

**TAUPŌ DISTRICT COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE MEETING
HELD AT THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, LEVEL 1, 67 HOROMĀTANGI STREET, TAUPŌ
ON MONDAY, 4 AUGUST 2025 AT 1.30PM**

PRESENT: Cr Danny Loughlin (in the Chair), Mr Tyronne (Bubs) Smith, Cr Sandra Greenslade

IN ATTENDANCE: General Manager Strategy and Environment (W Zander), Community Engagement and Development Manager (T Russell), Senior Emergency Management Advisor (H Nicholson), Senior Committee Advisor (K Watts), Committee Advisor (D Periam)

MEDIA AND PUBLIC: Mr Aaron Tregoweth (Waikato Civil Defence Emergency Management Group Team Leader Operational Readiness)

1 KARAKIA

Chair Cr Danny Loughlin opened the meeting by reciting the Taupō District Council's opening karakia.

2 WHAKAPĀHA | APOLOGIES

EM202508/01 RESOLUTION

Moved: Cr Danny Loughlin
Seconded: Mr Tyronne (Bubs) Smith

That the apologies received from Mayor David Trewavas and Cr Kirsty Trueman be accepted.

CARRIED

Note: All members present at the Emergency Management Committee meeting voted in favour of resolution EM202508/01 above.

3 NGĀ WHAKAPĀNGA TUKITUKI | CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

Nil

4 WHAKAMANATANGA O NGĀ MENETI | CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

4.1 EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE MEETING - 12 MAY 2025

EM202508/02 RESOLUTION

Moved: Cr Sandra Greenslade
Seconded: Cr Danny Loughlin

That the minutes of the Emergency Management Committee meeting held on Monday 12 May 2025 be approved and adopted as a true and correct record.

CARRIED

Note: All members present at the Emergency Management Committee meeting voted in favour of resolution EM202508/02 above.

5 NGĀ RIPOATA | REPORTS

5.1 UPDATE ON THE 2025 LOCAL GOVERNMENT ELECTIONS AND DISCUSSION ON COMMITTEE STRUCTURE, TERMS OF REFERENCE AND DELEGATIONS

The Senior Committee Advisor introduced herself and summarised the report. She asked the committee to provide any feedback regarding the Emergency Management Committee over the triennium that could be passed on to the incoming mayor. It was explained that committees were discharged at the end of the triennium and the mayor reestablishes them in the new triennium.

The following feedback was received:

- Hold the district hazards tour for the committee earlier in the triennium, perhaps during induction.
- Share previous mahi such as civil defence exercises, community plan work etc. completed over this triennium with the new committee.

EM202508/03 RESOLUTION

Moved: Mr Tyronne (Bubs) Smith

Seconded: Cr Sandra Greenslade

That the Emergency Management Committee receives the update on the 2025 elections.

CARRIED

Note: All members present at the Emergency Management Committee meeting voted in favour of resolution EM202508/03 above.

5.2 UPDATE ON RECENT ACTIVITIES

The Senior Emergency Management Advisor explained that on 5 June 2025 the Taupō Emergency Operations Centre (EOC) was activated to coordinate the response to heavy river levels on the Tongariro Taupō River. The flood protection system that Waikato Regional Council managed held up well and the river level threshold at the State Highway One bridge was exceeded by only a small amount with 40mm of freeboard remaining, which meant there was not any inundation. New Zealand Police and Land Search and Rescue (LandSAR), Fire and Emergency New Zealand (FENZ) and Waikato Regional Council staff assisted with the response. Pre-emptive door knocking was carried out by Police and LandSAR, who worked with residents to assist in understanding which homes were occupied full time and which were holiday homes. On Monday 16 June officers from the Welfare team along with the Senior Emergency Management Advisor met with some residents to discuss the development of a Community Response Plan. There was interest from the community so this will be progressed.

On 19 June a local all agency debrief was held. On 29 June a debrief was held between duty staff from Taupō District Council (TDC) and the Waikato Group Office.

On 3 July another weather system presented risk of high river levels again. The Duty Controller held an IMT meeting to brief the team and carry out initial preparation actions. Fortunately the system moved through a lot faster than expected and rain volumes were well below what had been forecast, so a response was not needed.

On 27 July 2025, Taupō District Council staff were deployed to Nelson Tasman and were there from Monday to Thursday and the Senior Emergency Management Advisor would hold a debrief with them in due course and incorporate learnings where appropriate.

The National Institute of Water and Atmospheric Research (NIWA) had released the long term forecast on weather for spring. Taupō District sat in two areas, Central North Island and Waikato. Waikato was predicted to have slightly higher than normal levels of rainfall while Central North Island was expected to have normal rainfall levels.

In answer to questions, the following was clarified:

- As the receiving Council, Nelson would cover the costs of staff's flights, accommodation etc. Taupō District Council did have a responsibility to ensure that their staff had the correct PPE to ensure they

were safe however this responsibility was shared with the receiving council.

- An emergency mobile alert was not activated for the event on 5 June. It would have been difficult to reduce it to such a small area due to it being based on cell phone towers. This could have caused people to try evacuate when they did not need to.

Members expressed that the debrief for the 5 June event was good and it was excellent having it as close as possible to the event. This real time exercise tested a lot of organisation.

EM202508/04 RESOLUTION

Moved: Cr Danny Loughlin

Seconded: Cr Sandra Greenslade

That the Emergency Management Committee receives the update on recent activities.

CARRIED

Note: All members present at the Emergency Management Committee meeting voted in favour of resolution EM202508/04 above.

5.3 TAUPŌ DISTRICT EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT STRATEGIC ROADMAP UPDATE

The Senior Emergency Management Advisor summarised the report and the following points were noted:

- Throughout the different activation levels, there would be three eight hour shifts over a 24 hour period. The monitoring level was well covered with almost all roles filled and officers trained. Support level was also in a good position with most roles filled or officers identified for roles but yet to be trained. Both the coordinating and directing levels were looking good for shift one and two however for shift three, there were many roles unfulfilled.
- In addition to staff for the EOC, council needed to have the ability to man civil defence centres. If all three centres were operating across the district then a large number of staff was required.
- Recruitment of staff from operational areas that would most likely be closed in the case of an emergency would occur.
- The Waikato Group was running Wai11 training again this year. Wai11 was a group of highly trained staff who could be deployed rapidly to another emergency centre within the group in a mentoring or coaching role, they did not take over from local staff but they could provide support. Council had nominated three staff.
- Waihi Village wished to discuss a community response plan.
- Funding for a mobile Starlink unit had been approved and it would be placed in a civil defence centre. It would provide the ability to be able to use mobiles and check emails. A satellite phone was also being upgraded. There were some technological advances coming out next year that would enable the latest model of Samsung and iPhones to be used as a satellite phone with the ability for voice communications.
- Both Hatepe and Tūrangi had almost completed their community response plans and would share with their communities once completed. The Community Development and Emergency Management Advisor role was advertised and this person would focus on delivery of the Community Resilience work programme once appointed.
- Was currently in the market for a hybrid community development and emergency management role.
- The strategy for marae preparation was being reinvigorated and planning work was underway to roll this out.
- The Coordinating Executive Group tasked Territorial Authorities to develop their Strategic Planning for a Recovery document by 30 June 2025. The trainee Recovery Manager who was tasked to do this, left before this was completed. So that this work could be progressed a consultant was engaged to support the development of this document and the delivery timeframe extended. Strategic Planning for Recovery sought to understand TDC's position to lead a recovery following a significant event that would have wide reaching impacts on the community. The consultant had been hosting workshops with staff from across Council including Destination Great Lake Taupō (DGLT) and

Amplify to understand the current position. Once these had concluded a document would be presented to the executive team, presenting the findings and recommendations on a work programme for the current trainee Recovery Manager to lead on delivery.

In answer to questions, the following was explained:

- There was a resource on the National Emergency Management Agency's website (NEMA) for elected members however the Public Information Management (PIM) Manager could also develop some talking points for elected members. In the event of an emergency Council would proactively push out communications via social media and other channels and would look to incorporate elected members more.
- There were higher levels of vulnerability of hazards at the southern end of the lake.

Members commended the Senior Emergency Management Advisor for her great work and looked forward to seeing more progress.

EM202508/05 RESOLUTION

Moved: Mr Tyronne (Bubs) Smith

Seconded: Cr Sandra Greenslade

That the Emergency Management Committee receives the update on the Taupō District Emergency Management Strategic Roadmap.

CARRIED

Note: All members present at the Emergency Management Committee meeting voted in favour of resolution EM202508/05 above.

5.4 WAIKATO CIVIL DEFENCE AND EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT GROUP UPDATE

Waikato Civil Defence Emergency Management Group's Team Leader Operational Readiness Mr Aaron Tregoweth commended Taupō District Council on the great proactive reaction and communications during the event and agreed that there were some great actions taken. Regional Emergency Management Advisor (REMA) had been deployed by NEMA to come look at the response.

They were working on a common operating platform and using intelligence tools to be used across the region for the Emergency Management Improvement Operational system.

He thanked Council for offering staff for the Nelson Tasman Deployment and it showed that help could be offered to other groups without damaging our own capability. Officers deployed down there would have benefited from the experience and some officers were sent down to observe to gain experience.

In answer to a question, he explained that Ruapehu were a part of the Central Plateau Group and would be completing some tabletop exercises.

EM202508/06 RESOLUTION

Moved: Cr Sandra Greenslade

Seconded: Mr Tyronne (Bubs) Smith

That the Emergency Management Committee receives the update from the Waikato Civil Defence and Emergency Management Group.

CARRIED

Note: All members present at the Emergency Management Committee meeting voted in favour of resolution EM202508/06 above.

6 NGĀ KŌRERO TŪMATAITI | CONFIDENTIAL BUSINESS

Nil

The meeting closed at 2.20pm with Chair Cr Danny Loughlin reciting the Taupō District Council closing karakia.

The minutes of this meeting were approved and adopted as a true and correct record by the Chairperson and the Chief Executive in accordance with Standing Order 28.4.

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CHAIRPERSON

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CHIEF EXECUTIVE

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DATE