



Cabinet

CAB Min (13) 42/22

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Minute of Decision

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Canterbury Earthquake Recovery: Land Use Recovery Plan

Portfolio: Canterbury Earthquake Recovery

On 2 December 2013, Cabinet:

- 1 **noted** that the impact of the Canterbury earthquakes on land use means that current planning rules and instruments are no longer fit-for-purpose to meet the recovery needs of metropolitan greater Christchurch, and nor can they be amended under present legislative provisions in time for the expected recovery peaks from late 2014;
- 2 **noted** that the Minister for Canterbury Earthquake Recovery (the Minister) intends to use his powers under the Canterbury Earthquake Recovery Act 2011 to approve a Land Use Recovery Plan (LURP);
- 3 **noted** that the LURP will make immediate changes to some Resource Management Act 1991 (RMA) documents to support businesses and residents in rebuilding their workplaces and homes, with other changes to RMA documents, Local Government Act 2002 plans and transport plans and strategies required prior to 2016;
- 4 **noted** that these changes will enable an increase in housing supply and choice and will aid investment in businesses in metropolitan greater Christchurch, through:
 - 4.1 enabling intensification of residential housing by allowing a greater density of housing in brownfield and greenfield developments through an enhanced development mechanism, as well as changes to allow for use of family flats and elderly persons housing by other people, conversion of homes to two flats, and enabling two houses on a vacant section;
 - 4.2 enabling redevelopment of community and social housing, including Housing New Zealand Corporation's development programme;
 - 4.3 re-zoning land for residential and business development, including greenfield sites and making available 550 hectares for predominantly industrial use along key transport routes;
 - 4.4 identifying priority greenfield areas for residential and business use;

- 4.5 requiring local authorities and the New Zealand Transport Agency to align infrastructure delivery and neighbourhood amenity development with land use changes and encouraging and facilitating development on brownfields land with existing infrastructure capacity;
- 5 **noted** that the LURP also acknowledges that the Christchurch City Council is preparing an amended district plan, and includes that Selwyn and Waimakariri District Councils will assess their district plans for alignment with the LURP;
- 6 **noted** that the Minister has separately sought Cabinet approval for an Order in Council to be prepared under the Canterbury Earthquake Recovery Act to establish an expedited process for Christchurch City Council's district plan review [CAB Min (13) 42/23 refers];
- 7 **noted** that the LURP has no financial implications for the Crown;
- 8 **noted** that there are no rights of appeal against a Recovery Plan, but judicial review remains a possibility;
- 9 **noted** that the Minister considers that the LURP complies with the legal test for use of powers under the Canterbury Earthquake Recovery Act and was prepared with an appropriate level of public notification and targeted engagement;
- 10 **noted** that the LURP establishes an implementation, monitoring and engagement programme involving local and central government representatives and the Minister anticipates a substantive review of impact and effectiveness by April 2015.

Secretary of the Cabinet

Reference: CAB (13) 736
