

**Meeting Notes of the Meeting of the CERA Community Forum  
4 August 2011, 7.30pm  
Copthorne Commodore Hotel, Memorial Ave**

**Present:** Community Forum Members  
Jane Bryden, Office of Hon Gerry Brownlee  
CERA:

- Roger Sutton, Chief Executive
- Benesia Smith, Chief Advisor to the Chief Executive
- Rosalind Plimmer, Acting General Manager, Strategy, Planning and Policy
- [Redacted]
- [Redacted]

ESR Consultancy

Withheld under section 9(2)(g)(i)

**Apologies:** Hon Gerry Brownlee

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**1 Minister's Office**

**1.1 Introduction**

Jane Bryden advised that the biographies provided by Forum members had been edited and would be posted on a test page for Forum members to check and confirm before being posted on the CERA website. She further noted that some members had not yet provided biographies and asked that they do so.

Action: Jane Bryden to notify the Forum members of the test page  
Action: Forum members who had not provided biographies to do so

**1.2 Agenda**

Jane Bryden outlined the agenda for the meeting, specifically the proposed briefing on the development of the draft Long Term Recovery Strategy (LTRS).

The LTRS was being developed by CERA (in consultation with their statutory partners) and scheduled for publication in approx. one month. The role of the Forum is to provide advice and inform the Minister and CERA on the rebuild and recovery process. The Minister's Office and CERA proposed the Forum play an integral role in the ongoing development of the draft LTRS, and a briefing to the Forum from CERA had been arranged to ensure the Forum was familiar with the framework being developed, and could then consider how best to input into its ongoing development.

## 2 CERA

### 2.1 Update of CERA Activities, Roger Sutton:

- Red zone residents had been asked to complete a consent form in order that CERA could appropriately access information from insurance companies and banks – over 3000 forms returned so far
- offers to red zone property owners scheduled for approx. two weeks
- Opus contracted to help with the transactions once offers accepted
- the first CERA Housing Expo the previous weekend was very successful with approx. 15,000 people attending
- more expos planned, likely to be more targeted, eg elderly people, so that information would be highly relevant and they could potentially form support networks
- assistance centre “hub” in the red zone also planned
- CERA Call Centre in operation and able to answer more questions for public, and answers to more questions, eg. legal fees, deposits, etc., becoming more clear

### 2.2 Geotechnical Analysis

Roger acknowledged that there remains a lot of frustration around the issues of release of the geotechnical information which supports the zoning decisions, particularly from property owners still zoned orange. He noted that if CERA was to publish the information, people were likely to try and interpret it themselves, and possibly misinterpret it and cause more stress.

He also noted that the Minister’s view was that geotechnical engineers working on orange and white zone zoning should be entirely focussed on that task and not diverted to preparing geotechnical information for public release.

Action:	CERA to continue to monitor the issue of release of the geotechnical information and review when resources allowed.
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### 2.3 Land Availability

Roger acknowledged that there was a need to get land to market quickly. CERA was analysing land available for development and whether it was necessary to streamline building and resource consent processes to enable land to get to market as soon as possible, including appropriate use of CERA powers.

Action:	CERA to continue to apply pressure to Councils to enhance and speed up process of getting more land to market as soon as possible, and to continue to consider use of CERA powers to facilitate this.
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### 2.4 Insurance

Insurance has been identified as a major issue impeding progress.

EQC have a large team assessing and repairing damaged homes and businesses and are spending a significant level of funding. Nonetheless, for many Cantabrians, getting paid out by EQC and other insurers in a timely fashion remains a challenge.

Action:	CERA to arrange a briefing from EQC to the next Forum meeting
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There have technically been a number of major events and not one, complicating assessments and pay outs. Roger acknowledged that insurance is a really difficult issue.

Insurance companies have indicated they will not write new policies for at least two months, particularly as aftershocks are ongoing - greater ChCh is high risk from an insurance perspective while aftershocks continue.

CERA is continuing to work with the insurance industry:

- to give insurance companies as much information as possible so that they can make informed decisions to help people - however, insurance companies are reluctant to give any information to CERA, currently only committing to reviewing the situation in two months
- trying to get builders to work with insurers to build safer houses so that they can start getting moving as soon as possible
- trying to think ahead - if there are further events how can we give the insurance companies confidence. There is a need to be careful and not win the battle but lose the war
- considering "beginning to end" processes to help people get through the process, probably via the proposed assistance centre "hub".

Action:	CERA to continue to liaise with insurance industry and report back progress
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## 2.5 Demolitions

- 30% buildings down in the CBD
- Looking to make lots of progress before Christmas. Aim to have Cashel Mall open for Cup Week. Overall aim is to have the CBD open by April 2012.

## 3 Forum Issues

### 3.1 Temporary Accommodation Assistance (TAA)

Policy wording an issue - residents are eligible until they receive part or full settlement and then no longer eligible.

Another problem will be in the Green zone where residents have to move out of houses while repairs are carried out and are not eligible for TAA.

Action:	CERA to investigate temporary accommodation assistance for all zones, and the temporary accommodation assistance policy in general, and report as a policy issue to Minister's office and report back to Forum
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### 3.2 Recovery Strategy Discussion

The strategy is the overarching document providing the framework for recovery. What are the fundamentals? How important is speed of recovery? There is no question housing and businesses need to be repaired or rebuilt as soon as possible, but on the whole how quickly do we want recovery to occur, speedy or done well over a slightly longer period of time?

Some views were expressed that a slower approach but done with care and precision is the preference. Some acknowledged a challenge in convincing the greater community that slower is better, given the range of personal circumstances.

“MUST HAVE A VISION.”

Jane/Roger acknowledged that the Forum members represent the community and their views are sought on the fundamentals being discussed, the framework and the issues. However, it is very important for the community, and the individuals in those communities, that CERA gets some early wins out there now for the community and celebrates them.

#### 4 Presentation / Briefing

##### 4.1 Draft Long Term Recovery Strategy (RS) Briefing - Overview

Graeme Nicholls, ESR explained the process in developing the RS to date:

- eight community workshops throughout Christchurch, Selwyn and Waimakariri
- residents given the opportunity to say what they wanted the future of Christchurch to look like
- information was transcribed, analysed, and written as a Summary Report

Graeme noted that although it was important to recognise many different sources of information are contributing to the development of the RS, the information from the community workshops was vitally important, and that the briefing to the Forum would be focussed on that community engagement process.

##### 4.2 Forum Working Groups

Graeme outlined the five “themes” underpinning the development of the framework of the draft RS. The working groups the Forum had previously identified as reflecting their communities and areas of interest reflected these five themes to a large extent. However, Forum members elected to reform those working groups to better reflect the five themes.

The Forum asked that the headings be changed so that they are the same in all aspects of the draft LTRS:

- Economic Recovery
- Community Wellbeing
- Culture and Heritage
- Natural Environment
- Built Environment

##### 4.3 Working Group Session

Forum working groups were handed the relevant extracts from the Summary Report and asked to take a moment to read the extract, and mark any topic considered a priority to inform the recovery strategy.

A useful working group session followed.

Action:	CERA to arrange for Forum working group session notes to be collated and provided to Forum members
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## 5 Conclusion

Jane Bryden reiterated that the Minister would welcome, and was anticipating, feedback from the Forum which would inform and enhance the work of earthquake recovery, and in terms of the evening's activities, the draft LTRS.

Jane noted that it was important that the Forum develop its own independent deliberations and discussions and report to the Minister and to CERA.

She noted that the Minister's Office would endeavour to find a successful balance in terms of providing enough leadership to start Forum deliberations and not being overly-prescriptive and limit Forum deliberations and discussions.

The Forum requested two briefings at the next Forum meeting, the first from GNS to provide seismic information, and the second from EQC to update members about progress with the EQC work programme.

Action:	CERA to arrange briefings from EQC and GNS for next meeting.
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The meeting closed at 9.20pm.

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