



Minutes

Northland Local Advisory Committee Meeting

Date: 25 February 2021

Time: 9:30am-4:15pm

Venue: Te Kōpuru Fire Station

Present:

Gordon Lambeth	Chair
Mita Harris	Deputy Chair
Karen Joyce-Paki	Member
Rolien Elliot	Member
Ken Rintoul	Member
Sarah Hoyle	Member
Colin (Toss) Kitchen	Member (by Microsoft Teams)

Apologies:

In Attendance:

Lucy Chamberlain	National Manager, Local Advisory Committees
Christine Watson	Senior Advisor, Local Advisory Committees
Ron Devlin	Region Manager, Te Hiku
Brad Mosby	Area Manager, Whangarei-Kaipara
Wipari Henwood	Area Manager, Muri Whenua
Myles Taylor	Principal Rural Fire Officer, Northland
Natalie Morris	Business Operations Manager
Antonia Butler	Auckland Strategic Advisor
Rory Renwick	Wildfire Specialist

The third meeting of the Northland Local Advisory Committee (the Committee) was held at Te Kōpuru Fire Station and attended by the Committee and the Fire and Emergency Te Hiku Regional Leadership Team (RLT).

Welcome

The Committee and RLT members were welcomed to the Station by the Chief Fire Officer.

Minutes

The minutes of the previous meeting were confirmed, as drafted.

RLT district update

The RLT updated the Committee on Tranche 2 of the Fire and Emergency restructure, recent incidents and fire season status in Te Taitokerau and engagement with industry brigades.

Northland Fire Plan

Wildfire Specialist, Rory Renwick led a session on the draft Northland Fire Plan. LAC members will take part in a Fire Plan workshop in Whangarei on 12 March, to provide feedback on the Plan and to meet some key community stakeholders.

Stakeholder engagement

The Committee reported on engagement undertaken in the last quarter, in Poutō, Kelly's Bay, Tangiteroria, Te Kao, Te Hāpua, Motatau and Hōreke. Some of this was introductory contact, in preparation for more formal engagement in future. LAC members also continued to socialise the role of the LAC with their networks and with agencies working in Te Taitokerau.

An LAC member attended the annual Treaty of Waitangi celebrations in Hōreke, accompanied by the Pou Takawaenga Māori. Risk factors mean there may be value in Fire and Emergency having more of a presence in this community.

It was noted that informal engagement is often best received by iwi/hapū, as there is a level of engagement fatigue, with many agencies approaching hapū and marae for consultation and information.

Members discussed the fire risk posed by an increase in substandard housing and more people living in existing homes, with urban-rural drift due to COVID-19 and consenting and compliance costs that are out of reach for some people. The RLT shared some of the interventions they are implementing in vulnerable communities.

The risks around rubbish disposal were also discussed. With no roadside collection service, a lack of personal transport and the cost disposal, some residents burn their rubbish, even during prohibited fire seasons. There may be opportunities for Fire and Emergency to strengthen its input into Councils' strategic plans and policies in this and other areas.

The Committee suggested more locally-focused and bilingual communications about fire safety. The RLT noted that new Strategic Communications Advisors in regional teams will have the potential to be useful in this space.

An LAC member attended the debrief in Ahipara after recent fires there. He observed that the community is highly engaged and has pulled together extremely well during these fires, providing hospitality and support and remaining positive in the face of these challenges.

Engagement planning

The Committee will continue to engage with the isolated and vulnerable communities it has identified for engagement in the next few months, including some of those in the Hokianga, and Pipiwai, where a large forestry fire was started by the burning of rubbish recently. Fire and Emergency’s debrief activities in Pipiwai will provide an opening for conversations with LAC members.

Local leaders will work alongside LAC members and flag opportunities for them to engage with volunteers and the community.

National LAC Team update

The National LAC team provided updates, including the self-review to be completed by the Committee in May, an overview of the progress of all seven LACs and a new invoice template.

Board report

The Committee drafted the content of its Board Report for the quarter and set meeting dates for the next financial year.

The meeting closed at 4:15pm.

Action Log

Date	Action	Responsible	Due	Status/Notes
29 Sept 2020	Set up Northland weekly media clippings distribution for Northland	National LAC Team	October	Not to be progressed – clippings not able to be filtered in a useful way
26 Nov 2020	Arrange Microsoft Teams training for Committee members	RLT	December/ January	Teams/ Sharepoint training at May meeting

25 Feb 2021	Consider a media release on the Northland LAC	National LAC Team	May	
25 Feb 2021	Agree who will lead on specific CDEM stakeholders	Sarah and Rolien	May	To follow up next meeting
25 Feb 2021	Local leaders to let LAC members know of upcoming engagements for possible LAC attendance	RLT	N/A	Ongoing
25 Feb 2021	Update LAC on potential Board meeting in Northland	National LAC Team	May	No Board meeting currently planned in Northland
25 Feb 2021	Invite brigade members or reps for morning tea where we're meeting with the LAC	RLT	Ongoing	Invitation sent for May meeting
25 Feb 2021	Talk to CDEM about marae business continuity planning programme	Rolien	May	In progress
25 Feb 2021	Invite the Pou Takawaenga to take part in engagement where appropriate	LAC members	Ongoing	Ongoing