



Proactive Release

The following document has been proactively released by the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet (DPMC), and National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA), on behalf of Hon Mark Mitchell, Minister for Emergency Management and Recovery:

A roadmap for responding to the Government Inquiry into the Response to the North Island Severe Weather Events

The following documents have been included in this release:

Title of paper: A Roadmap for responding to the Government Inquiry into the response to the North Island Severe Weather Events (ECO-24-SUB-0089 refers)

Title of minute: Roadmap for responding to the Government Inquiry into the response to the North Island Severe Weather Events (ECO-24-MIN-0089)

Some parts of this information release would not be appropriate to release and, if requested, would be withheld under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act). Where this is the case, the relevant section of the Act that would apply has been identified. Where information has been withheld, no public interest has been identified that would outweigh the reasons for withholding it.

Key to redaction code:

- section 9(2)(f)(iv), to maintain the confidentiality of advice tendered by or to Ministers and officials

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Office of the Minister for Emergency Management and Recovery

Cabinet Economic Policy Committee

A roadmap for responding to the Government Inquiry into the Response to the North Island Severe Weather Events

Proposal

- 1 This paper provides a roadmap for responding to the Report of the Government Inquiry into the Response to the North Island Severe Weather Events of 2023 (the NISWE report) and seeks approval of a proposed timeline and scope for a report-back to Cabinet.

Relation to Government Priorities

- 2 This paper relates to the Government's priority to deliver better public services.

Executive Summary

- 3 Delivered in March 2024, the NISWE report is the most recent post-event inquiry into the performance of New Zealand's emergency management system.¹
- 4 The NISWE report found that the current emergency management system is not fit for purpose. While there were some successful aspects of the response, particularly in the way communities courageously supported each other, the report also says that as a whole the emergency management system did not enable people to prepare for and respond to the severe weather events as needed – and in some places it failed.
- 5 The NISWE report's recommendations focused on improving the design and structure of the emergency management system and many echo or directly endorse the findings of previous inquiries, suggesting that the system has not learned from previous inquiries and reviews.
- 6 I have acknowledged the findings publicly, noting that I would consider the recommendations fully and alongside other similar reviews. Material change is required to deliver an emergency management system which meets the needs of all New Zealanders. Government priorities and investment decisions will shape the pace and scale of this change.
- 7 The National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA) has a system improvement programme in place and includes actions and initiatives that are consistent with the recommendations of the NISWE report. However,

¹ The report was publicly released on 23 April 2024.

improvements implemented (or which are still in progress) since NEMA's establishment will not be enough to make this system fit for the future.

- 8 I intend to report back in September 2024 on options to improve New Zealand's resilience to natural hazards and other emergencies. This advice will include focused interventions into those parts of the system that are most in need of, or would clearly benefit from, reform. It will also inform the Government's response to the NISWE report, setting out which recommendations are agreed, and how the Government intends to address these. I will also seek Cabinet's agreement to the publication of that response soon after those decisions are made.
- 9 Some required changes to the emergency management system are likely to require mandate and support through primary and secondary legislation. I intend to introduce a new Emergency Management Bill in 2025 to replace the Civil Defence Emergency Management (CDEM) Act 2002.
- 10 Alongside legislative and regulatory changes (which in themselves will not be sufficient) I will also consider how clarification of roles and responsibilities, operational improvements and improvements to existing settings can be leveraged to address the recommendations of the NISWE report.

The NISWE Report

- 11 The NISWE report focused on emergency management readiness and response to Cyclone Hale (8–12 January 2023), the Auckland Anniversary heavy rain event (26 January–3 February 2023) and Cyclone Gabrielle (12–16 February 2023). It also made comments on the reduction and recovery aspects of these events, which claimed 15 lives and are estimated to have caused between \$9–14.5 billion in damage to households, businesses, and infrastructure. The report made 14 broad recommendations focused on improving the design and structure of the emergency management system. These recommendations are provided at Annex A.
- 12 On 23 April this year, I released the NISWE report and acknowledged its findings noting that I would consider the recommendations fully and alongside other similar reviews.
- 13 A key finding was that the emergency management system is not designed to deal with significant, widespread events that impact multiple regions and that there is a major disconnect between communities and response agencies. While some aspects of the response were successful, particularly in the way communities supported each other, the emergency management system was seen as not enabling people to adequately prepare for and respond to the severe weather events—and in some places it failed. It noted that structural shifts are needed to clarify roles and responsibilities, make better use of resources, and build capability and capacity across the system.
- 14 The NISWE report also found that the severe weather events happened at a speed and scale that would have caused significant damage regardless of how well the immediate response went. Agencies that had conducted effective readiness planning were better able to respond, but planning, and the

effectiveness of the response, varied substantially across regions. The report also noted that without adequate investment in risk reduction the impacts of disasters will continue to be devastating.

Other Reports

- 15 The NISWE report was the latest in a series of reviews seeking to learn from the responses to a range of natural hazard emergencies. One of the more significant of these was the 2017 Ministerial Review—Better Responses to Natural Disasters and Other Emergencies (the TAG report).
- 16 Following in the wake of the Canterbury earthquakes (2010 and 2011), the Kaikōura earthquake and tsunami (2016), and the Port Hills fires (2017), the TAG report called for an emergency management system that is underpinned by clear roles and responsibilities, good information and communication, the right capability, and resources, and that makes the most of local knowledge—balanced with the need for specialist expertise and national capability. It also identified marked variation in practice and capability across the country and made 43 recommendations to deliver a system that is fit-for-purpose and well placed to meet future challenges. However, not all agreed recommendations have been addressed.
- 17 Significant changes to the emergency management system have been implemented in response to the TAG report which had a strong response focus. These include the formation of NEMA, establishing New Zealand's tsunami monitoring and detection network (Deep-ocean Assessment and Reporting of Tsunami buoys), developing a deployable team of emergency management professionals (Emergency Management Assistance Team), and resourcing a 24/7 monitoring, alerting, and reporting service for natural hazard events. Other system improvements initiated in response to the TAG report are still underway.
- 18 Since the TAG report, several other post-event reviews have also emphasised the need for improvements to the emergency management system. A list of these reviews is provided at Annex B.
- 19 Considering the lessons identified from these events alongside the findings of the NISWE report will be essential to deliver a coherent and coordinated emergency management system. The NISWE report makes it clear that more is needed to be done to realise the emergency management system New Zealanders expect and that can be relied on.
- 20 The NISWE and other reports strongly recommended putting people and communities at the heart of emergency management system. Other common recommendations include establishing system monitoring and assurance capability; developing a new National Crisis Management Centre; and investing in a technology platform to provide a common operating picture across agencies and services during responses. These initiatives have been scoped but will need additional investment to proceed.

Delivering a Fit-for-purpose Emergency Management System

- 21 I have directed the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet (DPMC) to make recommendations on what a meaningful emergency management system should deliver, and on what system change will take (while remaining mindful of our need for considered investment and economic prudence).
- 22 With the agreement of the Prime Minister, I have appointed the Executive Director, Risk and Systems Governance Group, DPMC, as the Lead Official for this work because of their role which looks at system stewardship across all risks and threats, including risk reduction and prevention, and recovery. The Lead Official will report to me and has established a steering group to drive and coordinate whole of government advice. This advice will highlight critical areas for action, identify options for delivering necessary improvements, assess trade-offs, and outline the impact of prioritisation decisions. The Chief Executive members of the Hazard Risk Board will provide governance and strategic coordination.
- 23 To deliver this advice, officials will review the issues identified in the NISWE (and other) reports and assess the options available to remedy them at the system level. In doing so, they will identify and, in consultation with Treasury, make recommendations on any investment business cases which may be required for Cabinet to consider. In addition, I will also consider system improvements that do not rely on legislative change, and which may be achieved within extant appropriations. A roadmap for this work and related Cabinet decision points is provided at Annex C.
- 24 The stakeholders of the emergency management system are extensive and include central and local government, iwi and hapū, and businesses and communities. Early and ongoing engagement with these stakeholder groups will be essential to deliver the change New Zealanders need.
- 25 I have made clear to officials my expectations on providing these recommendations in a timely manner so that the Government's response to the NISWE report can be finalised promptly, and we can make the changes necessary to deliver a fit-for-purpose emergency management system.
- 26 The scope of the work programme detailed in the roadmap will require coordination and collaboration across government, for which there is no existing mechanism or dedicated resources. DPMC will fund this work out of existing resources and a proposed fiscally neutral expense transfer of a forecast underspend.
- 27 I will submit a paper to Cabinet in September 2024 to provide advice on these options and to seek agreement on priority actions for improving New Zealand's resilience to natural hazards and other emergencies. The scope of my advice will include:
- 27.1 Actions that can be achieved within existing work programmes or through reprioritisation of resources across government, and the impact of any reprioritisation on other programmes.

- 27.2 Actions that can be achieved within existing legislative settings and actions that require changes to legislation, along with how these different options could be prioritised and sequenced.
- 27.3 Actions that would require additional investment in the emergency management system, and the impact of progressing or not progressing these actions.
- 28 This analysis will inform decisions on the scope, scale, and speed of change in response to the NISWE report. For example, a large-scale redesign of the system will take longer to develop and deliver than improvements within the current model and require significant investment.

Replacing the CDEM Act

- 29 Cabinet agreed not to proceed with the previous Government's Emergency Management Bill in April this year. There is widespread agreement that the CDEM Act is out of date and that the previous Emergency Management Bill would not address systemic issues and deliver an integrated emergency management framework.
- 30 I considered amending the previous Bill as it progressed through its parliamentary stages, but that would not allow for the thorough policy development, drafting, and stakeholder engagement to ensure these changes deliver their intended effects.
- 31 How much can be delivered through a new Bill will depend on the extent of changes needed and what Cabinet decides are the most critical improvement areas. s 9(2)(f)(iv)

31.1 s 9(2)(f)(iv)

31.2

31.3

31.4

^{2 4} Rs means: **reduction** (identifying and analysing risks to life and property from hazards, taking steps to eliminate those risks if practicable, and, if not, reducing the magnitude of their impact and the likelihood of their occurrence to an acceptable level); **readiness** (developing operational systems and capabilities before an emergency happens, including self-help and response programmes for the general public and specific programmes for emergency services, lifeline utilities, and other agencies); **response** (actions taken immediately before, during, or directly after an emergency to save lives and property, and to help communities recover); **recovery** (the co-ordinated efforts and processes used to bring about the immediate, medium-term, and long-term holistic regeneration and enhancement of a community following an emergency).

31.5 s 9(2)(f)(iv)

31.6

- 32 I intend to introduce a new Emergency Management Bill in 2025. Work to develop a new Bill will progress in parallel with developing advice on and implementing non-legislative system improvements.
- 33 There are opportunities to achieve changes that have been recommended in reviews without waiting for a new legislative framework (e.g., through regulations, guidelines, and standards), or through other reform programmes (e.g., work led by the Minister for Infrastructure to enhance the resilience of New Zealand's critical infrastructure system).

Wider system context

- 34 The impacts of hazard events can reverberate widely. For example, last year's severe weather events demonstrated the interconnected nature of New Zealand's infrastructure sector, where outages in one area can quickly cascade across the entire sector.
- 35 The emergency management system relies on levers in other regulatory systems, creating inter-dependencies across many Government programmes. There are five established workstreams which are considering these wider cross-system issues:

35.1 **Critical infrastructure resilience.** The Minister for Infrastructure is leading work to enhance the resilience of New Zealand's critical infrastructure system (including a legislated definition of critical infrastructure), s 9(2)(f)(iv)

35.2 **Weather forecasting system review.** The Ministry for Business, Innovation and Employment and the Treasury are jointly leading a review of the weather forecasting system to determine the most efficient and effective arrangements for the provision of national weather-related services, including forecasting, warning, and severe weather impacts.

35.3 **Climate change adaptation.**

35.3.1 The Minister for Climate Change is leading the development of a bipartisan adaptation framework. The framework could intersect with the emergency management system regarding roles and responsibilities for risk reduction and opportunities for improving resilience in recovery phases.

35.3.2 The Finance and Expenditure Committee is conducting an inquiry into climate adaptation with a view to recommending

high-level objectives and principles for the design of an adaptation framework. The outcomes of this inquiry will dovetail with the adaptation framework in September, with Ministerial decisions on the next steps to be taken at that time.

35.3.3 Additionally, the Ministry for the Environment is leading the implementation of New Zealand's first national adaptation plan, the first step of the long-term adaptation strategy.

35.4 **Resource management reform.** The Minister for Resource Management Reform is leading changes that intend to improve natural hazard decision-making, speed up property access in emergency events, simplify processes for Orders in Council to be developed, and extend the period for emergency works to be undertaken. Decisions on the final content of resource management reforms have yet to be made.

35.5 **Approach to future natural hazards and other events.** Building on lessons learned from NISWE policy and implementation (and considering the relevant Inquiry recommendations), the Cyclone Recovery Unit is developing advice for enhancing New Zealand's emergency management system, including consideration of the use of bespoke recovery legislation after future events. This advice will be timed to respond to the invitation for me to report back to the Cabinet Economic Policy Committee with recommendations on future recovery settings (100-24-MIN-0008 refers).

36 s 9(2)(f)(iv)

37 I recognise that the intent of the recommendations provided by the NISWE report extend in places beyond the reach of the levers available to the emergency management portfolio. The emergency management system exists within a broader system focused on building national resilience and the challenges facing it are also shared by the hazard and national security systems. I have directed officials to ensure they are cognisant of the wider government eco-system.

Next Steps

38 I intend to provide advice to Cabinet in September this year on options and to seek agreement on priority actions for improving New Zealand's resilience to natural hazards and other emergencies. This advice will inform the Government's formal response to the NISWE report.

39 Following Cabinet decisions in September, I anticipate a programme of work to develop the agreed policy options and progress any identified business cases for the appropriate budget rounds. This will culminate in a suite of advice to Cabinet in 2025 to enable the drafting and introduction of a new Emergency Management Bill. Throughout this pathway I will be maintaining contact with


stakeholders, including communities and local authorities, to ensure they remain connected to the work programme.

- 40 In parallel with this programme of work I will also be considering advice on and implementation of system improvements that do not rely on legislative change or may be achieved through other reform programmes in the near term.

Cost-of-Living Implications

- 41 There are no cost-of-living implications of this paper.

Financial Implications

- 42 s 9(2)(f)(iv)
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Legislative Implications

- 43 This paper has no legislative implications. When policy decisions on the emergency management system are made later this year, some of these may be implemented through legislation, including a proposed Emergency Management Bill.

Human Rights

- 44 This paper has no human rights implications.

Use of External Resources

- 45 There were no external resources used to prepare the advice in this paper.

Consultation

- 46 The Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet and the National Emergency Management Agency jointly prepared this Cabinet Paper. The following agencies were consulted: the Treasury; the Public Service Commission; the Ministry for Regulation; the Department of Internal Affairs; the Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment; the Ministry of Transport; the Ministry of Health; New Zealand Police; Fire and Emergency New Zealand; the New Zealand Defence Force; the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade; the Ministry for Primary Industries; the Ministry for the Environment; the Ministry of Social Development; the Ministry for Housing and Urban Development; Te Arawhiti; the Reserve Bank of New Zealand; Te Puni Kōkiri; EQC Toka Tū Ake; the Infrastructure Commission; and WorkSafe.

Communications


- 47 No press release is intended as a result of this paper. However, relevant stakeholder groups will be engaged in the development of advice for the report-back to Cabinet in September.

Proactive Release

- 48 DPMC will proactively release this paper.

Recommendations

The Minister for Emergency Management and Recovery recommends that the Committee:

1. **Invite** the Minister for Emergency Management and Recovery to report back to Cabinet in September 2024 to provide advice on options and priority actions for improving New Zealand's emergency management system.
2. s 9(2)(f)(iv)

3. **Agree** that the scope of the advice on options will cover:
 - a. Actions that can be achieved within existing work programmes or through reprioritisation of resources across government, and the impact of any reprioritisation on other programmes.
 - b. Actions that could be achieved within existing legislative settings and actions that would require changes to legislation, along with how different actions could be prioritised and sequenced over time.
 - c. Actions that would require additional investment in the emergency management system, and the impact of progressing or not progressing these actions.

4. s 9(2)(f)(iv)


s 9(2)(f)(iv)

5. **Note** that investment will be necessary to make meaningful progress on the NISWE report's recommendations.
6. **Note** that decisions taken on the September options paper will inform the Government's response to the NISWE report.
7. **Agree** that the report back in September include a draft Government response to the NISWE report.
8. **Note** that the Minister for Emergency Management and Recovery intends to introduce a new Emergency Management Bill in 2025.

Authorised for lodgement

Hon Mark Mitchell

Minister for Emergency Management and Recovery

Annex A: Report of the Government Inquiry into the Response to the North Island Severe Weather Events—Recommendations

Emergency Management System Design and Structure

Recommendation 1: Put people and their communities at the heart of an integrated emergency management system

- A. Legislate for and invest in an inclusive, community-led emergency management model that explicitly recognises the knowledge and capability of iwi Māori, businesses, and local communities in emergency management.
- B. Utilise existing community-based emergency management structures and systems, such as those built through the COVID-19 response, to ensure community participation in planning and response.
- C. Build networks of trained and accredited local community leaders and volunteers, which extends beyond the currently recognised volunteer groups.
- D. Develop and invest in a comprehensive and ongoing education and public awareness programme to ensure people have a common understanding of how to prepare for (readiness planning) and what to do in an emergency.

Recommendation 2: Utilise the value of the wider government ecosystem

- A. Expand the New Zealand Defence Force's role to make better use of specialist skills (such as logistics and air coordination) during a significant civil defence emergency.
- B. Note the Inquiry endorses the Weather Forecasting System Review to (among other matters) identify changes in access to weather data.
- C. Require that timely and enhanced weather and hydrological forecasting is provided to and used by all councils and government agencies.
- D. Note the Inquiry endorses the work of the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet (DPMC) to lift the resilience of New Zealand's critical infrastructure.

Recommendation 3: Optimise the effort of iwi Māori to benefit all people in an emergency

- A. Note the Inquiry endorses the 2017 Ministerial Review into Better Responses to Natural Disasters and Other Emergencies recommendations:
 - I. "Recognise the capability that iwi bring to emergency management;
 - II. Legislate to enable iwi to participate in planning for and responding to a natural disaster or other emergency, and to bring more clarity to their role:
 - Appropriate iwi representatives to be part of the Groups Coordinating Executive Group;
 - Appropriate iwi representatives to be included on the Group Joint Committee."
- B. Empower iwi Māori who have the capacity, capability, and desire to contribute to emergency management.

Recommendation 4: Invest in a refocused National Emergency Management Agency

- A. Legislate for and invest in the National Emergency Management Agency's (NEMA) primary function and purpose to hold system leadership for emergency readiness and response. In making these changes:
 - I. responsibility for leadership and coordination of critical infrastructure remains with NEMA for readiness and response only
 - II. leadership for reduction and recovery to be referred to DPMC to request that the Hazard Risk Board considers which agency should hold functional leadership responsibility, and to ensure there is a single point of contact for critical infrastructure entities on reduction
 - III. leadership for welfare coordination should sit with the Ministry of Social Development and NEMA's welfare responsibilities be clarified, and
 - IV. leadership for natural hazards and support for other emergencies remains with NEMA.
- B. Strengthen monitoring and assurance of the system:
 - I. provide NEMA with the necessary authority and powers to set standards and fulfil its assurance functions
 - II. invest in NEMA's monitoring and assurance function to ensure roles, responsibilities, and functions at all levels of the system are performed, and
 - III. require that organisations with responsibilities under emergency management legislation have effective business continuity plans and assets in place, and report to NEMA annually for review.

Leadership, roles, and responsibilities

Recommendation 5: Clarify roles in emergency management

- A. Explicitly clarify the roles of central, regional, and local levels of government in a national state of emergency.
- B. Clarify and strengthen, in legislation, the governance role of mayors and chairs during an emergency.
- C. To strengthen regional and local council governance accountability for readiness and leading response, require that:
 - I. the chair of the Civil Defence Emergency Management Group is the chair of the regional council, or the mayor in the case of a unitary council (noting that a chair or mayor can delegate within the regional or unitary council)
 - II. regional and local authority chief executives become the primary controller and can delegate to suitably qualified individuals, while retaining overall accountability, and
 - III. controllers acting under delegation are employed by, or seconded to, the council, and accountable to the council through the chief executive.

Recommendation 6: Increase capability and capacity in civil defence emergency management across New Zealand

- A. Increase command and control capability in emergency management governance, leadership, and controller roles.
- B. Implement a national programme for emergency management capability-building across New Zealand.
- C. Build a larger pool of skilled and experienced controllers, hydrologists, and other specialists, who provide expert information and can be seconded across New Zealand.
- D. Establish at least three full-time Emergency Management Assistance Teams (EMAT), that can be deployed to emergencies or to build wider sector capability.

Management of the immediate response

Recommendation 7: Build fit-for-purpose National Crisis Management Centres

- A. Move the National Crisis Management Centre to a new, improved, purpose-built facility.
- B. Identify and invest in a back-up National Crisis Management Centre in a city other than Wellington, potentially using an existing purpose-built civil defence emergency management facility.

Recommendation 8: Improve real time situational awareness for authorities in emergency events

- A. Legislate for and invest in a single common operating platform and picture for emergency management to be adopted by every council and NEMA.
- B. Review the 111 system to ensure information relevant to the emergency is shared between New Zealand Police, Fire and Emergency New Zealand, and ambulance providers, and supports efficient tasking across emergency response services.

Recommendation 9: Develop a comprehensive warning system for the public

- A. Develop a comprehensive warning system that is flexible enough to cover all natural hazards and empowers the public to act, even when technology fails.

Recommendation 10: Amend the three-day self-sufficiency guidance

- A. Improve and promote guidance that people and communities need to be self-sufficient for at least seven days (or 14 days for isolated communities).

Supply of goods and services and the place of critical infrastructure

Recommendation 11: Restore power and telecommunications early and improve electricity resilience

- A. Ensure controllers prioritise early restoration of power and telecommunications as a key enabler of the coordination and delivery of emergency services.
- B. Strengthen the Electricity (Hazards from Trees) Regulations 2003 to improve the resilience of the electricity network.

Recommendation 12: Recognise a wider group of critical infrastructure entities

- A. Formally recognise the following as necessary critical infrastructure sectors (in addition to current lifeline utilities):
 - I. supermarkets
 - II. waste management
 - III. stopbank and flood protection systems
 - IV. rural water, and
 - V. river management systems.

Funding settings

Recommendation 13: Prioritise strategic investment in reduction and readiness activities

- A. Increase the appropriation for the existing contestable fund that is administered by NEMA to support a significant uplift in community readiness and resilience across New Zealand.
- B. Note the Inquiry endorses recommendation 13b of the report by the Future for Local Government Review:
 - I. "In order to prioritise and deliver on wellbeing, central government makes a greater investment in local government through... significant funding to support local priorities, place-based agreements, and devolution of roles."

Recommendation 14: Update the policy settings, criteria, and process for funding and distributing response costs

- A. Move the administration of welfare related costs to the Ministry of Social Development as the proposed leader for welfare coordination and reassess welfare funding criteria to cover a broader definition of welfare.
- B. Review the current reimbursement process for distribution of non-welfare related response and immediate readiness costs to allow funds to flow more freely (with appropriate oversight).
- C. Allow the Director of Civil Defence Emergency Management to approve ex-gratia payments (subject to clear criteria) for those situations where individuals/groups incurred costs during an emergency.

Annex B: Other relevant post-event reviews

- the Royal Commission of Inquiry into the Terrorist Attack on Christchurch Mosques on 15 March 2019
- the Whakaari volcanic eruption response (December 2019)
- the Hikurangi and Kermadec Islands earthquakes (March 2021)
- the South Island Weather Event (flooding in Buller and Marlborough Districts, July 2021)
- the Coordinated Review of the Management of the LynnMall Supermarket Attacker (December 2022)
- a series of reports which look at different aspects of the North Island severe weather events³
- NZ Royal Commission COVID-19 Lessons Learned

³ Auckland Flood Response Review, Bush International Consulting; Hawke's Bay Civil Defence and Emergency Management Group Response to Cyclone Gabrielle, Bush International Consulting; Fire and Emergency Operational Review: Auckland Floods January 2023 / Cyclone Gabrielle February 2023, Fire and Emergency New Zealand.

Annex C: Roadmap Timeline





Cabinet Economic Policy Committee

Minute of Decision

This document contains information for the New Zealand Cabinet. It must be treated in confidence and handled in accordance with any security classification, or other endorsement. The information can only be released, including under the Official Information Act 1982, by persons with the appropriate authority.

Roadmap for Responding to the Government Inquiry into the Response to the North Island Severe Weather Events

Portfolio **Emergency Management and Recovery**

On 29 May 2024, the Cabinet Economic Policy Committee (ECO):

1 **noted** that on 23 April 2024, the Minister for Emergency Management and Recovery publicly released the *Report of the Government Inquiry into the Response to the North Island Severe Weather Events of 2023* (the NISWE report);

2 s 9(2)(f)(iv)

3 **agreed** that the scope of the advice on options will cover:

3.1 actions that can be achieved within existing work programmes or through reprioritisation of resources across government, and the impact of any reprioritisation on other programmes;

3.2 actions that could be achieved within existing legislative settings and actions that would require changes to legislation, along with how different actions could be prioritised and sequenced over time;

3.3 actions that would require additional investment in the emergency management system, and the impact of progressing or not progressing these actions;

4 s 9(2)(f)(iv)

5 **noted** that:

s 9(2)(f)(iv)

- 6 **noted** that investment will be necessary to make meaningful progress on the NISWE report's recommendations;
- 7 **invited** the Minister for Emergency Management and Recovery to report back to ECO in September 2024 to provide advice on options and priority actions for improving New Zealand's emergency management system;
- 8 **noted** that decisions taken in September 2024 will inform the Government's response to the NISWE report;
- 9 **agreed** that the September 2024 report back noted above include a draft Government response to the NISWE report;
- 10 **noted** that the Minister for Emergency Management and Recovery intends to introduce a new Emergency Management Bill in 2025.

Rachel Clarke
Committee Secretary

Present:

Rt Hon Christopher Luxon
Rt Hon Winston Peters
Hon David Seymour
Hon Nicola Willis (Chair)
Hon Brooke van Velden
Hon Shane Jones
Hon Chris Bishop
Hon Simeon Brown
Hon Paul Goldsmith
Hon Mark Mitchell
Hon Todd McClay
Hon Tama Potaka
Hon Matt Doocey
Hon Simon Watts
Hon Melissa Lee
Hon Penny Simmonds
Hon Chris Penk
Hon Andrew Bayly
Hon Andrew Hoggard
Hon Mark Patterson

Officials present from:

Office of the Prime Minister
Office of Hon Simeon Brown
Office of Hon Simon Watts
Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet
Officials Committee for ECO