



**MINISTRY OF SOCIAL
DEVELOPMENT**

TE MANATŪ WHAKAHIATO ORA

15 March 2022

Dear

On 17 December 2021, you emailed the Ministry of Social Development (the Ministry) requesting, under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act), the following information:

- *Copies of documents provided to ministers since November 2020 relating to severe flooding events, including briefings, updates, aide memoires and reports. Please include the August 2021 aide memoire titled "Ministry response to West Coast Flooding" and the June 2021 document titled "Enhanced Taskforce Green to assist clean-up following Canterbury flooding."*

On 23 December 2021, you agreed to exclude Situational Reports from your request as the provision of these documents would have required further time to assess whether any interests are prejudiced by their release.

The Ministry has identified and enclosed the following documents as in scope of your request:

No.	File number	Date	Document type	Title	Decision and OIA Section(s)
1.	REP/21/6/576	2 June 2021	Report	Enhanced Taskforce Green to assist clean-up following Canterbury flooding	Release in part. Names of Ministry staff are redacted as 'out of scope'.
2.	REP/21/7/752	21 July 2021	Report	Rural Assistance Payments for South Island farmers and growers affected by drought and flooding in 2021	Release in part. Names of Ministry staff are redacted as 'out of scope'.
3.	REP/21/7/760	19 July 2021	Report	Enhanced Taskforce Green to assist clean-up following flooding in West Coast, Nelson/Tasman and Marlborough	Release in part. Names of Ministry staff are redacted as 'out of scope'.

No.	File number	Date	Document type	Title	Decision and OIA Section(s)
4.	REP/21/7/779	26 July 2021	Aide-memoire	Ministry response to West Coast flooding	Release in part. Names of Ministry staff are redacted as 'out of scope'.
5.	REP/21/7/789	28 July 2021	Aide-memoire	Ministry response to West Coast flooding	Release in part. Names of Ministry staff are redacted as 'out of scope'.
6.	REP/21/8/811	2 August 2021	Aide-memoire	Ministry response to West Coast flooding	Release in part. Names of Ministry staff are redacted as 'out of scope'.
7.	REP/21/8/820	4 August 2021	Aide-memoire	Ministry response to West Coast flooding	Release in part. Names of Ministry staff are redacted as 'out of scope'.
8.	REP/21/10/1118	13 October 2021	Aide-memoire	Climate Response Ministers Group Meeting 15 October	Release in part. s9(2)(b)(ii) s9(2)(f)(iv) Names of Ministry staff are redacted as 'out of scope'.

Please note that other events, such as flooding in West Auckland in August 2021 and in Tokomaru Bay in June 2021 have been excluded. While these events did cause damage and disruption for those involved, the resulting Ministry response was relatively small and would not generally be classified as a severe flooding event.

Aides-memoire such as the four documents about the West Coast flooding were not produced regarding the Canterbury and Napier flooding.

Names of Ministry staff below tier 4 are withheld as they are out of scope.

Some information is withheld under section 9(2)(b)(ii) of the Act as, if released, it would be likely to unreasonably prejudice the commercial position of the person who supplied or who is the subject of the information. The greater public interest is in ensuring that the commercial position can be maintained.

Some information is withheld under section 9(2)(f)(iv) of the Act as it is under active consideration. The release of this information is likely to prejudice the ability of government to consider advice and the wider public interest of effective government would not be served.

The principles and purposes of the Act under which you made your request are:

- to create greater openness and transparency about the plans, work and activities of the Government
- to increase the ability of the public to participate in the making and administration of our laws and policies
- to lead to greater accountability in the conduct of public affairs.

This Ministry fully supports those principles and purposes. The Ministry therefore intends to make the information contained in this letter and any attached documents available to the wider public. The Ministry will do this by publishing this letter on the Ministry of Social Development's website. Your personal details will be deleted and the Ministry will not publish any information that would identify you as the person who requested the information.

If you wish to discuss this response with us, please feel free to contact OIA_Requests@msd.govt.nz.

If you are not satisfied with this response you have the right to seek an investigation and review by the Ombudsman. Information about how to make a complaint is available at www.ombudsman.parliament.nz or 0800 802 602.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Magnus O'Neill', written in a cursive style.

Magnus O'Neill
General Manager
Ministerial and Executive Services



Report

Date: 2 June 2021

Security Level: IN CONFIDENCE

To: Hon Carmel Sepuloni, Minister for Social Development and Employment

Enhanced Taskforce Green to assist clean-up following Canterbury flooding

Purpose of the report

- 1 This report seeks your agreement to activate Enhanced Taskforce Green (ETFG) in Canterbury to assist with clean-up following recent flooding.

Recommended actions

It is recommended that you:

- 1 **note** flooding has occurred across the Canterbury region, causing significant damage and the clean-up required is likely to take more resource than what can be provided locally
- 2 **note** you have delegated authority to approve up to \$500,000 (excluding GST) per event for the use of ETFG to assist in clean-up operations following emergency events on the basis that funding is sourced from existing baselines
- 3 **note** MPI typically provides MSD with a needs assessment before we seek your approval to activate ETFG, however we recommend early approval of ETFG to provide certainty to the Canterbury community
- 4 **note** we will update you on the MPI needs assessment and other relevant information when it is available
- 5 **agree** to authorise the use of ETFG up to \$500,000 (excluding GST) for those affected by flooding in the Canterbury region

Agree / Disagree

- 6 **note** the costs of ETFG will be met through the Multi-Category Appropriation – Improving Employment and Social Outcomes Support

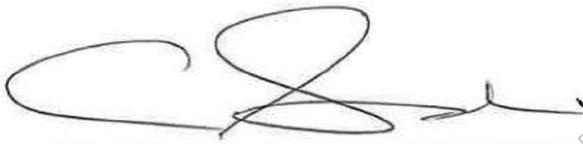
- 7 **note** that if additional funding over and above \$500,000 is required for ETFG, this would require Cabinet approval and MSD would need to consider whether any additional amount would be able to be met within baselines.



Megan Beecroft
Policy Manager, Employment Policy



Date



Hon Carmel Sepuloni
Minister for Social Development and Employment



Date

RELEASED UNDER THE OFFICIAL INFORMATION ACT

Flooding has caused significant damage in Canterbury

- 2 On Friday 28 May 2021, MetService issued a red warning for heavy rain across Canterbury, valid from 3pm Saturday to 11am Monday. Red warnings are reserved for only the most extreme weather events. Over that weekend, the region experienced heavy rainfall resulting in severe flooding, road closures, evacuations, power cuts, and rising rivers.
- 3 The Canterbury Civil Defence Emergency Management Group declared a state of local emergency on Sunday as the event has impacted several local councils (Hurunui, Waimakariri, Christchurch City, Selwyn, Ashburton and Timaru).
- 4 On Tuesday 1 June 2021, Agriculture Minister Damien O'Connor classified the Canterbury flooding event as medium scale under its Primary Sector Recovery Policy, making additional recovery measures available. This includes MSD Rural Assistance Payments, which we will provide further advice on separately. The decision to authorise Enhanced Taskforce Green (ETFG) remains at your discretion and is not reliant on MPI's classification of the event.
- 5 Minister O'Connor also announced further MPI funding of \$500,000 for flood recovery measures to help speed up the recovery of farming businesses. This funding includes wellbeing support and specialist technical advice.

Enhanced Taskforce Green can provide support during the clean-up in the aftermath of the flooding

- 6 When a significant adverse weather event or natural disaster occurs, ETFG can provide funding to employ job seekers to assist with the clean-up. ETFG can also be used to hire or purchase equipment and clothing needed for our clients to undertake the clean-up. Generally, clients (whether they have work or work preparation obligations or not) are eligible to participate if they are able to do the work required.
- 7 MSD's primary role within ETFG is to provide funding for the programme and to monitor expenditure related to that funding. The day to day management of the work associated with ETFG typically lies with the affected territorial authority or a contracted provider.
- 8 ETFG includes funding for:
 - full wages at the minimum wage for workers and above the minimum wage for workers in a supervisory role for a specific period of time under the programme
 - start-up grants for an approved provider to assist with the administration of ETFG (up to \$20,000)
 - the hire or purchase of personal safety and light equipment and the hire of transportation to take work crews to work sites.
- 9 Cabinet agreed on 3 July 2006 that the Minister for Social Development and Employment could authorise up to \$500,000 (excluding GST) per event for the use of ETFG to assist in clean-up activities that were required for emergencies [CAB Min (06) 24/3 refers].

We recommended authorising the use of ETFG for the clean-up efforts, up to \$500,000

- 10 MSD has been working closely with councils and communities in Canterbury. While the full extent of the clean-up required is unknown, early assessments indicate that there has been widespread damage to bridges, roads, farms, houses and garages. It is likely that work will be needed to clear silt and rubbish, fix fencing and clear stock feed.
- 11 Normally MPI provides MSD with a needs assessment which outlines the level of support required, before we seek your approval to activate ETFG. The needs assessment outlines the areas affected, the number of people affected and what type

of assistance is required. MSD's contracts with providers or territorial authorities are based on this needs assessment.

- 12 However, to provide certainty the community as soon as possible, we recommend that you authorise the use of ETFG up to \$500,000 (excluding GST). The exact amount provided will depend on the outcome of the needs assessment. This cost can be met within MSD's baselines. This will also allow MSD to implement ETFG as soon as possible.
- 13 If the needs assessment results in a cost of more than \$500,000 (for example, because more people are required), we will come back to you with further advice. Cabinet agreement would be required to provide additional funding over and above \$500,000 through ETFG. MSD would also need to consider whether any additional amount would be able to be met within baselines.
- 14 We have consulted with MPI on this report and they agree with our approach to seek your approval to activate ETFG while MPI's initial assessments are still in progress.
- 15 If you do not authorise ETFG, the costs of clean-up will be borne by individual councils and farmers.

Next steps

- 16 If you agree to activate ETFG, MSD will work with the local council, other agencies and the community in Canterbury to develop and implement a plan for implementing ETFG. MSD will also work closely with MPI on the recovery process to ensure that the work is well coordinated and supports other recovery activities.
- 17 An all of Government fact sheet is currently being produced, which will outline the supports available to those affected by the flooding event.

File ref: REP/21/6/576

Author: Out of scope, Senior Policy Analyst, Employment Policy

Responsible manager: Megan Beecroft, Policy Manager, Employment Policy



Report

Date: 21 July 2021

Security Level: IN CONFIDENCE

To: Hon Grant Robertson, Minister of Finance

Hon Carmel Sepuloni, Minister for Social Development and Employment

Hon Damien O'Connor, Minister of Agriculture

Rural Assistance Payments for South Island farmers and growers affected by drought and flooding in 2021

Purpose of the report

- 1 The Minister of Agriculture has classified the drought in Marlborough, Canterbury, Otago, and the Chatham Islands as a large-scale adverse event on 12 March 2021; the flooding in Canterbury as a medium-scale adverse event on 1 June 2021; and the flooding in Marlborough, Tasman and the West Coast as a medium-scale adverse event on 18 July 2021.
- 2 This report seeks your approval to provide Rural Assistance Payments (RAPs) to eligible farmers and growers in affected areas whose income has been so severely affected by the drought and/or flooding that they are unable to meet essential living expenses.

Recommended actions

It is recommended that you:

The Minister of Finance, the Minister for Social Development and Employment, and the Minister of Agriculture:

- 1 **note** that the Minister of Agriculture has classified the drought in Marlborough, Canterbury, Otago, and the Chatham Islands as a large-scale adverse event on 12 March 2021; the flooding in Canterbury as a medium-scale adverse event on 1 June 2021; and the flooding in Marlborough, Tasman and the West Coast as a medium-scale adverse event on 18 July 2021
- 2 **note** that the Ministry for Primary Industries estimates that up to 30 families involved in farming or growing in the affected areas may need the financial support of Rural Assistance Payments until 1 August 2022 to cover essential living costs and that this may cost up to \$413,000
- 3 **note** that the estimated duration for Rural Assistance Payments is dependent on impact of the drought and flooding on farmers and growers and an extension may be required at a later date

4 **note** that the Minister of Finance, the Minister for Social Development and Employment, and the Minister of Agriculture have delegated authority to jointly approve Rural Assistance Payments of up to \$500,000 per year, per event [POL Min (08) 14/5 refers]

5 **agree** that Rural Assistance Payments be made available beginning on 2 August 2021 and ending 1 August 2022 to eligible farmers and growers whose income is affected by drought and/or flooding in Marlborough, Tasman, West Coast, Canterbury, Otago, and the Chatham Islands

Agree / Disagree
Minister of Finance

Agree / Disagree
Minister for Social
Development and Employment

Agree / Disagree
Minister of Agriculture

6 **approve** the following changes to appropriations to provide for the decision in recommendation 5 above, with a corresponding impact on the operating balance and net core Crown debt:

Vote Social Development Minister for Social Development and Employment	\$m – increase/(decrease)				
	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25	2025/26 & Outyears
Benefits or Related Expenses:					
Hardship Assistance	0.393	0.020	-	-	-

Agree / Disagree
Minister of Finance

Agree / Disagree
Minister for Social Development
and Employment

Agree / Disagree
Minister of Agriculture

7 **agree** that the proposed changes to appropriations for 2021/22 above be included in the 2021/22 Supplementary Estimates and that in the interim, the increases be met from Imprest Supply

Agree / Disagree
Minister of Finance

Agree / Disagree
Minister for Social
Development and Employment

Agree / Disagree
Minister of Agriculture

8 **agree** that the expenses incurred under recommendation 6 above be a charge against the between-Budget contingency, established as part of Budget 2021

Agree / Disagree
Minister of Finance

Agree / Disagree
Minister for Social
Development and Employment

Agree / Disagree
Minister of Agriculture

Recommendations 9-13 are for the Minister for Social Development and Employment only

9 **note** to give effect to the above, your approval under clause 18 of the Special Needs Grants Programme is required

10 **agree** to waive the 28-day rule, on the grounds that the instrument confers only benefits to those affected, so that the attached instrument can come into force on 2 August 2021

Agree / Disagree

11 **subject to your agreement to recommendation 10, sign** the attached instrument for rural assistance under the Special Needs Grants Programme, beginning on 2 August 2021 and ending 1 August 2022, for the following districts (as advised by the Ministry for Primary Industries):

- Marlborough District Council
- Tasman District Council
- Buller District Council
- Grey District Council
- Westland District Council
- Kaikoura District Council
- Hurunui District Council
- Selwyn District Council
- Waimakariri District Council
- Christchurch City Council
- Ashburton District Council
- Timaru District Council
- Mackenzie District Council
- Waimate District Council
- Waitaki District Council
- Central Otago District Council
- Queenstown Lakes District Council
- Dunedin City Council
- Clutha District Council
- Chatham Islands District Council

Agree / Disagree

12 **direct** your office to arrange for copies of the attached approval to be tabled in the House of Representatives

Agree / Disagree

13 **note** officials will arrange for publication of the attached approval in the next issue of the *New Zealand Gazette*.



Bede Hogan
Policy Manager
Income Support Policy

21 July 2021
Date

Hon Grant Robertson
Minister of Finance

Hon Carmel Sepuloni
Minister for Social
Development and
Employment

Hon Damien O'Connor
Minister of Agriculture

Date

Date

Date

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Prolonged drought and recent flooding events have affected farmers and growers in parts of the South Island

Farmers and growers in the South Island have been affected by nationwide drought conditions

- 3 Over the 2020/21 summer, the majority of the North Island and the northern half of the South Island experienced below normal rainfall. In April 2021, soil moisture levels were below normal for most of the country. These drought conditions have lowered pasture growth rates by 25% compared to normal for February and 33% compared to normal for March. There are concerns around the affordability of feed if it is needed. Autumn crops have had a poor yield, which has impacted winter feed availability. Incomes will be less than budgeted for, and on-farm costs much higher with farmers under pressure to ensure adequate supplies of feed and water for their stock and crops.
- 4 On 12 March 2021 the Minister of Agriculture announced a large-scale adverse event for several regions in the North Island, as well as Marlborough, Tasman and Chatham Islands due to the prolonged drought conditions. On 28 April 2021 the affected areas were amended to include Canterbury and Otago. The Ministry for Primary Industries (MPI) have advised that RAPs are only required for a small number of farmers and growers affected by drought in the South Island. This is because farmers and growers in the North Island experienced drought conditions in 2020, so have been better equipped to deal with these conditions this year.

Farmers in Canterbury have been affected by both drought and flooding

- 5 Widespread flooding following a heavy rain event on 29 to 31 May 2021 resulted in a regional declaration of an emergency by Canterbury Civil Defence and Emergency Operating Centres being activated in several districts. Surface flooding was widespread in mid and south Canterbury. The rainfall was accounted as a one in 200-year and one in 100 events in some catchments by NIWA.
- 6 Damage occurred to stop banks, houses, farm buildings, fences, effluent systems, irrigation infrastructure, tracks and roads. There was also damage to crops and pasture from scouring, siltation and flooding. River channels changed course or left significant quantities of gravel, boulders, silt and other debris where waters receded. By 4 June flood waters were still receding from some properties.
- 7 Canterbury was already covered by the separate large-scale drought adverse event classification. The region was dealing with low pasture production and crop growth, with flow on effects including shortage of stock feed. The floods exacerbated these impacts by washing away or contaminating feed available on farm and reducing available pastureland. The compound effects of drought and flooding have had a significant impact on some farmers' income.
- 8 On 1 June 2021, the Minister of Agriculture announced a medium-scale adverse event for the Canterbury region, following the flooding.

Farmers and growers in Marlborough, Tasman, and the West Coast have been affected by drought and/or flooding

- 9 Between 15-18 July 2021 the West Coast, Tasman, and Marlborough areas received a large and unprecedented rain event resulting in the flooding of productive land. Damage includes pasture and farmland inundation, loss of stock feed, loss of some stock and fence damage. The resulting lack of sufficient pasture and/or feed for the productive use of animals, and loss of livestock (mainly dairy cows), has had a significant impact on some farmers' income. Flooding of vineyards and orchards has had a significant impact on some growers' income.
- 10 This flood comes on top of a year of difficult drought conditions for farmers and growers in the Marlborough and Tasman areas, and limited winter feed sources for the West Coast.

- 11 On 18 July 2021 the Minister of Agriculture announced a medium-scale adverse event for the West Coast, Tasman and Marlborough regions, following the recent flooding.

Rural Assistance Payments can help to financially support farmers in affected areas during this period

- 12 A formal declaration of these adverse events by the Minister of Agriculture means that the Minister of Finance, the Minister of Agriculture and the Minister for Social Development (Joint Ministers) have authority to approve RAPs of up to \$500,000 for each event, for a period of up to 12 months [POL Min (08) 14/5 refers].
- 13 RAPs are non-taxable payments administered by the Ministry of Social Development (MSD) through the Special Needs Grants Programme under the Social Security Act 2018. RAPs are available to people in an area or Primary Industry that has been adversely affected by an event (eg a flood, drought, etc). The payment is designed to cover essential living costs of people whose income has been affected by the adverse event, and who do not have readily realisable assets available to them.
- 14 RAPs are non-recoverable payments made at the applicable net rate of Jobseeker Support. Farmers and growers must meet the qualifications for a Special Needs Grant, including an income test and a cash asset test. MSD works closely with Rural Support Trusts to administer RAPs.

Districts affected

- 15 The Ministry for Primary Industries has assessed that farmers in Marlborough, Tasman, the West Coast, Canterbury, Otago and the Chatham Islands have been affected by one, or both, of the adverse events and may need RAPs. The affected districts are:
- Marlborough District Council (drought and flood)
 - Tasman District Council (drought and flood)
 - Buller District Council (flood)
 - Grey District Council (flood)
 - Westland District Council (flood)
 - Kaikoura District Council (drought and flood)
 - Hurunui District Council (drought and flood)
 - Selwyn District Council (drought and flood)
 - Waimakariri District Council (drought and flood)
 - Christchurch City Council (drought and flood)
 - Ashburton District Council (drought and flood)
 - Timaru District Council (drought and flood)
 - Mackenzie District Council (drought and flood)
 - Waimate District Council (drought and flood)
 - Waitaki District Council (drought and flood)
 - Central Otago District Council (drought)
 - Queenstown Lakes District Council (drought)
 - Dunedin City Council (drought)
 - Clutha District Council (drought)
 - Chatham Islands District Council (drought)

Likely demand for and duration of RAPs

- 16 Based on current information, MPI estimates that up to 30 families involved in farming across the affected areas and events may seek RAPs.
- 17 There are some uncertainties involved with estimating the duration of need. Key dependencies are the length of time that pastures and crops remain underwater, as well as the ability to clear inundated farmland from gravel, silt and debris so that crops can be planted in Spring. If this cannot be done, the need for RAPs may extend into next year.
- 18 MPI has advised that an estimated period of 12 months is required for RAPs. However, an extension may be required. Any extension beyond 12 months would require Cabinet approval. MPI will have a better idea of the recovery progress of the impacted farmers and growers later in the year.

Approving Rural Assistance Payments has financial implications

- 19 The estimated cost is \$413,000 for providing RAPs for up to 30 families involved in farming in the affected areas between 2 August 2021 and 1 August 2022. This expenditure will require an increase to the Vote Social Development Hardship Assistance appropriation.
- 20 The Ministry of Social Development will monitor expenditure. The cost of RAPs may increase, and further funding may be required if adverse events extend to other regions, conditions worsen, the period for providing RAPs is prolonged, and/or more than 30 families require RAPs. There is an allocation of \$500,000 available for each adverse event. If the costs of RAPs for any of these events exceed \$500,000, Cabinet approval will be required for further funding.

Approval under clause 18 of the Special Needs Grant Welfare Programme is required to provide Rural Assistance Payments

- 21 As RAPs are established in the Special Needs Grants Programme under the Social Security Act 2018, approval under clause 18 of this programme is required to provide RAPs to farmers and growers in affected areas.
- 22 An instrument for approval for RAPs under the Special Needs Grants Programme is attached for signature by the Minister for Social Development and Employment.

A waiver to the 28-day rule is sought

- 23 Although the nature of the legal instrument does not require adherence to the 28-day rule, it is still best practice to adhere to it and therefore a waiver is sought to depart from best practice.
- 24 If a change only confers benefits to those affected, it is common practice to waive the 28-day rule, particularly for RAPs, so that they are available as soon as possible. For example, the Minister for Social Development agreed to waive the 28-day rule for RAPs for the drought that affected Northland and Auckland in 2020 [REP/20/2/115 refers]. MSD recommends the Minister for Social Development and Employment waive the 28-day rule in this instance so that affected farmers and growers have support as soon as possible.
- 25 The attached instrument has been drafted on the basis that the 28-day rule will be waived so it can come into force 2 August 2021. This will allow MSD to provide RAPs from 2 August 2021 to 1 August 2022 to eligible farmers and growers in the districts noted in paragraph 14.
- 26 If the Minister for Social Development and Employment does not waive the 28-day rule, a new instrument will be provided to reflect the new date it will come into force.

Consultation

- 27 The Ministry for Primary Industries and the Treasury have been consulted on this report.

Next steps

- 28 Subject to agreement to the proposals in this report by the Joint Ministers, officials recommend that the Office of the Minister for Social Development and Employment arrange for a copy of the Instrument to be tabled in the House of Representatives. The Ministry of Social Development will then arrange for the Instrument to be published in the *New Zealand Gazette*.
- 29 MSD will also update IT systems, operational guidelines and ensure staff are ready to assist affected farmers and growers from 2 August 2021.
- 30 Officials will work with Ministers' offices on any potential announcements/press releases.

REP/21/7/752

Author: Out of scope, Policy Analyst, Income Support Policy

Responsible manager: Bede Hogan, Policy Manager, Income Support Policy

RELEASED UNDER THE
OFFICIAL INFORMATION ACT



Report

Date: 19 July 2021

Security Level: IN CONFIDENCE

To: Hon Carmel Sepuloni, Minister for Social Development and Employment

Enhanced Taskforce Green to assist clean-up following flooding in West Coast, Nelson/Tasman and Marlborough

Purpose of the report

- 1 This report seeks your agreement to activate Enhanced Taskforce Green (ETFG) to assist with clean-up following recent flooding in West Coast, Nelson/Tasman and Marlborough.

Recommended actions

It is recommended that you:

- 1 **note** flooding has occurred across the West Coast, Nelson/Tasman and Marlborough regions causing significant damage and the clean-up required is likely to take more resource than what can be provided locally
- 2 **note** you have delegated authority to approve up to \$500,000 (excluding GST) per event for the use of ETFG to assist in clean-up operations following emergency events on the basis that funding is sourced from existing baselines
- 3 **note** MPI typically provides MSD with a needs assessment before we seek your approval to activate ETFG, however MSD and MPI recommend early approval of ETFG to provide certainty to the affected communities
- 4 **note** we will update you on the MPI needs assessment and other relevant information when it is available
- 5 **agree** to authorise the use of ETFG up to \$500,000 (excluding GST) for those affected by flooding in the West Coast, Nelson/Tasman and Marlborough regions

Agree / Disagree

- 6 **note** it is currently unclear how much ETFG support is required for the Nelson/Tasman and Marlborough regions and it is likely the Buller District in the West Coast will require the most support
- 7 **note** the costs of ETFG will be met through the Multi-Category Appropriation – Improving Employment and Social Outcomes Support

8 **note** that if additional funding over and above \$500,000 is required for ETFG, this would require Cabinet approval and MSD would need to consider whether any additional amount would be able to be met within baselines.



Megan Beecroft
Policy Manager, Employment Policy



Date



Hon Carmel Sepuloni
Minister for Social Development and Employment

19 JUL 2021

Date

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Flooding has caused significant damage in West Coast, Nelson/Tasman and Marlborough

- 2 Significant rainfall has occurred from Thursday evening to Sunday morning across the northwest of the South Island, with significant flooding across the Buller Area in the West Coast, Marlborough and Nelson/Tasman regions. Evacuations took place on Friday and Saturday for Buller and Marlborough, and access to impacted areas was heavily restricted.
- 3 The Buller District declared a local state of emergency on 16 July and the Marlborough District declared a local state of emergency on 17 July.
- 4 The event has been classified as medium scale under MPI's Primary Sector Recovery Policy, making additional recovery measures available. This includes \$200,000 for flood-affected farmers across the West Coast and Marlborough. The classification also allows joint Ministers to activate Rural Assistance Payments if they are required, which we will provide further advice on separately. The decision to authorise Enhanced Taskforce Green (ETFG) remains at your discretion and is not reliant on MPI's classification of the event.
- 5 Acting Minister for Emergency Management Kris Faafoi and Agriculture Minister Damien O'Connor have also announced an initial contribution of \$300,000 towards a Buller Mayoral Relief Fund and another \$100,000 towards a similar fund for Marlborough.

Enhanced Taskforce Green can provide support during the clean-up in the aftermath of the flooding

- 6 When a significant adverse weather event or natural disaster occurs, ETFG can provide funding to employ job seekers to return affected farms, orchards, community assets and recreational areas to the condition they were before the adverse event. Where there is a health, safety or security concern it can also provide land-based remediation on lifestyle blocks.
- 7 ETFG can be used to hire or purchase equipment and clothing needed for jobseekers to undertake the clean-up. Generally, clients (whether they have work or work preparation obligations or not) are eligible to participate if they are able to do the work required.
- 8 MSD's primary role within ETFG is to provide funding for the programme and to monitor expenditure related to that funding. The day to day management of the work associated with ETFG typically lies with the affected territorial authority or a contracted provider.
- 9 ETFG includes funding for:
 - full wages at the minimum wage for workers and above the minimum wage for workers in a supervisory role for a specific period of time under the programme
 - start-up grants for an approved provider to assist with the administration of ETFG (up to \$20,000)
 - the hire or purchase of personal safety and light equipment and the hire of transportation to take work crews to work sites.
- 10 Cabinet agreed on 3 July 2006 that the Minister for Social Development and Employment could authorise up to \$500,000 (excluding GST) per event for the use of ETFG to assist in clean-up activities that were required for emergencies [CAB Min (06) 24/3 refers].

We recommended authorising the use of ETFG for the clean-up efforts, up to \$500,000

- 11 MSD has been working closely with councils and communities in affected regions. A full impact assessment cannot be completed at this stage because of high water

levels. However, early indications from MPI outline that there is significant damage to rural communities. Detailed assessments will commence in the coming days and it is anticipated that more will be known by the end of this week.

- 12 It is currently unclear how much ETFG support is required for the Nelson/Tasman and Marlborough regions and it is likely the Buller District in the West Coast will require the most support. It is likely that work will be needed initially to clear silt and rubbish, fix fencing and clear stock feed.
- 13 Normally MPI provides MSD with a needs assessment which outlines the level of support required before we seek your approval to activate ETFG. The needs assessment outlines the areas affected, the number of people affected and what type of assistance is required. MSD then contracts with providers or territorial authorities based on these needs assessments.
- 14 However, to provide certainty to affected communities as soon as possible, we recommend that you authorise the use of ETFG up to \$500,000 (excluding GST). The exact amount provided will depend on the outcome of needs assessment information. This cost can be met within MSD's baselines. This will also allow MSD to implement ETFG as soon as possible.
- 15 If the needs assessment results in a cost of more than \$500,000 (for example, because the scope and scale of the clean-up requires more people), we will come back to you with further advice. Cabinet agreement would be required to provide additional funding over and above \$500,000 through ETFG. MSD would also need to consider whether any additional amount would be able to be met within baselines.
- 16 We have consulted with MPI on this report and they agree with our approach to seek your approval to activate ETFG while MPI's initial assessments are still in progress.
- 17 If you do not authorise ETFG, the costs of clean-up will be borne by individual councils and farmers.

Next steps

- 18 If you agree to activate ETFG, MSD will work with local councils, other agencies and communities in affected areas to develop and implement a plan for implementing ETFG. MSD will also work closely with MPI on the recovery process to ensure that the work is well coordinated and supports other recovery activities.

File ref: REP/21/7/760

Author: [Redacted], Senior Policy Analyst, Employment Policy

Responsible manager: Megan Beecroft, Policy Manager, Employment Policy

Aide-mémoire



**MINISTRY OF SOCIAL
DEVELOPMENT**
TE MANATŪ WHAKAHIATO ORA

Date: 26 July 2021 **Security Level:** [Medium]
For: Minister Sepuloni, Minister for Social Development and Employment

File Reference: REP/21/7/779 – Aide-memoire: Ministry response to West Coast Flooding

Ministry response to West coast flooding

Background

Severe flooding just over a week ago caused Westport to experience significant flooding, with people displaced, damage to residential property & infrastructure, and significant stock loss.

In Marlborough significant damage has been reported from the Marlborough Sounds with some inundation of homes, transport around the region restricted and some communities being isolated due to slips.

Local States of Emergency were declared and remain in place for Buller District and Marlborough.

Key issues

This briefing is to provide summary data on the number of walk ins, amount of payments and cost of payments etc to support the Minister and her office respond to any requests from PMO or media etc.

Next steps

Next Update will be Friday 30th July

Summary at a Glance

93k+	447	500+	98	500k
THE VALUE OF CIVIL DEFENCE PAYMENTS MADE IN BULLER DISTRICT	THE NUMBER OF CIVIL DEFENCE PAYMENTS MADE IN BULLER DISTRICT	PEOPLE SEEKING W&I ADVICE THROUGH OUR WESTPORT SERVICE CENTRE OR INFORMATION HUB	CALLS MADE TO OUR DEDICATED BULLER DISTRICT CIVIL DEFENCE LINE	APPROVED FOR ENHANCED TASK FORCE GREEN PROGRAMME TO ASSIST WITH CLEAN-UP BULLER, MARLBOROUGH, TASMAN

Civil Defence Payments

- Between 19th July and 25th July, 447 payments totalling \$93,370 have been made.

Demand for MSD (face to face) services

- MSD has had a physical presence at the Buller Community Information Hub since Monday 19th July
- Walk-ins since Tuesday 20th July to Sunday 25th July
 - 257 via the Buller Community Information Hub
 - 263 via the Service Centre (note staff stopped counting at 100 on Friday)
 - 18 MBIE TAS enquiries were handled by our staff at the Buller Community Information Hub over the weekend.
- To support the demand for Services additional MSD staff from Greymouth and Nelson have been bought into support the Buller response.

Civil Defence Dedicated Payment Line

- Between 19th July and 24th July 98 calls have been made to MSDs Dedicated Buller District Civil Defence Line

Enhanced Task Force Green (ETFG)

- The press release has been finalised and will be announced tomorrow
- The existing approval for the Programme is anticipated to be sufficient to meet the anticipated needs of both the Westcoast and Marlborough.
- The contract with the preferred contractor (West Reef) should be signed in the next few days.
- MSD has started to identify job seekers who could be suitable for ETFG and will be engaging with them once the contract has been signed
- Rural Support Trusts are employing contractors to complete on-farm impact assessments and these are being entered into a shared data base.
- This data base will enable the type of support to be readily identified and deployed. In some cases, clean-up work will require heavy machinery and significant work whilst in others unskilled labour provided by ETFG will be sufficient to meet the need.

Contribution to the all-of-govt response

- MSD continues to be heavily engaged and support all facets of the welfare response activities at both regional and national levels.
- MSD currently has a staff member deployed on the NZEMAT Team to Westport

Author: (Out of scope [redacted], Senior Advisor, Emergency Management and Business Continuity)

Responsible Manager: (Simon Scott – National Manager Emergency Management and Business Continuity)

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**MINISTRY OF SOCIAL
DEVELOPMENT**
TE MANATŪ WHAKAHIATO ORA

Date: 28 July 2021 **Security Level:** [Medium]
For: Minister Sepuloni, Minister for Social Development and Employment

File Reference: REP/21/7/789 - Aide-Memoire : West Coast Flooding

Ministry response to West Coast flooding

Background

Severe flooding over the weekend of 16-19 July caused Westport to experience significant flooding, with people displaced, damage to residential property & infrastructure, and significant stock loss.

In Marlborough significant damage has been reported from the Marlborough Sounds with some inundation of homes, transport around the region restricted and some communities being isolated due to slips.

Local States of Emergency were declared and remain in place for Buller District and Marlborough. It is expected that these declarations will remain in place until 30 July 2021 when a transition notice is expected.

Key issues

This briefing is to provide summary data on the number of walk ins, amount of payments and cost of payments etc to support the Minister and her office respond to any requests from PMO or media etc.

Next steps

Next Update will be Monday 2nd August

Summary at a Glance

131k+ THE VALUE OF CIVIL DEFENCE PAYMENTS MADE IN BULLER DISTRICT	609 THE NUMBER OF CIVIL DEFENCE PAYMENTS MADE IN BULLER DISTRICT	650+ PEOPLE SEEKING W&I ADVICE THROUGH OUR WESTPORT SERVICE CENTRE OR INFORMATION HUB	98 CALLS MADE TO OUR DEDICATED BULLER DISTRICT CIVIL DEFENCE LINE	500k APPROVED FOR ENHANCED TASK FORCE GREEN PROGRAMME TO ASSIST WITH CLEAN-UP BULLER, MARLBOROUGH, TASMAN
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Civil Defence Payments

- Between 19th July and 27th July, 609 payments totalling \$131,092 have been made.

Demand for MSD (face to face) services

- MSD continues to maintain our physical presence at the Buller Community Information Hub (since Monday 19th July)
- Walk-ins since Tuesday 20th July to Tuesday 27th July
 - 354 via the Buller Community Information Hub
 - The Westport Service Centre continues to experience high demand with walk-in queries over triple normal levels for the period
 - MBIE TAS enquiries were handled by MSD staff at the Information Hub over the weekend, but this has now transitioned to MBIE.
- To support the demand for Services additional MSD staff from Greymouth and Nelson have been bought into support the Buller response.

Civil Defence Dedicated Payment Line

- Between 19th July and 27th July over 125 calls have been made to MSDs Dedicated Buller District Civil Defence Line

Enhanced Task Force Green (ETFG)

- ETFG approval was announced on Tuesday 27 July.
- The existing approval for the Programme is anticipated to be sufficient to meet the anticipated needs of both the Westcoast and Marlborough.
- The contract preparation with the preferred contractor is continuing and is nearing signing.
- It is expected that two Governance groups will be established, one for the Buller area and one for Marlborough. This will enable effective workflow and for the ground work to be streamlined.
- Suitable job seeker identification continues to assist rapid deployment of workers as soon as possible.
- Damage assessments are beginning with Rural Support Trust (RST) coordinating this process and the establishment of a central data base.
- This data base will enable the type of support to be readily identified and deployed. This process will be similar to the one that has been implemented in the Canterbury Flood ETFG programme that has been well received.

Contribution to the all-of-govt response

- MSD continues to be heavily engaged and support all facets of the welfare response activities at local, regional and national levels.
- At the national level, MSD has a staff member working within the National Crisis Centre (NCC) in the Beehive, alongside NEMA and other partner agencies.
- MSD staff are actively working with partner agencies to ensure complete wrap-around services are established and coordinated for those affected in the region.
- MSD currently has a staff member deployed on the NZEMAT to Westport
- Regional Commissioner Craig Churchill acknowledged on 23 July in MSD's intranet newsletter *Celebrating Our People* the considerable national teamwork achieved to deliver support: "MSD teams have been working hard at local and regional levels ensuring emergency support and the continuity of our service. We're also connecting with other community groups, providers

and agencies to deliver a comprehensive service. Our thanks go to our wider MSD whānau who have helped cover with Straight to Processing support. All of your help is much appreciated a time like this”.

Author: (Out of scope , Senior Advisor, Emergency Management and Business Continuity)

Responsible Manager: (Simon Scott – National Manager Emergency Management and Business Continuity)

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**MINISTRY OF SOCIAL
DEVELOPMENT**
TE MANATŪ WHAKAHIATO ORA

Date: 02 August 2021 **Security Level:** [Medium]
For: Minister Sepuloni, Minister for Social Development and Employment

File Reference: REP/21/8/811 - Aide-Memoire : West Coast Flooding

Ministry response to West Coast flooding

Background

Severe flooding over the weekend of 16-19 July caused Westport to experience significant flooding, with people displaced, damage to residential property & infrastructure, and significant stock loss.

A Local State of Emergency was declared and remains in place for Buller District, with the current notice due to expire at 1315 hours on Friday 6 August.

In Marlborough significant damage was reported with some inundation of homes, transport around the region restricted and some communities being isolated due to slips, particularly in the Marlborough Sounds

Marlborough District has lifted the local declaration, and now has a transition notice in place.

Key issues

This briefing is to provide summary data on the number of walk ins, amount of payments and cost of payments etc to support the Minister and her office respond to any requests from PMO or media etc.

Next steps

Next Update will be Wednesday 4th August

Summary at a Glance

\$233k+	921	800+	177	500k
THE VALUE OF CIVIL DEFENCE PAYMENTS MADE IN BULLER DISTRICT	THE NUMBER OF CIVIL DEFENCE PAYMENTS MADE IN BULLER DISTRICT	PEOPLE SEEKING W&I ADVICE THROUGH OUR WESTPORT SERVICE CENTRE OR INFORMATION HUB	CALLS MADE TO OUR DEDICATED BULLER DISTRICT CIVIL DEFENCE LINE	APPROVED FOR ENHANCED TASK FORCE GREEN PROGRAMME TO ASSIST WITH CLEAN-UP BULLER, MARLBOROUGH, TASMAN

Civil Defence Payments

- Between 19th July and 1st August, 921 payments totalling \$233,577 have been made.

Demand for MSD (face to face) services

- MSD continues to maintain a physical presence at the Buller Community Information Hub (since Monday 19th July).
- In general demand for flood-related support has continued to decrease with a return to 'business-as-usual' queries.
- However, the flood-related queries are increasing in complexity and support required. This has contributed to MSD actively supporting the establishment of a Support Navigator Service in the Buller District. This service is not yet established and is in the process of funding and staffing investigations.
- The Westport staff were able to focus solely on the flood response in the first two weeks as processing work was picked up by Service Centres elsewhere.
- To support the demand for Services additional MSD staff from Nelson and Marlborough were brought in to support the Buller response. These additional staff are no longer required, and the majority of the local support is being managed by the local Westport Service Centre team.

Civil Defence Dedicated Payment Line

- Between 19th July and 30th July 177 calls were made to MSDs dedicated Buller District Civil Defence line.
- This dedicated line has now been closed due to diminishing demand via the 0800 line. People calling this line will be redirected to the standard Work and Income Contact Centre line.

Enhanced Task Force Green (ETFG)

- ETFG approval was announced on Tuesday 27 July.
- The existing approval for the Programme is anticipated to be sufficient to meet the anticipated needs of both the Westcoast and Marlborough.
- Two Governance groups will be established, one for the Buller area and one for Marlborough. This will enable effective workflow and for the groundwork to be streamlined. The two groups established will carry out clean-up work in the Tasman district.

- The contract for the West Coast ETFG programme is expected to be signed this week.
- For Marlborough, work to identify a provider is continuing and is expected to be completed this week also.
- Suitable job seeker identification for both programmes continues to assist rapid deployment of workers as soon as possible.
- Damage assessments and registrations for the West Coast and Marlborough are continuing with Ministry for Primary Industries (MPI) coordinating this process and the establishment of a central data base.
- This data base will enable the type of support to be readily identified and deployed. This process will be similar to the one that has been implemented in the Canterbury Flood ETFG programme that has been well received.

Contribution to the all-of-govt response

- MSD continues to be heavily engaged and support all facets of the welfare response activities at local, regional and national levels.
- MSD had a staff member working within the National Crisis Centre (NCC) in the Beehive, alongside NEMA and other partner agencies. This arrangement has now ended with the NCC no longer requiring an MSD presence.
- MSD staff are actively working with partner agencies to ensure appropriate wrap-around services are established and coordinated for those affected in the region. This has been particularly focussed on the areas of psychosocial support, housing and accommodation, and the need for a support navigator service in the region.
- MSD currently has a staff member deployed on the NZEMAT to Westport

Author: (Out of scope), Senior Advisor, Emergency Management and Business Continuity)

Responsible Manager: (Simon Scott – National Manager Emergency Management and Business Continuity)

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**MINISTRY OF SOCIAL
DEVELOPMENT**
TE MANATŪ WHAKAHIATO ORA

Date: 04 August 2021 **Security Level:** [Medium]
For: Hon Carmel Sepuloni, Minister for Social Development and
Employment

File Reference: REP/21/8/820 - Aide-Memoire: West Coast Flooding

Ministry response to West Coast flooding

Background

On the weekend of 16-19 July Westport experienced significant flooding. Residents and visitors to the area were (and remain) displaced, damage was caused to residential property and infrastructure, and the rural sector experienced significant stock loss.

A Local State of Emergency was declared and remains in place for Buller District. The current notice is due to expire at 1315 hours on Friday 6 August.

In Marlborough significant damage was reported with some inundation of homes, transport around the region restricted and some communities being isolated due to slips and compromised access points, particularly in the Marlborough Sounds.

Marlborough District has lifted the local declaration, and now has a transition notice in place.

Key issues

This briefing is to provide you with information related to the MASD response. It outlines the number of walk ins, amount of payments and cost of payments etc to support you and your office respond to any requests from Prime Minister's Office, the media or any other queries that may arise.

Next steps

With the response to the flooding event transitioning to a recovery stage, we propose that this is the final update.

MSD has moved to providing BAU services and it is proposed that regular updates regarding MSD's involvement will be communicated through the SDEU.

Summary at a Glance

\$242k+	941	800+	177	500k
THE VALUE OF CIVIL DEFENCE PAYMENTS MADE IN BULLER DISTRICT	THE NUMBER OF CIVIL DEFENCE PAYMENTS MADE IN BULLER DISTRICT	PEOPLE SEEKING W&I ADVICE THROUGH OUR WESTPORT SERVICE CENTRE OR INFORMATION HUB	CALLS MADE TO OUR DEDICATED BULLER DISTRICT CIVIL DEFENCE LINE	APPROVED FOR ENHANCED TASK FORCE GREEN PROGRAMME TO ASSIST WITH CLEAN-UP BULLER, MARLBOROUGH, TASMAN

Civil Defence Payments

- The Regional Commissioner for the affected area with approval from the Group General Manager Client Service Delivery stood up Civil Defence payments on 19 July 2021.
- MSD has approved and paid out a total of 941 payments totalling \$241,953 between 19 July and 3 August.

Demand for MSD (face to face) services

- MSD has maintained a physical presence at the Buller Community Information Hub since Monday 19 July.
- A continued presence will be reviewed on an on-going basis to determine if this level of support is required.
- Demand for flood-related support has reduced with a return to BAU queries.

Civil Defence Dedicated Payment Line

- On 19 July MSD stood up a dedicated line to support those impacted by the flooding event.
- Between 19 July and 30 July 177, calls were received and responded to on the dedicated line.
- This dedicated line was closed on 30 July. Impacted residents calling this line will be redirected to the standard Work and Income Contact Centre line.
- All relevant resources have been updated to reflect the closure and correct number.

Enhanced Task Force Green (ETFG)

- You announced the activation and funding of ETFG for the West Coast and Marlborough regions on Tuesday 27 July.
- This approval is anticipated to be sufficient to meet the anticipated needs of both the West Coast and Marlborough.
- Current estimates having this split approximately \$300,000 for the West Coast and \$200,000 for Marlborough.
- ETFG for the West Coast:
 - MSD has now signed a contract with [Westreef](#) to support the implementation of this work in the region. Funding is expected to cover for up to three teams with five individuals per team.

- MPI have identified 13 farms, mostly in the Buller District to date. This includes two farms in Murchison that are part of the Tasman district
- ETFG for Marlborough
 - Meeting being held Wednesday 4 August with potential provider
 - The contract will be for up to two teams with five individuals per team.
 - MPI assessments are still ongoing, but the current estimate is that there are around 25 farms and 10 vineyards suitable to access support via ETFG.

Contribution to the all-of-govt response

- MSD continues to be heavily engaged and support the welfare response activities at local, regional, and national levels.
- MSD continues to work with partner agencies to support the areas of psychosocial support, housing, navigator support and financial support as issues are identified and solutions required.
- The Navigator Support Service is in the process of being established. This work is being led by the National Welfare Coordination Group. It can be anticipated that MSD will be asked to support this service as it is developed. No timeframe has been identified for the embedding of this service.

Author: (Out of scope), Senior Advisor, Emergency Management and Business Continuity)

Responsible Manager: (Simon Scott – National Manager Emergency Management and Business Continuity)

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**MINISTRY OF SOCIAL
DEVELOPMENT**
TE MANATŪ WHAKAHIATO ORA

Meeting

Date: 13 October 2021 **Security Level:** IN CONFIDENCE

For: Hon Carmel Sepuloni, Minister for Social Development and Employment

File Reference: REP/21/10/1118

Climate Response Ministers Group Meeting

Meeting/visit details Venue TBC, 15 October 2021, 10am-11am

Expected attendees

Rt Hon Jacinda Ardern – Prime Minister
 Hon Grant Robertson – Minister of Finance; Minister of Infrastructure
 Hon Dr Megan Woods – Minister of Energy and Resources; Minister for Housing
 Hon David Parker – Minister for the Environment
 Hon Nanaia Mahuta – Minister of Foreign Affairs; Local Government; Associate Māori Development
 Hon Poto Williams – Minister of Building and Construction
 Hon Damien O'Connor – Minister of Agriculture; Minister for Biosecurity
 Hon Willie Jackson – Minister for Māori Development
 Hon Michael Wood – Minister of Transport
 Hon Meka Whaitiri – Acting Minister for Agriculture
 Hon David Clark – Minister Responsible for the Earthquake Commission
 Hon James Shaw – Minister for Climate Change

Purpose of meeting/visit

You are meeting to discuss three items regarding the Government's climate response:

- National Adaptation Plan: Scope and Structure
- Flood insurance
- Finalising the 2022 rebate and charge levels for the Clean Car Discount Scheme

This meeting does not feature any discussion or decisions on the Emissions Reduction Plan which you are co-leading a chapter on

'ensuring an equitable transition'. However, there is strong overlap with the proposed agenda items for this meeting.

**Item One:
National
Adaptation
Plan: Scope and
Structure**

Background

- The National Adaptation Plan (NAP) will set out the Government's objectives for adapting to the effects of climate change, and its strategies, policies and proposals to meet those objectives.
- You are meeting to discuss the scope and structure of the document which will be completed by August 2022.
- The NAP will include six key outcome-based action plans:
 - Foundational Action Plan
 - Natural Environment Action Plan
 - Buildings, Homes and Places Action Plan
 - Infrastructure Action Plan
 - Communities Action Plan
 - Economy Action Plan
- At this stage MSD is not the lead agency for any specific chapter of the NAP but is providing input where appropriate. To date we have been predominantly involved with the 'communities' action plan.

Key Issues

- MSD are supportive of the proposed scope and structure noting that there will need to be consideration of distributional impacts across all action plans.
- We have also been involved in the development of the Emissions Reduction Plan and it is likely that the impacts of both mitigation and adaptation will see significant distributional impacts. Whilst these are distinctive workstreams, ensuring consistency will be important for supporting all communities through the transition.

**Item Two:
Flood
Insurance**

Background

- Minister Clark has commissioned advice on supporting continued access and affordability of flood insurance for residential property owners.
- The recent flooding in Westport has highlighted the urgency of these measures.
- s9(2)(b)(ii)
[Redacted]
[Redacted]
[Redacted].
- Just over 5% of residential households in New Zealand have significant exposure to flood damage.
- s9(2)(f)(iv)
[Redacted]
- [Redacted]

s9(2)(f)(iv)

Key Issues

- s9(2)(f)(iv)
-
-
- Lack of access and affordability for insurance will likely exacerbate existing inequalities. An equitable transition must be a core consideration of any decision.

**Item Three:
Clean Car
Discount
Scheme**

Background

- The Clean Car Discount Scheme commenced in July 2021 introducing rebates for electric vehicles and plug in hybrids.
- The Minister of Transport is proposing that:
 - the rebate and charge amounts (on EVs and combustion engine vehicles respectively) previously discussed by Cabinet be adopted;
 - utes be included in the scheme; and
 - the scheme be extended to smaller vehicles (all-terrain vehicles, motorbikes, and mopeds) subject to further advice from officials

Key Issues

- You may wish to raise the need to provide transport support for those unable to purchase electric vehicles even at the subsidised rates and especially those with limited access to vehicles.

Next steps

We will continue to work alongside other agencies to ensure the climate response is equitable.

A broader update will be provided to you outlining the various cross-Government workstreams and the expected impacts on MSD's business operations and clients.

MfE has informed officials that Minister Shaw is seeking a bilateral meeting with you to discuss the changes to the structure of the Emissions Reduction Plan and the Equitable Transition section

specifically. Once this meeting has been confirmed an aide memoire will be provided.

Author: Out of scope, Senior Policy Analyst, Regional Development

Responsible manager: Molly Elliott, General Manager, Social Development Child and Youth

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