

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

Not Government policy

The Select Committee reported back on the Emergency Management Bill (No 2) to Parliament on 5 June 2026 and made recommendations to amend the Bill as introduced to Parliament in December 2025. Please refer to the information section on the [Emergency Management Bill \(No 2\)](#) on Parliament's website for complete information about the Select Committee's recommendations.

The Select Committee's recommendations are not Government policy. Parliament has not yet considered or agreed to the Select Committee's recommendations and will do so when the Bill is read for a second time for which a date has not been set. The reported-back version of the Bill can, however, be treated as the current version. When the Bill is read for a second time, Parliament may agree to all, some or none of the Select Committee's recommendations. There may also be further amendments to the Bill not in the Select Committee's recommendations.

This information sheet summarises key provisions in the Bill as reported back by Select Committee which are different from the Civil Defence Emergency Management Act 2002 (which the Bill would replace, if enacted). This information should not be relied on as definitive guidance on the requirements of the Bill once enacted and readers will need to consider the Bill once enacted. This information should not be relied on as legal advice.

This information sheet summarises key differences between provisions for **Emergency Management Committees** in the Emergency Management Bill (No 2) as reported back by Select Committee (EM Bill) and the Civil Defence Emergency Management Act 2002 (CDEM Act). Many provisions in the EM Bill are the same or similar to those in the CDEM Act and these are not covered here.

Further information sheets related to other topics and roles under the EM Bill can be found at www.civildefence.govt.nz.

Information about:

- Multi-member Emergency Management Committees
- Unitary Authority Emergency Management Committees
- Local Authority members of Multi-member Emergency Management Committees

Emergency Management Committees

See **Role Information Sheet C: Multi-member Emergency Management Committees** and **Role Information Sheet D: Unitary Authority Emergency Management Committees**.

Many emergency management responsibilities are devolved to local government. Under the EM Bill, **Emergency Management Committees (EMC)** made up of elected local authority representatives govern emergency management at the local government level. Civil Defence Emergency Management (CDEM) Groups will be renamed and continue as EMC from the day after Royal assent, along with their members and administering authority.

The EM Bill creates new functions for the EMC and revises existing functions to:

- have a greater focus on their responsibilities for local hazard and risk management
- raise public awareness of, and provide for community consultation on, local hazards and risks, and
- emphasise the need for pre-emergency recovery planning.

Emergency Management Bill (No 2) as reported back from Select Committee

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What will be different if the EM Bill is enacted?

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

- Multi-member EMC made up of more than one local authority in a region, each represented by a mayor or regional council chairperson, or
- Unitary Authority EMC made up of a single unitary authority.

This reflects the different local government organisations that may be established under the Local Government Act 2002 as set out below.

Local authority refers to both regional councils and territorial authorities.

Territorial authority refers to district councils which include unitary authorities, and city councils (but does not include regional councils).

Unitary authority refers to territorial authorities who also have regional council functions.

Each type of EMC now has specific functions. The functions of the Multi-member EMC and its individual local authority members are also clearly defined and separated.

Why does the EM Bill provide for this?

Under the CDEM Act, the arrangements for CDEM Groups are not always clear and complete. For example, CDEM Groups have the same functions as their local authority members which leads to ambiguity about their respective responsibilities.

The EM Bill sets out the different roles, responsibilities, and procedural arrangements for the two types of EMC where needed; and clarifies overlapping roles and responsibilities. This will enable local authorities to understand and fulfil their distinct emergency management functions, as well as contribute to the activities of the EMC.

When is this happening?

These provisions come into force the day after Royal assent.

Multi-member Emergency Management Committees

What is a Multi-member Emergency Management Committee?

A Multi-member EMC may consist of:

- A regional council and the territorial authorities within the same region.
- A unitary authority together with 1 or more other unitary authorities whose districts border the unitary authority.
- A unitary authority together with a regional council whose region borders that of the unitary authority and the territorial authorities within that region.

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Functions of Multi-member Emergency Management Committees and their local authority members

The following table sets out the functions of the **Multi-member EMC within its area**, and the role of each **local authority member of the Multi-member EMC** within its region or district. It shows where provisions are new, changed, the same or similar, or have been removed compared to the CDEM Act.

➤ New	❖ Changed	● Same or similar	●— Removed
Functions of the Multi-member EMC within its area	Role of local authority members of Multi-member EMC within their region or district		
		●	●
	❖ Take the lead in identifying and assessing hazards and risks. ➤ Co-ordinate the management of hazards and risks.	●	●
●	Identify and implement cost-effective risk reduction.	❖	Identify how to reduce risks and implement cost-effective risk reduction.
➤	Assist each local authority EMC member to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Identify and assess hazards and risks relevant to that member. ○ Consult and communicate with communities within the member’s region or district about those hazards and risks. 	➤	Report to the EMC on the identification and assessment of hazards and risks. ● Consult and communicate with communities about identified hazards and risks.
❖	Ensure suitably trained and competent personnel, including volunteers, are available, and have an appropriate organisation structure for them.	❖	Arrange for the provision of suitably trained and competent personnel, including volunteers and have an appropriate organisation structure for them.
●—	Take all steps necessary or desirable to maintain and provide, or to arrange the provision of, or otherwise, to make available, material, services, information, and any other resources for effective emergency management.	❖	Take all steps necessary or desirable to maintain and provide, or to arrange the provision of, or otherwise, to make available, material, services, information, and any other resources for effective emergency management.
●	Respond to and manage the adverse effects of emergencies.	●	Respond to and manage the adverse effects of emergencies.
❖	In advance of an emergency, plan for recovery activities.	❖	In advance of an emergency, plan for recovery activities.
❖	In the event of an emergency, carry out recovery activities.	❖	In the event of an emergency, carry out recovery activities.
●	When requested, assist other EMC with emergency management in their areas.	❖	When requested, assist other local authorities with emergency management in their regions or districts as appropriate

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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Promote and raise public awareness of, and compliance with, the EM Bill, and legislative provisions relevant to the EM Bill, including in legislation listed in *Schedule 2 of the Bill. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Promote and raise public awareness of, and compliance with, the EM Bill, and legislative provisions relevant to the Bill, including in legislation listed in *Schedule 2 of the Bill.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Monitor and report on compliance with the EM Bill and legislative provisions relevant to the purpose of the Bill, including in legislation listed in *Schedule 2 of the Bill. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Monitor and report to the EMC on compliance with the EM Bill and legislative provisions relevant to the purpose of the Bill, including in legislation listed in *Schedule 2 of the Bill.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop, approve, implement, and monitor a Regional Emergency Management Plan and regularly review the Plan. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Assist with developing and reviewing the Regional Emergency Management Plan and implement the relevant aspects of the Plan.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Participate in the development of the National Emergency Management Strategy and the National Emergency Management Plan. Promote emergency management consistent with the purpose of the EM Bill. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Participate in the development of the National Emergency Management Strategy and the National Emergency Management Plan. Promote emergency management consistent with the purpose of the EM Bill.

***Note:** Schedule 2 is a non-comprehensive list of legislation relevant to emergency management. The EM Bill adds the Climate Change Response Act 2002, Land Drainage Act 1908, Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987, and Soil Conservation and Rivers Control Act 1941.

Unitary Authority Emergency Management Committees

What is a Unitary Authority Emergency Management Committee?

A Unitary Authority EMC is made up of a single unitary authority (which is a territorial authority with regional council functions, as defined in the Local Government Act).

Functions of Unitary Authority Emergency Management Committees

The following table sets out the functions of the **Unitary Authority EMC** within its area. It shows where functions are new, changed, or the same, from CDEM Group functions under the CDEM Act.

❖ Changed	Same or similar
<p>Functions of the Unitary Authority Emergency Management Committee within its area</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Plan and provide for emergency management (currently a duty of local authorities). Identify and assess hazards and risks. Manage hazards and risks. Identify and implement cost-effective risk reduction. Consult and communicate with communities in their area about identified hazards and risks. Ensure suitably trained and competent personnel, including volunteers, are available, and have an appropriate organisation structure for them. Take all steps necessary or desirable to maintain and provide, or to arrange the provision of, or 	

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otherwise, to make available, material, services, information, and any other resources for effective emergency management.

- Respond to and manage the adverse effects of emergencies.
- ❖ In advance of an emergency, plan for recovery activities.
- ❖ In the event of an emergency, carry out recovery activities.
- When requested, assist other EMC with emergency management in their areas.
- Promote and raise public awareness of, and compliance with, the EM Bill and legislative provisions relevant to the purpose of the Bill, including in legislation listed in ***Schedule 2** of the Bill.
- Monitor and report on compliance with the EM Bill and legislative provisions relevant to the purpose of the Bill, including in legislation listed in ***Schedule 2** of the Bill.
- Develop, approve, implement, and monitor a Regional Emergency Management Plan and regularly review the plan.
- Participate in the development of the National Emergency Management Strategy and the National Emergency Management Plan.
- Promote emergency management consistent with the purpose of the EM Bill.

***Note:** Schedule 2 is a non-comprehensive list of legislation relevant to emergency management. The EM Bill adds the Climate Change Response Act 2002, Land Drainage Act 1908, Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987, and Soil Conservation and Rivers Control Act 1941.

Emergency Management Committees must consider meeting emergency management responsibilities through activities under other legislation

What will be different if the EM Bill is enacted?

The EM Bill requires local authorities and EMC to actively consider if they can meet their responsibilities and duties under the EM Act (fully or partially) by the relevant local authority carrying out its functions, duties or powers under relevant legislation. This was possible under the CDEM Act; however, the EM Bill goes further by stating this and creating a duty for EMC and local authorities to consider meeting their responsibilities in this way.

Why does the EM Bill provide for this?

These provisions reduce uncertainty about how local government emergency management functions and duties relate to hazard risk management responsibilities under other legislation and will support complementary hazard risk management across different legislative regimes.

When is this happening?

These provisions will come into effect the day after Royal assent.

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Appointing associate members to Multi-member Emergency Management Committees

How will things be different if the EM Bill is enacted?

The EM Bill enables a Multi-member EMC to (optionally) appoint associate members to the EMC who are not an elected member of a local authority and who the EMC considers has the skills, attributes, or knowledge that will assist in their work. Under the CDEM Act, CDEM Groups who are Unitary Authorities could already do this (as a committee appointed under Schedule 7 of the Local Government Act) which has also been carried over into the EM Bill.

Elected members would still be accountable to their communities, may choose not to have associate members and may dismiss, suspend, or replace associate members.

Associate members of Multi-member EMC will **not**:

- be eligible to be appointed as chairperson or deputy chairperson of the EMC
- be eligible to be an ‘appointed person’ for the purpose of making emergency declarations, or to make emergency declarations in any circumstances
- enter into contracts on behalf of EMC for any of the purposes of the EM Bill, or
- vote in relation to the exercise of emergency powers of the multi-member EMC.

Associate members of multi-member EMC **will** be eligible for remuneration by the EMC.

Why does the EM Bill provide for this?

This aligns Multi-member EMC provisions with existing Unitary Authority EMC provisions. Multi-member EMC will also have flexibility to have people with particular expertise, skills, attributes and knowledge, without detracting from elected members representing and being accountable to their constituents.

When is this happening?

These provisions will come into effect the day after Royal assent.

Emergency Management Committee administrative processes

Chairpersons and deputy chairpersons

Each Multi-member EMC may appoint a representative of its local authority members to act as chairperson and a deputy chairperson.

Chairpersons and deputy chairpersons of Unitary Authority EMC are to be appointed under clause 26, Schedule 7 of the Local Government Act.

Standing Orders

Multi-member EMC meetings must follow the standing orders adopted under clause 27 of Schedule 7 of the Local Government Act by the local authority that is the EMC’s administering authority.

Unitary Authority EMC will follow the standing orders adopted by the unitary authority for the conduct of its meetings and those of its committees.

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Meeting attendance

Members will be able to attend EMC meetings in person or by audio or audiovisual links.

When is this happening?

All the above changes will come into force the day after Royal assent.

Managing offshore islands

How will things be different if the EM Bill is enacted?

The EM Bill requires the Minister of Local Government to identify offshore islands that require emergency management under the EM Bill and assign an EMC to have joint responsibility with that Minister for each of the island's emergency management. That Minister and EMC will then be required to enter an agreement detailing how their joint functions will be carried out.

Why does the EM Bill provide for this?

Under the Local Government Act, the Minister of Local Government is the territorial authority for any part of New Zealand that is not already part of a territorial authority's district. This includes 11 named offshore islands. There is currently legislative ambiguity about how the Minister of Local Government's emergency management functions relate to those of regional councils and CDEM Groups, which also have emergency management responsibilities in respect of offshore islands.

When is this happening?

These provisions will come into effect the day after Royal assent.

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