

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 Appointments and Honours 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 the Public Inquiry into the Earthquake Commission

Portfolio **Earthquake Commission**

On 12 September 2018, the Cabinet Appointments and Honours Committee:

- 1 **noted** that in March 2018, the Cabinet Economic Development Committee agreed in principle to establish a statutory inquiry under the Inquiries Act 2013 to examine the Earthquake Commission's approach to the land and residential dwellings claims management process and the related outcomes for the Canterbury earthquake events, subject to the Minister Responsible for the Earthquake Commission (the Minister) reporting back on the form of the statutory inquiry, the final terms of reference, inquiry membership, fees and any other matters required [DEV-18-MIN-0021];
- 2 **noted** that Budget 2018 allocated funding of \$3.2 million for the Public Inquiry into the Earthquake Commission [CAB-18-MIN-0158.24];
- 3 **agreed** that a Public Inquiry into the Earthquake Commission's approach to the land and residential dwellings claims management process and the related outcomes for the Canterbury earthquake events be established under the Inquiries Act 2013 (the Public Inquiry), to ensure that lessons are learnt from these past Canterbury earthquake experiences and the Earthquake Commission has the appropriate policies and operating structure in place to ensure improved claims management experiences in the future;
- 4 **approved** the updated terms of reference for the Public Inquiry, attached to the paper under APH-18-SUB-0196, including that it will conclude on 30 June 2019;
- 5 **agreed** that the Public Inquiry comprise of one member;
- 6 **noted** that the Minister intends to recommend that the Governor-General appoint Dame Silvia **CARTWRIGHT** as the Inquiry member, for a term to commence on the date the Public Inquiry is established by Order in Council and expiring on 31 July 2019;
- 7 **noted** that the Minister and the Minister of State Services have agreed on a fee of \$1,400 per day for the Inquiry member, consistent with the Cabinet Fees Framework;
- 8 **invited** the Minister to issue drafting instructions to the Parliamentary Counsel Office to give effect to the Public Inquiry;

- 9 **invited** the Minister to submit the Inquiries (Public Inquiry into the Earthquake Commission) Order 2018 to the Cabinet Legislation Committee for consideration in October 2018.

Rachel Clarke
Committee Secretary

Present:

Rt Hon Jacinda Ardern (Chair)
Hon Grant Robertson
Hon Dr Megan Woods
Hon Andrew Little
Hon Dr David Clark
Hon Jenny Salesa
Hon Tracey Martin
Hon Aupito William Sio

Officials present from: