

RCOI Response Steering Group Minutes

Date/Time	27/07/2020, 10.30 – 11.30 am
Venue	Cabinet Committee Meeting Room
Chair	Dan Eaton, Director, National Security Policy, Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet

Item	Topic
1	<p>Welcome, apologies, introductions</p> <p>The Chair welcomed the group and thanked all for attending, especially to those for whom this is their first Response Steering Group (RSG) meeting.</p> <p>Introductions from all members of the group in the meeting.</p>
2	<p>Chair's update</p> <p>Chair noted the meeting today comes in the context of the Royal Commission's third reporting date delay. November 26 is the Royal Commission's new reporting date. The Chair noted it is likely there will be a new slate of responsible ministers for the Royal Commission response.</p> <p>The Chair emphasised that briefings to incoming ministers (BIMs) will be a key opportunity for all agencies to socialise the response process and work together on common language to describe the processes we're undertaking (with recognition of standard proactive release measures around BIMs).</p> <p>With the new reporting date, RSG has the opportunity to more fully develop our concept for outreach to communities and other groups, which forms a critical part of a credible response to the Royal Commission report. Outreach is a complex area – and one in which social policy and security policy come together – and we need to ensure we do it in a coordinated way.</p>
3	<p>Legal Working Group update</p> <p>s9(2)(h)</p> <p>[Redacted]</p> <p>[Redacted]</p> <p>[Redacted]</p> <p>[Redacted]</p>

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4	<p>Communications Working Group update</p> <p>DPMC provided an update on the Communications Working Group. A communications packages has been circulated to agencies for feedback. It was noted that there has been no commentary as yet on the Royal Commission report extension from impacted communities.</p>
5	<p>Discussion item: Immediate response to the Operation Burnham Inquiry</p> <p>The Chair introduced this item, noting that expanded SIB Chief Executives asked for alignment of response processes with the Royal Commission and Burnham Inquiries. Agencies working on the Burnham response had produced a timeline around report delivery quite similar to RSG's for 31 July RCOI delivery, with officials conducting classification and partner equity checks. The Chair noted that Ministers have decided to review the report prior to officials reviewing it – and while their process may be less of a template for ours than was originally anticipated, it is still important we understand how this inquiry response process is unfolding, as many of our CEs involved in both processes.</p> <p>Crown Law provided some high-level insights into the processes of the Burnham inquiry response, and affirmed the value of well-prepared working groups with input from agencies, such as the RSG.</p> <p>A paper is going from ERS to the Attorney General and there will be a decision on public release of the Burnham report. The Burnham report will likely be embargoed, and pre-released to a limited number of people.</p> <p>Crown Law are successfully navigating the classification check process and have input from Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade attend to the international relationship aspects. Crown Law noted the process is more tightly held than anticipated. While avoiding extrapolating the process too much to the Christchurch RCOI process, there may be opportunity further down to line to learn from.</p>
6	<p>Discussion item: Outreach concept, including academic engagement</p> <p>DPMC briefed the group on updates to the community outreach concept, which has been shortened with the SIB audience in mind. Agencies were thanked for providing input into this work. DPMC noted that as the RSG think about outreach, the group should recognise the dialogue and the communication will be hard, as communities will be frustrated on issues, as well as experiencing grief and consultation fatigue. The group now have more time to prepare well going into these conversations. As part of the outreach concept the Action Group are thinking about training to upskill officials (and how to support the lead official) and sought input from the RSG.</p> <p>Policy Advisory Group DPMC raised the need to consider the extent of engagement undertaken before the RCOI response, and the need to consider what is meant when referring to public consultation.</p> <p>Department of Internal Affairs noted that the language around co-design comes with strong expectations of outcomes, and that we cannot make that commitment prior to a new government being established.</p> <p>Te Kawa Mataaho Public Service Commission (PSC), applying a performance and service delivery lens, noted the importance of being clear on what the basis is for our engagement. The RSG needs to tell its story well to enable successful conversations, and identify the opportunities to do that – leveraging networks and engagement already in place. The Chair agreed on not reinventing the wheel on engagement, and that conversations with communities can occur naturally through existing relationships.</p> <p>The Chair encouraged agencies to come forward on what their engagement will look like, and he will explore this with agencies in upcoming one on one sessions.</p> <p>DPMC briefed the group on the approach to academic engagement, and how our response to the RCOI report can be enriched. The key objective of this engagement is to signal we are taking the RCOI seriously, inform our thinking about the RCOI report response, and providing key messages. DPMC noted early engagement is key to building these relationships, and he sought input from the RSG on ideas for additional academics we can engage with.</p> <p>The Chair also noted the engagement with academics will support growing their understanding of the national security system and informing their own commentary. Engagement with academics will also support RSG's longer term response to the RCOI report, as we test our thinking with them.</p>

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	<p>PSC provided additional suggestions for academic engagement. In addition, noted the need to provide information on a timeframe and process will be essential for all engagement.</p> <p>DPMC noted the need for a timeline of before and after the RCOI report of what we can say to communities, and the outreach process will need to be agreed by the new government.</p>
7	<p>Discussion item: Towards an updated timeline – focus on RCOI report presentation process in the House</p> <p>DPMC briefed the group on the process for presenting the RCOI report in the House. The RCOI report must first be made publicly available. DPMC noted the last two RCOIs had requests for urgent debate in the House.</p> <p>DPMC asked if we expect to, or have a role in, influencing the process and have a view on what we want to happen. The Chair advised that if we do have a view, we are able to provide advice to Ministers – noting this is a challenging space and there will be further opportunities to discuss.</p> <p>Crown Law noted the requirement on presenting the RCOI report “as soon as practicable” and what that means for our context. Crown Law will follow up with DPMC directly.</p>
8	<p>Any other business</p> <p>There was no other business.</p>
9	<p>Meeting closed</p> <p>Meeting closed at 11.30 am.</p>

PROACTIVELY RELEASED