



31 March 2025



Ref: OIA-2024/25-0738

Tēnā koe [REDACTED],

Official Information Act request relating to designation of residential red zones

Thank you for your Official Information Act 1982 (the Act) request received on 11 March 2025. You requested:

"I hope this email finds you well. My name is Natsuki Yamada, and I am a student of university of Otago. I am currently researching the Canterbury Earthquakes and the planning processes related to the residential red zone.

I would like to gain a deeper understanding of how the residential red zone was designated following the earthquakes. In particular, I am interested in the key considerations that were taken into account during the designation process. For example, I would like to know whether factors such as disaster risk (e.g., earthquakes, tsunamis, liquefaction, and floods) and geographical conditions were evaluated, and if so, how these factors influenced the decision-making process.

If there are any official guidelines, reports, or resources available on this topic, I would greatly appreciate it if you could share them with me. Additionally, if there is someone within your organization who specializes in this area, I would be grateful for any recommendations on whom I could contact for further information.

Thank you very much for your time and assistance. I greatly appreciate any insights you can provide. I look forward to your response."

Information relevant to your request can be found at the following links on the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet's (DPMC's) website:

- <https://www.dPMC.govt.nz/our-programmes/special-programmes/historical-programmes/cera-website-archive>
- <https://www.dPMC.govt.nz/node/2783>
- <https://www.dPMC.govt.nz/our-programmes/special-programmes/historical-programmes/cera-website-archive/cera-websites>

As you may be aware, the Canterbury Earthquake Recovery Authority (CERA) was disestablished in 2016. Consequently, there are no longer staff at DPMC who can offer expert assistance with your queries. The following link provides information about agencies performing functions that were previously performed by CERA. You may wish to make enquiries with these agencies: [Disestablishment of CERA | Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet \(DPMC\)](#).

You have the right to ask the Ombudsman to investigate and review my decision under section 28(3) of the Act.

This response will be published on the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet's website during our regular publication cycle. Typically, information is released monthly, or as otherwise determined. Your personal information including name and contact details will be removed for publication.

Nāku noa, nā



Jude Ulrich
Acting Executive Director
Strategy, Governance and Engagement