

**Seventh Annual Report**  
**on the**  
**Operation of the Christ Church Cathedral Reinstatement Act 2017**  
**1 December 2023 to 30 November 2024**

**Presented to the House of Representatives by the Minister of Finance pursuant to section 24 of  
the Christ Church Cathedral Reinstatement Act 2017**

## **Purpose**

As the Minister responsible for the administration of the Christ Church Cathedral Reinstatement Act 2017 (the Act), I am required under section 24 to present a report on the operation of the Act to the House of Representatives within 12 months of the commencement of the Act (and every 12 months thereafter). These reports must include a list of the Orders in Council made under the Act during that period and a brief description of those Orders.

This is the seventh report under the Act, covering the period 1 December 2023 to 30 November 2024.

## **Background**

The Act formed part of the Crown's agreement with the Christchurch Anglican Diocese, owners of the Christ Church Cathedral (the Cathedral), to reinstate the Cathedral. The Cathedral was significantly damaged in the 22 February 2011 earthquake but there was disagreement between its owners and heritage advocates over its future. This led to litigation deadlock for several years which was remedied by support from the Crown and Christchurch City Council to help reach agreement on the reinstatement of the Cathedral. The objective of the legislation is to facilitate reinstatement by creating Orders in Council which allow for temporary exemptions from, modifications, or extensions to any provisions of certain enactments.

## **Orders in Council**

As at date of presenting this report, no new Orders in Council have been made under the Act within the period covered by this report. Under the **Christ Church Cathedral Reinstatement Order 2020** three resource consents for dewatering, the discharge of water and excavation were granted by the Canterbury Regional Council in 2024.

## **Progress in the Cathedral reinstatement**

The reinstatement of Christ Church Cathedral faced some major setbacks in 2024.

Safe, unconstrained access to the Cathedral allowed for extensive investigations to validate assumptions. In April 2024 the results of a comprehensive review identified a significant increase in the project costs and timeline.

With the project one third complete and having expended \$84 million, in June 2024 the Christchurch Anglican Diocese Synod agreed to commit additional funding to the project (in addition to their insurance proceeds) and lower costs. To lower the overall cost, Synod reduced the seismic design capacity of the building and approved the recommendation by Christ Church Cathedral Reinstatement Ltd (CCRL) to remove other elements of the concept design.

The funding gap of \$134 million was too large to raise from philanthropy alone (despite significant support of \$24 million already received from the community) and the Government declined to support the request for a further \$60 million over the term of the reinstatement.

Without a funding pathway to completion CCRL paused construction on the project. Heritage fabric removed from the Cathedral has been stored appropriately and the building made as safe as possible and weather tight. Both the Cathedral and storage sites will continue to be monitored as required by the resource consents.

CCRL continues to work with the Church, Government, Christchurch City Council and Donors, as the key stakeholders, to review the reinstatement strategy and find a solution and funding pathway.