

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT COORDINATING EXECUTIVE GROUPS

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. 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 functions, powers and duties in the Emergency Management Bill (No 2) as reported back by Select Committee (EM Bill) relating to **Emergency Management Coordinating Executive Groups (CEG)**. This includes provisions carried over from the Civil Defence Emergency Management Act 2002 (CDEM Act) which the EM Bill will replace, if enacted, as well as new provisions introduced by the Bill. This information may not cover all relevant information related to this role. Readers should refer to the [Emergency Management Bill \(No 2\)](#) as reported back for complete information about what the Bill provides for and requires.

Further information sheets related to other roles under the EM Bill and key differences with the CDEM Act can be found at www.civildefence.govt.nz.

See **Topic Information Sheet 2: Emergency Management Committee roles and responsibilities** and **Topic Information Sheet 8: Planning**

Coordinating Executive Groups support their Emergency Management Committees

Many emergency management responsibilities are devolved to local government. Under the EM Bill, CEG support their Emergency Management Committees (EMC) who govern emergency management at the local government level. An EMC is either a:

- 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 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 includes unitary authorities), and city councils (but does not include regional councils).

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

Appointments to the Co-ordinating Executive Group

Each EMC must appoint and maintain a CEG which includes:

- the chief executive (or a person acting on their behalf) of:
 - each local authority member of the EMC, in the case of a multi-member EMC, or
 - the unitary authority, in the case of a unitary authority EMC
- a senior Police employee, assigned by the Commissioner of Police
- a senior employee, volunteer, or contractor of Fire and Emergency New Zealand, assigned by the board of Fire and Emergency New Zealand
- the chief executive or a senior officer of an emergency ambulance service operating in the area (the Minister for Emergency Management and Recovery (the Minister) will identify emergency ambulance service organisations)
- the chief executive or a senior member of a provider of health and disability services operating in the area
- one or more people with understanding of local perspectives of Māori and Māori communities in the area (including iwi and hapū, but not necessarily representing a particular iwi or hapū); and their interests and values, including mātauranga Māori (Māori traditional knowledge) and tikanga Māori (Māori protocol and culture), and
- one or more people with knowledge, experience, or expertise in the interests and needs of rural communities in the area.

Each EMC must also consider co-opting to the CEG one or more people who have knowledge of the interests of communities related to emergency management in the area, which will assist the CEG to fulfil its role.

The EMC must ensure that any members appointed relating to those with knowledge of Māori communities, rural communities, and interests of communities (as above) have the resources, information, and administrative support necessary to enable them to effectively perform their roles.

An EMC may also co-opt any other person to the CEG and support them as they see fit.

Role of the Co-ordinating Executive Group

The CEG's role is to:

- provide advice to the EMC and any subgroups or subcommittees
- implement, as appropriate, the decisions of the EMC, and
- oversee the implementation, development, maintenance, monitoring, and evaluation of the regional emergency management plan (Regional Plan).

Regional emergency management planning

A key role of the CEG is to oversee the Regional Plan which each EMC must prepare and approve. The Regional Plan is key tool for managing emergency management in the area.

Purpose of the Regional Emergency Management Plan

Key matters that a Regional Plan must state and provide for are the:

- hazards and risks to be managed, the emergency management necessary to manage those hazards and risks, and the strategic planning for recovery from those hazards and risks

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

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- objectives of the Plan and the relationship of each objective to the national emergency management strategy (National Strategy)
- apportionment between local authorities of financial and other resources for the activities of the EMC, and
- arrangements for:
 - declaring a state of local emergency and a local transition period
 - co-operation and co-ordination with other EMC
 - the needs of any community in the area that the EMC considers to be a disproportionately affected community in an emergency
 - how offers of assistance with emergency management from individuals and groups will be managed during an emergency, and
 - managing animals (including pets, working animals, livestock, and wildlife) during an emergency.

'Disproportionately affected communities' are defined in the EM Bill to mean a community that, if an emergency occurs:

- will or is likely to be significantly more affected by the emergency than other communities, and
- because it is significantly more affected, will or is likely to have increased vulnerabilities or specific needs during or after the emergency.

To provide for these matters a Regional Plan may impose duties on any person.

The Regional Plan may authorise an employee of the EMC to exercise the power to enter contracts on behalf of the EMC and may authorise a person to exercise the power to close roads and public places.

National level oversight of the Regional Plan

See **Role Information Sheet A: Minister for Emergency Management and Recovery** and **Role Information Sheet B: Director-General of Emergency Management**.

The Regional Plan must:

- be consistent with the National Strategy
- meet the requirements in any planning standards issued by the Minister, and
- take account of the any guidelines, codes, or technical standards issued by the Director-General of Emergency Management.

An EMC is also subject to the power of the Minister to direct changes to a proposed Regional Plan and direct a review of the Regional Plan.

Regional emergency management plan review

The EMC must review and decide to amend replace or retain its Regional Plan every five years. It can also review the Plan at any time. In developing the Regional Plan, the EMC must:

- engage with and involve representatives of any community in the area that the EMC considers is likely to be a disproportionately affected community in an emergency in the area
- engage with and involve representatives of iwi and Māori in the area
- consult people and agencies who would have roles and responsibilities under the proposed Plan

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- publicly notify the proposed Plan and notify representatives of iwi and Māori within the area and any other person or group the EMC considers appropriate, and invite submissions, and
- provide the proposed Plan to the Minister for the Minister's comments and any direction the Minister may wish to make to amend the Plan.

In making the Regional Plan, the EMC must also have regard to:

- the responsibility of people and communities to provide for their own well-being and the well-being of future generations
- the benefits to be derived for people and communities from the management of hazards and risks, and
- New Zealand's international obligations (to the extent relevant).

The EMC may make targeted amendments that are limited in scope and impact without a full review of the Regional Plan, after undertaking consultation in accordance with the principles of consultation under section 82 of the Local Government Act; and may make minor amendments that would not affect the rights and obligations of anyone without a full review of the Plan.

Implementing the regional emergency management plan

See *Role Information Sheet F: Chief executives of local authorities*

Each CEG member is expected to use relevant legislation and resources they have to ensure implement the Regional Plan. In particular, the EM Bill amends the Local Government Act to require a local authority's long-term plan to set out steps to implement or progress the requirements imposed on the local authority in the relevant Regional Plan.

Role in an emergency response and recovery

The entity of the CEG itself has no specific statutory role in response and recovery but may provide advice to the CEG and implement, as appropriate, their decisions. There is flexibility in the EM Bill for the CEG to contribute to decision making in emergency response and recovery, as the EMC sees fit.

Civil liability protection

A member of the CEG is protected from liability in civil proceedings for any act they do or omit to do when performing or exercising in good faith their functions, duties or powers under the EM Bill, if:

- they are acting directly or indirectly in relation to a state of emergency or transition period; or
- they consider that an imminent threat of an emergency exists and intend their actions to be precautionary or preventive to lessen the impact of the emergency.

This includes situations where the EMC may be acting under the direction of someone else who is performing or exercising a function, duty, or power under the EM Bill, for example, the Minister.

The above protections do not apply to actions taken or not taken in bad faith or gross negligence.

Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act

The chief executive of a local authority, and any other employee of a local authority, who is a member of an CEG are statutory officers under the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987. This means that information held by them in that capacity is subject to requests for official information under that Act. However, a meeting of a CEG is not a meeting of a local authority under Part 7 of that Act.

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