

Civil Defence, Emergency Management and Rural Fires

Why we do it

To increase community awareness, understanding, preparedness and participation in CDEM, reduce the risks from hazards to the district and enhance the district's capability to manage and recover from emergencies.

Rural Fires

To safeguard life, property and the environment by the prevention, detention, control, restriction, suppression and extinction of fire in forest and rural areas within the Gisborne District Council Rural Fire Authority boundaries.

What we do

Civil Defence Emergency Management

In accordance with the Civil Defence Emergency Act 2002, the Council is required to:

- ▶ ensure there is organisational capability to provide overall leadership for the response to and the recovery from an emergency
- ▶ establish and maintain a network of volunteers
- ▶ promote and raise awareness of hazards and levels of preparedness
- ▶ provide the necessary planning and advice to the community for the management of response to and recovery from an emergency
- ▶ monitor and report on civil defence emergency management activities
- ▶ establish and maintain systems for effective emergency communication (radio system) with the communities and other service providers
- ▶ provide the necessary advice and assistance to all stakeholders to improve integrated hazard risk management in the Gisborne district.

The Council employs one Civil Defence Officer, assisted by two part-time employees. There are currently about 350 Civil Defence volunteers in the district.

Rural Fires

Gisborne District Council has a statutory obligation to carry out the functions of a Rural Fire Authority as set out within the Forest and Rural Fires Act 1977, and the Forest and Rural Fires Regulations 2005.

The Gisborne District Council Rural Fire Authority protects an area of land exceeding 429,000 hectares. This area excludes those areas of land within the district boundaries under the jurisdiction of the NZ Fire Service, Eastland Rural Fire District, Department of Conservation and Pumicelands Rural Fire District.

Within this area, the Rural Fire Authority is responsible for the adoption and implementation of strategies to reduce the risk of rural fires. It must be ready to respond effectively to fight and put out rural fires and investigate fires and review operations following any incident.

The Gisborne District Council Rural Fire Authority utilises a system of partnerships to ensure the most effective response to fires within the district. This includes the establishment and operation of Volunteer Rural Fire Forces (Hicks Bay, Gisborne and Tiniroto), the co-locating of rural fire authority tankers in key New Zealand Fire Service Stations (Ruātōria, Tolaga Bay and Patutahi) and a joint operational response and fire management partnership with the Eastland Rural Fire District. A close working relationship also exists with the Department of Conservation and Wairoa District Council.

The Council employs one full time person in the role of Principal Rural Fire Officer, assisted by two part-time employees. There are currently 47 rural fire volunteers in the district.

Assets

Council owns and manages all its CDEM and rural fire assets. However, the work of actually maintaining the equipment and facilities is contracted out.

Community outcomes

This activity contributes to the following community outcomes:



Safe
Tairāwhiti



Prosperous
Tairāwhiti

Where we are now

Civil Defence Emergency Management

The district's Civil Defence Emergency Management Group Plan is currently under review and a revised plan will be approved in December 2009.

Training and public education is an ongoing activity and conducted as required by the Group Plan.

The VHF radio system currently is in good condition with a staged renewal programme in place with possible full replacement programmed to occur in 2016. The community link organisation also is in place.

Rural Fire

The Gisborne District has the second most severe fire climate in NZ. This, coupled with high value crops planted in remote areas, has set the level of service delivery with the fire district.

The Gisborne District Council Rural Fire Plan 2007 has been prepared and is current. It must be prepared in accordance with the Forest and Rural Fires Act 1977, and the Forest and Rural Fires Regulations 2005. The Rural Fire Plan must be reviewed every two years.

A significant percentage of rural fire vehicles are reaching the end of their economic working life. In addition, vehicle reliability and difficulty in obtaining spare parts is becoming an issue.

As a first-response emergency service, reliable equipment is a necessity to ensure the effects of fire are minimised.

The need for an additional Rural Fire Officer has also been identified.

Highlighted Issues

- ▶ The Emergency Operations Centre is inadequate and impractical for major emergencies, both in size and resources. Its location makes it vulnerable to a number of natural hazards. This issue has been alleviated to some extent by the addition of the old animal control building to the Emergency Management Office complex, and the addition of the Council IT Training computers and data projection equipment.
- ▶ There is likely to be a growing challenge to maintain adequate numbers of volunteers as volunteerism is in decline. This is already proving to be an issue for the CDEM city groups, and for rural fires with nationally imposed entry standards making recruitment difficult.
- ▶ The continued expansion of new building sites and population shifts into hazard areas leaves the Council open to future litigation and potentially makes the management of emergencies more difficult.
- ▶ The importance of effective public education, its message, delivery and review is ongoing.

Where we want to be

- ▶ To have completed and begun implementation of the district's Civil Defence Emergency Management Group Plan (2009).
- ▶ To have reviewed and updated the district's Rural Fire Plan in accordance with legislative and regulatory requirements.

- ▶ To have ensured that all assets critical to the effective delivery of the CDEM and Rural Fire functions are in good condition, well-located and response ready.
- ▶ To have maintained adequate volunteer numbers and training levels to ensure the effective delivery of the CDEM and Rural Fires functions.
- ▶ To have more adequately resourced all elements of CDEM and Rural Fires including public education initiatives and staffing.

How we plan to get there

- ▶ Review and implement the district's CDEM Group Plan and Rural Fire Plan as required.
- ▶ Undertake a comprehensive asset renewal and replacement programme to minimise the risk of asset failure in the event of a civil defence or rural fire emergency event. Critical assets to be replaced include the rural fire vehicles and the CDEM radio system.
- ▶ Continue to have adequately resourced all elements of CDEM and rural fires including public education initiatives and volunteer recruitment and training.
- ▶ Continue to maintain the joint operational response and fire management partnership with the Eastland Rural Fire District and working relationships with the Department of Conservation and Wairoa District Council to ensure an effective co-ordinated response over the whole of the district.
- ▶ Investigate external funding for an additional Rural Fire Officer.

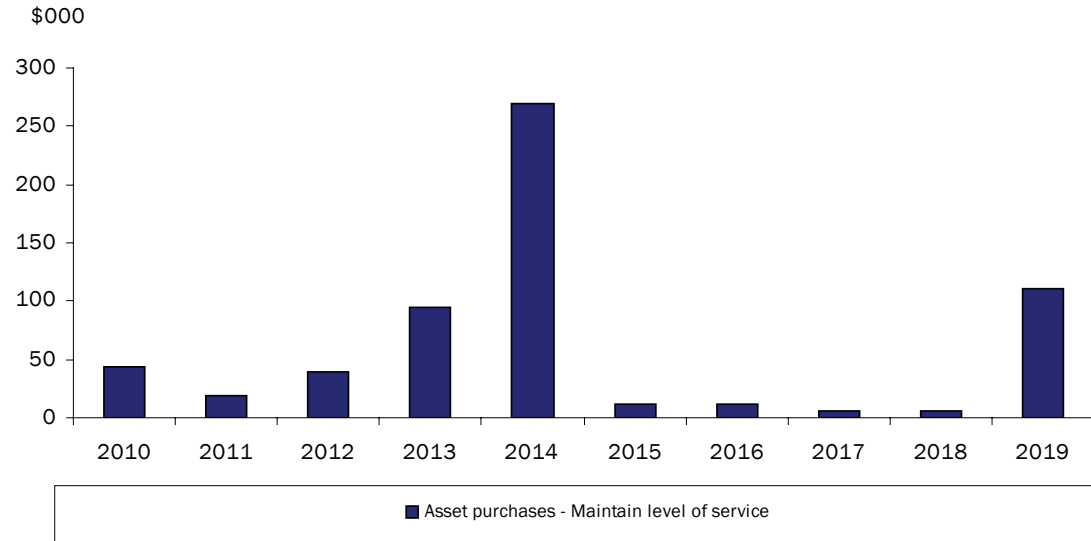
Significant negative effects

There are no significant negative effects from this activity.

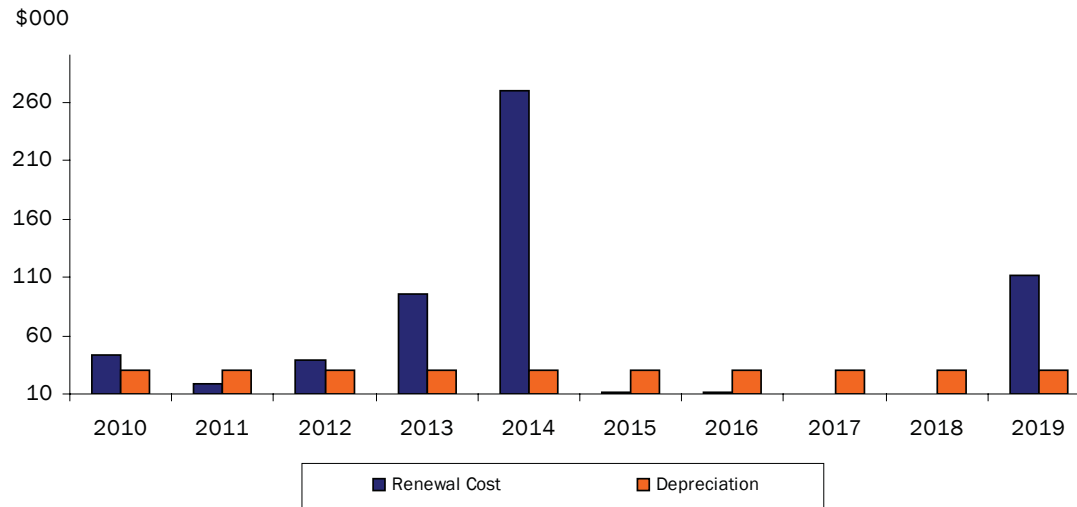
Summary of Forecasted Financial Performance for the 10 Years 2010 to 2019

	2010 \$000	2011 \$000	2012 \$000	2013 \$000	2014 \$000	2015 \$000	2016 \$000	2017 \$000	2018 \$000	2019 \$000
EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT										
OPERATIONS										
Operating Revenue										
Activity revenue	-77	-80	-82	-84	-85	-87	-89	-91	-94	-96
Grants and subsidies	-11	-11	-12	-12	-12	-12	-13	-13	-13	-14
Other revenue	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total Operating Revenue	-88	-91	-94	-96	-97	-99	-102	-104	-107	-110
Operating Expenditure										
Depreciation	31	31	31	31	31	31	31	31	31	31
Interest	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Operating costs	539	566	567	576	592	632	630	641	658	699
Total Operating Expenditure	570	597	598	607	623	663	661	672	689	730
Net Internal Charges/recoveries	151	159	170	181	187	192	205	217	241	258
Net Cost of Service	633	665	674	692	713	756	764	785	823	878
Funded by:										
Rates income	-633	-665	-674	-692	-713	-756	-764	-785	-823	-878
Transfers to/from reserves	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Depreciation not funded	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
(Increase)/decrease in deficits carried forward	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total Operations Funding	-633	-665	-674	-692	-713	-756	-764	-785	-823	-878
CAPITAL										
Capital Outgoings										
Asset purchases - Maintain level of service	43	19	39	95	270	11	11	6	6	111
Total Asset Purchases	43	19	39	95	270	11	11	6	6	111
Loan repayments	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total Capital Outgoings	43	19	39	95	270	11	11	6	6	111
Funded by:										
Rates income	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Development contribution income	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Transfers to/from development contribution reserve	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Capital grants and donations	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other capital revenue	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Loan funding	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Transfer from depreciation reserve	-43	-19	-39	-95	-270	-11	-11	-6	-6	-111
Transfer to/from other reserves	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total Capital Funding	-43	-19	-39	-95	-270	-11	-11	-6	-6	-111

Total Capital Projects



Depreciation v Renewal Capital Projects



Capital Expenditure Programme

Description	LOS	Total Cost	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	Loan & Reserve Funding
EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT													
Civil Defence Radio System Renewal - Arowhana	MAINT	4,784							4,784				100%
Civil Defence Radio System Renewal - Raukūmara	MAINT	4,676						4,676					100%
Civil Defence Radio Renewal - Grays Hill / Office	MAINT	4,376			4,376								100%
Civil Defence old power supplies	MAINT	10,690		10,690									100%
Civil Defence Radio Te Araroa, Tolaga Bay, Whakapunake	MAINT	3,207		3,207									100%
Civil Defence power supplies	MAINT	10,350	10,350										100%
Civil Defence Raukūmara/Arowhana	MAINT	3,105	3,105										100%
Civil Defence batteries & regulator	MAINT	4,140	4,140										100%
NZ Fire Service Radio Upgrade	MAINT	57,200					57,200						100%
Rural Fires Hose packs	MAINT	57,940	5,175	5,345	5,470	5,600	5,720	5,845	5,980	6,120	6,265	6,420	100%
Rural Fires Water Tanker (Tolaga Bay)	MAINT	104,320										104,320	100%
Replacement Fire Engine (Gis VRFF)	MAINT	206,640					206,640						100%
Portable Pump Replacement (Gis VRFF tanker)	MAINT	10,270	10,270										100%
Rural Fires Replacement Portable Pump	MAINT	28,700			28,700								100%
Rural Fires Tokomaru Bay Replacement Pump	MAINT	10,270	10,270										100%
Rural Fires Tokomaru Bay (Tanker Upgrade)	MAINT	89,360				89,360							100%
Totals:		610,028	43,310	19,242	38,546	94,960	269,560	10,521	10,764	6,120	6,265	110,740	
Grand Total:		610,028	43,310	19,242	38,546	94,960	269,560	10,521	10,764	6,120	6,265	110,740	

Asset management

This activity has an activity management plan which is the key tool for ensuring that capital funding and existing assets are used as efficiently and effectively as possible.

CIVIL DEFENCE, EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT and RURAL FIRES

Levels of Service Statement	Performance Measure		Current Performance	Targets				Mechanism to Achieve Target
	Customer	Technical		Yr 1 2009-10	Yr 2 2010-11	Yr 3 2011-12	Yr 4-10 2012-18	
LOS (1) - Reliability To build a resilient and safer Tairāwhiti with communities understanding and managing their hazards and risks.	Percentage of customer satisfaction with education programmes.		95% (2008)%	95%	95%	95%	95%	
		Sufficient and appropriate warning systems in place.	Achieved (2008)	Achieved	Achieved	Achieved	Achieved	
		Communication systems are in place to enable the exchange of information between communities, the Emergency Operations Centre and key organisations when normal means are unavailable.	Achieved (2008)	Achieved	Achieved	Achieved	Achieved	
		Training programmes meet requirements as stated in CDEM Plan.	Achieved (2008)	Achieved	Achieved	Achieved	Achieved	
		Civil defence personnel are trained and able to respond to an emergency.	Achieved (2008)	Achieved	Achieved	Achieved	Achieved	
LOS (2) - Health and Safety To protect life and property from rural fires with trained personnel within the GDC rural fire authority area.	Percentage of customers who rate Requests for Service responses as excellent/good.		94% (2008)	94%	94%	94%	94%	
		Mutual response and assistance agreements in place with other fire authorities.	Achieved (2008)	Achieved	Achieved	Achieved	Achieved	
		Investigations of rural fires within 72 hours that have a cost of more than \$1,000.	90% (2008)	90%	90%	90%	90%	
		Compliance with level of restriction on the use of fire reflects level of the fire danger.	Achieved (2008)	Achieved	Achieved	Achieved	Achieved	
		Percentage of fire fighters who meet the National (NRFA) Training Standards.	44% (2008)	50%	60%	70%	80%	