



Proactive Release

The following Cabinet material has been proactively released by the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet, on behalf of Hon Poto Williams, Associate Minister of Greater Christchurch Regeneration:

Christ Church Cathedral Reinstatement Order 2020

The following documents have been included in this release:

Title of Paper: Christ Church Cathedral Reinstatement Order 2020 (CAB-20-SUB-0409 refers)

Title of Minute: Christ Church Cathedral Reinstatement Order 2020 (CAB-20-MIN-0409 refers)

Title of Paper: Facilitation of Christ Church Cathedral's Reinstatement (DEV-20-SUB-0058 refers)

Title of Minute: Facilitation of Christ Church Cathedral's Reinstatement (DEV-20-MIN-0058 refers)

Report on Decisions Made in Approving the Draft Christ Church Cathedral Reinstatement Order 2020

Including the following submissions documents:

Summary of Written Comments

Christ Church Cathedral Reinstatement Order 2020 – Written Comments

Christ Church Cathedral Reinstatement Review Panel's Recommendations on the draft Order

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)(a), to protect the privacy of natural persons.
- 9(2)(g)(i), to maintain the effective conduct of public affairs through the free and frank expression of opinion.
- 9(2)(i), to enable commercial activities to be carried out by Ministers or the Crown, without prejudice or disadvantage.

Summary of written comments

By the numbers, a breakdown:

A total of 68 written comments were received:

43 online through survey monkey

22 by email

3 by hard copy of the written comment form

Spread of support and opposition:

36 (or 53%) in support of the Order in Council (Order)

29 (or 43%) in opposition to the Order

3 (or 5%) partially support the Order

Most of the written comments were on substantive policy matters: either urging for work to begin on the Cathedral as soon as possible (31 written comments or 46%) or advocating to protect the London Plane trees (21 written comments or 32%).

12 individuals or organisations expressed that the Citizens' War Memorial should be removed from the proposed Order.

3 of the comments suggested substantial technical changes to the proposed Order.

Only 1 written comment actively opposed any rebuild of the Cathedral, however, it is clear there are many interpretations of "reinstatement".

List of themes from the comments, with quotes

We have grouped the themes under the headings of:

- Matters regarding the Cathedral itself
- Matters regarding the London Plane trees
- Matters regarding the Citizens' War Memorial
- Other matters

We have provided a selection of quotes from written submissions to provide examples of the types of comments that have been received under each theme. These are intended to be illustrative.

Matters regarding the Cathedral itself

A desire to see the Cathedral reinstated as soon as possible

- “I strongly support the cathedral being retained and therefore would like it to happen ASAP.”
- “The decision to reinstate the Cathedral in the Square, and formulation of the broad process by which that will occur, have already been widely debated and settled upon. We now want to see action.”
- “The cathedral is at the centre of Christchurch and nine years later it is still broken down! I was not in favour of restoring the original building, but the decision has been made and I am keen to see the city's heart restored. Any proposal that helps facilitate this is welcome.”
- “This order will allow the project to progress more quickly and also help keep the costs down, which is even more important in view of the pandemic and pressure on public funds.”

The importance of the Cathedral

- “As a member of the Anglican Church, I am keen to see the cathedral reinstated to its rightful role at the centre of our community as soon as practicable.”
- “It is a key missing piece of our city's heart and people want to see it finished.”
- “Progress needs to be made with that area of the city. The Cathedral and surrounding site is the heart of the Christchurch, reinstatement is urgently needed.”

The proposed Order does a good job of protecting heritage

- “The order would appear to safeguard the heritage of the Cathedral and surrounds - as it is a significant icon of Christchurch this is vital.”

Support for modifying the normal resource management processes

- “The proposals of the OIC seem fair and reasonable to me.”
- “The standard Resource Management Act process is far too cumbersome and glacial for a project such as this.”

Concerns about modifying normal resource management process

- “Keeping the public informed is vital - existing RMA processes may require public notification which it would appear wouldn't occur under this order. Although it might not be required, perhaps publically notifying anyway would be a good way to ensure transparency about what is happening.”
- “I am strongly opposed to the proposal for an Order in Council to modify the process for resource consent applications for reinstatement work on the Christ Church Cathedral.”

Matters regarding the London Plane trees

A desire to keep all the London Plane trees and reinstate the Cathedral at any cost

- “To me there is no choice - BOTH trees and temple must be protected. You only have to say, BOTH are IMPORTANT ... everything else follows.”
- “I think they should try to reinstate the Cathedral without removing the trees, they are part of the cities heritage as well as the cathedral.”
- “There will definitely be a way to restore the cathedral without removing the trees. It is just that it may cost a bit more. It is obvious that CCRL will conclude that extra cost = impossible. They won't have any incentive to conclude otherwise.”
- “I am appalled. I have seen trees wrapped and strapped on construction sites overseas and don't see why we have this necessity to pull everything down in this city and country.”

Concerns about the possible impact of the Order on the London Plane trees and a desire to keep them

- “These iconic trees must stay. History, beauty, security, shade, shelter for bird life. The contractors must work around the trees. These trees are essential for the future of the Cathedral and the Square.”
- “Protect nature not infrastructure.”
- “Trees and nature are essential to mental health, especially old mature trees. These trees are irreplaceable, or at least it would 140 years to replace them. It would be a short sighted travesty to remove them just to save a little money.”
- “In particular, I am worried that the three Plane trees will be felled as a nuisance to contractors more concerned about profits than about our heritage.”
- “I am concerned that the proposed order to streamline the process for resource consent will open the way for non-notified removal of the three protected notable London plane trees.”
- “Therefore I would like to see provision included to protect and preserve other heritage objects surrounding the cathedral.”

Matters regarding the Citizens' War Memorial

Concerns about the effect of reinstatement on the Citizens' War Memorial

- “In total, the spiritual, historic, aesthetic and public amenity values of the Citizens' War Memorial are embedded in its exact point of location: it cannot and must not go anywhere else.”
- “Regarding the Citizen's War Memorial, it should be protected on site and its significant heritage value (including location) should be prioritised above any new building outside the original Cathedral footprint.”
- “A decision regarding the war memorial should be in accordance with the wishes of the RSA being paramount.”

Out of scope comments

- “The bloody thing should be pulled down, it is a total waste of money!!!!”
- “I think it should be demolished and a new and modern building that is fit for purpose be built.”
- “The cathedral should be demolished and the alternative plan for a beautiful wooden safe cathedral started ASAP.”

Released by the Associate Minister for Greater Christchurch Regeneration