

Central Government Recovery Funding Factsheet & Guide

Version 1.1 2025

National Recovery Coordination Group

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Document Overview

The *Central Government Recovery Funding Factsheet & Guide* (the Factsheet) is an iterative document¹ that provides an overview of central government funding mechanisms that may be available in a recovery.

The Factsheet has been designed for use by recovery staff that operate at the regional and local level and breaks down the processes for how these mechanisms are activated and how they can be accessed.

The Factsheet has been developed by the National Recovery Coordination Group (NRCG). The NRCG is a permanent standing group comprised of relevant central government agencies, which oversees central government recovery activity to enable a streamlined approach to cross-agency recovery coordination and planning. The Factsheet has also been developed in consultation with the Recovery Toolkit Project Team and a wider network of recovery specialists operating at the regional and local level.

Please note that this product has been developed as part of the National Recovery Coordination Group's Work Programme, and is not a product of the Emergency Management System Improvement Programme.

The Factsheet consists of two sections:

Section 1: Central Government Recovery Funding Table

Section 1 provides a high-level table that lists central government recovery funding mechanisms and provides links to the relevant webpages. Section 1 is designed for users who are already familiar with recovery funding and are seeking information on a specific funding mechanism.

Section 2: Central Government Recovery Funding Factsheet

¹ Please note that the current version of the Factsheet (Version 1.1) is limited to the funding mechanisms of NRCG member agencies. The NRCG will endeavor to regularly update this document as required.

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Section 2 provides a detailed factsheet that breaks down the various central government recovery funding mechanisms. Section 2 is designed for users who wish to develop their understanding of central government recovery funding.

Section 1: Central Government Recovery Funding Factsheet

| Agency | Description | Link to further information |
|----------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA) | <p>Essential Infrastructure repair and recovery funding (60:40):</p> <p>Following an emergency, the Government funds 60 percent of eligible costs (above the local authority's threshold) to rebuild or repair damaged essential infrastructure, river management systems and community assets in accordance with Section 33 of the Guide to the National CDEM Plan.</p> | More information can be found here and here . |
| | <p>Special Policy for Recovery:</p> <p>Special policies are those policies which provide for support to local authorities to undertake programmes of work (that is, as part of recovery) that will decrease the likelihood of the recurrence of an emergency in the future. This may include upgrading facilities. Government expects local authorities to consider future risk reduction as part of recovery. Special funding applications require Cabinet approval. Special policy financial support from central government is not available routinely, as per Section 33 of the Guide to the National CDEM Plan.</p> | More information can be found in Section 33 of the Guide to the National CDEM Plan . |
| | <p>Response and Recovery Claims following an emergency event:</p> <p>The Government, in accordance with Section 33 of the Guide to the National CDEM Plan will fund eligible response, other response and recovery-related costs incurred by a local authority: Eligible response (welfare) costs will be 100 per cent funded by the Government and other eligible response costs will be 60 per cent funded by the Government (above the local authority's threshold) and 40 per cent funded by the local authority.</p> | More information can be found here and here |
| | <p>Advance payments for response and recovery costs:</p> <p>Where significant response and recovery costs are expected that would be eligible for reimbursement under 60%: 40%, Government may provide advance payment based on local authority estimates.</p> | More information can be found here . |
| | <p>Disaster Relief Funds (Mayoral Relief Funds):</p> <p>The Minister of Emergency Management and Recovery, together with the Prime Minister or Minister of Finance, may authorise a contribution to a disaster relief fund of up to \$100,000. Larger contributions need to be approved by Cabinet.</p> | More information can be found here and here . |
| Ministry of Business, | Building Emergency Management: | More information can be found here . |

| Agency | Description | Link to further information |
|-----------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Innovation and Employment (MBIE) | For some emergency events, the Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment (MBIE) has a stewardship and leadership role in coordinating the deployment of rapid building assessors. The cost of deployment can be paid under MBIEs financial arrangements. | |
| | <p>Temporary Accommodation Service (TAS):</p> <p>TAS gathers information and analysis to ascertain the likely temporary accommodation demand and the most appropriate supply options for the affected populations. Once activated, households can register with TAS for temporary accommodation throughout the recovery phase of a response.</p> | More information can be found here . |
| | <p>Immigration NZ:</p> <p>Immigration NZ facilitates the arrival of a response workforce into New Zealand (use pre-existing visas or, if directed by Government, support the creation of new visa options to enable the arrival of experts and workers that can assist and support recovery efforts). A Mass Arrival response would likely see Cabinet direction, initiated as part of the mass arrival plan, provide specific government funding for any response, including resourcing and financing the physical response and recovery phase of a mass arrival response.</p> | See the Immigration (Mass Arrivals) Amendment Bill . |
| | <p>Business Support – Kānoa and Small Business Services:</p> <p>The primary functions of Kānoa – Regional Economic Development & Investment Unit (RDU) are to strategically work with regions and their various communities to originate and structure appropriate investment opportunities and then deliver and manage these strategic, regionally-focused economic interventions and the associated investment funding.</p> <p>Kānoa – RDU does not have any permanent policy levers or funding mechanisms.</p> | |
| | <p>Business Support – Enterprise</p> <p>Government has at times provided bespoke disaster support for businesses. Generally, disaster relief packages are made available at Ministerial discretion in response to events that have a sudden, significant, and sustained impact on businesses, beyond their capabilities to respond effectively.</p> <p>There are no permanent mechanisms related to business support for recovery, each response is bespoke and typically requires Cabinet to appropriate funding to an emergency response package.</p> | |
| | Telecommunications Policy Advice | More information can be found here . |

| Agency | Description | Link to further information |
|--------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------|
| | <p>During an emergency MBIE updates relevant Ministers on the status of telecommunications networks from information from the Telecommunications Emergency Forum. During larger events, MBIE may provide additional coordination support between the Government and relevant telecommunications entities such as the Telecommunications Emergency Forum (the sector coordinating entity). MBIE have no standard funding mechanisms that relate to telecommunications networks.</p> | |
| | <p>Energy Policy Advice and Fuel Sector Coordinating Entity (Energy & Fuel):</p> <p>MBIE provides policy advice relating to energy supply – liquid transport fuels, electricity, LPG, etc. MBIE does not operate energy infrastructure and does not administer regulations or funding mechanisms relating to energy emergency response and recovery.</p> <p>MBIE has a formal response and recovery role in respect of fuel supply, as set out in the National Fuel Plan. MBIE chairs the Fuel Sector Coordinating Entity, which coordinates information flows between fuel industry and NEMA in response and recovery. The Fuel Sector Coordinating Entity also has a role in risk reduction and readiness planning.</p> <p>Energy Policy Advice and Fuel Sector Coordinating Entity (Energy & Fuel) have no permanent policy levers/ funding mechanisms.</p> | <p>More information can be found here.</p> |
| | <p>Insurance Sector Advice through the New Zealand Claims Resolution Service:</p> <p>The New Zealand Claims Resolution Service provides a “one stop shop” with a suite of legal, technical and wellbeing services that support homeowners to make informed decisions throughout the insurance process and enable settlement of their claims.</p> | <p>More information can be found here.</p> |
| | <p>New Zealand Space Agency (NZSA):</p> <p>The New Zealand Space Agency is the lead government agency for space policy, regulation and sector development. NZSA does not have any funding mechanisms, but they do have partnerships with providers that can be used to lower costs or access information.</p> | |
| | <p>Science, Innovation and Technology (SIT):</p> <p>MBIE has a central coordination role in the science system to ensure an appropriate science response is taken for emergency events. Specifically, under the National CDEM Plan 2015, MBIE:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • coordinates Crown-funded research in support of the National CDEM Strategy’s goals and objectives • during and after an emergency, may take additional steps to integrate consistent and coherent science advice, and divert funding or allocate new funding to ensure technical resources in core science areas are available nationally to support the needs of agencies. | |
| | | |

| Agency | Description | Link to further information |
|----------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| | <p>Radio Spectrum Management:</p> <p>Radio Spectrum Management (RSM) assists in licensing and coordination of radio services in the direct aftermath of an event where radio infrastructure is impacted. The extent of RSM's role is dependent on the extent of services impacted and required, as many telecommunications providers have their own redundancies built into their networks RSM's scope is sometimes limited.</p> | <p>More information can be found here.</p> |
| Ministry for Primary Industries (MPI) | <p>Primary Sector Recovery Policy:</p> <p>The Primary Sector Recovery Policy (PSRP) at its core has scale/severity of the impacts of an event on the primary sector, with a range of support/funding mechanisms being dependent on the scale. The policy focuses on the recovery of farmers and growers and their whanau. The focus of the policy is not intended to be food and fibre businesses specifically.</p> | <p>A more detailed summary of the Primary Sector Recovery Policy can be found here.</p> <p>If this mechanism is activated, further information will become available here and here.</p> |
| Ministry of Social Development (MSD) | <p>Enhanced Taskforce Green (ETFG):</p> <p>ETFG is an emergency response employment program used to help farmers and growers' recover from an adverse event, assisting with clean-up activities including fence clearance and repair as well as tree and debris removal. ETFG may also be used to restore community assets such as parks, walkways and buildings.</p> | <p>More information can be found here, including if the mechanism is currently activated.</p> |
| | <p>Rural Assistance Payments:</p> <p>Rural Assistance Payments can be made available after the Ministry of Primary Industries declares a medium- to large-scale adverse event. They are targeted to cover essential living costs of farmers who operate a primary sector business and who cannot meet their essential living costs as the direct result of an adverse event.</p> | <p>More information can be found here, including if the mechanism is currently activated.</p> |
| | <p>The Ministry of Social Development's Business-As-Usual supports:</p> <p>There are lots of ways MSD can help depending on the situation. MSD may be able to provide support and ongoing assistance where needed to affected individuals. Supports and services have eligibility criteria individuals need to meet.</p> | <p>More information can be found here.</p> |
| Te Puni Kōkiri (TPK) | <p>Te Puni Kōkiri has some funding available to support Māori economic development and community resilience. Marae development and marae emergency preparedness is one of three focus areas for community resilience funding. Te Puni Kōkiri does not have dedicated funding for general community emergency responses.</p> <p>Individuals or organisations in regions affected by emergencies should contact the nearest regional office as soon as practicable to discuss their needs and if Te Puni Kōkiri can assist. As Te Puni Kōkiri does not have dedicated funding for general community emergency responses, funding criteria may vary.</p> | <p>If support mechanisms are activated, further information will become available here.</p> |

| Agency | Description | Link to further information |
|--------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Department of Internal Affairs (DIA) | Permanent recovery mechanisms: DIA has no permanent mechanisms for recovery. | |
| | Lottery Grants Board DIA administers the overall funding received from Aotearoa New Zealand’s publicly regulated lotteries, which operate year-round. Distribution of funding is a matter for the NZ Lottery Grants Board and grants are not generally targeted to initiatives supporting recovery from emergency events. However, some councils have in the past successfully applied for Lotteries Grants to assist with elements of their post disaster recovery actions. A Ministerial decision may also provide that the Lotteries Commission can ringfence funding from a specific Lotto draw to provide assistance following a specific emergency event. | An example of a cabinet established trust can be found here . |
| Natural Hazards Commission (NHC) | The Natural Hazards Insurance scheme New Zealand homeowners have natural hazards cover (NHCover) under the Natural Hazards Insurance Act 2023 if their home insurance policy includes fire insurance (most do). If the insured property is damaged by a natural hazard event, NHCover provides the first layer of insurance for the home (generally up to \$300,000 plus GST) and limited cover for some residential land. When damage is from storm or flood events, NHCover is for some land only and sometimes won’t be enough to fully repair all of the damage. Homeowners can visit the NHC website to understand what they are covered for. To make a claim, homeowners should contact their private insurer, who will manage the claim on behalf of NHC. Insured homeowners pay a Natural Hazards Insurance levy for NHCover each year as part of their private insurance premium, which goes into a Natural Hazard Fund managed by NHC. The main purpose of the Fund is to pay claims for damage following a natural hazard event. Money from the fund is also used to purchase reinsurance from international financial markets, meet the costs of administering the NHC scheme, and fund research and education that improves understanding of our natural hazard risks and how to increase our resilience. | More information can be found here : |
| Ministry for the Environment (MfE) | Waste Minimisation Act levy waiver : There are provisions in the Waste Minimisation Act for either a waiver of levy payments by the Secretary (s29) (on a case-by-case basis) or exemptions or refunds of the levy (by regulation – which can apply to any specific disposal facility or class of disposal facility, or any type, volume or weight of waste that is exempt from the levy). Waivers, refunds, and exemptions must all be justified by exceptional circumstances. | More information can be found here . |
| | Waste Minimisation Fund : Levy funds invested into waste minimisation can be targeted to specifically assist recovery (such as composting of waste materials). The fund focuses on boosting New Zealand’s performance in waste minimization. There is considerable scope to reduce waste and increase the recovery of useful resources. This fund usually opens once a year, however following an emergency event, access to the fund can be permitted for specific projects. | More information can be found here . If this mechanism is activated, further information will become available here . |
| | Contaminated Sites and Vulnerable Landfill Fund (CSVLF) : | More information can be found here . |

| Agency | Description | Link to further information |
|--------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| | <p>The CSVLF supports the investigation and/or remediation of legacy contaminated sites and landfills. These are sites where past activities occurred that were likely to result in contamination either before the Resource Management Act (RMA) was enacted in 1991 or after the RMA was enacted in 1991 but no enforcement could be taken by the regional council, unitary authority or territorial authority to investigate or remediate the contamination.</p> <p>While this fund is not specifically intended for emergency response, it has been used to address contaminated land issues following emergencies in the past. Applicability will depend on the circumstances and is ultimately a decision for the Minister.</p> | |
| | <p>Emergency Waste Fund (EWF):</p> <p>The EWF supports local authorities following an emergency event clean up emergency waste and repair/replace waste management and minimisation infrastructure.</p> <p>This fund is intended to support emergency response and recovery activities. Applicability will depend on the nature and scale of the emergency event, the types of wastes generated and is ultimately a decision for the Minister.</p> | <p>For more information, please contact the Ministry for the Environment’s fund management team.</p> <p>If this mechanism is activated, further information will become available here.</p> |
| | <p>Resource Management Act 1991 (RMA):</p> <p>This Act has permanent policy levers and pathways that exist for specified people and entities to use in emergencies, without the need for specific “activation” decisions by a relevant Minister. Key policy levers and pathways are Emergency works provisions (ss 330-33) and Possible defence in cases of unforeseen emergencies (s 18).</p> <p>The RMA also provides for development of various planning tools as secondary legislation. While these take time to develop, tools such as national direction could be used to set policy direction on recovery related topics. An example is the work under way on proposed National Direction for Natural Hazards.</p> <p>The RMA also provides a range of consenting pathways, including some that could be used to gain approvals quickly (e.g. direct referral to the Environment Court).</p> | <p>More information can be found here.</p> |
| Ministry of Health (MoH)/ Health NZ (HNZ) | <p>MoH no longer has any permanent funding mechanisms that can be automatically activated in a recovery. All funding and commissioning are now a function of HNZ. HNZ’s role in funding the operational health system recovery is currently being explored as part of Health New Zealand’s Health Recovery Policy.</p> | |
| New Zealand Transport Agency (NZTA) | <p>Recovery Funding in the Emergency Works category</p> <p>In the context applicable to NZTA, the recovery phase describes the work required to return the asset to the agreed level of service for the affected roads. Recovery funding at NZTA is sourced from the Emergency Works category, which enables funding from the National Land Transport Fund (NLTF) in response to a defined, major, short-duration natural event (a qualifying event) that has reduced or will reduce customer levels of transport service significantly below those that existed prior to the event and results in unforeseen, significant expenditure.</p> | <p>More information can be found here.</p> |

Section 2: Central Government Recovery Funding Guide

National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA)

Funding Overview

Essential Infrastructure repair and recovery funding (60:40):

- Following an emergency, the Government funds 60 percent of eligible costs (above the local authority's threshold) for like-for-like rebuild or repair of damaged essential infrastructure, river management systems and community assets. This is in accordance with Section 33 of the Guide to the National CDEM Plan.

Special Policy for Recovery:

- Special policies provide support to local authorities to undertake programmes of work (as part of recovery) that will decrease the likelihood of a recurrence of an emergency in the future. This may include upgrading facilities. Government expects local authorities to consider future risk reduction as part of recovery. Special policy financial support is not available routinely and requires Cabinet approval, as per Section 33 of the Guide to the National CDEM Plan.

Response and Recovery Claims following an emergency event

- In accordance with Section 33 of the Guide to the National CDEM Plan, the Government will fund eligible response, other response and recovery-related costs incurred by a local authority:
 - Eligible response (welfare) costs will be 100 per cent funded by the Government. E.g. caring for directly affected people (accommodating, transporting, feeding, and clothing people as a result of an emergency)
 - Eligible other response costs will be 60 per cent funded by the Government (above the local authority's threshold) and 40 per cent funded by the local authority. E.g. precautions or preventive actions to reduce immediate danger to human life,

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where those precautions or actions were begun during the response period or immediately before the emergency.

Advance payments for response and recovery costs:

- Where significant response and recovery costs are expected under 60:40 arrangements, Government may provide an advance payment based on local authority estimates.

Disaster Relief Funds (Mayoral Relief Funds):

- The Minister of Emergency Management and Recovery, together with the Prime Minister or Minister of Finance, may authorise a contribution to a disaster relief fund of up to \$100,000. Larger contributions need to be approved by Cabinet.

Funding Activation

- Government recovery assistance will normally be provided to local authorities only if:
 - recovery procedures cannot be carried out without government assistance; or
 - a statutory requirement for action exists or a need to invoke a statute to achieve the ends desired from the recovery process exists; or
 - government assistance will aid the co-ordination of the recovery process to a significant extent; or
 - the advantages of economies of scale are apparent².

Essential Infrastructure repair and recovery funding (60:40):

- While there are no general event scale / severity indicators for the activation of funding mechanisms, the total actual costs incurred by the Local Authorities for eligible other response costs and recovery of essential infrastructure have to be above a council's threshold³, otherwise government funding does not apply.
- To be eligible for the 60 percent Government contribution, rebuild or repair work, the asset must be local authority-owned and damaged as the result of an emergency and must meet at least one of the following two criteria:
 - The damage impacts on the ability of the network/asset to perform and function as intended; or
 - If the damage has not yet resulted in performance issues, failure of the asset is likely to be imminent.
- If the damage does not meet either of the two criteria above, then the following will also be considered as part of the risk implication / assessment, to help determine the funding eligibility of the work scope. These considerations are as follows:
 - Is it a critical asset i.e. main pipeline, lifeline or life safety asset?
 - Is the asset in a critical location, or does it service critical community infrastructure (e.g. a hospital or school)?

² [26 \(civildefence.govt.nz\)](https://civildefence.govt.nz)

³ As with other response claims, Government policy is to reimburse 60 percent of the combined eligible costs (response and essential infrastructure costs), above the following thresholds: 1. 0.0075 percent of the net capital value of the city council, district council or unitary authority involved 2. 0.002 percent of the net capital value of unitary authorities where the assets in question are of a type that ordinarily are managed by regional councils, or 3. 0.002 percent of net capital value in the case of regional councils.

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- Has the damage resulted in unacceptably high operating expenditure for the local authority?; and
- Are there critical interdependencies?

Special Policy Funding:

- Eligibility for Special Policy Funding is not exclusively determined by the specific scale/ severity of an event, but it is a consideration. Special policy financial support is intended to assist communities in those rare circumstances where disasters of an unusual type or magnitude cause damage that overwhelms community resources⁴. Although this indicates the inclusion of scale/ severity considerations in decision making, there is no specific definition for a ‘unusual type or magnitude’, just that the applying local authority must demonstrate that ‘there has been damage from an emergency of unusual type or magnitude that has overwhelmed community resources.
- Special Policy Funding requires Cabinet approval. The impacted councils that wish to apply for this funding need to submit a business case to demonstrate why this funding is needed from multiple factors. This includes the scale of event, community impact, Council’s capacity, investment cases and socio-economic benefits etc.

Response Claims Following an Event (Welfare Reimbursement)

- There is no set threshold for activation, therefore it is available regardless of scale or severity.

Advance payments for response and recovery costs

- The scale in question here is orientated around cost and council’s financial situation and capability to absorb these costs.
- Subject to Cabinet approval, if the agreed estimate of the overall costs is likely to be eligible for a future reimbursement of greater than \$250,000, the local authority concerned can be provided an advance payment. Any advance would be offset against subsequent local authority claims.

⁴ [26 \(civildefence.govt.nz\)](http://civildefence.govt.nz)

Disaster Relief Funds

- Disaster Relief Fund contributions are made on a case-by-case basis at the discretion of the Minister of Emergency Management and Recovery (if under \$100,000) or by cabinet (if over \$100,000). There is no set threshold for activation.

Funding Assessment Process

Essential Infrastructure repair and recovery funding (60:40):

- In order for a project to be approved into the Government funded essential infrastructure recovery programme, a local authority must complete an Essential Infrastructure Project Summary Form ⁵and submit it to the National Emergency Management Agency.
- There are no specific timeframes for completion of this Form due to the significant amount of information required to produce it. Ideally, an asset / project needs to be approved by NEMA prior to physical work commencing. This is to minimise the amount of ineligible work carry out by the councils that are not funded by NEMA. Generally, councils can provide this Form after damage assessment are completed.
- NEMA officials monitor and review project progress (both financial and non-financial) and provides assurance to the Minister for Emergency Management and Recovery. NEMA can require a Quarterly Report to be submitted if the programme is significant (i.e. over two years) to support status reporting to the Minister for Emergency Management and Recovery.

More information can be found [here](#).

Special Policy Funding:

- Special policy financial support from central government is not available routinely, and it should not be factored into risk management plans. It is intended to assist communities in those rare circumstances where disasters of an unusual type or magnitude cause damage that overwhelms community resources.
- For each request for special policy financial support assessment, specific criteria will be developed. Although each case will be different, the specific criteria will likely include:
 - critical risk reduction
 - local responsibility, and

⁵ [Approval of projects into essential infrastructure recovery programmes for 60:40 funding » National Emergency Management Agency \(civildefence.govt.nz\)](#)

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- funding/financial hardship issues.
- To meet these criteria, local authorities will demonstrate that:
 - there has been damage from an emergency of unusual type or magnitude that has overwhelmed community resources
 - the proposed solutions reduce the likelihood that such damage will occur again, and are long-term in nature
 - these are new programmes of work to meet the specific needs for emergency recovery
 - the local authority has met its responsibilities to undertake risk management, and funding is not available from council resources.
- The onus is on the local authority to justify government funding of their proposal, through their evaluation of options and other funding sources and community consultation.
- In considering proposals for special policy financial support, Cabinet will examine closely all other provisions made for risk management by the local authority or individual concerned. Government's expectation is that those responsible for risk management will make full and comprehensive provisions for dealing with all foreseeable risks.
- Requests for special policy financial support will also be considered against the overall intentions of Government to ensure that effective long-term solutions are put in place to ensure the safety and wellbeing of citizens without detracting from the fact that readiness, response, recovery and prudent hazard mitigation planning (risk reduction) are the responsibility of the local authority.
- More information can be found in Section 33 of the Guide to the National [CDEM Plan](#).

Response and Recovery Claims from an Emergency Event (100% Welfare costs)

- The claim process is similar to 60:40. There is no requirement for an Essential Infrastructure Project Summary Form and Quarterly report. Council will need to submit a claim with supporting documents (i.e. invoices).

Advance payments of response and recovery costs

- Subject to Cabinet approval, if the agreed estimate of the overall costs is likely to be eligible for a future reimbursement of greater than \$250,000, the local authority concerned can be provided an advance payment. Any advance would be offset against subsequent local authority claims, and any underspending / excess will be expected to be returned to Crown.

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- If Cabinet agrees to an advance payment, the local authority concerned will sign an agreement with DPMC regarding the management of the advance payment. The local authority would be required to provide six-monthly written reports to the Director of CDEM of expenditure on the response and recovery costs. Any surplus funds, and the interest earned on such funds, would be required to be returned to the Crown.

Disaster Relief Funds

- There is no detailed assessment process for gaining government contribution of a disaster relief fund, other than that a request will need to be made to the Minister/ cabinet. In many cases, the Minister of Emergency Management and Recovery may visit the affected area to gain an understanding of the scale/ severity of an event before announcing a contribution.

Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment (MBIE)

Funding Overview

Building Emergency Management

- For some emergency events, the Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment (MBIE) has a stewardship and leadership role in coordinating the deployment of rapid building assessors to ensure resources are distributed to the right place at the right time.
- Rapid building assessors are deployed or mobilised across the country to emergency events when there has been damage to buildings because of an emergency event. Rapid building assessors are a ‘volunteer’ workforce, primarily made up of staff from building control authorities and the engineering community. The cost of deployment can be paid under MBIEs financial arrangements. MBIE has provisions/policy/authority for funding the deployment these rapid building assessors.

More information can be found [here](#).

Temporary Accommodation Service (TAS)

- During the early stages of a response, TAS gathers information and analysis to ascertain the likely temporary accommodation demand and the most appropriate supply options for the affected populations. TAS encourages operational partnerships at both national and CDEM Group level for successful implementation of temporary accommodation plans. Once activated, households can register with TAS for temporary accommodation throughout the recovery phase of a response.
- Under the National Civil Defence Emergency Management Plan 2015, MBIE is responsible for coordinating the provision of temporary accommodation for people displaced by a civil emergency. MBIE delivers this function through TAS.

More information can be found [here](#).

Immigration NZ

- Immigration NZ maintains the integrity of the visa system (ensuring that those onshore continue to meet visa conditions, including supporting them if the situation does not allow these visa conditions to be met – i.e. if a regional disaster means they cannot be employed in their endorsed workplace).
- Immigration NZ also maintains the integrity / security of the border (ensuring that only valid / eligible arrivals continue to be processed into NZ, including issuing visas against government policy. Business Continuity Planning ensures that Immigration NZ supports NZ remaining open during a disaster and recovery).
- Immigration NZ also facilitates the arrival of a response workforce into New Zealand (use pre-existing visas or, if directed by Government, support the creation of new visa options to enable the arrival of experts and workers that can assist and support recovery efforts).
- In recovery, Immigration NZ would likely fund activities related to existing products and services internally (i.e. AEWV, Students, Visitors, RSE scheme, Airport Borders).
- A Mass Arrival response would likely see Cabinet direction, initiated as part of the mass arrival plan, provide specific government funding for any response, including resourcing and financing the physical response and recovery phase of a mass arrival response.

Business support – Kānoa and Small Business Services

- Kānoa – Regional Economic Development and Investment Unit (Kānoa – RDU) is a group within MBIE. The primary functions of Kānoa – RDU are to strategically work with regions and their various communities to originate and structure appropriate investment opportunities and then deliver and manage these strategic, regionally-focused economic interventions and the associated investment funding. Kānoa – RDU's regional presence means it can draw on significant local knowledge and networks to support recovery and response efforts to major events.
- Kānoa – RDU does not have any permanent policy levers or funding mechanisms. Historically support for recovery initiatives has come from new bespoke funding or reprioritised existing funding.

Business support – Enterprise

- Government has at times provided bespoke disaster support for businesses. Generally, disaster relief packages are made available at Ministerial discretion in response to events that have a sudden, significant, and sustained impact on businesses, beyond their capabilities to respond effectively.
- There are no permanent mechanisms related to business support for recovery, each response is bespoke and typically requires Cabinet to appropriate funding to an emergency response package.

Telecommunications Policy Advice

- MBIE provide policy advice on telecommunications. During an emergency MBIE updates relevant Ministers on the status of telecommunications networks from information from the Telecommunications Emergency Forum. During larger events, MBIE may provide additional coordination support between the Government and relevant telecommunications entities such as the Telecommunications Emergency Forum (the sector coordinating entity). MBIE have no standard funding mechanisms that relate to telecommunications networks.

More information can be found [here](#).

Energy Policy Advice and Fuel Sector Coordinating Entity (Energy & Fuel)

- MBIE provides policy advice relating to energy supply – liquid transport fuels, electricity, LPG, etc. MBIE does not operate energy infrastructure and does not administer regulations or funding mechanisms relating to energy emergency response and recovery.
- MBIE has a formal response and recovery role in respect of fuel supply, as set out in the National Fuel Plan. MBIE chairs the Fuel Sector Coordinating Entity, which coordinates information flows between fuel industry and NEMA in response and recovery. The Fuel Sector Coordinating Entity also has a role in risk reduction and readiness planning.
- Energy Policy Advice and Fuel Sector Coordinating Entity (Energy & Fuel) have no permanent policy levers/ funding mechanisms.

More information can be found [here](#).

Insurance Sector Advice through the New Zealand Claims Resolution Service

- The New Zealand Claims Resolution Service provides a “one stop shop” with a suite of legal, technical and wellbeing services that support homeowners to make informed decisions throughout the insurance process and enable settlement of their claims. Services are tailored to a homeowner’s individual needs.

More information can be found [here](#).

New Zealand Space Agency (NZSA)

- The New Zealand Space Agency is the lead government agency for space policy, regulation and sector development. NZSA does not have any funding mechanisms, but they do have partnerships with providers that can be used to lower costs or free information.

Science, Innovation and Technology (SIT)

- MBIE provides policy advice and develops strategy for the science, innovation and technology (SIT) system. MBIE is also the main public funder of SIT activities.
- MBIE has a central coordination role in the science system to ensure an appropriate science response is taken for emergency events. Specifically, under the National CDEM Plan 2015, MBIE:
 - coordinates Crown-funded research in support of the National CDEM Strategy’s goals and objectives

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- during and after an emergency, may take additional steps to integrate consistent and coherent science advice, and divert funding or allocate new funding to ensure technical resources in core science areas are available nationally to support the needs of agencies.

Radio Spectrum Management (RSM)

- Radio Spectrum Management (RSM) assists in licensing and coordination of radio services in the direct aftermath of an event where radio infrastructure is impacted. The extent of RSM's role is dependent on the extent of services impacted and required, as many telecommunications providers have their own redundancies built into their networks RSM's scope is sometimes limited.
- Radio Spectrum Management also assists in the authorisation of radio usage for incoming external assistance such as international Search and Rescue teams and NZDF supply deployments.
- The Radiocommunications Regulations 2001 Section 10 sets out the ability for the Grant of exemption from requirement for radio license. Following an event where radio services need to be reestablished outside the normal process/timelines, RSM can issue exemptions to get them back up and running quickly.

More information can be found [here](#).

Funding Activation

Building Emergency Management

- Funding for deployment costs (as detailed above) is available during a Level 4 response. For context, the key indicators for determining the scale of severity of an event are set out in Building Management internal plan:

| Level 1 | Level 2 | Level 3 | Level 4 |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <p>Activate this plan when a response from MBIE will be required.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • National Warning System (NEMA) Notification. • Isolated incident, limited to one geographic area. • Media reports may indicate building damage. • MBIE staff / contacts in area may report building damage. • Territorial authority intends to <u>submit an application</u> to designate. | <p>Escalate to this level when support is required for building management.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • State of Local Emergency OR designated area. • Regional incident. • Media / MBIE staff / contacts reporting indicates building damage. • May impact priority buildings or critical infrastructure. • Poses risk of serious injury/death. • Territorial authorities request subject matter expert support. | <p>Escalate to this level when national co-ordination of resources is required.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • State of Local Emergency AND designated area. • Major regional incident. • Confirmed reports of building damage. • Impacts priority buildings or critical infrastructure. • May involve serious injury/death. • <u>Mobilisation</u> of Rapid Building Assessors requested. | <p>Escalate to this level to provide co-ordination of resources and support or leadership for building management.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • State of National Emergency • Major national incident. • Confirmed reports of building damage. • Impacts priority buildings or critical infrastructure. • May involve serious injury/death. • <u>Mobilisation</u> of Rapid Building Assessors required. |

Temporary Accommodation Services (TAS)

- TAS enters a Watch Phase, which is a period where emerging situations are monitored to determine if the Temporary Accommodation Service is likely to be required. The transition point within this phase is the likelihood to activate the service.
- TAS activation decisions are made on a case-by-case basis, taking the following factors into consideration:
 - intel from local CDEM Groups and other relevant stakeholders
 - the number of affected households, largely based on Rapid Building Assessments
 - the geographic distribution of affected households
 - the availability, affordability, and suitability of housing stock in the affected area(s)
 - early indications of the number and value of insurance claims, and timeframes for repair or rebuild work
 - whether the area(s) have been affected by other civil emergencies.

Immigration NZ

- For a Mass Arrivals this is defined in legislation and is the arrival of 30 or more irregular migrants via maritime means.

See the [Immigration \(Mass Arrivals\) Amendment Bill](#).

NZ Government Procurement (NZGP)

N/A

Business support – Kānoa and Small Business Services

N/A

Business support – Enterprise

- The scale / severity of the response depends on the scale and severity of the event.
- Relief packages are considered at Ministers' discretion and are typically based on an assessment of whether an event has a sudden, significant, and sustained impact on businesses, beyond their capabilities to respond effectively.
- The criteria to be employed depend on the purpose of the policy interventions, and include the following considerations:
 - cost efficiency (does it have a large impact on demand and employment per dollar of revenue spent or foregone)
 - alignment with economic strategy (does it support the long-term economic growth strategy?)
 - delivery (is it either temporary and easy to withdraw or viable for long-term?)
 - timing (can it be designed and implemented quickly)
 - targeting right areas of domestic demand (eg. targeted at businesses that are sound and profitable but unduly cash constrained)

ICT Policy Advice

N/A

Energy Policy Advice and Fuel SCE (Energy & Fuel)

- Regarding criteria for activation, any new levers/mechanisms, if established, would require bespoke decisions by ministers including new or amended appropriations.

Insurance Sector Advice (NZCRS)

- Activation is dependent on the scale and severity of an event. Key indicators for determining scale include budget, staff, resourcing and location.

New Zealand Space Agency (NZSA)

N/A

Science, Innovation and Technology (SIT)

- Some, but not all, emergency events require a science response. The role of science and research after an emergency or major incident may include:
 - Services to reduce or mitigate further hazards
 - Scientific research and development
 - Collection of perishable data
 - Informing advice to Government (and other stakeholders e.g. local government orgs).
- There is no formal criteria for when MBIE may divert existing or allocate new funding to a science response for an emergency event. It will depend on the scale and nature of the event and whether a rapid response is required to allow important science and research in the immediate and short-term aftermath of an incident.
- Relevant factors may include the extent to which science or research would contribute to public safety and reducing risks, preserving the natural environment, preserving sites or artefacts of cultural/historical significance, preserving NZ's economic interests, scientific importance, urgency, and public interest.

Radio Spectrum Management (RSM)

- The activation of their assistance is dependent on the impact on client services. If clients have their own backup services or other operational demands at the time, then they may not need RSM's assistance.
- A relatively small-scale event may impact sensitive equipment based on its location while a large-scale event may not impact any radio infrastructure at all.

Funding Assessment Process

Building Emergency Management

N/A

Temporary Accommodation Services (TAS)

- To be placed in TAS supplied temporary accommodation after a specified civil emergency event all households must complete a TAS registration form. On that form a household must complete a declaration confirming that they are displaced from their primary place of residence by damage caused by the specified emergency event.
- A household must also provide documented evidence to support this declaration, which may include confirmation of placard status or damage, a recent utility bill, or insurance details.

Immigration NZ

- Application process is defined in the Mass Arrivals Plan, including the operational welfare plan.

NZ Government Procurement (NZGP)

N/A

Business support – Kānoa and Small Business Services

- The assessment process has varied according to the initiative. Ministers have been presented with advice and options relevant to each situation, and Kānoa – RDU has implemented according to Ministerial direction (often alongside colleagues from MBIE or other agencies).

Business support – Enterprise

- As above, this is developed on a case-by-case basis, often depending on the circumstances and delivery mechanism (e.g. delivery is usually through local partners such as Chambers of Commerce or Councils but can depend on the nature and location of an event), with base criteria adapted according to circumstances.

ICT Policy Advice

N/A

Energy Policy Advice and Fuel SCE (Energy & Fuel)

N/A

Insurance Sector Advice (NZCRS)

- Eligibility for the NZCRS includes:
 - Insurance claim lodged in relation to a natural disaster*
 - Residential house claims only (not contents/car/health etc)
 - Properties may be owner-occupied or tenanted. Services are not available in relation to commercial properties
 - Homeowners can take a maximum of three properties damaged by a single event through the NZCRS. This limit does not apply to multi-unit buildings
 - Available to homeowners affected by any natural disaster event, regardless of size – such as a small landslip affecting one or two properties
- A budget bid is required to scale up if costs exceed baseline funding.
- Natural disaster is defined as an adverse event resulting from a natural hazard (for example earthquakes, flooding, or extreme weather events). This definition is broader than the

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hazards covered by Toka Tū Ake NHC, and could include events where human activity may have played a role, such as:

- wildfires started by sparks from machinery
- landslides in ground weakened by excavation.

New Zealand Space Agency (NZSA)

N/A

Science, Innovation and Technology (SIT)

- As above, science funding is considered on a case-by-case basis and includes working with Crown Research Institutes with specific responsibilities for providing science support in emergencies set out in the National CDEM Plan. There are no “standing” funding mechanisms or assessment criteria.

Radio Spectrum Management (RSM)

- There are no funding mechanisms associated with Radio Spectrum Management.

Ministry for Primary Industries (MPI)

Funding Overview

- The Primary Sector Recovery Policy (PSRP) is a government policy which identifies a range of support mechanisms for adverse events and biosecurity incursions, depending on the scale of the event. This policy is also cross referenced within the National CDEM Plan 2015 and the welfare support agency responsibilities (financial assistance and psychosocial support). The support lists Ministry for Primary Industries (MPI), Inland Revenue and Ministry of Social Development-led supports. The PSRP is currently under review.

| Measures available | | ADMINISTERED AND FUNDED BY | FOR ADVERSE EVENT | FOR BIOSECURITY INCURSION | FUNDING CAP/ TIME LIMITS |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------|-------------------------|---------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Localised Recovery Measures (available on a case-by-case basis) | | | | | |
| Provisional tax | If income is lower than last year, provisional tax can be estimated or re-estimated downwards, until the date that the last instalment is due. | IRD | YES | YES | N/A |
| Late filing and late payment | Extensions for some income tax returns – not GST or PAYE – may be available; penalties for late filing, or for late payments as a result of the effects of an adverse event, may be remitted. | IRD | YES | YES | N/A |
| Income Equalisation Scheme | Allows, depending on the circumstances, taxpayers to make late deposits and/or early withdrawals to and from the income equalisation scheme. | IRD | YES | YES | N/A |
| Tax outstanding | Instalment arrangements for outstanding tax in some circumstances. | IRD | YES | YES | N/A |
| Additional flexible tax provisions | Other tax provisions may include: losses on farm where certain improvements are destroyed or irreparably damaged; payments or donations from charities are not taxable or liable for GST; flexibility for child support payments; tax treatment of insurance payments in some cases; interest may be deductible where money is borrowed; may be eligible for Earner Tax Credit. | IRD | YES | YES | N/A |
| Working for Families assistance | Where income has changed, may be offered: childcare assistance for pre-schoolers or after school and holiday care; an accommodation supplement (which may be available to families with or without children); Inland Revenue Tax Credits to help with the cost of raising a family. | MSD & IRD | YES | YES | N/A |
| Emergency Benefit | Income and asset-tested financial assistance for people who are in hardship, unable to earn enough to support themselves and their family, and are not eligible for any other benefit. | MSD | YES | YES | N/A |
| Special Needs Grant | Non-taxable, one-off payments for people to meet an immediate need. Do not need to be on a benefit to qualify. It is income and asset-tested and may or may not need to be paid back depending on individual's specific circumstances. | MSD | YES | YES | N/A |
| Recoverable Assistance Payments | Non-taxable, interest free financial assistance to non-beneficiaries to meet essential immediate needs for specific items or services. Income and asset-tested and must be paid back later. | MSD | YES | YES | N/A |
| Jobseeker Support | A weekly payment for people looking for full-time work or unable to work due to a health condition, injury or disability. | MSD | YES | YES | N/A |
| Work and Income non-financial assistance | Help farmers, partners and workers to find off-farm employment. | MSD | YES | YES | N/A |
| Mentoring/ Advice | Financial negotiation and counselling/mentoring services for rural families and individuals. | Various | YES | YES | N/A |

Fig 1: Primary Sector Recovery Policy Localised Recovery Measures

| Measures available | | ADMINISTERED AND FUNDED BY | FOR ADVERSE EVENT | FOR BIOSECURITY INCURSION | FUNDING CAP/ TIME LIMITS |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------|-------------------------|---------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| MEDIUM-SCALE RECOVERY MEASURES (IN ADDITION TO LOCALISED MEASURES) | | | | | |
| Rural Support Trusts | Additional funding during events to provide community support and coordinate a range of medium-scale measures. | MPI | YES | YES | For duration of classified event |
| Labour assistance - Enhanced Taskforce Green (ETFG) | This is an 'enhanced' labour assistance scheme, managed through local councils, that provides assistance for clean-up and repairs. The enhancements may include assistance for personal safety equipment and machinery. | MSD | YES | IN SOME CIRCUMSTANCES | 18 months |
| Rural Assistance Payments (RAPs) | Payments to people whose main income comes from the primary industries and who cannot meet essential living costs because of the event. Some conditions must be met, which includes checks for other income, personal (non-farm) assets and a cash asset review. These payments are set at 100% of the Jobseeker Support level. Recovery facilitators are also required if RAPs are activated. | MSD | YES | YES | 12 months |
| Technology Transfer Assistance | Grants to provide assistance for education and technical advice on recovery options relating to financial and contingency planning, including animal welfare. The grants can be used for activities including workshops, meetings and brochures. | MPI | YES | YES | 18 months |
| Rural Recovery Coordinator | MPI may appoint a person to coordinate rural recovery across regions and the parties. | MPI | YES | YES | Event dependent |
| Recovery Facilitator(s) | The Government may appoint Agricultural Recovery Facilitators who coordinate the response and recovery initiatives in a defined area (e.g. a district). Necessary when administering RAPs. | MPI | YES | YES | 18 months |
| Volunteer costs | Costs are met for volunteer travel and accommodation. | MPI | YES | YES | 18 months |
| Community engagement | Costs to enable dissemination of key information. | MPI | YES | YES | Event dependent |
| LARGE-SCALE RECOVERY MEASURES (IN ADDITION TO LOCALISED MEASURES AND MEDIUM-SCALE MEASURES) | | | | | |
| Special Recovery Measures | Reimbursed grant set at 50% of verified costs, with excess of \$10,000 or 10% qualifying damage costs. To a maximum of \$250,000 per farm business | MPI | YES | NO | 18 months |

Fig 2: Primary Sector Recovery Policy Medium-Scale Recovery Measures (In Addition to Localised Measures)

More information can be found [here](#).

Funding Activation

- The Primary Sector Recovery Policy (PSRP) at its core has scale/severity of the impacts of an event on the primary sector, with a range of support/funding mechanisms being dependent on the scale. Note that while Cyclone Gabrielle was classified a large-scale event and combined with Cyclone Hale and Auckland Anniversary weekend floods, the PSRP was used in part, while wider all of government considerations of support were taken into account for recovery purposes[1].

| SOURCE: MPI, AUGUST 2016 | | SCALE OF ADVERSE EVENT | | |
|----------------------------------------|---------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| CLASSIFICATION OF ADVERSE EVENT MATRIX | | LOCALISED (The majority of the criteria sit within this column) | MEDIUM-SCALE (The majority of the criteria sit within this column) | LARGE-SCALE (The majority of the criteria sit within this column) |
| THEMES | CRITERIA | ASSESSMENT/CLASSIFICATION OF THE EVENT | | |
| RISK MANAGEMENT OPTIONS | Availability of options | Readily available. | Moderately available. | No practical options available. |
| MAGNITUDE OF EVENT | Likelihood of the event | Frequent. | Infrequent. | Rare. |
| | Scale of physical impact | Local level. | District level/ multi-district level. | Regional/ national level. |
| CAPACITY OF COMMUNITY TO COPE | Degree of economic impact | Local level. | District level/ multi-district level. | Regional/ national level. |
| | Degree of social impact | Local level. | District level/ multi-district level. | Regional/ national level. |
| EXAMPLES | | 2006 Whangaeahu Valley flood 2005 Gisborne flood | 2006 Canterbury snow 2015 Taranaki-Horizons Storm 2015 Eastern South Island drought | 2004 Lower North Island floods. 1988 Cyclone Bola. |
| POSSIBLE GOVERNMENT ASSISTANCE | | Localised event recovery measures. | Localised event recovery measures + Medium-scale event recovery measures. | Localised event recovery measures + Medium-scale event recovery measures + Special recovery measures. |

Fig 3: Primary Sector Recovery Policy Classification of Adverse Event Matrix

If this mechanism is activated, further information will become available [here](#).

(see also tiles associated with events in progress, e.g. “Dealing with drought conditions”)

Funding Assessment Process

- When the Primary Sector Recovery Policy is followed event/incursion is classified (not declared) as either localised, medium or large-scale. This assessment is based on:
 - the risk management options available for farmers to prepare for the event;
 - magnitude of the event/incursion; and
 - capacity of the community to cope.
- MPI consults with a number of parties (Rural Support Trusts, relevant regional and/or district councils, local civil defence and emergency management (CDEM) groups, industry organisations and other organisations). Based on the information collected MPI advises the Minister of Agriculture and Minister for Rural Communities on the classification of the event and the geographical extent of the event.
- For medium or large-event scale events either MPI classifies the event and confirms the recovery measures to be applied in accordance with the classification.
- The classification of an event has no legal standing. The classification is also independent of any declaration of an emergency under the Civil Defence Emergency Management Act 2002 or any other statute.
- The criteria used for classifying an adverse event is different from a biosecurity incursion (see Appendix 1 of Summary of the Primary Sector Recovery Policy). The matrix for classifying a biosecurity incursion includes additional criteria, such as reference to Government Industry Agreements[2] and the need to mitigate risks.
- The classification is applied for a defined period, although the end date can be extended to enable recovery measures to continue to be available as appropriate to assist with the recovery.
- The criteria used for classifying an adverse event is different from a biosecurity incursion (see Appendix 1 of Summary of The Primary Sector Recovery Policy (mpi.govt.nz)). The matrix for classifying a biosecurity incursion includes a number of additional criteria, such as reference to Government Industry Agreements and the need to mitigate risks.
- The classification is applied for a defined period of time, although the end date can be extended to enable recovery measures to continue to be available as appropriate to assist with the recovery.
- Distribution decisions are made on a case-by-case basis taking into account precedent set by previous decisions.

[1] See also <https://www.mpi.govt.nz/funding-rural-support/adverse-events/cyclone-gabrielle-recovery-advice-and-support/>

[2] A “Government Industry Agreement” (GIA) is an agreement made in accordance with [Section 100z](#) of the Biosecurity Act 1993 between the Crown (Director-General of MPI) and one or more industry organisations, and can include provisions on a number of matters including joint decision-making, cost sharing and variations to compensation provisions around readiness and response activities. GIAs explicitly exclude recovery.

Ministry of Social Development (MSD)

Funding Overview

- The Ministry of Social Development (MSD) can activate programmes during an emergency response, which may continue into recovery i.e. programmes such as Enhanced Taskforce Green. Any emergency response programme or funding is in addition to services and support that is provided under the Social Security Act (2018).
- In recent disruptions Cabinet has provided MSD with funding to aid the community’s response to an emergency, and/ or to assist with recovery. MSD is well placed to administer these types of funds due to their close links with community and social sector providers. MSD has some capacity to quickly stand-up community funding but may require extra staff resource depending on the scale of the disruption.

MSD’s Operational Role

- MSD is the lead agency responsible for the Financial Assistance Sub-Function (of Section 64 Welfare Service arrangements of the National CDEM Plan) in readiness, response, and recovery. This ensures people are well informed on, and have easy access to, the range of financial services and support available to them.
- While MSD leads the Financial Assistance Sub-Function, it does not hold legislated responsibilities for welfare services during recovery under the current legislation.

Enhanced Taskforce Green (ETFG)

- ETFG is an emergency response employment program used to help farmers and growers’ recover from an adverse event, assisting with clean-up activities including fence clearance and repair as well as tree and debris removal. ETFG may also be used to restore community assets such as parks, walkways and buildings.

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- The Minister for Social Development and Employment can approve up to \$500,000 for this program, covering cost of wages, purchase of personal safety equipment, hire of light equipment etc. Cabinet approval is required for funding beyond this amount.

More information can be found [here](#), including if the mechanism is currently activated.

Rural Assistance Payments

- Rural Assistance Payments can be made available after the Ministry of Primary Industries declares a medium- to large-scale adverse event.
- Rural Assistance Payments are targeted to cover essential living costs of farmers who operate a primary sector business and who cannot meet their essential living costs as the direct result of an adverse event. The Minister of Social Development and Employment can approve this program, jointly with the Minister of Agriculture and Minister of Finance.

More information can be found [here](#), including if the mechanism is currently activated.

Civil Defence Payments

- Civil Defence Payments may be made available to meet the immediate needs of people affected by a civil defence emergency or adverse event.
- Individuals do not have to be receiving a benefit to qualify for a Civil Defence Payment, nor do they have to be a New Zealand resident. In most cases, neither income nor assets are tested.
- Payments, when activated, are available for those who experience hardship as a direct result of the emergency event. This may help cover the costs of:
 - Food
 - Bedding
 - Clothing
 - Accommodation
 - Loss of income.

More information can be found [here](#), including if the mechanism is currently activated.

Funding Activation

- The activation of MSD's programmes can be dependent on the scale and severity of an event and/or the declaration of an event from another agency. For example:
 - Primary Sector Recovery Policy (MPI) – provides the mechanism to potentially activate a range of support due to the classification of an adverse event (Medium- to Large-scale). For example, following a medium-scale adverse event classification from MPI provides the mechanism to activate Rural Assistance Payments or Enhanced Task Force Green.
 - Civil Defence Payments – can be made available to meet the immediate needs of people affected by civil defence emergency or an adverse event. This requires there to be identified need that cannot be met by current financial support that is available.
- Depending on the event, and the scope and complexity of the recovery, MSD may reallocate resources to support recovery efforts, including the delivery of any programmes or services, as has been agreed at CE or Ministerial level.

Funding Assessment Process

- Depending on the program(s) being activated, these processes can be swift, however there can be dependency on the policy process. This may require:
 - Needs Assessment - identification of financial assistance need provided through the needs assessment process and the adequacy of alternate relief measures available.
 - Eligibility is determined by affected persons' individual circumstances in accordance with relevant legislation.
 - Ministerial approval (dependent on funding mechanism).

Te Puni Kōkiri (TPK)

Funding Overview

- Te Puni Kōkiri has some funding available to support Māori economic development and community resilience. Marae development and marae emergency preparedness is one of

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three focus areas for community resilience funding. Te Puni Kōkiri does not have dedicated funding for general community emergency responses.

- Te Puni Kōkiri has offices in 13 regions, with connections in the other three, and these have strong networks within their communities. Te Puni Kōkiri national and regional offices will respond quickly in emergencies within available resources.

More information can be found [here](#).

- Investment Processes – Individuals or organisations in regions affected by emergencies should contact the nearest regional office as soon as practicable to discuss their needs and if Te Puni Kōkiri can assist. As Te Puni Kōkiri does not have dedicated funding for general community emergency responses, funding criteria may vary. Te Puni Kōkiri aims to ensure decisions are made as speedily as is consistent with good practice. Te Puni Kōkiri also aims to be proactive in reaching out to key agencies, iwi, Māori communities and organisations as part of its emergency response.

If support mechanisms are activated, further information will become available [here](#).

- Te Puni Kōkiri also undertakes a range of additional functions that support emergency response and recovery efforts, these include:
 - National Involvement with NEMA – Te Puni Kōkiri works closely with the National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA) to ensure the needs and perspectives of Māori communities are considered in national emergency planning, response, and recovery processes. TPK provide guidance on incorporating Māori perspectives into emergency management strategies, helping to bridge gaps between Māori communities and government response efforts. TPK's collaboration extends to information sharing, coordination of resources, and supporting Māori engagement during national emergencies.
 - Regional Climate Resilience Teams – Te Puni Kōkiri has established dedicated Regional Climate Resilience teams to address the unique needs of each region and the Māori communities in the face of climate change and natural disasters. These teams operate within Te Puni Kōkiri regional offices and are focused on building local kaimahi capability and capacity, enhancing community resilience, and being well-informed to ensure that Māori communities are well-prepared for emergencies. By working across regions and directly with iwi, hapū, and whānau,

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these teams help develop localised preparedness plans, support infrastructure improvements, and facilitate training and upskilling initiatives.

Funding Activation

N/A

Funding Assessment Process

N/A

Department of Internal Affairs (DIA)

Funding Overview

Policy levers

- The Department of Internal Affairs (DIA) has no permanent levers tailored to emergency events.
- If required, DIA will provide relevant advice to the Minister of Local Government (for example, advice to progress legislative change/new legislation to address significant issues raised by councils and facilitate their ability to act quickly and more effectively). DIA also ensures there is a local government lens across central government work programmes and decisions.

Funding mechanisms

- DIA has no permanent mechanisms for recovery.

Other funding assistance – Lotteries revenue

- DIA administers the overall funding received from Aotearoa New Zealand's publicly regulated lotteries, which operate year-round.
- Funding may be distributed for recreation, arts, community projects and sports. Distribution of funding is a matter for the NZ Lottery Grants Board, which allocates funding to distribution committees which then assess funding applications against published criteria and expected outcomes. Grants are not generally targeted to initiatives supporting

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recovery from emergency events. However, some councils have in the past successfully applied for Lotteries Grants to assist with elements of their post disaster recovery actions. (For example, the Wairoa District Council was granted \$400,000 for its regional recovery structure in 2023 following Cyclone Gabrielle and the Buller District Council received \$800,000 following the 2021 flooding.)

- A Ministerial decision may provide that the Lotteries Commission can ringfence funding from a specific Lotto draw to provide assistance following a specific emergency event. For example, Cabinet established the Cyclone Gabrielle Appeal Trust following Cyclone Gabrielle. Funds from the nominated Lotto draw were then allocated by the NZ Lottery Grants Board to the Minister's Discretionary Fund, and the Minister in turn approved an application from the Trust for these funds. The amount now held by the Trust is for allocation to assist communities and projects with their medium-term recovery activities. A funding round opened for grant applications on 20 March 2024 and closed on 29 May 2024. Decisions of the Trust and the Lottery Grants Board (and its committees) are matters for them respectively not DIA.

More information can be found [here](#).

Funding Activation

- Development of a bespoke mechanism is dependent on the scale and severity of the event, the scope and nature of damage, and consideration of such things as local leadership and capability etc.
- Decisions about lotteries grants are made by the NZ Lottery Grants Board. They are not necessarily associated with any given emergency event.

Funding Assessment Process

N/A./

Natural Hazards Commission Toka Tū Ake (NHC)

Information for homeowners and communities

| Topic | Website information | Collateral to download / print |
|-----------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Insurance cover | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• About natural hazards cover | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Guide to Natural Hazards Cover• Factsheet: Your natural hazards cover |
| Making a claim | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Claims | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Guide to making a claim• Factsheet: land cover and claims• Factsheet: Code of insured persons rights |

Funding Overview

- NHC is a Crown Entity established under the Natural Hazards Insurance Act 2023 to administer New Zealand's natural hazards insurance scheme (known as NHCover). NHC was previously known as the Earthquake Commission.
- New Zealand homeowners have NHCover if their home insurance policy includes fire insurance (which most do).
- If the insured property is damaged by an earthquake, tsunami, volcanic activity, landslide, hydrothermal activity or fire caused by these hazards, NHCover provides the first layer of insurance for the home (generally up to \$300,000 plus GST) and limited cover for some residential land. When damage is from storm or flood events, NHCover is for some land only and sometimes won't be enough to fully repair all of the damage.
- NHCover is primarily funded by insured homeowners paying a Natural Hazards Insurance levy for NHCover each year as part of their private insurance premium, which goes into a Natural Hazard Fund managed by NHC. The main purpose of the Fund is to pay claims for damage following a natural hazard event.
- In addition to administering NHCover and managing the Natural Hazard Fund, NHC facilitates research and education, and contributes to the sharing of information, knowledge and expertise on natural hazard risks, impacts and resilience.
- More information can be found [here](#).

Funding Activation

- Insured homeowners can make an NHCover claim when a natural hazard damages their home and/or some of their land.
- NHCover includes damage to insured homes from earthquakes, landslides, volcanic activity, tsunami and hydrothermal activity.
- NHCover also provides limited cover for certain areas of land under and around a home, and limited cover for some bridges, culverts, and retaining walls.
- NHCover for storm or flood damage is for some residential land only, as homes are covered by private insurance. NHCover can often help with the cost of cleaning up some parts of insured land, but can't reimburse homeowners for work they do themselves.
- Land cover is not intended to be a comprehensive cover and it sometimes won't be enough to fully repair all of the damage to residential land after a natural hazard event.
- It is important that homeowners visit the NHC website to understand what they are covered for.

To make a claim, homeowners should contact their private insurer, who will manage the claim on behalf of NHC. More information can be found [here](#).

Funding Assessment Process

- Claims for NHCover are generally managed (received, assessed and settled) by the homeowner's insurer, in accordance with the Natural Hazard Insurance Act 2023 and relevant NHC policies. This process, including roles of specialists, is outlined [here](#).
- When a claim has been accepted the homeowner will usually be paid money to replace or repair the damage to their property (up to the amount of the building and land caps under the Act). This is called 'cash settlement'.
- There are dispute resolution services available if the homeowner disagrees with the outcome of their NHCover claim, more information can be found [here](#).

Ministry for the Environment (MfE)

Funding Overview

Waste Minimisation Act levy waiver

- There are provisions in the Waste Minimisation Act for either a waiver of levy payments by the Secretary (s29) (on a case-by-case basis) or exemptions or refunds of the levy (by regulation – which can apply to any specific disposal facility or class of disposal facility, or any type, volume or weight of waste that is exempt from the levy). Waivers, refunds, and exemptions must all be justified by exceptional circumstances.

More information can be found [here](#).

Waste Minimisation Fund

- Levy funds invested into waste minimisation can be targeted to specifically assist recovery (such as composting of waste materials). The fund focuses on boosting New Zealand's performance in waste minimization. There is considerable scope to reduce waste and increase the recovery of useful resources.
- This fund usually opens once a year, however following an emergency event, access to the fund can be permitted for specific projects.

More information can be found [here](#).

If this mechanism is activated, further information will become available [here](#).

Contaminated Sites and Vulnerable Landfill Fund (CSVLF)

- The CSVLF supports the investigation and/or remediation of legacy contaminated sites and landfills. These are sites where past activities occurred that were likely to result in contamination either:
 - before the Resource Management Act (RMA) was enacted in 1991
 - after the RMA was enacted in 1991 but no enforcement could be taken by the regional council, unitary authority or territorial authority to investigate or remediate the contamination.

National Recovery Coordination Group

- While this fund is not specifically intended for emergency response, it has been used to address contaminated land issues following emergencies in the past. Applicability will depend on the circumstances and is ultimately a decision for the Minister.

More information can be found [here](#).

Emergency Waste Fund (EWF)

- The EWF supports local authorities following an emergency event clean up emergency waste and repair/replace waste management and minimisation infrastructure where the:
 - management of the emergency waste is reasonably necessary to address a risk to public health or the environment
 - management of emergency waste, or repair or replacement of waste management and minimisation infrastructure, or both activities, is likely to be beyond the resources of a local authority, and
 - the proposed waste management actions are consistent with national civil defence emergency management plan made under section 39 of the Civil Defence Emergency Management Act 2002
- This fund is intended to support emergency response and recovery activities. Applicability will depend on the nature and scale of the emergency event, the types of wastes generated and is ultimately a decision for the Minister.

For more information, please contact the Ministry for the Environment's fund management team.

If this mechanism is activated, further information will become available [here](#).

Resource Management Act 1991 (RMA)

- This Act has permanent policy levers and pathways that exist for specified people and entities to use in emergencies, without the need for specific “activation” decisions by a relevant Minister. Key policy levers and pathways are:
 - Emergency works provisions, ss 330-331
 - Possible defence in cases of unforeseen emergencies, s 18
- Recently the RMA was amended to provide specifically for some emergency activities undertaken by rural landowners and occupiers in areas affected by the early 2023 severe weather events. These provisions were repealed on 1 April 2024.

National Recovery Coordination Group

- The RMA also provides for development of various planning tools as secondary legislation. While these take time to develop, tools such as national direction could be used to set policy direction on recovery related topics. An example is the work under way on proposed National Direction for Natural Hazards.
- The RMA also provides a range of consenting pathways, including some that could be used to gain approvals quickly (e.g. direct referral to the Environment Court).

More information can be found [here](#).

Funding Activation

Levy waiver

- The Waste Minimisation Act allows the Secretary for the Environment to waive levy requirements if they are satisfied there are “exceptional circumstances”, these are assessed on a case-by-case basis. This has been used in managing wastes from natural disasters such as earthquakes and flooding.

Waste Minimisation Fund

- These mechanisms have the potential to direct levy money specifically to recovery related activities. The Waste Minimisation (Waste Disposal Levy) Amendment Act 2024 came into force on 1 July. The Amendment Act enables the central government allocation of the waste disposal levy to be spent on a broader range of environmental outcomes and achieve fiscal savings.
- The fund does not require an activation as access to the fund is not dependent on the occurrence of an emergency event.

More information can be found [here](#).

Contaminated Sites and Vulnerable Landfills Fund

- The Waste Minimisation (Waste Disposal Levy) Amendment Act has recently been amended to enable the Minister for the Environment to approve projects that provide for the remediation of contaminated sites, including landfills vulnerable to severe weather impacts.

National Recovery Coordination Group

- The fund does not require an activation as access to the fund is not dependent on the occurrence of an emergency event.

More information can be found [here](#).

Emergency Waste Fund

- The Waste Minimisation (Waste Disposal Levy) Amendment Act has recently been amended to enable the Minister for the Environment to approve funding to support local authorities manage emergency waste generated by an emergency event.
- Access to the fund is limited to local authorities and dependent on the occurrence of an emergency event. Local authorities should contact the Ministry for the Environment's funds management team for more information.

Resource Management Act 1991 (RMA)

- The Act prescribes thresholds and entry criteria for the policy levers and pathways described in response to question 4. These include:
 - To rely on the emergency works provisions (ss330-331), the works must be affected by (or likely to be affected by) an adverse effect on the environment requiring immediate preventive or remedial measures, or by a sudden event causing (or likely to cause) loss of life, injury, or serious damage to property
 - Development of national direction follows a statutory process, which includes consideration of why the proposal is consistent with the purpose of the RMA
- The direct referral consenting pathway is only available for notified applications. It is normally used for applications that are likely to be contentious and/ or subject to appeal.

Funding Assessment Process

Levy waiver

- As above, when the Secretary is satisfied there are “exceptional circumstances” warranting a waiver. The breadth of this provision allows MfE Levy Admin to be immediately flexible – which gives security to operators in the response phase, where they may struggle to meet levy obligations.

Waste Minimisation Fund

- Assessment of waste minimisation projects related to waste created by emergencies is currently on a case-by-case basis. There is a delegated decision-making power for the Deputy Secretary to make funding decisions of <\$1 million. Decisions are made with reference to gazetted decision-making criteria and also non-statutory investment signals. This means the decision-maker could choose to spend levy money on matters such as emergency waste recovery even if it did not otherwise fit with investment signals, although this would be subject to availability of funds at any given time.

More information on the assessment process can be found [here](#).

Contaminated Sites and Vulnerable Landfills Fund

- Regional councils, territorial authorities and unitary authorities can apply for funding for sites that meet the eligibility criteria. This can be for sites they own or on behalf of other landowners.

More information on the assessment process can be found [here](#).

Emergency Waste Fund

- Regional councils, territorial authorities and unitary authorities can apply for funding to assist with the clean-up of emergency wastes that meet the eligibility criteria.

Local authorities should contact the Ministry for the Environment's funds management team for more information.

Resource Management Act 1991 (RMA)

- The policy levers under this Act are not funding mechanisms, but thresholds and entry criteria are discussed in the previous section.

Ministry of Health and Health NZ (MoH & HNZ)

Funding Overview

- The Ministry of Health no longer has any permanent funding mechanisms that can be automatically activated in a recovery. All funding and commissioning is now a function of

National Recovery Coordination Group

Health New Zealand. This funding mechanism will be considered in the development of Health NZ's Health Recovery Policy.

- The NHEP is currently being updated and will reflect that funding requirements are now determined by Health New Zealand.

Funding Activation

- MoH does not have any formal levers for activating funding.

Funding Assessment Process

- MoH does not have an established assessment process for providing funding. Health NZ's role in funding the operational health system recovery is currently being explored.

New Zealand Transport Agency (NZTA)

Funding Overview

- In the context applicable to NZTA, the recovery phase describes the work required to return the asset to the agreed level of service for the affected roads. Recovery funding at NZTA is sourced from the Emergency Works category, which enables funding from the National Land Transport Fund (NLTF) in response to a defined, major, short-duration natural event (a qualifying event) that has reduced or will reduce customer levels of transport service significantly below those that existed prior to the event and results in unforeseen, significant expenditure.

More information can be found [here](#).

Funding Activation

- The activation of Recovery Funding in the Emergency works category is dependent on the scale of the event. This is because for smaller or low impact emergency works events, a recovery phase may not be required, that is, once clean-up has been completed there may be no reinstatement or additional work required. An example of this might be a small underslip that blocks a road, where once the material is removed there is no further work required.

Funding Assessment Process

- In order for Recovery Funding to be used, Network Damage assessments are carried out after significant events to quantify the level of damage and possible cost. The event and required activity are then checked to confirm they are eligible for funding based on set criteria, including a number of exclusions (e.g. project worksites, human intervention etc).

Feedback

We welcome your feedback! Please use the survey located at the bottom of the NEMA Recovery Toolkit to share any feedback and recommended improvements to this document.

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