



6 June 2025



Ref: OIA-2024/25-0900

Dear 

Official Information Act request relating to the disestablishment of the Chief Executive, Cyclone Recovery

Thank you for your Official Information Act 1982 (the Act) request received on 15 May 2025 regarding the disestablishment of the Chief Executive, Cyclone Recovery and the Cyclone Recovery Unit. You requested:

1. *Regarding this order [Public Service (Disestablishment of Chief Executive, Cyclone Recovery) Order 2025], does this mean that there is no longer a functional CE for the Cyclone Recovery Unit as of July 2025?*
2. *What advice has Cabinet received around the disestablishment of the Cyclone Recovery Unit:*
3. *What is the planned timeline for the CRU disestablishment, and is the government on track with those plans,*
4. *What advice has Cabinet received regarding procedures to establish recovery units for future cyclones,*
5. *Whether there will continue to be a "Cyclone Recovery" ministerial portfolio after the CRU is disestablished.*

Regarding questions 1 and 2 of your request:

1. *Regarding this order [Public Service (Disestablishment of Chief Executive, Cyclone Recovery) Order 2025], does this mean that there is no longer a functional CE for the Cyclone Recovery Unit as of July 2025?*
2. *What advice has Cabinet received around the disestablishment of the Cyclone Recovery Unit*

On 27 February 2023, Cabinet agreed to appoint a Chief Executive, Cyclone Recovery, supported by a Cyclone Recovery Unit (CRU), hosted within the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet (DPMC). This was to support the government's cyclone recovery work programme, for a period of two years.

The proactively released Cabinet paper and minute from that meeting is available here:

[Proactive Release CAB-23-SUB-0056: Cyclone Gabrielle: Recovery Arrangements - August 2024 - Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet \(DPMC\)](#)

On 20 November 2024, Cabinet:

- Noted that the functional Chief Executive Cyclone Recovery role is not intended to extend beyond 30 June 2025, and that any residual functions, and associated appropriations, of that role will be transferred to the Department of Internal Affairs and DPMC on that date;
- Agreed to formally disestablish the role of the Chief Executive, Cyclone Recovery on 1 July 2025; and

- Invited the Minister for the Public Service to issue drafting instructions to the Parliamentary Counsel Office for an Order in Council to disestablish the role of Chief Executive, Cyclone Recovery, and remove DPMC as the host department for the role, by removing the relevant item from Schedule 5 of the Public Service Act 2020.

The proactively released Cabinet paper and minute from that meeting is available here:

[Proactive Release ECO-25-SUB-0274: Transfer of residual North Island Weather Event recovery activities from 1 July 2025 | Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet \(DPMC\)](#)

This covers the advice that Cabinet received in relation to the disestablishment of the Cyclone Recovery Unit.

- 3. What is the planned timeline for the CRU disestablishment and is the government on track with those plans.*

The Chief Executive, Cyclone Recovery and the CRU will be disestablished on 30 June 2025. The Government is on track with these plans.

- 4. What advice has Cabinet received regarding procedures to establish recovery units for future cyclones*

Cabinet agreed to recommendations in two Cabinet papers on the development of a suite of tools to support immediate ministerial decision-making about recovery settings following a significant natural hazard event. The proactively released Cabinet papers and minutes are available here:

[Proactive Release ECO-24-SUB-0237: Recovering from Significant Events: Decision-making Tools – December 2024 – Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet](#)

[Proactive Release ECO-25-SUB-0067: Recovering from significant natural hazard events - decision-making tools | Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet \(DPMC\)](#)

- 5. Whether there will continue to be a "Cyclone Recovery" ministerial portfolio after the CRU is disestablished.*

Since the 2023 general election there has not been a Cyclone Recovery ministerial portfolio as the Prime Minister delegated responsibility for the North Island weather events recovery to the Minister for Emergency Management and Recovery (Hon Mark Mitchell). More information regarding this can be found at the links below:

[Emergency Management and Recovery | Beehive.govt.nz](#)

[Emergency Management and Recovery | Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet \(DPMC\)](#)

You have the right to ask the Ombudsman to investigate and review my decision under section 28(3) of the Act.

This response will be published on the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet's website during our regular publication cycle. Typically, information is released monthly, or as otherwise determined. Your personal information including name and contact details will be removed for publication.

Yours sincerely



Katrina Casey
Chief Executive, Cyclone Recovery