



FACT SHEET: LOCAL ADVISORY COMMITTEES (LACs)

31 October 2018

Fire and Emergency New Zealand will set up Local Advisory Committees (LACs) across the country to help it keep informed of the fire and emergency risks, and needs, of local communities.

Why have Local Advisory Committees?

Fire and Emergency NZ is committed to maintaining a strong local community presence throughout the country.

By being informed about current and future community risks and needs through strong links in the community, we will be better able to support communities to reduce the risk of, and respond to, fire and other emergencies.

What's the background to LACs?

Two reviews of fire services between 2012 and 2015 noted that for any changes to fire services to be successful, they should incorporate the perspective of communities and grow a stronger more influential organisation that is both reflective and supportive of the communities it serves.

Following the reviews, the Government agreed to reform the way fire and emergency services are delivered.

What will LACs do?

The main purpose of LACs is to provide advice to Fire and Emergency NZ from a local perspective. As part of that, LAC members will engage with local communities on behalf of the Board, and provide advice to the Board and to Fire and Emergency NZ on national strategy, local issues, and local planning. This will include considering the interests of local Fire and Emergency NZ volunteers and industry brigades.

Will LACs be involved in Fire and Emergency NZ's day to day business?

LACs are advisory only, and will not be involved in governance, management or operational matters and decisions.

When will LACs be set up?

LACs will be set up once the Board has set the boundaries for LAC areas and confirmed the approach for roll-out of LACs nationally.

What geographical area will each LAC cover?

The Board will set the boundaries for each LAC, following consultation with the public (undertaken in April – May 2018).

The LAC boundaries define the geographical area that each committee represents.

It's important to note that LAC boundaries are not the same as operational boundaries. LAC boundaries won't determine how we organise ourselves operationally.

Any decisions about operational boundaries will be considered as part of the work we're doing to create the new Operating Model.

How many LACs will there be?

Cabinet recommended that between 12 to 16 LACs be established nationally. By law, there must be one LAC for each local area.

The final number will be determined following the Board's decision on LAC boundaries.

Who will be appointed to a LAC?

Committees will be made up of local people who reflect a range of community interests and have a good understanding of local risks and needs, rather than being appointed solely because they represent a specific group.

They will be locally based people who, through their extensive connections with the community, can help inform our local and national planning.

They will have a range of attributes based on considerations set out in section 19 of the Fire and Emergency New Zealand Act 2017, which include skills, knowledge and experience relevant to Fire and Emergency NZ's main and additional functions, representation across a local area's communities and stakeholders, and diversity of perspectives.

How will LAC members be appointed?

The Board will appoint members to LACs after a nomination and selection process.

The process will be informed by the findings from the Hawke's Bay trial undertaken in early 2018 (see 'How will the LACs be run' for more info).

How will the LACs be run?

We are designing how LACs will operate in stages, building on what we learn at each step. The main steps are:

1. Pilot in Greater Auckland region (completed)
2. Pilot in Mid-South Canterbury region (completed)
3. Trial in Hawke's Bay region (completed)
4. Public consultation on LAC boundaries (completed)
5. Board approves LAC boundaries and proposed approach for roll-out of LACs nationally (currently planned for first quarter of 2019)
6. Establish LACs nationally (timing to be confirmed).

Is Fire and Emergency NZ required to set up LACs?

Yes. On 1 July 2017, the Government established Fire and Emergency New Zealand, and replaced two previous Acts with new legislation, the Fire and Emergency New Zealand Act 2017 (the Act).

The Act combines urban and rural fire and emergency services into a single organisation for New Zealand, with clear powers to provide a wide range of fire and emergency services for communities.

The Act requires the Board to establish LACs as a way of helping ensure that community voices, interests, risks and needs are well represented, understood and taken into account in Fire and Emergency NZ's local and national planning (section 14).

MORE INFORMATION

You can find out more about the decisions made by Cabinet about Fire and Emergency at www.dia.govt.nz/Fire-Services-Transition.

The Act is online at <http://www.legislation.govt.nz/act/public/2017/0017/43.0/DLM6712701.html>

Read the Discussion Document online at <https://fireandemergency.nz/public-consultation/>

You can find out more about Fire and Emergency at www.fireandemergency.nz

Fire and Emergency's Statement of Intent (2017-2021) is published at www.fireandemergency.nz

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