

Our Ref: A2900426

13 September 2018

Dear Sir/Madam

**Proposed Plan Change 1 to the Whakatāne District Plan – Awatarariki Fanhead, Matatā  
Proposed plan change 17 (Natural Hazards) to the Regional Natural Resources Plan**

The Bay of Plenty Civil Defence Emergency Management Group (Bay of Plenty CDEM Group) is established under The Civil Defence Emergency Management Act 2002 (The CDEM Act 2002). The CDEM Act 2002 requires every regional council and every territorial authority within that region to unite to establish a Civil Defence Emergency Management Group.

Members of the Bay of Plenty CDEM Group are:

- Bay of Plenty Regional Council
- Kawerau District Council
- Ōpōtiki District Council
- Rotorua Lakes Council
- Tauranga City Council
- Western Bay of Plenty District Council
- Whakatāne District Council

This submission has been prepared on behalf of the Bay of Plenty CDEM Group. It has been approved by the Bay of Plenty Civil Defence Emergency Management Coordinating Executive Group.

Recognising the joint approach required to address the natural hazard risks at Matatā, a single submission has been prepared in support of both Proposed Plan Change 1 to the Whakatāne District Plan – Awatarariki Fanhead, Matatā and Proposed Plan Change 17 (Natural Hazards) to the Regional Natural Resources Plan.

The Bay of Plenty CDEM Group recognises the long and complex process that has lead all parties to reach this point. Considerable work has been undertaken to assess the hazard and risk associated with debris flow in the Awatarariki Fanhead at Matatā. This process and the assessment of risk management options are well detailed in the Section 32 Evaluation Report prepared for Whakatāne District Council.

The Bay of Plenty CDEM Group appreciates the impact and stress that the proposed approach will have on property owners and sympathises with the position that they have found themselves in. The Bay of Plenty CDEM Group considers that these impacts are outweighed by the potential adverse effects of a future event and supports the proposed action taken to manage this risk. The Bay of Plenty CDEM Group also supports the managed voluntary retreat strategy running in parallel with this process.

S17 of the CDEM Act 2002 requires CDEM Groups and each member to identify assess and manage hazards and risks; consult and communicate about risks and identify and implement cost effective risk reduction.



The Bay of Plenty CDEM Group Plan 2018-2023 sets out the reduction objectives for the Bay of Plenty CDEM Group to:

- Build the community's knowledge and understanding of their hazards and risks so they can make informed decisions.
- Manage natural hazards through a risk-based approach.
- Increase the region's environmental and infrastructure resilience.

Support is given to change the Operative Whakatāne District Plan to:

- Include an Awatarariki Debris Flow Policy Area and show high, medium, and low risk areas in this policy area on the District Plan Planning Maps.
- Rezone the high risk area to Coastal Protection.
- Introduce a new policy framework and rules to manage the identified natural hazard risk.

Support is given to change the Operative Regional Natural Resources Plan to:

- Add a new objective and new policies that set the intention to reduce the natural hazard risk on the Awatarariki Fanhead.
- Add a rule prohibiting residential activities within high risk areas with effect after 31 March 2021.

Both proposed plan changes outlined above are consistent with The CDEM Act 2002 and the objectives of the Bay of Plenty CDEM Group Plan 2018-2023.

The Bay of Plenty CDEM Group considers the Section 32 Evaluation Report prepared for Whakatāne District Council provides a thorough assessment of the options available to both Whakatāne District Council and Bay of Plenty Regional Council to manage the risk associated with debris flow on the Awatarariki Fanhead. Specifically the Bay of Plenty CDEM Group supports the assessment of warning and evacuation as a tool to reduce the risk on page 39 of the report. The Bay of Plenty CDEM Group agrees with the assessment that a warning system cannot be relied upon to provide dependable warnings, with adequate time, to sufficiently reduce the risk to life for residents.

The Bay of Plenty CDEM Group wishes to be heard in support of this submission and has nominated Russell George to speak on behalf of the Bay of Plenty CDEM Group with regard to this submission.

Sincerely



Russell George

**Chair**

**Bay of Plenty Civil Defence Emergency Management Coordinating Executive Group**