

Whakatāne District Recovery Project GIS



Event

Heavy rain and strong winds due to ex-Tropical Cyclones Debbie (5/4/2017), and Cook (13/4/2017).

- Widespread damage to roads in the District. Rural communities isolated.
- Edgecumbe evacuated on the 6th of April following stopbank breach.

8 April 2017



8 April 2017



Response - EOC

- Survey123 - Deployed Building Flood Assessment and Welfare forms for field data collection.
- StoryMaps and Dashboards provided content-rich, live data into the EOC.
- Situational Awareness Viewer.
- GIS was prominent in the response phase – Paul D & Eagle.

Recovery Team

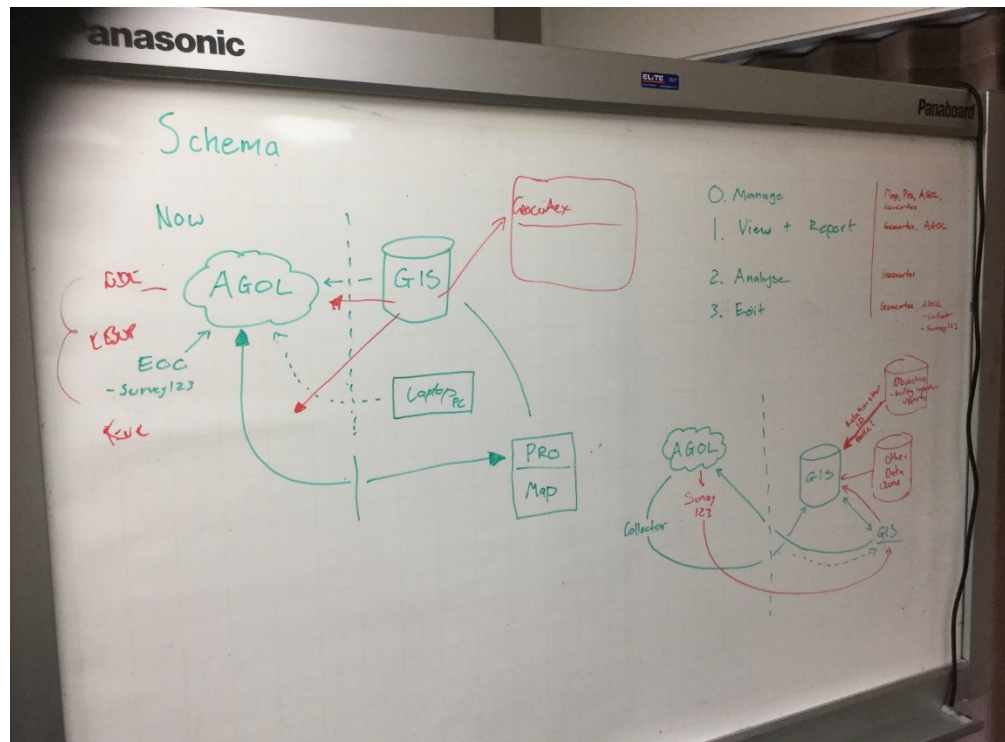
- Multi-agency team
- ~30 people from WDC, BOPRC, EQC, Rural Support, MCDEM
- 5 teams: Built, Intel, Rural & Natural Environment, Social, Economic
- Kick down doors!

“One source of the truth”

- The situational awareness viewer was a lightbulb moment for our CE.
- Directive: to create a system that is the one source of the truth and contains information about residents, buildings and the environment
- It needed to be a tool for staff to track the life cycle of the recovery.
- It sounds like you need a GIS!

The plan...

- Integrate with Corporate systems
- Host data in our enterprise
- Build web viewer for the Recovery team & external entities
- Emtel contracted for support (Ethan H)



The first month...

- Implemented project plan and went live internally...
- Impacted homes... (the sticker system)
- Great difficulty in knowing *who* lived *where*...
- Insurance data...

The next five months...

- Lawyers and data sharing agreements.
- External viewer content dramatically reduced ☹️.
- Ongoing battles with insurance companies.

Navigators...

- Community psycho-social support & assistance.
- Needed a system to maintain cases.
- Short time frame to turn around a product...
- Survey123!
- Limitations in editing forms.

Challenges...

- Returned to BAU after ~6 months and faced challenges to maintain Recovery data and provide a high level of support.
- Unable to adequately provide content-rich external viewer.
- The workload was crushing at times and as a result some of the Recovery teams (ie. Built & Social) were given a greater level of focus than others (ie. Rural and Environment).

Successes

- Set up a robust GIS system in a relatively quick timeframe.
- Provided the Recovery team with high quality data, maps, analysis and support.
- Recovery team: a focused group who became good friends through trials

Lessons

- It's about people and relationships– the community, but also the project team.
- Crushing workload.
- Recovery starts in the response!!
- Great work that the NZGIS4EM community is doing...

FIN - Any questions?