

Supplementary report - Additional 2017/18 Mercury Bay Community Board Community Grants and Discretionary Fund applications

TO Mercury Bay Community Board
FROM Allan Tiplady District Manager North
DATE 30 May 2018
SUBJECT **Supplementary report - Additional 2017/18 Mercury Bay Community Board Community Grants and Discretionary Fund applications**

1 Purpose of report

To consider a further request for funding assistance for the conversion of the Matarangi Civil Defence sirens to ensure their continued operation.

2 Background

The civil defence sirens have been installed for a number of years and operate via a remote radio signal. It has been identified that the band that the signal uses is a marine frequency and that it is illegal for it to be used for this purpose. It needs to be changed to a different signal and will cost \$11,600.

The siren control is based in the Matarangi Fire Station, who have been advised by Fire and Emergency New Zealand (FENZ) to make the change from the frequency currently used or to disconnect the sirens completely.

The Matarangi Fire Service have requested that the Community Board provide funding for the work to be completed as they have very limited funds to contribute toward it. **Attachment A** is an email letter from the Matarangi Volunteer Rural Fire Force.

3 Issue

The provision of funding to change the radio frequency to ensure continued operation of the Matarangi Civil Defence sirens.

4 Discussion

The Matarangi Community rely on the sirens for both civil defence warning and fire service call outs. FENZ have advised that they are not able to support the change of frequency and require them to be made legal or be removed. Civil Defence (**Attachment B**) have advised that the sirens will still be needed for at least the next 10 years and that they should be connected to the Council pager system.

Funding of the cost could be achieved by utilising the balance of the Community Board discretionary fund of \$8,560 as identified in the report to the Community Board 30 May 2018 meeting. Further funds could be allocated from the Community Board's Community Development Support fund, which has the full budget of \$5,000 uncommitted.

5 Suggested resolution(s)

That the Mercury Bay Community Board:

1. Receives the 'Supplementary Report - Additional 2017/18 Mercury Bay Community Board Grants and Discretionary Fund applications', report dated 30 May 2018.
2. Approves the allocation of grants from the 2017/18 Discretionary Fund and Community Development Support fund to the community organisation who has applied for financial assistance as below:

Organisation Name	Project	FUND	Grant
Matarangi Volunteer Rural Fire Force	Change the Matarangi Civil Defence and fire siren trigger to the TCDC pager system	Discretionary Fund Community Development Support Fund	\$8,560 \$3,240

References-Tabled/Agenda Attachments

Attachment A *Email letter from Matarangi Volunteer Rural Fire Force*

Attachment B *Email from TCDC Civil Defence Emergency Management Officer*

Hi Allan,

To confirm our conversation yesterday.

We have been advised by Fire and Emergency NZ that Matarangi's two remote Civil Defense tsunami siren's are triggered by the use of an illegal marine VHF radio signal on channel 9.

Fire and Emergency have stated that they are not able to support this situation and that the siren triggers must be made legal or the sirens removed.

This is a situation that the community of Matarangi will not accept so we feel that the situation must be rectified.

Civil defense in Thames have advised that there is a solution and have been in contact with Kordia in Hamilton about this. I believe they have given a quote to Pamela Balt re installation of a new trigger system that does comply.

We consider this a high priority for the Matarangi community and urge council to do all they can to rectify this situation.

Matarangi Volunteer Rural Fire Force will do all that they can to assist this project but have limited funds available.

I hope Council and possibly the Community Board will give this support as soon as possible.

Kind Regards

Stu Arnold

Chief Fire Officer.

Hi Allan,

As per our previous discussion regarding the Matarangi Tsunami Sirens, please see below an explanation of what has happened and how we can solve the issue.

On the 18th April I received an email from Kordia, notifying us that FENZ have identified the two Tsunami Siren, activation system used at Matarangi was illegal and will need to be deactivated from its current connection.

When the two extra sirens were purchased, through the community with the assistance of Rural Fire Service, they were advised to not connect to the TCDC pager system as it was unreliable. Not sure why this happened, but the sirens were to be manually activated through a maritime channel (9). FENZ have confirmed that this connection is illegal and they will not be able to carry the responsibility of this illegal connection. We were given three weeks to come up with a solution, and then we would have a month or so to implement the new connection. I have been working with Kordia, our contracted agent to maintain and service our sirens, to establish a new way of connecting and cost.

Russell, from Kordia, has given me an estimate cost of \$5800/ unit to reconnect the sirens to our TCDC pager system. I am just waiting on him to get back with a firm price and I will pass this onto you before the Community Board meeting on Wednesday. We are trying to reduce this cost by ensuring the new system will fit into the current connection box.

Stu Arnold, Chief Fire officer at Matarangi, is working with us to assist in getting a request for financial assistance to Council. He has indicated that there will be a major uproar if the sirens were to be disconnected, as they are vital in notifying this very vulnerable community.

Garry Towler has indicated that these sirens will still be in use for the next decade, as a minimum, and that being connected to the TCDC pager system is the only way Council could justify reconnecting these sirens.

I hope this help with any questions the CB might have and if you need any further clarification, please do not hesitate to ask.

Kind regards

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