



Minutes

Manawatū/Whanganui Local Advisory Committee Meeting

Date: Tuesday 8 April 2025

Time: 8:45 am – 1pm

Venue: Feilding Fire Station, 201 Kimbolton Road, Feilding

Present:

Materoa Mar (Chair)	Paul Sharland
Stefan Speller (Deputy Chair)	Graeme Speirs
Bonnie Kuru-Whaturia	Amy Valentine
Paul Patel	

In Attendance:

Bruce Stubbs	Region Manager – Te Upoko
Gary Ward	Acting District Manager
Kerry O’Keefe	Community Risk Manager
Kate Taylor (online)	Chair, Hawke’s Bay LAC
Lucy Chamberlain	National Manager, Local Advisory Committees
Michelle Bartlett	Senior Advisor, local Advisory Committees
Shane Lulu (online)	Senior Advisor, Local Advisory Committees
Chris Lind (online)	National Advisor, Future Operational Capability Project

Apologies:

Ross Brannigan	LAC member
Nigel Dravitzki	District Manager

Welcome

The meeting was opened by the chair with a karakia, followed by a welcome and round of introductions/whakawhānaungatanga.

Hawke’s Bay LAC chair

Hawke’s Bay Chair shared their experience and lessons of being involved with the Hawke’s Bay LAC.

The key insights were around understanding the positioning of LAC’s and key relationships with Fire and Emergency Regional staff and engagement practice. The areas of focus for Hawke’s Bay LAC are Diversity, Resilience and Youth.

Committee operations

Discussion of process for amendments for the register of interests from committee members. No changes to the interests register this meeting.

Engagement Session and Planning presentation and workshop

The Senior Advisor, Local Advisory Committees gave a short presentation around developing a community engagement plan for Manawātū Whanganui. The presentation also covered how LAC engagement fitted into a bigger picture of work for LAC's along with analysis of engagements leading to considered and strategic advice to the organisation and the Board.

The committee workshopped the range of potential stakeholders in their regions, their individual networks and connections and discussed proposed priority areas.

District update

The Region Manager gave an overview of the fiscal landscape Fire and Emergency is currently facing. The changing nature of the work was also discussed with increasing weather events and purple events (critical health callouts) alongside St John's.

The Acting District Manager gave an update and overview on current focus, issues, and risks for the district. Key challenges identified were the challenging geographical nature of the district and the increasing pressure on brigades and volunteers due to increased workloads.

New technology in the region that Fire and Emergency staff need to be aware of include a hydrogen filling station in Palmerston North, and a battery storage facility in Bunnythorpe.

The incident numbers and a breakdown of the incident subjects for the January to March period were shared with the LAC.

The Community Risk Manager shared challenges with engagement around the district due to the vast size of the region and number of isolated communities. The added complexities of the multi-cultural and multi-lingual nature of the resettlement community in Palmerston North was also discussed. Work on reducing false alarms continues as these currently make up 1/6 of all calls.

Fieldays continues to be a valuable engagement event to reach the rural and farming communities.

Future Operational Capability briefing

Chris Lind from the Future Operational Capability project updated the committee on the project and timelines. The committee will be provided a framework of the project in the next fortnight and will be invited to provide input on any local risks and areas of importance Fire and Emergency may have overlooked to the project team in early May.

NLAC update

The Senior Advisor provided an update on the Whāriki engagement reporting tool rollout and guidance for members when invoicing.

General Business

The committee discussed dates for the next meeting at which the Community Engagement plan is proposed to be finalised.

Next meeting

Friday 6 June, 10am – 2pm, Feilding fire Station

Closing

The meeting closed at 1:00pm with a karakia.

Action Log

Date	Action	Responsible	Due	Status
8 April 2025	Contact list of LAC members to be distributed	Senior Advisor	Post meeting	In-progress
8 April 2025	Draft Manawatū/ Whanganui engagement plan to be updated with priorities discussed and forwarded to LAC members	Senior Advisor	Post meeting	In progress