

What to do when Golden Bay is isolated

Experience from ex-tropical cyclone Gita



The problem:

- Golden Bay isolated after cyclone Gita
- Panic buying of fuel and supermarket supplies
- Wood chips were needed for the hospital fire
- Fonterra needed to get their product out
- Potential medical evacuations
- Evacuation of tourists



The Solution – part 1 (food supplies):

- Sea Shuttle barge from Abel Tasman
 - Engaged by EOC Logistics
 - Powered vessel
 - first delivery late afternoon of Day 2
 - Supermarket deliveries
 - Cannot carry fuel
 - Loaded on the beach at Kaiteriteri
 - Unloaded at Port Tarakohe



The Solution – part 2 (fuel, gas, milk supplies):

- Harvest Star barge from Nautilus, Marlborough
 - Dumb barge
 - Already in Golden Bay for other reasons
 - Granted a dangerous goods licence 22nd pm
 - First fuel delivery was 24th Feb
 - Can carry 4 trucks, but not the drivers
 - Loaded at Port Nelson
 - Unloaded at Port Tarakohe



The Logistics:

- Only one type of pallet loader was available at Port Taranaki
- Very weather dependant
- Minimum 5 hour one way trip, not including loading/unloading
- None of the barges were licenced to carry fuel
- Arranged a temporary licence for one barge for one route
- You can't carry petrol and LPG on the same barge
- Apparently you don't carry diesel without petrol
- Once set up, managed by the receiving organisations
- Fuel rationing in place in the Bay

Interesting issues

- Local EOC, local businesses and Group EOC were all researching
- What we thought were three barges available to us, was actually one – by three different names
- Who pays?
 - CDEM covered the cost of initial run of groceries, then did not cover any further cost, part of business continuity planning rather than welfare
 - CDEM took no responsibility related to risk and insurance of product

What we learnt

- Make the decision to acquire barges earlier
- Clearer communications between all involved
- Lots about the practicalities and dependencies of different businesses
- Need to develop a proper plan around barge use for future events