



Minutes

Tairāwhiti Local Advisory Committee Meeting

Date: 30 May 2023

Time: 9:00am - 1:15pm

Venue: Gisborne Fire Station

Present:

Georgina Johnson	LAC Chair
Midge Te Kani	LAC Member
Hikihiki Pihema	LAC Member
Alice Kibble	LAC Member
Meredith Akuhata-Brown	LAC Member
Teena Montgomery	LAC Member

In Attendance:

Piki Thomas	Deputy Chief Executive, Kaupapa Māori and Cultural Communities
Peter Clark	District Manager, Tairāwhiti
Trudi Hicklin	Community Risk Manager, Tairāwhiti
Lucy Chamberlain	National Manager, Local Advisory Committees
Cullum Peni-Wesche	Senior Advisor, Local Advisory Committees

Apologies:

Christopher Douglas-Huriwai	LAC Deputy Chair
Joelene Andrew	LAC Member
David Guard	Region Manager, Ngā Tai ki te Puku

Whakatau / Welcome

The District Manager led a karakia to open the hui and welcomed the Tairāwhiti Local Advisory Committee (LAC) to the Gisborne Fire Station.

Following the karakia, a whanaungatanga session was held for attendees to introduce themselves.

Minutes

The minutes from the Committee's meeting on 8 February 2023 were confirmed as a correct record.

Update from the LAC Chair

The Chair provided an overview of the Tairāwhiti LAC for new members, and reflected on the Committee's work since her appointment in the role and how that contributes to the Committee's priorities over the 2023-26 term. The Chair highlighted community exhaustion following COVID-19

and Cyclone Gabrielle as a barrier to engagement and highlighted opportunities to overcome these barriers.

The Chair then led a session for LAC members to reflect on their experience in the role over the past term. Members noted the LAC role is not operational, and engagement with community groups, Fire and Emergency volunteers and other stakeholders will need to reflect this.

Newly appointed members also shared their perspective and insights on what the LAC may work towards over the coming term, highlighting opportunities to connect digitally as well as kanohi ki te kanohi (face to face), and a discussion on how members can make the best use of their networks.

Supporting the Kaupapa Māori and Cultural Communities Branch

The Deputy Chief Executive, Kaupapa Māori and Cultural Communities (KMCC) updated the Committee on the KMCC Branch design process, and how LAC members from across the country have been supporting this work. The Branch design incorporates Fire and Emergency's high-level Māori strategic direction and the functions and resources Fire and Emergency requires to deliver on the strategic direction.

The LAC was pleased to hear about the Branch development process and queried how the LAC can continue to support kaupapa Māori initiatives across Fire and Emergency.

District update

The District Manager provided the Committee with an overview of the Tairāwhiti district, highlighting recent challenges from severe weather events that impacted the district over the 2022-23 summer season.

Marae fire safety surveys remain a focus area for the Community Risk Management team, where staff continue to install Google Nest alarms and undertake surveys. An LAC member queried the technical support arrangements and longevity for Google Nest alarms, the Community Risk Manager will follow-up and confirm the technical support that can be provided.

The installation of sprinkler systems in marae remains a barrier to fire safety due to high costs. Members highlighted opportunities to engage with agencies such as the Department of Internal Affairs to discuss funding opportunities, and the possibility of holding caches of firefighting supplies in remote areas to enable communities to respond to a fire while Fire and Emergency appliances are being dispatched.

Community engagement

Engagement with the Te Karaka Volunteer Fire Brigade highlighted the challenges associated with recruitment in rural areas, and that low membership impacts the brigade's ability to serve the community in an emergency. Discussions were also held on community messaging, and the possibility of Fire and Emergency sponsored notice boards in communities to post key safety messages along key roads.

National LAC team update

The National LAC team updated the Committee on the Board's decision to stand-up nine additional LACs across Aotearoa New Zealand, noting that Committees will be stood up from January 2024. The team also provided an update on the fees schedule for LAC members.

The LAC Chairs' Forum will be hosted in Wellington on 28 June 2023, where LAC Chairs will connect with each other, the Fire and Emergency Board, and the Executive Leadership Team. Following the forum, Chairs will receive strategic direction from the Board for the coming year, to help shape the LAC's work and engagement plans.

Acknowledgement of retiring members

The Chair acknowledged retiring members and thanked them for their contribution and mahi to the Tairāwhiti LAC over the past three years. Retiring members will be provided with a small tohu of appreciation following the Committee's meeting.

Updates to the Board

The Committee agreed there was no update to provide the Board for this quarter.

Action Log

#	Date	Action	Responsible	Due	Status
1.	8 Feb 2023	Formalise future engagement between the Tairāwhiti District team and the LAC.	Business Operations Manager, District Manager	July 2023	In progress
2.	8 Feb 2023	Circulate the draft District Plan and schedule a district planning session with the LAC.	District Manager, Community Risk Manager	July 2023	In progress
3.	8 Feb 2023	Invite Tairāwhiti Civil Defence Emergency Management and other partner agency stakeholders to engage with the LAC.	Community Risk Manager	August 2023	In progress
4.	30 May 2023	Update LAC member biographies.	Committee members	June 2023	In progress
5.	30 May 2023	Review stakeholder engagement documents ahead of the LAC's quarter one meeting.	Committee members	August 2023	In progress

6.	30 May 2023	Invite the Ngā Tai ki te Puku Business Operations Manager to the LAC's quarter one meeting.	National LAC team	August 2023	Complete
7.	30 May 2023	Provide a copy of the LAC news item in the Fire Wire newsletter.	National LAC team	June 2023	Complete