

**Sixth Annual Report**  
**on the**  
**Operation of the Christ Church Cathedral Reinstatement Act 2017**  
**1 December 2022 to 30 November 2023**

**Presented to the House of Representatives by the Minister of Finance pursuant to section 24 of  
the Christ Church Cathedral Reinstatement Act 2017**

## **Purpose**

As the Minister responsible for the administration of the Christ Church Cathedral Reinstatement Act 2017 (the 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 sixth report under the Act, covering the period 1 December 2022 to 30 November 2023.

## **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 which was remedied 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 creating Orders in Council which allow for temporary exemptions from, modifications, or extensions to any provisions of certain enactments.

## **Orders in Council**

As at date of presenting this report, no new Orders in Council have been made under the Act within the period covered by this report. Under the **Christ Church Cathedral Reinstatement Order 2020** applications have been lodged for three resource consents for dewatering, the discharge of water and excavation with the Canterbury Regional Council.

## **Progress in the Cathedral reinstatement**

The reinstatement of Christ Church Cathedral reached a major milestone on 21 March 2023, when the stabilisation phase of the project was completed. Community leaders and the responsible Minister were invited to join the wider project team inside the Cathedral for the first time to celebrate.

Subsequent to the stabilisation milestone, the focus on site has been on completing internal investigations and commence strengthening the walls of the Cathedral. Using different methodologies dependent on the location and previous damage, the engineers and contractors have essentially been installing a reinforced steel structure into selected existing walls.

Planning and design of the temporary works required to prop the building during the foundation work run concurrently with the works on site; each area requires bespoke design due to the complex nature of the work.

The project is starting to attract attention overseas with international organisations wanting to share information and learnings and/or promote the approach, tools and methods adopted for this complex project. This included representatives from York Minster Centre of Excellence visiting Christchurch to gather and share information and knowledge.

Fundraising has been a focus for Christ Church Cathedral Reinstatement Ltd (CCRL), which has attracted a significant eight figure donation taking the total fundraised to \$25m. It has partnered with an international philanthropic agency for international fundraising, and the Anglican campaign will commence in early 2024. Fundraising continues to be a challenge in the current market. Now that there is internal access to the building, a review of the project is under way.