

# EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT PARTICIPANTS

The Emergency Management Bill (No 2) 2025 (EM Bill) provides for stronger recognition and participation in emergency management for: iwi and Māori; rural and other communities; disproportionately affected communities; Emergency Ambulance Services; and lead government agencies.

## Overview of new local emergency management structure

### Emergency Management Committees

Civil Defence Emergency Management (CDEM) Groups will be renamed and continue as **Emergency Management Committees** from the day after Royal assent, along with their membership and administering authorities.

The EM Bill clarifies emergency management roles and responsibilities at the local government level by dividing Emergency Management Committees into:

- **Multi-member Emergency Management Committees** and
- **Unitary Authority Emergency Management Committees**, each with specific functions.

See **information sheet 2** for information on Local Government Emergency Management Roles and Responsibilities.

See **information sheet 3** for information on Local Lines of Accountability for Emergency Management.

### Emergency Management Co-ordinating Executive Groups (CEGs)

Existing Civil Defence Emergency Management Co-ordinating Executive Groups will be renamed and continue as **Emergency Management Co-ordinating Executive Groups (CEGs)** from the day after Royal assent.

The role of the CEG stays the same as under the Civil Defence Emergency Management Act 2002 (CDEM Act) including to provide advice to, and implement decisions of, the Emergency Management Committees, and develop the Regional Emergency Management Plans.

CEGs currently include Chief Executives of the local authorities in the CDEM Group (renamed as Emergency Management Committees), and senior officials of Fire and Emergency New Zealand, New Zealand Police, and health and disability services.

**This information sheet contains information about:**

- Emergency Management Co-ordinating Executive Groups
- Role of iwi and Māori
- Role of rural and other communities
- Disproportionately affected communities
- Emergency Ambulance Services
- Lead agencies
- Essential Infrastructure Providers

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# EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT BILL (No 2) 2025

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### Summary of changes to Emergency Management Co-ordinating Executive Group membership

In addition to existing members, CEGs under the EM Bill will include:

- 1 or more people with:
  - local perspectives of Māori, Māori communities, and their interests and values, including mātauranga Māori (Māori traditional knowledge) and tikanga Māori (Māori protocol and culture), iwi, and hapū in the area, and
  - knowledge, experience, or expertise in the interests and needs of rural communities in the area, and
- the chief executive or a senior officer of an ambulance service operating in the area

Emergency Management Committees must also consider co-opting 1 or more people who have knowledge of the interests of communities related to emergency management in the area, which will assist the CEG in its role.

#### *Resources for new CEG members*

Emergency Management Committees must ensure that new permanent and co-opted members have the resources, information, and administrative support necessary to enable them to effectively perform their roles.

The provisions for new participants under the EM Bill are explained further below.

## Strengthening the role of iwi and Māori

### What's changing?

The EM Bill recognises the role iwi and Māori play in emergency management by:

- requiring Emergency Management Committees to:
  - appoint 1 or more people to the CEG with local perspectives of Māori, Māori communities, and their interests and values, including mātauranga Māori (Māori traditional knowledge) and tikanga Māori (Māori protocol and culture), iwi, and hapū in the area
  - engage with and involve representatives of iwi and Māori in the Committee's area in the development of Regional Emergency Management Plans, and
  - have regard to any comments on a proposal for a Regional Emergency Management Plan made by iwi and Māori within the Committee's area, and
- requiring the Director-General of Emergency Management (Director-General) to engage with and seek advice on Māori interests and knowledge to inform the development of the National Emergency Management Plan.

### Why the changes?

Iwi and Māori have knowledge, skills, and resources to contribute to emergency management across the 4Rs of risk reduction, readiness, response, and recovery. This is not reflected in the CDEM Act.

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The CEG appointment(s) will provide iwi and Māori with a permanent role in emergency management and ensure that their knowledge, skills, and resources are included in response and recovery planning and operations.

Engagement with iwi and Māori during the development of Regional Emergency Management Plans will drive better and consistent involvement of iwi and Māori in the emergency management system.

Requiring the Director-General to engage with and seek advice on Māori interests and knowledge during the development of the National Emergency Management Plan provides a formal mechanism for Māori interests and knowledge to be considered at the national level. It also supports the Māori-Crown relationship established under the Treaty of Waitangi/Te Tiriti o Waitangi.

### Who is affected?

Locally, all Emergency Management Committees and CEGs, local Māori communities, and representatives of iwi and Māori.

Nationally, the Director-General Emergency Management and representatives of iwi and Māori.

### When is this happening?

#### At the local level

New members on CEGs must be in place 12 months after Royal assent.

Provisions to engage with and involve representatives of iwi and Māori in the development of Regional Emergency Management Plans, and have regard to their comments, come into force the day after Royal assent.

Note: A Civil Defence Emergency Management (CDEM) Group Plan in place before the EM Bill comes into force will continue as if it has met the planning requirements in the EM Bill until its five-year time period expires (but will be renamed a Regional Emergency Management Plan). If, before the EM Bill comes into force, a CDEM Group has publicly notified that it proposes to review its Group Plan, the review will continue to progress under the CDEM Act provisions.

#### At the national level

The provision to engage with and seek advice on Māori interests and knowledge during the development of the National Emergency Management Plan comes into force the day after Royal assent.

Note: The current National CDEM Plan will continue in place after the EM Bill comes into force, until a new National Emergency Management Plan is approved by the Governor-General. If a review of the current National CDEM Plan is publicly notified before the EM Bill comes into force, it will progress under the CDEM Act provisions. If a review is not publicly notified before the EM Bill comes into force, the Minister for Emergency Management and Recovery has up to 2 years to start and complete the review under the EM Bill provisions.

## Strengthening the role of rural communities

### What's changing?

The EM Bill requires Emergency Management Committees to appoint to the CEG 1 or more people with knowledge, experience, or expertise in the interests and needs of rural communities in the area.

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### Why the changes?

Rural communities have strong local networks, people and equipment to support response and recovery efforts, while also often being disproportionately affected by emergencies. This change will ensure the contributions and experience of rural communities are included in response and recovery planning and operations through the CEG.

### Who is affected?

Emergency Management Committees appointing new members to the CEG

Rural community representatives who wish to be involved in emergency management in their area.

### When is this happening?

New members on CEGs must be in place 12 months after Royal assent.

## Strengthening the role of the community

### What's changing?

The EM Bill ensures that the contributions of local communities are recognised by:

- requiring Emergency Management Committees to consider co-opting to the CEG 1 or more people who have knowledge of the interests of communities related to emergency management in the area, which will assist the CEG in its role, and
- requiring Regional Emergency Management Plans to include arrangements for how offers of assistance with emergency management from individuals and groups will be managed during an emergency.

### Why the changes?

Many people and community groups wish to contribute their skills, information, and other resources during and after an emergency. Requiring Emergency Management Committees to consider co-opting community members on CEG recognises the networks, skills, and local knowledge within communities.

Planning for how offers of assistance from the community will be managed in an emergency means that known resources can be called upon immediately, and this will enable the community to be useful and involved in a planned way in the response and recovery effort.

### Who is affected?

Emergency Management Committees appointing new members to the CEG and developing Regional Emergency Management Plans.

Anyone in the community wishing to contribute to emergency management in their area.

### When is this happening?

Emergency Management Committees must consider whether to co-opt members onto CEGs in time for such appointments to be in place 12 months after the EM Bill receives Royal assent.

The provision for Regional Emergency Management Plans to address how offers of assistance from people and communities will be managed in an emergency comes into force 12 months after Royal assent. After that time, the requirement will apply when an Emergency Management Committee begins developing its Plan under the new Act.

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Note: A CDEM Group Plan in place before the EM Bill comes into force will continue as if it has met the planning requirements in the EM Bill until its five-year time period expires (but will be renamed a Regional Emergency Management Plan). If, before the EM Bill comes into force, a CDEM Group has publicly notified that it proposes to review its Group Plan, the review will continue to progress under the CDEM Act provisions.

## Disproportionately affected communities

### What's changing?

The EM Bill requires Emergency Management Committees to:

- engage with representatives of disproportionately affected communities in their area when developing their Regional Emergency Management Plans, and
- include arrangements for meeting the needs of disproportionately affected communities in their area in their Regional Emergency Management Plans.

The EM Bill also requires the Director-General to engage with national representatives of disproportionately affected communities to inform the development of the National Emergency Management Plan.

### Why the changes?

Planning for the needs of disproportionately affected communities is not explicitly required under the CDEM Act.

Emergencies disproportionately affect some population groups because they have existing vulnerabilities or specific needs or live in places that are more exposed to hazards. These groups may include:

- disabled people
- rural communities
- culturally and linguistically diverse communities
- seniors and children, and
- those experiencing socio-economic deprivation or isolation.

The outcomes for such communities often depend on their connectedness with their wider communities or representative groups, and whether their representative groups have information and resources to support them effectively. This change will ensure that the needs of such communities are considered in national and local planning.

### Who is affected?

Representatives and individuals at the local and national level of disproportionately affected communities.

Emergency Management Committees developing Regional Emergency Management Plans.

The Director-General of Emergency Management developing the National Emergency Management Plan.

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### When is this happening?

#### At the regional level

The requirement to include arrangements for meeting the needs of disproportionately communities in Regional Emergency Management Plans comes into force 12 months after Royal assent. After that time, the provision will apply when an Emergency Management Committee begins developing a Regional Emergency Management Plan under the new Act.

The requirement for an Emergency Management Committee to engage with representatives of disproportionately affected communities when developing its plan comes into force the day after Royal assent. This provision will apply when an Emergency Management Committee begins developing a Regional Emergency Management Plan under the new Act, including if this happens within the first 12 months after Royal assent.

Note: A CDEM Group Plan in place before the EM Bill comes into force will continue as if it has met the planning requirements in the EM Bill until its five-year time period expires (but will be renamed a Regional Emergency Management Plan). If, before the EM Bill comes into force, a CDEM Group has publicly notified that it proposes to review its Group Plan, the review will continue to progress under the CDEM Act provisions.

#### At the national level

The requirement for the Director-General to engage with national representatives of disproportionately affected communities to inform the development of the National Emergency Management Plan comes into force the day after Royal assent.

Note: The current National CDEM Plan will continue in place after the EM Bill comes into force, until a new National Emergency Management Plan is approved by the Governor-General. If a review of the current National CDEM Plan is publicly notified before the EM Bill comes into force, it will progress under the CDEM Act provisions. If a review is not publicly notified before the EM Bill comes into force, the Minister for Emergency Management and Recovery has up to 2 years to start and complete the review under the EM Bill provisions.

## Emergency ambulance services

### What's changing?

The membership of each CEG must include the chief executive or a senior officer of an ambulance service operating in the area. The Minister will identify which organisations are emergency ambulance services in the *New Zealand Gazette*.

### Why the changes?

The EM Bill recognises ambulance services as a core emergency service in the same way as police and fire services are. This change will ensure ambulance services are fully integrated into emergency response and recovery planning and operations through the CEG.

### When is this happening?

New members on CEGs must be in place 12 months after Royal assent. Emergency ambulance services will be identified and published in the *New Zealand Gazette* before this.

## Summary of changes to emergency management participants

The attached diagram shows changes that the EM Bill makes to roles at the national and local government levels.

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### Lead agencies

#### What's changing?

The EM Bill enables a government agency to be identified as a lead agency in the National Emergency Management Plan, in respect of emergencies caused or contributed to by a particular hazard.

The lead agency has the primary responsibility for managing the response to an emergency relating to that hazard, whether or not it is subject to a state of emergency. The lead agency responsibilities can be temporarily transferred to another government agency or to an Emergency Management Committee with the agreement of the agency or Committee receiving the transfer of responsibility.

#### Why the changes?

Clarifying who will lead emergencies at the national level will improve certainty and accountability before, during, and after emergencies. Identifying lead agencies in the National Emergency Management Plan provides flexibility for responding to future organisational changes.

#### When is this happening?

This provision comes into force by Order in Council or no later than 2 years after Royal assent.

### Essential Infrastructure Providers

#### What's changing?

Entities that were known as 'lifeline utilities' under the CDEM Act are now known as "essential infrastructure providers" (EIPs) under the EM Bill. EIPs are entities whose infrastructure provides services that support basic human needs and underpin the normal functioning of society.

The EM Bill provides a clearer definition of EIPs and their functions and introduces a principles-based approach to recognising new EIPs in Schedule 3. The EM Bill enables regulations to be made for more detailed planning requirements to apply to all or specific classes of EIPs.

See **information sheet 7** for further information on Essential Infrastructure Providers

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### Key terms | Ngā kupu hira

<b>Royal assent</b>	The date when a Bill is signed by the Governor-General and becomes law (typically the next working day after it receives Royal assent).
<b>Emergency Management Committee</b>	A group of local authority elected representatives who lead emergency management in their areas, including making declarations.
<b>Emergency Management Co-ordinating Executive Group (CEG)</b>	A CEG is a group of senior officials who co-ordinate and support the work of an Emergency Management Committee. It performs the same role under the Emergency Management Bill as it did under the Civil Defence Emergency Management Act 2002.
<b>Order in Council</b>	A legal instrument made by the Governor-General on the advice of the Executive Council to implement government decisions or regulations.

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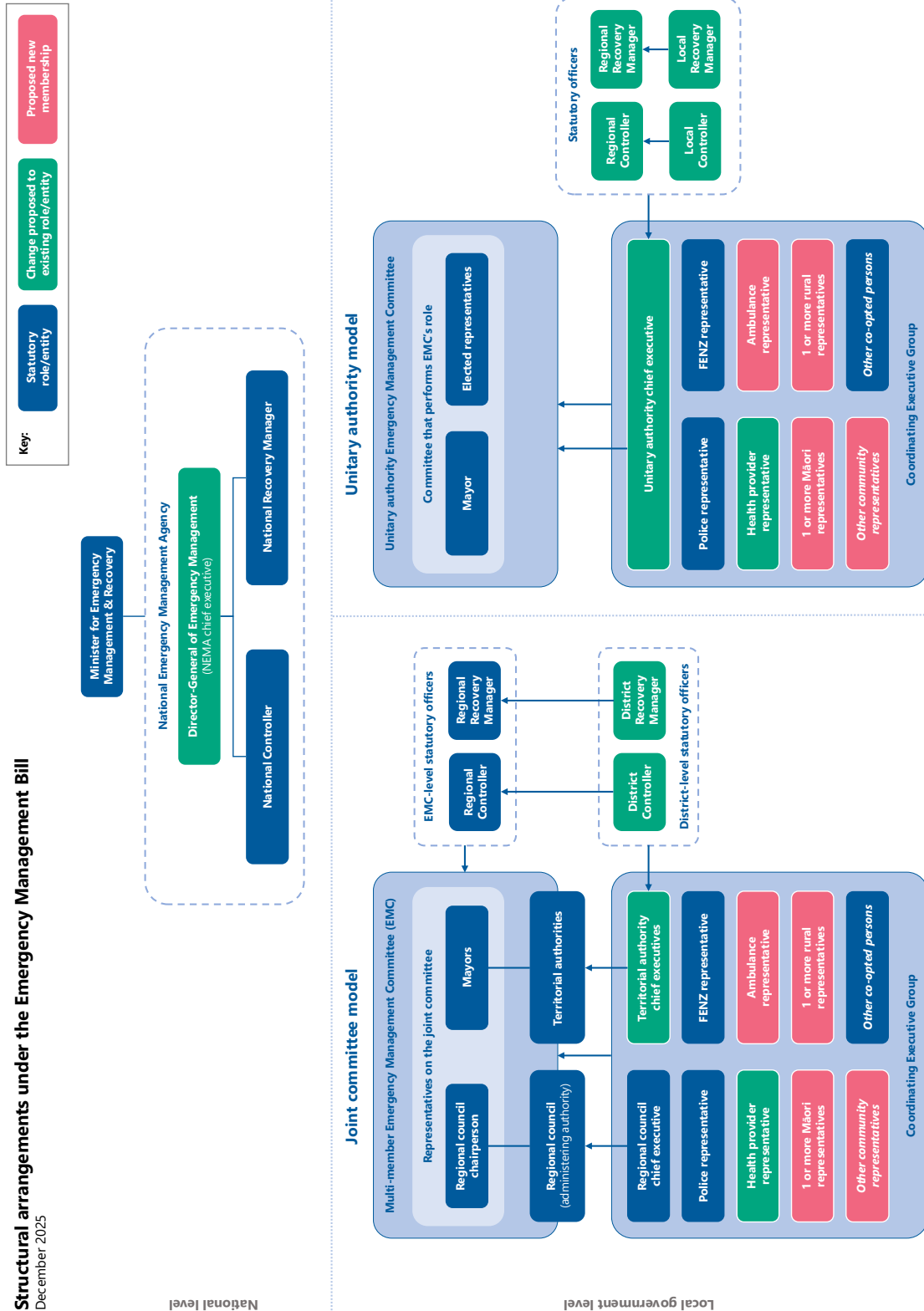
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### Structural arrangements under the Emergency Management Bill

December 2025



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