

# Waikato Engineering Lifelines Group

WAIKATO ENGINEERING  
Lifelines

Quarterly Newsletter No 3  
September 2005

## Chairman's comments

*Alex Shaw, South Waikato District Council*

While the Waikato Engineering Lifelines Group has existed in some form for several years, we're now developing into a cohesive group that can help lessen problems and reduce the effect of any future natural disaster.

A number of the agencies involved completed vulnerability assessments. This information has not been collated into a single document but will be used in future workshops.

The Group formally began in May 2004 and has just completed its first financial year. We can report a number of milestones that bode well for the future. We have:

- formed a steering committee
- appointed a dedicated Project Manager
- been involved in the Hamilton CLINZI model
- prepared a draft regional Communications Plan
- set up the WELG website
- published informative newsletters
- held a successful breakfast presentation prior to the Annual General Meeting.

We are still developing several things, including a Business Plan. To succeed, we will need all of the region's lifeline agencies, especially our sponsors, to indicate their expectations of the Lifelines Group. With this information, we can move forward with confidence and provide agencies with value for money, both for themselves and their respective communities and clients.

An indicative 2005/2006 programme, based on our understanding of your expectations, is outlined on page three of this newsletter. We welcome your input as to whether it is appropriate to your organisation, and if not, what changes would you like to see.

## Project Manager's comments

*John Harris, John Harris Consultancy*

The recent storm events in Tauranga and Matata clearly identified the need to use urban and rural planning as a tool for reducing the effects of hazards, especially in areas where protection systems are impractical because of construction conditions and/or prohibitive costs. Councils oversee building construction with reference to the Building Act 1991, which has clear recommendations for acceptable levels of exposure to structural damage by earthquake or wind. As an example, no dwelling should be exposed to structural damage by earthquake or wind more often than once every 475 years.

Less consideration is given to actual damage by such hazards as debris flows, which can pose greater risks than earthquake and wind. Similar restrictions should be considered for areas of future development. There is a need for councils to carry out hazard assessments, making sure that development only happens in areas where there is an acceptable level of risk.

The question of liability is always raised after disasters, especially large scale disasters such as the Tauranga and Matata events. Councils need to consider their responsibilities where flood risks are known to exist. Three Acts have a bearing on this issue: the Building Act 2004, the Health Act 1956 and the Resource Management Act 1991.

The Building Act 2004 requires territorial authorities to adopt a policy on dangerous and insanitary buildings and implement it before November 2006. A building situated so that it is likely to be dangerous to health or cause injury is seen as insanitary. The debate in Matata focuses on whether the event was a flood or a slip, and this issue will have a major effect on the insurance industry as to who pays.

While the debate about global warming continues, New Zealand is experiencing climatic extremes, with short duration high intensity rainfalls happening more frequently and with greater intensity. This increases the risk of property damage and the potential for people to be killed.

These comments are based on a newspaper article written by Dr. Tim Davies, senior lecturer in Canterbury University's department of geological sciences, and a paper in NZ Local Government Magazine July 2005, written by Linda O'Reilly, Senior Associate of Brookfields.

## Climatic change model project

The Climatic Change Impacts on NZ Infrastructure Systems and Services model (CLINZI) is a project sponsored by both central Government agencies and Local Government NZ, through the NZCEE, Massey University and Landcare Research and, for this particular model, by the Waikato Engineering Lifelines Group. It aims to increase resilience for strategic infrastructure systems and services through better risk management and financial liability forecasting.

Hamilton is well placed to face the gradual changes in climate predicted over the next 25 years. The model included water demand and treatment, transport, energy use, air quality and public health. Hamilton's water supply will experience an increase in turbidity, but overall the City's water systems are well suited for climatic change.

Climate change could effect road repair costs by \$2,000 - \$3,000 per month. While this may not seem like a large amount, it shows that we need to pay attention to climate change's effect on the finer levels of detail. It also highlights the need to carry out an analysis on a larger area, and preferably nationwide.

The model also showed that the effect of climatic change on one infrastructure system often has a negative impact on the performance of other infrastructure systems. This demonstrates the interdependencies of lifeline utilities and the need to identify these as part of any hazard analysis.

A second project is being discussed. We would like this to be for the Hauraki Plains, as it covers a significantly larger area and a more diverse range of potential issues, such as sea level increases, effects on agriculture and transport systems.

A full report on the CLINZI project can be found on the WELG website [www.waikatolifelines.org.nz](http://www.waikatolifelines.org.nz)



*Erica Dalziell, Civil Engineering Lecturer at Canterbury University, speaking at the WELG breakfast seminar, June 28, 2005.*

## Communications Plan

### Update

The draft regional Emergency Communications Plan is being published and will be circulated to WELG stakeholders. A limited number will be available for interested parties upon request. The document is in a draft form, as not all the information needed was available at time of publication. Document holders will be requested to check their information and advise the WELG Project Manager of any inaccuracies or omissions. We intend to gather additional information and feedback on the format of the draft document before final publication in May 2006. It will then be reviewed annually to keep the information current and any amended pages will be sent electronically. It will be the individual document holder's responsibility to advise the WELG Project Manager of any changes required.

We must stress that this is an internal staff document for use in emergency events and should not be given to the public. A number of the agencies included in the Communications Plan need the public to use the phone numbers in the telephone directory, rather than those in the Plan.

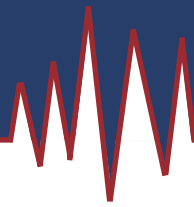
If you have any comments or questions, please contact the WELG Project Manager.



## 2005/2006 WELG work programme and budget

Cost centre	Activity	Budget	Work activities
WELG administration	Administering authority (Environment Waikato)	\$10,000	Budget preparation, invoicing, financial reports, contract management, preparing agenda reports for Steering Committee meetings and workshops.
	Project Manager	\$5,000	Minutes of meetings, developing Business Charter.
WELG projects	CLINZI project	\$5,000	Travel support for CLINZI Project Manager, development of Stage 2 (Hauraki Plains).
	Emergency Communications Plan	\$3,000	Printing and distribution (final version), maintenance/updating by Project Manager.
	National forum	\$2,000	Project Manager attendance.
	Annual seminar and AGM	\$5,000	Preparation, attendance and follow-up by Project Manager, venue hire, catering, guest speaker expenses.
	Training	\$10,000	Regional Lifelines Coordinator and an alternate (to be appointed by the Waikato CDEM Group). Note: 50 percent of costs to be funded by the Ministry of Civil Defence Emergency Management.
	Communications	\$12,000	Maintain website, quarterly newsletters.
	Hazard and risk identification workshop	\$2,500	Planning, attendance and follow-up by Project Manager, catering.
	Vulnerability workshop	\$1,500	Planning, attendance and follow-up by Project Manager, catering.
	Information management	\$2,000	Support and provide information/advice to EMO and Ministry of Civil Defence Emergency Management, projects including GIS mapping and alternative transport routes.
	Special projects	\$3,000	Administrative support, including load management and incident management systems.
Other conferences, seminars, workshops	Resilient infrastructure	\$2,500	Project Manager attendance, including expenses.
	AELG annual seminar	\$1,000	Project Manager or Project Advisor attendance, including expenses.
	Hawkes' Bay utility resilience workshop	\$1,000	Project Manager attendance, including expenses.
<b>Total</b>		<b>\$64,500</b>	





## CDEM Act 2002

*This excerpt from the Civil Defence Emergency Management Act 2002, relevant to the Waikato Region, is intended to provoke thought for those who are already familiar with the Act and the term "lifeline utility" and to educate those who are not.*

Lifeline utility means an entity named or described in Part A of Schedule 1, or that carries on a business described in Part B of Schedule 1.

### Schedule 1 Lifeline utilities

PART A - Specific entities  
Hamilton and Tauranga Airports

PART B - Entities carrying on certain businesses

1. An entity that produces, supplies, or distributes manufactured gas or natural gas (whether it is supplied or distributed through a network or in bottles of more than 20 kg of gas).
2. An entity that generates electricity for distribution through a network or distributes electricity through a network.
3. An entity that supplies or distributes water to the inhabitants of a city, district, or other place.
4. An entity that provides a waste water or sewerage network or that disposes of sewage or storm water.
5. An entity that provides a telecommunications network (within the meaning of the Telecommunications Act 1987).
6. An entity that provides a road network (including state highways).
7. An entity that produces, processes, or distributes to retail outlets and bulk customers any petroleum products used as an energy source or an essential lubricant or additives for motors for machinery.
8. An entity that provides a rail network or service.

## WELG membership and contacts

The following are current Lifelines Group Committee members and/or sponsors of the Waikato Engineering Lifelines Group

CDEM Group	Environment Waikato
Transit New Zealand	Matamata-Piako District Council
Hauraki District Council	Thames Coromandel District Council
Waikato District Council	South Waikato District Council
Waipa District Council	Waitomo District Council
Hamilton City Council	Taupo District Council
The Lines Company	Powerco
Wel Networks	Genesis Energy
Unison	Waipa Networks
Mighty River	

For more information about WELG or to be added to the newsletter distribution list, please visit our website [www.waikatolifelines.org.nz](http://www.waikatolifelines.org.nz) or contact:

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Te Aroha

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## WELG website

WELG now has its own website [www.waikatolifelines.org.nz](http://www.waikatolifelines.org.nz)

The website includes copies of the newsletters, project information, meeting minutes and agendas and topical presentations.

If you have any information that you think should be on the website, please contact the WELG Project Manager. This could include emergency management training schedules, emergency management and lifeline utility related conferences and overseas projects.

## Training

Auckland City Council is offering a course on the essentials of Civil Defence emergency management. The course will be held from 9.30 - 11.30 am on Tuesday, October 11, 2005 at the Auckland City Emergency Operations Centre, level one, Bledisloe House, Wellesley Street, Auckland. The cost is \$40 + GST per person. To register, please email [tina.hessey@aucklandcity.govt.nz](mailto:tina.hessey@aucklandcity.govt.nz)