



Report

To	Director CDEM	Prepared by	
From	National Recovery Manager	Date	15/06/2020
Title	Report on use of powers during national transition period given owing to the impacts of COVID-19		

Purpose

1. This report meets my obligation under section 94P of the Civil Defence Emergency Management Act 2002 (the Act) as the statutory National Recovery Manager to report to the Director Civil Defence Emergency Management on the exercise of statutory powers during the national transition period owing to the impacts of COVID-19.

Legislative requirements for reporting on national transition periods

2. Section 94P of the Act requires the National Recovery Manager provide the Director Civil Defence Emergency Management (the Director) with a report outlining the use of powers by Recovery Managers during a national transition period. This report must be received within seven (7) days of the end of that transition period.
3. This requirement was put in place to provide a level of transparency on the use of transition period powers given they are generally in place longer than state of emergency powers.

COVID-19

3. COVID-19 has been an unprecedented event globally, with significant impacts for all communities in New Zealand, particularly as the country has pursued an ambitious strategy to eliminate the disease.
4. During the COVID-19 response, Civil Defence Emergency Management (CDEM) Groups have been responsible for the coordination of the response effort at regional/local levels and including emergency welfare assistance to people in need in their communities.

National transition period

5. At 12.21pm on 25 March 2020 a State of National Emergency was declared for the whole of New Zealand due to the impacts of COVID-19. At 12.21pm Wednesday 13 May the State of National Emergency expired and a National Transition Period immediately came into force across the whole of New Zealand under section 94A of

the Act. The national transition period was put in place to provide for continued national level coordination and leadership of civil defence emergency management activities.

6. The national transition period was terminated by the Minister of Civil Defence at 1.53pm on 8 June 2020 and was in place for a total of 27 days. The end of this national transition period does not signal the end of the recovery from COVID-19. Recovery for some parts of New Zealand will take many years.
7. The coordination of the response effort at regional/local levels by CDEM Groups continued into the early stages of recovery under the National Transition Period. As a familiar framework for the use of powers, the National Transition Period offered a basis for clarity and direction for CDEM Groups.
8. In addition, there was a brief period between when the State of National Emergency expired and when the new COVID-19 Public Health Response Act 2020 came into force. The National Transition Period therefore provided a suite of powers CDEM Groups and Police could have drawn on during this period, should this have been required

National transition powers exercised

9. Under sections 9(2)(ba), and 94N of the Act, and clause 29 and Part 9 of the National Plan, I Sarah Stuart-Black, Director CDEM and National Recovery Manager directed CDEM Groups to continue to deliver necessary CDEM functions in support of the response to COVID-19 and the transition to recovery. This was the only power exercised during the national transition period.
10. CDEM Group Recovery Managers and those acting under their authority did not exercise any powers during the national transition period.

Sarah Stuart-Black
National Recovery Manager

15 June 2020