



Minutes

West Coast Local Advisory Committee Meeting

Date: 11 May 2022

Time: 9:00am-2:30pm

Venue: Byte Māwhera Digital Hub, Greymouth

Present:

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| Terry Donaldson | Chair |
| Andy Thompson | Deputy Chair |
| Heath Milne | Member |
| Shoshana Perchig-Gibli | Member |
| Mark Bolland | Member |

In Attendance:

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| Lucy Chamberlain | Manager, Local Advisory Committees |
| Christine Watson | Senior Advisor, Local Advisory Committees |
| Ian Fitcher | Principal Advisor, Local Advisory Committees |
| Myles Taylor | District Manager, West Coast |
| Dave Stackhouse | Acting Region Manager, Te Ihu |
| Jono Ashman | Senior Advisor, Volunteer Attraction |
| Ryley Webster | Principal Advisor, Volunteer Sustainability |
| Bob Dickson | Recovery Manager, Buller Council |
| Claire Brown | Regional Director, Emergency Management and Natural Hazards |

Apologies:

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| Mark Davies | Member |
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Welcome

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

Minutes

The minutes from the Committee's meeting on 31 January were confirmed.

Committee self-review

Committee members discussed the results of the LAC self-review survey completed in April and identified areas for improvement of the LAC's operation and engagement.

District update

The District Manager outlined work recent work on West Coast district priorities, issues and risks. Challenges include travel distances, the vulnerability of infrastructure and declining volunteer numbers due to COVID-19 pressures, changing demographics and a marked decline in some business sectors on the Coast.

He discussed the intention to upgrade Fire and Emergency's facilities and offices and the potential for co-location with other agencies in Greymouth or Hokitika.

LAC Insights Report

From information gathered through engagement over the past year, the Committee pulled together 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 collaboraton and community resilience, the Committee created a first draft of content for the West Coast section of the LAC annual Insights Report to the Board.

Community engagement

COVID-19 is still limiting face-to-face engagement with stakeholders, with case numbers recently passing their peak on the West Coast. The LAC met with the District Manager in April to assist with the identification of community risks and issues and to provide context and insights from their community knowledge and understanding.

Engagement planning

Te Rūnanga o Makaawhio have indicated that they would like to meet with the LAC towards the end of 2022, given their current engagement schedule and commitments.

In July the Committee plans to undertake engagement in South Westland. Members will meet with Fire and Emergency volunteers and businesses over two days, in conjunction with the LAC's next meeting.

Members of the LAC will attend the next quarterly meeting of the West Coast Mayors, Chairs and Iwi Group and accompany the District Manager to meetings of other emergency management agencies where appropriate.

Learnings from the Buller floods

Buller District Council's Recovery Manager, Bob Dickson, presented to the Committee on the response and particularly the recovery phases of the three major flood events over the past eight months that affected Westport and the Buller region.

The community hub set up during the response was particularly valuable, given that community groups know the needs and resources of their community best. In addition to the physical effects of the floods, the social and psychological costs of such major and repeated events need to be considered.

While the response from agencies such as Fire and Emergency, Police and the New Zealand Defence Force was prompt and efficient, the recovery phase is proving to be relatively slow and bureaucratic.

Communication during the floods was critical and could have been stronger and more consistent. Bob noted that adaptation in relation to land use and more training of Council staff are essential to build resilience and support recovery after such events for the future.

Volunteer attraction and sustainability

Jono Ashman and Ryley Webster of Fire and Emergency’s Volunteer Attraction and Volunteer Sustainability teams briefed the Committee on a Volunteer Attraction Surge Project currently under consideration. The project will provide targeted volunteer recruitment support for brigades, particularly those recently impacted by the COVID-19 vaccination mandate.

They discussed with the Committee challenges in the district with attracting and retaining volunteers, opportunities to foster future volunteers and positive ways to engage with local communities, organisations and employers. Members noted the importance of expressions of appreciation to volunteers, rather than monetary reward. They also highlighted the value of high school level involvement in volunteerism, as a pathway to long-term volunteering.

Board report

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

The meeting closed at 2:30pm.

Action Log

| Date | Action | Responsible | Due | Status/Notes |
|-------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------|------------|-------------------------------|
| 11 May 2022 | Schedule meeting with Makaawhio in Oct-Nov 2022. | Mark Davies | July 2022 | In progress |
| 11 May 2022 | Make a list of agencies for informal agency meeting with the LAC – DM to arrange the meeting. | Terry / District Manager | June 2022 | Meeting to be scheduled in Q2 |
| 11 May 2022 | Arrange a spot for FENZ/the LAC on the agenda of next Mayors, Chairs and Iwi Group meeting. | Heath / District Manager | June 2022 | Completed |
| 11 May 2022 | Confirm new date of next LAC meeting and logistics for potential meeting and engagement in South Westland. | National LAC Team | June 2022 | Completed |
| 11 May 2022 | Consider agenda item for Chairs’ Forum on agency collaboration at national level. | National LAC Team | July 2022 | Completed |