

Update from the Board



Hi everyone

A lot has happened since my last update. Our new organisation – Fire and Emergency New Zealand (FENZ) – will be in place by 1 July next year. Planning has begun in earnest, assisted by a two day planning session at the National Training Centre in Rotorua, and a Board meeting last week. We have also established a Transition Committee that met last week for the first time. It will lead the work on establishing our new organisation. We will let you know shortly how will engage with everyone so we get the best ideas from our people and the sector.

Rotorua planning session

How do we provide our communities the very best expertise and service we can as Fire and Emergency New Zealand? What does success look like on 1 July next year? In four years' time? How can we ensure the role of “firefighter” continues to be New Zealand’s most trusted profession? How do we provide an effective “road map” to guide our actions for the next 3-5 years?

These were among the questions discussed at a two-day planning session for the Board and senior leaders held at the National Training Centre in Rotorua in mid-May.

The two days included a very moving pōwhiri for the Board, and a tour of this most impressive facility.



The discussions built on the recent review, feedback from rural stakeholders, the UFBA and the PFU, and focused on what the Board can *realistically* achieve between now and day one of FENZ, on 1 July 2017.

Clearly not everything will be in place by then, but our new organisation will need to have an identity everyone can feel part of. That is a massive challenge and an exciting opportunity for us all. We will need your help at every step so our new

organisation reflects the very best of our existing organisations.



While in Rotorua we hosted a function for around 80 key stakeholders. My main message – New Zealand doesn't revolve around Wellington! We need to get the views of everyone involved in order to make sure Fire and Emergency New Zealand provides the services our communities expect and deserve.

Transition Committee

Last Monday, the Transition Committee of the Board met for the first time. This is where a lot of the grunt work will happen, including confirmation of local committee boundaries and the stakeholder engagement plan.

The Committee - chaired by Nicki Crauford - is responsible for the day-to-day elements of the Transition. Among other things the Committee discussed the shape of FENZ from day 1, the formation of local committees, and the merits of establishing pilots to test their design at a local level. The Committee has also appointed Anders Crofoot as an independent member of the Committee. Mr Crofoot is a member of the Rural Fire Committee of the Board, and an active member of the Castlepoint Volunteer Rural Fire Force. Up to two more independent members will be appointed shortly.

Second Board meeting

The Board met on Tuesday last week. Among other things we discussed the new funding arrangements announced by the Government, approved the Transition Committee's Terms of Reference (now on the website) and were given an overview of the key changes under the Health & Safety @ Work Act and our due diligence obligations as "Officers". We discussed the volunteer resilience programme. We also talked in detail about the National IGC Radio Supply Contract; you will hear more about that this week.

The next meeting of the Board is scheduled for Thursday 23 June.

Next steps

The appointment of a Transition Programme Director to lead the programme team is progressing. This person will need to have the skills and experience to help the Transition Committee manage the establishment of our new organisation. These individuals do not grow on trees! We'll keep you updated on progress.

Over the coming weeks and months, we will need significant local and technical expertise. We will call on your skills and knowledge throughout this process to ensure Fire and Emergency New Zealand is best placed to meet the needs of our communities and our people.

Regards,



Paul Swain

New Zealand Fire Service Board Chair