

Selwyn District Council

Port Hills Fire Recovery Plan



June 2017

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Executive summary

This Port Hills Fire Recovery Plan outlines actions to be completed to enable Selwyn district communities to recover from the Port Hills fire of February-March 2017.

A Recovery Plan Discussion Document was produced in May 2017, giving residents and stakeholders the opportunity to comment on the proposed Recovery Plan. People who asked to be involved in the review of the Recovery Plan were sent the discussion document via email and it was also made available to the general public on the Council's website.

Two submissions were received: One from Transpower and one from an Early Valley Road resident.

The Transpower submission sought to clarify its position on both medium-term and long-term infrastructure resilience. As the owner and operator of the National Grid, the actions listed for Transpower in the Built Environment would be better stated as ongoing because the actions are a core aspect of Transpower's business in building resilience in to the power network.

The comments have been recognised and the actions have been amended in the Recovery Plan.

The submission from an Early Valley resident has been forwarded to the Port Hills Fire Operational Review Team as a number of the comments in the submission are of direct relevance to the review.

It is, however, important to comment on two aspects of the submission;

1. The submitter noted that it is important to look at the past with a view of not repeating mistakes in the future. We agree with this comment and that is why the review of actions taken is a key part of both the Recovery Plan, and also the Operational Review.
2. The submission also noted that a number of locals helped tirelessly in fighting the fires. We acknowledge this and commend them for both their actions during the fire and also subsequent to the event. The Council greatly appreciates those people who went above and beyond in supporting people in the fire affected community. Thank you.

Selwyn District Council's Recovery Plan proposes a coordinated recovery with robust processes to manage the immediate, medium and long-term issues in relation to the social, built, economic and natural environments. In this document, the issues raised by the community in relation to the response to the fire events are also addressed.

The Council's recovery goals include:

- minimising hardship and enhancing the well-being of individuals and communities who suffered losses or damage due to the fires
- rolling out a recovery plan which is credible and effective, while ensuring information about the recovery is clear, timely and easily accessible
- creating a recovery plan which is affordable and sustainable
- improve the resilience of communities, businesses and infrastructure into the future.

The Council is striving to make the recovery process a success. This Recovery Plan outlines proposed actions to be carried out, and defines the resources and measurement tools needed to achieve its set goals. Transparency and clear communication is at the core of the Council's current recovery efforts and this is reflected in the Recovery Plan.

As communities work through the recovery phase, they can expect to know who the lead and support agencies/organisations are, and that actions have appropriate time frames to be completed by.

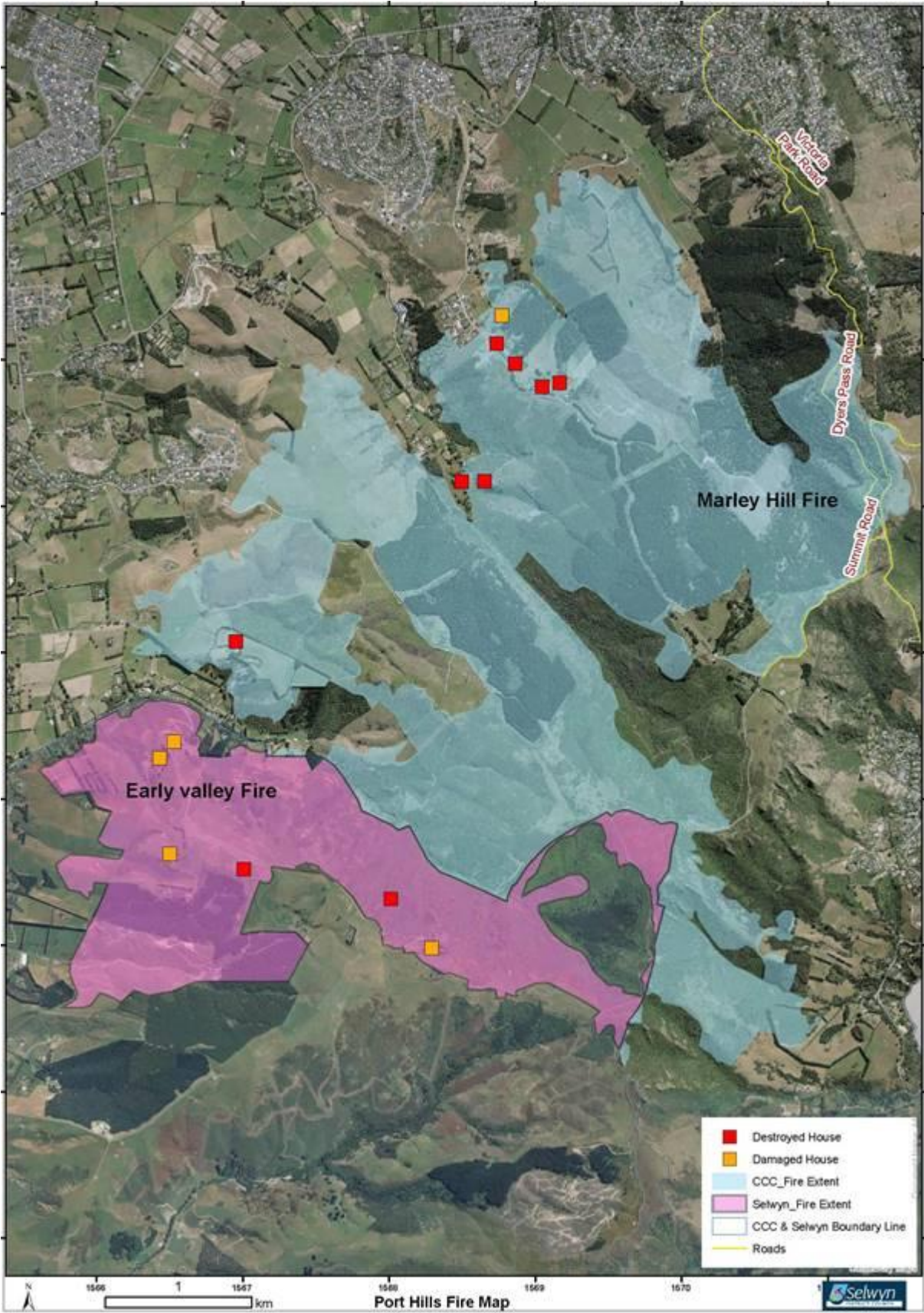
The success of the Recovery Plan means:

- homes are rebuilt in a timely and supported manner
- affected property and landowners understand how various agencies responded to the Port Hills Fire as well as why and how decisions were made
- Port Hills residents, and those nearby, have strengthened resilience through knowing the environment they live in and the associated risks
- future emergency responses from agencies are coordinated, provide adequate information to those directly affected and use established lines of communication
- all steps are taken to protect essential services and infrastructure during the recovery process
- the regeneration and enhancement of the Port Hills improves recreational and leisure activities, and promotes the repopulation of wildlife
- surface water runoff and sedimentation risks are managed until the regeneration of damaged areas is established
- essential work such as felling, clearing and disposing of damaged vegetation is undertaken with minimal adverse effects on the environment and best practice guidelines are followed
- the future landscape of the Port Hills reduces the risk of future extreme fire events.

Glossary of terms

CCC	Christchurch City Council
CDEM	Civil Defence Emergency Management
CDHB	Canterbury District Health Board
DOC	Department of Conservation
DPMC	Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet
ECan	Environment Canterbury
MBIE	Ministry of Business Innovation and Employment
MCDEM	Ministry of Civil Defence Emergency Management
MPI	Ministry of Primary Industries
MSD	Ministry of Social Development
NGO	Non-Government Organisation
NZTA	New Zealand Transport Agency
NCRST	North Canterbury Rural Support Trust
SDC	Selwyn District Council
FENZ	Fire and Emergency New Zealand

Map of Fire area



Context

Summary of event

The Port Hill fires on the boundary between Selwyn District Council and Christchurch City Council started on 13 February 2017. The Early Valley Road and Marley's Hill fires merged following the significant escalation of the fire during the afternoon and evening of Wednesday 15 February 2017.

The fires stretched from Early Valley Road in the west through to Victoria Park in the east, including the hill slopes above Governors Bay/Allandale, above Kennedys Bush, Hoon Hay Valley, urban/rural interface at Westmorland, Worsleys Road, and Cashmere Valley.

The fire covered an area of 1,645 hectares with a perimeter of 51 kilometres.

Assets compromised included communication repeaters, electricity infrastructure, residential properties, the Christchurch Adventure Park infrastructure, recreation tracks, forestry blocks, ecological reserves, along with water supply infrastructure.

Nine homes were completely destroyed, two suffered partial damage and three outbuilding/sheds were damaged. Many other dwelling were affected by smoke inundation.

An estimated 450 homes were evacuated in the affected Christchurch city and Selwyn district areas (approximately 1,000 people). It is estimated that a further 1800 people were required to be evacuated from Westmorland.

The fire originated in Early Valley Road (in Selwyn district) and was managed by the Selwyn Rural Fire Authority. An Incident Management Team (IMT) was established at the Selwyn District Council (SDC) to manage the fire response.

The fire that started at Marley's Hill was the responsibility of the Department of Conservation (as another Rural Fire Authority) – as the origin of the fire fell within the DoC's one kilometre safety margin.

An Emergency Operations Centre (EOC) was established at the Christchurch City Council's Civic Office to support the fire response and those residents evacuated from their homes.

From the morning of Tuesday 14 February, both fires were jointly managed by the Incident Management Team at the Selwyn District Council.

A state of emergency was declared on Tuesday, 15 February 2017 (1805hrs) for a period of seven days. The state of emergency was further extended on Tuesday, 21 February 2017 (1805hrs) and expired on Wednesday, 1 March 2017 (1805hrs).

Selwyn District Council response activities during and after fire

The following is a general overview of the Council's activities since the fires began and continuing today.

Social environment

- Community meetings: Large public meetings occurred as well as door-to-door and shed-to-shed visits. This provided the opportunity for people to share their thoughts about the recovery and get information about the fire.
- Needs assessments of affected residents occurred.
- Dedicated email and phone numbers for residents to call a Council representative about any fire-related issue were established.
- Continued support for those who were severely affected was offered as well as maintaining both email and phone contact with them.
- Counselling was offered through the Salvation Army.
- Inviting landowners, who have had areas burnt, to participate in the recovery of the natural environment.
- Ongoing contact is still being made with those badly affected by the fires. There are a range of different responses, as would be expected, depending on the individual needs and circumstances.
- The Council's focus has been to make sure those that want support know where to get it.
- Skips were made available to those in the most affected areas in order to get rid of fire-damaged property.

Natural environment

- Staff have engaged with local land owners and are working with them on plans to re-sow pasture.
- A community-driven replanting plan is being developed. The Council is continuing to meet with residents and capture opportunities going forward like new walking tracks, native planting with less flammable species etc.
- We are working with the Christchurch City Council and ECan regarding sediment control measures.
- We have been providing information to residents regarding defensible space and planting less flammable plant species
- The Council continues to work with Christchurch City Council staff to plan for walking tracks and revegetation.
- The Council is planning more community meetings regarding a planting plan for the Selwyn district area.
- Meetings have been held with government agencies to find ways to replant the burnt areas in a more cost-effective way.

Built environment

- Council staff have been assigned to each badly affected home owner to help guide them through any processes which are required.
- Rock fall risks at Early Valley Road have been assessed and a report has been completed. Site remediation has begun. A small number of houses have been identified as 'at risk' and these people have been met with and are involved in the process.
- Ongoing conversations are continuing regarding damage caused by firefighting.
- Rock fall risk is still being worked on by a contractor. Mitigation actions have begun.
- Council staff continue to work with affected landowners and residents to help them navigate any consents required.
- Council staff are looking at any RMA/District Plan issues which may need to be addressed.

- Council recovery staff have walked the fire breaks and checked damage to fences. Concerns raised by landowners about the extent of the damage, and how to minimise such damage in the future are being explored through reviewing standard operating procedures and health and safety guidelines.

Economic environment

- Farming infrastructure is the most affected by the fires and we have had conversations with some landowners regarding this. Some work has already begun, but a number of properties are under insured and the Council will continue to work with these people.

Recovery Plan mandate

At the Canterbury Civil Defence Emergency Management Group (Canterbury CDEM) Joint Committee meeting, held 24 February 2017, the following appointments were made:

1. Canterbury Group Recovery Manager (Sandra James),
2. Local Recovery Manager, Christchurch City (Murray Sinclair), and
3. Local Recovery Manager, Selwyn District (Al Lawn).

These appointments were made in relation to the Port Hills fires that commenced on 13 February 2017.

Immediately on the expiry of the State of Emergency, a notice of a 'Local Transition Period' was put in place on Tuesday, 1 March 2017 (effective from 1805hrs) by the Chairperson of the Canterbury CDEM Group (Mayor Lianne Dalzell) for a period of 28 days ie until 29 March 2017.

Timing of Recovery Plan release

The Council has directly supported affected residents since the start of the fire. The draft Recovery Plan consolidates the work which the Council has already done and formalises the recovery going forward.

As the Port Hills fire was officially announced as extinguished on April 20, the Recovery Plan sets a process for the next stage of recovery and coincides with the release of the Christchurch City Council's plan.

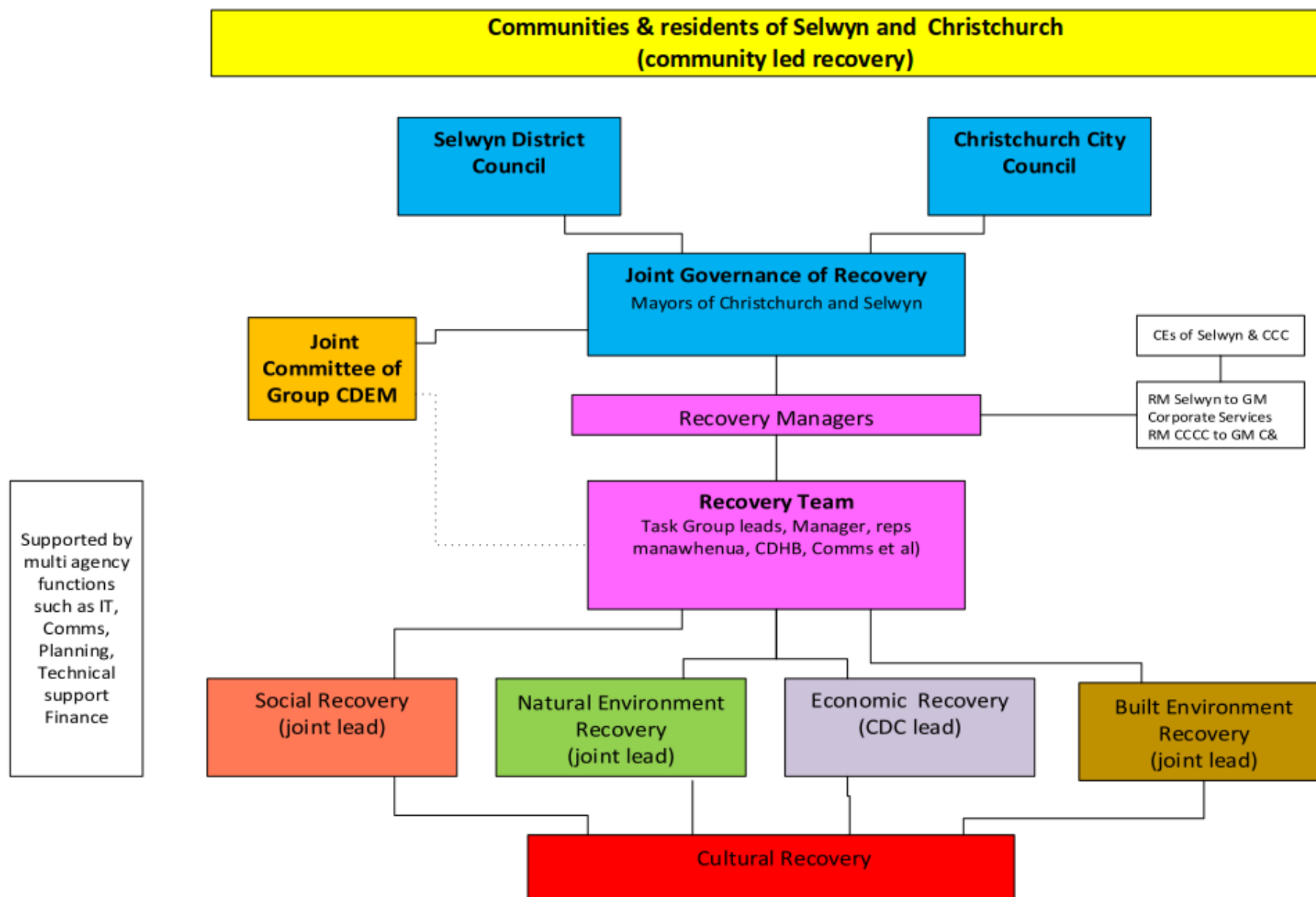
Recovery Plan purpose

The purpose of this draft Recovery Plan is to provide the framework that will enable the provision of coordinated effort and processes that need to be, or have been, put in place to manage the immediate, medium and long term issues in relation to the social, built, economic and natural environments. The plan also addresses some of the issues raised by the community in relation to the responses to the fire events that need future actions.

This Recovery Plan is a living document and will be updated as required.

Recovery goals

1. Hardship is minimised and well-being enhanced for individuals and communities who have suffered losses or damage as a result of the Port Hills fire.
2. Recovery efforts are credible, effective and are supported by robust and transparent processes.
3. Recovery actions are affordable now and in the future.
4. Recovery actions improve the resilience of communities, businesses and infrastructure into the future.



Making the Recovery Plan a success

It is important that the Recovery Plan has achievable actions, that it is clear who the lead and support agencies/organisations are and that the actions have appropriate time frames in which to be completed. It is also important that the Recovery Plan sets out its objectives so that the actions are coordinated, all of which support the successful implementation of the Plan.

A key set of draft objectives that drive the Recovery Plan have been formulated. These objectives are listed below:

- *Property owners who lost their homes are able to rebuild in a timely and supported manner if they wish to do so, and those wishing to move on are supported through the transition*
- *All reasonable steps are taken to protect and secure access to essential infrastructure on the Port Hills, ensuring that site installations are suitably safeguarded and pose no increased risk of fire events*
- *The concerns of property owners directly affected by the emergency, regarding the way in which emergency agencies dealt with the fire, are fully addressed and explained*
- *Residents who live within and close to the Port Hills have a better and more informed understanding of their environment, in particular the risk of fire, and have a greater awareness of how they can protect themselves, their properties and their neighbours*
- *Future emergency responses from agencies are coordinated, provide adequate information to those persons directly affected, use established lines of communication, and establish robust control points and effective registration centres*
- *The special backdrop the Port Hills is regenerated, and continues to be a great place for recreational and leisure activities*
- *Work with landowners to ensure surface water runoff and sedimentation risks are managed until regeneration of damaged areas is established*
- *Essential work such as felling, clearing and disposing of damaged vegetation is undertaken with minimal adverse effects on the environment and best practice guidelines are followed*
- *Opportunities to enhance the landscapes of the Port Hills during regeneration are identified, well-coordinated, and encourage native planting and the re-population of wildlife*
- *Agencies involved in the long-term monitoring of the Port Hills landscapes work with landowners in taking appropriate and timely action in managing and controlling unwanted plant species, reducing the risks of extreme fire events*
- *As part of the future landscape of the Port Hills, opportunities are taken where practical to reduce/minimise the risks of future extreme fire events.*

Overview of Recovery Plan for the built environment

This Recovery Plan will involve three programmes of work:

The immediate recovery response will include:

Week one	Setting up a facilitated building consent process so that people who are looking to carry out repairs or build new houses as a result of fire damage can receive immediate advice about how they might go about this process. Their building consents will be prioritised.
Week two	A similar process will be set up for any resource consents in their rebuild or repair work.
Week four	A geotechnical assessment will be undertaken in Early Valley Road to check rock stability, rock fall etc.
Week four	An information package will be developed about how people can avoid fire hazard by environmental design of their rebuilds.
Week five	A review of all resource consents on the Port Hills in the Selwyn district, to assess whether consents relating to landscaping have increased the likelihood of fire hazard. If that is the case then there will be an approach made to consent holders requesting that they vary the consent, at Council's cost, to address those issues.
Week six	
Week eight	Provide an information pack to all houses assessed as having a higher than normal fire hazard risk that provides some options to reduce the hazards of wild fire by following some simple preventable steps
1-2 Years	Development of a package of provisions through the District Plan Review currently underway that specifically address fire hazard and will include provisions that seek to establish an environment around residential activity that minimises fire risk through design and also provides ways of fighting fires (water storage)

Phase One

Phase two

Phase three

Building safety inspections

To date Selwyn District Council's Building Team have completed safety inspections of nine houses located along Early Valley Road, two of which were completely destroyed by fire, and four which have minor damage. Dwellings were inspected for safety for occupation to allow residents to move back into their houses. Any residents that have safety concerns about other buildings on their property are advised to contact Vanessa Beavon (Building Manager) on phone 03 347 2838 to discuss their concerns and an inspector will be sent out to inspect building issues as and when required. The above contact details have been circulated to residents via the welfare team's information bulletin.

Building consent process

Building consent approvals will be required to be obtained for new building work and repair work to existing structures where the work falls outside of the exempt provisions of [Schedule 1](#) of the Building Act 2004.

The Council's online electronic consenting system provides customers with the facility to identify their project as resulting from an unforeseen event – customers simply need to select 'Fire' from the drop down list on the online application form. This will ensure that the application is identified as resulting from the recent event and staff will prioritise the processing of the application. If owners or agents working on their behalf are not able to lodge the application using the online system, they are welcome to take applications into the office and staff will assist them in making their application.

Once building consent approval is granted, building work can commence with routine building inspections being booked in the usual manner.

Planning

Resource consent process

Council planning staff will review all the property files and relevant resource consents for those properties affected by the Port Hills fires and are keen to discuss rebuilding opportunities with affected property owners.

A resource consent is required when a proposed building or activity does not comply with all of the relevant rules in the Selwyn District Plan. A resource consent is separate to a building consent. Owners of affected properties may need one or both types of consent for rebuilding on their properties.

If property owners wish to construct new buildings on their properties, or wish to use their land in a way that does not comply with the rules of the District Plan, they may require a resource consent. Whether they need a resource consent and what classification of resource consent they require depends on what they want to do and how it's classified in the District Plan. The District Plan sets out rules and related information that will help affected property owners decide whether or not they need a resource consent. Council planning staff can provide advice on this.

If property owners hold an existing resource consent for their property they will have the ability to reconstruct the buildings and / or carry out any activities on the property without the need for further resource consent, unless they vary from what was originally approved or carried out on the property.

The Council would be interested in discussing with affected property owners the various conditions of their resource consent(s) to address any concerns, particularly in relation to fire mitigation, such as conditions requiring landscaping close to houses, building height, visual screening etc.

Advice on planning and consent issues is available by calling one the Council duty planning officers. A duty officer is available Monday to Friday, 8.30am to 5pm on 347 2868.

Existing use rights

Alternatively, it may be that affected property owners have existing use rights for the buildings and activities carried out on that property. Buildings that complied with the planning rules when they were first established, but don't comply with the current rules, may have existing use rights.

Existing use rights can be useful when replacing a building that was damaged or destroyed in the Port Hills fires. Provided that certain legal requirements are met, existing use rights enable the reconstruction of a similar building without the need for a resource consent.

For example, if the current rules require a 10 metre setback from the boundary but the original dwelling was located only 1 metre from the boundary, a similar replacement dwelling can be built 1 metre from the boundary without the need for resource consent (as long as the legal requirements are met).

Note: Existing use rights do not apply to buildings that were established via resource consent. Such buildings can be reconstructed at any time in accordance with the approved resource consent (as discussed above).

Council staff will work with property owners to find out whether existing use rights apply to their individual situations. The legal onus is on the owner or agent to establish existing use rights, however Council planning staff will assist where they can to advise what information is required and where it could be sourced from if not held by the Council.

District Plan Review

The purpose of the District Plan is to assist the Council to carry out its functions in order to achieve the purpose of the Resource Management Act.

The sustainable management of natural and physical resources is the purpose of the Act. In general terms the District Plan is the means by which the use, development and protection of the district's natural and physical resources will be sustainably managed into the future.

In addition to achieving the purpose and principles of the Act, the District Plan must address the following functions of the Council.

- a) The establishment, implementation, and review of objectives, policies, and methods to achieve integrated management of the effects of the use, development, or protection of land and associated natural and physical resources of the district,
- b) The control of any actual or potential effects of the use, development, or protection of land, including for the purpose of the avoidance or mitigation of natural hazards and the prevention or mitigation of any adverse effects of the storage, use, disposal, or transportation of hazardous substances,
- c) The control of subdivision of land,
- d) The control of the emission of noise and the mitigation of the effects of noise,
- e) The control of any actual or potential effects of activities in relation to the surface of water in rivers and lakes;
- f) Any other functions specified in this Act (RMA).

Currently, the Council is proceeding with the District Plan Review and it is appropriate that the issue of wildfire is addressed in that review. In our current District Plan, not much attention was given to the hazard of wild fire. Given the events that have occurred with the Port Hills Fire it is appropriate to see how the Council can establish a longer-term response for the whole of its district, and one way of doing that is having provisions or acknowledgment of this risk/hazard in the District Plan.

Accordingly, the District Plan Review will consider a package of provisions that specifically address fire hazard and that seek to establish an environment around rural-based residential activity that minimises fire risk through design and potentially provides for water storage requirements for firefighting purposes as well as appropriate levels of access to remote rural locations.

Regular reporting

Building and Resource Consent numbers resulting from the fire event will be reported to the Council in the monthly statistics report from the Environmental Services Unit. These statistics will also be provided to the Council Recovery Manager.

Guidance on rebuilding in high rural fire risk area

The following information is provided for distribution to the community and will be published on the Council website (Building public information).

Building in areas susceptible to rural fire risk

Current building regulations aim to limit fire spread from buildings to neighbouring properties and do not address property protection from rural fire threats. The following information is provided to assist property owners intending to build in areas at risk of rural fires in planning and designing their new home to be resistant to fire.

The FireSmart Homeowner's Manual published by the National Rural Fire Authority provides useful information to help homeowners protect their investment from the effects of fire.

Considerations when designing in an area susceptible to rural fire risk

- ☐ Select building materials that are not combustible (eg metal, brick, concrete, fibre cement based products)
- ☐ Where timber is to be used for claddings or decks etc, make sure your designer specifies a species with a density of 650 kg/m or greater. Species with lesser densities will ignite and burn quickly.
- ☐ Ensure access ways from the street into your property are well maintained, wide and clear of overhanging branches which could prevent fire appliances accessing your property in an emergency.
- ☐ Careful consideration should be given to the siting of your dwelling. While the view on top of an escarpment may be fantastic, it is a venerable location in terms of fire coming up the hill from below.
- ☐ Consider protecting / enclosing exposed services to prevent them melting or being compromised in the event of a fire (eg water supply pipeline should be run underground, not laid over the ground).

Other forms of protection to be considered include

- ☐ Domestic sprinkler systems
- ☐ Stored water source – equip your water supply tanks with fire hose couplings
- ☐ Installing gutter guards to prevent leaf litter and combustible debris from building up in the gutter system will minimize the risk of spot fires caused by embers and reduces year round maintenance.

Exit Strategy

A process to transition from the recovery phase to business-as-usual will be developed and communicated. The Council will continue to support affected communities once the recovery phase has been completed.

An exit strategy (transition plan) will be developed that includes:

1. a transition to business as usual so as to manage medium to long-term recovery; and
2. implementing and reporting in the medium to long-term actions; and
3. the management of public information and communications; and
4. opportunities for communities to discuss unresolved issues and to continue to participate in their recovery; and
5. debriefing and reviewing.

Questions received from residents at the community meeting and responses

What action will be taken to mitigate the fire risk beneath power poles with medium voltage droplinks?

The fire investigation is still underway and the Council has not been advised of the cause of the Early Valley fire at this stage. Regardless we will be encouraging Orion to take steps to mitigate the potential for fire starts from their network.

What are the future policies regarding pine plantations?

A review of the Selwyn District Plan is under way and various planning requirements on the Port Hills will be reviewed as part of this. There will be opportunities for landowners to be involved in and submit on this process.

Can the Council assist in coordinating the spraying of gorse for small landowners?

It's better for small landowners to work together with neighbours and manage this themselves as the property owners.

What practical steps can be taken to protect your house?

There is a range of publications available from the National Rural Fire Authority containing helpful steps that can be taken to protect your property.

Those documents can be found here:

Fire Smart Home Owners Manual

<http://www.nrfa.org.nz/Media%20assets/FS912%20FireSmart%20Home%20Owners%20Manual%20V3.pdf>

Is Your Property At Risk From Fire <http://www.nrfa.org.nz/Media%20assets/392442-NZFS-RF1000PropertyRisk.pdf>

Farm Fire Safe – Put Fire Safety Into Your Farm Business Plan

<http://www.nrfa.org.nz/Media%20assets/NZFS3042-Farm-Fire-SAFE-2011-FA%20V2.pdf>

Also other documents as supplied are available in PDF format:

- *Rapid Numbers – Why They're Important*
- *If We Can't Get to You, We Can't Help You*
- *NRFA Risk from Fire*
- *Practical Guide to Rural Fire*

What is the most economical way to remove trees that are a fire risk?

Removing trees can be hazardous and the council recommends engaging a professional arborist. Further information, including a list of approved contractors, is available on the New Zealand Arboricultural Association website:

<http://www.nzarb.org.nz/NZ+Arb/About+NZ+Arb.html>

What is the best way to get urgent help when there is an out of control fire?

Phoning 111 is the fastest way to get assistance in an emergency. The New Zealand Fire Service Communications Centres dispatch both urban and rural fire resources across the country.

Why was water in our tanks not used for fighting the fire? Do we still need to keep the tanks and what are the regulations?

There was good availability of water on the Port Hills from various ponds and dipping stations. Large water tanks are good for initial attack to protect houses and for dampening down but need to have couplings suitable for firefighting. Currently there is no national standard for couplings on water tanks and this needs to be addressed at a national level. We will be advocating for this issue to be resolved as the current situation is not acceptable.

How do we get information about where the fire is and potential danger?

Sign up to *Selwyn Gets Ready*. By providing your email address and cellphone number, the council can send you emergency alerts about fires, flooding, tsunami and other emergencies. *Selwyn Gets Ready* also contains a database of skills, needs and resources through the district so communities can manage themselves in an emergency. Go to selwyn.getsready.net to sign up.

The council also puts emergency information and advice on its Facebook page and the council [website](#).

Will there be a fire break policy as practiced by the Forest Service?

No – it's not practical to enforce landowners to put in and maintain firebreaks on private land, particularly on hill country.

Will the Council modify its weed control programme and the policy of encouraging native regeneration on low rainfall hill country close to urban population?

Selwyn District Council does not have responsibility for weed control. Environment Canterbury is the agency charged with formulating the animal and plant pest strategy for Canterbury. Their staff are involved in the recovery process and it is expected that if they see merit from such a suggestion then they will amend their strategy accordingly.

In future what action with Selwyn District Council take to implement the use of helicopters with monsoon buckets within the first hour of a blaze beginning?

Selwyn District Council will continue to make use of all air operators that meet the National Rural Fire Authority Air Standard and who are available at the time for fire response. There are no dedicated firefighting aircraft in New Zealand. Selwyn District Council does alert helicopter operators on days of extreme fire danger, but the council has no control over their availability. We will not be paying helicopters to be on call as the cost to do so would be significant.

1B Fire response issues and actions

Short term recovery issues	Actions	Agency Responsible	Target date to be completed
Public perception and understanding of the Port Hills Fires	Ensure that the terms of reference for any emergency services operational reviews cover all aspects of community concerns.	CCC / SDC	

Medium term recovery issues	Medium term recovery actions	Agency Responsible	Target date to be completed
Public Information/Welfare	<p>Improve both the information provided and the process for keeping residents informed regarding evacuations, in particular:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • directly affected residents; • those who register at CD centres; • those who front up at the cordon control point; • ability to register at the cordon control point; • Up-to-date information available at the cordon control point. 	CCC/SDC/CDEM	Ongoing
Ensure the MCDEM Director's Guideline 'Emergency Movement Control' {DGL18/15} is implemented and used by appropriate agencies during future emergencies.	Multi-agency planning is undertaken to adopt the Director's Guideline	Canterbury CDEM Group Office	2017/18
Pre-planned evacuations processes are in place for all Port Hills communities	Pre-planned evacuations processes are initiated for Worsleys, Marleys Hill, Kennedys Bush, Hoon Hay and Early Valley communities and others living on or close to the Port Hills.	CDEM Group	2019
Public perception and understanding of the Port Hills Fires	Ensure that all completed reviews or reports relating to the Port Hills Fires are made available to the public, once reviews have been completed and key internal and external stakeholders have been consulted.	CCC/SDC	

Long-term recovery issues	Long-term recovery actions	Agency Responsible	Target date to be completed
Pre-planned evacuations processes are in place for all Port Hills communities	Develop evacuation plans for the remaining communities living on or close to the Port Hills where fire risks are identified.	CDEM Group	2022

1. Social environment recovery priority actions

Short term recovery issues	Actions	Agency Responsible	Target date to be completed
Support residents to access assistance to clean up their property	Refer residents to appropriate volunteer programmes/organisations as appropriate.	SDC	Ongoing
Community support: engaging and harnessing the energy of individuals, community groups who want to help in the recovery of private property clean up	Share information about any opportunities we are notified of for people to join clean ups	SDC/CCC	Ongoing
Clear provision of information to support in recovery	Assessing the impact on the affected residents and sharing with Selwyn District Council or other agencies as necessary	SDC	Ongoing
Explain the current Civil Defence structure generally and how it can change depending on the type of disaster that it is responding to	Promote what agencies fall under the umbrella of Civil Defence, ie how Civil Defence works.	SDC/CCC/CDEM	30 June 2017
Support for the most significantly affected	Identify the most significantly affected. Agencies determine the response that can be provided immediately during event and ongoing during initial recovery.	SDC Recovery Team	Completed Completed
Determining the number of those most affected are assigned a liaison manager	Assign a liaison manager. Regular contact by the liaison manager to ascertain key issues. Referral to appropriate welfare agencies (eg CDHB, MSD etc). Ensuring follow up with agencies to confirm referrals are actioned. Welfare agencies collaborate & support as appropriate.	SDC Social Recovery	Completed Ongoing Ongoing Ongoing
Public understanding of the Port Hills Fires	Reviews and debriefs, presentations by experts. Publically share key findings once reviews have been completed and key internal and external stakeholders have been consulted.	SDC public meeting/subsequent emails and web page information	Ongoing

Affected communities to understand the event they have experienced.	Schedule further community meetings if appropriate	SDC	Completed
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Medium term recovery issues	Actions	Agency Responsible	Target date to be completed
Ongoing communications during recovery	Identify the appropriate ongoing communications mechanisms during recovery through the development of a communication plan.	SDC	2017/18
Support provided to assist with property owner's recovery needs	Hand over to appropriate agencies to ensure the recovery process meets individual's material needs e.g. rebuilding damaged property and clean up etc. Develop mechanisms for support.	SDC Environmental Services	2017/18
Public education re: Preparedness	Undertake public education on what agencies make up Civil Defence, including the role of local community groups during response and recovery. Link affected communities to work currently being done around community response plans. Support current community preparedness and response activity.	SDC (involving CDEM if appropriate)	2017/18
Significantly affected people are involved in the Fire Review process	Ensure that they have an opportunity to have their say.	SDC	2017

Long term recovery issues	Actions	Agency Responsible	Target date to be completed
Lessons learnt, community preparedness that can be applied across the city, regionally and nationally	<p>Ongoing development of public education programmes run at local, regional and national levels on living in rural environments, with the risk of fire.</p> <p>As part of district plan reviews, look at small lifestyle blocks in urban/rural areas (see Built Environment).</p> <p>Canterbury CDEM Risk Reduction group considers the above points (and other issues arising from this Recovery Plan).</p>	<p>FENZ</p> <p>SDC / CCC</p> <p>Canterbury CDEM Risk Reduction Group</p>	2018/19 Onwards
Lack of preparedness and understanding of hazards/risk facing our communities	<p>Communities develop plans/steps to respond to future events i.e. strengthen community resilience by learning from this event and taking ownership for preparedness.</p> <p>CDEM & Community Teams support communities in the development of community resilience plans.</p>	SDC	2018/19 Onwards
Ensuring insurance cover is adequate	Promotion and education regularly initiated to get message across.	Insurance Council	2018/19 Onwards

2. Natural environment recovery issues and actions

Short term recovery issues	Short term recovery actions	Agency Responsible	Date to be completed
Full reconnaissance and assessment of damage to all natural resources.	Undertake mapping of area to show location of damage. Initiate and complete assessment of damaged areas.	CCC, DoC, SDC, Trusts and Societies,	Completed Ongoing
Initial Assessment of Māori cultural sites	Initiate Cultural Values Report		Ongoing
Increased risks of sedimentation and surface water runoff associated with sites in burnt and damaged areas that could adversely affect water quality.	Identify priority areas that require immediate mitigation. Undertake initial assessment and recommend appropriate mitigation measures with costs for each priority location. Monitor significant rainfall events and take action where necessary.	CCC, City Services ECan Environmental Groups SDC	Completed Ongoing Ongoing
Increased risk of rock fall and slope stability issues within the fire damaged areas.	Identify priority areas that require immediate mitigation Undertake initial assessment and recommend appropriate mitigation measures with costs for each priority location. Monitor significant rainfall events and take action where necessary.	CCC Geotech specialist SDC	Completed Ongoing Ongoing
Increased contamination and nuisance issues eg air-borne particulate	Undertake environmental monitoring following the fire event and when climatic conditions may cause issues.	ECan	Ongoing

Short term recovery issues	Short term recovery actions	Agency Responsible	Date to be completed
Regeneration of the damaged areas on the Port Hills	Identify immediate needs to enable priority work to be carried out during the 2017 autumn planting season	CCC to discuss with Banks Peninsula Conservation Trust.	Ongoing
	Engage and harnessing the knowledge and energy of individuals, property owners, community and groups who want to help in recovery.	SDC to work with ECan and other stakeholders	Ongoing
	Compile stakeholder list and contact stakeholders/landowners to identify engagement required.		Ongoing
			Ongoing
Reinstatement of fencing to public areas	Identify fence lines damaged and assess appropriate repair work necessary	CCC/SDC	Ongoing
	Undertake the necessary repairs to fence lines that require urgent attention to manage stock or restrict access.	Neighbouring land owners	Ongoing

Medium term recovery issues	Medium term recovery actions	Agency Responsible	Date to be completed
Ensure the community stays involved and is able to support and contribute to the recovery of the natural landscape damaged by the fires	Develop medium to long term communications strategy. Implement strategy. Co-ordinate provision of information and make it relevant and timely.	CCC/SDC Comms	2017/18
Ensure that clearing and replanting of damaged forest areas does not adversely impact on the natural environment	Provide help and support to land owners to plan and undertake clearing and planting works. Land owners clear and replant damaged land areas within the guidelines and consent requirements agreed. Develop and undertake environmental monitoring as deemed necessary.	Land owners CCC SDC ECan	2017/18
Continued assessment of Maori cultural sites	Complete Cultural Values Report. That the Cultural Values report inform the recovery programme.	CCC will coordinate this process	Ongoing
Regeneration of the damaged areas on the Port Hills	Develop and secure support for medium and long term planting programme to restore/enhance the areas damaged by the fires by engaging and harnessing the knowledge and energy of individuals, property owners, community and groups who want to help in recovery. Maintain stakeholder list and contact stakeholders/landowners to identify engagement required. Implement agreed planting and restoration programme over the medium term.	CCC/SDC	2017/18 2017/18

Long term recovery issues	Long term recovery actions	Agency Responsible	Date to be completed
Increased risks of sedimentation and surface water runoff associated with sites in burnt and damaged areas that could adversely affect water quality.	Secure funding for long term mitigation measures and implement works programme. Continue to monitor significant rainfall events and take action where necessary.	CCC, City Services ECan Environmental Groups SDC	2018/19 and beyond As necessary
Increased risk of unwanted plant and animal pest control	Continue to monitor and manage issues through Regional Pest Plan.	ECan	2018/19 and beyond
Ensure that clearing and replanting of damaged forest areas does not adversely impact on the natural environment	Continue to provide help and support to land owners to plan and undertake clearing and planting works. Land owners clear and replant damaged land areas within the guidelines and consent requirements agreed. Undertake environmental monitoring as deemed necessary.	Land owners CCC SDC ECan	2018/19 and beyond
Planning opportunities to reduce wild fire hazard risks in high risk areas	Undertake a review of the current District Plan particularly looking at conditions placed on land owners to design developments to minimise or mitigate fire hazard, water supply/storage requirements and landscaping and fuel build up.	CCC / SDC	2019/20
Management and use of Public and private land to reduce fire hazards	Refer to the review of the Strategic Fire Management Plan (SFMP). Undertake a feasibility study and investigation into future grazing regimes, water supplies, fuel management and public access. From the study recommend any changes.	CCC / SDC FENZ DoC	2019/20
Availability and access to natural water sources (ponds) for future fire-fighting	Refer to the review of the Strategic Fire Management Plan (SFMP). Review current availability and access to potential water source for fire-fighting. If review identifies a need for additional water sources undertake feasibility study to explore options.	FENZ	2019/20

3. Built environment recovery issues and actions

Short term recovery issues	Short term recovery actions	Agency Responsible	Target date to be completed
That key communication sites located on the Port Hills remain operational	Communication sites are inspected and immediate risks to installations minimised. Fire breaks strengthen or created to protect installations as part of the fire response.	Property owners and site operators	Completed
That key lifeline services are maintained	Utility lifeline routes across the Fire area are inspected and remedial actions take where necessary. Replacement of composite insulators to the effected part of the overhead lines.	Transpower	Completed
Residential property damage is identified	Properties destroyed and damaged identified and initial support provided to owners. Contact made with owners and meeting held to identify key issues of concern and help, ongoing support provided where needed.	Recovery Agencies	Completed Ongoing
Protection of the Public	Restricting access to fire damaged areas particularly where boundary fencing has been destroyed or damaged. Worsleys track and Kennedys Bush tracks remain closed, tracks to be open once risks are minimised.	CCC and property owners	Ongoing

Short term recovery issues	Short term recovery actions	Agency Responsible	Target date to be completed
Establishing the scale of damage to properties in terms of fencing and landscaping as a result of the fire and the fire response actions	Discussions held with the property owners affected to establish needs and matching this to resources.	CCC/SDC, property owners and supporting agencies	Ongoing
	Mapping of fire area		Completed
	Mapping of fire breaks created		completed
Understand slope stability issues and rock fall on the built environment e.g. properties, roads and utility and communications installations	Identify priority areas that require immediate mitigation.	CCC/SDC Geotech specialist	Completed
	Undertake initial assessment and recommend appropriate mitigation measures with costs for each priority location.		Ongoing
	Monitor significant rainfall events and take action where necessary.		Ongoing

Medium term recovery issues	Medium term recovery actions	Agency Responsible	Date to be completed
Understand future risks of service interruptions	Review risks to utility installations and infrastructure to minimise future disruptions to supplies and prepare plan and secure funding to undertake mitigation measures where they are deemed necessary.	Orion Transpower	Ongoing as per core business.
	Review the provision of public water supply infrastructure to support firefighting capabilities on the Port Hills and if appropriate prepare plan and costs to strengthen the network.	CCC/SDC, FENZ	31 March 2018

Medium term recovery issues	Medium term recovery actions	Agency Responsible	Date to be completed
Understand future risks to communications installations	Review fire hazards to communication installations located on the Port Hills to minimise future risks to sites, prepare mitigation plan if risks identified and secure funding source.	Site owners and operators	31 March 2018
Support for property owners that lost their homes	For property owners that lost their homes ensure that they are supported through the rebuild or transition process so that they can achieve the outcome they wish.	SDC, ECan, property owners, Insurance companies	2018/19
Support for property owners where their properties were damaged	That property owners whose properties were damaged by the fires and the firefighting response are helped with repairs and restoration.	Support agencies, property owners	2018/19
That clearing and restoration of Forestry Blocks is undertaken appropriately	That the forestry blocks damaged by the fires have appropriate plans and consents in place to undertake work to clear and replant the areas and that work is underway as soon as possible.	Forestry Block owners CCC/SDC ECan	2017/18
Education and information on fire risks	That those property owners living on or adjacent to the Port Hills are well informed of the environment they live and they understand the risks of wild fires and have their own plans in place through regular education and fire risks promotion.	Fire Service, property owners	2018/19
Understand slope stability issues and rock fall on the built environment e.g. properties, roads and utility and communications installations	Undertake further assessments and recommend appropriate mitigation measures should further issues be identified. Monitor significant rainfall events and take action where necessary.	CCC Geotech specialist SDC	2017/18 As necessary

Long term recovery issues	Long term recovery actions	Agency Responsible	Date to be completed
Understand future risks of service interruptions	<p>Utility services initiate planned mitigations measures to reduce risks to supply interruptions and potential damage to infrastructure and installations.</p> <p>If appropriate implement plans to strengthen public water supply network to support firefighting.</p>	<p>City Services Orion Transpower</p> <p>SDC</p>	<p>2020</p> <p>Ongoing as per core business</p> <p>Ongoing</p>
Understand future risks to communications installations	Communication site owners and operators initiate planned mitigations measures to reduce risks to installations and potential damage to infrastructure.	Site owners and operators	2020
That reestablishment of forest areas damaged by the fires is completed	That clearing and replanting plans and programmes are supported and assistance given where appropriate.	Forestry block owners	2022
That repairs and regeneration of fire and firefighting damage to properties is completed	That owners rebuild as soon as possible and are well supported by agencies.	Property Owners	2022
Education and information on fire risks	That property owners living on or adjacent to the Port Hills are regular reminded of the dangers of wild fires and are adequately aware of their own responsibilities.	Property Owners FENZ	Ongoing
Planning opportunities to reduce wild fire hazard risks in high risk areas	From the review of the current District Plan particularly looking at conditions placed on land owners to design developments to minimise or mitigate fire hazard, water supply/storage requirements and landscaping and fuel build-up, initiate any identified and recommended changes.	<p>CCC/SDC</p> <p>Canterbury Civil Defence Group (risk reduction group)</p>	2020

4. Economic environment recovery issues and actions

Short term recovery issues	Short term recovery actions	Agency Responsible	Target date to be completed

Medium term recovery issues	Medium term recovery actions	Agency Responsible	Target date to be completed
Understand the impact of the fires on the key forestry blocks	Provide support where possible.	Forestry Block Owners	2018

Long term recovery issues	Long term recovery actions	Agency Responsible	Target date to be completed
That the damaged forestry blocks are regenerated successfully and continue to support the iconic back drop to the city	Agencies liaise closely with the forestry owners and provide help and assistance where appropriate.	Forestry block owners	2022

5. Communications & Information Issues and Actions

Short term recovery issues	Short term recovery actions	Agency Responsible	Target date to be completed
Input into recovery through effective Communications Plan to update community	Initiate Communications Plan to support Recovery. Input into Recovery Coms plan as necessary. Co-ordinate web-site and other media outlets to standardise information.	CCC SDC	Completed 30 June 2017 30 June 2017
Keep communities and affected residents informed	Ensured targeted information and advice is provided through agreed mediums.	CCC/SDC	Ongoing

Medium term recovery issues	Medium term recovery actions	Agency Responsible	Date to be completed
Keep communities and affected residents informed	Maintain and review Communication Plan to ensure it remains effective.	CCC/SDC	2017/18
Improve the planning, set up and ongoing management of cordons as recommended in the "Emergency Movement Control" guidelines and ensure that they are adopted		CCC/SDC Civil Defence	2017/18

Long term recovery issues	Long term recovery actions	Agency Responsible	Date to be completed
Keep communities and affected residents informed	Maintain and review Communication Plan to ensure it remains effective.	CCC/SDC	2018/19 onwards

6. Cultural Impacts and Actions

Short term recovery issues	Short term recovery actions	Agency Responsible	Target date to be completed
<p>Maori Land and Reserves</p> <p>Need to resettle the mauri due to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Scarring of Papatūānuku eg fire breaks 2. Denuding of Papatūānuku e.g. erosion and sediment 3. Degradation of wai e.g. sediment into the waterways 4. Burning of our ancestors i.e. recognition that mountains are our ancestors <p>Need to address as a priority</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Health of the waterways 2. Health of the community 3. Future proofing 4. Endemic plantings 5. Maintaining the sacred places – he tapu te mahunga. <p>Improved communications</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. For the people of Rāpaki 2. With the people of Rāpaki 3. Early warning system for all rural communities 4. Māori worldview of Papatūānuku, Ranginui me ā rāua tamariki 5. Tribal stories about the Port Hills <p>Māori land</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Issues of multiple ownership 2. Future proofing 	<p>Initiate Draft Cultural Values Report to help with:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Understanding of mauri, tapu, noa and other cultural concepts. • Understanding of Māori worldview re the continuous connection from the heavens to land/sky/water to people. • Ngāi Tahu communities (rūnanga) have a desire to be an active part of the solution – is there a role for tangata tiaki? <p>Information sharing with individual rūnanga</p> <p>Instruction from individual rūnanga to Mahaanui Kura Taiao on the expectations in the environmental space</p> <p>Increasing the awareness with the individual rūnanga to drive solution based responses.</p> <p>Resourcing of rūnanga champions to drive the engagement, discussion and enacting of solutions</p>	<p>Te Ngāi Tūahuriri</p> <p>Te Hapū o Ngāti Wheke</p> <p>Te Taumutu Rūnanga</p> <p>Mahaanui Kura Taiao</p>	<p>30 June 2017</p>

Short term recovery issues	Short term recovery actions	Agency Responsible	Target date to be completed
Silent Files and Taonga Impact on areas of cultural significance Future proofing cultural sites He tapu te mahunga – keeping the heads of our ancestors sacred.	Initiate Draft Cultural Values Report to help with: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Understanding of mauri, tapu, noa and other cultural concepts. • Understanding of Māori worldview re the continuous connection from the heavens to land/sky/water to people. • Ngāi Tahu communities (rūnanga) have a desire to be an active part of the solution – is there a role for tangata tiaki? Information sharing with individual rūnanga Instruction from individual rūnanga to Mahaanui Kura Taiao on the expectations in the environmental space Increasing the awareness with the individual rūnanga to drive solution based responses. Resourcing of rūnanga champions to drive the engagement, discussion and enacting of solutions	Te Ngāi Tūahuriri Te Hapū o Ngāti Wheke Te Taumutu Rūnanga	30 June 2017

Medium term recovery issues	Medium term recovery actions	Agency Responsible	Date to be completed
Maori Land and Reserves Need to resettle the mauri due to: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Scarring of Papatūānuku eg fire breaks 2. Denuding of Papatūānuku e.g. erosion and sediment 3. Degradation of wai e.g. sediment into the waterways 4. Burning of our ancestors i.e. recognition that mountains are our ancestors Need to address as a priority <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Health of the waterways 2. Health of the community 3. Future proofing 4. Endemic plantings 5. Maintaining the sacred places – he tapu te mahunga. Improved communications <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. For the people of Rāpaki 2. With the people of Rāpaki 3. Early warning system for all rural communities 4. Māori worldview of Papatūānuku, Ranginui me ā rāua tamariki 5. Tribal stories about the Port Hills Māori land <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Issues of multiple ownership 2. Future proofing 	Completed Cultural Values Report is used to inform: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Understanding of mauri, tapu, noa and other cultural concepts. • Understanding of Māori worldview re the continuous connection from the heavens to land/sky/water to people. • Ngāi Tahu communities (rūnanga) have a desire to be an active part of the solution – is there a role for tangata tiaki? Ongoing commitment by the Crown to assist with healing Papatūānuku Government and agencies to work alongside individual rūnanga on future proofing	Te Ngāi Tūahuriri Te Hapū o Ngāti Wheke Te Taumutu Rūnanga Mahaanui Kura Taiao	30 June 2018
Silent Files and Taonga Impact on areas of cultural significance	Completed Cultural Values Report is used to inform: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Understanding of mauri, tapu, noa and other cultural concepts. 	Te Ngāi Tūahuriri	30 June 2018

<p>Future proofing cultural sites</p> <p>He tapu te mahunga – keeping the heads of our ancestors sacred.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Understanding of Māori worldview re the continuous connection from the heavens to land/sky/water to people. Ngāi Tahu communities (rūnanga) have a desire to be an active part of the solution – is there a role for tangata tiaki? <p>Ongoing commitment by the Crown to assist with healing Papatūānuku</p> <p>Government and agencies to work alongside individual rūnanga on future proofing</p>	<p>Te Hapū o Ngāti Wheke</p> <p>Te Taumutu Rūnanga</p>	
Long term recovery issues	Long term recovery actions	Agency Responsible	Date to be completed
<p>Maori Land and Reserves</p> <p>Need to resettle the mauri due to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Scarring of Papatūānuku eg fire breaks Denuding of Papatūānuku e.g. erosion and sediment Degradation of wai e.g. sediment into the waterways Burning of our ancestors i.e. recognition that mountains are our ancestors <p>Need to address as a priority</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Health of the waterways Health of the community Future proofing Endemic plantings Maintaining the sacred places – he tapu te mahunga. <p>Improved communications</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> For the people of Rāpaki With the people of Rāpaki 	<p>Completed Cultural Values Report is used to inform:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Understanding of mauri, tapu, noa and other cultural concepts. Understanding of Māori worldview re the continuous connection from the heavens to land/sky/water to people. Ngāi Tahu communities (rūnanga) have a desire to be an active part of the solution – is there a role for tangata tiaki? <p>Ongoing commitment by the Crown to assist with healing Papatūānuku</p> <p>Government and agencies to work alongside individual rūnanga on future proofing</p>	<p>Te Ngāi Tūahuriri</p> <p>Te Hapū o Ngāti Wheke</p> <p>Te Taumutu Rūnanga</p> <p>Mahaanui Kura Taiao</p>	<p>2018/19 Onwards</p>

3. Early warning system for all rural communities 4. Māori worldview of Papatūānuku, Ranginui me ā rāua tamariki 5. Tribal stories about the Port Hills Māori land 1. Issues of multiple ownership 2. Future proofing			
Silent Files and Taonga Impact on areas of cultural significance Future proofing cultural sites He tapu te mahunga – keeping the heads of our ancestors sacred.	Completed Cultural Values Report is used to inform: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Understanding of mauri, tapu, noa and other cultural concepts. • Understanding of Māori worldview re the continuous connection from the heavens to land/sky/water to people. • Ngāi Tahu communities (rūnanga) have a desire to be an active part of the solution – is there a role for tangata tiaki? Ongoing commitment by the Crown to assist with healing Papatūānuku Government and agencies to work alongside individual rūnanga on future proofing	Te Ngāi Tūahuriri Te Hapū o Ngāti Wheke Te Taumutu Rūnanga	2018/19 Onwards