



Fire and Emergency New Zealand

Local Advisory Committees



AN OVERVIEW OF THE TRANSITION TO
**FIRE AND EMERGENCY NEW
ZEALAND**

Top 5 themes from Review 2015

- **Community:** Importance of retaining community involvement and local identities
- **Service delivery:** Increase effectiveness by leveraging national opportunities, give clarity on non-fire responsibilities, recognise the differences between rural and urban fire delivery in any new model
- **Volunteers and rural fire services:** Need better support
- **Funding:** Clarity around how funding is allocated, who should fund (particularly rural fire) and how, a need for fairness and equity
- **Transition:** There is an appetite for change, the importance of a well managed transition, and importance of keeping stakeholders involved.



Common Problems Identified

- **Changing expectations** are putting the fire services under pressure
- **Lack of coordination** within and between fire services; **unclear accountability for non-fire**, and **variable leadership**
- **Investment is inconsistent** with some communities' needs; driven by who delivers the service, not by risk
- Fire Service **Levy does not adequately align costs to where potential use lies**, is out of date
- **Cultural differences** between urban and rural and between volunteer and paid firefighters can generate operational issues.

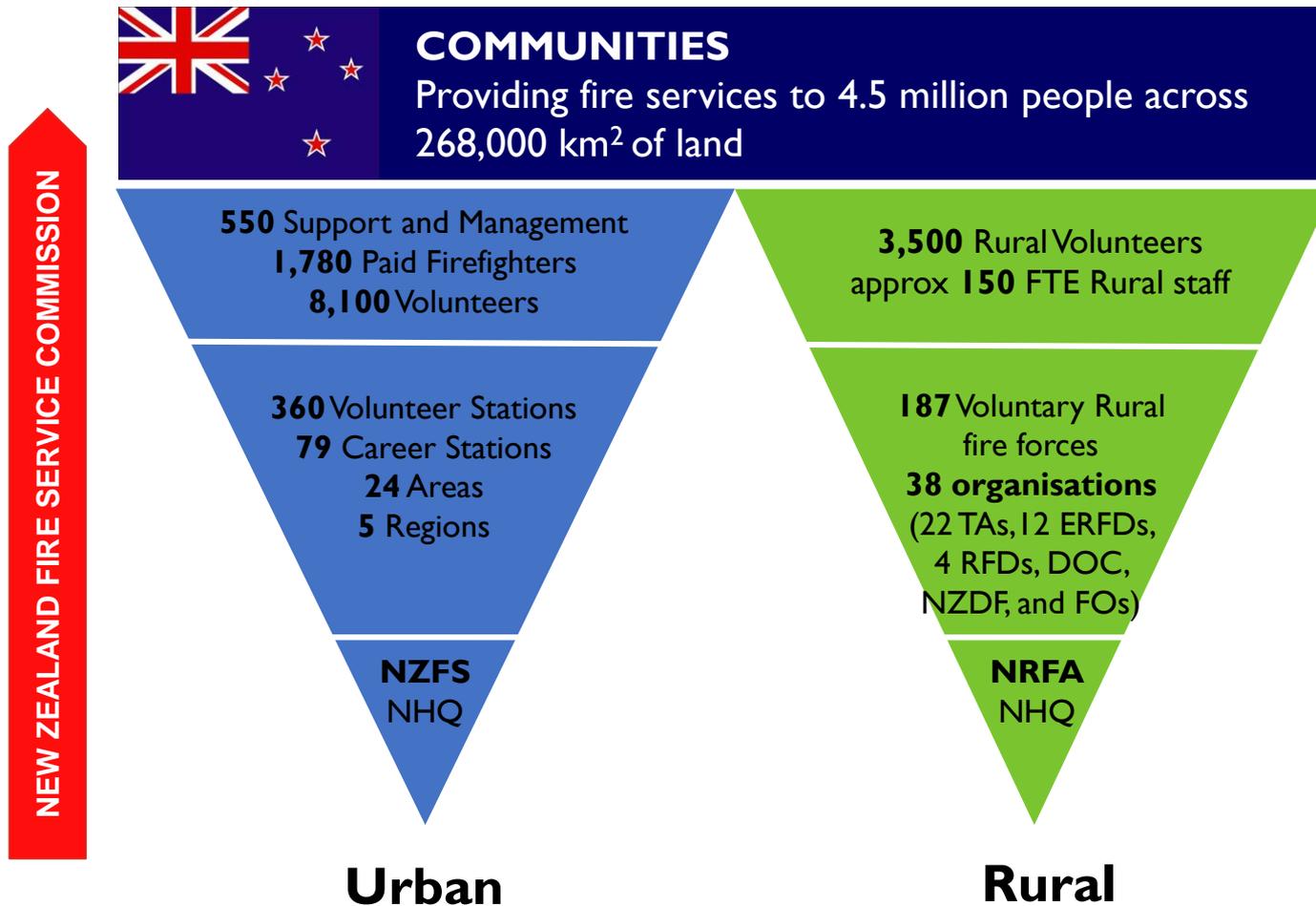


Changing Communities

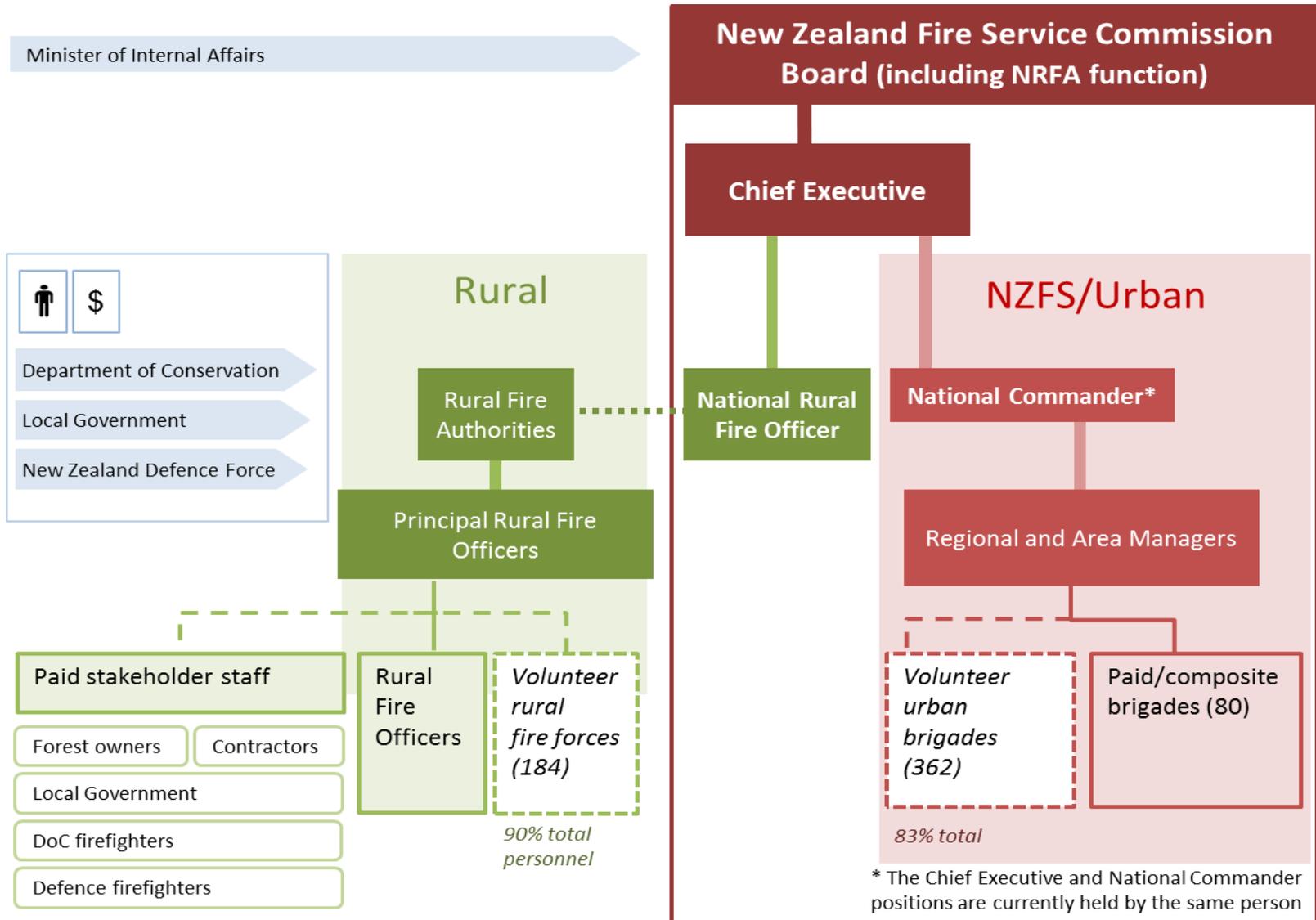
- Aging population and workforce
- Move from country to town (urban drift)
- South to north domestic migration
- Climate change



Fire services in NZ: Now



Current – Multiple Governance Structures



Strong Community Connections

- The Local Advisory Committee concept was introduced into the Fire and Emergency NZ Bill as assurance Fire and Emergency New Zealand wouldn't be too 'Wellington-centric'.
- The main purpose of Local Advisory Committees is to provide advice, from a local perspective, to Fire and Emergency NZ.

Fire and Emergency in NZ: Future



Formal arrangements with:

- Department of Conservation
- New Zealand Defence Force
- Forest owners

Fire and Emergency New Zealand

Purpose of Working Group

- How do we **test Local Advisory Committees concept** before we start work to implement all Local Advisory Committees nationwide:
 - By establishing this working group to help us co-design what Local Advisory Committees could be.
- Including:
 - How we could **establish** committees and identify members (dependent on advice on regulations);
 - How the **advisory function** could work between Local Advisory Committees and FENZ; and
 - **Contribute learnings** to the public consultation on local advisory committee boundaries (after legislation is enacted).

History to Local Advisory Committees

- During the first consultation round of the discussion document, stakeholders made it very clear they wanted input at a local level – not “told what to do from Wellington”
- Ensure there is strong local influence and community engagement with local decision making - local voice balances national direction
- Early considerations looked at structural options for this to occur – included local Governance; local Management; and local Influence
- Strength of advisory or influence role
- Management needs to be genuine and sincere

Purpose of Local Advisory Committees

- Will ensure that the voices of the local communities are not diluted through the transition to Fire and Emergency NZ, particularly in relation to their risks and needs.
- The main purpose of Local Advisory Committees is to provide advice from a local perspective to Fire and Emergency NZ;
- The FENZ's Board owes duties towards these committees, including support and taking local advice into account into planning.
- Will provide a mechanism for ensuring a strong local voice in the fire services
- The Local Advisory Committees will support Fire and Emergency New Zealand by ensuring both the protection of a local and community focussed perspective, as well as by having input into the work of the fire service.

Legal situation with Local Advisory Committees

- Local Advisory Committees are to be established by the Board to provide **local advice** to Fire and Emergency NZ - Refer the FENZ Bill
- Formal appointments to Local Advisory Committees cannot be made until after consultation on boundaries is completed which will not commence until after the Bill become legislation on 1 July 17
- The DIA has undertaken public consultation on whether or not Regulations are needed to support Local Advisory Committees – these will be developed for implementation July 2018

How will Local Advisory Committees Work?

- Committees will **not be** made up of representatives from agencies – they **will be** made up of people from communities who can represent stakeholders' risks, needs, interests and views
- **They are** a group of people who act collectively in the best interest of the 'locality'
- Appointments will be made by the Board – members will have the competence, experience, and willingness. (Regulations may apply)
- **They have no** direct management control over any brigade; person; resource; or budget in the 'locality'

Principles

- **Service to the community**
 - Wider needs and the community you are representing
 - Align to Fire and Emergency New Zealand values enabling common goals
- **Commitment to continuous learning**
- **Challenge:** respectful interactions encouraged and maintained
- **Transparency:** in consensus decision making
 - Processes publically available
 - To be bound to it
- **Use positive and inclusive language**
 - Be brave to move away from business speak – plain English
- **Connectivity** – eg. Understanding operations, community and elected members etc.

Local Advisory Committee Functions

The functions of the local committees are —

- to undertake efficient and effective local engagement for the board; and to provide local advice to FENZ on the national strategy, local issues, and local planning; and
- to consider and promote the interests of the local area's FENZ volunteers; and to consider the interests of the industry brigades operating in the local area; and
- to consider the provisions of any current operational service agreement and memorandum of understanding that FENZ has and that is relevant to a local area in relation to which the local advisory committee has responsibilities, including—
 - the operational service agreement with the Department of Conservation under section 110; and
 - the operational service agreement with the New Zealand Defence Force under section 111; and
 - the memorandum of understanding with the Ministry of Education under section 114; and
- to provide regular advice on FENZ's progress in relation to its local planning.

Establishing Local Advisory Committees

- Operating principles
- Member activities
 - Selection and appointment
 - Removal processes
 - Retention and succession planning
- Remuneration – (Cabinet fees framework)
- Induction and training
- Relationship with Fire and Emergency New Zealand
- Reporting
- Administration processes
- Regulations

Let's keep the conversation going



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myvoice@fenzproject.co.nz



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88 The Terrace, Wellington

