



Sector Futures Working Party Newsletter June 2016

SOLGM's Sector Futures Working Party met briefly by teleconference on 17 June. In this edition:

- managed retreat
- resilience
- Better Local Services
- changes in membership and working parties.

Managed retreat from climate change

We reviewed a draft guide to managing retreat conversations with the community. The guide is intended to be a short, practical piece of guidance that focuses on retreat where the risk or hazard is climate-related or coastal (such as sea-level rise, repeated flooding and the like).

We don't claim to have a monopoly on good ideas. We'll be releasing an exposure draft of the guide in July for sector comment. This will also be the subject of one of the breakout sessions at the August Community Plan Conference.

While preparing this draft we also noted that the policy and regulatory framework is far from supportive of retreat on a large scale. There is much work to be done in this space, with a review of recovery and retreat in the Canterbury red-zone currently underway. We stress this is piece of guidance for the conversations some local authorities should be having now.

Resilience

We also discussed a draft of Roger Blakeley's framing paper on community resilience. He's made three recommendations to the sector:

- a. local authorities should prepare comprehensive enterprise risk management plans (with their CCOs), the report listed a set of content or steps to take in preparing this plan

- b. local authorities should take on the role of champions of resilience with their communities, districts/cities/regions, including working collaboratively with government agencies, business and infrastructure providers, communities and civil society, iwi, social sector and science/research institutes
- c. all local authorities implement the proposed model of community resilience and local authority risk management set out below.



In support of these recommendations Roger has recommended that SOLGM prepare practical guidance for local authorities on building community resilience. We'll be issuing Roger's paper and a summary for comment in the near future.

Better local services legislation

The Local Government Act 2002 Amendment Act (aka the Better Local Services Bill) had its first reading the day before we met, and has been referred to the Local Government and Environment Select Committee. I understand the Committee has called for submissions and these will be due with the Committee on 28 July.

This is the Bill that gives effect to the Government's Better Local Services reforms – the proposals to provide more flexibility to establish CCOs, transfer functions between councils and the like. This Bill also widens the powers the Minister has to regulate what financial and non-financial performance information is disclosed in our LGA planning and reporting.

For those who haven't seen it yet, you can expect to find the Bill at:

<http://www.legislation.govt.nz/bill/government/2016/0144/latest/096be8ed81346fbd.pdf>

SOLGM staff are working on a draft submission for sector comment. You can expect this on or before 5 July. SOLGM will also be holding the Better Local Services Legislation Seminar on 14 July. You can find out more at:

https://www.solgm.org.nz/Event?Action=View&Event_id=404

Changes in membership and working parties

In recent weeks two of our members have resigned. Stephanie Rose will be going on parental leave in the near future. And, of course, Sue Bidrose has been elected Vice-President of SOLGM and takes office on 1 July.

On that note, I have advised Karen that I will be focussing on the transition back to democratic elections in my own council and that I will be standing aside as Chair from 1 July. [RH1]

This coincides with the changes to SOLGM's Working Party system. Sector Futures Working Party has had a name change (to Sector Policy and Outlook) and a few tweaks to the terms of reference.

If you are a full member of SOLGM and can spot future trends and issues and the implications for the sector, I'd encourage you to apply.

Applications close on 4 July.

Bill Bayfield
Chair, SWP
22 June 2016