

Second Annual Report
on the
Operation of the Christ Church Cathedral Reinstatement Act 2017
19 December 2018 to 18 December 2019

**Presented to the House of Representatives by the Associate Minister for Greater
Christchurch Regeneration pursuant to section 24 of the Christ Church Cathedral
Regeneration Act 2017**

Second Annual Report on the Operation of the Christ Church Cathedral Reinstatement Act 2017

Purpose

As the Minister responsible for the administration of the Christ Church Cathedral Reinstatement Act 2017 (Act), I am required under section 24 to present a report on the operation of the Act to the House of Representatives within 12 months of the commencement of the Act and every 12 months thereafter. These reports must include a list of the Orders in Council made under the Act during that period and a brief description of those Orders.

This is the second report under the Act, covering the period from 19 December 2018 to 18 December 2019.

Background

The Act formed part of the Crown's agreement with the Christchurch Anglican Diocese, owners of the Christ Church Cathedral (the Cathedral), to reinstate the Cathedral. The Cathedral was significantly damaged in the 22 February 2011 earthquake but there was disagreement between its owners and heritage advocates over its future. This led to litigation deadlock for several years and was followed by support from the Crown and Christchurch City Council to help reach agreement on the reinstatement of the Cathedral.

The objective of the legislation is to facilitate reinstatement by allowing, through Orders in Council which allow for temporary exemptions from, modifications, or extensions to any provisions of an enactment.

Orders in Council

As at the date of presenting this report, no Order in Council has been made under the Act.

No other statutory powers have been exercised under this Act during the reporting period.

Progress in the Cathedral reinstatement

During the reporting period progress has been made towards the reinstatement of the Cathedral. Key work has revolved around the structural design for stabilisation, finalisation of the functional brief and concept design. This will allow for stabilisation to begin work next year and provide more surety about project costs and therefore the scale of fundraising required. The stabilisation design and construction sequencing is due to be completed in April 2020.

Milestones from across the reporting period include:

- a) announcement of HRH the Prince of Wales as the Royal Patron of the project (November 2019)
- b) completion of appointments for all specialist technical disciplines required for the works, such as Holmes Consulting and Warren and Mahoney architects (April 2019) and Naylor Love (August 2019)
- c) the payment of the \$15 million Crown suspensory loan (June 2019)
- d) grant of Archaeological Authority 2019-857 in May 2019 and RMA Consent for tree maintenance RMA 2019/1222 in July 2019

- e) activities to raise the awareness of the project (such as bell ringing every Friday, participation in the October Christchurch Heritage Festival, and lighting up the Cathedral every night)
- f) geotech testing, general site maintenance and preparation, including some heritage protection work and clean up throughout 2019, and
- g) preparation of resource consent application for enabling works (site establishment and stabilisation) throughout 2019.

Upcoming project work

Physical work is due to begin in April 2020 with the establishment of the work site and the start of stabilisation. This will include setting up the site with sheds and other worker amenities, subject to consent, approval and funding, with stabilisation to begin soon after. Stabilisation is expected to take 18 months. It will include erecting steel framing around the Cathedral, some deconstruction to make the building safe for reinstatement, and to allow access for detailed engineering assessments, weatherproofing, decontamination and artefact removal, where possible.

A public fundraising campaign is planned for late next year.