

OPEN

MINUTE ITEM

ATTACHMENTS

Ordinary meeting of the
Nelson City Council
Te Kaunihera o Whakatū

Thursday 22 June 2023
Commencing at 9.00a.m.

Council Chamber

Floor 2A, Civic House

110 Trafalgar Street, Nelson

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Hon Kieran McAnulty

Minister for Emergency Management
Minister of Local Government
Minister for Racing
Minister for Rural Communities
Deputy Leader of the House



21 JUN 2023

Hon Dr Nick Smith
Mayor, Nelson City Council
By email: MayorNick@ncc.govt.nz

Dear Nick,

Thank you for your letter of 11 May 2023 seeking government assistance to help address the large number of landslips triggered by the August 2022 weather event in Nelson. In particular, you suggested that the Government and the Nelson City Council (the Council) share evenly the cost of Build Back Better, with the Government contributing \$6 million of the \$17 million overall for the landslip remediation work.

I appreciate the significant challenges that the Council faces addressing the large number of landslips triggered by the August 2022 weather event. The scale of the weather event was unprecedented in Nelson. I appreciate that you have done short-term remedial works where such work was able to be done safely, which has allowed the affected residents to make progress with EQC and insurance claims. The goal that you have set, to undertake sufficient remedial works to ensure that any residential properties are brought into the low risk category is very sensible.

I agree with you that there are significant benefits from taking the build back better approach that accrue to both the Council and the Government, but that comes with significant additional cost. I also appreciate the financial pressures on the Council at this time and I understand why you have asked for a cost sharing arrangement with the Government.

I acknowledge that the major decision you now have to make with these landslips is the choice about the standard of the remedial work to be undertaken. This is not an easy decision to make.

As you know, helping communities recover from recent severe weather events in Hawke's Bay, Gisborne, Coromandel, Auckland, Northland, Tararua District and Wairarapa is one of the major areas of focus for the Government. In particular, the damage caused by Cyclone Gabrielle was severe and we have acted quickly by announcing significant funding for cyclone affected areas including \$6 billion for the National Resilience Plan and \$100 million for the Flood Resilience Co-investment Fund.

While I agree that there are both local and national benefits of enhancing our resilience to climate events, at this time the Government is unable to commit to contribute to the cost of building back better in the Nelson region to remedy the landslips caused by the August 2022 weather events. Budget 2023 is now complete, and the priority has been to support the recovery from Cyclone Gabrielle.

Although Government assistance will not be available to the Council, I am confident that you and your Council will be able to address the huge challenges triggered by the major weather

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in Nelson. Your recent letter clearly indicates that you have already made great strides forward to assess the work required to repair the damage long term and make the affected properties safe.

Recent extreme weather events will require proactive risk reduction by councils, particularly to ensure houses and infrastructure are not exposed to high levels of hazard risk. Reforms to the resource management system will be key to future responses to natural hazard risk. The Government's resource management reform bills – the Natural and Built Environment Bill and the Spatial Planning Bill – are currently being considered by the Environment Committee, which is due to report back to the House by 27 June 2023. Work is also proceeding on the Climate Adaptation Bill and I expect that the considerable work underway in responding to Cyclone Gabrielle will have wider national relevance.

Thank you for suggesting that I meet with the Council on this matter and offering the opportunity for officials to be briefed on the detailed model you have developed for managing the geotechnical risks on the landslips. Although the Government is unable to contribute financially to landslip remediation in Nelson, I will ask officials to keep in touch in order to follow your approach to this issue.

Thank you again for writing.

Yours sincerely,



Hon Kieran McAnulty
Minister of Local Government