

Third Annual Report
on the
Operation of the Christ Church Cathedral Reinstatement Act 2017
19 December 2019 to 30 November 2020

**Presented to the House of Representatives by the Associate Minister of Finance pursuant to
section 24 of the Christ Church Cathedral Reinstatement Act 2017**

Report on the Operation of the Christ Church Cathedral Reinstatement Act 2017

Purpose

As the Minister responsible for the administration of the Christ Church Cathedral Reinstatement Act 2017 (Act), I am required under section 24 to present a report on the operation of the Act to the House of Representatives within 12 months of the commencement of the Act (and every 12 months thereafter). These reports must include a list of the Orders in Council made under the Act during that period and a brief description of those Orders.

This is the third report under the Act, covering the period from 19 December 2019 to 30 November 2020.

Background

The Act formed part of the Crown's agreement with the Christchurch Anglican Diocese, owners of the Christ Church Cathedral (the Cathedral), to reinstate the Cathedral. The Cathedral was significantly damaged in the 22 February 2011 earthquake but there was disagreement between its owners and heritage advocates over its future. This led to litigation deadlock for several years which was remedied by support from the Crown and Christchurch City Council to help reach agreement on the reinstatement of the Cathedral. The objective of the legislation is to facilitate reinstatement by creating Orders in Council which allow for temporary exemptions from, modifications, or extensions to any provisions of an enactment.

Orders in Council

As at the date of presenting this report, one Order in Council has been made under the Act within the period covered by this report.

Christ Church Cathedral Reinstatement Order 2020

This Order relates to the resource consent process for the strengthening and reinstatement of the Cathedral. It was necessary to create this Order because using normal resource consent processes for the reinstatement of the Cathedral would cause further delays, more cost and uncertainty. In summary, the Order streamlines the resource consent process by:

- treating all restricted discretionary and discretionary activities relating to the reinstatement of the Cathedral as controlled activities;
- preventing the notification of resource consent applications relating to the rest of the reinstatement work on the Cathedral;
- providing a pathway for consent authorities to impose conditions on the resource consents in relation to certain matters, including appropriate conditions for the removal of the Citizens' War Memorial and the London Plane trees (if necessary for reinstatement);
- requiring the processing of resource consent applications within 40 days;
- requiring consenting authorities to seek and consider written comment from specified parties within 15 days, during the 40 day processing time;
- preventing the appeal on a resource consent decision, except by the applicant; and
- allowing the consent authorities to enforce conditions, but removing the ability of the public to do so.

The Order came into force on 9 October 2020 and will be revoked on 21 December 2032. On 20 October 2020 a resource consent application for the strengthening and reinstatement of the Cathedral using the order was lodged with the Christchurch City Council.

Progress in the Cathedral reinstatement

During the reporting period physical progress has been made towards the reinstatement of the Cathedral. Work to stabilise the Cathedral began in May 2020 after a short delay due to COVID-19. Construction offices were established on site and a long-term lease of Christchurch City Council land in front of the Cathedral is being considered to allow more working space outside the fall zone. Work on site during the period covered by this report has been done in reliance on existing resource consents, not on the Order made this year.

The concept design was released to the public on 22 October 2020. The main Cathedral and its tower will be reinstated with the addition of ancillary buildings to the north and south. To the north of the Cathedral will be the new Visitors' Centre. On the ground level will be a café, with terraced steps leading down to a lowered, landscaped courtyard, museum and retail. To the south the 'Cathedral Centre' will house gathering spaces, offices and amenities to support the mission of the Cathedral. New vestries will be added at the east for the clergy and choir. The projected cost is \$154.3 million and the fundraising target is \$51.2 million.