

The Treasury

Government Response to the Public Inquiry into the Earthquake Commission Information Release

September 2020

This document has been proactively released by **Hon Grant Robertson, Minister Responsible for the Earthquake Commission** on the Treasury website at

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Cabinet Document Details

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Date: **1 July 2020**

Creator: Office of the Minister Responsible for the Earthquake Commission and Office of the Minister for Greater Christchurch Regeneration

Information Withheld

No information had been withheld.

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Cabinet Economic Development Committee

Minute of Decision

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Government Response to the Public Inquiry into the Earthquake Commission

Portfolio **Earthquake Commission**

On 1 July 2020, the Cabinet Economic Development Committee:

- 1 **noted** that on 9 April 2020, the report of the Public Inquiry into the Earthquake Commission (the Inquiry) was presented to the House and publicly released;
- 2 **noted** that the purpose of the Inquiry was to ensure lessons are learned from the past Canterbury earthquake experiences, and that the Earthquake Commission (EQC) has the appropriate policies and operating structure in place to ensure improved claims management experiences in the future [DEV-18-MIN-0021];
- 3 **approved** the proposed government responses to the 70 recommendations of the Inquiry Report, as set out in Appendix 1 to the paper under DEV-20-SUB-0116, including to accept, accept 'in principle', or agree to further consideration of each of the recommendations;
- 4 **noted** that the EQC Board has considered and agreed the responses to the operational recommendations that have been attributed to EQC to progress;
- 5 **noted** that in addition to ongoing improvements in EQC operations, there are three main work streams across government that will take forward the various recommendations:
 - 5.1 a modernisation of the EQC Act, that will result in an amendment Bill to be introduced in 2022;
 - 5.2 work led by the National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA) on clarifying roles and responsibilities in the emergency management system;
 - 5.3 work led by the Department of Internal Affairs (DIA) on the cross-government Community Resilience work programme, the overarching objective of which is to build community resilience to natural hazards and climate change risks;
- 6 **directed** the Treasury, NEMA, DIA, the Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment, EQC and other relevant agencies to work together to progress the work on clarifying roles and responsibilities as a matter of priority;
- 7 **agreed** that the Resilience Ministers Group provide advice to the Minister Responsible for the Earthquake Commission on policy work on EQC and natural hazard management for a modernised EQC Act, with officials reporting monthly to Resilience Ministers on progress;

- 8 **noted** that legislation will be required to give effect to a number of the proposed changes through a modernisation of the EQC Act;
- 9 **directed** officials to report back to Cabinet by 31 March 2021 with decisions for a Bill modernising the EQC Act to ensure the Bill can be introduced by July 2021;
- 10 **authorised** the Minister Responsible for the Earthquake Commission and the Minister for Greater Christchurch Regeneration to announce the government response to the Inquiry;
- 11 **noted** that the Treasury and EQC will proactively release the internal documents that were shared with the Public Inquiry to inform the Inquiry's report as soon as possible.

Janine Harvey
Committee Secretary

Present:

Hon Kelvin Davis
Hon Grant Robertson (Chair)
Hon Phil Twyford
Hon Stuart Nash
Hon Iain Lees-Galloway
Hon Jenny Salesa
Hon Damien O'Connor
Hon Shane Jones
Hon Kris Faafoi
Hon Willie Jackson
Hon James Shaw
Hon Eugenie Sage

Officials present from:

Office of the Prime Minister
Officials Committee for DEV