



Proactive Release

The following document has been proactively released by the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet (DPMC), and National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA) on behalf of Hon Kiri Allan, Minister for Emergency Management:

South Island Severe Weather Event: Update and Report Back

The following document has been included in this release:

Title of minute: South Island Severe Weather Event: Update and Report Back (*CAB-21-MIN-0293 refers*)

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Cabinet

Minute of Decision

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Additional Item: South Island Severe Weather Event: Update and Report Back

Portfolio **Emergency Management**

On 2 August 2021, Cabinet:

- 1 **noted** that a heavy rainfall event between 15 and 18 July 2021 in the South Island caused significant flooding in the West Coast, Marlborough and Tasman regions;
- 2 **noted** that 3,982 people were initially evacuated in Marlborough and Westport, and that an estimated 300 people in Buller require longer-term accommodation;
- 3 **noted** that building assessments have concluded that 70 buildings were severely damaged (Red) and 393 buildings were moderately damaged (Yellow) in Westport;
- 4 **noted** the update from the Acting Minister for Emergency Management on the situation in the affected areas and the response and recovery activities to date;
- 5 **noted** that the Group of Ministers authorised by Cabinet to have Power to Act over the July 2021 adjournment period [CAB-21-MIN-0282]:
 - 5.1 approved a government contribution of \$300,000 to the Buller District Council Mayoral Relief Fund;
 - 5.2 approved an advance of \$1.0 million to the Buller District Council to help meet immediate response costs;
- 6 **noted** that the Marlborough District Council has also received a Mayoral Relief Fund contribution of \$100,000;
- 7 **noted** that the Ministry for Primary Industries has classified the event as a medium-scale adverse event, providing \$200,000 in funding for flood affected farmers and growers in the affected regions;
- 8 **noted** that the Minister for Social Development and Employment has announced \$500,000 in Task Force Green funding to employ job seekers to help farmers and growers clear debris and complete clean-up work in Buller and Marlborough;
- 9 **noted** that the Buller District's recovery is likely to require long-term and ongoing support from the government;

- 10 **invited** the Acting Minister for Emergency Management, in consultation with other relevant portfolio Ministers, to provide a further update for Cabinet on 9 August 2021 on the housing situation in Westport following the floods and the accommodation options, including consideration of the wider matters relating to insurance cover, flood risk and relocation issues.

Michael Webster
Secretary of the Cabinet

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