



## Proactive Release

The following document has been proactively released by the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet (DPMC), on behalf of Hon Mark Mitchell, Minister for Emergency Management and Recovery:

### **Results of Actions to Speed Up the Recovery from the North Island Weather Events: Report Back**

The following documents have been included in this release:

**Title of paper:** Results of Actions to Speed Up the Recovery from the North Island Weather Events: Report Back (CAB-24-SUB-0246 refers)

**Title of minute:** Report of the Cabinet Economic Policy Committee: Period Ended 28 June 2024 (CAB-24-MIN-0246 refers)

**Title of minute:** Results of Actions to Speed Up the Recovery from the North Island Weather Events: Report Back (ECO-24-MIN-0116 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 codes:**

- section 9(2)(a), to protect the privacy of individuals
- section 9(2)(f)(iv), to maintain the confidentiality of advice tendered by or to Ministers and officials

Office of the Minister Hon Mark Mitchell  
**Minister for Emergency Management and Recovery**

Chair, Cabinet Economic Policy Committee

## **Report back on results of actions to speed up the recovery from the North Island Weather Events**

### **Proposal**

- 1 This paper reports back on the recovery framework, progress against key quarterly targets (including land categorisation, buyout offers and infrastructure projects) and the results of actions to speed up the recovery from the North Island Weather Events (NIWE).

### **Executive Summary**

- 2 Aspects of the recovery have sped up as a result of actions taken by the Cyclone Recovery Unit (CRU), Crown Infrastructure Partners (CIP) and local authorities.
- 3 Hawke's Bay and Gisborne have completed categorisation and Auckland is ahead of target for those who have opted in. Hawke's Bay and Gisborne are on track to meet their June and December targets for 100% offers to Category 3 property owners and Auckland is ahead of their 30% June target.
- 4 Auckland, Gisborne and Hawke's Bay have taken measures to speed up the recovery, including reducing delivery times of infrastructure projects and continuing to prioritise property categorisation and buyouts. There are still challenges and factors outside of councils control such as challenges to property categorisation, acceptance of offers and engagement in a voluntary process.
- 5 The end date has been bought forward for 11 (of 25) Category 2 risk mitigation projects and all projects are on track for delivery within agreed (and modified) delivery timeframes. Two projects are behind schedule.

### **Background**

- 6 The CRU is supporting and monitoring the NIWE recovery for the Crown. CIP is contracted by CRU to support and review project delivery plans, disperse funds according to agreed milestones and monitor councils to deliver on initiatives with Crown investment. Cabinet agreed a report back to the Economic Policy Committee in June 2024 on recovery progress [100-24-MIN-0008 and ECO-24-MIN-0039 refer].
- 7 Tracking progress in this way ensures momentum, and for the Government to be confident the money invested in recovery is being used to ensure people have certainty about their future and support regional economies to bounce back.

## Speeding up the North Island Weather Events recovery, regional analysis

- 8 Affected regions have adopted different approaches to delivery of land categorisation, delivery of Category 2 flood risk mitigation projects (providing future flood protection to homeowners) and delivery of local transport projects.
- 9 Tracking against targets from the North Island Weather Events Recovery Framework is provided in Attachment One. Categorisation and buyout numbers and project delivery timeframes are as of 4 June 2024.

### *Affected homeowners in Auckland will get certainty sooner*

- 10 **Categorisation and buyouts:** The Auckland Council is progressing categorisation<sup>1</sup> and buyouts. Affected owners have until September 2024 to 'opt in' enabling the Council to finish the categorisation process within the target timeframe of January-March 2025 and finalise buyouts.
- 11 The number of Category 3 properties has increased from 612 to 900 since March 2024. The increase is partly due to additional property owners opting in and partly due to 135 properties Auckland Council is recategorising from Category 2C to 3<sup>2</sup>. The Auckland Council considered the timeframe for delivery of the 2C risk mitigation projects would take an unacceptable length of time. The Council will offer buyouts for these 135 properties, speeding up the immediate recovery for property owners.
- 12 This categorisation change will require movement of funding between Category 2 and 3 cost share agreement allocations. I will come back to Cabinet in July seeking decisions needed on change to cost-share agreements with local authorities to support their decisions.
- 13 91% (target 87%) of property owners who have opted in have had an initial assessment. Of the 451 confirmed Category 3 properties 59% (266) have offers, ahead of the 30% June 2024 target. 115 offers are agreed and 87 settled.
- 14 **Future flood protection and infrastructure works:** Three projects have been accelerated and will now be delivered ahead of schedule. Flood works at Te Ararata will be delivered three years earlier in June 2026 (rather than September 2029). Flood works at Harania has been bought forward to December 2025 from March 2028. The Muriwai debris barrier will also be bought forward from December 2027 to March 2025. These projects will protect properties and provide increased certainty to homeowners.

### <sup>1</sup> Future of Severely Affected Locations categories

Category	1	2P	2C	2A	3
Description	Repair to previous state is all that is required to manage future severe weather event risk.	Property level interventions are needed to manage future severe weather event risk, possibly in tandem with community level interventions.	Community level interventions are needed for managing future severe weather event risk.	Significant further assessment is required to assess a property, as well as engagement with property owner.	Future severe weather event risk cannot be sufficiently mitigated. Some land uses may remain acceptable, but residential use carries an intolerable risk of injury or death.

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- 15 A Severe Weather Emergency Recovery Legislation 2023 (SWERL Act) Order in Council (OIC) is being developed to support the flood works projects at Te Ararata and Harania in Mangere. If the OIC meets the statutory tests, it is expected to be enacted October 2024 and will provide a streamlined consenting process for the flood works, enabling faster project delivery.
- 16 Auckland transport projects are tracking well against targets. The Auckland roading network reinstatement project has remediated 47% of 520 sites. Mill Rd and Manukau Heads roading projects are on target for delivery September 2026.

*The Gisborne District Council (GDC) has completed categorisation, is progressing buyouts and infrastructure projects*

- 17 **Categorisation and buyouts:** The GDC has completed property categorisation ahead of June 30 target timeframe, and buyouts are currently progressing.
- 18 Of 54 eligible Category 3 residential properties 27 have offers (52%), 24 of which are agreed and 13 settled. GDC are on track to have 100% of offers made by December 2024.
- 19 **Future flood protection and infrastructure works:** Construction of the Waipaoa flood control scheme is well advanced with a planned completion date of April 2026, one year ahead of schedule. All roading projects in Gisborne are on track to agreed delivery timeframes.

*Hawke's Bay has completed categorisation and two local roading projects and has accelerated delivery of seven Category 2 risk mitigation projects*

- 20 **Categorisation and buyouts:** Property categorisation is complete in the Hawke's Bay - ahead of the June 2024 target timeframe. 74% of eligible Category 3 owners have received an offer and they are on target to meet the June buyout target of 80%.
- 21 <sup>s9(2)(a)</sup> eligible Category 3 owners (<sup>s9(2)(a)</sup> properties) have not joined the voluntary buyout process. The Hawkes Bay Buyout Office is working closely with these owners ahead of the deadline for joining (31 August 2024). The voluntary buyout scheme will close December 2024, six months ahead of the original June 2025 deadline in the NIWE Crown Funding Agreement.
- 22 **Future flood protection and infrastructure works:** CIP contracted Aurecon to review project plans at Hawke's Bay Regional Council (HBRC). Aurecon identified that while HBRC is experienced at delivering large infrastructure projects the 'business as usual' approach would not deliver these projects as quickly as was possible. CIP worked with HBRC to implement Aurecon's recommendations and bring forward the delivery of seven Category 2 risk mitigation projects up to two years faster than originally planned. Three projects are anticipated to start this summer and be completed by January 2026 (rather than July 2026). Pōrangahau is scheduled for completion by December 2027 (rather than 2029).
- 23 The Hawke's Bay SWERL Act 2023 Flood Works OIC is in force as of 7 June 2024 providing a streamlined consenting pathway for flood works at eight locations and allowing works at Waiohiki, Omahu and Whirinaki to start summer 2024.

- 24 Build work for two local transport projects in the Hawke's Bay (\$20 million of slip and culvert repairs across the Hastings roading network and the rebuild of the Crystal Twin Culverts on Matahorua Road) are complete within agreed project delivery timeframes.
- 25 CIP and Transport Rebuild East Coast (TREC) worked with the Wairoa District Council to simplify the design for the Wairoa Te Reinga bridge project, the main bridge providing access to Wairoa. This brings forward the estimated completion date by 6 months to August 2025.
- 26 A SWERL Act 2023 OIC is being developed to provide relief from some Resource Management Act 1991 requirements for rural property owners in Hawke's Bay. This OIC will enable rural land to be returned to a pre-NIWE state, speeding up economic recovery and reducing the regulatory burden to landowners and the council. If the OIC meets the statutory tests, it will be in place October 2024.

*Two Category 2 risk mitigation projects are behind schedule*

- 27 Two Category 2 risk mitigation projects, Wairoa flood protection and Gisborne house lifting are presenting challenges. CIP is monitoring progress and providing support on both.
- 28 The Hawke's Bay Regional Council (HBRC) has considered 18 options for flood protection in Wairoa. Two options fit within the \$70 million funding envelope in the Crown cost share agreement, and both have limitations including impacts on whenua Māori and private properties. Community consultation will now occur mid-June, one month later than anticipated to allow more work to be carried out on preferred options. At this stage the anticipated build time is not affected and the revised time frame of delivery in 2027 can still be met. The Wairoa flood works project is included in the Hawke's Bay Flood Works OIC.
- 29 The GDC tendered for both assessment and raising of up to 150 houses categorised Category 2P. Tenders received did not include the property assessment portion. The Council is rescoping the project to manage the assessment phase in house. Options for the build work will be developed once assessments are complete including consideration of the June 2025 funding deadline.

*Local roading projects and near-term risk mitigation projects are on track and delivery risk is low*

- 30 Fourteen local transport projects across all regions and 30 near term risk mitigation projects in non-cost share regions are on track for delivery within agreed project timeframes.
- 31 \$46.9m of Crown funding was allocated to 30 initiatives across the five NIWE-affected regions that do not have cost-share arrangements. All projects are progressing from the planning and investigation phase to the design and consenting phase and seven are in the delivery and construction phase and are on track for delivery by 30 June 2025.

## **The Whenua Māori and Marae pathway has momentum**

- 32 The CRU with the support of Te Arawhiti leads the implementation of the Whenua Māori and Marae pathway. The CRU, with the assistance of CIP, administers the associated fund.
- 33 Valuations of affected whenua blocks are complete for all but two residential blocks, which were only recently categorised by GDC.
- 34 The Ministers of Finance, Māori Crown Relations and Māori Development and I made decisions in May 2024 enabling implementation of the pathway to substantially progress. Funding agreements for the seven affected Category 3 Marae that will be relocated will be conditional on finding land and will take the cost of that land into consideration. Funding agreements will provide for phased delivery with appropriate safeguards in place for funding to be released. Some funding may be provided in advance to allow work to be completed. Whenua Māori owners and residents will receive grants for relocation. Budget 24 allocated a tagged contingency to ensure the pathway can be delivered.
- 35 Further engagement with owners, occupiers and trustees of whenua Māori and Marae is underway. Support packages and offers are anticipated to be ready from September to December 2024.

## **Ensuring councils continue to prioritise infrastructure projects is key to speeding up the recovery**

- 36 I secured Budget 24 funding of \$20 million to support councils' capability to speed up critical recovery functions including voluntary buyouts, flood protection works, land slip remediation and local transport. This funding will be used to speed up delivery of infrastructure projects protecting homeowners and local transport projects restoring the roading network to a pre-NIWE state.
- 37 I wrote to all NIWE-affected councils on 26 March 2024. I made it clear to councils in regions that have an existing cost sharing agreement (Auckland, Gisborne and Hawke's Bay) that I expect them to maintain and increase momentum on categorisation, buyouts, Category 2 risk mitigation projects and transport projects, and to clarify timeframes for completion. The CRU and CIP are continuing to engage with those councils to ensure work is delivered as quickly as possible.
- 38 For councils that did not have a cost-sharing agreement, I asked them to indicate by the end of April 2024 whether they intend to categorise property and offer buyouts. Tauranga City and Masterton District Council confirmed they will categorise and buyout a small number s9(2)(a) Category 3 properties and take up the Crown's 50% cost-sharing offer.
- 39 Far North and Whangarei District Councils requested more time to make a formal decision on whether to engage in property categorisation. Both councils will confirm their approach by the end of June. Aside from these two, I do not anticipate any other Councils undertaking property categorisation processes or seeking Crown cost-sharing support.
- 40 Quarterly governance meetings between the chief executives of the CRU and CIP, and local authority Chief Executives and recovery staff, ensure project delivery and funding

issues are identified and responded to promptly. Contact with local authorities on specific issues occurs daily and weekly at an operational level.

- 41 It is important that homeowners have access to an appropriate disputes and complaints service. The Chief Ombudsman has standing jurisdiction to assess NIWE-related complaints and enquiries and has received additional funding from the Crown to support this increased workload. The Ombudsman has agreed to advise the CRU of any themes or patterns in its findings to address developing concerns quickly, and his office is currently undertaking a scan of issues to date.
- 42 The report to the 100-day Plan Committee outlined 27 actions to speed up recovery. Each action and progress towards completion is outlined in Attachment Two. 19 of the 21 actions due for completion by June 2021 will be complete. The remaining two actions relate to the whenua Māori and Marae pathway and will now be complete in August and October. All 27 actions will be complete by December 2024.

*Sediment and woody debris work is continuing to be funded by Government*

- 43 Both Hawke's Bay and GDC have made steady progress on sediment and debris removal. Budget 2024 provided a further \$10 million to Hawke's Bay to allow the clearing of remaining priority sites.
- 44 In Gisborne the expenditure rate has been lower than anticipated which has allowed GDC to extend current contracts through to August within current funding. They have received an additional \$27 million funding from Budget 2024 allowing removal to continue until at least June 2025.

*North Island Weather Event Primary Producer Finance Scheme will be complete by June 2024*

- 45 The Primary Producers Finance Scheme (administered by Kānoa) has contracted or approved 30 applications. Five additional applications are on track for decisions before the scheme closes on 30 June 2024.

**Consultation**

- 46 The CRU has worked closely with Crown Infrastructure Partners on delivery and status of infrastructure projects and reporting.
- 47 Te Arawhiti, the Treasury, Department of Internal Affairs, Ministry for the Environment, Kānoa, Te Puni Kokiri, National Emergency Management Agency have been consulted on this paper.

**Cost-of-living Implications**

- 48 There are no cost-of-living implications in this paper, though receiving buyout offers with speed may enable homeowners to reduce their temporary housing costs and positively impact their cost of living.

## Financial Implications

49 There are no new financial decisions contained in this paper. Any future financial decisions on speeding up the NIWE recovery work or for funding ongoing NIWE recovery work and implementation will include financial analysis at the point of decision making.

## Human Rights

50 There are no human rights implications in this paper.

## Use of External Resources

51 No external resources were used in the development of drafting of this paper.

## Proactive Release

52 I intend to proactively release this paper and its associated minute within the standard business days from the decision being made by Cabinet.

## Recommendations

The Minister for Emergency Management and Recovery recommends the Committee:

1. **note** that Auckland, Gisborne and Hawke's Bay have taken measures to speed up the recovery, including reducing delivery times of infrastructure projects and continuing to prioritise property categorisation and buyouts.
2. **note** that the end date has been bought forward for 11 Category 2 risk mitigation projects and all projects are on track for delivery within agreed (and modified) delivery timeframes. One project is behind schedule.
3. **note** that the end date has been bought forward for one local transport project and all projects are on track for delivery within two years.
4. **note** that Tauranga City Council and Masterton District Council have opted into the land categorisation process and cost share agreements are being developed, along with any appropriate quarterly targets.
5. **note** the Minister for Emergency Management and Recovery is receiving weekly and monthly updates to track recovery progress and continues to require the Cyclone Recovery Unit and Crown Infrastructure Partners to find ways to speed up all elements of recovery in affected regions.

Authorised for lodgement





Hon Mark Mitchell

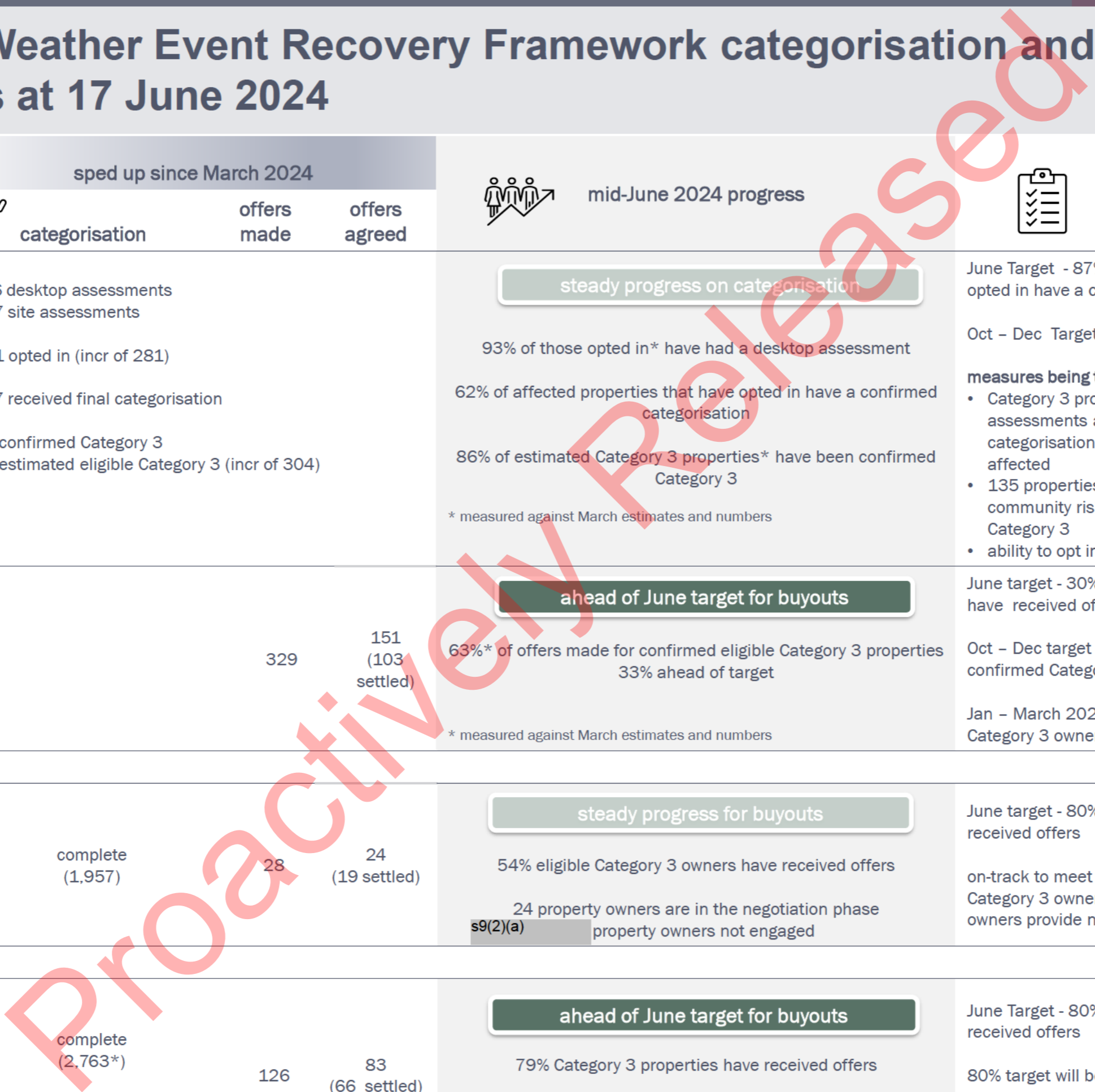
**Minister for Emergency Management and Recovery**

Date:







# North Island Weather Event Recovery Framework categorisation and buyouts progress – as at 17 June 2024

 March 2024	sped up since March 2024		 mid-June 2024 progress	 recovery targets	
	 categorisation	offers made	offers agreed		
<b>Auckland</b> 7389 affected properties  2613 opted in  750 received final categorisation  600 estimated eligible Category 3	2716 desktop assessments 1907 site assessments  2891 opted in (incr of 281)  1627 received final categorisation  520 confirmed Category 3 904 estimated eligible Category 3 (incr of 304)			<div style="background-color: #d4edda; padding: 5px; border: 1px solid #c3e6cb; text-align: center;">                         steady progress on categorisation                     </div> <p>93% of those opted in* have had a desktop assessment</p> <p>62% of affected properties that have opted in have a confirmed categorisation</p> <p>86% of estimated Category 3 properties* have been confirmed Category 3</p> <p><small>* measured against March estimates and numbers</small></p>	<p>June Target - 87% of affected properties that have opted in have a categorisation</p> <p>Oct – Dec Target – categorisation complete</p> <p><b>measures being taken to speed up categorisation</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Category 3 properties that require complex assessments are being prioritised for final categorisation to provide certainty to those most affected</li> <li>• 135 properties that were to be protected by community risk mitigation projects proposed to be Category 3</li> <li>• ability to opt in closes end September 2024</li> </ul>
97 offers (24 settled)		329	151 (103 settled)	<div style="background-color: #20a99e; color: white; padding: 5px; border: 1px solid #1c7e75; text-align: center;">                         ahead of June target for buyouts                     </div> <p>63%* of offers made for confirmed eligible Category 3 properties 33% ahead of target</p> <p><small>* measured against March estimates and numbers</small></p>	<p>June target - 30% of eligible Category 3 owners have received offers</p> <p>Oct – Dec target - on track to exceed 70% offers to confirmed Category 3</p> <p>Jan – March 2025 target - on track for 90% of eligible Category 3 owners receiving an offer</p>
<b>Tairāwhiti</b> 54* eligible Category 3  s9(2)(a) offers made s9(2)(a) settled	complete (1,957)	28	24 (19 settled)	<div style="background-color: #d4edda; padding: 5px; border: 1px solid #c3e6cb; text-align: center;">                         steady progress for buyouts                     </div> <p>54% eligible Category 3 owners have received offers</p> <p>24 property owners are in the negotiation phase s9(2)(a) property owners not engaged</p>	<p>June target - 80% of eligible Category 3 owners have received offers</p> <p>on-track to meet September target of all eligible Category 3 owners receiving offers (providing property owners provide necessary information)</p>
<p><small>*1 more than identified in March</small></p>					
<b>Hawke's Bay</b> 166* eligible Category 3  64 offers made, 30 settled  *159 owners engaged in the process	complete (2,763*)  * subject to acceptable solution for Pōrangahau	126	83 (66 settled)	<div style="background-color: #20a99e; color: white; padding: 5px; border: 1px solid #1c7e75; text-align: center;">                         ahead of June target for buyouts                     </div> <p>79% Category 3 properties have received offers</p> <p>residents must enter voluntary buyout scheme by 31 August 2024 which closes 31 December 2024</p>	<p>June Target - 80% of eligible Category 3 owners have received offers</p> <p>80% target will be exceeded by 30 June</p> <p>on-track to exceed September target – all eligible Category 3 owners have received an offer</p>



# North Island Weather Event Recovery Framework risk mitigation and local transport projects progress – May 2024

Risk mitigation and local transport projects

 March 2024	 sped up since March 2024	 May 2024 tracking	construction started	build complete	 recovery targets
25 Category 2 risk mitigation projects* \$931.45mil  * an additional 2 identified in Gisborne since March	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; background-color: #d9ead3;">                         end date brought forward - 11 projects worth \$160.11 million                     </div> <p>Tairāwhiti – Waipaoa river flood control scheme 1 year ahead of schedule</p> <p>Hawke’s Bay – delivery timeframes for 6 community risk mitigation projects end date bought forward by up to 2 years for all projects from 2029 to no later than 2027</p> <p>Auckland – Te Ararata, Harania flood works and Muriwai will be delivered in 2 years.</p>	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px; background-color: #548235; color: white; text-align: center;">complete 1 project</div> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px; background-color: #6aa84f; color: white; text-align: center;">on-track 22 projects</div> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px; background-color: #f4a460; color: white; text-align: center;">behind schedule 2 projects</div> <p>Wairoa flood works will be challenging to deliver but is currently on track despite consultation being pushed out 1 month</p> <p>6 Auckland projects being replanned to reflect changing categorisation approach</p> <p>Tairāwhiti house lifting behind schedule (\$15 mil)</p>	2 (\$6.2mil)	1 (\$2.5mil)	Auckland – all projects complete by December 2030  Tairāwhiti– all projects complete by June 2028  Hawke’s Bay – all projects complete by December 2029
14 Local transport projects \$487.59mil	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; background-color: #d9ead3;">                         end date brought forward - 1 project worth \$14 million                     </div> <p>TREC, CIP and Wairoa District Council have worked together to reduce delivery timeframe by 6-12 months on Te Reinga Bridge</p>	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px; background-color: #548235; color: white; text-align: center;">complete 2 projects</div> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px; background-color: #6aa84f; color: white; text-align: center;">on-track 12 projects</div>	3 (\$89mil)	2 (\$23.5mil)	Auckland – all 3 projects complete April 2026  Tairāwhiti– all 5 projects complete June 2029  Hawke’s Bay – all 6 projects compete June 2027
30 near term risk mitigation initiatives (\$49 mil)  (across 5 regions)	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; background-color: #d9ead3;">                         on-track all initiatives to be delivered in 2 years                     </div>	Councils have started. Funding is released in accordance with agreed project schedules.  All projects are on track to schedule and costs	All initiatives are in design or delivery phase	All initiatives must be complete by 30 June 2025	100% started 3 complete (10%)

# North Island Weather Events – whenua Māori and Marae pathway June 2024

## milestones and outcomes

February 2024

7 Eligible Category 3 Marae and 23\* eligible residential land blocks identified

(\*an additional two blocks may be categorised category 3 by Gisborne District Council)

valuations on whenua Māori and Marae complete

100% of Marae engaged in the process and agree to relocate

first round of discussions completed with whenua Māori and Marae owners, occupiers and trustees

Ministers and Budget decisions

complete

May 2024

second round of discussions with whenua Māori and Marae owners, occupiers and trustees

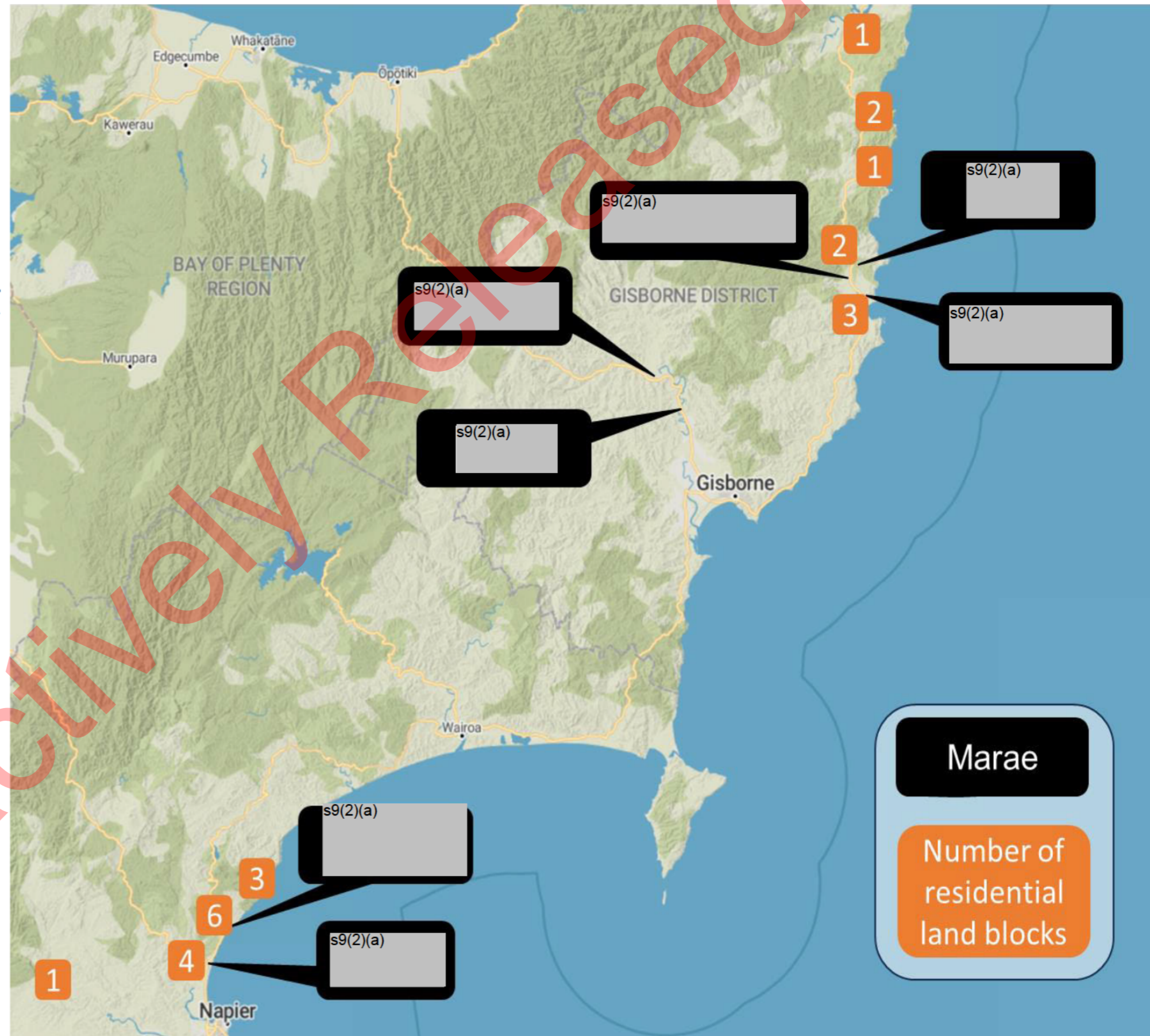
support packages drafted, agreements and offers prepared for Marae

offers developed and made for whenua Māori

funding agreements in place for Marae

funding agreements in place for Whenua Māori

September 2024



## Attachment Two – 27 Point Action plan to speed up recovery progress table

	Action	Status
A1	Write to councils, setting expectations on timeframes for <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>decisions on whether to opt-in to FOSAL policy process (for those councils that are still considering the Crown's cost-sharing offer for voluntary buyouts)</li> <li>completion of categorisation and buyout offers</li> <li>delivery of infrastructure projects agreed in the cost-share agreements</li> </ul>	complete (letter sent 26 March 2024)
A2	Coordinate with councils to clearly communicate to affected residents and property owners the process and timelines for categorisation and buyouts.	complete
A3	Confirm Terms of Engagement with affected marae and Māori land blocks and communicate the Government's process and timing for delivering the whenua Māori and marae pathway	complete by August 2024
A4	Complete valuations on all (seven) category 3 marae	complete
A5	Subject to Cabinet approval, use a portion of the Local Government Flood Resilience Co-investment Fund to fund buyouts in other NIWE-affected regions where a cost-sharing agreement has not yet been agreed	complete
A6	Identify any blockages in the timely flow of information between insurers and councils or any other actions that can be taken to accelerate the process	complete
A7	Complete valuations on all category 3 whenua Māori residential properties and marae	complete by 30 June
A8	Begin making formal offers to category 3 whenua Māori residents, owners and marae	complete by October 2024
A9	Support councils to effectively use existing land use planning tools for categorised land and assess the need for additional tools.	complete by October 2024
A10	Determine whether there are regulatory, or process fixes needed to unblock the EQC assessment pipeline and if so, begin work on the remedy.	complete
A11	Ensure that the purpose statement and criteria for the Fast Track Consenting Bill will allow Category 2 infrastructure projects to access the new regime	complete (Bill proposed to be enacted early 2025)
A12	Commission development of a cross-agency navigation toolkit to help councils achieve faster consenting results within existing frameworks	complete by 30 June 2024
A13	Coordinate a list of specialist and technical skills gaps identified by councils and actively promote vacancies	complete
A14	Determine whether there are regulatory or operational fixes needed to address specialist and technical skills gaps identified by councils and if so, work with relevant agencies on possible remedies	complete by September Budget 24 \$20mil capacity and capability funding for councils to deliver projects faster. Fund open 30 May to August
A15	Enact OIC to speed up Hawke's Bay's flood mitigation work	complete (in force 7 June 2024)
A16	Problem solve barriers that are slowing down councils' delivery of flood resilience, roading, and other infrastructure projects	complete by September \$20mil capacity and capability funding for councils to deliver projects faster

A17	Ensure introduction of additional Transport OICs (if necessary) to Cabinet for initial policy decisions (pending Budget 24 decisions)	complete (none identified)
A18	Advise the Cabinet Economic Policy Committee on the procurement process for silt and sediment recovery, including any recommended changes to ensure that the process is conducive to competitive and cost-effective outcomes	information going to Minister Emergency Management and Recovery to share with colleagues June 2024
A19	Connect key personnel across central and local government to enable knowledge transfer, problem solving, and sharing of examples and best practices	regular all of government meetings
A20	Connect recovery effort with the Government's Infrastructure for the Future Plan, which will address longstanding challenges that relate to the recovery	input for future recovery settings due s9(2)(f)(iv)
A21	Subject to Cabinet approval, use a portion of the Local Government Flood Resilience Co-investment Fund to <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- speed up small-scale, community-led projects, and</li> <li>- support a Northland Multi-Agency Coordination Centre</li> </ul>	complete
A22	Agree on the best use(s) for the remaining balance of the Local Government Flood Resilience Co-investment Fund tagged contingency to speed up the recovery	complete
A23	Ensure that any Cabinet decisions required for delivery of the coordinated recovery work programme have been sought	complete
A24	Carry out a health check to report to Cabinet on delivery of commitments from both central and local governments (including on the whenua Māori pathway).	complete
A25	Secure Cabinet policy decisions on desired amendments to the Emergency Management Bill	Bill to be introduced s9(2)(f)(iv)
A26	Introduce Amendment Papers for the Emergency Management Bill, subject to LEG endorsement	s9(2)(f)(iv)
A27	Make recommendations for future settings to enhance New Zealand's emergency management and recovery system.	s9(2)(f)(iv)



# 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 Economic Policy Committee: Period Ended 28 June 2024

On 1 July 2024, Cabinet made the following decisions on the work of the Cabinet Economic Policy Committee for the period ended 28 June 2024:

Out of scope	[Redacted]	[Redacted]
[Redacted]	[Redacted]	[Redacted]
[Redacted]	[Redacted]	[Redacted]
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Proactively Released

Out of scope	[Redacted]	[Redacted]
[Redacted]	[Redacted]	[Redacted]
[Redacted]	[Redacted]	[Redacted]

ECO-24-MIN-0116    **Results of Actions to Speed Up the Recovery from the North Island Weather Events: Report Back**    CONFIRMED  
Portfolio: Emergency Management and Recovery

Out of scope [Redacted]

Rachel Hayward  
Secretary of the Cabinet

Proactively Released



# Cabinet Economic Policy Committee

## Minute of Decision

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### Results of Actions to Speed Up the Recovery from the North Island Weather Events: Report back

**Portfolio**                      **Emergency Management and Recovery**

On 26 June 2024, the Cabinet Economic Policy Committee:

- 1        **noted** that Auckland, Gisborne and Hawke’s Bay have taken measures to speed up the recovery, including reducing delivery times of infrastructure projects and continuing to prioritise property categorisation and buyouts;
- 2        **noted** that the end date has been bought forward for 11 Category 2 risk mitigation projects and all projects are on track for delivery within agreed (and modified) delivery timeframes, and that one project is behind schedule;
- 3        **noted** that the end date has been bought forward for one local transport project and all projects are on track for delivery within two years;
- 4        **noted** that Tauranga City Council and Masterton District Council have opted into the land categorisation process and cost share agreements are being developed, along with any appropriate quarterly targets;
- 5        **noted** the Minister for Emergency Management and Recovery is receiving weekly and monthly updates to track recovery progress and continues to require the Cyclone Recovery Unit and Crown Infrastructure Partners to find ways to speed up all elements of recovery in affected regions.

Rachel Clarke  
Committee Secretary

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**Present (see over)**



**Present:**

Rt Hon Winston Peters  
Hon David Seymour  
Hon Nicola Willis (Chair)  
Hon Brooke van Velden  
Hon Shane Jones  
Hon Chris Bishop  
Hon Simeon Brown  
Hon Erica Stanford  
Hon Paul Goldsmith  
Hon Judith Collins KC  
Hon Simon Watts  
Hon Melissa Lee  
Hon Casey Costello  
Hon Chris Penk  
Hon Andrew Hoggard  
Simon Court MP

**Officials present from:**

Office of the Prime Minister  
Office of the Deputy Prime Minister  
Office of Hon Erica Stanford  
Officials' Committee for ECO

Proactively Released