

Piha Community Resilience Pilot Project

File No.: CP2018/15743

Item 13

Te take mō te pūrongo / Purpose of the report

1. To provide an update on Auckland Emergency Management's community resilience building initiatives in Piha.

Whakarāpopototanga matua / Executive summary

2. The Piha community is particularly at risk of natural hazards. In recent times, severe weather events have led to flash flooding, road closures and power outages in the community. This was exemplified by the storm events of 3 February, 10 April and 28 April 2018.
3. Recognising the community's vulnerability to weather events, Auckland Emergency Management and the Waitākere Ranges Local Board initiated a Community Resilience Pilot Project encompassing both first responders and individual households. This involves developing a new Community Resilience Plan to increase community preparedness, which incorporates a plan for how first responders will work with this isolated community.
4. The project was kickstarted through a series of community meetings and a coordinated door-knocking exercise along Glenesk Road between April and August 2018, to advise residents on preparedness for flooding.

Ngā tūtohunga / Recommendation/s

That the Civil Defence and Emergency Management Group Committee:

- a) note the information contained in this report.

Horopaki / Context

5. As a community, Piha has always been prone to natural hazards such as severe weather and associated flash floods. Over the years, Piha has had a Response Plan that guides the community's response operations during an emergency. However, the Response Plan was not clear on responsibilities of community members and first responders.
6. On 3 February, 10 April and 28 April 2018, Piha was affected by a series of severe weather events that resulted in flash flooding throughout the area. This, coupled with power outages, road closures and other events, has prompted Auckland Emergency Management and the Waitākere Ranges Local board, to work together with the community to co-design a plan for how the community can build on their own resilience and have a clear plan of action for when events happen.
7. Community resilience planning is focused on identifying with individuals and community what actions the community can take themselves. This includes knowing where safe spaces are, having a household plan, knowing how to keep safe and access help, and how to utilise the resources that individuals and communities already have.
8. Practical tools are developed and shared with individuals and community, such as how to access clean water from their water tank, how to build a useful get ready kit and build shared understanding of the impacts of hazards.

Tātaritanga me ngā tohutohu / Analysis and advice

Community resilience planning in Piha

9. To better prepare for future events, Auckland Emergency Management is working with the Piha community in a pilot project to build community resilience and to develop an effective shared response to natural hazards.

The pilot project addresses:

- a) how first response activity will safely occur;
 - b) co-development of practical tools for community to build their own resilience (of which first responders will be involved);
 - c) ensuring that community understands their local hazards and understands the impacts of the hazards on them; and
 - d) the review and assessment of the flood risk.
10. Our combined approach to community resilience and response will provide a shared understanding of what part everyone can play in their own resilience and their overall resilience of the community, and the roles and responsibilities of first response agencies.

Development of the Resilience Plan pilot project

11. Post the 10 April storm event the Waitākere Ranges Local Board, with support from Auckland Emergency Management, hosted a series of community meeting to address concerns around emergency events that have occurred in the Piha community over the previous two years. The workshops were facilitated to have a focus on the four key hazards: fire events, flooding, infrastructure failure (power outages) and severe weather.
12. The overall intent of the workshops was to acknowledge the resilience already present in community and to build further resilience. The workshops enabled the community to start a discussion on the impacts of those hazards and how the community can maintain their own sense of ownership over what they can do in these types of events and how first responders can work together better to address response activities.
13. These meetings enabled Auckland Emergency management to clarify its role during an emergency as a coordinating agency, the role of first response agencies, and the range of welfare support available during an emergency.
14. The outcome of these meetings was an agreement to develop a new Community Resilience Plan, with a focus on the following areas of opportunity:
- a) being prepared for an emergency at home;
 - b) having facilities capable of becoming centres of coordination and refuge;
 - c) having special plans in place for most vulnerable areas, such as Glenesk Valley; and
 - d) improving communications and response planning across emergency services.
15. On 17 June 2018 the local board held a second public meeting to listen to community concerns and present the outcomes of the 17 May 2018 workshop. Between 30 to 40 local residents, local board members, staff and/or volunteers of Fire and Emergency New Zealand, NZ Red Cross, NZ Police, Vector and Auckland Council attended. Comments from this meeting have been incorporated into the draft Community Resilience Plan.
16. The local board held a further meeting with community leaders on 8 August 2018 to present the draft Community Resilience Plan, which clearly outlines actions that should be undertaken by community members to build preparedness. This will be distributed to the whole community for feedback.

17. The Coordinating Executive Group confirmed in their meeting on 9 August that first responders will work with the community to integrate, response planning into the new resilience plan.
18. Further meeting and workshops will be developed that focus on building the practical tools that community needs. The tools and resources developed with the community will enable Auckland Emergency Management to have a valuable resource that could be shared with other communities and individuals.
19. Auckland Emergency Management will work with first response agencies within the community to develop the Emergency Response component of the community resilience plan. This plan aims to ensure that first responders have an agreed response plan in place for events in the community, for example as shared plan of action on how we will manage flood response and evacuations and how our agreed actions are coordinated through the Emergency Coordination Centre (ECC).
20. The response planning aspect of the community resilience plan allows Auckland Emergency Management to provide the Piha community with a greater understanding of how we will manage emergency events. This response planning is focused on emergency services and our coordinated management of events, which ensure local emergency response teams can more operate more effectively.
21. This pilot approach, and community resilience plan template will be used to develop other community resilience plans across the region.

Targeted community preparedness and alerting

22. During the development of the community response plan, it was identified that having a key focus of risk prone areas and community identified risks was important to the community. One of these identified risks was the Glenesk Road flooding. Glenesk Road has flooded twice in 2018. During one event households were evacuated from their homes by boat, in another event the velocity of the water was too strong for the boats to be used and people were asked to remain in their homes.
23. Auckland Emergency Management's role is to identify, assess and manage hazards and risks, as well as to consult and communicate about those risks to communities. As part of the community resilience planning process Auckland Emergency Management, Healthy Waters and other partners across Auckland Council have been working together to understand the impact of those flooding events and how we can work with first responders to manage our response.
24. On 19 July, 31 July, and 6 August 2018, Auckland Emergency Management and members of the Waitākere Ranges Local Board conducted a door-knocking exercise along Glenesk Road, Piha, one of the worst affected areas during the flash flood event on 3-4 February 2018.
25. A package consisting of general and specific emergency preparedness information and a vehicle first aid kit were given to residents to guide the development of their household emergency preparedness and evacuation plan. A collective total of 51 houses were visited during this time.
26. During this initial session, the group visited thirteen households, of which five were registered for hazard alerts, and the remaining eight where no one was home were left with the information package and Auckland Emergency Management contact details. Residents were also encouraged to sign up for the Red Cross hazards App. On 31 July 2018, the houses where no one was home were revisited, and the remainder of the houses along Glenesk Road were individually visited by Auckland Emergency Management staff.

Flood risk management for Piha Stream

27. Concurrent to the development of the resilience plan, Auckland Council has worked on a Flooding Assessment report for Piha Stream (Glenesk Road), which includes possible monitoring and flood warning options.
28. This report was distributed to Waitākere ward councilors and the Waitākere Ranges Local Board on 20 August 2018. Piha residents with dwellings in the catchment will also receive a copy of the report on 22 August 2018.
29. It is expected that the Piha community, Waitākere Ward Councilors and the Waitākere Ranges Local Board will convene to discuss implications of the report in the near future.
30. The outcomes of ongoing community engagement about flood risk will be fed into the development of the Community Resilience Plan

Ngā whakaaweawe ā-rohe me ngā tirohanga a te poari ā-rohe / Local impacts and local board views

31. The Waitākere Ranges Local Board is a key partner of the initiative, having co-planned and participated in the door knocking exercises and community resilience discussions. Auckland Emergency Management received positive feedback on the efforts made to connect with Glenesk Road residents face-to-face.

Tauākī whahakaaweawe Māori/Māori impact statement

32. At the current time, there is no specific iwi engagement for this project. Going forward, Auckland Emergency Management will be working in accordance with the Council's iwi engagement protocol. Due to this project being a pilot, we will seek to understand how iwi would like to be involved in the development of resilience plans. Our intent is to incorporate Maori outcomes across all the work we do.

Ngā koringa ā-muri / Next steps

33. Auckland Emergency Management and the Waitākere Ranges Local Board will continue to work with local first responders and vulnerable households to build community resilience.

Ngā tāpirihanga / Attachments

There are no attachments for this report.

Ngā kaihaina / Signatories

Author	Catherine Cooper - Head of Resilience and Welfare
Authoriser	Sarah Sinclair - Acting Director Auckland Emergency Management