

Report

# Draft Transition Recovery Plan: Submission Summary Report

Prepared for Canterbury Earthquake Recovery Authority (CERA)

11 August 2015





## Executive Summary

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The Draft Transition Recovery Plan *Greater Christchurch Earthquake Recovery: Transition to Regeneration* was made available for public comment from 2 July to 30 July 2015.

The Draft Recovery Plan sets out proposals for the transition of central government's role in the recovery to long-term arrangements. It includes proposals for new recovery legislation, a set of new recovery arrangements for the central city and an approach for monitoring and reporting on priority recovery issues. An overview of the Government's decisions on the transfer of the Canterbury Earthquake Recovery Authority's recovery responsibilities to other central government agencies is also provided.

Feedback on the Draft Recovery Plan could be made online, via social media (on CERA's Facebook page), written submissions or by email.

While a large proportion of the comments received through submissions were not directly related to the specific proposals or questions included in the Draft Recovery Plan, every submission was summarised and an overview of the key themes has been provided.

The majority view generally agreed that powers and provisions are needed in new legislation to support the recovery going forward however, these should be limited.

Alternatively, some submitters consider that the extraordinary powers in the Canterbury Earthquake Recovery Act 2011 are no longer valid or necessary and that new legislation is not required. These include strong concerns regarding existing powers, for example the Minister's powers under section 27 to suspend, amend or revoke any part of a document and the powers to allow recovery works, and it was requested these provisions should not be carried through into new legislation.

Overall, the majority of submitters do not consider the new arrangements for the central city would create the 'step change' needed to drive community and business confidence and investment. It is suggested that greater local ownership and buy-in of the central city recovery would better encourage investment. Most submitters support in principle the creation of a new 'Regenerate Christchurch'-type entity and consider it would be most successful if locally-led and operated. There is a general feeling expressed through submissions that the central city should not be considered in isolation and that the residential rebuild and infrastructure repairs (particularly the eastern suburbs) are also as important for improving community wellbeing.

There is widespread support for the proposals for new recovery arrangements including leadership and coordination of the recovery to be the responsibility of local institutions and for support for community-led recovery activity activities to be the responsibility of local authorities. A consistent theme in submissions is the preference for a return to a locally-led recovery with the withdrawal of central government. It was acknowledged by some submitters, there continues to be a role for central government support in the recovery.

The majority of those submitting support the need for regular monitoring and public reporting. A large number of submitters comment on the need for better communication and for greater transparency and accountability, particularly by central government.

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# 1 Introduction

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## 1.1 Background

On 2 July 2015, the Draft Transition Recovery Plan *Greater Christchurch Earthquake Recovery: Transition to Regeneration* (the Draft Recovery Plan) was notified for public submission in accordance with section 20 of the Canterbury Earthquake Recovery Act 2011 (the CER Act).

The Draft Recovery Plan sets out proposals for the transition of the Government's role in greater Christchurch's recovery. It also provides contextual information and sets out the Government's decisions that have already been made with respect to the transfer of the Canterbury Earthquake Recovery Authority's (CERA) responsibilities to other central government agencies.

Feedback on the Draft Recovery Plan was available online, via social media (on CERA's Facebook page), by written submission or by email. The Draft Recovery Plan was available online with printed versions available at CERA's offices at HSBC Tower in Christchurch and in libraries and service centres in Christchurch, Selwyn and Waimakariri.

The deadline for submissions was 30 July 2015.

A series of five focus group meetings, conducted by an independent market research company, were held in addition to the public consultation process. Meetings were held in Christchurch, Wellington and Auckland. Details on these focus groups are provided in Appendix A.

## 1.2 About this report

This report provides a high level overview of the submissions received on the Draft Recovery Plan. It is structured to reflect the chapters in the Draft Recovery Plan.

The Draft Recovery Plan specifically sought feedback on three proposals for the transition and posed five key questions (see Figure 1 over page). A summary of the feedback made on these proposals and questions is provided. Every submission received has been summarised and categorised into themes based on the content of the Draft Recovery Plan (refer Attachment B). A copy of the summarised submissions has been provided separately to this report.

A number of technical points were also raised through submissions. These are not covered directly in this report, but have been passed on to CERA.

Feedback provided through the five focus group meetings has been integrated within this report.

Figure 1: Proposals and questions in the Draft Recovery Plan

<p><b>Question</b> – Do you have any views on the powers and provisions that will be needed in the new legislation to support regeneration?</p>	<p><b>Chapter 3: Legal framework for ongoing recovery</b></p>
<p><b>Proposal</b> – Responsibility for regeneration functions carried out by CERA will transfer to a new entity possibly named Regeneration Christchurch, which would be jointly developed and designed with Christchurch City Council.</p>	<p><b>Chapter 5: Driving the central city rebuild</b></p>
<p><b>Question</b> – Do you think that the proposed arrangements for the central city will create the ‘step-change’ needed to drive community and business confidence and investment in the central city?</p>	<p><b>Chapter 5: Driving the central city rebuild</b></p>
<p><b>Question</b> – Are there other changes needed to build confidence and encourage investment in the central city recovery?</p>	<p><b>Chapter 5: Driving the central city rebuild</b></p>
<p><b>Proposal</b> – Overall leadership and coordination of the recovery will be the responsibility of local institutions primarily local authorities and Te Rūnanga o Ngāi Tahu.</p>	<p><b>Chapter 6: New recovery arrangements</b></p>
<p><b>Proposal</b> – Support for community-led recovery activities that focus on community resilience will be the responsibility of local authorities (Christchurch City Council, Waimakariri District Council and Selwyn District Council) for their respective communities.</p>	<p><b>Chapter 6: New recovery arrangements</b></p>
<p><b>Question</b> – What are your views on the proposal for regular monitoring and public reporting on priority areas in order to hold agencies accountable for addressing recovery issues?</p>	<p><b>Chapter 8: Recovery reporting</b></p>
<p><b>Question</b> – In your opinion, is there a better way to report on these recovery issues?</p>	<p><b>Chapter 8: Recovery reporting</b></p>

## 2 Overview of submissions

In total 2,809 submissions were received resulting in 9,651 feedback points/comments. Table 1 and figures 2 and 3 below show the breakdown of submissions and feedback points received by type.

A number of duplicate submissions were made by individuals submitting more than once across the different submission types. Where this is picked up, the feedback point was captured once and not repeated for each of the duplicate submissions received.

Table 1: Breakdown of submissions and feedback points received by type

Type	Submissions	Feedback points
ActionStation website	2,491	8,191
Email	134	830
Facebook	61	64
Hardcopy / written	20	160
Online	103	406
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>2,809</b>	<b>9,651</b>

Figure 2: Breakdown of submissions by type

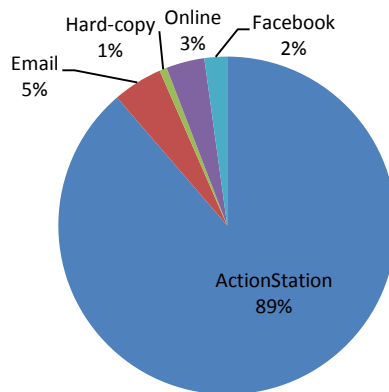
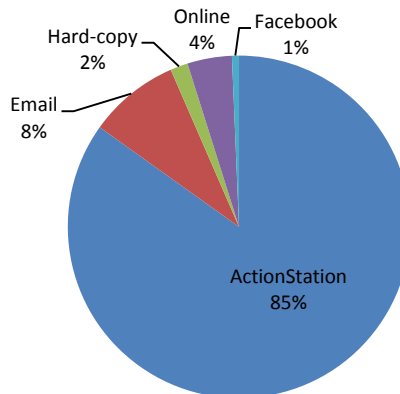


Figure 3: Breakdown of feedback points by type



The majority of submissions received were proforma (the same feedback submitted individually) made via an automated submission form available on the ActionStation website. ActionStation is a New Zealand wide not-for-profit organisation which helps community groups and individuals engage in political decisions. The submission form left space for individuals to contribute any additional thoughts of their own regarding the Draft Recovery Plan. The ActionStation submissions covered three main points:

- The Minister should not have the ability to amend relevant plans and bylaws directly;
- Support a locally-led recovery in Christchurch; and
- Any new agency needs to be run by the Council, community groups or an independent board that can act without ministerial influence.

A large proportion of the comments received were not directly related to the specific proposals or questions asked in the Draft Recovery Plan. The broad themes emerging from submissions included:

- Frustration at the apparent lack of transparency and consultation during the recovery to date including the view that more consultation with the people of Christchurch is needed
- A lack of trust in central government
- The need to resolve insurance issues
- Frustration at delays and the perceived lack of progress in the recovery
- Requests for a focus on the residential rebuild and infrastructure repairs, particularly in the eastern suburbs, rather than a focus on Anchor Projects
- Disillusionment that the vision of the council/community-led 'Share an Idea' and Blueprint has not been realised by central government
- Consider it is time the future use of the residential red zone is determined and that this is done in consultation with the community
- That the community needs to be returned access to the residential red zone.

## 2.1 Legal framework for ongoing recovery

The following section summarises feedback on the proposed new legislation to support recovery works that will continue after the CER Act expires in April 2016. In particular, it captures responses provided on:

**Question** – Do you have any views on the powers and provisions that will be needed in the new legislation to support regeneration?

For those submitting specifically on the legal framework, the need for new legislation to support the ongoing recovery following the expiry of the CER Act in April 2016 was generally supported. Many submitters suggested that the powers and provisions should be limited; with some suggestions for the revocation of particular provisions in their entirety. For example, the Christchurch City Council:

*...submits such powers should be limited to those required to support the regeneration of the city and address outstanding issues such as acquiring and disposing of surplus land where these are not otherwise provided for in existing legislation. (Christchurch City Council, 2475)*

In the main, the proposed geographic scope and the proposed five year timeframe, subject to a review after three years, were supported. It was also signalled that there is a need for a collaborative governance arrangement through the involvement of the Strategic Partners, including recognition in the new legislation of the ongoing role of Te Rūnanga o Ngāi Tahu in the recovery:

*the new legislative framework should also reflect the Treaty Partnership that Te Rūnanga o Ngāi Tahu holds with the Crown. Te Rūnanga o Ngāi Tahu have an expectation that the Crown will honour Te Tiriti o Waitangi and the principles upon which Te Tiriti is founded. (Te Rūnanga o Ngāi Tahu, 2485)*



Some submitters, including the focus groups, sought more detail on what was being proposed for the new legislation and what CERA would do with the powers and provisions specified.

Across all feedback points (not just those made on the proposal for new legislation), there was a strong view that:

- final say on what happens in the city should be made by the local community
- that local institutions and the community should have more autonomy
- that it was time for a return to local democracy.

A small number of submitters commented specifically that there needs to be the ability to appeal decisions to ensure appropriate 'checks and balances' are in place.

As an alternative to new legislation, a number of submitters considered that standard processes, for example those under the Resource Management Act 1991 and the Local Government Act 2002 should resume and that the extraordinary CER Act powers are no longer valid or necessary; that the need for extraordinary Crown intervention has lessened.

There was some concern at the amount of power the Minister has under existing arrangements. Some suggested that powers under new legislation should no longer rest with a single Minister (suggestions ranged from more than one to three Ministers), or should extend also to the Mayor to show partnership moving forward.

### **Legal framework for land ownership**

The majority of feedback on the powers currently held by CERA's Chief Executive called for these powers not to be carried through into the new legislation in respect to being able to acquire, hold, mortgage, lease, dispose of, amalgamate, subdivide, improve and develop land on behalf of the Crown. Suggestions included that these powers should only be able to be used when they are consistent with, and enable the implementation of, a shared vision for land agreed by communities and local institutions.

Comments were also made that any decisions about the future use of land must be made in full consultation with citizens and with the agreement from the relevant local authority. It was generally felt that whatever is built on this land must meet the needs of the people and the communities surrounding it.

### **Recovery works**

Of the submissions made with respect to the powers to allow recovery works, including demolitions to continue, the strong majority related to concerns at the destruction of heritage buildings and decisions which are considered not in the best interests of Christchurch. Specifically, it was requested that section 38 of the CER Act (relating to the ability of the Chief Executive of CERA to carry out or commission works) must be expired, with the example of the Christchurch Cathedral used.

Views expressed included that the community needs to be able to have more of a say in the demolition of buildings and that this was best achieved by reinstating the regime under standard Resource Management Act 1991 processes.

### **Recovery Plans**

Most of the feedback received was in support of the powers to allow new Recovery Plans (now to be called Regeneration Plans) to be developed, for existing Recovery Plans to continue to have statutory force, and for the revocation of these Recovery Plans:

*support for the 'development of new 'Regeneration Plans' and ongoing statutory force for existing Recovery Plan, recognising that the necessary 'lifetime' of any such plan will need to be determined on a case by case basis...so long as significant regard is given by the respective Minister to the views of the strategic partners in exercising powers which impact local authority functions and statutory documents (Greater Christchurch Urban Development Strategy Partnership, 2470)*

The Christchurch City Council suggested that this no longer be at the discretion of the Minister.

*The Council's view is that it is no longer necessary for the Minister to have the discretionary power to direct the Council to develop a recovery plan. At this stage of the recovery, the Council believes it is in a better position than the government to determine how to deal with "any social, economic, cultural or environmental" solution sought by the Council's community and "any particular infrastructure, work or activity" that may be required. (Christchurch City Council, 2475)*

It was stated by one submitter that:

*Any new plans for the recovery/ regeneration of areas within the legislation's area of influence must be developed in full partnership between the relevant government agencies and councils, particularly as they have statutory authority and affect regional, district and city planning documents. There should also be 'Regeneration Plans' that are more reflective of, and driven by, the needs of particular communities so that more people feel their voices are heard and needs met in this next stage of recovery/ regeneration; this is more than meeting their psychosocial and wellbeing needs. Regeneration Plans should now be driven by local councils with the requirement to work in partnership with Ngāi Tahu. (Submitter 2503)*

### **Section 27 powers**

Section 27 of the CER Act provides the Minister for Canterbury Earthquake Recovery with the power to suspend, amend or revoke the whole or any part of a range of documents (including a council's district plan or a regional policy statement or plan) so far as they relate to any area within greater Christchurch.

Comments on the use of section 27 were a key theme of submissions made through the ActionStation website:

*The Minister should not have the ability to amend relevant plans and directly.*

Of the other submission points made with respect to the use of section 27, it was strongly considered that the Minister should not have the ability to amend documents (including plans) directly. Alternatively, it was suggested that any powers to be retained under section 27 should only be implemented at the request of local authorities.

Environment Canterbury indicated that they see a need for section 27 powers to continue. Both Environment Canterbury and the Christchurch City Council consider that the use of section 27 needs to be restricted.

*The Council proposes these powers should only be exercised at the request, and for the benefit, of the affected local authorities for a purpose that complies with the new Bill. The powers must be exercised jointly by the relevant Minister in conjunction with the Minister of Local Government. (Christchurch City Council, 2475)*

*It is proposed that when the Minister is developing a Regeneration Plan or exercising powers under s27 he be required to consult strategic partners and have particular regard to their views. Environment Canterbury suggests that the vehicle for seeking those views is the UDSIC. (Environment Canterbury, 2452)*

## Consultative processes

There was significant support for greater consultation across all aspects of the future recovery.

A large proportion of the submissions commenting on the Community Forum considered that it was not representative or accountable to communities. There was concern expressed at the transparency of the discussions held by the Community Forum.

It was suggested that when the portfolio of the Minister for Canterbury Earthquake Recovery expires, that the Community Forum should also be disbanded. One submitter suggested that it is time to revisit the role of the Community Forum to determine whether it continues to exist, or its role modified.

## 2.2 Central City rebuild

The Draft Recovery Plan sought feedback on the following two questions and one proposal relating to recovery of the central city.

**Proposal** – Responsibility for regeneration functions carried out by CERA will transfer to a new entity possibly named Regeneration Christchurch, which would be jointly developed and designed with Christchurch City Council.

**Question** – Do you think that the proposed arrangements for the central city will create the ‘step-change’ needed to drive community and business confidence and investment in the central city?

**Question** – Are there other changes needed to build confidence and encourage investment in the central city recovery?

Answers provided to these questions covered discussion on how to encourage investment, along with comments on the progress of the anchor projects, and thoughts on the new entity proposed to manage the central city recovery going forward. More general comments on the central city recovery were also received.

### Investment and business confidence

The majority of submitters considered that the proposal arrangements for the central city would not create the ‘step-change’ needed to drive community and business confidence and investment in the central city.

Most submitters on this topic strongly felt that investment and business confidence would be created if the central city recovery was led by a locally-based entity. Most submitters therefore did not necessarily disagree that the creation of a new ‘Regenerate Christchurch’-type entity would encourage investment and business confidence. Rather, the key point raised was that this entity would be far more successful if it was locally operated. There was a lack of confidence that this entity would succeed if it was continued to be run at a central government level.

Many comments stated that local ownership and buy-in of the central city recovery would ensure that a more sustainable and organic recovery would be made.

Some submitters did however recognise that some level of central government involvement would need to continue in order to encourage investment:

*Given the mix of accountabilities for anchor projects between local and central government, having an aligned delivery vehicle and governance model is important to ensure momentum is maintained. (Submitter 7).*

Many submitters considered that attracting small and medium commercial and hospitality businesses to the city centre, along with promoting inner city residential living, is the key to ensuring that investors would be attracted to the central city. This was generally promoted as a greater priority than a single focus on the larger anchor projects. Suggestions were made that building a community-focused and sustainable city centre, along with the focus on timely delivery of the key anchor projects, would encourage investor confidence:

*Investors are more likely to invest if they can also be confident that the developments proposed are accepted by people, are sustainable and are good fits for a 21st century urban entity (Submitter 2503).*

Another point made by several submitters was that a single point of contact for investment attraction established by a local agency would assist with investor confidence, through reducing confusion, duplication and inconsistencies.

A small number of submitters did raise a question regarding how to react to the shift of commercial and cultural activity to the suburbs that occurred after the earthquakes. Some suggested that this change in urban form should be embraced, and that one central hub for the city should be discarded.

### **Anchor projects**

Many comments were received that specifically related to the progression and necessity of the anchor projects within the central city. Of these comments, the majority expressed concern that these were becoming too expensive and were taking too long to be completed. The delay in the completion of these projects was seen as being a factor in stalling business certainty.

Concerns were also expressed that the financial burden of operating and maintaining these projects would eventually fall on local ratepayers. Several submitters called for more central government funding for these projects if the central government wishes to continue building these.

A small number of comments, mainly from local business owners, expressed support for the anchor projects in assisting with attracting business investment in the central city. Most of these submitters still agreed however, that the construction of these anchor projects needs to be conducted in a timelier manner.

In terms of the necessity of these anchor projects, the majority of submitters also questioned the priority of these projects over more basic needs of the community at this time. Many stated that more focus needs to be given to sustainable, locally-led economic and recreational development in the city centre, rather than focussing on major projects that the community may not consider to be as valuable:

*Regeneration allows us as a city to focus on the intention of the Anchor Projects — and that was always to enliven or catalyse the spaces in between. As a city we all have a direct interest in what is the public realm, the commons, the places where people participate in public life... (Christchurch City Council, 2475).*

Many strongly commented that the priority should be to ensure that the community is adequately housed, with all properties reconnected to operating infrastructure. This was particularly the case stated for the Eastern Suburbs. Regaining access to the red zoned land was also considered a priority, along with the development and improvement in amenity of these zones. There was a clear indication that these matters should be the focus for a regenerating city, before large and costly anchor projects were given attention.

There was also comment made that the review of the recovery process being undertaken should also include a review of the 'Blueprint' plan, developed for the central city shortly after the earthquakes. Comments were that this document should be organic, and subject to regular reviews to ensure that it continues to reflect the needs and wants of the community.

### **A new regeneration entity**

The majority of submitters appear to be in support of a new entity to lead regeneration. Most of the submitters that commented on this topic were strongly in favour of this entity being led locally and completely independent from central government, either within the Christchurch City Council or by local community groups. Several submitters mentioned that this entity would need to be led by appropriately skilled people with commercial knowledge. It would also need adequate funding and be given the legal status in order to action decisions. A key concern was that this entity would need to be separate from any political agenda.

Some submitters did comment that, in order to promote continuity, it would be beneficial for the entity to employ personnel previously employed by CERA.

*The Canterbury Development Corporation supports the proposed approach of the Central Government involvement in the Central City rebuild being limited to completing projects it is funding through a new entity, with responsibility for planning and investment functions left to local entities to deliver. This recognises that commitment and completion of public sector projects is a catalyst for private sector investment and that investment attraction is a separate function to Central Government funding and completing its own projects. (Canterbury Development Corporation, 2112).*

Some submitters were of the strong opinion that CERA and CCDU should not lead the central city rebuild from here onwards. It was considered that inadequate success has been achieved in the last five years. It was stated that any new entity should not be a 'rebranded CCDU'. It must be a completely new entity with a new focus, new governance and new people.

In terms of functions, several submitters supported a single point of contact for investment attraction in the central city as a good way to minimise confusion, duplication and inconsistencies.

### **General comments**

Many general comments state concern that the recovery of the central city should not be managed in isolation to the rest of the city and surrounding townships. It is strongly felt that a new entity should consider the regeneration of the city and greater Christchurch area as a whole in order to ensure that the central city is sustainably connected with the rest of the city and region.

Another common general comment on the central city recovery was that too much emphasis is seemingly placed on commercial recovery. It was stated that cultural and social recovery within the central city is just as important in ensuring that the area has high amenity and is 'owned' by the community as part of their identity. One submitter emphasised that, in addition to the business hub of the city, the central city is also the 'civic heart' of the city, a place where all members of the community feel they are welcome and that they belong.

In summary, the majority of general comments emphasise that there is a strong desire for more local community involvement in the regeneration of the central city, and that this local involvement will be a key factor in bringing life back to the city centre, therefore organically attracting investment and business growth:

*Resuming a community led, accountable and transparent local decision making process (election) will restore confidence (and encourage investment). Working towards return of local elected authority should drive the actions of government at every step and will also help ensure local business has a stronger voice in local recovery. (Submitter 2559).*

## 2.3 New recovery arrangements

This section provides an overview of submissions on the proposals in Chapter 6 of the Draft Recovery Plan for new arrangements for recovery work that need to continue (other than arrangements for the central city):

**Proposal** – Overall leadership and coordination of the recovery will be the responsibility of local institutions primarily local authorities and Te Rūnanga o Ngāi Tahu.

**Proposal** – Support for community-led recovery activities that focus on community resilience will be the responsibility of local authorities (Christchurch City Council, Waimakariri District Council and Selwyn District Council) for their respective communities.

A consistent theme coming through submissions was the preference for a return to local democracy and the withdrawal of central government. A common comment on the new recovery arrangements was for the Christchurch City Council to be responsible with support from central government as a partner. Strong emphasis was placed on the need for power to be given back to the people of Christchurch to make decisions and to have input and that communities need to be at the forefront of creating post-earthquake Christchurch.

*As representatives of the city, we offer our reassurance that we are ready to provide the leadership that is required – a style of leadership that is both engaging and inclusive – knowing that our communities are ready, willing and able to partner with us to ensure the regeneration of the city as a whole... The Council agrees it is time for a transition back to local leadership and decision making... Through the Long Term Plan (and other public processes, such as the Victoria Square regeneration) the Council heard from the public of Christchurch that they want to be involved in decision-making... We don't have the capacity as a city to do everything at once and nor can we do it alone, but we are ready to step up to the challenge (Christchurch City Council, 2475)*

*Decisions should be made locally, by elected representatives accountable to the ratepayers (Submitter 586)*

Overall, the proposal for local authorities to be responsible for community-led recovery activities was supported. There was one suggestion that there needs to be recognition of the partnership with the Canterbury District Health Board in respect of psychosocial recovery.

The majority of submitters recognised the role of Te Rūnanga o Ngāi Tahu in the governance and leadership arrangements for the rebuilding and recovery of greater Christchurch.

### Other central government agencies

Chapter 6 of the Draft Recovery provided an overview of the Government's decisions that have already been made about how ongoing central government-led recovery functions will be delivered. While feedback was not directly sought on these points, a high-level summary of the matters made in submissions has been provided.

While it was acknowledged by a number of submitters that there is need for ongoing involvement of central government in the recovery, there was a view that there should be as few government agencies involved as possible. A concern was that recovery functions should not be split amongst a number of agencies and that roles and responsibilities will need to be clear to avoid overlap and duplication.

*The UDS Partnership broadly supports the intention that Government's role in key recovery work beyond the short-term transitions, wherever possible, from CERA to local government and to central government departments and agencies with aligned functions (Greater Christchurch Urban Development Strategy, 2470).*



It was recommended that it will be important for any inheriting government agency to work collaboratively with local institutions to ensure their work is integrated within a shared long-term strategy and planning framework for greater Christchurch.

A small number of comments were made on the functions proposed for specific government agencies. One submitter recommended that the functions proposed for the Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment, including leading work on monitoring procurement of the public sector rebuild and responsibility for CERA's residential rebuild work, could become part of the Christchurch City Council or another agency (Regenerate Christchurch for example).

Generally, there was in principle support for the Ministry of Health to be responsible for psychosocial recovery.

A small number of submitters considered that Land Information New Zealand was not the appropriate agency to have responsibility for interim land management in the residential red zone.

## 2.4 Residual central government functions

Chapter 7 of the Draft Transition Recovery Plan sets out the decisions that have been made on the residual recovery responsibilities to be held by central government following the disestablishment of CERA. Although decisions have been made, submissions did nonetheless discuss this aspect of the recovery. For completeness, the comments relevant to this topic are summarised below.

Comments made specifically on the move of functions to the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet were varied. Some agreed with the need for a continued centralised body to oversee certain functions, and to keep the recovery process a priority for central government.

*Te Rūnanga supports central government functions are maintained in areas of advising ministers, completing short-term critical recovery work and the ability to assess whether another phase of transition is needed post regeneration. The recovery should remain as one of the government's top priorities until at least the next review period (Te Rūnanga o Ngāi Tahu, 2485)*

One submission questioned how these residual powers would be managed, and how much power there would be to override local decisions. This submitter was also concerned with how these residual powers would be conducted while being subject to what they consider varying political party ideologies. Other comments disagreed with the 'splintering' of responsibilities, stating that the people of Christchurch deserve to deal with one accessible and transparent agency. The concern was raised that this decision should not have been made prior to undertaking consultation.

In terms of the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet's role in managing the red zone land, it was a general statement that this should be returned to local management with restrictions on access lifted. Local management was considered to be the best approach for determining the future use of red zone; ensuring it was seen as a resource for the city. One submission was concerned that there would be a conflict of interest where the agency responsible for demolitions is also responsible for determining compensation for damages resulting from demolitions.

Acknowledgments were however made at times that there was a place for central government involvement in managing the red zone land, at least in the near future.

*Access needs to be allowed back into the red zone land to progress recovery. We acknowledge that Central Government has invested considerable public monies in the red zoning processes and must be significantly involved in decision making processes with regard to this land. However we also*

*acknowledge the enormous lifetime investment communities have in these lands and the environments in which they lie. It is time that central government also acknowledged the latter and enabled local people a meaningful, accessible, inclusive and influential say in the future of these lands so that they become once again an integral part of our communities rather than simply part of the Crown estate. (Avon-Otakaro Network, 2114)*

## 2.5 Recovery reporting

The following provides an overview of the feedback received to:

**Question** – What are your views on the proposal for regular monitoring and public reporting on priority areas in order to hold agencies accountable for addressing recovery issues?

**Question** – In your opinion, is there a better way to report on these recovery issues?

Overall, respondents generally supported the proposal for regular monitoring and public reporting on priority areas in order to hold agencies accountable for addressing recovery issues. It was suggested by one submitter that the priorities must also include measures of cultural and environmental recovery and regeneration. This was further reflected in Environment Canterbury's submission which stated that:

*A component of 'Improving people's wellbeing' is ensuring we have a healthy environment. Environment Canterbury would be able to contribute to this aspect of monitoring and reporting by identifying indicators and providing data and information (Environment Canterbury, 2452)*

Additional suggestions were made through the focus group meetings for example, it was considered there is a lack of analysis about the 'current state of play', not enough information about the structure and wellbeing of the population of Christchurch, and no analysis or monitoring of the future of Christchurch and the challenges it faces. It was also suggested that monitoring will need to include a stronger understanding of the economic profile of the region.

There was a strong level of support expressed for better communication and for greater transparency and accountability, particularly by central government. There was a lot of focus on ensuring that information is accessible, meaningful and accurate and should primarily be for the purpose of informing the people of Christchurch, not just for the media and central government:

*Monitoring and reporting must be meaningful and allow for community feedback regularly (Submitter 2115)*

*Reporting must be fully publicly accessible. The data must be accurate and relevant and also sufficiently broken down to be useful for smaller communities (Submitter 2505)*

There was a strong view coming through submissions that there was a need for more consultation with the citizens of Christchurch. By way of example:

*there is a significant level of frustration and disillusionment felt by people in Christchurch regarding the lack of transparency and consultation during the rebuild process to date, and particularly the way the Crown has pushed ahead with projects such as the convention centre and the other anchor projects while many communities in the east of Christchurch have become increasingly disempowered and disengaged. This is having a detrimental impact on individuals, families, community and businesses and needs to be addressed (Submitter 2505)*



In some submissions it was suggested that reporting should be consistent and in the same format:

*Good reporting in a consistent format will enable actual progress to be seen to be happening, not just talked up. Reporting should be in the same report format month after month with previous history and forecasted happenings. The information should be made available on a web site so all media and everyone else get the same data (Submitter 2553)*

Of the feedback provided on recovery reporting, a small number considered that monitoring and reporting should be the responsibility of the Christchurch City Council, rather than any central government agency:

*The Council has shown it is capable of reporting and keeping the public informed in a consultative manner (Submitter 1732)*

*The Christchurch City Council does a better job of informing and consulting with the people of Christchurch than central government and is more accessible to communities in eastern Christchurch (Submitter 2505)*

Examples of the reasons provided included that it was considered that the Council had a better appreciation of the issues facing the community and that there was a general feeling of more trust if information came from the Council rather than from central government. It was also suggested by one submitter that Environment Canterbury presentations and meetings provide a good example of good information sharing.

An alternative view was also provided indicating there was a need for better coordination between central government and the Christchurch City Council. It was also suggested by some submitters for the Minister for Canterbury Earthquake Recovery to be more public available to report of progress.

The responses opposing the proposal for regular monitoring and public reporting on priority areas indicated the desire for less reporting and monitoring and more action.

## Appendix A: Focus Groups

The location and nature of focus groups undertaken to further inform CERA's consideration of matters relevant to the Recovery Plan are provided below.

Table 2: Details of focus group meetings

Group	Target Audience	Number of attendees
1 Christchurch Residents	Older residents	9 residents
2 Christchurch Residents	Younger residents	9 residents
3 Wellington Business	Larger business managers/decision-makers	5 business owners and managers in the construction and retail sectors
4 Auckland Business	Larger business managers/decision-makers	2 business owners and managers in the interior commercial and residential fit out sector and geotechnical consultancy services
5 Christchurch Business	SME business managers/decision-makers	8 business owners and managers from the construction and retail sectors based in Christchurch

## Appendix B: Data collection framework

All submissions were entered into TeamView Consult which is an internet based database that allows submissions to be summarised and categorised into feedback points (or parts). The database enables the points raised through submissions to be analysed by topic/key theme and by submitter.

Each feedback point was categorised into themes identified from the content of the Draft Recovery Plan. It should be noted that comments were not made on all of the potential themes allowed for in the database. The table below shows the breakdown of themes used to categorise submissions in the database.

Theme	Sub-Theme
Roles and Responsibilities	CERA
	Central Government
	Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment
	Ministry of Social Development
	Ministry of Health
	Land Information New Zealand
	Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet
	Christchurch City Council
	Environment Canterbury
	Local authorities – other
	Te Rūnanga o Ngāi Tahu
	Private Sector
	Non-Government Organisations (NGOs)
	Communities
Roles and Responsibilities – other	
Legal Framework	Powers/provisions needed
	Powers/provisions that should expire
	Timeframes
	New legislation - general
	Recovery Strategy
	Recovery Plans
	Christchurch Replacement District Plan
	New regeneration entity
	Heritage
Central City	Coordination
	Anchor projects
	Investment/business confidence
	Planning/consenting/regulatory framework
	Central City – other
Community wellbeing	Psychosocial recovery
	Quality of life
	Community wellbeing - general
Residential rebuild	Port Hills
	Eastern Suburbs
	Red zone – general
	Red zone – future use

Theme	Sub-Theme
	Planning/consenting/regulatory framework – residential Emergency housing Temporary accommodation Residential – other
Recovery works	Horizontal infrastructure Transport Infrastructure Public sector rebuild
Funding/procurement	Funding- general Funding Central Government Funding Local Government Procurement
Monitoring/Reporting	Monitoring/reporting – Communication Monitoring/reporting – General
Consultation	Consultation
Culture	
General	Insurance General – General General Governance
Out of Scope	