Whangamata Tsunami Warning System Update

The most likely Civil Defence event that will cause an evacuation in Whangamata is a tsunami. A tsunami that affects us will be caused by a major local earthquake, or an earthquake that is generated from the pacific.

Tsunami generated from the Pacific

A tsunami generated from the Pacific will be one in which we may have some hours to generate a warning.

This warning will be given by activating the Tsunami warning system. The system consists of two sirens mounted at Tirohanga Drive, The Drive and the modified fire service siren.

They will sound CONTINUOUSLY IN ONE TONE. This is not to be confused with the normal fire siren which changes its tone. In addition there will be warnings and further information through the local radio stations, Coromandel FM (89.1 FM), and Kool FM (97.9 FM).

Tsunami generated locally

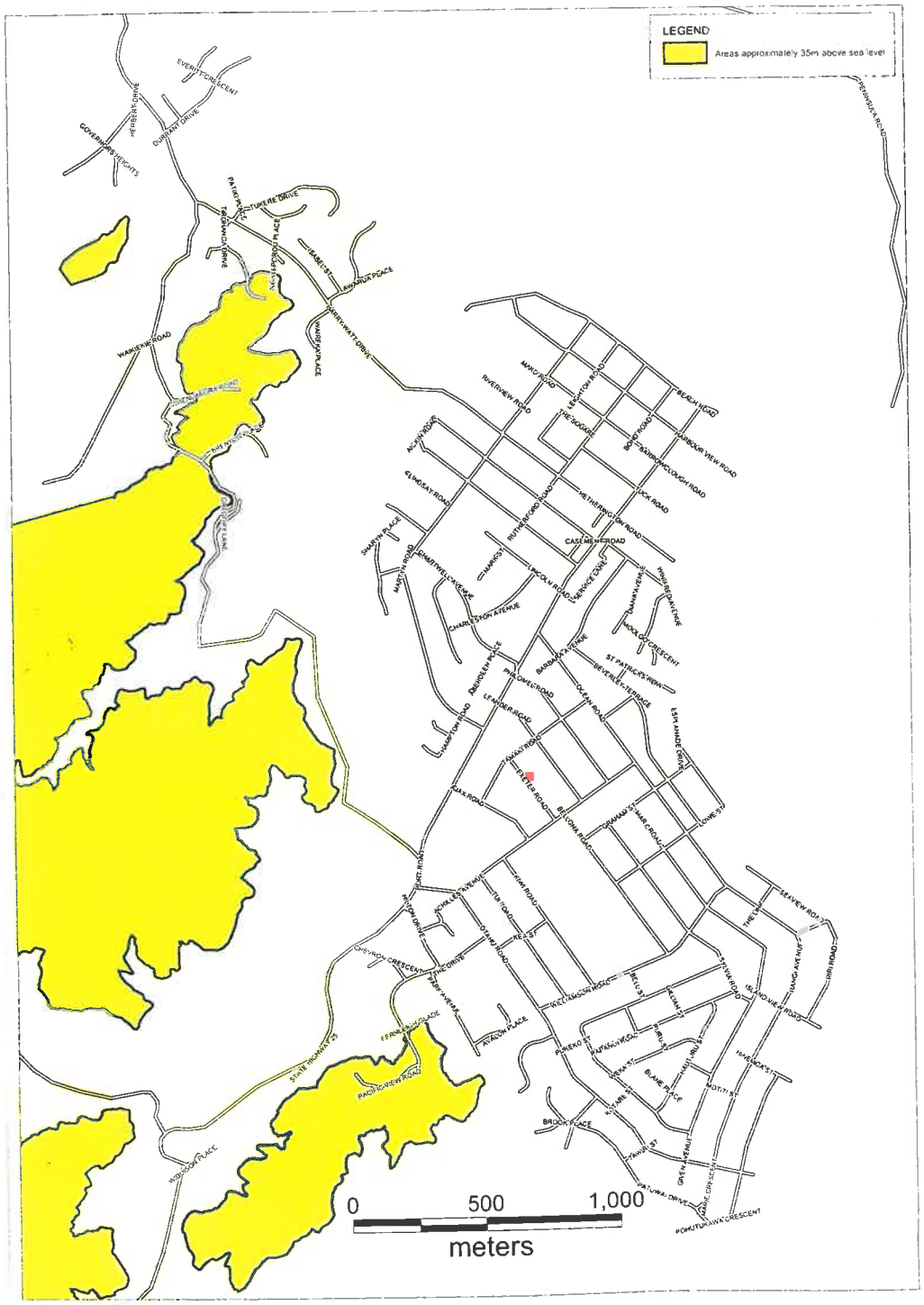
However, a tsunami generated by a local major earthquake may mean that there is very limited time to activate warnings. In this case, it will be up to you and your family to make the decision to evacuate.

In case of a tsunami, Civil Defence recommend that you evacuate to at least 1 kilometre inland or 35m above sea level.

Overleaf, you will find a scaled map that shows areas around Whangamata that are approximately 35m above sea level.

Please note that this map has been designed as an interim measure until the Civil Defence Emergency Management Group has created a generic evacuation plan for all of the TCDC area.

The tsunami warning system is only one part of the response to a Tsunami and it is up to you to ensure that you are personally prepared for such an event.

For more information on how you can be prepared, please take a look at the Civil Defence information on the front page of the Yellow Pages or visit the websites www.getthru.govt.nz or www.tcdc.govt.nz

This information has been prepared by the Whangamata Emergency Services Group. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact the Whangamata Police Station on (07) 865 0300.