

Report 08.635
Date 1 September 2008
File Z/01/04/19

Committee Co-ordinating Executive Group (CEG)
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CDEM Group Tsunami Evacuation Plan

1. Purpose

To seek CEG's support for the CDEM Group Tsunami Evacuation Plan to be presented to the CDEM Group for approval.

2. Background

Tsunami is identified as a "high risk" hazard for the Wellington region in the current CDEM Group Plan. Therefore it is necessary to plan for tsunami events. The completion of a Tsunami Evacuation Plan was scheduled for June 2008 in the CDEM Group Plan.

A draft plan is attached as *Attachment 1*.

A large number of organisations (transport organisations, emergency services, lifelines services, and local authorities of the region) were involved in developing the Plan and several multi agency workshops were held as part of the consultation process.

As tsunami planning for New Zealand has only recently commenced at a national level, there are a number of limitations in our current planning. Consequently we intend to review the Plan within the next three years.

3. Development of the Plan

The objective of this plan is *'to facilitate the evacuation of people from identified hazard zones in the Wellington region to minimize the impact of a tsunami'*.

As a tsunami can be generated from a local, mid range (regional) or distant event, the Plan recognises that the response varies with the amount of warning that may be received. The Plan focuses on the 'evacuation' element only, that is, pre event activities. Post event response is covered in other plans, eg, CDEM Group Recovery Plan.

3.1 Inundation mapping

There is currently limited scientific data available to accurately map tsunami inundation for the region. Greater Wellington has commenced mapping based on what is known as 'bath tub' modelling. However, this does not take into account sea floor variations or the built environment.

GNS Science is also doing some tsunami modelling to improve the mapping by utilizing a new algorithm and it is hoped these maps will be available by the end of 2008.

This plan is based on a worst case scenario (1 in 500 year event) and will be revisited as improved modelling techniques are developed.

3.2 National Tsunami Plan

A draft National Tsunami Plan was released by the Ministry of Civil Defence Emergency Management in late 2007. This has now been updated to address some gaps which impacted on any regional response.

4. Conclusion

There are some planning limitations, some specifically relating to scientific data and understanding the behaviour of a tsunami, whilst some are simply because this type of planning has not been done before.

Positively, we now have a plan for the Wellington region which provides a good basis for evacuating in the event of a tsunami warning.

5. Recommendations

*That the CEG recommends to the CDEM Group that it **approves** the Wellington Region CDEM Group Tsunami Evacuation Plan.*

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Attachment 1: Distant Source Tsunami Evacuation Plan