

Community Forum

Private Bag 4999
Christchurch 8140

**Community Forum meeting notes from Thursday 15 September 2011
(5.30pm to 8.00pm).
Christchurch Boys High School Hostel, 70 Harakeke st, Riccarton**

Present:

Community Forum Members

CERA:

- Benesia Smith, Chief Advisor to the Chief Executive
- **Withheld under section 9(2)(g)(i)**

Apologies:

- Roger Sutton, Chief Executive, CERA
- Community Forum members:
 - Richard Ballantyne
 - Rachel Vogan
 - Martin Evans
 - Gill Cox
 - Wendy Gilchrist
 - Maria Godinet- Watts
 - Weng Kei Chen
 - Deborah McCormick
 - Bruce Russell
 - Brian Vieceli

1 Introduction

1.1 Benesia Smith welcomed everyone to the Forum meeting and provided a brief overview of the agenda for the meeting.

2 Presentation on the draft Recovery Strategy from Chief Advisor to the Chief Executive, CERA

2.1 Benesia Smith provided an overview of the draft Recovery Strategy that was publicly notified on 10 September.

2.2 A discussion was held by the Forum on a range of matters that included:

2.3 **Engaging with Residents' Associations:** Suggestions that CERA needs to engage more with residents' associations as they have a good understanding of the key issues occurring in their local communities.

2.4 **CERA's communication plan:** Suggestions that CERA needed to present its communication plan? Is it effective or out of date? Where is the clear communication and consultation strategy expected of CERA (a part

of this should be an up to date directory of existing community groups). What is CERA's statutory responsibility to run/develop this type of system? Arguably needs a more permanent body i.e. CCC but CERA to enforce

2.5 Building Trust and confidence: There was a need to build and maintain trust and confidence between the different stakeholders in the recovery and also with the people of greater Christchurch

2.6 Timing and Sequencing of the recovery: There is a need for the greater Christchurch community and all New Zealanders to understand the timing of the recovery, key actions to be undertaken and how actions / work items will be sequenced. The pace of the recovery was also discussed – “fast” vs “ steady” and the pros and cons of each approach. The Forum agreed that it would be a case-by-case assessment – some things needed to be done quickly and some things would need to be done in a considered and thorough manner.

2.7 Interacting with the community on the draft Recovery Strategy: What role does the Forum have in the discussions with the community on the draft Recovery Strategy? As leaders able to lead the conversation, if they desire to do so, there is material on CERA website to assist. There is a need to engage with young people more effectively and engage them in the recovery of greater Christchurch.

2.8 The need for ‘fun’ back in the city: There is a need to be looking to the future and building a picture of where we want to be and how we are going to get there. We also need to encourage ‘fun’ opportunities.

3 Presentation on Roles and Responsibilities

3.1 Benesia Smith commenced a conversation with the Forum about the roles and responsibilities of the different agencies involved in the ‘recovery’, including the role of the Minister for Canterbury Earthquake Recovery, Cabinet, CERA and the four local authorities.

3.2 A range of issues were raised including the following:

- **Cabinet decision-making and the election:** Does decision-making slow down because of the election period? The Cabinet will continue to meet right up until the election. The government of the day continues to be able to make decisions right up until the election. After the election decisions can continue to be made, subject to the caretaker convention.
- **Leadership:** Which agency is the leader of the recovery? All recovery agencies play a lead role in the recovery efforts. CERA's role is to lead, co-ordinate or facilitate, as appropriate the recovery of Canterbury. Local authorities have a key role in the recovery effort and ensuring that ‘business as usual’ activities continue. The draft Recovery Strategy attempts to highlight all of the key programmes of recovery work underway or required, and names which agencies are involved with work items and who is considered to be in the lead on that issue.

- **The role of the Community Forum and the Canterbury Earthquake Recovery Review Panel** – the Forum is set up under the Canterbury Earthquake Recovery Act to provide advice and information to the Minister and the Chief Executive to have regard to. The Review Panel is set up also **under** the Act to review all draft Orders in Council before they are made by the Governor-General. Within 3 days of receiving a draft Order in Council the Review Panel must provide a report to the relevant Ministers on whether the draft Order in Council is reasonably necessary and expedient to meet the purposes of the Canterbury Earthquake Recovery Act.
- **Involvement of the Mayors and Chief Executives of local authorities in Forum meetings:** The Community Forum indicated it was important that CEOs/**Mayors** were invited to meetings so the Forum can understand their roles and responsibilities.
- **Discussions with the Minister:** It was noted that the Act provides for the Forum to meet six times per annum. The Forum agreed to consider how it might best interact with the Minister at the formal Forum meetings. A draft schedule and agenda would need to be developed and agreed.

ACTION: Selwyn District Council, Waimakariri District Council and Christchurch City Council Mayors (and possibly CEOs) to be invited to next meeting to present their communication and strategy plans to the Forum.

4 Discussion on role of Forum

- 4.1 The Forum agreed to set-up an interim Executive (Darren Wright, Trevor McIntyre, Lesley Murdoch) that would assist in organising and planning the next Forum meeting where a draft terms of reference would be tabled for discussion purposes.
- 4.2 The Forum asked CERA to provide an independent note-taker for Forum meetings.

ACTION: Interim Executive to arrange next Forum meeting, including the development of terms of reference and the presentations by the Mayors
CERA to provide an independent note-taker

Next Meeting 6 October

It was agreed that the next meeting would be held on Thursday 6 October.