



## Local Advisory Committee and Pilot Questions and Answers

*Please note: the name, Local Advisory Committees, was changed to Local Advisory Committees in light of feedback by the Parliamentary Select Committee in December 2016. This is to better describe what the Local Advisory Committees will do.*

### What are Local Advisory Committees?

In the Fire and Emergency New Zealand Bill (Bill), it proposes that Local Advisory Committees provide local advice to Fire and Emergency New Zealand (FENZ). They will provide advice to FENZ on local issues and planning.

It is expected there will be between 12 and 16 Local Advisory Committees, although no decisions have been made yet. Local Advisory Committees will have no governance, management, or operational control over any brigade/Voluntary Rural Fire Force; person; resource; or budget in the 'locality'.

### What is the purpose of Local Advisory Committees?

The main purpose of each Local Advisory Committee is to provide a strong local influence and advice to FENZ about their community's fire and emergency risks and needs.

The FENZ Bill spells out the functions of the Local Advisory Committees –

1. to undertake efficient and effective local engagement for the Board;
2. to provide local advice to FENZ on the national strategy, local issues, and local planning;
3. to consider and promote the interests of the local area's FENZ volunteers;
4. to consider the interests of the industry fire brigades operating in the local area; and
5. to provide regular advice on FENZ's progress in relation to its local planning.

### How will members be appointed to Local Advisory Committees?

Appointments will be made by the Board.

Local Advisory Committees are a group of people who can represent stakeholders' interests and views. They are not a group of representatives from agencies.

Local Advisory Committee members will need to act collectively in the best interests of their community.



## **Will Local Advisory Committees have management or operational control over FENZ personnel?**

Local Advisory Committees will provide advice to FENZ on their local community's risks and needs. They have no governance, management, or operational control over any brigade/Voluntary Rural Fire Force; person; resource; or budget in the 'locality'.

## **When will Local Advisory Committees start operating?**

The FENZ Bill is expected to pass into law around March/April 2017. The Bill requires the Board to publicly consult on proposed boundaries for Local Advisory Committees, and consultation will start once FENZ is legally established on 1 July 2017. Only after that can Local Advisory Committees be appointed.

## **The Bill talks about Local Advisory Committees needing to “consider and promote” the interests of the local area’s FENZ volunteers? What does this mean?**

The Bill is still under development and we do not yet have a final answer to what 'consider and promote' will mean in practice. However, we do not expect Local Advisory Committees to have an advocacy role for volunteers (such as is provided by UFBA and FRFANZ).

We believe the intention is for local advice from committees to take account of volunteers (who will make up around 85% of FENZ response crews), without diminishing the importance of the paid workforce.

## **PILOTS**

### **Why was Greater Auckland chosen?**

Greater Auckland was selected as the first pilot location by the Board because it has New Zealand's most diverse community, and contains a variety of fire-related risks and needs; ie cities, towns, an industrial sector, diversity in farming/land use, forestry plantations, and conservation land.

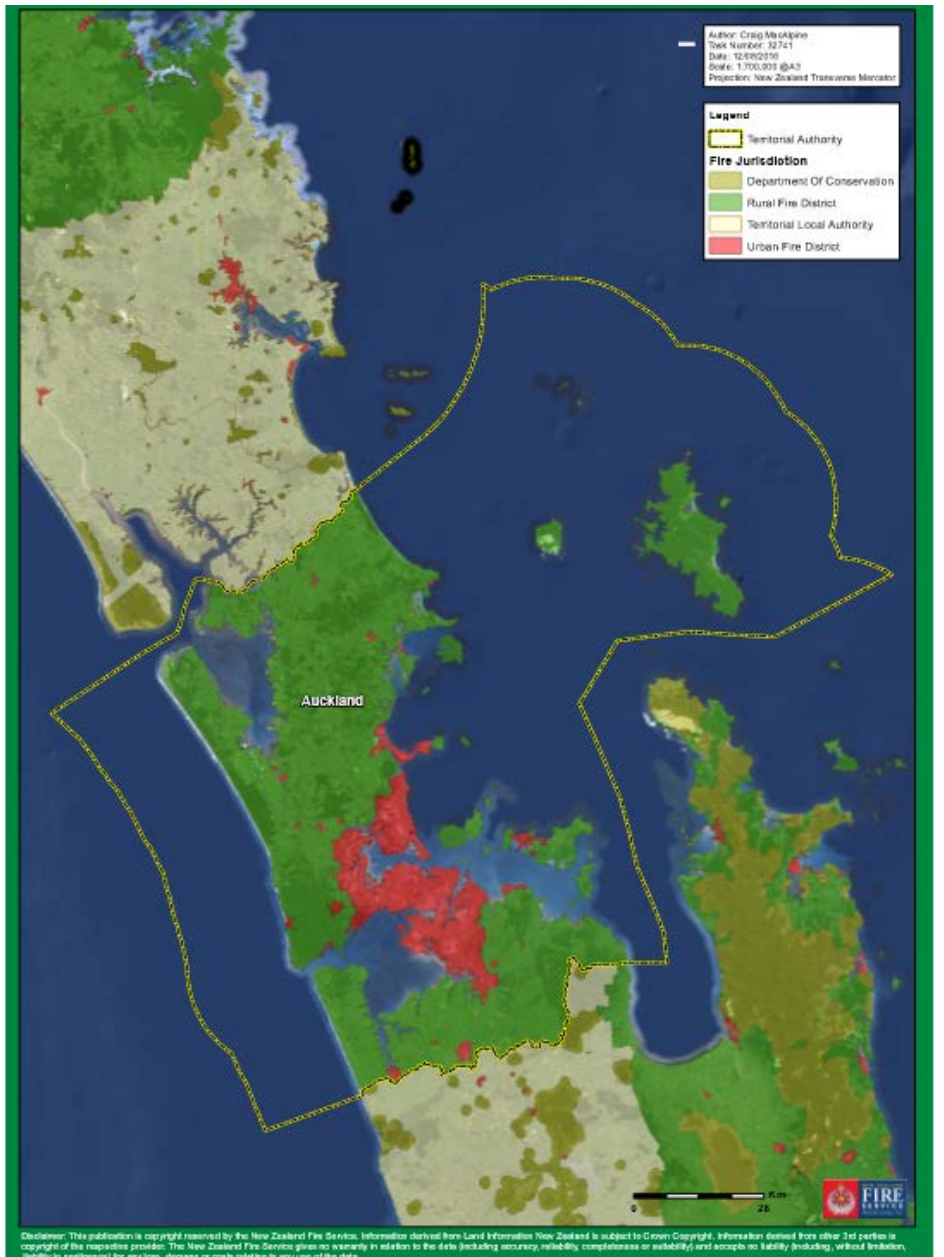
Greater Auckland has 422,000 hectares of rural land within the rural fire district, and 70,000 hectares of land in the urban fire districts. There are 95 forest owners with plantations over 20 hectares covering 54,000 hectares of forest plantation. The Department of Conservation has over 32,000 hectares of public conservation land in Greater Auckland.

We have 11 Voluntary Rural Fire Forces in Greater Auckland, with around 286 volunteers. There are 29 Career Fire Stations and 39 NZFS Volunteer Fire Stations, with 53 management and support staff.

Greater Auckland also has the benefit of being governed by a single unitary authority.

Greater Auckland stretches from Wellsford in the north to Waiuku in the south, including the islands of the Hauraki Gulf and Great Barrier Island. See the map below.

### Greater Auckland pilot area



### What are the Local Advisory Committee pilots for?

Local Advisory Committees are a brand new concept, and need to have a lot of detail worked through. The pilots are a test for learning purposes, run by the FENZ



Transition Project (which is responsible for amalgamating 40 plus organisations into FENZ, a single fire and emergency service, by 1 July 2017).

There will be two pilots – the first in Greater Auckland, with the second location yet to be determined. We expect to announce the second pilot location by March 2017.

A pilot working group made up of Greater Auckland stakeholders will assist the project to develop and test what is required for Local Advisory Committees to be effectively established after 1 July 2017.

Both pilots will test how Local Advisory Committees will work before implementation. This includes working out how we establish committees, and identify members, how advisory functions will work between Local Advisory Committees and FENZ, and how local stakeholders can influence local planning.