

Lessons identified from CERA's approach to coordinating other recovery work

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This overview should be read alongside its companion report – *Coordinating other recovery work*.

After a disaster

Coordination work is worth doing

In the early stages of disaster recovery, helping to coordinate, integrate and support the work of other recovery leaders may seem intangible. However, it is important to prioritise and champion this type of work as soon as possible, and to make sure that organisational and governance arrangements are fit-for-purpose.

Understand purpose and role

The very first step is to collaboratively define goals, roles and responsibilities for the lead agency and the support agency. These will need to be continually reviewed, refined and communicated as the recovery environment changes.

Be as strategic as possible when acting as a 'coordinator'

Focus on the big picture. Don't get pulled into the detail unless there is conscious decision that this is necessary, and for good reasons.

Empower recovery programme leaders

Recognise the leadership and expertise of recovery partners, and make them part of recovery governance arrangements so they are sitting at the right tables. Once clear accountabilities have been set, persuasion is the best tool for influencing partners.

Take note of your shifting environment

Recognise the recovery environment is shifting all the time. Be as clear as possible about expectations for a programme, to help people cope, but allow for flexibility in the way a programme is delivered. Review the approach regularly, adapt it where necessary and know when to step away.

Assume the work is complex

Don't underestimate the complexity of coordination work, or the work of other programme leaders, who will come from many different backgrounds. Be aware that they may need additional support and different kinds of support. Continue to clarify what is required, and repeat key messages.

Before a disaster

Prepare better

Local and national organisations and iwi will be better prepared in a future disaster if they can:

- invest in relationship building *now*
- develop post-disaster strategies and set principles for decision making *now*.