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Committee CDEM Group
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Appointment of persons who may declare a state of local emergency for the CDEM Group

1. Purpose

To recommend the appointments required for persons who may declare a state of local emergency for the CDEM Group.

2. Background

Appointments of persons authorised to declare a state of local emergency form part of the CDEM Group Plan.

All CDEM Group appointments need to be made before the CDEM Group Plan becomes operative. It is preferable that these appointments are made prior to public consultation on the CDEM Group Plan, so that a complete version of Plan may be notified.

Declaration of a state of local emergency may be made for the whole of the Group area or for one or more districts or wards within the area.

A declaration may be made at any time it appears to the person appointed that an emergency has occurred or may occur, or if resources of that area are needed to assist another area where a state of local emergency is in force.

3. Discussion

3.1 Primary appointee

The Group must authorise at least one person to declare a state of local emergency for the Group area (S.25(1) CDEM Act 2002). More than one person can be appointed so long as the priority of the appointees and any limitations are noted.

The appointees must be chosen from the representatives of the members of the CDEM Group (S.25(2)).

However, despite any Group appointments, the Mayor of a territorial authority (or their alternate if the Mayor is absent) may declare a state of local emergency for their district (S.25(5)). This declaration brings into force the powers of the Group and Local Controllers

(as appointed). In the situation where only a single authority is affected, the Group Controller will have a co-ordination role, although will still retain the authority to direct the Local Controller if necessary.

The ability of Mayors to declare for their districts effectively means that the Group appointment is more likely to be necessary for declaring a state of local emergency for the whole Group area. In this case multiple territorial authorities will be affected and the Group EOC will be in operation.

The Chairperson of the CDEM Group would be an appropriate primary appointee authorised to declare for the whole Group area.

3.2 In the absence of the appointed person

There is provision under S.25(4) for any representative of any Group member to exercise the power to declare a state of local emergency if the appointed person is not able to perform their role. Under S.25(3(a, b)) the status of alternate appointees, and conditions or limitations must be stated in the CDEM Group Plan.

It is suggested that all representatives of CDEM Group members be appointed as alternates to declare a state of emergency for the Group area (under S.25(1)) in the order of priority of normal geographic distance from the Group EOC. This order is purely for administrative purposes as a member close to the EOC is more likely to be accessible to sign the required forms during a major emergency. It is suggested that the order be as follows:

1. CDEM Group Chairperson (Mayor of Upper Hutt City)
2. Chairperson, Greater Wellington Regional Council
3. Mayor of Wellington City
4. Mayor of Lower Hutt City
5. Mayor of Porirua City
6. Mayor of Kapiti Coast District
7. Mayor of South Wairarapa District
8. Mayor of Carterton District
9. Mayor of Masterton District

3.3 Other responsibilities

The same people authorised to declare a state of local emergency are also authorised to extend or terminate a state of local emergency.

People authorised to declare a state of local emergency for the Group area also authorised (in the same order) to appoint a replacement for the Group Controller if necessary during an emergency (S.26(4)).

Recommendation

It is recommended that the Group:

1. ***Appoint** the Chairperson of the CDEM Group as a person authorised to declare a state of local emergency for the Group area or any district or ward within the area.*
2. ***Appoint** each representative of a member of the Group as a person authorised to declare a state of local emergency for the Group area in the absence of the person named above, and in the priority order listed in the draft Plan.*
3. ***Note** that the Mayor of a territorial authority retains the ability to declare a state of local emergency that covers the district of the territorial authority.*
4. ***Note** that these appointments will come into force at the time and date of final approval of the Wellington Region CDEM Group Plan by the CDEM Group.*

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