

Emergency Management Policy

The Green Party will place safety and wellbeing at the heart of policies and procedures for emergency management. Aotearoa faces certain and increasing threats of many kinds, both natural and man-made. We will provide the financial, material and training resources that agencies and community organisations require to effectively plan for and respond to emergencies of all kinds, and enable critical infrastructure providers to improve resilience. We will ensure that local and Māori knowledge is effectively leveraged, the needs of the vulnerable are prioritised, and appropriate, equitable incentives to retreat from identified high-risk areas are enacted.

Vision

Communities prevent, prepare, respond to, and recover from disasters, while caring for all living things.

Values and Principles

- *Whakamaru*, rangapū me tino rangatiratanga: The government has a responsibility to protect Māori interests, work in partnership with Māori, and respect Māori autonomy in disasters.
- *Tiaki te taiao*: Looking after the natural world is critical for minimising the risks and impacts of emergencies.
- *Kia takatū te haporī*: Emergency management takes a whole-of-society approach and is a collective endeavour that must bring communities together.
- *Whakatau tikanga whaihua*: Decisions in emergencies must be adaptable, recognise communities at risk, respect local knowledge, and be informed by up-to-date data.
- *Whakamārietanga*: Emergency management must minimise harm and protect wellbeing.

Strategic Priorities

The Green Party's strategic goals include:

"All people will be empowered to shape the systems that affect them through community engagement enabled by good evidence, co-design, and adequate resourcing."

Actions in this policy that will help achieve this include:

- Formalise the role of iwi and hapū Māori in emergency management, from risk reduction and adaptation through to recovery. (1.2)
- Adopt a flexible, outcome- and needs-oriented approach to emergency response that respects and preserves local ecosystems, tikanga, and communities. (2.2)
- Fund critical roles and equipment for all services involved in emergency responses. (3.1)

- Prioritise collaborative plans and strategies for targeted support towards communities at risk, including isolated people or communities, people at risk, and marginalised groups. (4.1)
- Resource remote communities to establish local alternatives to centralised critical systems. (5.2)

Connected Policies

Emergency preparedness requires resilience and planning in life-supporting and response-supporting systems, including [Food](#), [Energy](#), [Transport](#), [Health](#), [Housing](#), [Workforce](#), and [Waste and Hazardous Substances](#). Emergency management must extend beyond human communities to consider [Biodiversity and Environmental Regeneration](#) and [Animal Welfare](#), including [Freshwater](#) and [Marine](#) species, and [Forestry](#) and [Agriculture](#). Emergency response may require support from the New Zealand [Defence](#) Force, whether here or overseas (see also our [Global Affairs](#) Policy).

Policy Positions

1. [Whakamaru, rangapū me tino rangatiratanga](#) | Protection, partnership and the right to self-determination

Our Vision

Iwi and hapū Māori are supported to lead in times of crisis. Emergency responses address the particular risks and needs of Māori communities.

Actions

- 1.1. Guarantee Māori representation at all levels of emergency management planning.
- 1.2. Formalise the role of iwi and hapū Māori in emergency management, from risk reduction and adaptation through to recovery.
- 1.3. Invest in the capacity and capability of iwi and hapū Māori to respond in emergencies.
- 1.4. Resource rural marae who wish to participate as autonomous hubs for emergency preparedness and response.
- 1.5. Embed manaakitanga, tikanga and mātauranga Māori in emergency management plans.

2. [Tiaki te taiao](#) | Care for the natural world

Our Vision

Nature-based solutions are the primary mechanism for hazard mitigation. Disaster responses do minimal ecological damage.

Actions

- 2.1. Set nature-based hazard mitigation as the default approach to hazard mitigation, so long as this approach is not to the detriment of people and communities.
- 2.2. Adopt a flexible, outcome- and needs-oriented approach to emergency response that respects and preserves local ecosystems, tikanga, and communities.

- 2.3. Standardise Fire and Emergency NZ Chemical, Biological, Radioactive and Nuclear response procedures.
- 2.4. Prepare a rapid, coordinated response plan covering marine emergencies and the impacts of land-based emergencies on the marine environment.

3. Kia takatū te hapori | Preparing the community

Our Vision

National, regional and local emergency systems and services covering all communities are well-resourced and maintained. The insurance sector, including the Natural Hazards Commission, can continue to deliver positive outcomes amid increasing risks. Long-term recovery funding mechanisms enable rapid, sufficient responses. Any migration of communities away from high-risk areas is well-managed.

Actions

- 3.1. Fund critical roles and equipment for all services involved in emergency responses.
- 3.2. Require and resource energy and communications providers to prepare to maintain service resilience in an emergency.
- 3.3. Work with local and regional hubs to create systems and/or stockpiles that provide lifesaving supplies in an emergency.
- 3.4. Provide multilingual, community-led education about emergency preparation and response.
- 3.5. Develop regional preparedness plans for effective community responses, in partnership with health, community support, and welfare agencies.
- 3.6. Provide relevant community organisations with training in emergency response that includes coordination and communication.
- 3.7. Expand the number of formal agreements with businesses, community organisations, iwi, and hapū to deliver assistance in times of emergency.
- 3.8. Require that hazard information is clear, transparent, and integrated into all insurance premium calculations.
- 3.9. Establish a Tiriti-aligned governmental right to purchase properties in high-risk areas.
- 3.10. Conduct ongoing public engagement regarding who pays for emergency recovery and how community retreat from high-risk areas is managed, including compensation to individuals and families for damage to modest stranded assets.
- 3.11. Provide central government funding to support locally-led long-term recovery work.
- 3.12. Fund scientific research on resilience, risk mitigation, and adaptation.

4. Whakatau tikanga whaihua | Beneficial decision-making

Our Vision

Emergency management responses take a preventative approach that upholds the right to protection and safety in situations of risk. Early warning and disaster response advice is accessible.

Actions

- 4.1. Prioritise collaborative plans and strategies for targeted support towards communities at risk, including isolated people or communities, people at risk, and marginalised groups.
- 4.2. Develop and resource individualised preparedness plans to pre-emptively meet the specific needs of people and communities at risk or with health needs.
- 4.3. Provide tailored emergency preparedness and response information in various formats and languages to communities and households.

5. Whakamārietanga | Pacifism, non-violence

Our Vision

Critical utilities are resilient. Emergency management prioritises meeting basic needs and restoring essential services. Emergency financial support systems maintain basic living standards and avoid exacerbating existing inequities. Immediate post-disaster recovery and reconstruction of physical and social environments is equitable and timely.

Actions

- 5.1. Set minimum standards for regional resilience in critical utilities, including the electrical grid and satellite communications, and remove barriers to achieving them.
- 5.2. Resource remote communities to establish local alternatives to centralised critical systems.
- 5.3. Avoid austerity measures following expensive crisis responses, as they disproportionately affect vulnerable people and communities.
- 5.4. Provide easily accessible basic resources as needed, including food, shelter, repairs, and clothing, regardless of people's immediate ability to pay.
- 5.5. Prioritise recovery of essential services and the infrastructure and organisations that enable them to function in emergency response.
- 5.6. Plan for the coordinated use of recovery funding streams and resources, including skilled tradespeople.
- 5.7. Provide clear national direction and consistent standards for equitable recovery.
- 5.8. Plan for immediate and long-term impacts on health, wellbeing, security implications, and financial outcomes.