



Cabinet Extreme Weather Recovery Committee

Minute of Decision

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Continuing to Respond to Immediate Needs of Communities and Community Providers Impacted by Recent Flooding and Cyclone Gabrielle

Portfolio **Social Development and Employment**

On 7 March 2023, the Cabinet Extreme Weather Recovery Committee, exercising its Power to Act in accordance with its terms of reference:

- 1 **noted** that on 13 February 2023, Cabinet agreed to a \$11.5 million fiscally neutral package, using Care in the Community welfare programme underspends, with certain funds to support communities and providers in Auckland and other regions impacted by recent flooding, until 30 June 2023 [CAB-23-MIN-0023];
- 2 **noted** that as at 3 March 2023, \$3.61 million of this \$11.5 million package has been committed;
- 3 **noted** that since Cabinet agreed to the \$11.5 million, further need has been identified due to the extensive impacts of Cyclone Gabrielle;
- 4 **noted** that the Food Fund and ring-fenced funding to address the needs of disabled people will likely be exhausted in the week beginning 6 March 2023;
- 5 **agreed** to further investment for the Food Fund of \$2 million;
- 6 **agreed** to broaden the scope of Care in Community disability providers in impacted regions to include supporting cyclone-impacted households;
- 7 **noted** that the caps placed on the Community Fund and the Provider Fund are impacting community responses to the recent flooding and Cyclone Gabrielle, and do not cover the extent of the support required;
- 8 **agreed** to the following increases to the Community and Provider Fund caps, included in the original \$11.5 million communities package:
 - 8.1 increase the cap for the Community Support Fund from \$3,500 and set as a range from \$3,500 - \$20,000;
 - 8.2 increase the cap for the Community Providers Response and Wellbeing Fund from \$7,000 to \$40,000;
- 9 **agreed** to provide \$0.5 million for short-term translation support for all-of-government engagement;

- 10 **directed** the Ministry of Social Development (MSD) to work with the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet’s Cyclone Recovery Unit on how to best to manage all-of-government communications and the coordination response going forward, and to report back to Cabinet on progress;
- 11 **noted** that while the current \$11.5 million package was sourced from MSD underspends within the Community Support Services MCA, this increased investment of \$2.5 million will be sought through MSD underspends from the Improved Employment and Social Outcomes Support MCA;
- 12 **approved** the following fiscally neutral adjustment to give effect to the above policy decisions, with no impact on the operating balance and/or net debt:

Vote Social Development Minister for Social Development and Employment	\$m – increase/(decrease)				
	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25	2025/26	2026/27 & Outyears
Multi-category Expenses and Capital Expenditure Improved Employment and Social Outcomes Support					
Departmental Output Expenses: Administering Income Support (funded by revenue Crown)	(2.500)	-	-	-	-
Multi-category Expenses and Capital Expenditure Community Support Services					
Non-Departmental Other Expenses: Community Response to Adverse or Emergency Events	2.500	-	-	-	-
Total Operating	-	-	-	-	-

- 13 **agreed** that the changes to appropriations for 2022/23 above be included in the 2022/23 Supplementary Estimates and that, in the interim, the increase be met from Imprest Supply.

Janine Harvey
Committee Secretary

Present: (see over)

Present:

Rt Hon Chris Hipkins
Hon Kelvin Davis
Hon Grant Robertson (Chair)
Hon Dr Megan Woods
Hon Michael Wood
Hon Willie Jackson
Hon Kiri Allan
Hon Stuart Nash
Hon Nanaia Mahuta
Hon Kieran McAnulty
Hon Barbara Edmonds
Hon Meka Whaitiri

Officials present from:

Office of the Prime Minister
Officials Committee for EWR
Chair of the Taskforce