



# Minutes

## Northland Local Advisory Committee Meeting

**Date:** 20 May 2022

**Time:** 9:00am-4:00pm

**Venue:** Mangawhai Fire Station

### Present:

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

### In Attendance:

Lucy Chamberlain	National Manager, Local Advisory Committees
Ian Fitcher ( <i>via Teams</i> )	Principal Advisor, Local Advisory Committees
Christine Watson	Senior Advisor, Local Advisory Committees
Wipari Henwood	District Manager, Northland
Ron Devlin	Region Manager, Te Hiku
Mitchell Brown	Community Risk Manager
Michael Champteloup	Senior Advisor, Community Readiness and Recovery
Kim Boyce	Advisor, Community Readiness and Recovery
Kori Puckey	Advisor, Community Readiness and Recovery
Ryley Webster	Principal Advisor, Volunteer Sustainability
Jono Ashman	Senior Advisor, Volunteer Attraction
Trevor Brown	National Operational Efficiency Manager

### Apologies:

Ken Rintoul	Member
-------------	--------

---

### Welcome

The Deputy Chair opened the meeting with a karakia.

### Minutes

The minutes of the Committee's meeting on 25 February were confirmed as a correct record.

## **Meeting locations**

The Committee agreed on locations for its quarter 1 and 2 meetings, with the 19 August meeting to be held in Ōmāpere and the 14 October meeting, in Whananaki.

## **District and Region update**

The Region Manager updated the Committee on the transition to Fire and Emergency's new Chief Executive, Kerry Gregory and his key areas of focus:

- Stronger alignment across all parts of the organisation
- Health, Safety and Wellbeing and the support to our people
- Training and development
- Kaupapa Māori
- Intelligence-driven decision making.

The People Services Manager provided an overview of Fire and Emergency research to be undertaken in the Te Hiku region in coming months, assessing enablers and barriers to volunteerism. LAC members will support this work, by distributing a survey to their community contacts and identifying appropriate subjects for interview.

The District Manager outlined current work with forestry companies, Whangārei Airport and the new company managing the oil storage facility at Marsden Point.

He noted that brigades, as well as the general population in Northland, are dealing with COVID-19 fatigue. COVID has meant volunteers have been more isolated than usual, not attending training as much. District leaders are working to reconnect people and bring them back to a more normal routine.

Although some peat fires are still burning, the online debrief after the Kaimaumau/Waiharara fires has just been completed and this will be followed by an Operational Efficiency Review (OER).

## **Community engagement**

The Committee noted that the community is becoming more active and open again, after the peak of Omicron infections in Te Tai Tokerau. This is allowing the Committee to reconnect with vulnerable communities and to follow up relevant leads and links.

A post-incident event at Waikara Marae provided the LAC and the Community Readiness and Recovery (CRR) Team with insights into the trauma caused by the experience and aftermath of fires - and specifically the Māori experience. The meeting highlighted the opportunity to work alongside CDEM wherever there is a Community Response Plan. The Committee also noted the importance of agency cooperation after emergency incidents, so that communities are not overwhelmed with approaches from helping agencies.

Two members have attended meetings of the Waiharara/Kaimaumau Fire Recovery Project Team working on a Recovery Action Plan to ensure a unified approach to recovery and build resilience within these communities. Colin Kitchen is a member of the Recovery Governance Group.

During the last quarter members also engaged with Summit Forests, the Te Oneroa-a-Tohe/Ninety Mile Beach Board and the Awanui River Management Group of the Northland Regional Council.

## **LAC Insights Report**

The National LAC Team reminded the Committee of the LAC annual Insights Report's place within the LAC Advisory Framework and how the reporting process will work in its first year of implementation.

From information gleaned from engagement over the past year, the Committee compiled what members currently know and what would be useful for Fire and Emergency to understand. Considering the areas the Board has asked LACs to focus on, such as climate change, agency collaboration and community resilience, members created a first cut of content for the Northland section of the annual Insights Report to the Board.

## **Collaboration with the Community Readiness and Recovery (CRR) Team**

The CRR Team provided an overview of their current initiatives and projects. The Committee is delighted that the CRR Team is now at full complement. The Team's ability to progress opportunities identified by the Committee will be very valuable and members look forward to supporting them with their initiatives.

CRR Team and LAC members will keep in touch, working together where appropriate in view of locations and areas of focus. Dates of events and planned engagements will be shared regularly.

## **Engagement planning**

The Committee agreed to approach the Te Tai Tokerau Māori Advisory Committee regarding an LAC presentation at a meeting.

The Northland Intersectoral Forum (NIF) consists of 35 different agencies and therefore has a broad reach. Members see potential for Fire and Emergency - too often seen as a response agency only – to be around the table in the prevention space.

National Operational Efficiency Manager, Trevor Brown gave the Committee an overview of the OER on the Kaimaumau/Waiharara fires now underway. Rolien Elliot and Colin Kitchen, who were involved in the response to the fires in their roles for DOC and as a volunteer and Northland Regional Councillor, will meet with the reviewers at the end of May.

## **Communications**

The Community Risk Manager shared key messages on fire safety, risk reduction etc, that LAC members can use when engaging in the community. These will be added to the Committee's Talking Points for reference.

## **Volunteer Attraction – Surge Project**

Ryley Webster and Jono Ashman briefed the Committee on the volunteer attraction project currently being considered to address shortfalls in volunteer numbers, particularly due to COVID-19 and vaccination mandate attrition. They outlined current trends in volunteering and LAC members provided feedback from a community perspective on opportunities to foster new volunteers, barriers to attracting and retaining volunteers, and the most effective ways to engage with communities.

## Committee self-review

The LAC completed its annual self-review, identifying opportunities to improve committee efficiency and effectiveness.

## Board report

The LAC discussed and agreed content for Northland's contribution to the LAC quarterly report to the Board.

## Action Log

Date	Action	Responsible	Due	Status/Notes
25 Feb 2022	Complete engagement reports for the last quarter (Q3).	LAC members	Ongoing	Completed
20 May 2022	Provide the LAC with a Fire and Emergency acronym list.	National LAC Team	June 2022	Completed
20 May 2022	Distribute link to the volunteerism survey.	LAC	June 2022	Completed
20 May 2022	Work with the district team on a calendar for events and engagement.	National LAC Team	August 2022	Completed
20 May 2022	Arrange to present at a Te Tai Tokerau Māori Advisory Committee meeting.	Colin Kitchen	August 2022	Initial meeting completed - formal engagement in Nov or Feb
20 May 2022	Add key safety and risk reduction messages to LAC Talking Points and resend to members.	National LAC Team	June 2022	Completed
20 May 2022	Send changes and additions or deletions to the stakeholder engagement register to National LAC Team.	LAC members	August 2022	Ongoing
20 May 2022	Advise the Committee of opportunities for LACs to contribute to review of Māori liaison capacity.	National LAC Team	July 2022	In progress