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## Reduction Section

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### INTRODUCTION

The Reduction section of this Plan relates directly to Goal Two of the National CDEM Strategy which is:

*Goal Two: Reducing the risks from hazards to New Zealand.*

The National CDEM Strategy defines reduction as: “activities and measures taken to analyse long term risks to human life and property from natural or man-made hazards and to eliminate or reduce those risks, as practicable”.

Risks from hazards that Gisborne region is exposed to pose a significant threat to the region's social, economic and physical environments. The Risk Profile section outlines priority risks that the region plans to address. Flooding, local tsunami, as well as erosion and earthquake related phenomena are high on the Group's agenda for further work. Risk reduction is one of the most effective strategies for addressing those types of risk. This section introduces different approaches, methods and tools for reduction of some of the major risk threats to the region.

Through workshops and targeted Group work, strategies were developed, for reducing priority risks identified through risk profiling activities. It has to be noted, though, that most of the actions and tools recommended are not specific for any particular hazard, but rather address the consequences common to a range of hazards. This was seen as the most efficient and the most appropriate approach for Council to take, considering the riskscape and current opportunities in practice (e.g. alignment of planning cycles).

### PURPOSE OF THE REDUCTION SECTION

The purpose of this section is:

To provide guidance for the Gisborne CDEM Group and its partner agencies on the arrangements, frameworks, structures, roles, responsibilities and processes that may be implemented in order to achieve long-term comprehensive risk reduction in the region.

This section also:

- ▶ Sets the principles and criteria for risk reduction for the Group.
- ▶ Describes current reduction activities and related issues.
- ▶ Specifies the outcomes sought from the reduction activities.
- ▶ Describes specific, measurable and achievable risk reduction objectives.
- ▶ Identifies specific policies, methods and tools for delivery on desired outcomes.

### RISK REDUCTION OBJECTIVES

The main risk reduction objectives for the Gisborne CDEM Group to be achieved in the period of 2009-2014 are:

- ▶ Increased stakeholder (see glossary) knowledge about the hazards that affect Tairāwhiti.

In order to achieve the risk reduction measures across the region are adequate, timely and implemented in a co-ordinated, resource efficient manner, it was deemed necessary for all stakeholders in the risk management process to share the understanding and knowledge of hazards that affect the region.

- ▶ Integration of hazard risk reduction practices into activities of key stakeholders (see glossary) in the Gisborne Region.

In order to achieve comprehensive risk reduction across the region it is necessary to integrate risk reduction activities across all relevant processes and structures, both within the Council and between the Council and partner agencies.

### **PRINCIPLES and CRITERIA FOR RISK REDUCTION**

In the broader context, risk reduction is usually achieved through:

- ▶ Integrated planning and risk management at the 'all-of-Council' level.
- ▶ Multi-agency and all-of-government approach, involving central government and partner Councils, as well as other agencies (e.g. lifelines and utility providers).
- ▶ Focus on effects or outcomes rather than regulation of hazards and activities.

The policy framework for hazard management in New Zealand is set by a number of statutory and non-statutory instruments and the linkages between these instruments. The primary instruments, relevant for risk reduction activities in the Gisborne region, include:

- ▶ The Resource Management Act (RMA) 1991 and its integrated hierarchy of instruments such as the policy statement and the Gisborne District Council Combined Regional Land and District Plan.
- ▶ The Local Government Act 2002 and its instruments, such as the Gisborne District Council Ten Year Plan (LTCCP) and Activity Management Plans.
- ▶ The Building Act 2004.
- ▶ The CDEM Act 2002 and its integrated hierarchy of instruments, with the CDEM Group Plan as an important component.
- ▶ Other non-statutory instruments that the above legislation has generated, as appropriate (e.g. Asset Plans, Structural Plans).

While CDEM is only one part of this framework, there is an opportunity to improve the collective understanding, awareness and management of significant hazard risks across all stakeholders in the policy framework.

### **CHALLENGES IN RISK REDUCTION PLANNING (Current Reduction Activities and Related Issues)**

The first generation Gisborne CDEM Group Plan (2004) identified:

- ▶ Self-reliant communities that have reduced vulnerabilities to emergency events and have the ability to respond and recover.
- ▶ Sustainable community planning according to a long-term strategy consistent with identified risks.
- ▶ Co-operation and coordination across organisations involved in emergency management.
- ▶ Risk management-based planning.

as the key outcomes of the anticipated risk reduction activities.

Whereas many of the actions identified in the 2004 CDEM Group Plan - that were designed to achieve the above outcomes, were successfully implemented (e.g. hazard research into meteorological hazards, including climate change implications and public education initiatives and a 4Rs review of the flood hazard) there are still issues that need addressing, such as:

- ▶ Lack of coordination and collation of hazards related information, research and knowledge across the Council and the ensuing issues with adequacy of current risk mitigation measures.
- ▶ Difficulties with inclusion of CDEM relevant information, and CDEM officers in Council's development and, particularly, land use planning activities (e.g. Regional Policy Statement and District Plan consent process).
- ▶ Difficulties in ensuring that the risk-based, comprehensive approach across the 4Rs of **Reduction**, Readiness, Response and Recovery are reflected in Council plans.

In the light of the reduction activities necessary to address the top priority risks as identified in the Risk Profile Section, and considering the above issues, the objectives described in the following section were identified as the most appropriate in terms of efficacy and resource efficiency for the Group to undertake in order to achieve the overall **outcome of risk reduction** in the region.

#### **RISK REDUCTION POLICIES, METHODS and TOOLS**

In workshops with key stakeholders, including a joint workshop with the Ministry of Civil Defence & Emergency Management, Local Government New Zealand and Ministry for the Environment, and involving representatives from most relevant groups in the Council (e.g. policy managers, RMA and LTCCP policy planners, resource consent planners, resource managers, asset managers, finance managers, building inspectors and infrastructure engineers), the following methods were identified as relevant for delivery on the above outcomes:

- ▶ Development of 'all-of-Council' hazards research strategy and communication protocols.
- ▶ Confirmation of reduction roles and responsibilities of key stakeholders.
- ▶ Risk reduction planning in partnership with teams across the Council.
- ▶ Establishment and maintenance of linkages between planning instruments.

Specific actions and tools identified as suitable for delivery of those are:

- ▶ Development and maintenance of Hazards Register.
- ▶ Formation of inter-departmental teams to address risks from major hazards.
- ▶ Regular inter-departmental resource consent meetings.
- ▶ Inclusion of hazard information in LIMs and PIMs.
- ▶ Consideration of CDEM and LTCCP risk related issues in District Plan change process.
- ▶ Involvement of CDEM staff in Policy Statement (2<sup>nd</sup> generation) review.
- ▶ Integration of planning for LTCCP prior to work on Activity Management and Level of Service plans.
- ▶ Develop a bi-annual CDEM Group integrated risk reduction report to link with the Gisborne District Council Ten Year Plan and Activity Management Plans (AMP).
- ▶ Monitor Lifelines through the Lifelines Group to gauge progress of reduction activities and promote improvements or collaboration as appropriate.
- ▶ Revision of performance measures in AMPs to align with 4Rs.

- ▶ Consideration of 4Rs in project decisions.
- ▶ Alignment of this CDEM Plan with the 2<sup>nd</sup> generation LTCCP.

For relationship between risk reduction related issues in the region, objectives leading towards improvement of the situation and proposed policies and methods of delivery on those objectives see Table 1. The Table also shows correlation between the Group's risk reduction measures and the National CDEM Strategy objectives.

**Table 9:** Reduction Objectives and Relationship between Objectives, Methods and Tools

Reduction issue	Relationship to National CDEM Strategy	Reduction objective	Method (to achieve objective)	Tools and actions/notes
Lack of coordination and collation of hazards related information, research and knowledge across the Council and the ensuing issues with adequacy of current risk mitigation measures.	Developing a comprehensive understanding of New Zealand's hazardscape.  Improving the coordination, promotion and accessibility of CDEM Research.	Increased stakeholder knowledge about the hazards that affect Te Tairāwhiti.	Development of 'all-of-Council' hazards research strategy and communication protocols.	Formation of a Hazard Science Group.  Development of a two yearly CDEM reduction research report/ Updating of Hazards Register.
Difficulties with inclusion of CDEM relevant information, and CDEM officers, in Council's development, and particularly land use planning, activities (e.g. Regional Policy Statement and District Plan, consent process).  Difficulties in ensuring that the risk-based, comprehensive approach across the 4Rs of <b>Reduction</b> , Readiness, Response and Recovery are reflected in Council plans.	Encouraging all CDEM stakeholders to reduce the risks from hazards to acceptable levels.  Improving the coordination of Council policy relevant to CDEM.	Integration of hazard risk reduction practices into activities of stakeholders in Te Tairāwhiti.	Confirmation of reduction roles and responsibilities of key stakeholders.  Risk reduction planning in partnership with teams across the Council.  Establishment and maintenance of linkages between planning instruments.	Formation of inter-departmental teams to address risks from major hazards.  Regular inter-departmental resource consent meetings.  Inclusion of hazard information in LIMs and PIMs.  Consideration of CDEM and LTCCP risk related issues in District Plan change process.  Involvement of CDEM staff in Policy Statement (2 <sup>nd</sup> generation) review.  Integration of planning for LTCCP prior to work on Asset Management and Level of Service plans.  Link the CDEM Group two yearly integrated risk reduction report to the Gisborne District Council Ten Year Plan and Activity Management Plans.  Revision of performance measures in AMPs to align with 4Rs.  Consideration of 4Rs in project decisions  Alignment of this CDEM Plan with the 2 <sup>nd</sup> generation LTCCP.