

# Kenepuru & Central Sounds



Kenepuru & Central Sounds Residents Association Inc.

## Fire Services Review Department of Internal Affairs

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8 July 2015

Dear Sirs,

This submission is made on behalf of the  
**Kenepuru and Central Sounds Residents' Association.**

The Association was established in 1991 and currently has approximately 200 household members whose residents live full time or part time in the Kenepuru and Pelorus Sounds. The Association's objects include, among others, to coordinate dealings with central and local government and promote the interests of residents of Kenepuru Sound and adjacent areas and to promote and act in the best interests of residents, ratepayers and persons associated with the Kenepuru and Central Sounds area. AGMs of the Association are well attended.

The Association welcomes this Review of the Fire Service. In this submission we will concentrate on the impact to emergency services in our large and remote membership area, which covers most of the central area of the Marlborough Sounds.

We submit that a new executive structure close to your suggested **Option 2** would be most beneficial.

Our Scenario:

The Volunteer Rural Fire Forces (VRFF) in our area respond to calls for fires and other emergencies including civil defence. This generally works very well, because of the vast amount of local knowledge that can be applied to any given scenario. It is imperative that areas like ours retain a well spread-out structure like the VRFF's to maintain coverage and fast responses for residents and the huge influx of tourists in the summer season. The nearest 'urban' fire force or ambulance service is anything from 50 minutes to 2 hours drive away.

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### Kenepuru & Central Sounds Residents Association Inc.

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Our Reasoning:

Because of the distance to 'urban' stations we do not envision a huge direct impact on our area. Nevertheless we see a combined fire service as most advantageous. It seems only logical to have one executive group to oversee the responses to a multitude of threats. Obviously there needs to be a division further down the line of command, as different fires need different attack approaches, but this should not stop or even prevent a synergy effect. Every fire starts small and it does make huge sense to respond with the closest unit, which then can call for additional resources regardless of an urban or rural designation. This is most efficiently done, when there is a single executive group. We also see the benefits where a reasonably independent Rural Fire Authority can make decisions for each region.

Conclusion:

As residents we rely on the quality of the emergency services that we provide. We sit on both sides of the equation. We provide and receive emergency services in our area. In our area we have an adequate level of response for fire and feel we are 'served' well by our VRRF volunteers and the MKRFA. We suggest you consider carefully the submissions of the regional fire authorities and other emergency services.

Yours faithfully

  
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