

Kia Ora Rhys

Since your email to whole country dated Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> August, subject: Consultation, we have received a few comments from our membership. We just wanted you to be aware of how parts of it were perceived, as it is a critical time where we need to work with you to constantly build trust between our members and FENZ as we move into this consultation period.

You stated... *"Often that will mean an incident will be led by a career firefighter; sometimes it will be a volunteer and sometimes it will be a rural specialist such as those who did an outstanding job of coordinating the efforts of career, urban, rural and volunteer firefighters and contractors at the Tasman fires earlier this year"*

As discussed in the past, FECA has perceived our rural colleagues and the contractor sector enjoy greater recognition of their command and control skills than the urban sector and thus have had a weighted voice in the development of USD. The quote above has been perceived as supporting this. This comes at a time when we are trying to manage the very sensitive issue of the selection process for the proposed District manager's positions.

From our perspective the Nelson incident management looked like this:

The local Area Commander was appointed as the deputy incident controller for the event after the arrival of team Sutton. The local knowledge and leadership our commanders brought to the incident ensured a smooth transition from an urban controlled event to the establishment of the Urban/Rural IMT.

Prior to the arrival of national resources, urban commanders (Mark Boere and Grant Haywood) managed the FENZ response outside of the forest fire. This included evacuation of residents, significant infrastructure and lifeline exposure protection, working with local mayors and iwi etc. Our commanders worked with the PRFO Ian Reade and his team but it would be fair to say that Ian's team focused on the fire and not the bigger community picture.

AC Haywood managed the relationships at a local level with key stakeholders and other key emergency services. The need of the rural specialist was for the complex fire but at no stage did they have any direction over the urban/ community response to the greater event. Both Mark and Grant managed that. During the event, urban specialist also responded to multiple other events that were managed without impact on the larger fire. Examples of these included 2 x Heli crashes, a 3<sup>rd</sup> alarm cool store fire, a Hazardous substance event, a significant vegetation fire at Walters bluff that impacted 14 homes (responded to by 1 career crew initially). Urban specialists also managed the coverage of the entire area at a period of significant drought.

At no stage during this event did the rural leaders manage any incident outside of the forest fire. Without the leadership and professionalism of urban specialists the impact of this event would have been far more significant.

We know it was not your intent of the email to only recognise our rural colleagues. However, one of FECA's goals is to support you, by selling the story to our membership and beyond, that everyone will be treated fairly during this Trance 2 selection process. Staff hang off every word you and FECA put out so we have to be cautious how our words might be perceived.

The intention of this email is to simply to bring this to your attention to help us through this next period.

Regards

Roy and Des