

Hawke's Bay Engineering Leadership Group Following Cyclone Gabrielle

Terms of Reference

21 March 2023

Background

Following the impacts of Cyclone Gabrielle in Hawke's Bay in February 2023, an Engineering Leadership Group has been established to consider key technical issues involved in the assessment, repair and reconstruction of residential and commercial buildings and related infrastructure.

This group includes representatives of the Structural Engineering Society and NZ Geotechnical Society and Engineering New Zealand, and experienced local engineers with a comprehensive knowledge of Hawke's Bay's building stock from a range of consulting engineering practices.

The nature and mode of operation of this group follows the successful model of the Engineering Advisory Group established following the Darfield Earthquake in September 2010, and endorsed by the Canterbury Earthquakes Royal Commission of Inquiry, and the Engineering Leadership Group supported by Wellington City Council following the 2016 Kaikoura earthquake.

Objectives of the Group

- (i) To provide support to engineering practitioners undertaking assessment and remediation of flood-affected structures, and provide best practice information as it relates to the specific aspects of this event;
- (ii) To provide an active linkage between engineering practitioners and local and central government agencies;
- (iii) To provide an active linkage between engineering practitioners and the research community in order to gather information on damaged buildings that will inform a better understanding of whole of building performance and guidance to practitioners on the assessment of residual capacity of damaged buildings; and
- (iv) To support meaningful engagement with Iwi.

Particular Areas of Work

It is proposed that the Hawke's Bay Engineering Leadership Group will address the following range of activities:

- Interacting with and supporting the region's territorial authorities, Hawke's Bay Regional Council, MBIE and other key agencies
- Supporting engineering practitioners by facilitating the sharing of information, and identifying areas where technical and other guidance is required, and facilitating its production
- Facilitating the timely gathering of building and site data, including forensic data if required, to enable analysis and research to inform both the recovery from this event and to inform future design, construction, and assessment processes.

Principal Outputs of the Group

The principal output of the Hawke's Bay Engineering Leadership Group will be in the form of guidance notes to practitioners on specific topics relating to assessment and repairs of residential and commercial buildings, integrating both technical and regulatory considerations.

Currently available and new information will be disseminated via the Hawke's Bay Technical Clearinghouse in the first instance and subsequently via email and the technical society websites. Some of the guidance developed by the Group may feed into guidance published by MBIE and/ or affected territorial authorities.

The Group may be called upon for other involvement and outputs throughout the recovery process.

Structure and Composition of the Group

It is proposed that the Hawke's Bay Engineering Leadership Group is to comprise the following key agency, technical society and consulting engineering practice representatives:

Aaron Kaijser	Hawke's Bay Structural Group Chair; Kotahi Studio (Co-chair)
Cam Wylie	RDCL Principal Geotechnical Engineer (Co-chair)
Paul Hobbs	MBIE Building System Assurance
Simon Triskelion	Chair, Hawke's Bay Branch, Engineering New Zealand
Natalia Uran Botero	WSP (Bridges)
Russell Nettlingham	Strata Group
Noel Evans	WSP (CDEM Group Lifeline Utility Co-ordinator)
Dave Brunsdon	Engineering New Zealand

Arrangements and Support for Group Members

The input of most members of the Group will be voluntary in their various industry roles. Support is however sought for key roles such as the Chair plus any members specifically tasked with producing guidance, and any additional co-opted resource.

Duration of the Group

It is anticipated that the demand for guidance from the group will be greatest in the first few months of the recovery, and it is therefore proposed that the Group operate through until December 2023. Further continuation of the Group will be upon mutual agreement of the agencies and individuals involved.