



**St John**

Here for Life

# **St John Taihape**

## **New Ambulance Station**

Prepared by:

St John Taihape Area Committee  
24 Linnet Street  
TAIHAPE 4720  
Tel: 06 388 1272

31 August 2018

## St John Taihape

The Taihape township was established in 1894 by a group of Canterbury settlers.

Climate is generally temperate and has few extremes. Located in the hilly central plateau of the North Island, it can be cold and frosty in winter and not infrequent that snowfall settles in areas 400m above sea level, such as Taihape. The area is isolated on average 1 - 2 days per year due to weather and slips. Last year saw Taihape isolated for 2.5 days and instigating its emergency response plans due to snow.

Taihape is located in an extreme weather area with the most likely situations causing isolation in Taihape to include: Floods, Snow, Storms / high winds, Earthquakes, Volcanic eruptions, Landslides and Rural Fires.

## The Need

The current St John ambulance station in Taihape is located at 24 Linnet Street and is rented from a private entity for approximately \$9,500 per annum. The station is an early 1900's three bedroom villa. The overall condition of the villa is poor, along with being very cold, representing the poorest quality facility in the Central Region.



24 Linnet Street, Taihape

Recent initial earthquake assessment of the villa has found it to be unsatisfactory in regards to IL4 building standards.

In addition to the state of the villa, the property has no garaging for ambulance vehicles, leaving ambulances to be parked on the off-street driveway or on the road. This poses several health and safety and operational issues including but not limited to:

- meeting current standards for cleaning the inside of the ambulance and associated equipment out of weather conditions
- proper storage of equipment and supplies
- poor equipment performance due to uncontrolled temperatures
- damage to vehicles due to exposure to weather
- security of staff and personnel at night

During the 2013 Census 43% of the population in Taihape identified as Māori and furthermore indicated an aging population of lower socio-economic benefit.

There is also a trend of retired people moving from Auckland, purchasing cheaper homes and making Taihape their place of residence. In general these characteristics require a higher level of health care.

Over the last 12 months (March 2017 – February 2018) Taihape station has had 562 responses. The statistics below outline where Taihape ambulances have responded to along with how many overall responses there has been to the Taihape area.

# Taihape Analysis

March 2017 to February 2018

Figure 1 and Table 1 show the number of EAS jobs TAIH1 and TAIH81 have completed between March 2017 and February 2018. During past 12 months, TAIH1 and TAIH81 have responded to 562 EAS jobs in total, with an average of 46.8 jobs per month. Compared with the previous year (Mar 2016 to Feb 2017) this average has remained the same.

## 2.12a. Num. Responses (EAS) At scene : TAIH1 + TAIH81 : (Last 12 Months)

Data Updated: 2018-03-13 05:15:19

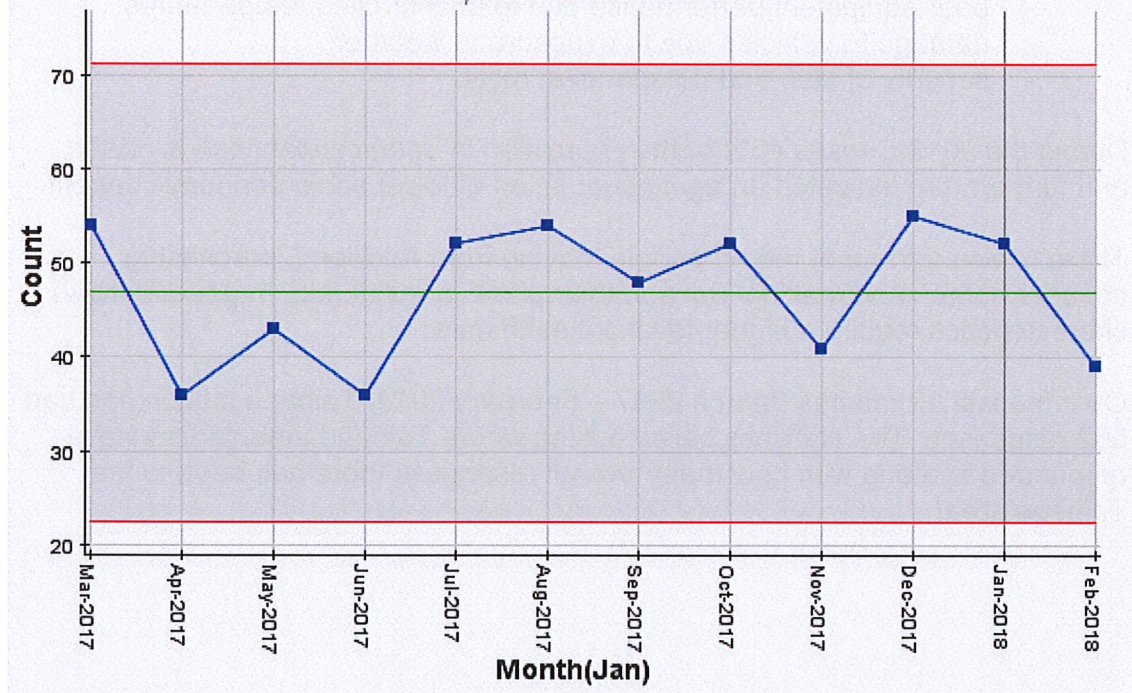


Figure 1. Number of EAS responses at scene by TAIH1 between Mar 2017 to Feb 2018

Month	Number of EAS responses at scene		
	TAIH1	TAIH81	TAIH1 and TAIH81
Mar-17	53	1	54
Apr-17	34	2	36
May-17	42	1	43
Jun-17	36	0	36
Jul-17	51	1	52
Aug-17	54	0	54
Sep-17	46	2	48
Oct-17	52	0	52
Nov-17	41	0	41
Dec-17	53	2	55

Jan-18	50	2	52
Feb-18	39	0	39
<b>Total</b>	<b>551</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>562</b>
<b>Average</b>	<b>46</b>	<b>1.6</b>	<b>46.8</b>

Table 1. Number of EAS responses at scene by TAIH1 and TAIH81 between March 2017 to February 2018.

Figure 2 shows historical and projected EAS incidents in Taihape. There was a rise in the number of incidents in 2015 and 2016, and a subsequent fall in 2017. Over the long-term (2010 to 2017) we've see an upward trend in the number of incidents, with an average growth rate of 1% between the two periods.

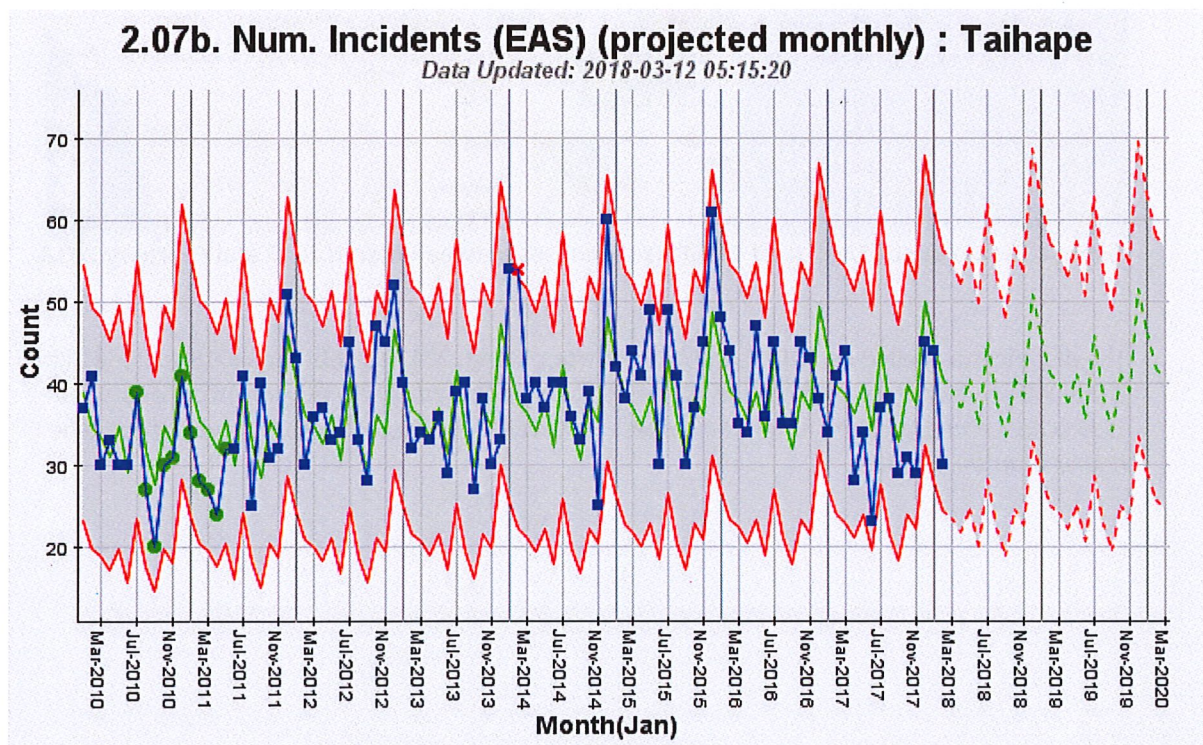


Figure 2. Historical and projected EAS incidents in Taihape, March 2010 to March 2020.

Figure 4 shows a heat map of incident locations that TAIH1 and TAIH81 responded to within the last 12 months. The red areas represent a high concentration of incidents, the green areas represent a low concentration of incidents and yellow is in between.

*Note: TAIH1 travelled as far as Palmerston North because it was transporting a patient, and then responded to an incident nearby.*

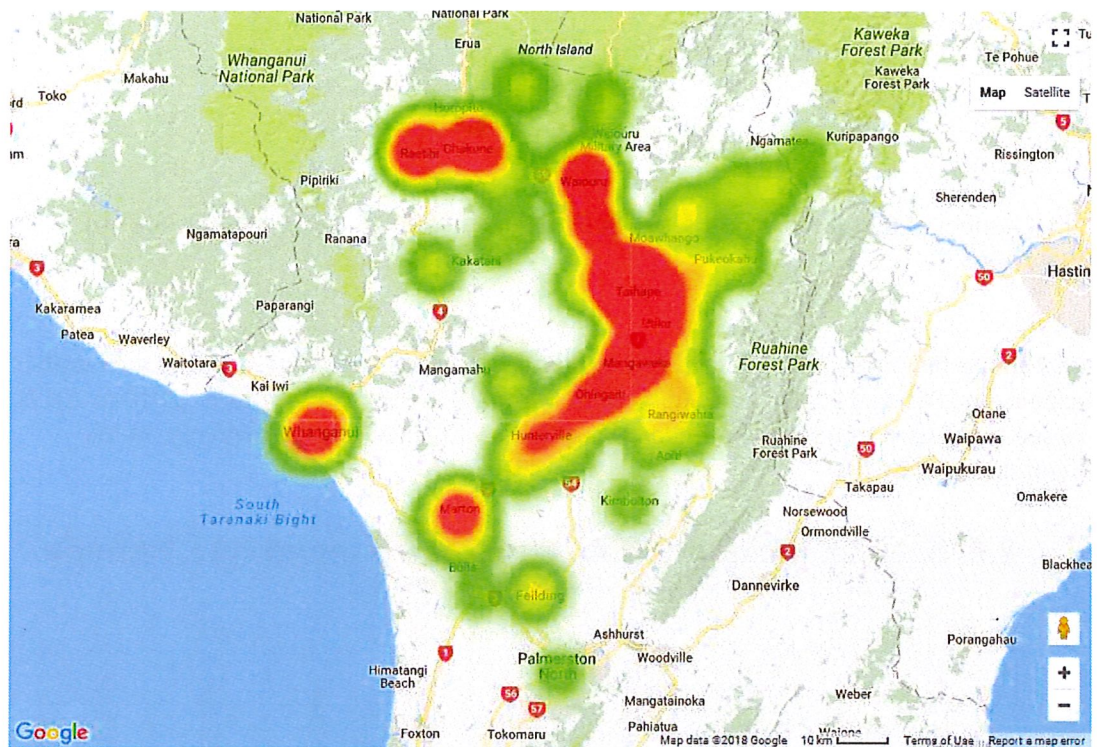


Figure 4. Heat map of TAIH1 and TAIH81's responses between March 2017 and February 2018.

The distances travelled by TAIH1 and TAIH81 from March 2017 to February 2018 is 85,681 kms. Note: We have omitted some readings due to errors in manual entry (e.g. incorrect odometer recordings) and accounted for fleet changes. However, the actual distances travelled could be higher than this number.

## **The value of a St John Station**

The development of a new ambulance station in Taihape offers a number of anticipated benefits:

1. Provide a new garage to meet the immediate and future needs of newer vehicles being commissioned into service
2. Protect the current vehicles and equipment from temperature extremes reducing wear and tear and equipment failure e.g. batteries, blood sugar testers etc
3. To provide proper sluicing, storage areas and facilities for the servicing of the ambulance
4. To improve the station facilities for duty/office space, storage, rest, meetings and training
5. To improve security for staff and vehicles
6. To secure ownership of the station

## **Opportunities**

For several years a number of options have been explored in regards to the development of a new ambulance station in Taihape.

Options viewed were:

- An ex church that only required the building of an appropriate garage with some refurbishment required. Unfortunately, due to the availability of a cash buyer St John missed out on this building
- A pre-existing house that required a garage to be built however, the house itself was found to be very cold and would require further insulation and internal renovations along with an appropriate garage
- Existing industrial building was looked at, but this required significant work to bring it up to earthquake and operational standard
- The purchase of section owned by the Whanganui District Hospital however there was a requirement to also purchase the adjacent section which had a building on it, this was Māori owned land and at the time those who oversaw the Māori land were not in favour of gifting or selling. A garage would need to have been built along with internal renovations
- Purchasing a building from a building removers and having it placed on the section. This would have required major renovation along with a garage to be built and was viewed as a non-viable option

None of these options have managed to secure a successful outcome.

In 2009 a vacant block of land was purchased at 8 Linnet Street, Taihape in the hope the site could potentially house the new ambulance station.

A geotechnical soils test and site assessment has been undertaken to confirm the suitability of the site. In general, the tests indicate the shallow soils of the site meet the requirement of good ground. The report recommends minor changes to standard building practices for the structure and inspection of site earthworks by a geotechnical engineer to confirm the reported ground predictions.

Given the results of the report the St John Central Regional Trust Board has confirmed their support for the proposal to construct a new ambulance station on the site.

An initial concept plan was completed and priced and found to be too costly for the community. The plan was revised and re-costed and the Taihape Area Committee decided to seek other options to help reduce costs. Versatile was approached to provide their concept plan and pricing but after a year of pursuing this nothing has eventuated and so the Taihape Area Committee has decided they would continue with the revised concept plan and costing in order to help move the project forward.

Note:

1. The real cost of the project is expected to be less than \$837,043.00
2. The land has already been purchased
3. Makes no account of gifts in kind from sub-contractors
4. Makes no account of local community input
5. Includes a \$76,000 contingency margin

## **Project timeline**

It is aimed to have the Station constructed and opened and operating by the end of 2020. The trigger for letting the construction contract begin will be the securing of 80% of the total project funds.

Gifts can be banked directly into the project account:

Account Name: The Order of St John Taihape Area Committee  
Account Number: 03 0726 0000034 00  
Bank: Westpac



## Project Management Team

The initial Project Management Team consists of:

Name	Position	Contact Number	Email
Bryan Rendle	Chairman	0274453794	bryan.rendle@stjohn.org.nz
Kerrie Fallen	AC member	021 855 058	alpha4@xtra.co.nz
Anne Mould	AC member	06 388 0909	N/A
Curly Troon	AC member	027 431 0494	curlytroon@hotmail.com
Julia Procter	AC member	0272086070	jtag@inspire.net.nz
Michelle Fannin	Fundraiser	021 152 6412	michelle.fannin62@gmail.com
Sandy Rowland	Secretary	027 320 6927	sandyro@stjohn.org.nz
Roana Te Oriki	Treasurer	027 300 9439	rteoriki@yahoo.com
Ariana Hansen	AC member	027 210 4756	arianahansen@hotmail.com

Note:

Membership of this group, including establishment of appropriate working groups for various elements of the project will change from time to time.

# Concept Plans

