



Proactive Release

The following documents have been proactively released by the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet (DPMC), and National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA), on behalf of the Minister for Emergency Management, Hon Kieran McAnulty:

Cyclone Gabrielle: Improving access for community groups to Government support for emergency response costs

The following documents have been included in this release:

- **Title of paper:** Cyclone Gabrielle: Improving access for community groups to Government support for emergency response costs (EWR-23-SUB-0011)
- **Title of minute:** Cyclone Gabrielle: Improving access for community groups to Government support for emergency response costs (EWR-23-MIN-0011)
- **Title of minute:** Report of the Cabinet Extreme Weather Recovery Committee: Period Ended 10 March 2023 (CAB-23-MIN-0069)

The only parts withheld are items included in the Cabinet Minute (CAB-23-MIN-0069) that are not relevant to this release.

~~BUDGET SENSITIVE~~

Office of the Minister for Emergency Management
Cabinet Extreme Weather Recovery Committee

Cyclone Gabrielle: Improving access for community groups to Government support for emergency response costs

Proposal

- 1 This paper seeks Cabinet Committee's agreement for funding to improve access for marae, Iwi, recognised rural groups and recognised community groups (including Pacific organisations and ethnic service providers) to Government support for emergency response costs.

Executive Summary

- 2 The unprecedented scale and impact of Cyclone Gabrielle has meant that groups such as marae, Iwi, recognised rural groups and recognised community groups (including Pacific organisations and ethnic service providers) have had to act fast and play a major role in meeting immediate base welfare needs, of which most would otherwise have been met by Civil Defence Emergency Management (CDEM) Groups.
- 3 The National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA) proposes a streamlined funding mechanism to increase access for these groups to funding for costs already incurred during the response to Cyclone Gabrielle.
- 4 If agreed, \$15 million would be needed to support this streamlined funding mechanism (the Proposal) to provide immediate reimbursement (via a grant) of eligible costs already incurred by eligible organisations in their response to Cyclone Gabrielle during a state of national emergency. This includes:
 - 4.1 \$12 million for costs that would have otherwise been covered by NEMA's existing welfare cost reimbursement policy, and
 - 4.2 an additional \$3 million of new funding for costs that are not covered by existing policy, but which have already been incurred and were necessary to support immediate response activities (e.g. costs incurred to purchase generators).
- 5 This cost includes:
 - 5.1 an indicative estimate of \$9 million for marae and Iwi organisations on costs already incurred to support immediate welfare needs throughout areas affected by Cyclone Gabrielle. This is indicative only and based on on-the-ground information received from Iwi organisations in affected areas. We expect that costs will become clearer as applications for reimbursements begin; and
 - 5.2 an estimated additional \$6 million to support funding for other eligible organisations and groups. There is limited visibility of costs already incurred

by other groups, but we estimate that they will be smaller in scale compared to those estimated by Iwi organisations.

- 6 To reduce compliance costs and expedite the application process, the Proposal will operate under a high-trust model where:
 - 6.1 Eligible organisations are marae, Iwi, recognised rural groups and recognised community groups (including Pacific organisations and ethnic service providers) that have activated a response and are located within an area covered by a state of national emergency that have demonstrated an active role in supporting communities through the response to Cyclone Gabrielle.
 - 6.2 Eligible costs cover contribution to costs incurred by eligible organisations to meet the immediate welfare needs of persons affected, displaced or isolated by Cyclone Gabrielle, for costs *already incurred* during the time they are covered by a state of national emergency, and which meet the criteria set out by NEMA for payments.
- 7 This proposal complements the Government’s initial Māori Response Package which seeks to support immediate recovery in a way that will build resilience for the future – i.e. through future-focused grants.
- 8 This proposal also complements an \$11.5 million Community Support Package, agreed by Cabinet on 13 February 2023 [CAB-23-MIN-0023 refers]. This Community Support Package provides funding for community groups and providers to help meet immediate local needs, as well as funding to support food providers, support for disabled people, tāngata whaikaha Māori and/or their households, and allows Community Connectors to widen the scope of the support they provide to include communities affected by recent North Island floods and Cyclone Gabrielle. While the proposal outlined in this paper focuses on supporting the immediate response, the Community Support Package, and other similar supports, will contribute to the longer-term recovery effort.
- 9 Officials from the National Emergency Management Agency, Te Puni Kōkiri and Te Arawhiti are working closely together to ensure perceived overlaps between funding mechanisms are managed proactively. This includes working together to cross check applications to avoid duplicated claims and guide applicants to the most appropriate mechanisms available to support their needs.
- 10 Additionally, NEMA will also seek attestations from eligible organisations applying for a retrospective grant to attest that:
 - 10.1 costs were incurred in the course of supporting their community during the response, and
 - 10.2 the organisation will not seek reimbursement for the same costs via the permanent legislative authority or via any other funding mechanism (such as the initial Māori Response Package).
- 11 It is estimated that 80% of costs reimbursed through this mechanism would otherwise have met the eligibility criteria for reimbursement through the non-departmental other

expenses appropriation Local Authority Emergency Expenses PLA in Vote Prime Minister and Cabinet and that the other 20% of costs represent additional spend to the Crown.

Background

- 12 The unprecedented scale and impact of Cyclone Gabrielle has impaired some Civil Defence Emergency Management (CDEM) Groups' ability to meet isolated communities' base welfare needs in the way they normally would.
- 13 These challenges mean that groups such as marae, Iwi, recognised rural groups and recognised community groups (including Pacific organisations and ethnic service providers) have acted faster and played a major role from the early stages of the response, particularly in rural and remote communities. Much of this contribution has been funded from these organisations' own resources, which are now under considerable strain.
- 14 Community organisations have provided rapid support to the immediate welfare needs of those communities affected by Cyclone Gabrielle. For example, community organisations have fronted costs such as purchasing generators to provide essential power, transporting food and essential items, and purchasing and hiring equipment to support distribution centres.

Analysis

The National Emergency Management Agency is seeking funding to provide financial support for immediate welfare costs *already* incurred by community organisations through the response to Cyclone Gabrielle

- 15 NEMA is seeking to reimburse these organisations (marae, Iwi, recognised rural groups and recognised community groups including Pacific organisations and ethnic service providers) for costs the Crown would have otherwise sought to provide. This means streamlining funding to improve access for these community groups to funding *for costs already incurred*, of which most would have otherwise been covered by the National Emergency Management Agency's existing welfare cost reimbursement policy.
- 16 Government policy on financial support to local authorities in emergencies is set out in the Guide to the National CDEM Plan (the Guide).
- 17 Under the Guide, central government will fully reimburse local authorities for costs incurred in caring for people who cannot continue to live in their usual place of residence because of an emergency, including the direct costs of accommodation, transport, food, and clothing.
- 18 However, there is still a risk that existing funding mechanisms do not provide reimbursements to community organisations rapidly which can undermine their continued ability to support the response.
- 19 Under existing policy, organisations may seek reimbursement for 100 percent of eligible welfare costs from NEMA through their local authority. However, this process requires a detailed review of claims, which can take several months end-to-

end. Funding will not be immediately available, which risks leaving these organisations unable to continue helping with the immediate community assistance required during the response and recovery.

- 20 NEMA has developed a funding mechanism involving an immediate retrospective grant for marae, Iwi, recognised rural groups and recognised community groups (including Pacific organisations and ethnic service providers) who have demonstrated that they have played a part in the emergency response to Cyclone Gabrielle and have already incurred costs for expenditure incurred to date with subsequent costs being reimbursed through existing mechanisms.
- 21 This Proposal is intended to provide immediate reimbursement (via a grant) to eligible costs *already incurred* by eligible organisations in their response to Cyclone Gabrielle during the period the relevant area was covered by a state of national emergency. This would include immediate reimbursement for costs already incurred that would have otherwise been reimbursed under existing policy, as well as reimbursement for costs already incurred by eligible organisations that are not covered by existing policy, but were necessary to support immediate response activities (e.g. purchase of generators).

This funding proposal complements the Government's initial Māori Response Package

- 22 On Monday 27 February, Cabinet agreed to fund a \$15 million initial short-term funding package (the initial Māori Response Package) to accelerate Māori response to Cyclone Gabrielle, which includes \$5 million reprioritised by Te Puni Kōkiri, \$1 million reprioritised by Te Arawhiti and \$9 million interim additional funding [CAB-23-MIN-0059 refers].
- 23 While the Proposal outlined in this paper provides for immediate reimbursement of eligible costs already incurred by eligible organisations (i.e. retrospective costs) in their response to the cyclone, the initial Māori Response Package seeks to support immediate recovery in a way that will build resilience for the future.
- 24 The funding distributed through Te Puni Kōkiri will help marae and hapori (and Māori-led organisations) in their short-term response to, and recovery from, Cyclone Gabrielle and associated weather events. There will be three focus areas for this support – capability and capacity support, planning and co-ordination infrastructure and cultural infrastructure.
- 25 This funding will provide for effective Māori-led responses, reducing pressure on hapori Māori. In combination with existing community supports it will help prevent vulnerable whānau falling through the cracks and support a faster transition to recovery. It complements mainstream government support, supporting integration and holistic whānau access to resources provided by the Ministries for Social Development, Health, Primary Industries and Business, Innovation and Employment.
- 26 Of the \$15 million initial Māori Response Package, \$3 million funding, administered by Te Arawhiti, will be forward focused and be used to support Iwi response to recent adverse weather events and include activities such as communications outreach, response work and engagement.

Principles underpinning NEMA's proposed streamlined funding mechanism for marae, Iwi organisations, recognised rural groups and other recognised community groups (including Pacific organisations and ethnic service providers)

- 27 The Proposal will apply to a broader scope of community groups in comparison to the initial Māori Response Package. In addition to marae and Iwi organisations, recognised rural groups (such as rural support trusts and rural community hubs), and recognised community groups (including Pacific organisations and ethnic service providers) also mobilised quickly and have played a major role from the early stages of the response, particularly in rural and remote communities. Much of this contribution has been funded from these organisations' own resources, which are now under considerable strain.
- 28 Eligible organisations are marae, Iwi, recognised rural groups and recognised community groups including Pacific organisations and ethnic service providers that have activated a response and are located within an area covered by a state of national emergency that have demonstrated an active role in support of communities through the response to Cyclone Gabrielle. Exceptions to this criterion could be made at the discretion of the Minister for Emergency Management, in consultation with the Minister for Māori Development and Minister for Māori-Crown Relations: Te Arawhiti, based on identified need.
- 29 The retrospective grants will be capped at an initial \$40,000 per grant to manage perceived fiscal risks given the limited assurance suggested on applications. However, although the cap is applied to individual grants, this is not intended to stop individual organisations from applying to multiple grants, subject to additional rigour through discussions with NEMA, as fund administrator.
- 30 There is limited information to provide an accurate estimate of anticipated grant applications. Instead, the \$40,000 cap suggested aligns with other grant funding caps. Where any single cost exceeds \$40,000, additional information will be required to be submitted as part of the application process.
- 31 A report back to Cabinet Committee will provide an opportunity to update the Committee on progress of the funding and the appropriateness of adjusting this cap once true costs become clearer.
- 32 Eligible costs are those incurred by the applicant organisation to meet the immediate welfare needs of affected, displaced or isolated persons. This covers contribution to costs incurred by eligible organisations to meet the immediate welfare needs of persons affected, displaced or isolated by Cyclone Gabrielle, for costs incurred during the time they are covered by a state of national emergency, and which meet the criteria set out by NEMA for payments. **Proposed eligibility criteria are outlined in Appendix One.**
- 33 To reduce compliance costs and expedite the application process, the Fund will operate under a high-trust model. This means that in general:
- 33.1 extensive supporting evidence in support of an application will not be required,

- 33.2 financial assurance processes will not include confirming how the funds are spent, and
- 33.3 recipients will not be required to return unspent funds if, once applicants resolve their final costs, it transpires that the value of the grant is greater than the total costs.
- 34 It is anticipated that some of the eligible organisations would not, in any case, have had the capacity to keep full records (for example receipts) in the midst of the response.
- 35 However, eligible organisations applying for an initial grant will be required to attest that (more detail on attestation requirements are outlined in **Appendix One**):
- 35.1 costs were incurred in the course of supporting their community during the response to Cyclone Gabrielle, and
- 35.2 the organisation will not seek reimbursement for the same costs via the permanent legislative authority or for costs reimbursed through another government agency.
- 36 It is anticipated that only one initial grant per organisation will be made for the Cyclone Gabrielle response.
- 37 Eligible organisations incurring eligible costs in excess of the initial grant may apply for reimbursement through their local authority in accordance with the process set out in section 33 (*Government financial support to local authorities*) of the Guide to the National Civil Defence Emergency Management Plan 2015.
- 38 However, it is envisaged that some eligible organisations will subsequently incur substantial costs that may not be recoverable via the permanent legislative authority.
- 39 For example, it is known that some organisations have, out of necessity, hired fans and dehumidifiers to protect culturally significant taonga, and purchased generators to support immediate welfare needs. Such costs cannot be reimbursed under the permanent legislative authority. In these cases, an application for a further grant will be considered on its merits. Applicant organisations will be required to attest that the original initial grant was spent on the purposes for which it was approved.
- 40 If the proposal outlined in this paper is agreed, the Minister for Emergency Management will report back to the Cabinet Extreme Weather Recovery Committee on progress made with the support provided through this proposal. Given uncertainty of costs incurred across community groups and organisations, this report back will provide an avenue to signal if more funding is required once these costs become clearer (as reimbursement applications begin) or if the \$40,000 cap amount set out in this paper needs to be adjusted.

Management of conflicts between funding proposals

- 41 Te Puni Kōkiri and NEMA Officials will cross check applications to avoid duplicated claims between the proposal outlined in this paper and the initial Māori Response

Package. This means that ongoing information sharing and collaboration would be expected between NEMA and Te Puni Kōkiri Officials to avoid duplication.

- 42 Officials from NEMA will also continue to engage with Te Arawhiti in terms of their funding to Iwi and will continue to use their networks and connections to Iwi to understand what costs have been incurred.
- 43 Limited assurance for the proposal outlined in this paper will also be sought through the application process. Eligible organisations applying for an initial retrospective grant will be required to make an attestation as described above.

Financial Implications

- 44 It is estimated that grants under the Proposal will total up to \$15 million. Of this, an estimated \$9 million will be to Iwi organisations for costs already incurred to support immediate welfare needs throughout areas affected by Cyclone Gabrielle. This information was provided through on-the-ground information received from Iwi organisations in affected areas. The \$6 million balance is an estimate for support funding for other eligible organisations and groups. There is limited visibility of costs already incurred by other organisations, but officials assess that this will be of a smaller scale in comparison to that provided by Iwi organisations, and hence the smaller figure.
- 45 It is estimated that \$12 million (80%) of the retrospective grants would otherwise have been covered by NEMA's existing welfare cost reimbursement policy and so eligible for reimbursement under permanent legislative authority. Under the Fiscal Management Approach this portion is deemed fiscally neutral over the forecast period, on the basis that expenses subsequently paid out under the permanent legislative authority will be commensurately lower. The \$3 million (20%) balance relates to grants outside of NEMA's existing emergency response cost policy. It is proposed that decision making on the fiscal management treatment of these be delegated to the Minister of Finance, following further advice from Treasury.

Legislative Implications

- 46 There are no legislative implications from this paper.

Impact Analysis

- 47 There are no regulatory proposals in this paper and so Cabinet's regulatory impact statement requirements do not apply.

Human Rights

- 48 This proposal is not in any way inconsistent with the New Zealand Bill of Rights Act 1990 and the Human Rights Act 1993.

Consultation

- 49 The Treasury, Ministry for Pacific Peoples, Te Puni Kōkiri and Te Arawhiti have been consulted in the development of this paper. The Department of the Prime

Minister and Cabinet, the Ministry for Primary Industries and the Ministry of Social Development have been informed.

- 50 The National Emergency Management Agency has worked closely with Te Puni Kōkiri and Te Arawhiti to de-conflict the proposal outlined in this paper with the Government's initial Māori Response Package. This includes working together to manage any perceived overlaps with applications through the different funding mechanisms.

Communications

- 51 A media statement will be made regarding this funding, if approved.

Proactive Release

- 52 Subject to Cabinet approval, please note our intention to release this Cabinet paper on the National Emergency Management Agency's website within 30 working days of Cabinet approval.

Recommendations

- 53 The Minister for Emergency Management recommends the Committee:
1. **note** that, due to the scale and impact of Cyclone Gabrielle, community groups (marae, Iwi, recognised rural groups and other recognised community groups including Pacific organisations and ethnic service providers) had to play a major role in meeting immediate base welfare needs that would otherwise have been met by Civil Defence Emergency Management (CDEM) Groups;
 2. **note** that the National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA) proposes to introduce a streamlined funding mechanism to increase access for these groups to funding for costs already incurred during the response to Cyclone Gabrielle, which would have otherwise been covered by NEMA's existing emergency response cost policy;
 3. **note** that the process for reimbursement through the non-departmental other expenses appropriation Local Authority Emergency Expenses PLA in Vote Prime Minister and Cabinet is too slow to meet the immediate demand on marae, Iwi organisations', recognised rural groups', and other recognised community groups' (including Pacific organisations and ethnic service providers) resources;
 4. **agree** to establish a funding mechanism to provide an immediate initial grant for marae, Iwi organisations, recognised rural groups and other recognised community groups (including Pacific organisations and ethnic service providers);
 5. **note** that this complements other Government support packages such as the initial Māori Response package which seeks to support immediate recovery in a way that will build resilience for the future – i.e. through future-focused grants rather than reimbursements – and Community Support package;

6. **note** that it is estimated that 80% of costs reimbursed through this mechanism would otherwise have met the eligibility criteria for reimbursement through the non-departmental other expenses appropriation Local Authority Emergency Expenses PLA in Vote Prime Minister and Cabinet and that the other 20% of costs represent additional spend to the Crown;
7. **agree** to the payment of grants totalling up to \$15 million – of which \$12 million covers costs incurred that would have been covered by existing NEMA policy and \$3 million of costs incurred that would not have been covered by existing policy but were necessary to ensure continued essential services were provided during the response – to marae, Iwi organisations, Pacific groups, recognised rural groups, and other recognised community groups (including Pacific organisations and ethnic service providers) as a contribution to costs incurred by these groups to meet the immediate welfare needs of persons affected, displaced, or isolated by Cyclone Gabrielle, for costs incurred during the time they are covered by a state of national emergency, and which meet the criteria set out by NEMA for grant payments;
8. **agree** to increase spending to provide for costs associated with the policy decision in recommendation 7 above, with the following impacts on the operating balance and net debt:

Vote Prime Minister and Cabinet	\$m – increase/(decrease)				
	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25	2025/26	2026/27 & Outyears
Operating Balance and Net Debt Impact	3.000	-	-	-	-
Operating Balance Impact Only	-	-	-	-	-
Net Debt Impact Only	-	-	-	-	-
No Impact	12.000	-	-	-	-
Total	15.000	-	-	-	-

9. **approve** the following changes to appropriations to give effect to the policy decision in recommendation 7 above:

Vote Prime Minister and Cabinet Minister for Emergency Management	\$m – increase/(decrease)				
	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25	2025/26	2026/27 & Outyears
Multi-Category Expenses and Capital Expenditure: Emergency Management Leadership and support MCA Non-Departmental Other Expenses: Emergency Risk Reduction, Readiness, Response and Recovery	15.000	-	-	-	-

10. **agree** that the proposed change to appropriations for 2022/23 above be included in the 2022/23 Supplementary Estimates and that, in the interim, the increase be met from Imprest Supply;

11. **agree** to delegate decision making on the fiscal management treatment of the operating balance and net debt impact in recommendation 8 above of expenses incurred under recommendation 9 above to the Minister of Finance, following further advice from Treasury;
12. **note** that, under the Fiscal Management approach, the impact of expenses incurred under recommendation 9 above relating to the 80% of costs that would otherwise have been met by permanent legislative authority as described in recommendation 6 above are deemed fiscally neutral over the forecast period, and so categorised 'no impact' in recommendation 8 above;
13. **note** that, if agreed, officials from NEMA will work with Te Puni Kōkiri and Te Arawhiti to ensure duplication of applications across funding mechanisms are avoided; and
14. **note** that, if agreed, the Minister for Emergency Management will report back to the Cabinet Extreme Weather Recovery Committee on progress made with the support provided through this proposal.

Authorised for lodgement

Hon Kieran McAnulty

Minister for Emergency Management

Appendices

Appendix One: Proposed Eligibility Criteria and attestation process for the Proposal outlined in this paper

1. Eligible organisations are marae, Iwi, recognised rural groups and recognised community groups (including Pacific organisations and ethnic service providers) that:
 - a. have activated a response to Cyclone Gabrielle (for example, by serving as community evacuation centres or distribution hubs), and
 - b. are located within an area covered by the states of national emergency, as declared on 14 February 2023.
2. Recognised rural groups include organisations such as rural support trusts, rural community hubs and, on a case-by-case basis where appropriate, community organisations operating in rural communities.
3. Pacific organisations include organisations such as Pacific church and faith-based organisations, Pacific community trusts, and not-for-profit organisations that deliver services and programmes to Pacific communities. We will work closely with the Minister for Pacific Peoples on this to ensure applications by the appropriate organisations are being screened.
4. Eligible costs are those:
 - a. directly incurred by an eligible organisation to meet the immediate welfare needs of people affected, displaced, or isolated due to Cyclone Gabrielle, and
 - b. incurred between 14 February 2023 and the time the state of national emergency expires or is terminated for that area, and
 - c. that have not been met through another funding mechanism.
5. Eligible costs also include direct costs that were incurred for the purpose of caring for people displaced by Cyclone Gabrielle, including:
 - a. food and water (including food vouchers),
 - b. equipment directly required to provide food, water, or heating (such as generator hire, water tanks, gas bottles),
 - c. supplies for infants,
 - d. laundry and sanitation,
 - e. medical and first aid supplies,
 - f. blankets and bedding,
 - g. fuel and transportation costs, and

- h. any other specific costs associated with welfare that the decision-maker believes are appropriate in the circumstances.
6. Eligible organisations' applications must be made in writing on the form provided and include the following information:
- a. name of the eligible organisation,
 - b. name and contact details of the person responsible for the financial affairs of the organisation,
 - c. a list of the eligible costs for which an initial grant is sought,
 - d. if any single cost exceeds \$40,000, the name and contact details of the supplier or service provider,
 - e. an attestation that:
 - i. the eligible organisation has not submitted a claim for reimbursement via their local authority under the permanent legislative authority
 - ii. the eligible organisation has not sought funding for the same matters from funds run by other departments or organisations
 - iii. (where relevant) marae and rūnanga are not applying for an initial grant for the same matter,
 - f. if this information is available:
 - i. an estimate of how much was spent on each eligible item, and
 - ii. invoices, and
 - g. the number of people supported over how many days using the product or service, for example, 50 households supplied by helicopter for 7 days.



Cabinet Extreme Weather Recovery 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.

Cyclone Gabrielle: Improving Access for Community Groups to Government Support for Emergency Response Costs

Portfolio Emergency Management

On 7 March 2023, the Cabinet Extreme Weather Recovery Committee, exercising its Power to Act in accordance with its terms of reference:

- 1 **noted** that, due to the scale and impact of Cyclone Gabrielle, community groups (marae, Iwi, recognised rural groups and other recognised community groups, including Pacific organisations and ethnic service providers) had to play a major role in meeting the immediate base welfare needs that would otherwise have been met by Civil Defence Emergency Management (CDEM) Groups;
- 2 **noted** that the National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA) proposes to introduce a streamlined funding mechanism to increase access for these groups to funding for costs already incurred during the response to Cyclone Gabrielle, which would have otherwise been covered by NEMA's existing emergency response cost policy;
- 3 **noted** that the process for reimbursement through the non-departmental other expenses appropriation *Local Authority Emergency Expenses PLA* in Vote Prime Minister and Cabinet is too slow to meet the immediate demand on marae, Iwi organisations', recognised rural groups', and other recognised community groups' (including Pacific organisations and ethnic service providers) resources;
- 4 **agreed** to establish a funding mechanism to provide an immediate initial grant for marae, Iwi organisations, recognised rural groups and other recognised community groups (including Pacific organisations and ethnic service providers);
- 5 **noted** that this complements other government support packages, such as the initial Māori Response package which seeks to support immediate recovery in a way that will build resilience for the future, i.e. through future-focused grants rather than reimbursements, and the Community Support package;
- 6 **noted** that it is estimated that 80 percent of costs reimbursed through this mechanism would otherwise have met the eligibility criteria for reimbursement through the non-departmental other expenses appropriation *Local Authority Emergency Expenses PLA* in Vote Prime Minister and Cabinet, and that the other 20 percent of costs represent additional spend to the Crown;

- 7 **agreed** to the payment of grants totalling up to \$15 million, of which \$12 million covers costs incurred that would have been covered by existing NEMA policy and \$3 million of costs incurred that would not have been covered by existing policy but were necessary to ensure continued essential services were provided during the response, to marae, Iwi organisations, Pacific groups, recognised rural groups, and other recognised community groups (including Pacific organisations and ethnic service providers) as a contribution to costs incurred by these groups to meet the immediate welfare needs of persons affected, displaced, or isolated by Cyclone Gabrielle, for costs incurred during the time they are covered by a state of national emergency, and which meet the criteria set out by NEMA for grant payments;
- 8 **agreed** to increase spending to provide for costs associated with the policy decision in paragraph 7 above, with the following impacts on the operating balance and net debt:

Vote Prime Minister and Cabinet	\$m – increase/(decrease)				
	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25	2025/26	2026/27 & Outyears
Operating Balance and Net Debt Impact	3.000	-	-	-	-
Operating Balance Impact Only	-	-	-	-	-
Net Debt Impact Only	-	-	-	-	-
No Impact	12.000	-	-	-	-
Total	15.000	-	-	-	-

- 9 **approved** the following changes to appropriations to give effect to the policy decision in paragraph 7 above:

Vote Prime Minister and Cabinet Minister for Emergency Management	\$m – increase/(decrease)				
	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25	2025/26	2026/27 & Outyears
Multi-Category Expenses and Capital Expenditure: Emergency Management Leadership and support MCA					
Non-Departmental Other Expenses:					
Emergency Risk Reduction, Readiness, Response and Recovery	15.000	-	-	-	-

- 10 **agreed** that the change to appropriations for 2022/23 above be included in the 2022/23 Supplementary Estimates and that, in the interim, the increase be met from Imprest Supply;
- 11 **agreed** to delegate decision making on the fiscal management treatment of the operating balance and net debt impact in paragraph 8 above of expenses incurred under paragraph 9 above to the Minister of Finance, following further advice from Treasury;
- 12 **noted** that, under the Fiscal Management approach, the impact of expenses incurred under paragraph 9 above relating to the 80 percent of costs that would otherwise have been met by permanent legislative authority, as described in paragraph 6 above, are deemed fiscally neutral over the forecast period, and so categorised ‘no impact’ in paragraph 8 above;

- 13 **noted** that officials from NEMA will work with Te Puni Kōkiri and Te Arawhiti to ensure duplication of applications across funding mechanisms are avoided;
- 14 **noted** that the Minister for Emergency Management will report back to the Cabinet Extreme Weather Recovery Committee on progress made with the support provided through the new mechanism outlined above.

Janine Harvey
Committee Secretary

Present:

Hon Kelvin Davis
Hon Grant Robertson (Chair)
Hon Dr Megan Woods
Hon Michael Wood
Hon Willie Jackson
Hon Kiri Allan
Hon Stuart Nash
Hon Nanaia Mahuta
Hon Kieran McAnulty
Hon Barbara Edmonds
Hon Meka Whaitiri

Officials present from:

Office of the Prime Minister
Officials Committee for EWR
Chair of the Taskforce



Cabinet

Minute of Decision

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Report of the Cabinet Extreme Weather Recovery Committee: Period Ended 10 March 2023

On 13 March 2023, Cabinet made the following decisions on the work of the Cabinet Extreme Weather Recovery Committee for the period ended 10 March 2023:



EWR-23-MIN-0011 **Cyclone Gabrielle: Improving Access for Community Groups to Government Support for Emergency Response Costs** CONFIRMED
Portfolio: Emergency Management



Rachel Hayward
Secretary of the Cabinet

Proactively Released