



# LOCAL GOVERNMENT EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

The Emergency Management Bill (No 2) 2025 (EM Bill) provides clarity of local authority roles and responsibilities in the emergency management system; both as members of Emergency Management Committees and as individual organisations.

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

**This information sheet contains information about:**

- Multi-Member Emergency Management Committees
- Unitary Authority Emergency Management Committees
- Emergency Management Co-ordinating Executive Groups

## 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 creates new functions for the Committees 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-event recovery planning.

### What's changing?

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.

The EM Bill also clearly defines and separates the functions of the Multi-member Emergency Management Committee and its individual local authority members.

### Why the changes?

Under the Civil Defence Emergency Management Act 2002 (CDEM Act), the arrangements for CDEM Groups are not always clear and complete. Also CDEM Groups have the same functions as their local authority members which leads to ambiguity about their respective responsibilities.

The changes set out the different roles, responsibilities, and procedural arrangements for the two types of Emergency Management Committees 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 contributing to the activities of the Emergency Management Committees.

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### Multi-member Emergency Management Committees

#### What is a Multi-member Emergency Management Committee?

A Multi-member Emergency Management Committee 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.

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

The following table sets out the functions of the **Multi-Member Emergency Management Committees within its area**, and the functions of each **local authority member of the Multi-member Emergency Management Committees** within its region or district. It shows where functions are new, changed, the same, or have been removed, from CDEM Group functions under the CDEM Act.

- **New function**    ❖ **Changed function**    • **Same function**    ● **Removed function**

Functions of the <b>Multi-Member Emergency Management Committee</b> within its area	Functions of the <b>local authority members of Multi-member Emergency Management Committees</b> within their region or district
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Take the lead in identifying and assessing hazards and risks.</li> <li>➤ Co-ordinate the management of hazards and risks.</li> <li>• Identify and implement cost-effective risk reduction.</li> </ul> <p>Assist each local authority Committee member to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Identify and assess hazards and risks relevant to that member.</li> <li>➤ Consult and communicate with communities within the member’s region or district about those hazards and risks.</li> <li>❖ Ensure suitably trained and competent personnel, including volunteers, are available, and have an appropriate organisation structure for them.</li> <li>● <del>Take all steps necessary or desirable to maintain and provide, or to arrange the provision of, or otherwise, to make available,</del></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Plan and provide for emergency management (currently a duty of local authorities).</li> <li>• Identify and assess hazards and risks.</li> <li>• Manage hazards and risks.</li> <li>❖ Identify how to reduce risks and implement cost-effective risk reduction.</li> <li>➤ Report to the Emergency Management Committee on the identification and assessment of hazards and risks (new).</li> <li>➤ Consult and communicate with communities about identified hazards and risks.</li> <li>❖ Arrange for the provision of suitably trained and competent personnel, including volunteers and have an appropriate organisation structure for them.</li> <li>❖ Take all steps necessary or desirable to maintain and provide, or to arrange the provision of, or otherwise, to make</li> </ul>

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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 Emergency Management Committees with emergency management in their areas (changed).
- 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.
- 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.

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 local authorities with emergency management in their regions or districts as appropriate (changed).
- 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.
- ❖ Monitor and report to the Committee 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 (changed).
- ❖ Assist with developing and reviewing the Regional Emergency Management Plan and implement the relevant aspects of the Plan (changed).
- 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 in the EM Bill includes [the Climate Change Response Act 2002 \(new\)](#).

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### Unitary Authority Emergency Management Committees

#### What is a Unitary Authority Emergency Management Committee?

A single unitary authority (which is a territorial authority with regional council functions, as defined in the Local Government Act 2002).

#### Functions of Unitary Authority Emergency Management Committees

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

- **New function**    ❖ **Changed function**    • **Same function**

#### Functions of the **Unitary Authority Emergency Management Committee** within its area

- **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 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 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 local authorities 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 in the EM Bill includes [the Climate Change Response Act 2002 \(new\)](#).

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### Changes to delegations and administrative processes for Emergency Management Committees

#### Delegations

Emergency Management Committees will be able to delegate their functions or powers to Regional Recovery Managers, in addition to Committee members and Regional Controllers.

#### Chairperson

Each Multi-member Emergency Management Committee may appoint one of its member representatives to act as chairperson.

Chairpersons of Unitary Authority Emergency Management Committees are to be appointed under clause 26, Schedule 7 of the Local Government Act 2002.

#### Standing Orders

Multi-member Emergency Management Committee meetings must follow the standing orders adopted under clause 27 of Schedule 7 of the Local Government Act 2002 by the local authority that is the Committee's administering authority.

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

#### Meeting attendance

Representatives of Emergency Management Committee members will be able to attend meetings in person or by audio or audiovisual links.

### When is this happening?

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

### Emergency Management Co-ordinating Executive Groups

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

The role of the Emergency Management Co-ordinating Executive Groups is the same as that of the Co-ordinating Executive Groups under the CDEM Act, including to provide advice to, and implement decisions of, the Emergency Management Committees and develop the Regional Emergency Management Plans.

See **information sheet 1** Emergency Management Participants for information on new Emergency Management Co-ordinating Executive Groups members.

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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.

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