

Report 15.382
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Committee Council
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Appointment of Regional On-Scene Commander

1. Purpose

To appoint Grant Nalder as primary regional on-scene commander (ROSC) for the Wellington Region and Alex Van Wijngaarden as the Alternate ROSC for the Wellington Region.

2. Background

Greater Wellington Regional Council (GWRC) has a responsibility under the Maritime Transport Act 1994 (the MTA) to prepare for and manage marine oil spill events within the region. In addition to its regional responsibilities, GWRC also forms a part of the national response capacity for large marine oil spill events.

A key role within the marine oil spill response function is that of the ROSC. The principal objective of the ROSC is to manage the prevention of further pollution from an oil spill and lead the containment and clean up the oil spill in accordance with marine oil spill contingency plans.

3. Appointment of Regional On-Scene Commanders

ROSC's are appointed by regional councils under section 318 of the MTA. A copy of section 318 is attached as **Attachment 1**.

In accordance section 318(5) of the MTA, as there are no existing prescribed qualifications, regional councils are only entitled to appoint persons to be a ROSC with the approval of the Director of Maritime New Zealand.

In order to gain the approval of the Director of Maritime New Zealand (MNZ), a person must attend and pass the on-scene commander training course. In order to retain their qualification, a ROSC is required to revalidate their training by attendance at an on-scene commander course every six years.

4. Regional On-Scene Commanders

Mike Pryce, the region's Harbourmaster's is currently appointed as ROSC. However, Captain Pryce's approval from the Director of MNZ expired on 30 June 2015 and Captain Pryce has indicated that he would like to be removed from his current ROSC responsibilities.

Grant Nalder is currently appointed as alternate ROSC. Grant Nalder has recently completed the ROSC course. The Director of MNZ has approved his appointment as a ROSC until 2021. A copy of the letter of approval is attached as **Attachment 2** to this report. It is proposed that Grant Nalder become the region's primary ROSC.

It is proposed that the Council appoint a new alternate ROSC to replace the role that will be vacant if Grant Nalder is appointed as the region's primary ROSC. The role of an alternate ROSC provides cover in the event that the primary ROSC is absent, and assistance if a large event were to occur.

As there is no other qualified candidate in the region, officers propose that Council appoint Alex Van Wijngaarden, Marlborough Harbourmaster and a National On Scene Commander (NOSC) as an interim alternate ROSC. As a NOSC, Captain Van Wijngaarden meets the standard required to be appointed as a ROSC. Captain Van Wijngaarden has advised that he is prepared to fulfil this role.

5. Communication

Following Council's decision, the necessary officers will be advised and relevant documents will be updated.

6. The decision-making process and significance

The matters requiring decision in this report have been considered by officers against the requirements of Part 6 of the Local Government Act 2002.

6.1 Significance of the decision

Officers have considered the significance of the matter, taking into account the Council's significance and engagement policy and decision-making guidelines. Due to the procedural nature of this decision officers recommend that the matter be considered to have low significance.

Officers do not consider that a formal record outlining consideration of the decision-making process is required in this instance.

6.2 Engagement

Due to its procedural nature and low significance, no engagement on this matter has been undertaken.

7. Recommendations

That the Council:

- 1. Receives the report.*

2. *Notes the content of the report.*
3. *Agrees to end the appointment of Mike Pryce as regional on-scene commander.*
4. *Reappoints Grant Nalder as regional on-scene commander for the Wellington Region*
5. *Appoints Alex Van Wijngaarden as alternate regional on-scene commander for the Wellington Region.*

Report prepared by:

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Attachment 1: Section 318 of the Maritime Transport Act 1994

Attachment 2: Letter of appointment of Grant Nalder as regional on-scene commander