
1. Introduction

1.1 Purpose

The purpose of the Civil Defence Emergency Management Group Plan for Taranaki is to:

“Provide for an ‘all hazards’ approach to emergency management planning and activity within the Civil Defence Emergency Management Group area for Taranaki, as required by the Civil Defence Emergency Management Act 2002.”

The Civil Defence Emergency Management Group Plan for Taranaki [the Group Plan] is therefore the primary instrument whereby the community identifies and assesses its hazards and risks, and decides on the acceptable level of risk to be managed.

The definition of hazard in the Act is “*something that may cause, or contribute substantially to the cause of, an emergency*” and involves all hazards, whether from natural or technological/human-made resources. This is different to the historical approach to civil defence which did not fully address non-natural hazards such as civil unrest, public health or an agricultural emergency.

1.2 Legislative requirements

The Civil Defence Emergency Management Act 2002 [the Act] specifies the statutory requirements for civil defence emergency management in New Zealand. The purpose of the Act (section 3) is to:

- promote the sustainable management of hazards in a way that contributes to the social, economic, cultural and environmental well-being and safety of the public and the protection of property;
- encourage and enable communities to achieve acceptable levels of risk by applying risk management;
- provide for planning and preparation of emergencies and for response and recovery in the event of an emergency;
- require co-operation and co-ordination of local authorities across the areas of reduction, readiness, response and recovery;
- provide a basis for the integration of national and local civil defence emergency management planning and activity; and
- encourage the co-ordination of emergency management across the wide range of agencies and organisations preventing or managing emergencies.

In order to achieve this purpose, the Act also specifies the requirements for the establishment of Civil Defence Emergency Management [CDEM] Groups throughout the country and the responsibility each of these Groups face in preparing and producing Civil Defence Emergency Management Group Plans for each area. Section 48 of the Act requires that “*every Civil Defence Emergency Management Group must prepare and approve a civil defence emergency management group plan*” which is to replace existing civil defence plans prepared under the now repealed Civil Defence Act 1983.

Civil Defence Emergency Management Group Plans are to state and provide for (section 49(2)) the:

- hazards and risks to be managed by the CDEM Group;
- CDEM measures necessary to manage the hazards and risks identified;
- objectives of the plan and the relationship of these to the National CDEM Strategy;
- apportionment of liability between local authorities for the provision of financial and other resources for the activities of Group members;
- arrangements for declaring a state of local emergency;
- arrangements for co-operation and co-ordination with other Groups; and
- period for which the plan remains in force.

The CDEM Group Plan for Taranaki applies to the areas covered by the jurisdiction of the New Plymouth, Stratford and South Taranaki District Council's and includes the territorial sea (i.e. out to the 12 nautical mile limit), which is the seaward boundary of the Taranaki Regional Council. The Plan must not be inconsistent with any national civil defence emergency management strategy in force when the plan is approved.

1.3 Approval and effective period

The Civil Defence Emergency Management Group Plan for Taranaki has been prepared for, and approved by, the Taranaki Civil Defence Emergency Management Group in accordance with sections 52(1)(e) and 54 of the Act.

This Group Plan was approved by the Taranaki Civil Defence Emergency Management Group on 23 November 2004 to take effect from 24 November 2004 and will be reviewed after five years from the date of final approval, unless reviewed in the interim.

1.4 Consultation process

Many agencies, organisations and individuals participated in, and contributed to, the development of the Group Plan for Taranaki.

A formal consultation period was also undertaken for a one month period (from 7 August to 10 September 2004) – involving a public notice in appropriate newspapers, access to the Group Plan on the Taranaki Regional Council's website and the distribution of approximately 160 copies of the draft Group Plan to the following:

- members of the Co-ordinating Executive Group;
- members of the Civil Defence Emergency Management Group;
- other civil defence emergency management groups throughout the country;
- neighbouring district councils;
- members of each of the advisory groups;
- iwi;
- government departments not already covered by advisory groups;
- any other organisation/individual identified as having an interest in emergency management in Taranaki; and
- to anyone specifically requesting a copy.

Copies were also made available at all territorial authority service centres and libraries throughout the region.

Furthermore, pursuant to section 49 of the Act, the Minister of Civil Defence was provided with a copy of the Group Plan for his comments after the formal consultation period, but prior to final Group Plan approval.

1.5 Community outcomes

Under the Local Government Act 2002 all local authorities are required to identify 'community outcomes' for the intermediate and long-term future of its district or region. The purpose of this process is to enable the community as a whole to decide what is important to it.

The community outcomes identified for the Taranaki region are as follows:

- **Connected Taranaki** – A region that delivers accessible and integrated infrastructure, transport and communications systems which meet the needs of residents, business and visitors.
- **Prosperous Taranaki** – A region that boasts a sustainable, resilient and innovative economy that prospers within the natural and social environment.
- **Secure and Healthy Taranaki** – A region that provides a safe, healthy and friendly place to live, work or visit.
- **Skilled Taranaki** – A region that values and supports learning so that all people can play a full and active role in its social, cultural and economic life.
- **Sustainable Taranaki** – A region that appreciates its natural environment and its physical and human resources in planning, delivery and protection.
- **Together Taranaki** – A region that is caring and inclusive, works together, and enables people to have a strong and distinctive sense of identity.
- **Vibrant Taranaki** – A region that provides high quality and diverse cultural and recreational experiences, and encourages independence and creativity.

The outcomes identified as relating directly to civil defence emergency management planning and response are the following:

1. Secure and Healthy Taranaki
2. Prosperous Taranaki
3. Sustainable Taranaki
4. Connected Taranaki

1.6 Goals

The goals and generic objectives of this Group Plan are as follows:

Goal 1: To increase community awareness, understanding and participation in civil defence emergency management.

Objectives under this goal for the 4 R's (reduction, readiness, response and recovery) include:

- Objective 1A Increase the level of community awareness of the risks from hazards.
Objective 1B Improve community understanding and participation in CDEM.

Objective 1C Encourage and enable community participation in determining acceptable levels of risk.

Goal 2: To reduce the risks from hazards to Taranaki

Objectives under this goal for the 4 R's (reduction, readiness, response and recovery) include:

- Objective 2A Improve the co-ordination, promotion and accessibility of CDEM research.
- Objective 2B Develop a comprehensive understanding of Taranaki's hazardscape.
- Objective 2C Encourage all CDEM stakeholders to reduce the risks from hazards to acceptable levels.
- Objective 2D Improve the co-ordination of policy relevant to CDEM in Taranaki.

Goal 3: To enhance Taranaki's capability to manage emergencies

Objectives under this goal for the 4 R's (reduction, readiness, response and recovery) include:

- Objective 3A Promote continuing and co-ordinated professional development in CDEM.
- Objective 3B Enhance the ability of local authorities and neighbouring CDEM Groups to prepare for and manage emergencies.
- Objective 3C Enhance the ability of emergency services to prepare for and manage emergencies.
- Objective 3D Enhance the ability of lifeline utilities to prepare for and manage emergencies.
- Objective 3E Enhance the ability of government departments to prepare for and manage emergencies.
- Objective 3F Support government in improving the ability of government to manage an event of national significance.

Goal 4: To enhance Taranaki's capability to recover from disasters

Objectives under this goal for the 4 R's (reduction, readiness, response and recovery) include:

- Objective 4A Implement effective recovery planning and activities for the physical impacts of disasters.
- Objective 4B Implement effective recovery planning and activities for the social and economic impacts of disasters.

These goals and objectives are based directly on those of the National Civil Defence Emergency Management Strategy 2003-2006.

1.7 Structure of the Group Plan

The structure of the Group Plan follows the requirements of section 49(2) of the Act and takes account of the Director's guidelines for developing a CDEM Group Plan (section 53(2)).

The Group Plan includes the following eight chapters:

1. Introduction
2. Administrative arrangements for CDEM in Taranaki
3. Hazards and risks in Taranaki
4. Managing the hazards and risks – reduction and readiness
5. Managing emergencies - response
6. Managing emergencies - recovery
7. Taranaki context
8. Monitoring

Please note: the Taranaki context section of the Group Plan (section 7) provides the background information for the rest of the document. However, this section has been placed at the back of the document due to its size and the need to focus on the new approach to CDEM which endorses the 4 R's for comprehensive emergency management – risk reduction, readiness, response and recovery.

To set the scene for the following five sections of the Group Plan (sections 2 - 6), the following are **key features of Taranaki** that direct how civil defence emergency management is undertaken in Taranaki:

- A variety of landforms, physical features and a temperate climate - with few climatic extremes.
- Reliance of the Taranaki economy on natural resources – agriculture, oil and gas (which are of national importance), forestry etc.
- The importance of surface water resources for community water supply, industry and agriculture in Taranaki.
- A concentration of population in north Taranaki, but also a dispersed rural population and a number of small rural service towns throughout the region.
- Taranaki's relative geographic isolation, which makes the region more vulnerable to disruptions from hazards.
- A well established civil defence emergency management system, with good working relationships between relevant agencies and organisations.
- A well developed infrastructure of: road, rail, urban water supply, sewerage and stormwater systems, electricity generation and transmission, telecommunications, oil and gas production/distribution, deep water port and airport.
- A range of locally based health and emergency services, as well as other services provided by central government departments, local government organisations and welfare groups.

1.8 Associated documents

The Taranaki CDEM Group Volcanic Strategy 2004 is to be noted as a reference document to this Group Plan.

The following documents have been cited but are not incorporated by reference to this Group Plan. That is, they are to be noted for information purposes only:

- Hazard and risk analysis: explanatory notes report

- Taranaki CDEM Group Business Plans (including the Public Awareness and Training Strategy)
- Waitara Flood Plan
- Naphtha Community Action Plan
- CDEM Group: Emergency Manager's Response Guide
- CDEM Group: Controller's Guide
- CDEM Group: EOC Activation Guide
- CDEM Group: Emergency Welfare Centres Guide
- CDEM Group: Media Management Guide
- CDEM Group: Technical Systems Guide
- CDEM Group: Operating Instructions
- CDEM Group: Public Awareness and Training Strategy
- CDEM Group: Callout List

1.9 Definitions

Act	means the Civil Defence Emergency Management Act 2002.
D.C.'s	means district councils (in the case of the Taranaki CDEM Group area this includes the New Plymouth, Stratford and South Taranaki District Councils).
CDEM Group	means a Civil Defence Emergency Management Group established under section 12 of the Civil Defence Emergency Management Act 2002. CDEM Group may at times be read to mean the Taranaki CDEM Group with regard to this Plan.
CIMS	means the New Zealand Co-ordinated Incident Management System.
Civil defence emergency management	means the application of knowledge, measures and practices that: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • are necessary or desirable for the safety of the public or property; and • are designed to guard against, prevent, reduce, or overcome any hazard or harm or loss that may be associated with any emergency, and includes, without limitation, the planning, organisation, co-ordination, and implementation of those measures, knowledge, and practices (section 4 of the Act).
Community outcomes	means the outcomes for that district or region that are identified as priorities for the time being (Local Government Act 2002).
Emergency	means a situation that: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • is the result of any happening, whether natural or otherwise, including (without limitation) any explosion, earthquake, eruption, tsunami, land movement, flood, storm, tornado, cyclone, serious fire, leakage or spillage of any dangerous gas or substance, technological failure, infestation, plague, epidemic, failure of or disruption to an emergency service or a lifeline utility, or actual or imminent attack or warlike act; and • causes or may cause loss of life or illness or distress or in any way endangers the safety of the public or property in New Zealand or any part of New Zealand; and

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> cannot be dealt with by emergency services, or otherwise requires a significant and co-ordinated response under the Act (section 4 of the Act).
Emergency Welfare Centre	means a Centre established for the delivery of emergency welfare services directly to a community affected (refer to section 5.5.3).
EOC	means an Emergency Operations Centre established by the CDEM Group for the purpose of providing strategic advice and direction at Group Controller level, and for the co-ordination of emergency welfare services. Typically, the Group EOC will be located at the TEMO (refer to section 5.5.2).
EVAG	means the Egmont Volcano Advisory Group as outlined in section 2.4 of this Group Plan.
GNS	means the Institute of Geological and Nuclear Sciences.
Group Controller	means the Group Controller appointed under section 26 of the Act (refer to section 5.3.4).
HAG	means the Health Advisory Group as outlined in section 2.4 of this Group Plan.
Hapū	means a sub-tribe, usually a number of whānau (families) with a common ancestor ¹ .
Hazard	means something that may cause, or contribute substantially to the cause of, an emergency (section 4 of the Act) and involves all hazards, whether from natural or technological/human-made sources.
HSTLC	means the Hazardous Substances Technical Liaison Committee as outlined in section 2.4 of this Group Plan.
Incident Controller	means an Incident Controller in terms of the New Zealand Co-ordinated Incident Management System. This person may also be appointed by a Group Controller where a lead agency cannot be clearly identified or the incident is not discreet enough to allow normal incident management rules to apply.
Iwi	means the tribe or grouping of Māori people descended from a common ancestor(s) ² .
LAG	means the Lifelines Advisory Group as outlined in section 2.4 of this Group Plan.
Lifeline utilities	means an entity named or described in Part A of Schedule 1, or that carries on a business described in Part B of Schedule 1 of the Civil Defence Emergency Management Act 2002.
Local authority	means a regional council or territorial authority (Local Government Act 2002).
MAF	means the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry.
NPDC	means the New Plymouth District Council.
NZFS	means the New Zealand Fire Service.
OSH	means the Occupational Safety and Health Service.
RAG	means the Rural Advisory Group as outlined in section 2.4 of this Group Plan.
Regional Council	means a regional council named in Part 1 of Schedule 2 of the

¹ Ministry for the Environment, 1991, Consultation with Tangata Whenua.

² Ministry for the Environment, 1991, Consultation with Tangata Whenua.

	Local Government Act 2002. Regional Council may at times also be read as meaning the Taranaki Regional Council.
Risk	means the chance of something happening that will have an impact on people and property – measured in terms of consequences and likelihood (refer to section 3.1).
Rohe	means boundary, a territory (either geographical or spiritual) of an iwi or hapū.
SDC	means the Stratford District Council.
STDC	means the South Taranaki District Council.
Tangata whenua	in relation to a particular area, means the iwi, or hapū, that holds mana whenua over that area ³ .
TDHB	means the Taranaki District Health Board.
TEMO	means the Taranaki Emergency Management Office of the Taranaki Regional Council located at 45 Robe Street, New Plymouth.
Territorial authority	means a city council or a district council named in Part 2 of Schedule 2 of the Local Government Act 2002.
TRC	means the Taranaki Regional Council.
WAG	means the Welfare Advisory Group as outlined in section 2.4 of this Group Plan.
Welfare Manager	means a person appointed to the position under section 0 of this Group Plan.

1.10 Assessment of alternatives, costs and benefits

Section 65 of the Civil Defence Emergency Management Act requires the CDEM Group to consider alternatives, assess benefits and costs and provide good reason for and against proposing provisions or regulations where such provisions impose requirements on persons other than the CDEM Group, its member local authorities or emergency services.

As the CDEM Group Plan for Taranaki does not impose requirements (or subsequent costs) on persons other than the CDEM Group itself, its member local authorities or emergency services, it has not been necessary to carry out an assessment of alternatives, costs or benefits pursuant to section 65 of the Act. Therefore the Group Plan is not deemed to be contrary to the requirements of this statute. A process of public consultation is also undertaken in the preparation of a Group Plan for Taranaki to obtain feedback on any proposed provisions and regulations.

It is important to note that the Group Plan for Taranaki is a **guideline** only for individuals and organisations involved in civil defence emergency management, and does not place regulatory requirements on those involved other than outlining the requirements already specified in legislation.

³ Section 2 of the Resource Management Act 1991.