

Our Ref DOIA 24-186

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14 February 2024

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Tēnā koe ██████████

Response to your official information request

Thank you for your official information request received on 22 January 2024 relating to the 2010-2011 Canterbury earthquakes and insurance recoveries.

The following five questions have been asked by you:

Question One:

**What was the value of the insurance claims actually recovered from the Earthquake Commission for the Residential Red Zone properties in each year?
Can you provide a detail of the amounts recovered for insurance claims on land and dwellings separately?**

The total amounts recovered from insurance claims by the Canterbury Earthquake Recovery Authority (CERA) and Toitū Te Whenua Land Information New Zealand (LINZ) are provided below, we are unable to break this down by year.

Total insurance recoveries for land \$137.6 million (EQC).

Total insurance recoveries for dwellings \$259.5 million (private insurer and EQC).

Question Two:

What is the value of the insurance claims actually recovered from private insurers for the Residential Red Zone properties in each year?

The dwellings recoveries of \$259.5 million for the three areas of Red Zone, (Waimakariri District, Flat Lands and Port Hills), can be split out into three CERA/LINZ recovery categories;

- 1. Insurer recoveries \$90.5 million,*
- 2. Passive recoveries* \$116.7 million; and*
- 3. EQC \$52.3 million.*

**Passive recoveries were paid to the previous owner and deducted from the purchase price. They included EQC and private insurer recoveries.*

For your information we have included Appendix One: 20180905 LINZ Offer Book - all properties, this booklet was released by CERA to the Red Zone owners to assist them in the decision making of the two different Sales and Purchase Agreements available to them.

The attached copy was rebranded when the Red Zone management was transferred from CERA to LINZ.

Question Three:

Are there still any active insurance claims on the Crown-owned properties in the Red Zone?

No

Question Four:

Did the Crown collect all the insurance claims associated with the purchase of damaged red zone properties, or did it decide to forfeit some of them?

Yes, the insurance claims were recovered.

Question Five:

The 2015/16 LINZ annual report mentions that as of 1 December 2015, there were 1,693 active dwelling insurance claims on Crown-owned properties in the Residential Red Zone (p. 46). It further mentions that 226 properties received dwelling insurance recoveries between 1 December 2015 and 30 June 2016. This would suggest that there were still approximately 1,467 active dwelling insurance claims as of 30 June 2016. In the same report, it is stated that the majority (NZD 335.9 million) of the receivable related to the red zone insurance recoveries is composed of the claim to EQC for land damage, and only NZD 0.536 million “relates to insurance recoveries due from non-related parties” (p. 98). Is the insurance recovery receivable related to the 1,467 active dwelling insurance claims only NZD 0.536 million?

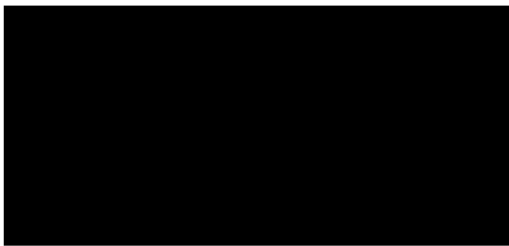
The \$0.536 million receivable on 30 June 2016 did not represent all dwelling claims. The final agreement had not yet been reached with the Insurers by the time of publishing the LINZ 2015 annual report (including the EQC component of the insurance claims).

Following 30 June 2016, LINZ received a further \$1.785 million in dwelling recoveries (this \$1.785 million has been included in the total figures in our response to Question Two above).

You have the right to seek an investigation and review by the Ombudsman of this decision. Information about how to make a complaint is available at www.ombudsman.parliament.nz or freephone 0800 802 602.

Please note, this response letter outlining our decision on your request, **with your personal details withheld**, and any attached documentation will be published on the Toitū Te Whenua Land Information New Zealand website. This is likely to be published by 29 March 2024.

Nāku noa, nā



Sonya Wikitera
Head of Crown Property

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