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Committee CDEM Group Hearing Committee
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Consideration of submissions on the Proposed Wellington Region Civil Defence Emergency Management Group Plan

1. Purpose

To outline the process of hearing and deciding on submissions received on the Proposed Wellington Region Civil Defence Emergency Management Group (CDEM Group) Plan.

2. Background

The Proposed Plan was publicly notified on 1 December 2004 with submissions to be received by 28 January 2005.

The Hearing Committee was appointed by the CDEM Group on 25 November 2004 to hear and decide on submissions on the Group Plan.

Section 54 of Civil Defence Emergency Management Act 2002 requires the CDEM Group to prepare and approve a CDEM Plan within two years of the formation of the Group, that is, by 15 May 2005. It is anticipated that the CDEM Group will finally approve the Plan at its meeting on 5 May 2005.

Before approving the CDEM Group Plan, the CDEM Group must send a copy of the Proposed Plan to the Minister for his comments, allowing 20 working days for this to happen (s. 49(1) CDEM Act 2002). It is planned that the Minister will receive the final Proposed Plan by 16 March 2005.

3. Submissions

A total of 14 submissions were formally received, plus one informal submission. The officers of the CDEM Group Office have prepared a written response to all points raised in each submission and have also prepared their own submission.

Unfortunately, the Proposed Plan contained a number of layout and content errors – a result of the design and formatting part of the publication process. Much of the CDEM Group Office submission deals with these issues.

Two submitters, Ministry of Civil Defence and Emergency Management, and the Group Emergency Management Office have indicated that they wish to be heard.

The submissions and the officers' comments are enclosed as separate documents.

4. Recommendations

(1) That the Hearing Committee:

- a) Receives the report;*
- b) Considers the submissions;*
- c) Notes the comments from the officers on the submissions;*
- d) Makes decisions about any changes required to the Proposed Plan;*
- e) Notes that a copy of the Proposed Plan incorporating changes arising from decisions of the Hearing Committee will be sent to the Minister of Civil Defence Emergency Management for his consideration and comment; and*
- f) Directs officers to send formal responses to all submitters about decisions made.*

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