Eastern Coromandel Tsunami Strategy

Workshop with Tairua-Pauanui Community Board

Thames Coromandel District Council
Waikato Regional Council
• Long-term, over-arching strategy for the Coromandel Peninsula
• Purpose is to work with communities to better manage tsunami risks
• Progressive work with communities over time – starting with Whitianga
Eastern Coromandel Tsunami Strategy

- Long-term, over-arching strategy for the Coromandel Peninsula
- Purpose is to work with communities to better manage tsunami risks
- Progressive work with communities over time – starting with Whitianga
- Builds upon the good work already being done in communities
To present our thoughts on how the project will be undertaken and seek your feedback

Two parts:

- Modelling presentation and discussion: Jose Borrero
- Roll out of the project in Tairua-Pauanui and discussion: Brendan Morris, Peter Wishart, Adam Munro, Gary Talbot, Alison Smith.
What do we want to achieve?

• Improved community awareness of:
  • Tsunami hazards and risks
  • Recognition and understanding of natural warning signs
  • What to do in the event of a tsunami
• Active community involvement in and ownership of risk management actions
What do we need to address?

• Risk management and community engagement exercise:
  • Identify hazards ✔
  • Identify and evaluate risks – likelihood and consequence
What do we need to address?

- Risk management and community engagement exercise:
  - Identify hazards ✓
  - Identify and evaluate risks – likelihood and consequence
  - Treat risks – numerous options and approaches
  
  Communicate and consult
Risk treatment

• For tsunami, this usually involves a combination of:
  • Emergency Management:
    • Warnings
    • Evacuation
  • Public education and awareness
  • Land-use planning
Emergency Management

• Warning systems:
  • Can include natural signs, sirens, radio/TV, social media, indoor alerting systems, new technology such as cell broadcasting to smartphones

• Evacuation planning:
  • Can include pre-defined walking/traffic routes, signage, maps, definition of safe zones, vertical evacuation sites, neighbourhood support
TSUNAMI SURVIVAL PLAN TAIRUA

IT’S EASY
KNOW YOUR TSUNAMI ZONE
Public education and awareness

• Can include on-going activities such as:
  • Regular media releases
  • Messaging during siren testing
  • Use of social media
  • Piggy-backing on community events
  • Community buy-in projects such as “Blue lines” project in Wellington

• Core role in emergency management
TSUNAMI SIRENS TO BE TESTED THIS WEEKEND

Tsunami sirens will be tested in a " offshore" location at 11am on Saturday and 1pm on Sunday. The tests will be conducted in a "offshore" location at 11am on Saturday and 1pm on Sunday. The tests will be conducted to ensure that the sirens are functioning correctly and to inform the public about the tsunami warning system.

Community groups kicking into gear

Kip Lambright was at an event promoting tsunami warning signs at Waikato. Following the recent tragic events in Japan, the community has come together to raise awareness and encourage participation in local tsunami training. The community groups have been working hard to ensure that everyone is prepared and informed about what to do in the event of a tsunami.

What is a tsunami?

On a worldwide scale, a tsunami is a series of ocean waves caused by seismic activity on the ocean floor, such as an earthquake or the collapse of a volcanic island. These waves travel at speeds of up to 700 miles per hour and can create devastating effects along their path. Tsunamis are particularly dangerous because they can develop in deep water and then rapidly increase in height as they approach shallow coastal areas.

What causes a tsunami?

When a large underwater earthquake occurs, it can create a disturbance in the water. This disturbance can cause the ocean floor to move, creating a series of waves that travel across the ocean. As these waves approach the shore, they can become much larger and create the dangerous tsunamis that we often see in news reports.

What are the effects of a tsunami?

Tsunamis can have devastating effects on coastal communities. They can cause massive destruction, including the loss of life, property damage, and disruption of infrastructure. The impact of a tsunami can be felt far beyond the immediate area, with waves traveling thousands of miles across the ocean.

Things to look out for

If you are in a coastal area, you should be aware of the potential for tsunamis. When you hear the warning, get away from the water and follow the instructions provided by local authorities.

Preparing for a tsunami

There are several things you can do to prepare for a tsunami. It is important to have a plan in place, including knowing what to do in the event of an emergency, where to go, and how to communicate with loved ones.

Tsunami warning system

The tsunami warning system is designed to provide advance notice of a tsunami so that people can take appropriate action to protect themselves. When a tsunami warning is issued, it is important to follow the instructions provided by local authorities and evacuate to higher ground or move inland to a safe location.

More information can be found on the National Tsunami Warning Centre website at www.tsunami.govt.nz.
Land use planning

• Can include development of rules for:
  • Undeveloped land
  • Critical facilities
  • Vertical evacuation facilities
  • Future road and sub-division design
• Building configuration, design and construction guidelines
• Structural and non-structural works
Hilo, Hawaii redevelopment plan

May 22, 1960, M9.5 Chile earthquake

Walaeaka area, Hilo, Hawai’i. Bent parking meters show direction of tsunami arrived from. In Hawaii, 61 deaths, $26.5 million damage.
Timeline

• 2013:
  • Form Working Group to guide risk management
  • Prepare for open days
  • Communicate with the community
  • Report regularly to the Community Board

• 2014:
  • Hold open days (Jan)
  • Finalise risk management plan (May)
  • Implement on-going activities (July)
Purpose is to provide:
- Local knowledge and community representation
- Tsunami risk management expertise – technical, emergency management, planning, communications
- Advice to the Community Board

Risk management plan (of some sort) is the expected result – informing future work
Working group membership

- Matt Goodwin
- Chris New
- Steve Morgan
- Fred Crawford
- Kim Coppersmith

- Lynette Day
- Paul Petley
- Garry Towler
- Lorna Price
Working group support and invitations

• TCDC staff:
  • Gary Talbot
  • Peter Wishart
  • Alison Smith*

• WRC staff/Cr.:
  • Adam Munro
  • Julie Beaufill
  • Cr. Simon Friar

• Brendan Morris*
  (facilitator)

* Contractor
Open days
Feedback/discussion
Next steps

• Form working group and hold first meeting (late Aug/early Sept):
  • Background, technical work, process we are proposing
• Communication with the community
• Develop support material
• Report back to Community Board