



16 November 2015

Record No: 15205252  
File Ref: E385-002-003-04  
Ask for: Brian Paton

Port Underwood Association  
PO Box 59  
Blenheim 7240

**Re: Tsunami Risk Community Consultation**

This letter has been sent to you because you have an influential role within your organisation, local business or community or you will have a vested interest in the topic of potential tsunami risks in Marlborough.

It is well-known that coastal communities in New Zealand are at risk from tsunami. Council has engaged GNS Science to use the latest available information to assess the risk for the entire coastline of the District. Tsunami evacuation/inundation zones have been developed based on the Ministry of Civil Defence Emergency Management Tsunami Evacuation Zones guidelines. This methodology has been calibrated with data from the 2004 Indian Ocean tsunami and validated using the 2011 Japanese tsunami.

This work has now been completed and it is appropriate to release the information to the public for consultation.

The possibility of a large tsunami event in Marlborough is very unlikely although, should one occur, the consequences could be catastrophic. GNS have mapped the potential extent of two return periods, one being a 1:500 year event and the second being a 1:2500 year event. All Councils around the country are preparing their evacuation maps using the same return periods and the same information.

The most serious tsunami is likely to originate from local and regional sources with arrival times estimated to be less than 3 hours. As a result it is imperative that you and your businesses and communities understand what to do and where to go in such an event. Prior education and evacuation planning is essential to reduce the impact of such risks.

Next week we will be releasing information to the media about the planning we are preparing to do. We're writing to you now to give you advance notice of this planning and to seek your input.

We are proposing to meet with individual communities and businesses of interest (e.g. Rarangi, Picton, Havelock and Blenheim) by holding open days early next year to share the information relevant to each community.

Once communities have seen the information and maps these will be posted onto the Council website and feedback on them sought. From the meetings we would then like to establish community driven Tsunami Working Groups which will develop tsunami evacuation plans and information material which will appropriately manage the risk locally. Possible outcomes are likely to be signage, information boards and identifiable safe evacuation zones.

Therefore, you or your organisation can expect to receive an invitation to attend community events at which we would like to engage in a dialogue with the attendees, present the information, exchange ideas and plan for a way forward that will reduce the possible consequences of a tsunami event.

Attached is an example of a tsunami inundation map of your likely area of interest for your information. These maps will be explained in fuller detail at the open days.

If you would like any further information you can contact the Civil Defence Emergency Services Manager, Brian Paton on 520 7400.





Mark Wheeler  
Assets and Services Manager  
Marlborough District Council



Brian Paton  
Emergency Services Manager  
Marlborough Civil Defence Emergency Management



**Legend**

-  Orange Evacuation Zone: 1-3m and 3-5m threat level warning, 500 year return period; Includes the Red Evacuation Zone 0.2 - 1m threat level warning
-  Yellow Evacuation Zone: > 5m threat level warning, "worst scenario" 2,500 Year return period



# Port Underwood Tsunami Inundation / Evacuation Map