



**National Emergency  
Management Agency**  
Te Rākau Whakamarumarū



**DEPARTMENT OF THE  
PRIME MINISTER AND CABINET**  
TE TARI O TE PIRIMIA ME TE KOMITI MATUA

## **Proactive Release**

The following Cabinet minute has been proactively released by the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet, and National Emergency Management Agency, on behalf of Rt Hon Jacinda Ardern, Prime Minister, and Hon Peeni Henare, Minister of Civil Defence:

Additional Item: Whakaari/White Island Volcanic Eruption: Update

Date of release: 21 February 2020

The following documents has been included in this release:

***Title of Minute: Additional Item: Whakaari/White Island Volcanic Eruption: Update  
(CAB-19-MIN-0692 refers)***

No information has been withheld.



# Cabinet

## Minute of Decision

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*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.*

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### Additional Item: Whakaari/White Island Volcanic Eruption: Update

**Portfolio**                      **Prime Minister/ Civil Defence**

On 16 December 2019, Cabinet:

- 1        **noted** that a volcanic eruption on Whakaari/White Island on 9 December 2019 resulted in multiple fatalities and serious injuries to tourists and others visiting the island;
- 2        **noted** the update on the situation and impacts following the eruption from the Prime Minister, Minister of Health and the Minister of Civil Defence;
- 3        **agreed** that Hon Nanaia Mahuta be the lead Minister for coordinating the government response in respect of matters arising from the eruption on Whakaari/White Island, working with relevant Ministers;
- 4        **invited** Hon Nanaia Mahuta to update Cabinet on a regular basis on the progress in the government response and any issues arising;
- 5        **noted** that further consideration will be given in the new year to whether a formal inquiry will be needed into matters relating to the eruption on Whakaari/White Island in addition to the current investigations being undertaken;
- 6        **noted** that Cabinet has also agreed to establish a tagged operating contingency of up to \$5.0 million to provide for any potential emerging business support packages for Whakatāne due to the eruption (and also for Westland due to the recent adverse weather event) [CAB-19-MIN-0691].

Michael Webster  
Secretary of the Cabinet

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**Hard-copy distribution:**

Prime Minister  
Deputy Prime Minister  
Hon Nanaia Mahuta  
Minister of Civil Defence