



Proactive Release

The following Cabinet material has been proactively released by the National Emergency Management Agency, and the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet, on behalf of Hon Peeni Henare, Minister of Civil Defence:

Update on the North Island Drought

The following documents have been included in this release:

Title of Minute: Oral Item: Update on North Island Drought (CBC-20-MIN-0033.01 refers)

***Title of Minute: Report of the Cabinet Business Committee:
Period Ended 24 April 2020 (CAB-20-MIN-0178 refers)***

Title of Minute: Oral item: Update on North Island Drought (SWC-20-MIN-0090 refers)

Attachment: Update on North Island Drought

***Title of Minute: Report of the Cabinet Social Wellbeing Committee:
Period Ended 3 July 2020 (CAB-20-MIN-0323 refers)***

Some parts of this information release would not be appropriate to release and, if requested, would be withheld under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act). Where this is the case, the relevant section of the Act that would apply has been identified. Where information has been withheld, no public interest has been identified that would outweigh the reasons for withholding it.

Key to redaction code:

- 9(2)(i), to enable commercial activities to be carried out by Ministers or the Crown, without prejudice or disadvantage.



Cabinet Business 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.

Oral Item: Update on North Island Drought

Portfolio **Civil Defence**

On 22 April 2020, the Cabinet Business Committee:

- 1 **noted** the update from the Minister of Civil Defence on the North Island Drought situation;
- 2 **noted** that despite rainfall in many parts of the North Island this week, drought conditions remain in parts of Auckland, North Waikato and the Coromandel Peninsula;
- 3 s9(2)(i) [REDACTED]
- 4 **noted** that the Ministry for Primary Industries is working with affected farmers on managing their feed stock supplies.

Rachel Clarke
Committee Secretary

Present:

Rt Hon Jacinda Ardern (Chair)
Rt Hon Winston Peters
Hon Kelvin Davis
Hon Grant Robertson
Hon Phil Twyford
Hon Dr Megan Woods
Hon Chris Hipkins
Hon Andrew Little
Hon Carmel Sepuloni
Hon Dr David Clark
Hon David Parker
Hon Jenny Salesa
Hon Nanaia Mahuta
Hon Stuart Nash
Hon Damien O'Connor
Hon Kris Faafoi
Hon Ron Mark
Hon Tracey Martin
Hon Shane Jones
Hon Peeni Henare
Hon James Shaw

Officials present from:

Office of the Prime Minister
Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet
Treasury
State Services Commission

Proactively Released by the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet



Cabinet

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.

Report of the Cabinet Business Committee: Period Ended 24 April 2020

On 28 April 2020, Cabinet made the following decisions on the work of the Cabinet Business Committee for the period ended 24 April 2020:

Not relevant to this release

Proactively Released by the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet

CBC-20-MIN-000033.01

Oral Item: Update on North Island Drought
Portfolio: Civil Defence

CONFIRMED

Michael Webster
Secretary of the Cabinet

Proactively Released by the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet



Cabinet Social Wellbeing 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.

Oral Item: Update on North Island Drought

Portfolio

Civil Defence

On 1 July 2020, the Cabinet Social Wellbeing Committee **noted** the update from the Minister of Civil Defence on the North Island drought.

Jenny Vickers
Committee Secretary

Present:

Rt Hon Winston Peters
Hon Kelvin Davis
Hon Grant Robertson
Hon Chris Hipkins
Hon Carmel Sepuloni (Chair)
Hon Nanaia Mahuta
Hon Stuart Nash
Hon Jenny Salesa
Hon Damien O'Connor
Hon Tracey Martin
Hon Peeni Henare
Hon Willie Jackson
Hon Aupito William Sio
Jan Logie, MP

Officials present from:

Office of the Prime Minister
Officials Committee for SWC
Office of the SWC Chair

Proactively Released by the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet

Update on North Island Drought

Drought conditions have eased

1. Climate reports show that while drought is still impacting parts of the Auckland region, drought conditions have eased across most of the upper North Island due to an increase in rainfall over recent weeks.
2. There is reduced demand for water tanker deliveries in Northland.

Focus remains on water tanker deliveries as well as repairing existing tanks

3. NEMA funding has supported a total of 505 tanker deliveries, including Northland (307 deliveries), Thames Coromandel (168 deliveries), Hauraki (25 deliveries) and the Bay of Plenty (5 deliveries).
4. Costs incurred so far are mostly associated with water tanker delivery. NEMA has also funded the cleaning of onsite water tanks to ensure that delivered water is not contaminated by silt deposits, and that onsite pipework and fittings are not blocked or damaged. Costs incurred to date total an approximate \$300,000.

NEMA officials are working closely with iwi and local authorities to implement the \$10m drought appropriation

5. NEMA officials met with District and Regional councils, and iwi representatives, on 17 June to discuss opportunities to access funding assistance through the drought relief package. Councils and iwi groups are committed to working together on rural "community" water supply projects which could qualify for government funding assistance, which will then be considered by NEMA officials.

Water projects undertaken prior to 11 March in response to the drought will now be considered for funding

6. The drought appropriation was established on 11 March 2020 by the Cabinet Economic Development Committee (DEV) with Power to Act. Far North District Council and Northland Regional Council carried out water infrastructure work in response to the drought prior to this date, and have sought support from NEMA for these costs.
7. The Minister of Civil Defence, after consultation with the Deputy Prime Minister and Ministers of Finance and Local Government, agreed that NEMA should consider work commenced or planned after the official declaration of the drought (11 February) to be eligible for financial assistance, provided it meets NEMA's criteria for support. This allows the Government to address the level of need in Northland more fully.
8. NEMA officials are working with Far North District Council on projects carried out since 11 February that may be eligible for assistance. s9(2)(i)
If appropriations are not fully utilised, any remaining balance will not be drawn down.



Cabinet

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.

Report of the Cabinet Social Wellbeing Committee: Period Ended 3 July 2020

On 6 July 2020, Cabinet made the following decisions on the work of the Cabinet Social Wellbeing Committee for the period ended 3 July 2020:

Not relevant to this release.

SWC-20-MIN-0090


Oral Item: Update on North Island Drought
Portfolio: Civil Defence

CONFIRMED

Not relevant to this release.

Proactively Released by the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet

Not relevant to this release.



Michael Webster
Secretary of the Cabinet

Proactively Released by the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet