

Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet

Inquiry into the Earthquake Commission Proactive Release November 2018

The document below is released by the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet relating to the inquiry into the Earthquake Commission.

Key to Redaction Codes

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- [1] 9(2)(a) – to protect the privacy of natural persons, including deceased people
- [2] 9(2)(ba)(i) – to protect information which is subject to an obligation of confidence or which any person has been or could be compelled to provide under the authority of any enactment, where the making available of the information would be likely to prejudice the supply of similar information, or information from the same source, and it is in the public interest that such information should continue to be supplied

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Cabinet Economic Development 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.

Establishing an Inquiry into the Earthquake Commission

Portfolio **Earthquake Commission**

On 21 March 2018, the Cabinet Economic Development Committee:

- 1 **agreed in principle**, subject to paragraphs 7 and 8 below, to establish a statutory inquiry under the Inquiries Act 2013, to examine the Earthquake Commission's (EQC) approach to the land and residential dwellings claims management process and the related outcomes for the Canterbury earthquake events;
- 2 **agreed** that the purpose of the inquiry be to achieve an outcome that ensures that lessons are learned from the past Canterbury earthquake experiences, and that EQC has the appropriate policies and operating structure in place to ensure improved claims management experiences in the future;
- 3 **noted** the draft Terms of Reference for the proposed Inquiry, attached as Appendix 1 to the paper under DEV-18-SUB-0021;
- 4 **agreed** that the inquiry report back on these matters by 31 March 2019;
- 5 **agreed** that the administering agency for the inquiry be the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet;
- 6 **agreed** that the Minister Responsible for the Earthquake Commission be the appropriate Minister for the inquiry, and be responsible for the funding to support the inquiry;
- 7 **noted** that a late bid for \$3.2 million to fund the inquiry has been submitted for consideration in the Budget 2018 process;
- 8 **invited** the Minister Responsible for the Earthquake Commission to report to Cabinet in April 2018 on the form of the statutory inquiry (Public or Government Inquiry), the final Terms of Reference, inquiry membership, members' fees, and any other matters that may be required.

Janine Harvey
Committee Secretary
