

# Thames Valley Emergency Operating Area

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**TO** Mayor and Councillors

**FROM** Julian Snowball - Controller Manager Thames valley Emergency Operating Area. (TVEAO)

**DATE** 16 July 2018

**SUBJECT** **Thames Valley Emergency Operating Area**

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## 1 Purpose of report

The purpose of the report is to inform Councillors of the activities of the Thames Valley Emergency Operating Area (TVEOA) Office to June 2018 and seek a recommendation to the WCDEM Joint Committee to appoint a further local Controller.

## 2 Background

The history of a combined Civil Defence in the Thames Valley area goes back as far as 1976. The combined service was formed as a recognition that we are better and stronger responding together, as trio of councils.

The current TVEOA is a shared service between Thames Coromandel District Council (TCDC), Hauraki District Council (HDC) and Matamata-Piako District Council (MPDC). The establishment of the Thames Valley shared service was the forerunner for the current model of the sixteen (16) Civil Defence Groups across New Zealand, which are administered by Regional Councils or Unitary authorities.

The TVEOA legislatively falls within the Waikato Region Civil Defence Group.

The TVEOA has been administered by TCDC since May 1991 and operates out of the TCDC County building. The team currently has three (3) full time staff, comprising the Manager/Controller, an Emergency Management Officer (EMO) and an Emergency Management Support Officer (EMSO):

- Manager / Controller – Julian Snowball
- EMO – Helen Flynn
- EMSO – Toni Sims

A brief biography of each of the team is in **Attachment A**.

The sole work area of the TVEOA Office is the Civil Defence Emergency Management (CDEM) areas of readiness and response, having now handed all rural fire responsibilities to Fire Emergency New Zealand (FENZ).

It is acknowledged that the TVEOA is the busiest Civil Defence area within the Waikato Region and quite possibly New Zealand. The TCDC area has the highest risk in the TVEOA, as per the risk exposure matrix in the Regional Civil Defence Group Plan 2016 – 2021.

## 3 Discussion

### Work Programme

The 2018/19 TVEOA annual work programme was approved by the Thames Valley CDEM Joint Committee on 5 April 2018. A copy of the work programme is in **Attachment B**.

The key areas of the 2018/19 work programme are:

- Readiness - Increasing the readiness of personnel and facilities
- Resilience - Improving Organisational and Community Resilience
- Strategic response development

Within the readiness area, there is a continued focus on developing and maintaining a pool of trained staff from across all three councils, who are available to respond to an emergency anywhere in the TVEOA.

The current TVEOA training plan sets a target for 90% of all Council staff and relevant contractors to receive a foundational level of Civil Defence training; this is to ensure all relevant staff understand the role of Council during a CDEM emergency and how they can contribute. Community groups can also receive this foundational level training.

The same training plan sets the TVEOA a target of maintaining a pool of 115 staff, who are trained to a higher level of CDEM and can operate, with supervision, in an Emergency Operations Centre (EOC). This pool of trained EOC staff is apportioned equally across the three councils. TCDC is currently meeting its obligations to this pool of staff, having a total of 38 staff trained to the relevant level

### **Budget**

The current overall TVEOA budget is \$353,088 per annum. This annual budget is apportioned across the three councils based through a hybrid funding model that considers equal distribution, resident populations and risk profiles. The budget apportionment is as follows: TCDC 46%, MPDC 28% and HDC 26%.

### **Civil Defence Controllers**

The Waikato Region CDEM Group (Joint Committee) has enacted section 27 of the Civil Defence Emergency Management Act 2002, which allows for the appointment of one or more persons to be a Local Controller, to carry out any of the functions and duties of, or delegated to, that Group's Group Controller.

Legally, the formal appointment of local Controllers is made at the regional CDEM Group Joint Committee. However, each council has a key role in recommending suitably qualified and experience person(s) to act within its territorial authority. The shared service model therefore requires TCDC to consider, and if appropriate recommend, that Controllers from all Councils in the TVEOA are able to operate in the TCDC territorial boundaries.

Garry Towler (TCDC) has previously been recommended by each of the TVEOA councils. TCDC is requested to recommend Julian Snowball as being suitable to act a Local Controller within the TCDC territorial boundaries.

## **4 Suggested resolution(s)**

Thames-Coromandel District Council:

1. Receives the 'Thames Valley Emergency Operating Area' report, dated 16 July 2018.
2. Recommends to the Waikato region CDEM Joint Committee that Julian Snowball can act as a TCDC Local Controller.

### **References-Tabled/Agenda Attachments**

**Attachment A** *Pen Picture of TVEOA Staff*

**Attachment B** *2018/19 TVEOA Work Programme*

**Attachment A**  
**Attachment A - Pen Picture of TVEOA Staff**

**Attachment B**  
**Attachment B - 2018-19 TVEOA Work Programme**