

Emergencies Don't Read Maps.

We have established a Network Approach through collaboration across our emergency response groups to address:

- *Isolated communities* and how we need to connect
- *Cross-Boundary Relationships* that are inclusive
- *Collective knowledge* for faster maturity
- *Succession planning* to ensure longevity



By the community, with the community, for the community

Multiple Communities. One Vulnerability.

PAPAKURA

Urban gateway

Connected & resourced with existing internal network. Urban assumptions stop at the farm gate.

HAPVRA

Mixed rural

Self-sufficient by necessity, not choice. When the road goes, so does the connection to everything else.

BUCKLAND / PUKEKOHE

Urban · Rural · Lifestyle

Caught between what it was and what it's becoming. Landscape changing faster than plans.

AWHITU PENINSULA

Peninsula · Remote

Surrounded on three sides by water. One road in. Vast distances between neighbours.

Community connection is the response plan.

PORT WAIKATO

Coastal · Isolated

End of the road — literally. Single access. Tsunami risk. Outside urban response assumptions entirely.

TUAKAU / POKENO

Urban · Rural

Straddles the council border. Two plans. One connected community, Auckland / Waikato that does not read the map.

Papakura Local Board · Franklin Local Board · Northern Waikato

Each community faces emergencies differently. None of them face it alone — because we decided they wouldn't.

Our collaborative network exists precisely because emergencies don't read the map and we identified the gap.

Where the System Gets Tested

1

MAN MADE BORDERS

Council / board boundaries split communities mid-street. Two response plans, different coordination channels — one community either side.



2

LAND IN TRANSITION

Development pressure and rapid land-use change is reshaping access routes and community composition faster than current emergency planning can adapt.



3

COASTAL & RURAL ISOLATION

Single egress routes. Tsunami and flood risk. Distances that make urban response timelines irrelevant.



4

THE BLEND

Urban, rural, lifestyle and coastal mix planning. No one size fits all.

What We are Developing — and Why It is Working

NOT THIS

- ✘ A committee
- ✘ A scripted plan-on-a-shelf
- ✘ A single-council structure
- ✘ A formal hierarchy
- ✘ A temporary gap-filler
- ✘ One size fits all approach

THIS

- ✓ **Grassroots** - community-led initiative
- ✓ **Adaptive & Flexible**— stronger by working together
- ✓ **Cross-boundary relationships** - joining for common purpose
- ✓ **Coordination through networking** - people know each other
- ✓ **Permanent & Necessary Capability** - critical part of the plan
- ✓ **Local knowledge** - building on institutional resources

Emergencies don't read the map. Neither does our Network .

We didn't wait to be connected. We connected.



A Constructive Ask

We believe cross-boundary community resilience networks should be a recognised and resourced tier in New Zealand's emergency response architecture — not a temporary gap-filler, but a permanent designed feature.

Plug in, don't bypass

Formal systems need to be designed to connect with community networks and resource them accordingly — not route around them.

Plan for the map that's changing

Communities in rapid transition need adaptive response frameworks, not static plans written for yesterday's landscape.

Recognise what already exists

The local capability is already there. The question is whether formal emergency planning supports it — or leaves it invisible.

Build to survive the builder

What is being built here is an evolving model. The question is whether models like this can be captured, resourced and replicated — before the people who built them move on. Passing on and retaining institutional knowledge.

Conversation to be had

The challenge we all face – community networks and formal emergency management organisations alike – is how to protect what's been built when it depends on individuals, volunteers and resourcing

It's a conversation worth having on a larger scale – it is a problem not unique to us



Marae - Schools - Disabilities sectors

Emergencies don't read maps. They don't wait for jurisdictions to coordinate, agencies to arrive, or plans to catch up. In the communities most likely to be cut off, the first response is — and always will be — each other.

Your job — our job — is to make sure ongoing cross border inclusion, capability building and sustainability are part of our plans.

Everything we've shared here today exists because volunteers chose to build it.
Our ask is simply that the system chooses to support it.

Our Network includes:

Papakura Community Resilience Network · HAPVRA · Buckland Community Response · Tuakau Community Response Group