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John Luke

By email: fyi-request-14279-1c264bfb@requests.fyi.org.nz

Dear John

Information Request – Local Advisory Committees

I refer to your official information request dated 11 December 2020 asking for our plans for appointing the remaining Local Advisory Committees (LACs) in 2021.

In June 2020 the Fire and Emergency Board established seven Local Advisory Committees (LACs). They are located in Northland, Tairāwhiti, Hawke's Bay, Marlborough, Chatham Islands, West Coast and Otago. The LACs are established under the Fire and Emergency New Zealand Act and their role is to provide advice, from a local perspective, to Fire and Emergency on local values and priorities, risks and issues. LACs will strengthen Fire and Emergency's engagement with local communities and help us plan for delivering services now and in the future.

The first seven committees are up and running. Their initial focus has been on developing workplans and identifying priority stakeholders for engagement in their communities. Committee members have undertaken some introductory engagements with key stakeholders. Deeper community engagement will begin early this year.

We will be evaluating the establishment of the first seven LACs before setting up the remaining LACs. The evaluation is planned for 2021 and we will be incorporating the findings from the evaluation into future plans for establishing LACs across the country.

Yours sincerely

Raewyn Bleakley
Deputy Chief Executive, Office of the Chief Executive