



Cabinet

Minute of Decision

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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

Hard-copy distribution:

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