



## **MEDIA RELEASE**

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### **Kermadec quake timely reminder of need for tsunami planning**

Acting Mayor for Thames-Coromandel District Council (TCDC), Peter French, says this morning's 7.6 magnitude earthquake in the Tonga-Kermadec trench north-east of New Zealand is a timely reminder of the need for tsunami planning.

"This reinforces the warning from Whitianga's recent Tsunami Planning open days that an emergency can happen at any time and everyone must be prepared."

"When an earthquake happens close to shore, your only warning might be the unusual ground and water movement. That's your cue to act on your personal or family plan. We all must take personal responsibility."

TCDC's spokesperson for the Eastern Coromandel Tsunami Strategy project, Peter Wishart says this morning's event shows just why long-term planning to manage tsunami threat on the peninsula is so important. "For example, we will be consulting with the Whitianga community and then other communities on the peninsula in the near future about the way we might build future parts of the town bearing in mind the potential for tsunami."

The Coromandel coast still has potential for stronger currents than normal and unusual water patterns. People are urged to exercise caution in coastal areas and stay up to date with any fresh advice that is issued.

Waikato Civil Defence Emergency Management Group's emergency coordinating centre is expected to remain activated in monitoring mode for at least the next day or so to keep an eye on the situation.

For more information on the Eastern Coromandel Tsunami Strategy project contact Peter Wishart on 07 868 0200.

For Civil Defence information contact Ron White or Del Read at 07 868 0200.