

- 67 Actions set out under the Plan draw on funding from different sources. These include existing allocations, reprioritisation of existing funds, and funding secured through the North Island Weather Events omnibus budget process. Through the North Island Weather Events omnibus budget process, a tagged contingency of \$30 million was secured to support implementation of the Plan. Funding sources for each of the actions proposed are set out in the Plan.
- 68 As set out in this paper, I propose that the contingency funding be used to support actions set out under the Plan for which no funding stream has been identified. I consider that funding from this tagged contingency is best drawn down in two tranches, with the first tranche of \$20.65 million targeting short-medium term need, and a second tranche of \$9.35 million addressing medium-long term gaps. This paper seeks agreement to draw down the first tranche of funding from the tagged contingency.

Legislative Implications

- 69 There are no direct legislative implications arising from this paper.

Impact Analysis

Regulatory Impact Statement

- 70 There are no regulatory proposals in this paper, and therefore Cabinet’s impact analysis requirements do not apply.

Climate Implications of Policy Assessment

- 71 The Climate Implications of Policy Assessment (CIPA) team has been consulted and confirms that the CIPA requirements do not apply to this proposal as the threshold for significance is not met.

Population Implications

- 72 Social sector agencies will consider the specific needs of different population groups in the design, targeting and delivery of services, recognising that needs may be more complex for people who belong to multiple population groups. Agencies with a focus on specific population groups are a part of C4C and will be able to monitor and advise on the impacts on those particular groups as the Plan is implemented. Further detail on population impacts for specific groups is set out in the Plan.

Population group	How the proposal may affect this group
Māori	The affected regions have a high population of people of Māori descent, including rural Māori communities. Access to services tailored to the specific needs of Māori communities (including rural Māori communities, Māori agricultural businesses and landowners, and tāngata whaikaha Māori) will continue to be focuses for recovery.
Women	Areas where women, girls and marginalised groups may be disproportionately impacted include (but are not limited to) a lack of

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	transport, higher likelihood of job losses and more limited potential of realising the employment benefits resulting from the infrastructure rebuild (as women do not typically work in these sectors), an increase in unpaid work and the associated impacts on mental health that come with this, a more limited ability to relocate, an increase in family and sexual violence rates, and challenges in relation to access to healthcare.
Disabled people	Barriers to social dimensions will be exacerbated for disabled people, tāngata whaikaha Māori and whānau, such as where there are barriers to accessing supports or information or issues relating to isolation. The availability of suitable temporary accommodation and transport is often limited where people have physical access needs. Disabled people may also face challenges relating to continued access to carer services and access to power for critical equipment.
Young people	Interruption to schooling, training or work and other disruption to normality may have long-term consequences, including impacts on mental wellbeing.
Pacific peoples	Pacific families, businesses and communities in Northland, Auckland and Hawke’s Bay were amongst those greatly affected by flood and cyclone Gabrielle. Tailored approaches are required to support the social recovery of these communities.
Seniors	Labour shortages may impact care services and increase demand for respite care. Older people typically have less resilience to respond due to fixed incomes. Issues relating to isolation may be exacerbated.
Rural and isolated communities	Rural communities often live and work in the same place, meaning damage may affect them in multiple ways and may have greater emotional, mental and social costs than for those living in urban areas.
Ethnic communities	Diverse ethnic community members will require access to culturally and linguistically appropriate services, which will need additional investment and promotion. Ethnic communities are also likely to need ongoing culturally appropriate support.

Human Rights

73 The proposals in this paper are consistent with the New Zealand Bill of Rights Act 1990 and the Human Rights Act 1993.

Consultation

74 The following agencies have been informed of proposals in relation to the Plan: the Ministry of Education, Oranga Tamariki, the Ministry of Health, the Ministry for Ethnic Communities, the Social Wellbeing Agency, Whaikaha, the Department of Internal Affairs, Te Puni Kōkiri, the Ministry for Pacific Peoples, the Ministry of Housing and Urban Development, the Ministry for Women, Te

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Puna Aonui, the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet, the Treasury, the Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment, the Ministry for Primary Industries and Kāinga Ora.

Communications

75 I intend to announce this support following Cabinet endorsement and to make the Plan publicly available.

Proactive Release

76 I intend this Cabinet Paper to be proactively released within standard timeframes.

Recommendations

It is recommended that the Cabinet Extreme Weather Recovery Committee:

- 1 **note** the significant role that the social sector has played, and continues to play, in response to the North Island extreme weather events, supported by government investment;
- 2 **note** that there is a need to continue to provide and facilitate access to community and government social sector supports to support communities' longer-term recovery across all dimensions of wellbeing;
- 3 **note** that the Social Sector Recovery Plan (the Plan) provides a framework to guide activity and longer-term investment for social recovery and covers actions for the next two years;
- 4 **note** that in April 2023, joint Ministers, with delegated authority from Cabinet [CAB-23-MIN-0140 refers]:
 - 4.1 **agreed** to establish a tagged operating contingency for initiatives that will implement the Social Sector Recovery Plan to support communities, households and whānau in regions affected by the North Island extreme weather events of up to the following amounts to provide for this plan:

	\$million – increase/(decrease)				
	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25	2025/26	2026/27 & Outyears
All-of-Government Response – Social Sector Recovery Plan – tagged operating contingency		30.000			
Total		30.000			

- 4.2 **agreed** that the Minister for Social Development and Employment and the Minister of Finance (Joint Ministers) will jointly draw down the tagged operating contingency, subject to:
- 4.2.1 Cabinet's endorsement of the Social Sector Recovery Plan;
 - 4.2.2 Joint Ministers being satisfied that the initiatives to be funded from the tagged contingency established above do not duplicate existing support and that any risks are managed appropriately; and
 - 4.2.3 Joint Ministers being satisfied that the initiatives funded from the tagged contingency have appropriate report-back conditions.
- 4.3 **noted** the Ministry of Social Development will provide a report back to Joint Ministers on the use of funds allocated under the Social Sector Recovery Plan.
- 5 **note** that the Plan will facilitate a coordinated cross-agency response to social recovery;
- 6 **note** the working principles and assumptions that underpin the Plan (set out at **paragraph 34**), that have been developed with consideration of lessons learned from previous disaster responses;
- 7 **approve** the proposed Plan attached at **Appendix B**, noting that actions proposed under the Plan respond to areas of need that have been identified as requiring additional support for social recovery, and that this approval fulfils the requirement set out in recommendation 4.2.1 in relation to draw down of the tagged operating contingency;
- 8 **agree** that authority be delegated to the Minister for Social Development and Employment to make minor editorial changes to the Plan ahead of its publication;
- 9 **note** current funding, including through the North Island Weather Events Response and Recovery Package, that will support actions under the Plan, and actions for which gaps in funding have been identified (as set out in the Plan at **Appendix B**);
- 10 **agree** to draw down the first tranche of funding of \$20.65 million under the tagged contingency to fund the following actions:
- 10.1 Funding for community activities to support communities (particularly rural and isolated communities) to build optimism, increase their protective factors and build resilience through coming together (\$3 million);
 - 10.2 Targeted and time-bound personalised support and referral services for people impacted by land zoning changes (\$1.5 million);

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- 10.3 Fund additional support for akonga to catch up on lost learning post weather events (\$5 million);
 - 10.4 Fund for support for building resilience for community and/or Iwi organisations in *Hawke's Bay, Auckland and Tairāwhiti, linked to regional and local plans. The purpose of this fund is to build on identified strengths and protective factors to increase future resilience including preparedness for future events. Includes staff to administer (\$8.5 million);
 - 10.5 Additional support to build resilience and capacity in volunteers and community workers suffering burnout in Te Tai Tokerau, Auckland, Tairāwhiti, Hawke's Bay (\$1.5 million);
 - 10.6 Funding for groups outside of affected areas that have capacity or resource pressures from supporting people who have migrated from affected areas (\$0.5 million);
 - 10.7 Education/training for providers on how to support whānau, rangatahi and tamariki with rain anxiety and mental health concerns through upskilling, specific content and new resources for existing mental wellbeing programmes (MH101, Addiction 101 and Rural MH101) (\$0.15 million); and
 - 10.8 Provide translation, interpretation and other services to improve the accessibility including culturally appropriate and accessible formats (\$0.5 million).
- 11 **approve** the following changes to appropriations to give effect to the policy decisions in recommendations 10.1, 10.2, 10.4, 10.6 and 10.8 above, with a corresponding impact on the operating balance and net debt:

Vote Social Development Minister for Social Development and Employment	\$million – increase/(decrease)				
	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25	2025/26	2026/27 & Outyears
Multi-Category Expenses and Capital Expenditure:					
Community Support Services					
MCA					
Departmental Output Expenses:					
Developing and Managing Community Services (funded by revenue Crown)	-	0.500	-	-	-
Non-Departmental Other Expenses:					
Community Response to Adverse or Emergency Events	-	13.500	-	-	-
Total Operating		14.000			

*Note added - the geographical coverage for this action has been extended to cover any region affected by the North Island extreme weather events following agreement by the Cabinet Social Wellbeing Committee on 2 August 2023

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- 12 **approve** the following changes to appropriations to give effect to the policy decision in recommendation 10.3 above, with a corresponding impact on the operating balance and net debt:

	\$million – increase/(decrease)				
Vote Education Minister of Education	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25	2025/26	2026/27 & Outyears
Multi-Category Expenses and Capital Expenditure: Primary and Secondary Education MCA					
Non-Departmental Output Expenses:					
Primary Education	-	1.800	-	-	-
Secondary Education	-	3.200	-	-	-
Total Operating		5.000			

- 13 **approve** the following changes to appropriations to give effect to the policy decision recommendation 10.5 above, with a corresponding impact on the operating balance and net debt:

	\$million – increase/(decrease)				
Vote Internal Affairs Minister for the Community and Voluntary Sector	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25	2025/26	2026/27 & Outyears
Multi-Category Expenses and Capital Expenditure: Community Development and Funding Schemes MCA					
Non-Departmental Other Expense:					
Community and Volunteering Capability Fund	-	1.000	0.500	-	-
Total Operating	-	1.000	0.500	-	-

- 14 **approve** the following changes to appropriations to give effect to the policy decision recommendation 10.7 above, with a corresponding impact on the operating balance and net debt:

	\$million – increase/(decrease)				
Vote Health Minister of Health	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25	2025/26	2026/27 & Outyears
Non-Departmental Output Expense: Delivering Primary, Community, Public and Population Health Services	-	0.150	-	-	-
Total Operating	-	0.150	-	-	-

- 15 **agree** that the proposed changes to appropriations for 2023/24 above under recommendations 11, 12, 13 and 14 are included in the 2023/24 Supplementary Estimates and that, in the interim, the increases be met from Imprest Supply;

16 **agree** that the expenses incurred under recommendations 11, 12, 13 and 14 above be charged against the All-of-Government Response Social Sector Recovery Plan tagged operating contingency established as part of the North Island Weather Events Response and Recovery Package to support cyclone recovery described in recommendation 4.1 above;

17 **note** that, following the adjustment(s) detailed in recommendation 16 above, the All-of-Government Response Social Sector Recovery Plan tagged operating contingency will have a balance remaining of \$9.350 million;

18 s 9(2)(f)(iv) 

19 **note** that agencies will have responsibility for relevant actions proposed under the Plan, with oversight provided through the Caring for Communities (C4C) group of Chief Executives;

20 **note** that a cross-agency Funders' Forum, bringing together key agencies and Regional Public Service Commissioners and with oversight from C4C, will support regional coordination on actions to be funded under the Plan;

21 s 9(2)(f)(iv) 

Authorised for lodgement

Hon Carmel Sepuloni

Minister for Social Development and Employment

Appendix A: Government support to date to assist communities following the 2023 North Island extreme weather events

- 1 Government support for the social sector response to the 2023 North Island extreme weather events includes, but is not limited to:
 - 1.1 A \$14 million All-of-Government Community Support package, time-limited to 30 June 2023, to support communities and community providers in the areas affected by the North Island extreme weather events;
 - 1.2 More than \$65.8 million in Civil Defence Payments;
 - 1.3 A \$15 million Cyclone Gabrielle Māori Communities Response Fund, which provides funding for Māori-led responses which help prevent vulnerable whānau falling through the cracks, supporting a faster transition to recovery;
 - 1.4 \$5 million provided through Mayoral Relief Funds;
 - 1.5 The reprioritisation of \$3.25 million in funding to support the immediate mental health needs of those impacted by Cyclone Gabrielle;
 - 1.6 \$4 million in rural sector funding;
 - 1.7 Support for access to education and housing, including through the Temporary Accommodation Service;
 - 1.8 A Cyclone Gabrielle business and primary sector support recovery package of \$25 million; and
 - 1.9 Emergency relief through the Lottery Ministers Discretionary Fund, Emergency Natural Disaster Relief Fund and Community Organisation Grants Scheme.

Appendix B: The Social Sector Recovery Plan

[Please see separate attachment]