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

Certain information in this document has been withheld under one or more of the following sections of the Official Information Act, as applicable:

[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

Where information has been withheld, a numbered reference to the applicable section of the Official Information Act has been made, as listed above.
Establishing an Inquiry into the 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