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REPORT SUMMARY

Report to: Full Council
Meeting Date: 26 January 2012
Subject: Mayor's Report
Report Author: Mayor R Kempthorne

CIVIL DEFENCE EMERGENCY EVENT DECEMBER 2011

Prior to Christmas, the first two weeks of December carried on as per expected, being more than fully committed for that whole period but knowing that by the end of the third week the pressure would come off. That was before the steady and heavy rain event struck mid December wreaking the havoc we are now all too familiar with.

Dennis Bush-King is covering the event in a little more detail than I in a separate report. I would, however, like to make commentary on the tremendous response that I observed.

I noticed Roger Ball and his team setting up during the morning the rain started, on the off chance of being needed. I decided to stay for the briefing at 6.30pm so that I was aware what was happening. At 7pm I was thinking "There is nothing further I can do here" and was about to leave when the Police and Roger Broadhurst both expressed that there was a real capacity issue and within about ten minutes it was clear of the need for an Emergency Declaration which was duly requested and, following consultation with Mayor Aldo Miccio, I signed the Declaration.

What followed was an extraordinary demonstration of staff commitment to our communities, both from Tasman District Council and Nelson City Council. In addition we had senior personnel from many agencies including Ministry of Social Development, Police, Search and Rescue, Fire Service, Red Cross and Ambulance. Building inspectors joined us from other centres, along with geotechnical Engineers and specialists.

It was amazing to see how everyone pitched in and professionally and tirelessly contributed their time and resourcefulness.

It was the highlight of my year observing the response of so many and I realise that this was mirrored in the community by people stepping in and helping others, some of whom have experienced real personal devastation. I want to commend everyone

involved, either directly or indirectly. Other staff had to step in and fill the gap for their colleagues who were suddenly involved in the response effort and I also want to recognise them.

The recovery will take time to plan and I suspect years to fully implement. I will encourage and support a measured approach to the recovery and again, I thank everyone for their contribution.

DRAFT RESOLUTION

THAT the Tasman District Council receives the Mayor's Report RCN12-01-14.