

27 September 2023

Tēnā koutou katoa,

Tsunami siren network deactivation and decommissioning

Auckland Emergency Management tsunami sirens are installed in 14 communities across the Auckland region in Huia, Whatipū, Karekare, Piha, Bethells / Te Henga, Te Atatū South (Bridge Ave), Te Atatū Peninsula, Hobsonville Marina, Herald Island, Waiwera, Orewa, Omaha, Whangateau and Point Wells.

The siren network has been subject to ongoing theft and vandalism meaning it is not currently operating the way it was intended.

Based on a number of factors, including a change in technology and national alerting methods in 2017 (to Emergency Mobile Alerts), ongoing maintenance, theft and vandalism issues, the sirens approaching their end-of-design-life, and new tsunami evacuation mapping to be released later this year, the Civil Defence and Emergency Management Committee has decided to decommission the siren network (excludes Orewa). The sirens in Orewa were installed in 2020 and have not been impacted by vandalism or thefts and they will not be deactivated or decommissioned.

A date for deactivation of the siren network will be released shortly, alongside broader public communications on this matter, but it will be prior to the summer holiday this year. Decommissioning of the network will follow and will entail the removal of all horns and hardware.

Stay informed and prepared

Sirens are only one way you could be alerted to tsunami threats. You will still receive warnings through other official channels including the Emergency Mobile Alert platform (messages to your mobile phone), radio and television news broadcasts, social media and there are a number of natural warnings you can look out for.

- You can find out further information about Emergency Mobile Alerts via getready.govt.nz/prepared/stay-informed/emergency-mobile-alert/.
- Follow us on [X \(Twitter\)](#) (@AucklandCDEM) and [Facebook](#).
- If you are at the coast and feel an earthquake which is **LONG** or **STRONG, GET GONE** and move inland or to higher ground.

To find out more about tsunami, warnings and other hazards, or to check if you live in a tsunami evacuation zone in Auckland's Hazards Viewer, please visit the Auckland Emergency Management website aucklandemergencymanagement.org.nz.

Should you have any questions please feel free to get in touch via aeminfo@aucklandcouncil.govt.nz

Nāku iti noa, na – yours sincerely,

John Cranfield
Head of Response & Recovery
Auckland Emergency Management | Tokonga Mate Ohotata o Tamaki Makaurau