 2006/2007 by Council staff.

## **4 Conclusion**

The Taranaki CDEM Group has achieved the performance and achievement measures for emergency management activities as detailed in the CDEM Group's 2006/2007 Business Plan.

### **4.1 Taranaki Civil Defence Emergency Management Group Business Plan**

#### **4.1.1 Outcomes and outputs**

- Provided emergency management advice, public awareness and educational material to the community in a co-ordinated manner.
- Promoted civil defence emergency management in Taranaki that was consistent with the purposes of the Group Plan.
- Provided administrative and related services to the Taranaki CDEM Group.

#### **4.1.2 Summary**

- The key foci of the CDEM Group for the 2006/2007 year centred on participating in three national exercises (Exercise Capital Quake, Exercise Magill and Exercise Cruickshank), responding to three severe weather events and a tsunami alert, participating in 'What's the Plan Stan?' and the recruitment of a new emergency management officer.
- The regular convening of the Civil Defence Emergency Management Group and the Co-ordinating Executive Group to implement the Group Plan.
- The Advisory Groups met throughout the year to provide continued input into the CDEM Group Plan process, and to provide support and specialist expertise across the 4 R's.
- The model of a single regional structure for the organisation and implementation of civil defence emergency management in Taranaki was continued.

The report will be forwarded to key interested stakeholders of civil defence emergency management.

The work carried out contributed towards the desired community outcome of a safe and vibrant community.