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Committee Civil Defence Emergency Management Group
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Future Work Programme for CDEM Group

1. Purpose

To outline a future work programme for the two years following CDEM Group formation. The Co-ordinating Executive Group will approve a detailed work programme based on this outline.

2. Background

The formation of a CDEM Group in the Wellington region presents a number of opportunities for civil defence emergency management agencies to work together co-operatively. Some planning and capability activities of a region-wide significance can be achieved more effectively through a central group of personnel managing projects on behalf of the region. All Group programmes will, however, require input from each agency. The Group Emergency Management Office (GEMO) will be in a position to manage a number of discrete projects as well as to facilitate ongoing projects that have a regional benefit such as co-ordinated public education.

This report outlines only those projects that are on behalf of the CDEM Group as a whole. Additional programmes to maintain local capability are expected to continue.

3. Discussion

The following CDEM programmes have been developed following lessons learned during the major earthquake exercise "Exercise Phoenix" in July 2002.

CDEM Group Plan development

The prime focus of the GEMO in the next two years must be the development of the CDEM Group Plan. The Group Plan will also require input from Local Authority staff, emergency responders and lifelines agencies.

The Strategic Part of the Group Plan will deal with communities' risks from the consequences of hazards, and will also provide a framework for ameliorating consequences on city and district economic and social

continuance. The Operational Part will provide a framework for integrated group response and recovery management support.

Twelve regional projects have been identified for completion in the next two years. The projects are all necessary within this timeframe to feed into the CDEM Group Plan.

1. Emergency Water Supply

The issues and possible solutions associated with post-earthquake water supply to the metropolitan areas have been identified. The project now moves into an implementation phase that will require input from all Council asset managers and emergency managers. Specific emergency management aspects include education about the importance of water storage, encouraging alternate methods of bulk water storage for key community facilities, households and businesses, and developing contractual arrangements.

2. Road Access Restoration Plan

This project aims to prioritise the roads in the region as to which will be restored first following a major emergency event to enable effective resource and commuter movements. It also aims to identify and reduce resource constraints on how roads will be cleared. This project has strong links to the regional reconnaissance project.

3. Regional Reconnaissance Plan

Emergency responders and lifeline utilities have provided information about their most critical facilities in the region that will need to be operational immediately following a major emergency. The project is now in the assessment phase where these facilities are prioritised and plans made to check each of the following an emergency event.

4. Emergency Communications

The current emergency communications system (provided by Greater Wellington) does not meet the requirements of the new CDEM Group. It does not connect to all of the organisations that are now included in emergency response. It also does not meet the technical requirements of the Group. A project brief has been developed for a communications consultant to assess the current alternative systems, or system enhancements that would make an operational system for the CDEM Group. Funding has been allocated for this research and Greater Wellington has allocated funding in 2004-2005 and 2005-2006 for implementation of the recommended system.

5. Commuter Management

This new project will investigate options for looking after commuters and returning them home following an emergency in which access between our cities and districts is restricted. Later movements of commuters for work access will be part of recovery management planning.

6. External Logistics Supply

This project follows on from Project Phoenix where a model was developed for transporting critical resources from other regions into the Wellington region. This project focuses on developing protocols and arrangements to enable this external support to come into the region and be effectively distributed to cities and districts. The required supply lists of major response agencies will need to be reassessed annually.

7. Urban Search and Rescue capability enhancement

This project began in October 2002 following Exercise Phoenix. A major earthquake will require intensive and extensive location and rescue of entrapped people from across the region. Many organisational elements to enable competent location of casualties, extraction and ongoing medical care need capability improvement and a management framework. A Regional Catastrophic Event Strategy will map out development needs and outcomes. The regional Urban Search and Rescue (USAR) management framework will also be able to step down for smaller rescue events.

8. CDEM Group Public Education Strategy

A CDEM Group public education strategy needs to be developed in line with the National Public Education Strategy. This project will involve defining CDEM Group objectives, targets and activities for public education in the region.

9. Emergency Fuel Supply

This short-term project has identified the need for fuel for emergency responders in situations where there may be a shortage. Procedures are being developed to ensure responders have access to fuel necessary to carry out emergency response.

10. CDEM Group Response Capability Development

The functioning of the Emergency Operations Centres of the CDEM Group will need to be reviewed with particular regard to the hazardscape of the region. Some rationalisation is considered to be possible, but further investigation is required to confirm the optimal arrangements.

11. Hazard Analysis and Management

This work is part of the ongoing activity of Greater Wellington at a regional scale. This ongoing work programme will need to be tied in with the GEMO work programme within the strategic component of the Group Plan.

12. Medical Logistics

This project is a subset of the External Logistic Supply project and focuses on critical supplies to give continuing care to mass casualties where movement within the region is limited. The project will be handled by regional medical response co-ordinating agencies but the GEMO will monitor capability effectiveness.

4. Recommendations

- 1. That the CDEM Group endorses the outline work programme and task the Co-ordinating Executive Group, when established, to facilitate its implementation.*
- 2. That until such time as the Co-ordinating Executive Group is established, the interim Co-ordinating Executive Group be given responsibility for commencing the work.*

Report prepared by:

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