



Minutes

Otago Local Advisory Committee Meeting

Date: 29 April 2022

Time: 9:00am-1:15pm

Venue: Online – via MS Teams

Present:

Brenden Winder	Chair
Helen Algar	Deputy Chair
Michelle Tairoa-McDonald	Member
Hilary McNab	Member
Des Minehan	Member
Mandy Mayhem-Bullock	Member
Neil Gillespie	Member
Aaron Fleming	Member
Megan McPherson	Member

In Attendance:

Lucy Chamberlain	Manager, Local Advisory Committees
Ian Fatcher	Principal Advisor, Local Advisory Committees
Angela Christie	Senior Advisor, Local Advisory Committees
Phil Marsh	District Manager, Otago
Zelda Jordan	Business Operations Manager, te Kei

Apologies:

Mike Grant	Region Manager, Te Kei
James Knapp	Community Risk Manager, Otago

Welcome

The meeting began with a karakia and welcome from the Chair.

Minutes

The minutes from the Committee's meeting on 11 February were confirmed.

District update

The District Manager acknowledged the difficulties Covid has presented Fire and Emergency personnel across the district.

Strict measures were put in place to stop the spread of Covid amongst personnel in the district. These

measures worked well and 96% availability has been maintained, although a drop off in enthusiasm and availability of volunteers was noticed. The measures have since been relaxed.

A review of the fire zones for Otago will see them aligned with territorial authorities and regional group management. The intention is to create subzones which reflect the climatic conditions and fire risks in an area. Recommendations for 365 day fire rescriptions are being made for Orokonui and Glendu Bluffs.

District teams responded to the Awarua incident and the collaboration between FENZ, DOC and local iwi was highly effective. A debrief will note the lessons learned particularly around the effectiveness of the collaboration.

Local Insights Report

The National Manager LAC provided the Committee with a reminder of where the annual local Insights Report sits within the LAC Advisory Framework and how the reporting process will work.

The Committee addressed the Board's priorities and raised three other issues for consideration.

Notes were taken of the discussion by the NLAC team and a draft Insights Report will be provided to the Committee at the next meeting for review and further discussion at its next meeting.

Volunteer attraction – Surge Project

Jono Ashman and Ryley Webster from National Headquarters outlined the Volunteer Attraction Surge Project, which aims to provide targeted volunteer recruitment support for brigades that have been recently impacted, particularly by the Mandatory Vaccination policy.

The Committee encouraged working with regional teams to avoid duplicating promotion. Strategies should be used to attract a wide range of community groups including identifying the benefits for these groups in volunteering. Brigades need to be open to different cultures and accommodating of the requirements of these cultures. Developing understanding of why volunteers leave brigades by improving the exit interview strategy might provide insights into issues that can be addressed.

The Committee noted that this type of session is valuable.

Engagement report back

A very successful community engagement is underway to respond to public concerns about a fire ban. The engagement has involved FENZ personnel meeting with members of the community, and local print and social media. The success was attributed to the considered response of FENZ personnel and the support of local community groups working with an LAC member.

Better understanding of FENZ's role amongst students living in North Dunedin is needed to prevent unnecessary callouts. LAC members will take the opportunity to work with Otago University to raise awareness.

The live streaming of a serious road incident in Invercargill involving young people was discussed. The Committee agreed to support the development of proposal for an amendment to the Harmful Digital Communications Act which can be put to the Board for their support.

An LAC member has identified a number of fire safety risks in and around the town of St Bathans including, wilding pines, the age and proximity of older buildings and an increasing amount of new development. The risks were noted by the District Manager. Housing is also being built near Twizel which the District Manager requested more information about.

Engagement planning workshop

An engagement planning workshop is scheduled for the Committee's next meeting which will allow the Committee to reflect on successful engagement to date and focus planned activity. Fire and Emergency's Statement of Performance Expectations, the regional business plan matrix and the Board's priorities will be considered in relation to developing an engagement plan for the upcoming year.

Board report

The Committee discussed and agreed the content of its quarterly report to the Board.

The meeting closed at 1:15pm with a karakia from the Chair.

Action Log

Date	Action	Responsible	Due	Status/Notes
14 Feb 2022	Send link to resources on the FENZ website - universal information.	District Manager	ASAP	In progress
14 Feb 2022	Send LAC tri-fold pamphlets to Megan McPherson.	National LAC Team	ASAP	Completed
14 Feb 2022	Otago LAC to be regularly updated on Community Risk Reduction work – 3-5 year horizon.	James Knapp	Ongoing	Completed
29 April 2022	Follow up with Hilary McNab about offal/rubbish hole information going on Check It and availability of station rooms for community groups.	District Manager	ASAP	In progress
29 April 2022	Provide the Committee with a proposal for an amendment to the Harmful Digital Communications Act which the Committee might put to the Board for their support.	Megan McPherson	ASAP	Completed
29 April 2022	Provide District Manager with information about the location of the settlement near Twizel.	Des Minehan	July 2022	Completed
29 April 2022	Make time available during the next meeting to workshop advice for the Board around climate change.	National LAC Team	August 2022	Completed