



Report **03.584**
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Committee **Utility Services**
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Wellington Metropolitan Emergency Water Supply Planning Group - Mitigation and Preparedness Strategy and Action Plan

1. Purpose

To present this plan to the Committee and to advise the findings of the group.

2. Background

At the Utility Services Committee meeting held on 7 December 2001, Report No. 01.795, *Wholesale Water Supply in an Emergency*, was discussed. This report indicated a lack of shared understanding of responsibilities of Greater Wellington Water on the one hand, and the four customer territorial authorities on the other hand, for the supply of water following a major earthquake. Subsequent to this meeting the Wellington Metropolitan Emergency Water Supply Planning Group was set up. This group comprises water supply and emergency management staff of the five authorities, plus representatives from the fire, health and hazards sectors. A consultant, Mr Dave Brunson, was engaged to co-ordinate the project and the convenor of the group is John Morrison.

3. Plan Preparation

The attached document, *Mitigation and Preparedness - Strategy and Action Plan* has been prepared with input from members of the group. It outlines the background to the issues and describes the activities that are under way or planned, in order to reduce the "gap" following a major disruption of the wholesale water mains into the cities and the resumption of reticulated supply.

The plan gives action points and information that will be incorporated as appropriate by each of the authorities in their asset management plans and operating procedures.

The Executive Summary provides a concise overview of the total report.

4. Linkage with Civil Defence Emergency Management Group

At the inaugural meeting of the Civil Defence Emergency Management Group on 15 May 2003 a progress report (Report No. 03.239) was presented. The report gave information on the establishment and preliminary findings of the group. The information contained in the earlier report is included in the substantive report attached.

The planning group will remain as a joint water supply and emergency management endeavour, with progress reports being made to the Civil Defence Emergency Management Group. However, because the project was initiated by Greater Wellington Water and has been funded through the bulk water supply levy, it is appropriate that reports be presented also to this Committee. The other authorities will be using the report as they see fit.

5. Publicity

One of the project subgroups established focuses on communication issues, as these typically involve more than one organisation or sector.

A "Fact Sheet" explaining the need to store emergency water has been prepared. This will be included as one of the family of Greater Wellington Regional Council Hazard Awareness Fact Sheets. A copy of the Fact Sheet has been distributed with the Councillors' Bulletin.

The week commencing 6 October 2003 has been nominated as Hazard Awareness Week. A press release has been prepared and distributed, which again emphasises the need for personal self-sufficiency in water supplies for the first few days after a major earthquake. A radio message has also been arranged for broadcasting during Hazards Week.

6. Summary

The Wellington Metropolitan Emergency Water Supply Planning Group has been established and the Mitigation and Preparedness - Strategy and Action Plan produced.

The full group will continue to meet on a six monthly basis, with project subgroups meeting as required. The relationship with the Civil Defence Emergency Management Group has now been formalised.

7. Communication

The main communication message, of the need for personal water storage, has already been disseminated, as part of the Hazard Awareness Week. The Fact Sheet on storing emergency water has been produced and distributed.

Funding for more extensive publicity will be sought from the Civil Defence Emergency Management Group.

8. Recommendation

That the report be received and the information noted.

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