



Hamilton City Council – Staff Submission

**Strengthening New Zealand's
Emergency Management Legislation**

Civil Defence National Emergency Agency

19 May 2025



Improving the Wellbeing of Hamiltonians

Hamilton City Council is focused on improving the wellbeing of Hamiltonians through delivering to our five priorities of shaping:

- **A city that's easy to live in**
- **A city where our people thrive**
- **A central city where our people love to be**
- **A fun city with lots to do**
- **A green city**

The topic of this staff submission is aligned with all of Hamilton City Council's five priorities.

Council Approval and Reference

This staff submission was approved by Hamilton City Council's Chief Executive on 19 May 2025.

Submission # 802

It should be noted that the following submission is from staff at Hamilton City Council and does not, therefore, necessarily represent the views of the Council itself.

Key Messages and Recommendations

INTRODUCTION

1. Hamilton City Council staff welcome the opportunity to make a submission to the Civil Defence National Emergency Agency on its April 2025 discussion document **Strengthening New Zealand's Emergency Management Legislation**.

SUBMISSION FROM THE WAIKATO CIVIL DEFENCE EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT GROUP

2. Hamilton City Council is a member council of the Waikato Civil Defence Emergency Management Group (Waikato CDEM Group).
3. The Waikato CDEM Group comprises the following 11 member councils: Hamilton City Council; Waikato Regional Council; Hauraki District Council; Matamata-Piako District Council; Otorohanga District Council; South Waikato District Council; Taupo District Council; Thames-Coromandel District Council; Waipa District Council; Waikato District Council; and Waitomo District Council.

SUPPORT FOR THE WAIKATO CDEM GROUP SUBMISSION

4. Overall, Hamilton City Council staff support the comprehensive submission made by the Waikato CDEM Group to the Civil Defence National Emergency Agency on its April 2025 discussion document **Strengthening New Zealand's Emergency Management Legislation**.

EMPHASIS ON KEY SUBMISSION POINTS

5. The Waikato CDEM Group's submission provides extensive commentary on all 16 Issues raised in the Civil Defence National Emergency Agency's April 2025 discussion document.
6. While Hamilton City Council staff support all the points outlined for these 16 Issues, we would particularly like to emphasise/support the points raised in Issues 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 9, 10, and 16.

OTHER COMMENTS

7. Pages 25-26 of the Waikato CDEM Group submission outlines eight further key points relating to the reform of New Zealand's emergency management legislation.
8. Hamilton City Council staff also fully support these eight points (as outlined below) and recommend that they be addressed by the Civil Defence National Agency.
 - i. **Lack of Proposed Funding Structures:** *The absence of clear funding structures at national, regional, and local levels raises concerns about the effective delivery and implementation of emergency management.*
 - ii. **Impact on Ratepayers:** *Without clarity on the funding structure, the potential impact on ratepayers remains uncertain. If there is significant impact this necessitates council consultation with communities to address these concerns.*
 - iii. **Resource Allocation and National Support:** *Many options are currently under-resourced, and additional spending proposals require clarification on whether there will be national support to ensure these initiatives are feasible.*

- iv. **Bill Timeline and Budget Alignment:** *The proposed Bill timeline does not align with the local authority budget setting (late 2026) for long term plans (2027-2037), which could complicate financial planning and implementation.*
- v. **Nationally Consistent Long-Term Plan Measures:** *Establishing nationally consistent long-term plan measures across the 4Rs (Reduction, Readiness, Response, Recovery) and integrating them with the Local Government Act can provide better assurance on delivery and avoid siloed emergency management.*
- vi. **Clarity on Powers Outside of Declaration:** *There is a need for clear guidelines on the powers that can be exercised outside of a formal declaration to ensure proper governance and accountability.*
- vii. **Consultation with CDEM Groups:** *Any emergency management secondary legislation and rules should mandate consultation with Civil Defence Emergency Management Groups before being set, ensuring that local insights and needs are considered.*
- viii. **Issuance of a Roadmap Post-NDRS Review:** *A roadmap following the National Disaster Recovery Strategy (NDRS) review would provide a clear plan for future actions and support coordinated recovery efforts. Will a roadmap be issued?*

Further Information and Opportunity to Discuss our Submission

- 9. Should the Civil Defence National Emergency Agency require clarification of the submission from Hamilton City Council staff, or additional information, please contact **Kelvin Powell** (Safety and Resilience Unit Director / Civil Defence Controller) on **027 808 2927**, or email Kelvin.Powell@hcc.govt.nz in the first instance.
- 10. Hamilton City Council representatives would welcome the opportunity to discuss the content of this submission in more detail with the Civil Defence National Emergency Agency.

Yours faithfully



Lance Vervoort
CHIEF EXECUTIVE

FURTHER INFORMATION

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