



Te Kawa Mataaho

Public Service Commission

30 April 2026

9(2)(a) privacy

Dear 9(2)(a) privacy

Official Information Act Request Our Ref: OIA 2026-0028

I refer to your Official Information Act 1982 (OIA) request received by the Public Service Commission (the Commission) on 19 February 2026 for:

1. *A list of all individuals, groups, organisations, agencies and/or departments consulted about MCERT;*
2. *The dates on which they were consulted, and the time spent with them in person or online;*
3. *Any associated documentation with these consultations, and subsequent correspondence/feedback of a substantive nature (eg. briefings, presentations, reports, recommendations, written feedback);*
4. *Advice/briefings/aide memoires/Cabinet papers (including drafts) to ministers after these consultations, and any return correspondence from ministers' offices.*

This request was transferred to the Commission under section 14 of the OIA from the Ministry of Housing and Urban Development (MHUD), the Ministry of Transport (MOT), the Department of Internal Affairs (DIA), and the Ministry for the Environment (MFE). This letter provides a response to all four transferred OIA requests.

As you were advised on 16 March 2026, we extended our response to your request to 30 April 2026 as your request necessitated a search through a large quantity of information and meeting the original time limit would unreasonably interfere with our operations, and consultations needed to make a decision on your request were such that a proper response could not reasonably be made within the original time limit. In our letter of extension to you, we provided you with some information the Commission has already released regarding the Ministry of Cities, Environment, Regions and Transport (MCERT).

This letter of response outlines three key stages of consultation in the process to establish MCERT, which are:

1. Stage one: Consultation on the report titled *'MoSR 2025-0623: Planning and infrastructure arrangements – next steps'*

2. Stage two: Consultation on the Cabinet paper titled ‘*Planning and infrastructure arrangements*’
3. Stage three: Consultation on the Cabinet paper titled ‘*Approval to introduce the Environment (Disestablishment of the Ministry for the Environment) Amendment Bill and progress Orders in Council to establish the Ministry for Cities, Environment, Regions and Transport*’.

For ease of reference, we have responded to each of your requests via each of these key stages, excluding all ‘*return correspondence from ministers’ offices*’, which is included as one pack of emails at the end of the documents being released to you (further information on this is provided in our response below).

Throughout the policy development process, and following the subsequent Cabinet decisions and public announcements, the Commission engaged frequently and collaboratively with senior officials from MHUD, MOT, DIA, MFE, the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet (DPMC) and the Treasury, including with these agencies’ chief executives. This included a cross-agency team to support due diligence, and the preparation of joint advice to inform the establishment of MCERT. As your request is focused specifically on ‘consultation’, we have not considered these meetings or work as in scope as they were focused on collaborative and/or joint advice.

Stage one: Consultation on the report titled ‘*MoSR 2025-0623: Planning and infrastructure arrangements – next steps*’

On 16 May 2025, the Commission provided the Minister of Housing and the Minister for the Public Service with the report titled ‘*MoSR 2025-0350: Planning and infrastructure arrangements*.’

Following Ministers’ receipt and consideration of this report, on 10 July 2025, the Commission met with the chief executives of MOT, MHUD, MFE and DIA to brief them collectively on the proposal to establish MCERT. Following this meeting, the Commission provided the chief executives with a copy of ‘*MoSR 2025-0350: Planning and infrastructure arrangements*’, a draft and high-level timeline to implement MCERT, and invited any further feedback from chief executives via email.

On 11 July 2025, the Commission provided the chief executives of MOT, MHUD, MFE and DIA with an early draft of the report titled ‘*MoSR 2025-0623: Planning and infrastructure arrangements – next steps*’ via email. You can find the final versions of *MoSR 2025-0350* and *MoSR 2025-0623* via the link included in the table below:

Item	Date	Document Description	Website Address
1	27 February 2026	Response to OIA 2025-0213 (Ministerial reports produced by the Commission between 1 November 2024 to 19	https://www.publicservice.govt.nz/assets/DirectoryFile/OIA-2025-0213-Information-request-regarding-the-Ministry-for-Cities.pdf

		December 2025 regarding MCERT)	
--	--	--------------------------------	--

Information being withheld

I have decided to withhold all correspondence relating to this part of the consultation process in full under section 9(2)(g)(i) of the OIA to maintain the effective conduct of public affairs through the free and frank expression of opinions by or between or to Ministers of the Crown or members of an organisation or officers and employees of any public service agency or organisation in the course of their duty. This includes feedback provided by chief executives in response to the emails of 10 and 11 July 2025 referenced in the paragraph above.

In making this decision, I have considered the public interest considerations in section 9(1) of the OIA. The public interest does not outweigh the Commission's need to protect robust, free and frank contributions at formative stages of this policy development process.

Stage two: Consultation on the Cabinet paper titled '*Planning and infrastructure arrangements*'

On 20 November 2025 at 4:30pm, the Commission circulated a draft version of the *Planning and infrastructure arrangements* Cabinet paper via email to the following officials:

- Chief Executive, MHUD
- Chief Executive, MOT
- Chief Executive, DIA
- Chief Executive, MFE
- Director – Office of the Secretary, DIA
- Chief Advisor – Office of the Chief Executive, MFE.

On 20 November 2025 at 4:34pm, the Commission sent the same draft Cabinet paper to:

- Deputy Secretary System and Sector Performance, The Treasury
- Deputy Chief Executive, Policy and Delivery Unit, DPMC.

The Commission is also aware that on 27 November 2025 at 6:46am, the office of Hon Chris Bishop circulated a draft of the *Planning and infrastructure arrangements* Cabinet paper for Ministerial and Party consultation. The Commission holds one response to this consultation request, which was passed onto the Commission via the office of Hon Judith Collins KC. As outlined in documents released to you, the Commission met with Simon Court MP in-person on 4 December 2025.

The *Planning and infrastructure arrangements* Cabinet paper sought Cabinet's agreement to establish, by April 2026, the new MCERT. This Cabinet paper is publicly available at the link provided as Item 2 in the table below. The list of agencies consulted on this Cabinet paper can be found at paragraph 57 of Item 2. Any reports sent to Ministers that are

associated with this Cabinet paper (i.e., seeking approval to lodge) can be found via Item 1 in the table above.

Item	Date	Document Description	Website Address
2	30 January 2026	Cabinet paper: <i>Planning and infrastructure arrangements</i>	https://www.publicservice.govt.nz/assets/Planning-and-infrastructure-arrangements.pdf

To respond to your request for “*any associated documentation with these consultations, and subsequent correspondence/feedback of a substantive nature*”, please find enclosed the following documents:

Item	Date	Document Description	Decision
3	30 January 2026	Substantive feedback received by the Commission on the ‘ <i>Planning and infrastructure arrangements</i> ’ Cabinet paper	Released in part

I have decided to release the relevant parts of the documents listed above, subject to information being withheld under the following sections of the OIA:

- section 9(2)(a) – to protect the privacy of natural persons, including deceased people
- section 9(2)(f)(iv) – to maintain the current constitutional conventions protecting the confidentiality of advice tendered by Ministers and officials
- section 9(2)(g)(i) – to maintain the effective conduct of public affairs through the free and frank expression of opinions by or between or to Ministers of the Crown or members of an organisation or officers and employees of any public service agency or organisation in the course of their duty.

In making this decision, I have considered the public interest considerations in section 9(1) of the OIA.

Stage three: Consultation on the Cabinet paper titled ‘*Approval to introduce the Environment (Disestablishment of the Ministry for the Environment) Amendment Bill and progress Orders in Council to establish the Ministry for Cities, Environment, Regions and Transport*’.

On 19 December 2025 at 4:14pm, the Commission sent the draft *Approval to introduce the Environment (Disestablishment of the Ministry for the Environment) Amendment Bill and progress Orders in Council to establish the Ministry for Cities, Environment, Regions and Transport* Cabinet paper to the following officials for feedback:

- Head of Crown Entity Investment and Performance Monitoring, MHUD
- Acting Chief of Staff, MOT

- Deputy Chief Executive, Policy Group, MOT
- Director – Office of the Secretary, DIA
- Chief Advisor – Office of the Chief Executive, MFE
- Head of Legal (Chief Legal Advisor), MHUD
- Manager – Legal, MFE.

On 13 January 2026 at 5:56pm, the Commission sent the draft Cabinet paper to the Unit Manager – Infrastructure, Security and Government, at the Treasury for feedback.

On 20 January 2026 at 1:22pm, the Commission sent an updated version of the paper to the officials listed in the bullets above (19 December 2025 at 4:14pm) as well as the below officials, advising it had been progressed to the Minister’s office for Ministerial consultation.

- Senior Analyst, Infrastructure, Security and Government, The Treasury
- Unit Manager, Infrastructure, Security and Government, The Treasury
- Principal Advisor, Public Sector Performance, The Treasury
- Chief Legal Adviser and Manager Procurement, MOT.

On 28 January 2026, the Commission sent the draft Cabinet paper to the Senior Advisor, Regulatory Policy Design, at the Ministry for Regulation (MfR). MfR provided text for the Commission to include as paragraph 27 in the ‘Impact analysis’ section of the Cabinet paper (refer Item 4 provided in the table below).

The final version of the *Approval to introduce the Environment (Disestablishment of the Ministry for the Environment) Amendment Bill and progress Orders in Council to establish the Ministry for Cities, Environment, Regions and Transport* Cabinet paper is publicly available on the Commission’s website at the link included as Item 4 in the table below. The agencies consulted on this paper are listed in paragraph 41. Items 5 – 8 in the table below provide the Orders in Council and the Amendment Bill associated with this Cabinet paper, which are publicly available on the New Zealand Legislation website.

Item	Date	Document Description	Website Address
4	20 March 2026	Cabinet paper: Approval to introduce the Environment (Disestablishment of the Ministry for the Environment) Amendment Bill and progress Orders in Council to establish the Ministry for Cities, Environment, Regions and Transport	https://www.publicservice.govt.nz/assets/DirectoryFile/Cabinet-Paper-Approval-to-introduce-the-Environment-Disestablishment-of-the-Ministry-for-the-Environment-Amendment-Bill-and-progress-Orders-in-Council-to-establish-the-Ministry-for-Cities-Environment-Regions-.pdf
5	16 February 2026	Environment (Disestablishment of	https://www.legislation.govt.nz/bill/government/2026/249/en/

		Ministry for the Environment) Amendment Bill	atest/LMS1573383https://www.legislation.govt.nz/bill/government/2026/249/en/latest/
6	16 February 2026	Public and Community Housing Management (Appointment of Agency and Regulatory Authority) Order 2026	https://www.legislation.govt.nz/secondary-legislation/pco-drafted/2026/8/en/latest/
7	16 February 2026	Public Service (Ministry for Cities, Environment, Regions, and Transport) Order 2026	https://www.legislation.govt.nz/secondary-legislation/pco-drafted/2026/6/en/latest/
8	16 February 2026	Ombudsmen (Ministry for Cities, Environment, Regions, and Transport) Order 2026	https://www.legislation.govt.nz/secondary-legislation/pco-drafted/2026/10/en/latest/

To respond to your request for “any associated documentation with these consultations, and subsequent correspondence/feedback of a substantive nature”, and “Advice/briefings/aide memoires/Cabinet papers (including drafts) to ministers after these consultations” please find enclosed the following documents listed in the table below.

The majority of the feedback and correspondence received on this Cabinet paper was technical in nature, and has therefore not been considered as in scope of your request, noting you are seeking ‘substantive’ feedback. However, you will be able to see the changes made during the Cabinet paper consultation process through the record of Ministerial reports and correspondence with Ministers/their offices.

Item	Date	Document Description	Decision
9	19 December 2025 – 21 January 2026	Substantive feedback received by the Commission on the ‘Approval to introduce the Environment (Disestablishment of the Ministry for the Environment) Amendment Bill and progress Orders in Council to establish the Ministry for Cities, Environment, Regions and Transport’ Cabinet paper	Released in part
10	20 January 2026	MoSR 2026-0004: Final decisions for LEG paper to establish the Ministry for Cities, Environment, Regions and Transport	Released in part
11	30 January 2026	MoSR 2026-0013 - Ministry for Cities, Environment, Regions and Transport	Released in part

		(MCERT) - updated LEG paper for lodgement on Wednesday 4 February	
12	13 February 2026	MoSR 2026-0039 - MCERT – talking points for Executive Council Monday 16 February	Released in part

I have decided to release the relevant parts of the documents listed above, subject to information being withheld under section 9(2)(a) – to protect the privacy of natural persons, including deceased people under the OIA.

Information being withheld

There are documents covered by your request that I have decided to withhold in full under section 9(2)(h) of the OIA, to maintain legal professional privilege. In making my decision, I have considered the public interest considerations in section 9(1) of the OIA. In these instances, the public interest is best served by maintaining strong protection for legal professional privilege under the OIA.

Additional engagements

The below engagements, while not considered as in scope of your OIA request, may be of interest:

- The Parliamentary Commissioner for the Environment (PCE) sought a meeting with the Commission to discuss the potential merger of MFE with other agencies. On 22 August 2025, officials from the Commission and MFE met in-person with Simon Upton and Rebecca Thornley from PCE to discuss, at a high level, the potential merger and the interface with the pending Resource Management reforms. The PCE outlined his role and interest in this work, specifically ensuring the environmental responsibilities of MFE as set out in the Environment Act 1986 continue through any change. No briefing notes were prepared for the meeting, and the Commission does not hold any notes taken during this engagement.
- In late January 2026, the Environmental Defence Society (EDS) requested a meeting with the Commission so they could be briefed on MCERT and discuss MFE’s environmental responsibilities as outlined in the Environment Act 1986. On 3 February 2026, officials met online with Gary Taylor, Shay Schlaepfer and Dr Greg Severinsen. The discussion centred on the Amendment Bill, and the Commission explained that MFE’s existing functions are unchanged and will be transferred to the statutory office of the Secretary of the Environment. No briefing notes were prepared for the meeting, and the Commission does not hold any notes taken during this engagement. Following the meeting, the proactively released Cabinet paper was shared with the EDS via email.
- On 19 December 2025 at 2:33pm, the Commission sought technical advice from the Cabinet Office’s Legislation Coordinator regarding the Ministerial portfolios to name when lodging the Cabinet paper. The Commission then sought further technical

advice from the Cabinet Office on 30 January 2026 at 9:49am, regarding the process of submitting advice sheets to accompany Orders in Council.

Return correspondence from ministers' offices

In scope of the latter half of part four of your request, please find enclosed the following documents:

Item	Date	Document Description	Decision
13	May 2025 – February 2026	Return correspondence from Minister's office	Released in part

I have decided to release the relevant parts of the documents listed above, subject to information being withheld under the following sections of the OIA:

- section 9(2)(a) – to protect the privacy of natural persons, including deceased people
- section 9(2)(g)(i) – to maintain the effective conduct of public affairs through the free and frank expression of opinions by or between or to Ministers of the Crown or members of an organisation or officers and employees of any public service agency or organisation in the course of their duty.

In making this decision, I have considered the public interest considerations in section 9(1) of the OIA.

If you wish to discuss this decision with us, please feel free to contact Enquiries@publicservice.govt.nz.

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 that we intend to publish this letter (with your personal details removed) and enclosed documents on the Public Service Commission's website.

Yours sincerely



Nicky Dirks
Manager – Ministerial and Executive Services
Te Kawa Mataaho Public Service Commission

From: [Amber Bill](#)
To: [Brad Ward](#); [Ruth Fairhall](#); [Paul James](#); [James Palmer](#)
Cc: [Simon King](#); [Karen Hope-Cross](#); [Mereama Chase](#); [Gaye Searancke](#)
Subject: Budget Sensitive: Draft MCRE Cabinet Paper
Date: Thursday, 20 November 2025 4:30:00 pm
Attachments: 9(2)(g)(i) free and frank
[image001.png](#)
[image002.png](#)
[image003.png](#)
[image004.png](#)
[image005.png](#)

Kia ora koutou

Please see attached the draft Cabinet paper for the MCRE proposal.

With our apologies for tight timing, can you please get any (high-level) feedback to us no later than **10am tomorrow** so we can get it to Minister's Collins and Bishop by midday tomorrow (Friday).

As continues to be the case, please hold this very tightly and treat as budget sensitive.

Many thanks

Amber Bill

Assistant Commissioner | Kaikōmihana Tautāwhi

Public Sector Performance Group | Te Aromātai Whakatutukitanga

waea pūkoro: 9(2)(a) privacy | **īmēra:** amber.bill@publicservice.govt.nz



Te Kawa Mataaho Public Service Commission

www.publicservice.govt.nz | www.govt.nz



From: [Amber Bill](#)
To: [Mark Sowden \[TSY\]](#); [Janine Smith \[DPMC\]](#)
Cc: [Gaye Searancke](#); [Mereama Chase](#)
Subject: Budget sensitive: Draft MCRE Cabinet Paper
Date: Thursday, 20 November 2025 4:34:00 pm
Attachments: 9(2)(g)(i) free and frank
[image001.png](#)
[image002.png](#)
[image003.png](#)
[image004.png](#)
[image005.png](#)

Kia ora Mark and Janine

I understand that Gaye has brought you up to speed on our meeting with Minister Bishop. Accordingly, please see attached our draft Cabinet paper on the MCRE proposal.

With our apologies for tight timing, can you please get any (high-level) feedback to us no later than **10am tomorrow** so we can get it to Minister's Collins and Bishop by midday tomorrow (Friday) for first review.

Many thanks

Amber Bill

Assistant Commissioner | Kaikōmihana Tautāwhi

Public Sector Performance Group | Te Aromātai Whakatutukitanga

waea pūkoro: 9(2)(a) privacy | **īmēra:** amber.bill@publicservice.govt.nz



Te Kawa Mataaho Public Service Commission
www.publicservice.govt.nz | www.govt.nz



Substantive feedback provided during the 'Planning and infrastructure arrangements' Cabinet paper consultation.

Email from Karen Hope-Cross, Director, Office of the Secretary – Department of Internal Affairs
8.49am, Friday 21 November 2025

We have the following feedback for consideration in these sections:

- 2.4 & 2.5: the Local government items should include Simplifying local government. This, plus LWD and CRDs could be combined into one bullet.
- 44: DIA currently operates this model so might be a better example to use. We have Vote IA, with Minister IA as the responsible Minister and accountable to Parliament for the appropriations within the Vote. Within the IA Vote we have portfolio Ministers. Page three of the IA BIM outlines how this works. [BIM-2023-October-Minister-of-Internal-Affairs Redacted.pdf](#)
- Recc 13: As above comment on Minister IA being the Vote Minister, we think there is likely some level of coordination or engagement required with the Minister in this process?

Email from Jon Cable, Principal Advisor Public Sector Performance – The Treasury
9.37am, Friday 21 November 2025

We'd be keen to see:

1. The executive summary provide more of that external lens – a bit more of why are we doing this balanced with the what we are doing. You could pull forward elements of paragraphs 13-15 and 24-25 into para 4.
2. 9(2)(g)(i) free and frank, 9(2)(f)(iv) confidentiality of advice
[Redacted]
3. Para 21.4 is very internal focused – suggest that it could be something along the lines of an improved value proposition to attract and develop talent and capability to provide improved advice and analysis – and then paras 29-30 should also reflect back that improved public service benefits lead to improved performance for New Zealand.
4. 9(2)(g)(i) free and frank, 9(2)(f)(iv) confidentiality of advice
[Redacted]
5. 9(2)(g)(i) free and frank, 9(2)(f)(iv) confidentiality of advice
[Redacted]

You probably want to say somewhere that this MCRE proposal affects the departments only. Crown entities that are monitored by the departments are not immediately affected, with Ministerial arrangements remaining and monitoring responsibilities transferring to the new MCRE. This is also a way of mitigating service disruption risks – given that the bulk of services are delivered through those Crown entities and not the departments.

9(2)(f)(iv) confidentiality of advice
[Redacted]

Email from Amanda Wilson, Infrastructure, Security and Government, Unit Manager – The Treasury
12.24pm, Friday 21 November 2025

Sorry for the slight delay here. Please find attached the updated financial recommendations and fiscal implications sections (tracked). We haven't included a delegation rec to Joint Ministers for the

Tagged Contingency as a report back to cabinet on the broader appropriation/vote changes will be required and so that can be done at that time.

Happy to discuss.

We have prepared this at pace, so would appreciate the chance for a final QA if there is an opportunity before lodgement.

One key thing to note, is that appropriation/vote changes are required ahead of the agency standing up and if this is in April as currently signalled, we will need to consider the impact of these changes and any implications on Imprest Supply. There may be a need for a third imprest bill if the scale of these changes exceeds current estimates. Imprest would not be required if the changes came into effect 1 July at the start of the financial year – which would be our preference.

From: [Amber Bill](#)
To: [Misty Mossman](#)
Cc: [Gaye Searancke](#); [Ministerial Services](#); [Mereama Chase](#)
Subject: MR 2025-0412-FW: **Classific 1** Ministerial/Party Consultation: Planning and infrastructure arrangements
Date: Monday, 8 December 2025 2:45:02 pm
Attachments: [image001.jpg](#)
[image002.jpg](#)
[image003.png](#)
[image004.png](#)
[image005.png](#)
[image006.png](#)
[image007.png](#)

Dear Misty

Further to our meeting with Mr Court on Thursday 4 Dec, I am following up to summarise the key points raised.

We understand Mr Court's main concern is that the MCRE proposal does not reflect the deliberate uncoupling of the natural environment from planning and therefore doesn't line up with the new Planning and Environmental Management system. He thought the intent of the uncoupling would be better achieved by splitting out the natural environment functions of the Ministry for the Environment and establishing a stand-alone environmental agency (potentially also including the functions of the EPA).


The intent of the proposed new Planning and Environmental Management system was discussed, with the Natural Environment Bill and the Planning Bill setting national policy direction and national standards, brought together in combined plans for regions (spatial, natural environment and land use), requiring a cultural shift for practitioners.

We understand that the two proposed Bills have been designed to work together to deliver a clearer and more proportionate planning system. Biophysical constraints will be clearer, with a more enabling approach for development within environmental limits, predicated on strengthening property rights. The scope of the new system will be narrowed resulting in less regulation and a higher threshold for managing effects.

Officials shared context that the MCRE proposal is part of the modernisation of the public service, where the aim is to simplify how government agencies are organised, to reduce costs, deliver joined up services, and address challenges of the fiscal sustainability of small agencies. As part of the assessment and assurance carried out for the MCRE proposal, the natural environment functions currently delivered by MfE are relatively small and, of themselves, would not present adequate scale for an effective standalone agency.

A couple of options for mitigating Mr Court's concerns were discussed during the meeting and are expanded on below.

9(2)(g)(i) free and frank



9(2)(g)(i) free and frank

Kind regards

Amber Bill

Assistant Commissioner | Kaikōmihana Tautāwhi

Public Sector Performance Group | Te Aromātai Whakatutukitanga

waea pūkoro: 9(2)(a) | Īmēra: amber.bill@publicservice.govt.nz



Te Kawa Mataaho Public Service Commission

www.publicservice.govt.nz | www.govt.nz



From: Misty Mossman <Misty.Mossman@parliament.govt.nz>

Sent: Wednesday, December 3, 2025 5:57 PM

To: Amber Bill <amber.bill@publicservice.govt.nz>; Gaye Searancke <gaye.searancke@publicservice.govt.nz>

Cc: Misty Mossman <Misty.Mossman@parliament.govt.nz>

Subject: FW: [Classificat] Ministerial/Party Consultation: Planning and infrastructure arrangements

This email was sent from someone outside of Te Kawa Mataaho. Please take extra care.

Good evening

Just providing some preliminary feedback from Simon Court MP ahead of tomorrow's briefing given it's after lodgement and to inform that discussion:

- Generally supportive of the direction of travel, and think there are real benefits to be realised through this restructure.
- My initial feedback is based around where I believe certain functions are best located given the RM reform agenda, GFHG and transport policy that needs to be coordinated with those reforms to get the best bang for infrastructure buck.
- I understand that MfE currently have responsibility for the RMA, Climate change, waste, and EPA (not exhaustive I am sure).
- I believe that only MfE Planning Act functions should be included in the merged agency along with HUD, MOT and DIA's LG element. By PA functions I mean planning policy and operational support for making spatial and land use plans, national policy direction, standards, etc. and other matters in the draft Bill as it stands.
- I expect that by incorporating the PA functions this will go a long way to address policy, spatial and regulatory planning and investment coordination matters at central and local government which have been exposed over the past ten years in a painful and costly way.
 - The CRL project having no corresponding zoning or plan for complementary urban development or infrastructure cost recovery.
 - A central government led Auckland Light Rail proposal which failed to coordinate the transport investment with the required level of urban development to make the transport component worthwhile (Wayne Brown

described KO approach as a “bombing run” over Auckland), despite there being a clear economic case for a suitably sized and scaled project as evidenced by NZ Superfunds market led proposal.

- LGWM having similar coordination issues with the cost and scale of the proposed infrastructure investment and associated urban development.
- However, 9(2)(g)(i) free and frank [REDACTED] the resource management reform is intentionally shifting away from an ‘integrated management’ approach between planning functions and environmental functions. Having separate ministers and ministries seems important for implementing this approach.
- Consideration should be given to establishing a slimmed down, tightly scoped stand-alone Environment agency responsible for the NEA, EPA, and climate change - but not waste. Waste is primarily an infrastructure coordination issue between local government and residents, and to a very limited extent with business, so waste policy and regulation should sit with the MCRE. A focus by MfE on “zero waste” initiatives has led to huge cost increases for councils, residents and business over the past 20 years with no corresponding reduction of waste to landfill. This needs to stop.
- An Environment agency which included the EPA could better coordinate regulatory matters in the coastal and marine area which extend from shore out to the 200km EEZ not just the 12 mile limit under the NEA, such as submarine cables, oil and gas and offshore wind, seabed mining and so on. Additional functions should include coordinating and housing environmental data so it is readily available to government and the private sector and carrying out national compliance monitoring and enforcement roles under the NEA.
- When it comes to inevitable development versus environment arguments, I actually think we should leave space for competing advice to flesh out the trade-offs and good arguments, 9(2)(g)(i) free and frank [REDACTED]. I.e., a Ministry of City and Regional Development and a separate environmental agency.
- Keen to discuss further.

[Classification [REDACTED]]

Kind regards

Misty



Misty Mossman

Private Secretary (Public Service) | Office of Hon Judith Collins KC MP

Member of Parliament for Papakura
Attorney-General | Minister of Defence | Minister for Digitising Government | Minister for the Public Service |
Minister Responsible for the GCSB | Minister Responsible for the NZSIS | Minister for Space

Mobile: 9(2)(a) [REDACTED]
Email: misty.wossman@parliament.govt.nz Website: www.Beehive.govt.nz
Private Bag 18041, Parliament Buildings, Wellington 6160, New Zealand

From: Hannah Ouellet <Hannah.Ouellet@parliament.govt.nz>

Sent: Thursday, 27 November 2025 6:46 AM

To: NLOconsult <NLOconsult@parliament.govt.nz>; Winston Peters Advisor <WinstonPetersAdvisor@parliament.govt.nz>;
Corin Higgs <Corin.Higgs@parliament.govt.nz>; Andrew Ketels <Andrew.Ketels@parliament.govt.nz>; Jenesa Jeram
<Jenesa.Jeram@parliament.govt.nz>; John Brinsley-Pirie <John.Brinsley-Pirie@parliament.govt.nz>; Joe Ascroft
<Joseph.Ascroft@parliament.govt.nz>; Paula Oliver <Paula.Oliver@parliament.govt.nz>; Grant Johnston
<Grant.Johnston@parliament.govt.nz>; Brian Anderton <Brian.Anderton@parliament.govt.nz>; Louis Donovan
<Louis.Donovan@parliament.govt.nz>; Rose Austen <Rose.Austen@parliament.govt.nz>; Dallas Kete
<Dallas.Kete@parliament.govt.nz>; Jack Boltar <Jack.Boltar@parliament.govt.nz>; Alex Dykes
<Alex.Dykes@parliament.govt.nz>; Nick Wilson <Nick.Wilson@parliament.govt.nz>

Cc: Julie Johnston <Julie.Johnston@parliament.govt.nz>; Joshua Smith <Joshua.Smith@parliament.govt.nz>; Mikaela Bossley
Clark <Mikaela.BossleyClark@parliament.govt.nz>; Sarah McCarthy <Sarah.McCarthy@parliament.govt.nz>; Misty Mossman
<Misty.Mossman@parliament.govt.nz>

Subject: [Classification [REDACTED]] Ministerial/Party Consultation: Planning and infrastructure arrangements

Hi all,

Attached is the joint DRAFT Cabinet paper, *Planning and infrastructure arrangements*.

Ministers Bishop and Collins intend to take this paper to ECO on 10 December, and Cabinet on 15 December. Please provide any feedback by EOD on Wednesday 3 December.

Confidentiality

This paper is classed as SENSITIVE due to its potential effect on staff. As such, we ask that you do not share the **attached** paper or its contents with your agencies at this time. Please contact Josh or me if you'd like a hardcopy provided to one of your Chief Executives; we can arrange that.

Proposal

This paper proposes the establishment of a new Ministry of Cities, Regions, and Environment (MCRE). It brings together the Ministry for the Environment, Ministry of Housing and Urban Development, Ministry of Transport, and the local government functions in the Department of Internal Affairs (approx. 1,300 FTE). The average department FTE is 1,580.

MCRE would have a broad focus on looking after and unlocking the potential of New Zealand's cities and regions to boost economic growth while ensuring good environmental outcomes.

The purpose of this agency is to:

1. Make New Zealand a great place to live (e.g., affordable housing, less congestion, better and more value for money infrastructure, improved connectivity for regions etc.);
2. Capitalise on opportunities/development in areas with significant central government investment (e.g., Drury, and City Rail Link);
3. Support more effective implementation of the new planning system (e.g., spatial planning);
4. Give local government and developers one point of contact for matters involving planning rules, land-use, resource use, urban development, enabling infrastructure, fast-track etc.; and
5. Attract talent including in the areas of urban economics, monitoring, commercial transactions/deals, and capital markets.

We expect this new agency will deliver a more integrated and enabling planning and investment environment - lifting productivity, boosting economic growth, and improving housing and transport outcomes - all while protecting the environment. The investment case for this proposal indicates that MCRE can deliver significant value and savings.

9(2)(g)(i) free and frank, 9(2)(f)(iv) confidentiality of advice

Why do we need this?

The integration of these Ministries would solve problems the Government has experienced including:

- Multiple-principal problem, which dilutes accountability. Grey-areas like Transport-Oriented Development, significant greenfield development, and viewshafts, are looked after by multiple agencies AND no one at the same time. Agencies end up pointing the finger at each other when nothing gets done. "*The CRL uplift problem*" and the "*Drury problem*".
- Fragmentation has led to uncoordinated and clumsy advice. Ministries often send conflicting/competing, or incomplete/siloed advice on the same matter. This is not creating value – instead it's just confusing and takes time to fix. There is also a mismatch between agencies' functions/power and expertise in some cases.

Timing/implementation

If agreed at Cabinet, an Implementation Management Office will be established within the Public Service Commission (PSC) in December 2025. MCRE will be established in April 2026, and all staff and functions transferred by 1 July 2026.

Please reach out if you have any questions. The PSC has offered to brief Ministers at their request. If your Minister would like a briefing, please just let Julie Johnston or me know.

Best,



Hannah Ouellet

Senior Ministerial Advisor | Office of Hon Chris Bishop

Minister for Housing | Infrastructure | RMA Reform | Transport | Associate Finance | Associate Sports & Recreation | Leader of the House | MP for Hutt South

M: 9(2)(a)

Email: hannah.ouellet@parliament.govt.nz Website: www.Beehive.govt.nz

Private Bag 18041, Parliament Buildings, Wellington 6160, New Zealand

Authorised by Hon Chris Bishop, Parliament Buildings, Wellington

Disclaimer: The information in this email (including attachments) is confidential and may be legally privileged. If an addressing or transmission error has misdirected this email, please notify the author by replying to this email and destroy the message. If you are not the intended recipient, any use, disclosure, copying, or distribution is prohibited and may be unlawful.

From: [Jenny Cassie](#)
To: [Helen Murdoch](#); [Glenn Phillips](#)
Cc: [Anna Fleming](#)
Subject: [IN-CONFIDENCE] RE: OiC to transfer community housing functions to MCERT - proposal for PSC to lead changes to make 12 Feb LEG
Date: Friday, 19 December 2025 5:24:55 pm
Attachments: [image001.png](#)
[image002.png](#)
[image003.png](#)
[image004.png](#)
[image005.png](#)

This email was sent from someone outside of Te Kawa Mataaho. Please take extra care.

Thanks Helen. That all sounds good to me. Look forward to engaging with you further in the new year.
Cheers
Jenny

[IN-CONFIDENCE]

From: Helen Murdoch <Helen.Murdoch@publicservice.govt.nz>
Sent: Friday, 19 December 2025 2:30 pm
To: Glenn Phillips <glenn.phillips@hud.govt.nz>; Jenny Cassie <jenny.cassie@hud.govt.nz>
Cc: Anna Fleming <Anna.Fleming@publicservice.govt.nz>
Subject: OiC to transfer community housing functions to MCERT - proposal for PSC to lead changes to make 12 Feb LEG

Kia ora Glenn and Jenny,

Glenn, I got your name from Amber Bill, and Jenny I understand our CLO Fran has been in contact earlier today as well.

We want to support Ministers and agencies to make it easy to do the technical and routine legislative changes to establish the new Ministry for Cities, Environment, Regions and Transport. For Ministers, it would be ideal to have the package of legislative changes in a single LEG paper. Because of other components this means lodging by 5 February for 12 Feb LEG.

To help make these timeframes work we can take the lead on supporting the Minister of Housing on the LEG paper and Orders for the transfer of housing functions. The changes are routine and technical and follow the pattern of what happened when [MHUD was established](#) in 2018.

Next steps

Below is our proposed approach for the housing component. I aim to send a draft LEG paper

around to all relevant agencies by end of today before I'm on leave until 13 Jan. We aim to send the draft LEG paper by 20 Jan to our Minister's Office to coordinate with Minister of Housing and Minister for the Environment on the wider Ministerial consultation. PCO will need Ministerial feedback by 2 Feb to enable lodgement on 5 Feb.

Public and Community Housing Management (MCERT) Order

S100, s159 of the Public and Community Housing Management Act allow the Governor General to assign responsibility for the Community Housing Regulator and Social Housing Agency roles through Order in Council, subject to the recommendation of joint Ministers (Minister of Finance, Minister of Housing, Minister for Social Development).

Our legal team (Anna cc'd) can instruct PCO about the drafting for the Public and Community Housing Management (MCERT) Order. PCO was comfortable with that if you are. Our PCO contact is Mel Bromley and MfE is also working with Pete Bevan.

This will not change the role of MSD but will reassign any MHUD role to MCERT based on what is in the 2018 Order linked above.

Joint Minister recommendation

Your legislation requires the change to be on the recommendation of the Minister of Finance, Minister of Housing and Minister for Social Development (joint Ministers). We propose informing the Minister of Finance and Minister for Social Development about the LEG proposal but leave the Minister of Housing to represent the group for taking the LEG paper and taking the Orders to the Executive Council. We will be consulting Sam Moffatt at DPMC about this approach too. For instance, we may include all three Ministers on the advice sheet for the Executive Council.

Let me know if you have any feedback on this approach,

Ngā mihi,
Helen

Helen Murdoch *(she/her)*

Kaitātari Mātāmua | Principal Analyst

Policy, Machinery of Government

Rautaki, Kaupapahere me te Ngākau Pono | Strategy, Policy and Integrity Group

waea pūkoro: ^{9(2)(a) privacy} | **īmēra:** helen.murdoch@publicservice.govt.nz

You can find me in the office on Tue and Wed and working from home Fri 11am- 3pm

From: [Helen Murdoch](#)
To: ["Matthew Green"](#); [Simon King](#)
Cc: [Chris Nees](#); [Anna Fleming](#)
Subject: RE: [IN-CONFIDENCE] RE: [IN-CONFIDENCE]RE: LEG paper for dept feedback 15 Jan on MCERT establishment
Date: Friday, 16 January 2026 4:40:00 pm
Attachments: [image001.png](#)
[image002.png](#)
[image003.png](#)
[image004.png](#)
[image005.png](#)

Kia ora Matthew,

Thanks for the feedback – some comments below but in short nothing else is being added into the LEG paper. Thanks for picking up some typos for us

From: Matthew Green <M.Green@transport.govt.nz>
Sent: Friday, January 9, 2026 2:57 PM
To: Simon King <Simon.King@mfe.govt.nz>; Helen Murdoch <Helen.Murdoch@publicservice.govt.nz>
Cc: Chris Nees <C.Nees@transport.govt.nz>; Anna Fleming <Anna.Fleming@publicservice.govt.nz>
Subject: [IN-CONFIDENCE] RE: [IN-CONFIDENCE]RE: LEG paper for dept feedback 15 Jan on MCERT establishment

This email was sent from someone outside of Te Kawa Mataaho. Please take extra care.

Kia ora Simon and Helen

Ruth and Chris have asked me to send my comments directly to you.

Two minor matters,

1. should the Office of the Minister of Transport and the Minister of Local Government be referred to at the top? *For simplicity this paper is in the name of three Ministers who are the ones seeking agreement to introduce a Bill (Minister for the Environment) or submit Orders to the Executive Council (Minister of Housing and Minister for the Public Service). The other Ministers with portfolios interests are being consulted*
2. the term 'MCRET' appears at paragraphs 10, 11, 32, 35 and 40. I assume this should be MCERT? [Thanks, noted.](#)

Reorganisation provisions

I note that that the reorganisation provisions in schedule 9 of the Public Service Act (in particular clause 2) would assist with Acts and other things that refer to the Ministry of Transport. In

particular, I am thinking about contracts, funding agreements and other arrangements entered into before 1 July 2026 that would continue to apply after 1 July 2026. I just wanted to check that clause 2 of schedule 9 would apply, so that references to the Ministry of Transport would read as the Ministry of Cities, Environment, Regions, and Transport post 1 July 2026 and nothing is required by Order in Council to turn these provisions on or otherwise rely on them?

Correct – the changes made under the Public Service Act mean we no longer require transitional matters in the Orders and you can rely on various clauses of Sch 9 as relevant

Minor legislative amendments

I assume the same would apply to references to the Secretary of Transport in legislation? Since legislation is being proposed, I wonder whether we should take the opportunity to modernise the following references—

The MCERT CE will have the designations Secretary for Transport, Secretary for Local Government and Secretary for the Environment given those all have statutory functions and powers attached. There are a number of older references for all those designations so we won't be modernising these through this process. The implementation team will need to ensure they've identified the full list of legislation to be administered by MCERT and get the appropriate delegations in place. The references can be read as referring to MCERT once MoT is disestablished.

The Bill is limited to Environment matters and is happening at a quick pace so we are keeping the content to the minimum required.

[Section 2](#) of the Government Roadway Powers Act 1989 which defines **Secretary** as meaning the Secretary of Transport

[Section 2](#) of the Transport Accident Investigation Commission Act 1990 which defines **Secretary** as meaning the chief executive of the Ministry of Transport.

Both of these references could easily be replaced with the modern standard form, which is to define—

1. **Secretary** means the chief executive of the Ministry
2. **Ministry** means, subject to any enactment, the Ministry that is, with the approval of the Prime Minister, for the time being responsible for the administration of this Act

Happy to chat further

Matthew

Matthew Green ([he / his / Mr](#))
Pou Whakahaere | Chief Legal Adviser and Manager Procurement

Te Kāhui Tangata | Corporate Services
Te Manatū Waka Ministry of Transport

M: +9(2)(a) privacy | E: m.green@transport.govt.nz | transport.govt.nz

From: Chris Nees

Sent: Monday, 22 December 2025 8:57 am

To: 'Simon King' <Simon.King@mfe.govt.nz>; Helen Murdoch <Helen.Murdoch@publicservice.govt.nz>; Glenn Phillips <glenn.phillips@hud.govt.nz>; Ruth Fairhall <R.Fairhall@transport.govt.nz>; karen.hope-cross@transport.govt.nz; jenny.cassie@hud.govt.nz; Catherine Prior <Catherine.Prior@mfe.govt.nz>

Cc: Anna Fleming <Anna.Fleming@publicservice.govt.nz>; Mereama Chase <Mereama.Chase@publicservice.govt.nz>

Subject: RE: [IN-CONFIDENCE]RE: LEG paper for dept feedback 15 Jan on MCERT establishment

Thanks Simon and Helen. My only question is a technical one. What happens to the matters in section 32 of the Environment Act to which every employee of the Ministry must have regard to? Do these transfer to MCRE staff or are they somehow limited to providing advice on the functions carried out by the Secretary for the Environment?

Matters to which regard to be given

In carrying out the Ministry's functions, every officer and employee of the Ministry, so far as is practicable, shall have regard to the matters set out in [section 17\(a\) to \(g\)](#).

- (a) the maintenance and restoration of ecosystems of importance, especially those supporting habitats or rare, threatened, or endangered species of flora or fauna:
- (b) areas, landscapes, and structures of aesthetic, archaeological, cultural, historical, recreational, scenic, and scientific value:
- (c) any land, water, sites, fishing grounds, or physical or cultural resources, or interests associated with such areas, which are part of the heritage of the tangata whenua and which contribute to their well-being:
- (d) the effects on communities of people of—
 - (i) actual or proposed changes to natural and physical resources:
 - (ii) the establishment or proposed establishment of new communities:
- (e) whether any proposals, policies, or other matters, the consideration of which is within the Commissioner's functions, are likely to—
 - (i) result in or increase pollution; or
 - (ii) result in the occurrence, or increase the chances of occurrence, of natural hazards or hazardous substances; or
 - (iii) result in the introduction of species or genotypes not previously present within New Zealand (including the territorial sea); or
 - (iv) have features, the environmental effects of which are not certain, and the potential impact of which is such as to warrant further investigation in order to determine the environmental impact of the proposal, policy, or other matter; or
 - (v) result in the allocation or depletion of any natural and physical resources in a way or

at a rate that will prevent the renewal by natural processes of the resources or will not enable an orderly transition to other materials:

(f) all reasonably foreseeable effects of any such proposal, policy, or other matter on the environment, whether adverse or beneficial, short term or long term, direct or indirect, or cumulative:

(g) alternative means or methods of implementing or providing for any such proposal, policy, or matter in all or any of its aspects, including the consideration, where appropriate, of alternative sites.

From: Simon King <Simon.King@mfe.govt.nz>

Sent: Friday, 19 December 2025 5:33 pm

To: Helen Murdoch <Helen.Murdoch@publicservice.govt.nz>; Glenn Phillips <glenn.phillips@hud.govt.nz>; Chris Nees <C.Nees@transport.govt.nz>; Ruth Fairhall <R.Fairhall@transport.govt.nz>; karen.hope-cross@transport.govt.nz; jenny.cassie@hud.govt.nz; Catherine Prior <Catherine.Prior@mfe.govt.nz>

Cc: Anna Fleming <Anna.Fleming@publicservice.govt.nz>; Mereama Chase <Mereama.Chase@publicservice.govt.nz>

Subject: [IN-CONFIDENCE]RE: LEG paper for dept feedback 15 Jan on MCERT establishment

Kia ora koutou

Please find an updated version of the LEG paper attached with the missing Environment Amendment Bill content added.

This Bill is now also being drafted by PCO and we'll share a copy as soon as we can.

Ngā mihi

Simon

Simon King

Chief Advisor | Kaitohutohu Whakarae

Office of the Chief Executive

Ministry for the Environment | Manatū Mō Te Taiao

9(2)(a) privacy | simon.king@mfe.govt.nz | mfe.govt.nz

-

*We are located at **8 Willis Street**.*

From: Helen Murdoch <Helen.Murdoch@publicservice.govt.nz>

Sent: Friday, 19 December 2025 4:14 pm

To: Glenn Phillips <glenn.phillips@hud.govt.nz>; Chris Nees <c.nees@transport.govt.nz>; Ruth Fairhall <r.fairhall@transport.govt.nz>; karen.hope-cross@transport.govt.nz; Simon King

<Simon.King@mfe.govt.nz>; jenny.cassie@hud.govt.nz; Catherine Prior
<Catherine.Prior@mfe.govt.nz>

Cc: Anna Fleming <Anna.Fleming@publicservice.govt.nz>; Mereama Chase
<Mereama.Chase@publicservice.govt.nz>

Subject: LEG paper for dept feedback 15 Jan on MCERT establishment

[IN-CONFIDENCE]

Kia ora koutou,

I hope you are, or are getting ready, for a good summer break. This is a heads up about technical and routine legislative changes to establish the new Ministry for Cities, Environment, Regions and Transport (MCERT).

We want to support Ministers and agencies to make it easy to do the legislative changes and aim on lodging a paper for LEG by 5 Feb 2026. A draft LEG paper is attached for **departmental feedback by Thur 15 Jan**. Apologies for the short timeframe but hopefully there is no substantive feedback. There are placeholders for where we will include the MfE material on the Environment Amendment Bill. The only other substantive matter is the process for the community housing orders (as signalled to HUD already).

We are in the process of instructing PCO and will send you draft orders in the new year. We'll do a final edit of the paper and send to our Minister's office to coordinate Ministerial consultation starting in the week of 19 Jan. PCO will need Ministerial feedback by 2 Feb to enable lodgement by 5 Feb.

I'm back from Tue 13 Feb and Anna is around from 6 Jan if you have any questions or comments for us.

Legislative changes

There are five legislative instruments that are mainly updating lists to add MCERT and remove MfE, HUD, DIA, MoT where relevant to reflect the new arrangement of functions.

Policy decision	Legislation	Responsible Minister	Commencement date
Establish MCERT as a new agency	Public Service (MCERT) Order	Public Service	1 April
Transfer functions from MfE to	Environment Amendment Bill	Environment	1 July

MCERT			
Transfer functions from HUD, MoT to MCERT	Public Service (MCERT) Order	Public Service	1 July
Transfer community housing functions from HUD to MCERT	Public and Community Housing (MCERT) Order	Housing	1 July
Update agencies in scope of Ombudsmen Act	Ombudsmen (MCERT) Order	Justice (although Public Service take to LEG and Executive Council on their behalf)	1 April / 1 July
Update the appropriate authority for protected disclosures	Protected Disclosures (MCERT) Order	Public Service	1 July
Update Climate Change Chief Executive Board membership and Servicing Department MCERT is servicing agency. MfE, HUD, MoT removed from remit.	Public Service (MCERT) Order Ombudsmen (MCERT) Order Environment Amendment Bill	Public Service / Environment	1 July

MfE

We can include relevant sections on the Environment Amendment Bill (green highlighters as placeholders).

HUD

The paper includes the Public and Community Housing Management (MCERT) Orders to reassign the community housing regulator and social housing agency roles from HUD to MCERT. As I noted in an earlier email, we are happy to take the lead on these changes.

References to HUD are removed from Public Service Act Sch 2 (agency and Climate Change CE Board), Ombudsmen Act Sch 1 and Protected Disclosures Act Sch 2.

MoT

References to MoT are removed from Public Service Act Sch 2 (agency and Climate Change CE Board), Ombudsmen Act Sch 1 and Protected Disclosures Act Sch 2.

DIA

The only legislative reference to DIA is to update the [Protected Disclosures Act](#) so that concerns about local government are referred to MCERT rather than DIA. The Public Service Commissioner will assign the title of Secretary for Local Government to the chief executive of MCERT and no legislative changes are needed.

Ngā mihi,
Helen

Helen Murdoch *(she/her)*

Kaitātari Mātāmua | Principal Analyst

Policy, Machinery of Government

Rautaki, Kaupapahere me te Ngākau Pono | Strategy, Policy and Integrity Group

waea pūkoro: ^{9(2)(a) privacy} | **īmēra:** helen.murdoch@publicservice.govt.nz

You can find me in the office on Tue and Wed and working from home Fri 11am- 3pm



Te Kawa Mataaho Public Service Commission

www.publicservice.govt.nz | www.govt.nz



.....
Confidentiality notice: This email may be confidential or legally privileged. If you have received it by mistake, please tell the sender immediately by reply, remove this email and the reply from your system, and don't act on it in any other way. Ngā mihi.

[IN-CONFIDENCE]

From: [Karen Hope-Cross](#)
To: [Helen Murdoch](#)
Subject: RE: [IN-CONFIDENCE] RE: [IN-CONFIDENCE]RE: LEG paper for dept feedback 15 Jan on MCERT establishment
Date: Tuesday, 20 January 2026 8:22:06 am
Attachments: [image001.png](#)
[image002.png](#)
[image003.png](#)
[image004.png](#)
[image005.png](#)
[image006.png](#)

This email was sent from someone outside of Te Kawa Mataaho. Please take extra care.

Thanks Helen.

Ngā mihi
Karen

From: Helen Murdoch <Helen.Murdoch@publicservice.govt.nz>
Sent: Friday, January 16, 2026 4:18 PM
To: Karen Hope-Cross <Karen.Hope-Cross@dia.govt.nz>
Cc: Katrina Casey <Katrina.Casey@dia.govt.nz>; Lori Hand <Lori.Hand@dia.govt.nz>; Richard Ward <Richard.Ward@dia.govt.nz>
Subject: RE: [IN-CONFIDENCE] RE: [IN-CONFIDENCE]RE: LEG paper for dept feedback 15 Jan on MCERT establishment

Thanks Karen,

This is useful material I've also forwarded to our legal team who had done an earlier scan of legislation. As you note the implementation phase will need to consider the appropriate delegations within MCERT.

The MCRET CE will have Secretary for Local Government, Secretary for Transport and Secretary for Environment designations given the responsibilities attached to those titles throughout different Acts.

Ngā mihi nui,
Helen

From: Karen Hope-Cross <Karen.Hope-Cross@dia.govt.nz>
Sent: Thursday, January 15, 2026 1:54 PM
To: Helen Murdoch <Helen.Murdoch@publicservice.govt.nz>
Cc: Katrina Casey <Katrina.Casey@dia.govt.nz>; Lori Hand <Lori.Hand@dia.govt.nz>; Richard Ward <Richard.Ward@dia.govt.nz>

Subject: RE: [IN-CONFIDENCE] RE: [IN-CONFIDENCE]RE: LEG paper for dept feedback 15 Jan on MCERT establishment

This email was sent from someone outside of Te Kawa Mataaho. Please take extra care.

Kia ora Helen

Thank you for the questions re LEG and the local government function.

I asked the team to have a look at this earlier this week. As they didn't have a lot of time to look through this, we caveat our comments with the assumption that PCO will do a detailed scan of all legislation in any case. Comments below:

We do not have anything specific to add to the Cabinet Paper, given it is at a higher level.

Three relevant notes:

Most importantly, the majority of functions and roles and statutory obligations (e.g. reviewing Water Services Delivery Plans every 5 years) sit with the Secretary for Local Government so assume a process will happen at the appropriate time that will shift the delegation for this from Paul James to the new CE/relevant DCE of MCERT – the email trail suggests this is on the to do list. We are working on the assumption there is no intention not to have a Secretary for Local Government designation. Another example re other pieces of legislation is the Rates Rebates Act 1973 where the Secretary for Local Government needs to approve the application form: [Rates Rebate Act 1973 No 5 \(as at 27 August 2025\), Public Act – New Zealand Legislation](#)

Second, there are a number of references to DIA in legislation that will need to change to MCERT.

We would expect this to be done by PCO who will search primary and secondary legislation and likely to be consequential amendments. Unclear if it is via this legislation or another process? Some examples (may not capture all) examples below.

[Conservation Act 1987 No 65 \(as at 27 November 2025\), Public Act 65 Amendments and savings – New Zealand Legislation](#)

[Rates Rebate Act 1973 No 5 \(as at 27 August 2025\), Public Act 14 Offences – New Zealand Legislation](#)

[Rates Rebate \(Witnessing of Declarations\) Notice 1977 \(SR 1977/12\) \(as at 11 February 1977\) – New Zealand Legislation](#)

[Lake Taupō \(Crown Facilities, Permits, and Fees\) Regulations 2004 \(SR 2004/140\) \(as at 05 April 2025\) Schedule 2 Application for berthing permit – New Zealand Legislation](#)

In the water space there are two pieces of older legislation that refer to DIA as the regulatory agency in relation to water services.

two pieces of older legislation that reference DIA as a regulatory agency in relation to water services. They are:

- clause 37 of schedule 7 of the Commerce Act 1986
- s 204 of the Water Services Act 2021.

Third, there is a process question re Local Acts, especially the earlier ones where a lot of them enabled local government bodies to enter into contracts. These tend to be for things like buying, selling or leasing land, or providing water supplies. Some of the Acts note that the official records (e.g. plans showing the land concerned, the final signed agreements) are held at/by DIA. The Acts give a file reference for each set of documents at DIA (e.g. “a copy of which is deposited in the Department of Internal Affairs, at Wellington, under Number IA 174/354”, Local Legislation Act 1954 | New Zealand Legislation). There is a question at some point whether to change this. Related, the Local Legislation Act 1973 has lots of references to being required to deposit documents with the Secretary for Local Government, Head office, Department of Internal Affairs.

In summary this isn't really just about what some might see as core local government legislation it is wider and the two things needed will be:

- Ensure there is still a Secretary for Local Government designation/delegations or alternatively replace that designation with whatever replaces it in each piece of legislation where secretary for local government is mentioned/ascribed responsibilities
- In every piece of legislation where DIA is referred to – that will need to be replaced by MCERT (which would have to happen across the Board).

We have provided examples not so much for the cabinet paper but for those responsible for doing this work to see the potential range of legislation they/PCO need to check.

If you have any questions, Katrina, Lori and Richards teams pulled this together.

Ngā mihi
Karen

Karen Hope-Cross

Director Office of the Secretary | Pouārahi Te Toki

Department of Internal Affairs | Te Tari Taiwhenua

Mobile : 9(2)(a) privacy

45 Pipitea Street | PO Box 805, Wellington 6140, New Zealand | www.dia.govt.nz



Duplicate

From: [Helen Murdoch](#)
To: ["Chris Nees"](#)
Subject: RE: [IN-CONFIDENCE] RE: [IN-CONFIDENCE]RE: LEG paper for dept feedback 15 Jan on MCERT establishment
Date: Wednesday, 21 January 2026 11:39:00 am
Attachments: [Environment \(Disestablishment of Ministry for the-v2.0.pdf\)](#)
[image001.png](#)
[image002.png](#)
[image003.png](#)
[image004.png](#)
[image005.png](#)

Kia ora Chris,

The MCERT CE will have responsibility to consider the s17 matters when they are doing any of the s31 Environment Act functions of the Secretary for the Environment. That list of functions, currently assigned to MfE, will define the role of the Secretary and provides the clarity about when those responsibilities are in play.

For instance: s31(a) advise the Minister for the Environment on all aspects of environmental administration and s31(c) (i)-(v) advise the Government, its agencies, and other public authorities on matters such as the objectives of the Environment Act, natural hazards and control of hazardous substances.

The Environment Act responsibilities are not intended to apply to all advice from MCERT. But to the extent MfE would have been involved in the work and held the s17 responsibilities in the past (either as lead agency or being consulted by other departments), then it is likely the MCERT CE would be doing one of the s31 functions. Those cases would require the advice, so far as it practicable, to have regard to the s17(a)-(g) matters. This represents a change in who holds the responsibilities, not a change in the responsibilities themselves.

I've also forwarded your email to our MfE colleagues who are working with PCO on the Bill (draft attached) as an FYI as they may find other people at MCERT, particularly from outside MfE, have similar questions.

Ngā mihi,
Helen

From: Chris Nees <C.Nees@transport.govt.nz>
Sent: Tuesday, January 20, 2026 4:31 PM
To: Helen Murdoch <Helen.Murdoch@publicservice.govt.nz>
Subject: RE: [IN-CONFIDENCE] RE: [IN-CONFIDENCE]RE: LEG paper for dept feedback 15 Jan on MCERT establishment

This email was sent from someone outside of Te Kawa Mataaho. Please take extra

care.

Thanks Helen, I'm left wondering how a CE is supposed to work out if the advice he/she is giving then needs to consider those factors in the environment Act? Is it only if he/she is advising the Minister for the Environment? Seems like a tricky place to put a CE into. If it was me, I'd want to clearly understand what my legal responsible are/aren't.

From: Helen Murdoch <Helen.Murdoch@publicservice.govt.nz>

Sent: Friday, 16 January 2026 4:48 pm

To: Chris Nees <C.Nees@transport.govt.nz>; Simon King <Simon.King@mfe.govt.nz>; Glenn Phillips <glenn.phillips@hud.govt.nz>; Ruth Fairhall <R.Fairhall@transport.govt.nz>; Karen Hope-Cross <karen.hope-cross@dia.govt.nz>; jenny.cassie@hud.govt.nz; Catherine Prior <Catherine.Prior@mfe.govt.nz>

Cc: Anna Fleming <Anna.Fleming@publicservice.govt.nz>; Mereama Chase <Mereama.Chase@publicservice.govt.nz>

Subject: RE: [IN-CONFIDENCE] RE: [IN-CONFIDENCE]RE: LEG paper for dept feedback 15 Jan on MCERT establishment

Kia ora Chris,

Thanks for reviewing our papers pre-Christmas. Hope you've had a good break.

The policy intention is that the responsibility for the functions in the Environment Act are moved from all employees of MfE to the Secretary for the Environment which will be one of the designations the Chief Executive of MCERT would hold alongside the Secretary of Local Government and Secretary for Transport. We do not anticipate this to result in any fundamental impact on the extent to which the functions are exercised, and it provides clearer legal accountability for delivery of the functions than is currently provided in the Act. The link between performance of functions and responsibility to have regard to the environmental matters in sections 17 of the Environment Act is also maintained.

The intention is to maintain the current requirements for the environmental portfolio. It does not expand these requirements to all staff of MCERT. Other portfolio areas do not pick up any new requirements because of the merger.

Ngā mihi,
Helen

From: Chris Nees <C.Nees@transport.govt.nz>

Sent: Monday, December 22, 2025 8:57 AM

To: Simon King <Simon.King@mfe.govt.nz>; Helen Murdoch

<Helen.Murdoch@publicservice.govt.nz>; Glenn Phillips <glenn.phillips@hud.govt.nz>; Ruth Fairhall <R.Fairhall@transport.govt.nz>; karen.hope-cross@transport.govt.nz; jenny.cassie@hud.govt.nz; Catherine Prior <Catherine.Prior@mfe.govt.nz>


Cc: Anna Fleming <Anna.Fleming@publicservice.govt.nz>; Mereama Chase <Mereama.Chase@publicservice.govt.nz>

Subject: [IN-CONFIDENCE] RE: [IN-CONFIDENCE]RE: LEG paper for dept feedback 15 Jan on MCERT establishment

This email was sent from someone outside of Te Kawa Mataaho. Please take extra care.

Thanks Simon and Helen. My only question is a technical one. What happens to the matters in section 32 of the Environment Act to which every employee of the Ministry must have regard to? Do these transfer to MCRE staff or are they somehow limited to providing advice on the functions carried out by the Secretary for the Environment?

Duplicate



From: [Helen Murdoch](#)
To: "[Catherine Prior](#)"; [Simon King](#)
Subject: RE: [IN-CONFIDENCE] Environment Act question from MoT
Date: Wednesday, 21 January 2026 11:59:00 am
Attachments: [image001.png](#)
[image002.png](#)
[image003.png](#)
[image004.png](#)
[image005.png](#)

Thanks Catherine,

Helpful to see the draft Bill, it's looking good.

Commencement

I expect that confirming the parliamentary process to be noted in the LEG paper provides confidence to use the option 1 commencement date without the order in council mechanism. I drafted the LEG paper on the basis of 1 July commencement.

S29 CE / Minister relationship – accountable vs responsible

Suggest s29 follows the s52 Public Service Act wording to say Secretary is *responsible* to the Minister. This reflects that it is the Commissioner, not the Minister, who has the employment relationships and levers to reward or sanction a CE in response to performance. The Minister has a role to direct the Secretary.

I'll double check this with our legal team and confirm by end of next week (they're on leave at the moment).

Note that s44 Public Service Act means the Public Service Commissioner has a role to review the Secretary's performance, including how they carry out their responsibilities and functions under the Public Service Act or another enactment.

Public Service Orders / Ombudsmen Orders

TBC next week. We haven't seen the Orders yet and will double check that everything not in your Bill is covered in our Orders.

Ngā mihi,

Helen

From: Catherine Prior <Catherine.Prior@mfe.govt.nz>
Sent: Wednesday, January 21, 2026 11:01 AM
To: Helen Murdoch <Helen.Murdoch@publicservice.govt.nz>; Simon King <Simon.King@publicservice.govt.nz>
Subject: RE: [IN-CONFIDENCE] Environment Act question from MoT

This email was sent from someone outside of Te Kawa Mataaho. Please take extra care.

Hi Helen!

Would it be at all useful to share the bill drafting with Chris? Latest draft attached for you.

Otherwise I am happy with your response – it accurately reflects what we had discussed in terms of carving out the functions. A CE with broad responsibilities, but also specific ones that apply in some contexts is no different to the secretary of local govt functions managed by the CE of DIA now anyway isn't it?

Cat

From: Helen Murdoch <Helen.Murdoch@publicservice.govt.nz>
Sent: Wednesday, 21 January 2026 10:31 am
To: Catherine Prior <Catherine.Prior@mfe.govt.nz>; Simon King <Simon.King@publicservice.govt.nz>
Subject: [IN-CONFIDENCE] Environment Act question from MoT

Kia ora Simon and Catherine,

Are you happy with me providing this response to a transport colleague asking about the scope of Environment Act requirements for MCERT CE?

Kia ora Chris,

The MCERT CE will have responsibility to consider the s17 matters when they are doing any of the s31 Environment Act functions of the Secretary for the Environment. That list of functions, currently assigned to MfE, will define the role of the Secretary and provides the clarity about when those responsibilities are in play.

For instance: s31(a) advise the Minister for the Environment on all aspects of environmental administration and s31(c) (i)-(v) advise the Government, its agencies, and other public authorities on matters such as the objectives of the Environment Act, natural hazards and control of hazardous substances.

The Environment Act responsibilities are not intended to apply to all advice from MCERT. But to the extent MfE would have been involved in the work and held the s17 responsibilities in the past (either as lead agency or being consulted by other departments), then it is likely the MCERT CE would be doing one of the s31 functions. Those cases would require the advice, so far as it practicable, to have regard to the s17(a)-(g) matters. This represents a change in who holds the responsibilities, not a

change in the responsibilities themselves.

I've also forwarded your email to our MfE colleagues who are working with PCO on the Bill as an FYI as they may find other people at MCERT, particularly from outside MfE, have similar questions.

Ngā mihi,
Helen


From: Chris Nees <C.Nees@transport.govt.nz>
Sent: Tuesday, January 20, 2026 4:31 PM
To: Helen Murdoch <Helen.Murdoch@publicservice.govt.nz>
Subject: RE: [IN-CONFIDENCE] RE: [IN-CONFIDENCE]RE: LEG paper for dept feedback 15 Jan on MCERT establishment

This email was sent from someone outside of Te Kawa Mataaho. Please take extra care.

Thanks Helen, I'm left wondering how a CE is supposed to work out if the advice he/she is giving then needs to consider those factors in the environment Act? Is it only if he/she is advising the Minister for the Environment? Seems like a tricky place to put a CE into. If it was me, I'd want to clearly understand what my legal responsible are/aren't.

From: Helen Murdoch <Helen.Murdoch@publicservice.govt.nz>
Sent: Friday, 16 January 2026 4:48 pm
To: Chris Nees <C.Nees@transport.govt.nz>; Simon King <Simon.King@mfe.govt.nz>; Glenn Phillips <glenn.phillips@hud.govt.nz>; Ruth Fairhall <R.Fairhall@transport.govt.nz>; Karen Hope-Cross <karen.hope-cross@dia.govt.nz>; jenny.cassie@hud.govt.nz; Catherine Prior <Catherine.Prior@mfe.govt.nz>
Cc: Anna Fleming <Anna.Fleming@publicservice.govt.nz>; Mereama Chase <Mereama.Chase@publicservice.govt.nz>
Subject: RE: [IN-CONFIDENCE] RE: [IN-CONFIDENCE]RE: LEG paper for dept feedback 15 Jan on MCERT establishment

Duplicate



From: [Bailey Smith](#)
To: [Helen Murdoch](#)
Cc: [Simon King](#); [Catherine Prior](#); [Harry Chapman](#)
Subject: RE: RIA/RAS requirements for MCERT and the Environment Amendment Bill
Date: Friday, 30 January 2026 11:37:40 am
Attachments: [image001.png](#)
[image002.png](#)
[image003.png](#)
[image004.png](#)
[image005.png](#)
[image006.jpg](#)
[image007.png](#)
[image008.png](#)
[image009.png](#)
[image010.png](#)
[image011.png](#)

This email was sent from someone outside of Te Kawa Mataaho. Please take extra care.

Kia ora Helen,

I appreciate that the proposal was sensitive and tightly held. However, the RIA team is responsible for administering Cabinet's impact analysis requirements, including granting exemptions and providing the wording for the impact analysis section of Cabinet papers. We have processes for managing sensitive proposals such as this and are keen to be looped in next time please. I acknowledge that often these types of government administration proposals are eligible for minor impacts exemptions – however, sometimes they're above the threshold and impact analysis is required, so it's always best to confirm with us.

Here is the wording to insert in the impact analysis section of the LEG paper, please insert the relevant information as per highlights:

*Cabinet has previously agreed to [proposal][Cabinet minute].
No exemption was sought at the time when policy decisions were made.
However, the Ministry for Regulation has now determined that these proposals would have been eligible for an exemption from Cabinet's regulatory impact analysis requirements on the basis that the proposal has no or only minor impacts on businesses, individuals, and not-for-profit entities.*

Aku mihi,
Nā, Bailey

Bailey Smith (she/her)
Senior Advisor, Regulatory Policy Design
Ministry for Regulation
īmēra: bailey.smith@regulation.govt.nz

From: Helen Murdoch <Helen.Murdoch@publicservice.govt.nz>
Sent: Friday, 30 January 2026 11:20 am
To: Bailey Smith <Bailey.Smith@regulation.govt.nz>
Subject: RE: RIA/RAS requirements for MCERT and the Environment Amendment Bill

Kia ora Bailey,

Attached is our near final LEG paper going through sign out for sending to Ministers. If you have any proposed changes to the impact analysis para, as shown below, please get in contact by 12:30pm today.

Ngā mihi,
Helen
9(2)(a) privacy

From: Helen Murdoch
Sent: Wednesday, January 28, 2026 11:39 AM
To: Bailey Smith <bailey.smith@regulation.govt.nz>
Subject: RE: RIA/RAS requirements for MCERT and the Environment Amendment Bill

Kia ora Bailey,

Let me know if you have any other suggested wording for the impact analysis section of the attached LEG paper.

Impact analysis

The Ministry for Regulation has **retrospectively** determined that a Regulatory Impact Statement is not required for the Environment Bill or the Orders in Council, as the proposals have no or only minor impacts on businesses, individuals, and not-for-profit entities.

Happy to discuss any time today or first thing Friday morning. We are currently aiming to get a final paper back to Ministers by 1pm Friday. While I don't work on a Thursday I'm still contactable on 9(2)(a) privacy if needed

Ngā mihi,
Helen

Helen Murdoch (she/her)

Kaitātari Mātāmua | Principal Analyst

Policy, Machinery of Government

Rautaki, Kaupapahere me te Ngākau Pono | Strategy, Policy and Integrity Group

waea pūkoro: 9(2)(a) privacy | **īmēra:** helen.murdoch@publicservice.govt.nz

You can find me in the office on Tue and Wed and working from home Fri 11am- 3pm



Te Kawa Mataaho Public Service Commission

www.publicservice.govt.nz | www.govt.nz



From: Helen Murdoch <helen.murdoch@publicservice.govt.nz>

Sent: Wednesday, January 28, 2026 10:39 AM

To: Bailey Smith <Bailey.Smith@regulation.govt.nz>; Simon King <simon.king@mfe.govt.nz>

Cc: Catherine Prior <catherine.prior@mfe.govt.nz>

Subject: RE: RIA/RAS requirements for upcoming Bill

Kia ora Bailey,

Thanks for reviewing the information – I'm happy to include your wording in the LEG paper around a retrospective approval. Let me know if you want to provide some text or catch up any time today to discuss. I'm in Te Iho if you want to meet on a connect floor or am available on teams or 9(2)(a) privacy

For context, we did not consult MfR on the 15 Dec paper as it was tightly locked down and the paper was not published on Cabinet. We had used the RIA review material to consider the material and it was our view that the material was in line with all previous machinery of government proposals where MfR had been consulted and given that exemption assessment. I appreciate this is not ideal and happy to engage further. We sent through the information to your agencyconsultation email earlier in January as a heads up to help close the loop in advance of LEG.

Thanks

Helen

Helen Murdoch (she/her)

Kaitātari Mātāmua | Principal Analyst

Policy, Machinery of Government

Rautaki, Kaupapahere me te Ngākau Pono | Strategy, Policy and Integrity Group

waea pūkoro: 9(2)(a) privacy | **īmēra:** helen.murdoch@publicservice.govt.nz

You can find me in the office on Tue and Wed and working from home Fri 11am- 3pm



Te Kawa Mataaho Public Service Commission
www.publicservice.govt.nz | www.govt.nz



From: Bailey Smith <Bailey.Smith@regulation.govt.nz>
Sent: Tuesday, January 27, 2026 2:32 PM
To: Helen Murdoch <helen.murdoch@publicservice.govt.nz>; Simon King <simon.king@mfe.govt.nz>
Cc: Catherine Prior <catherine.prior@mfe.govt.nz>
Subject: RE: RIA/RAS requirements for upcoming Bill

This email was sent from someone outside of Te Kawa Mataaho. Please take extra care.

Kia ora kōrua,

Happy new year, I hope everyone had a restful break!

[@Helen](#) as you'll see from the below emails, I had a chat with Simon late last year about the upcoming LEG paper related to establishing the new Ministry. The Impact Analysis section of the previous Cabinet paper is not our usual wording and to my knowledge, we weren't consulted about the RIA requirements when it was being prepared. **Could you please confirm whether the RIA team at MfR granted an exemption for the proposal?**

I've reviewed the information Simon provided below and discussed the proposal with my RIA Team colleagues, and it is likely the previous paper would have been eligible for a minor impacts exemption given the nature of the changes. In the case we weren't consulted, the previous paper was technically non-compliant with the RIA requirements. However, as the proposals would likely be eligible for a minor impacts exemption we will likely grant a retroactive exemption (which the wording in LEG paper will reflect).

If you could get back to me by midday Friday, I can provide the appropriate wording to Simon before COB Friday.

[@Simon](#) thanks for putting us in touch. Does the above timing work for you?

Aku mihi,
Nā, Bailey

Bailey Smith (she/her)
Senior Advisor, Regulatory Policy Design
Ministry for Regulation
īmēra: bailey.smith@regulation.govt.nz



From: Simon King <Simon.King@mfe.govt.nz>
Sent: Friday, 23 January 2026 2:35 pm
To: Bailey Smith <Bailey.Smith@regulation.govt.nz>; Helen Murdoch <helen.murdoch@publicservice.govt.nz>
Cc: Catherine Prior <Catherine.Prior@mfe.govt.nz>
Subject: RE: RIA/RAS requirements for upcoming Bill

Kia ora Bailey and happy new year

Apologies for the delay in replying and I am now back from leave.

I have copied in my colleague Helen Murdoch from PSC who is holding the pen on the LEG paper, and can hopefully also answer any questions about the previous Cabinet paper.

Really happy to discuss

Ngā mihi

Simon

Simon King
Chief Advisor | Kaitohutohu Whakarae
Office of the Chief Executive

Ministry for the Environment | Manatū Mō Te Taiao
9(2)(a) privacy | simon.king@mfe.govt.nz | mfe.govt.nz

-

From: [Simon King](#)
To: [Helen Murdoch](#)
Cc: [Catherine Prior](#)
Subject: RE: [IN-CONFIDENCE]FW: Draft LEG paper for your Minister to sign
Date: Thursday, 29 January 2026 9:47:55 am
Attachments: [image001.png](#)
[image002.jpg](#)
[MCERT LEG paper - tracked changes version \(SK comments 29 Jan\).docx](#)

This email was sent from someone outside of Te Kawa Mataaho. Please take extra care.

Great work Helen as per!

Have marked up a few small changes in the attached after talking to the office. They are now thinking about which committee to send it to so asked that we leave this open. They also don't want the extra detail about timeframe and process removed.

Did we actually consult with Cab Office on definitions as stated in para 31? Want me to double check with PCO?

Simon

Simon King

*Chief Advisor | Kaitohutohu Whakarae
Office of the Chief Executive*

Ministry for the Environment | Manatū Mō Te Taiao
9(2)(a) | simon.king@mfe.govt.nz | mfe.govt.nz

We are located at 8 Willis Street.

From: Helen Murdoch <helen.murdoch@publicservice.govt.nz>
Sent: Wednesday, 28 January 2026 5:35 pm
To: Simon King <Simon.King@mfe.govt.nz>
Subject: RE: [IN-CONFIDENCE]FW: Draft LEG paper for your Minister to sign

Thanks

I've picked up the changes in this tracked change version I'm getting Steve to QA.

- Publicity in para 35-36: as a placeholder I wrote "The Minister of Housing and Minister for the Environment will coordinate the publicity on the Environment Amendment Bill."
- Changes pick up more clarity about which Minister is doing what and consistent use of we and signatures from all three at the end
- Environment Committee for two months (see para 34 and rec 8). Rec 3 is now an agree to the category 2 priority
- Waiting for MfR words for the retrospective exemption

We expect to get the PCO Orders at some point tomorrow for review although I'm not working tomorrow I'll be home with kids and will check email sometime around lunch/mid afternoon.

Ngā mihi,
Helen

From: Simon King <Simon.King@mfe.govt.nz>
Sent: Wednesday, January 28, 2026 4:34 PM
To: Helen Murdoch <helen.murdoch@publicservice.govt.nz>
Subject: [IN-CONFIDENCE]FW: Draft LEG paper for your Minister to sign

This email was sent from someone outside of Te Kawa Mataaho. Please take extra care.

Signed version from Minister Simmonds with a couple of minor comments below

Simon

Simon King

*Chief Advisor | Kaitohutohu Whakarae
Office of the Chief Executive*

Ministry for the Environment | Manatū Mō Te Taiao

9(2)(a) | simon.king@mfe.govt.nz | mfe.govt.nz

-

We are located at 8 Willis Street.

From: Environment Portfolio <Environment.Portfolio@parliament.govt.nz>

Sent: Wednesday, 28 January 2026 4:29 pm

To: Simon King <Simon.King@mfe.govt.nz>

Cc: Sarah McCarthy [EXTERNAL] (PARLIAMENT) <Sarah.McCarthy@parliament.govt.nz>; Chyi Sim [EXTERNAL] (PARLIAMENT) <Chyi.sim@parliament.govt.nz>

Subject: FW: Draft LEG paper for your Minister to sign

Kia ora Simon

All Ministers have now signed, with LEG paper out for ministerial consultation.

Note my comments below. Chyi may have more.

Please keep us updated on developments.

Cheers

Nick

From: Environment Portfolio

Sent: Wednesday, 28 January 2026 4:26 pm

To: Julie Johnston <Julie.Johnston@parliament.govt.nz>; Chyi Sim <Chyi.Sim@parliament.govt.nz>; Sarah Palmer <Sarah.Palmer@parliament.govt.nz>; Misty Mossman <Misty.Mossman@parliament.govt.nz>; Hugo Thompson <Hugo.Thompson@parliament.govt.nz>

Cc: 9(2)(a) privacy <[REDACTED]@parliament.govt.nz>; Sam Patchett <Sam.Patchett@parliament.govt.nz>

Subject: RE: Draft LEG paper for your Minister to sign

Hi Misty and Colleagues

Minister Simmonds has signed brief as attached.

I understand this LEG paper is now out for Ministerial consultation.

Initial feedback on draft LEG paper

- Para 5 – remove ‘the’ MFE
- Will the signature block at the end have all three Ministers?
- If so, will rec(s) 1 be ‘we’ or ‘I’?
- Does there need to be comms section/rec on which Ministers (s) will do comms on this Bill and OICs?

Happy to discuss in person if easier.

Cheers

Nick



Nicholas Smith

Private Secretary – Environment | Office of Hon Penny Simmonds
Minister for the Environment | Minister for Vocational Education
Associate Minister for Social Development | MP for Invercargill

Mobile: 9(2)(a) Email: nicholas.smith@parliament.govt.nz Website: www.beehive.govt.nz
Private Bag 18041, Parliament Buildings, Wellington 6160, New Zealand

Disclaimer: The information in this email (including attachments) is confidential and may be legally privileged. If an addressing or transmission error has misdirected this email, please notify the author by replying to this email and destroy the message. If you are not the intended recipient, any use, disclosure, copying or distribution is prohibited and may be unlawful.

From: Julie Johnston <Julie.Johnston@parliament.govt.nz>
Sent: Tuesday, 27 January 2026 5:38 pm
To: Chyi Sim <Chyi.Sim@parliament.govt.nz>; Sarah Palmer <Sarah.Palmer@parliament.govt.nz>; Misty Mossman <Misty.Mossman@parliament.govt.nz>; Nicholas Smith <Nicholas.Smith@parliament.govt.nz>; Hugo Thompson <Hugo.Thompson@parliament.govt.nz>
Cc: 9(2)(a) privacy <[REDACTED]@parliament.govt.nz>; Sam Patchett <Sam.Patchett@parliament.govt.nz>
Subject: RE: Draft LEG paper for your Minister to sign

Minister Collins has also signed.

Regards

Julie

From: Chyi Sim <Chyi.Sim@parliament.govt.nz>
Sent: Tuesday, 27 January 2026 5:32 PM
To: Sarah Palmer <Sarah.Palmer@parliament.govt.nz>; Misty Mossman <Misty.Mossman@parliament.govt.nz>; Nicholas Smith <Nicholas.Smith@parliament.govt.nz>; Hugo Thompson <Hugo.Thompson@parliament.govt.nz>
Cc: Julie Johnston <Julie.Johnston@parliament.govt.nz>; 9(2)(a) privacy <[REDACTED]@parliament.govt.nz>; Sam Patchett <Sam.Patchett@parliament.govt.nz>
Subject: RE: Draft LEG paper for your Minister to sign

Hi all,

See attached Minister Bishop signed briefing and approved LEG paper to commence Ministerial consultation.

Chyi

From: Sarah Palmer <Sarah.Palmer@parliament.govt.nz>
Sent: Tuesday, 27 January 2026 9:05 AM
To: Misty Mossman <Misty.Mossman@parliament.govt.nz>; Chyi Sim <Chyi.Sim@parliament.govt.nz>; Nicholas Smith <Nicholas.Smith@parliament.govt.nz>; Hugo Thompson <Hugo.Thompson@parliament.govt.nz>
Cc: Julie Johnston <Julie.Johnston@parliament.govt.nz>; 9(2)(a) privacy <[REDACTED]@parliament.govt.nz>; Sam Patchett <Sam.Patchett@parliament.govt.nz>
Subject: RE: Draft LEG paper for your Minister to sign

Morning,

Please find Minister Upston's signed report attached.

Cheers

Sarah

Sarah Palmer
Private Secretary (Social Development and Employment | Child Poverty Reduction) | Office of Hon Louise Upston
Phone: 9(2)(a) Email: Sarah.Palmer@parliament.govt.nz

From: Misty Mossman <Misty.Mossman@parliament.govt.nz>
Sent: Monday, 26 January 2026 9:55 AM
To: Chyi Sim <Chyi.Sim@parliament.govt.nz>; Nicholas Smith <Nicholas.Smith@parliament.govt.nz>; Hugo Thompson <Hugo.Thompson@parliament.govt.nz>; Sarah Palmer <Sarah.Palmer@parliament.govt.nz>

Cc: Julie Johnston <Julie.Johnston@parliament.govt.nz>; 9(2)(a) privacy [REDACTED] <[\[REDACTED\]@parliament.govt.nz](mailto:[REDACTED]@parliament.govt.nz)>

Subject: Draft LEG paper for your Minister to sign

Importance: High

Good morning

Please see attached a report for your Minister's signature. While the report has a deadline of 2 February, it would be greatly appreciated if we could get the signed report back in the next few days so a final LEG paper can be signed over the weekend to lodge next week.

Apologies for the delay in sending this through.

Thanks

Misty



Misty Mossman
Private Secretary (Public Service) | Office of Hon Judith Collins KC MP

Member of Parliament for Papakura
Attorney-General | Minister of Defence | Minister for Digitising Government | Minister for the Public Service |
Minister Responsible for the GCSB | Minister Responsible for the NZSIS | Minister for Space

Mobile: 9(2)(a) [REDACTED]
Email: [\[REDACTED\]@parliament.govt.nz](mailto:[REDACTED]@parliament.govt.nz) Website: www.Beehive.govt.nz
Private Bag 18041, Parliament Buildings, Wellington 6160, New Zealand

Confidentiality notice: This email may be confidential or legally privileged. If you have received it by mistake, please tell the sender immediately by reply, remove this email and the reply from your system, and don't act on it in any other way. Ngā mihi.



Report Title:	Final decisions for LEG paper to establish the Ministry for Cities, Environment, Regions and Transport		
Report No:	MoSR 2026-0004		
Date:	20 January 2026		
To:	Hon Chris Bishop, Minister of Housing		
To:	Hon Judith Collins KC, Minister for the Public Service		
Action Sought:	Confirm name and functions for Orders	Due Date	2 February 2026
To:	Hon Penny Simmonds, Minister for the Environment		
Action Sought:	Note Bill to be enacted by 1 July	Due Date	2 February 2026
To:	Hon Nicola Willis, Minister of Finance		
To:	Hon Louise Upston, Minister for Social Development and Employment		
Action sought:	Agree to transfer MHUD roles to MCERT	Due Date	2 February 2026
PSC Contact:	Mereama Chase, Manager Machinery of Government Policy, ^{9(2)(a) privacy}		
MfE Contact:	Simon King, Chief Advisor, ^{9(2)(a) privacy}		
Encl:	Yes – draft LEG paper	Priority:	Medium
Security Level:	IN CONFIDENCE		

Executive Summary

- On 15 December 2025 Cabinet agreed to establish the Ministry for Cities, Environment, Regions and Transport (MCERT) to deliver a more certain, integrated, and enabling planning and investment environment, and improve environmental, housing and transport outcomes.
- This report provides a draft LEG paper (Appendix) and seeks final decisions to enable all the changes for the establishment of MCERT. We recommend lodging the paper by 5 February for the 12 February LEG to ensure all the functions can transfer to MCERT by 1 July 2026. The package of changes covers activity in multiple portfolios, including confirming the joint recommendation of the Minister of Finance, Minister of Housing and Minister for Social Development and Employment for the social housing functions.

Minister of Housing and Minister for the Public Service

- The LEG paper seeks agreement for you to submit the Orders in Council to the Executive Council on 16 February. To support this process, refer the draft LEG paper onto relevant Ministers for consultation and confirm the name of the new Ministry by Monday 2 February to enable drafting to be changed and submitted on 5 February.

Minister for the Environment

4. The LEG paper seeks agreement for you to submit the Environment (Disestablishment of the Ministry for the Environment) Amendment Bill as soon as possible to be enacted and receive Royal Assent by 30 June 2026.
5. The Ministry for the Environment will work with your office on the timeline for the Bill and the details to be reflected in the LEG paper. The draft assumes the Bill will have a category 2 priority on the 2026 Legislative Programme and will be introduced as soon as possible. There is probably not enough time to refer the Bill to select committee for more than four months. The alternative is a debateable motion in the House.

Minister of Finance, Minister of Housing and Minister for Social Development and Employment

6. The Ministry of Housing and Urban Development (MHUD) has statutory roles to register community housing providers and then fund social housing through Kainga Ora or any regulated community housing providers. This relies on it exercising social housing agency and regulatory authority functions and powers under PACHMA.
7. You are the joint Ministers under the Public and Community Housing Management Act (PACHMA) who are asked to agree to recommend to the Governor General the transfer of social housing functions to MCERT. This confirms the Cabinet decision to transfer all MHUD functions to MCERT. The Ministry of Social Development's social housing roles will remain unchanged.

Recommended Action

We recommend that you:

- a **note** Cabinet agreed to establish a new Ministry for Cities, Environment, Regions and Transport to be fully operational by 1 July 2026 and provided multiple directions around drafting instructions that are all covered in the attached draft LEG paper

Minister for the Public Service

- b **refer** to the Minister of Transport, Minister of Justice, Minister of Local Government for their information
Refer/not referred

Minister for the Public Service

Minister of Housing and Minister for the Public Service

- c **note** officials will discuss alternative Ministry names with the Minister of Housing
- d **note** the legal name of the Ministry needs to be confirmed by Monday 2 February to enable drafting and submission on 5 February

Minister for the Environment

- e **note** the Environment (Disestablishment of the Ministry for the Environment) Amendment Bill needs to commence by 1 July to meet the Cabinet timeframes for the disestablishment of MfE and transfer of responsibilities to the new Ministry by 1 July
- f **note** the Ministry for the Environment will work with your office on the timeline to pass the Bill and update the green highlighted sections of the attached LEG paper
Noted

Minister for the Environment

Minister of Finance, Minister of Housing and Minister for Social Development and Employment

- g **note** the Minister of Finance, Minister of Housing and Minister for Social Development and Employment are joint Ministers responsible for recommending to the Governor-General the transfer of statutory social housing functions under the Public and Community Housing Management Act 1992
- h **note** Cabinet agreed that all MHUD functions transfer to MCERT [CAB-25-MIN-0476 refers] and there is further advice in paragraphs 7-9 below
- i **agree** to recommend to the Governor-General that the regulatory authority and social housing agency functions currently performed by MHUD under Public and Community Housing Management (Appointment of Agency and Regulatory Authority) Order 2018 transfer to MCERT, with no change to the role of the Ministry of Social Development

Agree/disagree

Agree/disagree

Agree/disagree

Minister of Finance

Minister of Housing

Minister for Social
Development and Employment

Purpose of Report

1. A draft LEG paper is attached for Ministerial consultation by 2 February to seek agreement to:
 - a. the name for the Ministry for Cities, Environment, Regions and Transport,
 - b. introduce the Environment (Disestablishment of the Ministry for the Environment) Amendment Bill (**Environment Bill**) as soon as possible to disestablish MfE and transfer its responsibilities to MCERT by 1 July 2026,
 - c. confirm the recommendation of the Minister of Finance, Minister of Housing and Minister for Social Development and Employment to the transfer of MHUD's statutory social housing functions to MCERT,
 - d. submit the relevant Orders in Council to establish the new Ministry by 1 April 2026, transfer housing, transport, and local government responsibilities by 1 July 2026 and make consequential changes to responsibilities for the remit and servicing of the Climate Change Chief Executives Board and the appropriate authorities for protected disclosures.

Minister of Housing and Minister for the Public Service – agency name

2. The legal name for the Ministry is set in the Orders in Council. The Ministry can brand itself with other names as appropriate, including a Māori name, or operate branded delivery units.
3. The Orders are being drafted with the working title of the Ministry for Cities, Environment, Regions and Transport. You may want to provide an alternative name to the Public Service Commission by 2 February, so the Parliamentary Counsel Office has time to update the Environment Bill and Orders for submission by 5 February. We recommend this timeline so the Order to establish MCERT by 1 April complies with the 28-day rule and enable the Environment Bill to be introduced as soon as possible.

Minister for the Environment – Environment Bill

4. The Environment Bill must pass and receive royal assent by 30 June 2026 to meet the timeline for the full establishment of the new Ministry on 1 July 2026.
5. The Ministry for the Environment will work with your office on the priority in the 2026 Legislative programme and the timeline for the Bill. The LEG paper has been drafted on the assumption of a category 2 priority, with the Bill to be introduced as soon as possible and to receive Royal Assent by 30 June 2026.
6. MfE provided you with more detailed advice on the Environment Bill in late 2025 [BRF-6647 refers].

Minister of Finance, Minister of Housing and Minister for Social Development – social housing functions

7. Your agreement is sought to recommend to the Governor-General the transfer of the social housing agency and regulatory authority functions and powers exercised by MHUD to MCERT. These are governed by the Public and Community Housing Management Act (PACHMA). No changes would occur to the social housing agency functions and powers exercised by the Ministry of Social Development.

8. When Cabinet agreed to transfer all the functions of MHUD, MoT, MfE and the local government role of DIA to MCERT it was advised to transfer all functions together. Partial transfers are costly, complex and often unsustainable. The social housing agency funding roles and the regulation of community housing providers impact the development of new social housing. Transferring these roles to MCERT is part of ensuring joined up advice on planning and infrastructure.

Minister of Housing and Minister for the Public Service – Orders in Council

9. The paper seeks agreement to submit a package of Orders in Council to the Executive Council on 16 February. This ensures the Order to establish MCERT by 1 April complies with the 28 day rule.
10. The Orders relate to four Acts. The advice sheets can be signed and taken to the Executive Council by the Minister of Housing or Minister for the Public Service on behalf of the relevant Ministers.

Minister of Housing

11. The Minister of Housing will sign the advice sheet for the Public and Community Housing (MCERT) Order 2026 subject to the joint recommendation sought in recommendation i of this report.

Minister for the Public Service

12. The Minister for the Public Service will sign the advice sheet for the:
 - a. Public Service (MCERT) Order 2026 as the responsible Minister. This ensures MCERT is established on 1 April 2026 and the provisions of the Public Service Act apply to it and the remit and servicing of the Climate Change Chief Executives Board reflects the new arrangements from 1 July 2026.
 - b. Protected Disclosures (MCERT) Order 2026 as the responsible Minister. This is a consequential change to Schedule 2 of the Protected Disclosures Act that lists examples of appropriate authorities and supports public awareness and clarity about where to take a protected disclosure on different topics.
 - c. Ombudsmen (MCERT) Order 2026 on behalf of the Minister of Justice as is standard practice for machinery changes. These Orders ensure the Ombudsmen Act and Official Information Act apply to the new agency from 1 April, are removed from the agencies being disestablished from 1 July and continue to apply to the Climate Change Chief Executives Board.

Next Steps

13. This paper is focused on the legislative steps to establish the new Ministry. This will happen alongside the appointment of a new chief executive and the work of officials to implement the changes.
14. PSC will update the draft LEG paper with any feedback on the name of the agency from Ministers and the Orders' titles from the Parliamentary Counsel Office (PCO).

Date	Action	Who
Mon 2 Feb	Inform PSC of the legal name for the new Ministry	Office of the Minister for the Public Service
Thur 5 Feb	LEG paper lodged	Office of the Minister for the Public Service
	Environment Bill lodged Orders in Council lodged	PCO
	Advice sheets lodged	PSC
Thur 12 Feb	LEG	Minister of Housing Minister for the Public Service Minister for the Environment
Mon 16 Feb	Cabinet and Executive Council	Minister of Housing Minister for the Public Service
As soon as possible	Introduce Environment Bill	Minister for the Environment
24 Mar	APH CE appointment paper	PSC
1 April	MCERT established and Chief Executive appointed	PSC
No later than 30 June	Environment Bill passes and receives Royal Assent	Minister for the Environment
1 July	MfE, MoT, MHUD disestablished and functions, along with DIA local government roles, transfer to MCERT Chief Executive of MCERT commences the roles of the Secretary for the Environment, Secretary for Local Government and Secretary for Transport	Joint agencies

Appendix – Draft LEG paper

IN CONFIDENCE

Office of the Minister of Housing

Office of the Minister for the Public Service

Office of the Minister for the Environment

Cabinet Legislation Committee

Approval to introduce the Environment (Disestablishment of the Ministry for the Environment) Amendment Bill and progress Orders in Council to establish the Ministry for Cities, Environment, Regions and Transport

Proposal

- 1 This paper seeks approval for the introduction of the Environment (Disestablishment of the Ministry for the Environment) Amendment Bill and the submission to the Executive Council of the following Orders in Council to establish the Ministry for Cities, Environment, Regions and Transport (MCERT):
 - 1.1 Public Service (Ministry for Cities, Environment, Regions and Transport) Order 2026
 - 1.2 Ombudsmen (Ministry for Cities, Environment, Regions and Transport) Order 2026
 - 1.3 Public and Community Housing Management (Ministry for Cities, Environment, Regions and Transport) Order 2026
 - 1.4 Protected Disclosures (Ministry for Cities, Environment, Regions and Transport) Order 2026.

Policy

Cabinet agreed to establish the Ministry for Cities, Environment, Regions and Transport

- 2 On 15 December 2025, Cabinet agreed to establish MCERT as a Public Service department by April 2026. Cabinet also agreed to disestablish the Ministry of Transport (MoT), Ministry of Housing and Urban Development (MHUD), and the Ministry for the Environment (MfE) by 1 July 2026. At that point, all functions transfer to MCERT, together with local government functions of the Department of Internal Affairs (DIA) [CAB-25-MIN-0476 refers].
- 3 MCERT will provide joined-up advice to solve problems, with a regional focus on deals and delivery, backed by a strong economic engine and rich data and insights. It will benefit Ministers and end-users, including Councils and developers.

IN CONFIDENCE

- 4 Five changes are necessary for MCERT to lead on environment, transport, local government and housing from 1 July 2026. The Environment (Disestablishment of the Ministry for the Environment) Amendment Bill is focused on the transfer of functions from the Ministry for the Environment to MCERT. The four Orders make the other necessary and routine changes.

Environment (Disestablishment of the Ministry for the Environment) Amendment Bill (Environment Bill)

- 5 Section 28 of the Environment Act 1986 establishes MfE. It must be amended by Parliament to formally disestablish the MfE as a statutorily created agency and adjust the legal responsibility for functions in the act to support the establishment of MCERT.
- 6 The Environment Bill disestablishes MfE, and transfers responsibility for delivering its functions to the statutory office of the Secretary for the Environment. Once MfE is disestablished, MCERT will administer the Environment Act and the Chief Executive of MCERT will fulfil the role of Secretary for the Environment to enable these functions to transition seamlessly.
- 7 The Bill changes the definitions of ‘Ministry’ and ‘Secretary’ to align with the revised roles and responsibilities. No substantive changes are made to MfE’s current functions under section 31 of the Environment Act. The Environment Bill shifts legal responsibility for delivery of functions from employees and onto the Secretary for the Environment/Chief Executive of MCERT. We do not anticipate this to result in any fundamental impact on the extent to which the functions are exercised, and it provides clearer legal accountability for delivery of the functions than is currently provided in the Act. The link between performance of functions and responsibility to have regard to the environmental matters in sections 17 of the Environment Act is also maintained.
- 8 The Bill also makes a small number of consequential changes to other Acts where needed. The Bill will commence on 1 July 2026, to align with the functional transfers described below.
- 9 Some stakeholders may view disestablishing MfE in statute as an erosion of environmental protection, despite its existing functions being retained. Narrowly scoping the amendments and creating a clear statutory role for the Secretary for the Environment should help demonstrate that the intention is not to water down environmental advice.

Orders in Council are necessary to give effect to Cabinet’s decision

- 10 We now seek Cabinet’s authorisation to submit to the Executive Council the Orders in Council necessary to give effect to Cabinet’s decisions and confirm that the [Ministry for Cities, Environment, Regions and Transport] is the name of the new agency.

- 11 The following Orders are a routine administrative step to give effect to Cabinet's decisions.
- 12 MCERT will be established from 1 April 2026. Public Service (Ministry for Cities, Environment, Regions and Transport) Order 2026 will make MCERT a Public Service department to which the provisions of the Public Service Act apply. The Ombudsmen (Ministry for Cities, Environment, Regions and Transport) Order 2026 ensures the Ombudsmen Act and the Official Information Act 1982 will apply to MCERT.
- 13 Functions will transfer from MHUD, MoT, MfE and DIA to MCERT on 1 July 2026 and MHUD, MoT and MfE will be disestablished. The Public Service and Ombudsmen Orders will remove MHUD and MoT from the Public Service Act and Ombudsmen Act from 1 July and update the membership of the Climate Change Chief Executives Board to reflect the transfer of responsibilities. MCERT will become the servicing agency for the Climate Change Chief Executives Board.
- 14 As Minister of Housing, along with my colleagues the Minister of Finance and Minister for Social Development and Employment, we will recommend to the Governor General that the statutory social housing functions of MHUD transfer to MCERT. This is in line with Cabinet decisions. There are no changes to the social housing agency roles of the Ministry of Social Development. The Public and Community Housing Management (MCERT) Order 2026 ensures all current MHUD functions and powers transfer to MCERT.
- 15 The Protected Disclosures Order will update the examples of appropriate authorities in the Schedule of the Protected Disclosures Act so that people know to take concerns about the environment, housing, local government and transport to MCERT.

Timing and 28-day rule

- 16 MCERT will be established from 1 April 2026. Relevant sections of the Public Service (Ministry for Cities, Environment, Regions and Transport) Order 2026 and Ombudsmen (Ministry for Cities, Environment, Regions and Transport) Order 2026 will come into force on 1 April 2026, as agreed by Cabinet.
- 17 MHUD and MoT will be disestablished and, along with DIA's local government role, their functions will transfer to MCERT on 1 July 2026. All remaining sections of the Public Service and Ombudsmen Orders along with the Protected Disclosure and Public and Community Housing Orders will come into force on 1 July 2026, as agreed by Cabinet. These timings allow for compliance with the 28-day rule. This aligns with the transfer of environmental functions on 1 July through the Environment Amendment Bill described above.

Compliance

- 18 The Environment Bill and Orders in Council comply with each of the following:
 - 18.1 the principles of the Treaty of Waitangi;
 - 18.2 the rights and freedoms contained in the New Zealand Bill of Rights Act 1990 and the Human Rights Act 1993;

- 18.3 the disclosure statement requirements;
- 18.4 the principles and guidelines set out in the Privacy Act 2020;
- 18.5 relevant international standards and obligations;
- 18.6 the Legislation Guidelines (2021 edition).

Regulations Review Committee

- 19 There are no grounds for the Regulations Review Committee to draw the Orders in Council to the attention of the House under Standing Order 327.

Certification by Parliamentary Counsel

- 20 The draft orders have been certified by the Parliamentary Counsel Office as being in order for submission to Cabinet.

Impact analysis

- 21 The Ministry for Regulation has determined that a Regulatory Impact Statement is not required for the Environment Bill or the Orders in Council, as the proposals have no or only minor impacts on businesses, individuals, and not-for-profit entities.

Binding on the Crown

- 22 Section 3 of the Environment Act 1986 already binds the Crown. The Environment Bill will not change this.

Creating new agencies or amending law relating to existing agencies

- 23 The Environment Bill will disestablish MfE and consequentially remove it from Schedule 1 of the Ombudsman Act.
- 24 The Public Service (Ministry for Cities, Environment, Regions and Transport) Order 2026 will establish MCERT.
- 25 The Ombudsmen (Ministry for Cities, Environment, Regions and Transport) Order 2026 ensures that Act and the Official Information Act 1982 will apply to MCERT.

Allocation of decision-making powers

- 26 The allocation of decision-making powers between the executive, the courts, and tribunals will not be altered by this legislation.

Associated regulations

- 27 The Environment Bill and Orders in Councils outlined by this paper will work as a package to implement the establishment of MCERT. No further regulations are required.

Other instruments

- 28 The Environment Bill does not include any provision empowering the making of other instruments that are deemed to be legislative instruments or disallowable instruments (or both).

Definition of Minister/department

29 The Environment Bill contains revised definitions for the Ministry for the Environment that align with the modern drafting approach and the Legislation Act 2019. The Environment Bill also revises the responsibilities of the Secretary for the Environment.

30 The Cabinet Office has been consulted on these revised definition.

Commencement of legislation

31 The Environment Bill will come into force on 1 July 2026.

Parliamentary stages

32 The Environment Bill should be introduced as soon as practicable and must be passed and receive Royal Assent before 30 June 2026 to transfer the functions of the Ministry for the Environment to MCERT on 1 July 2026.

33 [Process TBC].

Publicity and Proactive Release

34 I propose this paper be proactively released following Cabinet decisions.

Consultation

35 MfE, MHUD, MoT, DIA, the Cabinet Office and the Treasury were consulted on this paper. The Ministry of Justice was informed of the proposed changes to the Ombudsmen Act 1975.

Recommendations

I recommend that the Cabinet Legislation Committee:

1 **note** that on 15 December 2025, Cabinet agreed to:

1.1 establish the Ministry for Cities, Environment, Regions and Transport as a Public Service department by April 2026;

1.2 disestablish the Ministry of Transport, Ministry of Housing and Urban Development and Ministry for the Environment and transfer their functions to the Ministry for Cities, Environment, Regions and Transport by 1 July 2026;

1.3 add the Ministry for Cities, Environment, Regions and Transport to the remit of, and as servicing agency for, the Climate Change Chief Executives Board, and remove the Ministry of Transport, Ministry of Housing and Urban Development, and Ministry for the Environment from the remit of that Board, by 1 July 2026 [CAB-25-MIN-0476 refers];

2 **agree** that the [Ministry for Cities, Environment, Regions and Transport] is the name of the new Public Service department;

Environment (Disestablishment of the Ministry for the Environment) Amendment Bill

3 **note** that the Environment (Disestablishment of the Ministry for the Environment) Amendment Bill holds a category 2 priority on the 2026

Legislation Programme (must be passed before the 2026 General Election to meet a specific deadline);

- 4 **note** that the Bill will disestablish the Ministry for the Environment and transfer its functions to the statutory office of the Secretary for the Environment;
- 5 **approve** the Environment (Disestablishment of the Ministry for the Environment) Amendment Bill for introduction, subject to the final approval of the government caucus and sufficient support in the House of Representatives;
- 6 **agree** that the Environment (Disestablishment of the Ministry for the Environment) Amendment Bill be introduced as soon as possible;
- 7 **note** that reporting to the select committee for less than four months will require a debatable motion in the House
- 8 **agree** that the government propose that the Bill be enacted by 30 June 2026.

Orders in Council

- 9 **note** that the following Orders in Council will give effect to the decisions in recommendation 1:
 - 9.1 Public Service (Ministry for Cities, Environment, Regions and Transport) Order 2026
 - 9.2 Ombudsmen (Ministry for Cities, Environment, Regions and Transport) Order 2026
 - 9.3 Public and Community Housing Management (Ministry for Cities, Environment, Regions and Transport) Order 2026
 - 9.4 Protected Disclosures (Ministry for Cities, Environment, Regions and Transport) Order 2026
- 10 **note** the Minister of Finance, Minister of Housing and Minister for Social Development and Employment jointly recommend that when the Ministry of Housing and Urban Development is disestablished, its statutory social housing roles transfer to the new Ministry as given effect through recommendation 8.3
- 11 **authorise** the submission to the Executive Council of the Orders in Council listed at recommendation 9:
- 12 **note** that parts of the Public Service (Ministry for Cities, Environment, Regions and Transport) Order 2026 and Ombudsman (Ministry for Cities, Environment, Regions and Transport) Order 2026 will come into force on 1 April 2026 to establish the Ministry for Cities, Environment, Regions and Transport;

- 13 **note** the rest of the Orders in recommendation 9 come into force on 1 July 2026 to disestablish current agencies, transfer functions and roles and update the remit and servicing of the Climate Change Chief Executives Board;

Authorised for lodgement

Hon Judith Collins KC

Minister for the Public Service



AIDE MEMOIRE Title:	Ministry for Cities, Environment, Regions and Transport (MCERT) - updated LEG paper for lodgement on Wednesday 4 February		
Reference Number:	MoSR 2026-0013		
Date:	30 January 2026		
To:	Hon Chris Bishop, Minister of Housing		
To:	Hon Judith Collins KC, Minister for the Public Service		
To:	Hon Penny Simmonds, Minister for the Environment		
PSC Contact:	Mereama Chase, Manager, Strategy Policy & Integrity, 9(2)(a) privacy		
MfE Contact:	Simon King, Chief Advisor, 9(2)(a) privacy		
Encl:	Yes – LEG paper, final Advice Sheet, draft Bill and draft Orders	Priority:	Medium
Security Level:	IN CONFIDENCE		

Purpose	<p>Following feedback on the draft MCERT LEG paper [MoSR 2026-0004 refers] this provides you with the material needed to lodge the paper next week:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Updated LEG paper and tracked changes version to reflect all feedback, • Advice Sheet on goat skin for the Minister of Housing to sign on behalf of the relevant joint Ministers for the Public and Community Housing Management (Appointment of Agency and Regulatory Authority) Order 2026 (PACHMA Order), • Draft versions of the Environment Amendment Bill and Orders in Council.
Key dates	<p>4 February 2026 – lodgement by 10am (Public Service Commission)</p> <p>12 February – LEG (Minister of Housing)</p> <p>16 February – Cabinet and Executive Council</p>
Select Committee TBC	<p>Officials will work with the Office of the Minister of Housing, in his role as Leader of the House, to confirm the select committee that considers the Environment (Disestablishment of the Ministry of the Environment) Amendment Bill.</p> <p>Once that change is made the attached paper will be ready for lodgement.</p>
All feedback has been included	<p>The tracked changes version shows how all the feedback from Ministers’ offices, PCO, MfE, MHUD, and the Ministry for Regulation has been included.</p> <p>The main changes are the paper is authorised for lodgement by all three Ministers, the exemption from impact analysis was provided retrospectively and the details about the Orders and Bill reflect what is in the PCO drafting.</p>



**Draft Bill and Orders
in Council**

The draft Environment Amendment Bill and Orders in Council are attached for your information. PCO will provide the final version for lodgement subject to their final review.

MHUD has identified potential improvements to the PACHMA Order and will work with the Office of the Minister of Housing on any changes for lodgement.

Advice Sheets

The Minister for the Public Service has signed the advice sheets for the Orders under the Public Service Act, Ombudsmen Act and Protected Disclosures Act.

The Minister of Housing can sign the attached PACHMA Order Advice Sheet on behalf of all joint Ministers who are making the recommendation [MoSR 2026-0004 refers].

Noted

Hon Chris Bishop

Minister of Housing

Hon Judith Collins KC

Minister for the Public Service

Hon Penny Simmonds

Minister for the Environment

IN CONFIDENCE

Office of the Minister of Housing

Office of the Minister for the Public Service

Office of the Minister for the Environment

Chair, Cabinet Legislation Committee

Approval to introduce the Environment (Disestablishment of the Ministry for the Environment) Amendment Bill and progress Orders in Council to establish the Ministry for Cities, Environment, Regions and Transport

Proposal

- 1 This paper seeks approval for the introduction of the Environment (Disestablishment of the Ministry for the Environment) Amendment Bill and the submission to the Executive Council of the following Orders in Council to establish the Ministry for Cities, Environment, Regions and Transport (MCERT):
 - 1.1 Public Service (Ministry for Cities, Environment, Regions and Transport) Order 2026
 - 1.2 Ombudsmen (Ministry for Cities, Environment, Regions and Transport) Order 2026
 - 1.3 Protected Disclosures (Protection of Whistleblowers) (Ministry for Cities, Environment, Regions and Transport) Order 2026
 - 1.4 Public and Community Housing Management (Appointment of Agency and Regulatory Authority) Order 2026.

Policy

Cabinet agreed to establish MCERT

- 2 On 15 December 2025, Cabinet agreed to establish MCERT as a Public Service department by April 2026. Cabinet also agreed to disestablish the Ministry of Transport (MoT), Ministry of Housing and Urban Development (MHUD), and the Ministry for the Environment (MfE) by 1 July 2026. At that point, all functions transfer to MCERT, together with the local government functions of the Department of Internal Affairs (DIA) [CAB-25-MIN-0476 refers].
- 3 MCERT will provide joined-up advice to solve problems, with a regional focus on deals and delivery, backed by a strong economic engine and rich data and insights. It will benefit Ministers and end-users, including Councils and developers.
- 4 Five changes are necessary for MCERT to lead on environment, transport, local government and housing from 1 July 2026. The Environment (Disestablishment of the Ministry for the Environment) Amendment Bill removes the statutory

barriers to the transfer of functions from MfE to MCERT. The four Orders make the other necessary and routine changes.

Environment (Disestablishment of the Ministry for the Environment) Amendment Bill (Environment Amendment Bill)

- 5 The Minister for the Environment seeks Cabinet’s authorisation to introduce the Environment Amendment Bill. Currently, the Environment Act 1986 establishes MfE. It must be amended by Parliament to formally disestablish MfE as a statutorily created agency and adjust the legal responsibility for functions in the Act to support the establishment of MCERT.
- 6 The Environment Amendment Bill disestablishes MfE, and transfers responsibility for delivering its functions to the statutory office of the Secretary for the Environment. Once MfE is disestablished, MCERT will administer the Environment Act 1986 and the Chief Executive of MCERT will fulfil the role of Secretary for the Environment to enable these functions to transition seamlessly.
- 7 The Environment Amendment Bill changes the definitions of ‘Ministry’ and ‘Secretary’ to align with the revised roles and responsibilities. No substantive changes are made to the functions currently performed by MfE under section 31 of the Environment Act. The Environment Amendment Bill also shifts legal responsibility for delivery of functions from employees and onto the Secretary for the Environment/Chief Executive of MCERT.
- 8 We do not expect this to materially change the extent to which the functions are exercised. The change will provide clearer legal accountability than is currently offered by the Act. The link between performing the functions and the duty to have regard to the environmental matters in section 17 of the Environment Act is also retained.
- 9 The Environment Amendment Bill also makes a small number of consequential changes to other Acts where needed. It will commence on 1 July 2026, to align with the functional transfers described below.
- 10 Some stakeholders may view disestablishing MfE in statute as an erosion of environmental protection, despite its existing functions being retained. Narrowly scoping the amendments and creating a clear statutory role for the Secretary for the Environment should help demonstrate that the intention is not to water down environmental advice.

Orders in Council to change Public Service departments

- 11 The Minister of Housing and Minister for the Public Service seek agreement that the Ministry for Cities, Environment, Regions and Transport is the legal name of the new agency and Cabinet’s authorisation to submit to the Executive Council the Orders in Council necessary to give effect to Cabinet’s decisions.
- 12 The Orders under the Public Service Act 2020, Ombudsmen Act 1975 and Protected Disclosures Act 2022 are a routine administrative step to give effect to Cabinet’s decisions.

- 13 MCERT will be established from 1 April 2026. The Public Service (Ministry for Cities, Environment, Regions and Transport) Order 2026 will make MCERT a Public Service department to which the provisions of the Public Service Act apply. The Ombudsmen (Ministry for Cities, Environment, Regions and Transport) Order 2026 ensures the Ombudsmen Act and the Official Information Act 1982 will apply to MCERT.
- 14 Functions will transfer from MHUD, MoT, MfE and DIA to MCERT, and MHUD, MoT and MfE will be disestablished, on 1 July 2026. On this date, the Orders noted in paragraph 13 will remove MHUD and MoT from the Public Service Act and Ombudsmen Act and update the membership of the Climate Change Chief Executives Board to reflect the transfer of responsibilities. MCERT will become the servicing agency for the Climate Change Chief Executives Board.
- 15 The Protected Disclosures Order will update the examples of appropriate authorities in the Schedule of the Protected Disclosures Act from 1 July so that people know to take concerns about the environment, housing, local government and transport to MCERT.

Order in Council to transfer social housing functions

- 16 The Minister of Housing, along with the Minister of Finance and Minister for Social Development and Employment, will recommend to the Governor-General that the statutory social housing functions of MHUD transfer to MCERT. This is in line with Cabinet decisions. There are no changes to the social housing agency roles of the Ministry of Social Development. The Public and Community Housing Management (Appointment of Agency and Regulatory Authority) Order 2026 ensures all current MHUD functions and powers transfer to MCERT.

Timing and 28-day rule

- 17 MCERT will be established from 1 April 2026. Relevant sections of the Public Service (Ministry for Cities, Environment, Regions and Transport) Order 2026 and Ombudsmen (Ministry for Cities, Environment, Regions and Transport) Order 2026 will come into force on 1 April 2026, as agreed by Cabinet.
- 18 MHUD and MoT will be disestablished and, along with DIA's local government role, their functions will transfer to MCERT on 1 July 2026. All remaining sections of the Public Service and Ombudsmen Orders along with the Protected Disclosure and Public and Community Housing Orders will come into force on 1 July 2026, as agreed by Cabinet. This aligns with the transfer of environmental functions on 1 July through the Environment Amendment Bill.
- 19 The timings in all the Orders allow for compliance with the 28-day rule.

Compliance

- 20 The Environment Amendment Bill and Orders in Council comply with each of the following:
 - 20.1 the principles of the Treaty of Waitangi;
 - 20.2 the rights and freedoms contained in the New Zealand Bill of Rights Act 1990 and the Human Rights Act 1993;

- 20.3 the disclosure statement requirements;
 - 20.4 the principles and guidelines set out in the Privacy Act 2020;
 - 20.5 relevant international standards and obligations;
 - 20.6 the Legislation Guidelines (2021 edition).
- 21 The Protected Disclosures (Protection of Whistleblowers) Act 2022 requires that the Minister for the Public Service consult with the relevant appropriate authorities before recommending that an order be made amending the name of an appropriate authority under Schedule 2. MHUD, MfE, MoT, and DIA were consulted on proposed changes to Schedule 2 as set out in this paper.

Regulations Review Committee

- 22 There are no grounds for the Regulations Review Committee to draw the Orders in Council to the attention of the House under Standing Order 327.

Certification by Parliamentary Counsel

- 23 The draft orders have been certified by the Parliamentary Counsel Office as being in order for submission to Cabinet.

Impact analysis

- 24 Cabinet previously agreed to establish MCERT [CAB-25-MIN-0476 refers].
- 25 No exemption was sought at the time when policy decisions were made. However, the Ministry for Regulation has now determined that these proposals would have been eligible for an exemption from Cabinet's regulatory impact analysis requirements on the basis that the proposal has no or only minor impacts on businesses, individuals, and not-for-profit entities.

Binding on the Crown

- 26 Section 3 of the Environment Act 1986 already binds the Crown. The Environment Amendment Bill will not change this.

Creating new agencies or amending law relating to existing agencies

- 27 The Environment Amendment Bill will disestablish MfE and consequentially remove it from Schedule 1 of the Ombudsman Act.
- 28 The Public Service (Ministry for Cities, Environment, Regions and Transport) Order 2026 will establish MCERT.
- 29 The Ombudsmen (Ministry for Cities, Environment, Regions and Transport) Order 2026 ensures that Act and the Official Information Act 1982 will apply to MCERT.

Allocation of decision-making powers

- 30 The allocation of decision-making powers between the executive, the courts, and tribunals will not be altered by this legislation.

Associated regulations

- 31 The Environment Amendment Bill and Orders in Council outlined by this paper will work as a package to implement the establishment of MCERT. No further regulations are required.

Other instruments

- 32 The Environment Amendment Bill does not include any provision empowering the making of other instruments that are deemed to be legislative instruments or disallowable instruments (or both).

Definition of Minister/department

- 33 The Environment Amendment Bill contains revised definitions for the Ministry for the Environment that align with the modern drafting approach and the Legislation Act 2019. The Environment Amendment Bill also revises the responsibilities of the Secretary for the Environment.

- 34 The Cabinet Office has been consulted on these revised definitions.

Commencement of legislation

- 35 The Environment Amendment Bill will come into force on 1 July 2026.

Parliamentary stages

- 36 The Environment Amendment Bill should be introduced as soon as practicable and must be passed and receive Royal Assent before 30 June 2026 to transfer the functions of the Ministry for the Environment to MCERT on 1 July 2026.

- 37 We propose that the Environment Amendment Bill has a category 2 priority on the 2026 Legislation Programme and is referred to the [TBC] Committee.

Publicity and Proactive Release

- 38 We propose this paper be proactively released following Cabinet decisions.

Consultation

- 39 MfE, MHUD, MoT, DIA, the Parliamentary Counsel Office, the Ministry for Regulation, the Cabinet Office and the Treasury were consulted on this paper. The Ministry of Justice was informed of the proposed changes to the Ombudsmen Act 1975.

Recommendations

We recommend that the Cabinet Legislation Committee:

- 1 **note** that on 15 December 2025, Cabinet agreed to:
 - 1.1 establish the Ministry for Cities, Environment, Regions and Transport as a Public Service department by April 2026;
 - 1.2 disestablish the Ministry of Transport, Ministry of Housing and Urban Development and Ministry for the Environment and transfer their functions to the Ministry for Cities, Environment, Regions and Transport by 1 July 2026;

- 1.3 add the Ministry for Cities, Environment, Regions and Transport to the remit of, and as servicing agency for, the Climate Change Chief Executives Board, and remove the Ministry of Transport, Ministry of Housing and Urban Development, and Ministry for the Environment from the remit of that Board, by 1 July 2026 [CAB-25-MIN-0476 refers];
- 2 **agree** that the Ministry for Cities, Environment, Regions and Transport is the name of the new Public Service department;

Environment (Disestablishment of the Ministry for the Environment) Amendment Bill

- 3 **agree** that the Environment (Disestablishment of the Ministry for the Environment) Amendment Bill holds a category 2 priority on the 2026 Legislation Programme (must be passed before the 2026 General Election to meet a specific deadline);
- 4 **note** that the Bill will disestablish the Ministry for the Environment and transfer its functions to the statutory office of the Secretary for the Environment;
- 5 **approve** the Environment (Disestablishment of the Ministry for the Environment) Amendment Bill for introduction, subject to the final approval of the Government caucus and sufficient support in the House of Representatives;
- 6 **agree** that the Environment (Disestablishment of the Ministry for the Environment) Amendment Bill be introduced as soon as possible;
- 7 **agree** that the Government propose that the Bill be:
 - 7.1 referred to the [TBC] Committee for consideration;
 - 7.2 enacted by 30 June 2026;

Orders in Council

- 8 **note** that the following Orders in Council will give effect to the decisions in recommendation 1:
 - 8.1 Public Service (Ministry for Cities, Environment, Regions and Transport) Order 2026;
 - 8.2 Ombudsmen (Ministry for Cities, Environment, Regions and Transport) Order 2026;
 - 8.3 Protected Disclosures (Protection of Whistleblowers) (Ministry for Cities, Environment, Regions and Transport) Order 2026;
 - 8.4 Public and Community Housing Management (Appointment of Agency and Regulatory Authority) Order 2026;
- 9 **note** that the appropriate authorities being changed through the Order in recommendation 8.3 were consulted on that change;
- 10 **note** the Minister of Finance, Minister of Housing and Minister for Social Development and Employment jointly recommend that when the Ministry of

Housing and Urban Development is disestablished, its statutory social housing roles transfer to the new Ministry as given effect through recommendation 8.4;

- 11 **authorise** the submission to the Executive Council of the Orders in Council listed at recommendation 8;
- 12 **note** that parts of the Public Service (Ministry for Cities, Environment, Regions and Transport) Order 2026 and Ombudsman (Ministry for Cities, Environment, Regions and Transport) Order 2026 will come into force on 1 April 2026 to establish the Ministry for Cities, Environment, Regions and Transport;
- 13 **note** the rest of the Orders in recommendation 8 come into force on 1 July 2026 to disestablish current agencies, transfer functions and roles and update the remit and servicing of the Climate Change Chief Executives Board.

Authorised for lodgement

Hon Chris Bishop
Minister of Housing

Hon Judith Collins KC
Minister for the
Public Service

Hon Penny Simmonds
Minister for the
Environment

IN CONFIDENCE

Office of the Minister of Housing

Office of the Minister for the Public Service

Office of the Minister for the Environment

Cabinet Legislation Committee

Approval to introduce the Environment (Disestablishment of the Ministry for the Environment) Amendment Bill and progress Orders in Council to establish the Ministry for Cities, Environment, Regions and Transport

Proposal

- 1 This paper seeks approval for the introduction of the Environment (Disestablishment of the Ministry for the Environment) Amendment Bill and the submission to the Executive Council of the following Orders in Council to establish the Ministry for Cities, Environment, Regions and Transport (MCERT):
 - 1.1 Public Service (Ministry for Cities, Environment, Regions and Transport) Order 2026
 - [1.2 Ombudsmen \(Ministry for Cities, Environment, Regions and Transport\) Order 2026](#)
 - [4.21.3 Protected Disclosures \(Protection of Whistleblowers\) \(Ministry for Cities, Environment, Regions and Transport\) Order 2026](#)
 - [4.31.4 Public and Community Housing Management \(Ministry for Cities, Environment, Regions and Transport\) Appointment of Agency and Regulatory Authority\) Order 2026](#)
 - ~~1.4 Protected Disclosures (Ministry for Cities, Environment, Regions and Transport) Order 2026.~~

Policy

Cabinet agreed to establish ~~the Ministry for Cities, Environment, Regions and Transport~~ [MCERT](#)

- 2 On 15 December 2025, Cabinet agreed to establish MCERT as a Public Service department by April 2026. Cabinet also agreed to disestablish the Ministry of Transport (MoT), Ministry of Housing and Urban Development (MHUD), and the Ministry for the Environment (MfE) by 1 July 2026. At that point, all functions transfer to MCERT, together with [the](#) local government functions of the Department of Internal Affairs (DIA) [CAB-25-MIN-0476 refers].
- 3 MCERT will provide joined-up advice to solve problems, with a regional focus on deals and delivery, backed by a strong economic engine and rich data and

insights. It will benefit Ministers and end-users, including Councils and developers.

- 4 Five changes are necessary for MCERT to lead on environment, transport, local government and housing from 1 July 2026. The Environment (Disestablishment of the Ministry for the Environment) Amendment Bill ~~is focused~~ removes the statutory barriers to ~~on~~ the transfer of functions from ~~the Ministry for the Environment~~ MfE to MCERT. The four Orders make the other necessary and routine changes.

Environment (Disestablishment of the Ministry for the Environment) Amendment Bill
(Environment Amendment Bill)

- 5 The Minister for the Environment seeks Cabinet's authorisation to introduce the Environment Amendment Bill. Currently, Section 28 of the Environment Act 1986 establishes MfE. It must be amended by Parliament to formally disestablish ~~the~~ MfE as a statutorily created agency and adjust the legal responsibility for functions in the ~~act~~ Act to support the establishment of MCERT.
- 6 The ~~Environment Bill~~ Environment Amendment Bill disestablishes MfE, and transfers responsibility for delivering its functions to the statutory office of the Secretary for the Environment. Once MfE is disestablished, MCERT will administer the Environment Act 1986 and the Chief Executive of MCERT will fulfil the role of Secretary for the Environment to enable these functions to transition seamlessly.
- 7 The ~~Environment Bill~~ Environment Amendment Bill changes the definitions of 'Ministry' and 'Secretary' to align with the revised roles and responsibilities. No substantive changes are made to ~~MfE's current~~ the functions currently performed by MfE under section 31 of the Environment Act ~~1986~~. The ~~The~~ Environment Amendment Bill also shifts legal responsibility for delivery of functions from employees and onto the Secretary for the Environment/Chief Executive of MCERT.
- 78 We do not ~~expect~~ anticipate this to ~~result in any fundamental impact~~ materially change ~~on~~ the extent to which the functions are exercised, ~~and it~~ The change will provides clearer legal accountability ~~for delivery of the functions~~ than is currently ~~offered by~~ provided in the Act. The link between ~~performance performing of the~~ functions and ~~responsibility~~ the duty to have regard to the environmental matters in sections ~~17~~ of the Environment Act ~~1986~~ is also ~~maintained~~ retained.
- 89 The ~~Environment Bill~~ Environment Amendment Bill also makes a small number of consequential changes to other Acts where needed. ~~The Bill~~ It will commence on 1 July 2026, to align with the functional transfers described below.
- 910 Some stakeholders may view disestablishing MfE in statute as an erosion of environmental protection, despite its existing functions being retained. Narrowly scoping the amendments and creating a clear statutory role for the

Secretary for the Environment should help demonstrate that the intention is not to water down environmental advice.

~~Orders in Council are necessary to give effect to Cabinet's decision to change the Public Service departments~~

~~4011. We~~ The Minister of Housing and Minister for the Public Service ~~now~~ seek agreement that the Ministry for Cities, Environment, Regions and Transport is the legal name of the new agency and Cabinet's authorisation to submit to the Executive Council the Orders in Council necessary to give effect to Cabinet's decisions, ~~and confirm that the [Ministry for Cities, Environment, Regions and Transport] is the name of the new agency.~~

~~4412. The following~~ Orders under the Public Service Act 2020, Ombudsmen Act 1975 and Protected Disclosures Act 2022 are a routine administrative step to give effect to Cabinet's decisions ~~to establish and disestablish departments that are not established through primary legislation.~~

~~4213.~~ MCERT will be established from 1 April 2026. The Public Service (Ministry for Cities, Environment, Regions and Transport) Order 2026 will make MCERT a Public Service department to which the provisions of the Public Service Act apply. The Ombudsmen (Ministry for Cities, Environment, Regions and Transport) Order 2026 ensures the Ombudsmen Act ~~1975~~ and the Official Information Act 1982 will apply to MCERT.

~~14.~~ Functions will transfer from MHUD, MoT, MfE and DIA to MCERT, ~~and MHUD, MoT and MfE will be disestablished,~~ on 1 July 2026 ~~and MHUD, MoT and MfE will be disestablished.~~ On this date, ~~The the Public Service and Ombudsmen Orders noted in paragraph 13~~ will remove MHUD and MoT from the Public Service Act and Ombudsmen Act, ~~from 1 July~~ and update the membership of the Climate Change Chief Executives Board to reflect the transfer of responsibilities. MCERT will become the servicing agency for the Climate Change Chief Executives Board.

~~15.~~ The Protected Disclosures Order will update the examples of appropriate authorities in the Schedule of the Protected Disclosures Act ~~from 1 July so that people know to take concerns about the environment, housing, local government and transport to MCERT.~~

~~43.~~ ~~Order in Council to transfer social housing functions~~

~~4416.~~ As ~~The~~ Minister of Housing, along with ~~my colleagues~~ the Minister of Finance and Minister for Social Development and Employment, ~~we~~ will recommend to the Governor-General that the statutory social housing functions of MHUD transfer to MCERT. This is in line with Cabinet decisions. There are no changes to the social housing agency roles of the Ministry of Social Development. The Public and Community Housing Management (~~MCERT~~ Appointment of Agency and Regulatory Authority) Order 2026 ensures all current MHUD functions and powers transfer to MCERT.

~~451.~~ ~~The Protected Disclosures Order will update the examples of appropriate authorities in the Schedule of the Protected Disclosures Act so that people~~

~~know to take concerns about the environment, housing, local government and transport to MCERT.~~

Timing and 28-day rule

~~4617~~ MCERT will be established from 1 April 2026. Relevant sections of the Public Service (Ministry for Cities, Environment, Regions and Transport) Order 2026 and Ombudsmen (Ministry for Cities, Environment, Regions and Transport) Order 2026 will come into force on 1 April 2026, as agreed by Cabinet.

18 MHUD and MoT will be disestablished and, along with DIA's local government role, their functions will transfer to MCERT on 1 July 2026. All remaining sections of the Public Service and Ombudsmen Orders along with the Protected Disclosure and Public and Community Housing Orders will come into force on 1 July 2026, as agreed by Cabinet. This aligns with the transfer of environmental functions on 1 July through the Environment Amendment Bill described above.

~~4719~~ These The timings in all the Orders allow for compliance with the 28-day rule. ~~This aligns with the transfer of environmental functions on 1 July through the Environment Amendment Bill described above.~~

Compliance

~~4820~~ The ~~Environment Bill~~ Environment Amendment Bill and Orders in Council comply with each of the following:

~~48-120.1~~ 1 the principles of the Treaty of Waitangi;

~~48-220.2~~ 2 the rights and freedoms contained in the New Zealand Bill of Rights Act 1990 and the Human Rights Act 1993;

~~48-320.3~~ 3 the disclosure statement requirements;

~~48-420.4~~ 4 the principles and guidelines set out in the Privacy Act 2020;

~~48-520.5~~ 5 relevant international standards and obligations;

20.6 the Legislation Guidelines (2021 edition).

21 The Protected Disclosures (Protection of Whistleblowers) Act 2022 requires that the Minister for the Public Service consult with the relevant appropriate authority before recommending that an order be made amending the name of an appropriate authority under Schedule 2. MHUD, MfE, MoT, and DIA were consulted on proposed changes to Schedule 2 as set out in this paper.

Regulations Review Committee

~~4922~~ There are no grounds for the Regulations Review Committee to draw the Orders in Council to the attention of the House under Standing Order 327.

Certification by Parliamentary Counsel

~~2023~~ The draft orders have been certified by the Parliamentary Counsel Office as being in order for submission to Cabinet.

Impact analysis

24 Cabinet previously agreed to establish MCERT [CAB-25-MIN-0476 refers].

25 No exemption was sought at the time when policy decisions were made. However, the Ministry for Regulation has now determined that these proposals would have been eligible for an exemption from Cabinet's regulatory impact analysis requirements on the basis that the proposal has no or only minor impacts on businesses, individuals, and not-for-profit entities.

~~21 The Ministry for Regulation has determined that a Regulatory Impact Statement is not required for the Environment Bill or the Orders in Council, as the proposals have no or only minor impacts on businesses, individuals, and not-for-profit entities.~~

Binding on the Crown

~~2226~~ Section 3 of the Environment Act 1986 already binds the Crown. The ~~Environment Bill~~ Environment Amendment Bill will not change this.

Creating new agencies or amending law relating to existing agencies

~~2327~~ The ~~Environment Bill~~ Environment Amendment Bill will disestablish MfE and consequentially remove it from Schedule 1 of the Ombudsman Act.

~~2428~~ The Public Service (Ministry for Cities, Environment, Regions and Transport) Order 2026 will establish MCERT.

~~2529~~ The Ombudsmen (Ministry for Cities, Environment, Regions and Transport) Order 2026 ensures that Act and the Official Information Act 1982 will apply to MCERT.

Allocation of decision-making powers

~~2630~~ The allocation of decision-making powers between the executive, the courts, and tribunals will not be altered by this legislation.

Associated regulations

~~2731~~ The ~~Environment Bill~~ Environment Amendment Bill and Orders in Councils outlined by this paper will work as a package to implement the establishment of MCERT. No further regulations are required.

Other instruments

~~2832~~ The ~~Environment Bill~~ Environment Amendment Bill does not include any provision empowering the making of other instruments that are deemed to be legislative instruments or disallowable instruments (or both).

Definition of Minister/department

~~2933~~ The ~~Environment Bill~~ Environment Amendment Bill contains revised definitions for the Ministry for the Environment that align with the modern drafting approach and the Legislation Act 2019. The ~~Environment Bill~~ Environment Amendment Bill also revises the responsibilities of the Secretary for the Environment.

~~3034~~ The Cabinet Office has been consulted on these revised definitions.

Commencement of legislation

~~3135~~ The ~~Environment Bill~~Environment Amendment Bill will come into force on 1 July 2026.

Parliamentary stages

~~3236~~ The ~~Environment Bill~~Environment Amendment Bill should be introduced as soon as practicable and must be passed and receive Royal Assent before 30 June 2026 to transfer the functions of the Ministry for the Environment to MCERT on 1 July 2026.

~~37~~ We propose that the Environment Amendment Bill has a category 2 priority on the 2026 Legislation Programme and is referred to the TBC Committee. ~~two-month~~

Formatted: Highlight

~~33~~ [Process TBC]

Publicity and Proactive Release

~~3438~~ ~~+~~We propose this paper be proactively released following Cabinet decisions.

Consultation

~~3539~~ MfE, MHUD, MoT, DIA, the Parliamentary Counsel Office, the Ministry for Regulation, the Cabinet Office and the Treasury were consulted on this paper. The Ministry of Justice was informed of the proposed changes to the Ombudsmen Act 1975.

Recommendations

~~+~~We recommend that the Cabinet Legislation Committee:

- 1 **note** that on 15 December 2025, Cabinet agreed to:
 - 1.1 establish the Ministry for Cities, Environment, Regions and Transport as a Public Service department by April 2026;
 - 1.2 disestablish the Ministry of Transport, Ministry of Housing and Urban Development and Ministry for the Environment and transfer their functions to the Ministry for Cities, Environment, Regions and Transport by 1 July 2026;
 - 1.3 add the Ministry for Cities, Environment, Regions and Transport to the remit of, and as servicing agency for, the Climate Change Chief Executives Board, and remove the Ministry of Transport, Ministry of Housing and Urban Development, and Ministry for the Environment from the remit of that Board, by 1 July 2026 [CAB-25-MIN-0476 refers];
- 2 **agree** that the Ministry for Cities, Environment, Regions and Transport is the name of the new Public Service department;

Environment (Disestablishment of the Ministry for the Environment) Amendment Bill

- 3 ~~note~~ **agree** that the Environment (Disestablishment of the Ministry for the Environment) Amendment Bill holds a category 2 priority on the 2026 Legislation Programme (must be passed before the 2026 General Election to meet a specific deadline);

- 4 note that the Bill will disestablish the Ministry for the Environment and transfer its functions to the statutory office of the Secretary for the Environment;
- 5 approve the Environment (Disestablishment of the Ministry for the Environment) Amendment Bill for introduction, subject to the final approval of the government Government caucus and sufficient support in the House of Representatives;
- 6 agree that the Environment (Disestablishment of the Ministry for the Environment) Amendment Bill be introduced as soon as possible;
- ~~7 note that reporting to the select committee for less than four months will require a debatable motion in the House;~~
- 7 agree that the government Government propose that the Bill be:
- 7.1 referred to the [TBC] Committee for consideration;
- 7.17.2 enacted by 30 June 2026;

Formatted: Highlight

Orders in Council

- 8 note that the following Orders in Council will give effect to the decisions in recommendation 1:
- 8.1 Public Service (Ministry for Cities, Environment, Regions and Transport) Order 2026
- 8.2 Ombudsmen (Ministry for Cities, Environment, Regions and Transport) Order 2026
- ~~8.31.1 Public and Community Housing Management (Ministry for Cities, Environment, Regions and Transport) Order 2026~~
- 8.3 Protected Disclosures (Protection of Whistleblowers) (Ministry for Cities, Environment, Regions and Transport) Order 2026
- ~~8.4 Public and Community Housing Management (Ministry for Cities, Environment, Regions and Transport) Appointment of Agency and Regulatory Authority) Order 2026~~
- 9 note that the appropriate authorities being changed through the Order in recommendation 8.3 were consulted on that change;
- ~~10~~ note the Minister of Finance, Minister of Housing and Minister for Social Development and Employment jointly recommend that when the Ministry of Housing and Urban Development is disestablished, its statutory social housing roles transfer to the new Ministry as given effect through recommendation 8.4;
- ~~11~~ authorise the submission to the Executive Council of the Orders in Council listed at recommendation 8:
- ~~12~~ note that parts of the Public Service (Ministry for Cities, Environment, Regions and Transport) Order 2026 and Ombudsman (Ministry for Cities, Environment,

Regions and Transport) Order 2026 will come into force on 1 April 2026 to establish the Ministry for Cities, Environment, Regions and Transport;

[4213](#) **note** the rest of the Orders in recommendation 8 come into force on 1 July 2026 to disestablish current agencies, transfer functions and roles and update the remit and servicing of the Climate Change Chief Executives Board;

Authorised for lodgement

[Hon Chris Bishop](#)
[Minister of Housing](#)

Hon Judith Collins KC
Minister for the
Public Service

[Hon Penny Simmonds](#)
[Minister for the
Environment](#)



AIDE MEMOIRE Title:	Ministry for Cities, Environment, Regions and Transport (MCERT) – talking points for Executive Council Monday 16 February		
Reference Number:	MoSR 2026-0039		
Date:	13 February 2026		
To:	Hon David Seymour, Minister for Regulation		
PSC Contact:	Mereama Chase, Manager, Strategy Policy & Integrity, 9(2)(a) privacy		
Encl:	No	Priority:	Medium
Security Level:	IN CONFIDENCE		

Purpose

On 12 February the Cabinet Legislation Committee authorised the submission to the Executive Council of the Orders in Council necessary to establish MCERT [LEG-26-MIN-0010 refers]. This Aide-Memoire provides you with information to support you at Executive Council.

Key dates

Monday 16 February – Cabinet and Executive Council

Six changes are needed to establish MCERT

On 15 December, Cabinet agreed to disestablish the Ministry for the Environment (MfE), Ministry of Transport (MoT), and Ministry of Housing and Urban Development (MHUD) by 1 July 2026. At that point, all functions will transfer to MCERT, together with the local government functions of the Department of Internal Affairs (DIA) [CAB-25-MIN-0476 refers].

Six changes are needed to achieve this. The Environment (Disestablishment of the Ministry for the Environment) Bill will remove the statutory barriers to the transfer of functions from MfE to MCERT. The Minister for the Environment is progressing this work.

Five Orders in Council are also needed to make other necessary and routine changes.

The Public Service (Ministry for Cities, Environment, Regions and Transport) Order 2026 and Ombudsmen (Ministry for Cities, Environment, Regions and Transport) Order 2026 will make MCERT a Public Service department under the Public Service Act, and to which the Ombudsmen Act and Official Information Act apply, from 1 April 2026.

These Orders will also remove MHUD and MoT from the Public Service Act and Ombudsmen Act and update the membership of the Climate Change Chief Executives Board (the Board), to reflect the transfer of responsibilities, from 1 July 2026. MCERT will become the servicing agency for the Board.



The Protected Disclosures Order updates the examples of appropriate authorities in the Schedule of the Protected Disclosures Act from 1 July. This will reflect the new arrangements.

The two remaining Orders in Council (the Public and Community Housing Management (Appointment of Agency and Regulatory Authority) Order 2026 and the Infrastructure Funding and Financing (Monitor and Recommender) Order 2026) ensure all current MHUD functions and powers transfer to MCERT.

On 15 December 2025 Cabinet agreed to establish MCERT as a Public Service department by 1 April 2026

MCERT will benefit Ministers and end-users by providing joined-up advice to solve problems, with a regional focus on deals and delivery, backed by a strong economic engine and rich data and insights

MCERT will take on the functions of MoT, MHUD, MfE and local government functions from DIA from 1 July 2026

Talking points

This means that from 1 July 2026 MoT, MHUD and MfE will be disestablished

The Orders in Council I am presenting will achieve this, as well as establishing MCERT; they are necessary and routine

MfE will be disestablished separately, by means of the Environment (Disestablishment of the Ministry for the Environment) Amendment Bill which the Minister for the Environment is currently progressing.

Noted

Hon David Seymour

Minister for Regulation

From: [Misty Mossman](#)
To: [Mereama Chase](#)
Cc: [MAES](#)
Subject: RE: New Entry
Date: Thursday, 22 May 2025 4:54:29 pm
Attachments: [image002.jpg](#)
[image003.png](#)

This email was sent from someone outside of Te Kawa Mataaho. Please take extra care.

Good evening

Minister Collins has noted this report: [MoSR 2025-0350 - SIGNED REPORT - Planning and Infrastructure Arrangements.pdf](#)

Kind regards

Misty



Misty Mossman

Private Secretary (Public Service) | Office of Hon Judith Collins KC MP

Member of Parliament for Papakura
Attorney-General | Minister of Defence | Minister for Digitising Government | Minister for the Public Service |
Minister Responsible for the GCSB | Minister Responsible for the NZSIS | Minister for Space

Mobile: 9(2)(a)

Email: misty.mossman@parliament.govt.nz Website: www.Beehive.govt.nz
Private Bag 18041, Parliament Buildings, Wellington 6160, New Zealand

From: MAES <MAES@publicservice.govt.nz>
Sent: Thursday, 15 May 2025 7:45 PM
To: Misty Mossman <Misty.Mossman@parliament.govt.nz>
Cc: MAES <MAES@publicservice.govt.nz>
Subject: New Entry

Hi Misty

The below link has been added to the spreadsheet.

[_2025-0350 - REPORT - Planning and Infrastructure Arrangements.docx](#)

Donna Fowler

Ngā Ratonga ki Ngā Minita me Te Tari Tumu | **Ministerial and Executive Services**

Ratonga Whakamana | **Enabling Services**

waea pūkoro: 9(2)(a) imēra: donna.fowler@publicservice.govt.nz

Confidentiality notice: This email may be confidential or legally privileged. If you have received it by mistake, please tell the sender immediately by reply, remove this email and the reply from your system, and don't act on it in any other way. Ngā mihi.

From: [Julie Rushton](#)
To: [Mereama Chase](#); [MAES](#); [Hugo Vitalis](#)
Cc: [Misty Mossman](#)
Subject: Signed report
Date: Monday, 28 July 2025 8:49:27 am
Attachments: [image001.jpg](#)
[SIGNED MoSR 2025-0623 REPORT Planning and infrastructure arrangements - next steps.pdf](#)

This email was sent from someone outside of Te Kawa Mataaho. Please take extra care.

Good morning Mereama, Hugo and Mins Team

The Minister has signed the Planning and infrastructure arrangements report – copy attached. We'll let you know once we hear back from Minister Bishop's office also.

Kind regards

Julie



Julie Rushton
Acting Private Secretary (Public Service) | Office of Hon Judith Collins KC MP
Member of Parliament for Papakura
Attorney-General | Minister of Defence | Minister for Digitising Government | Minister for the Public Service |
Minister Responsible for the GCSB | Minister Responsible for the NZSIS | Minister for Space
Mobile: 9(2)(a)
Email: julie.rushton@parliament.govt.nz Website: www.Beehive.govt.nz
Private Bag 18041, Parliament Buildings, Wellington 6160, New Zealand

From: [Misty Mossman](#)
To: [Mereama Chase](#); [Steven Riley](#)
Cc: [MAES](#); [Misty Mossman](#)
Subject: RE: MoSR 2025-0788
Date: Monday, 8 December 2025 10:26:04 am
Attachments: [image007.jpg](#)
[image008.png](#)
[image009.png](#)
[image010.png](#)
[image011.png](#)
[image012.png](#)
[image013.png](#)

This email was sent from someone outside of Te Kawa Mataaho. Please take extra care.

Good morning

Here are the signed copies of the latest MCRE reports:

[MoSR 2025-0769 - CB SIGNED REPORT - Planning and infrastructure arrangements - updated Cabinet papers.pdf](#)

[MoSR 2025-0788 - CB SIGNED REPORT - Planning and infrastructure arrangements - final Cabinet paper to lodge.pdf](#)

[MoSR 2025-0788 - HJC SIGNED REPORT - Planning and Infrastructure arrangements Cabinet Paper to lodge.pdf](#)

Kind regards

Misty



Misty Mossman

Private Secretary (Public Service) | Office of Hon Judith Collins KC MP

Member of Parliament for Papakura
Attorney-General | Minister of Defence | Minister for Digitising Government | Minister for the Public Service |
Minister Responsible for the GCSB | Minister Responsible for the NZSIS | Minister for Space

Mobile: 9(2)(a)
Email: misty.mossman@parliament.govt.nz Website: www.Beehive.govt.nz
Private Bag 18041, Parliament Buildings, Wellington 6160, New Zealand

From: Emily Mather <Emily.Mather@publicservice.govt.nz>

Sent: Wednesday, 3 December 2025 5:17 pm

To: Misty Mossman <Misty.Mossman@parliament.govt.nz>

Cc: Mereama Chase <Mereama.Chase@publicservice.govt.nz>; MAES <MAES@publicservice.govt.nz>; Steven Riley <Steven.Riley@publicservice.govt.nz>

Subject: New entry on spreadsheet: MoSR 2025-0788

Kia ora Misty,

Please see a new entry on the spreadsheet as below:

[MoSR 2025-0788 -REPORT - Planning and Infrastructure arrangements Cabinet Paper to lodge.pdf](#)

[MoSR 2025-0788 -REPORT - Planning and Infrastructure arrangements Cabinet Paper to lodge.docx](#)

Here is the word version of the appendix, if needed: [MoSR 2025-0788 Appendix A - Final Cabinet paper Planning and Infrastructure arrangements.docx](#)

Ngā mihi,

Emily Mather

Kaitohutohu | Senior Advisor
Ngā Ratonga ki Ngā Minita me Te Tari Tumu | Ministerial and Executive Services
Ratonga Whakamana | Enabling Services
waea pūkoro: 9(2)(a) [REDACTED] | ĩmēra: emily.mather@publicservice.govt.nz



Te Kawa Mataaho Public Service Commission
www.publicservice.govt.nz | www.govt.nz



Confidentiality notice: This email may be confidential or legally privileged. If you have received it by mistake, please tell the sender immediately by reply, remove this email and the reply from your system, and don't act on it in any other way. Ngā mihi.

From: [Mereama Chase](#)
To: [Misty Mossman](#)
Cc: [Hugo Vitalis](#); [Steven Riley](#); [Ministerial Services](#)
Subject: Planning and Infrastructure - changes version 1 to version 2
Date: Monday, 18 August 2025 2:32:53 pm
Attachments: [Planning and Infrastructure arrangements draft Cabinet paper \(with changes highlighted\) 180824.docx](#)

[IN-CONFIDENCE]

Kia ora Misty

Apologies for the delay in getting back to you. Attached the Cabinet paper for tomorrow's meeting. I've highlighted the main areas where there have been changes (from version 1 that was sent to Min Bishop's office on 24 July). The main change relates to when the Ministry will be legally established (ie moved out from Dec 2025 to Apr 2026). This is to take into account an amendment to the Environment Act (see new paras 31-35).

Ngā mihi

Mereama Chase

Strategy, Policy & Integrity

9(2)(a) privacy

[IN-CONFIDENCE]

From: [Mereama Chase](#)
To: [Ministerial Services](#)
Cc: [Hugo Vitalis](#); [Steven Riley](#); [Joshua Blackmore](#); [Amber Bill](#); [Misty Mossman](#)
Subject: Ministry of Cities, Regions and Environment
Date: Wednesday, 3 September 2025 5:12:27 pm
Attachments: [MoSR 2025-0677 Options to transfer the Ministry for the Environment's functions into MCRE.docx](#)
[Appendix 2 Draft Cabinet paper Planning and Infrastructure arrangements.docx](#)
9(2)(g)(i) free and frank

[IN-CONFIDENCE]

Kia ora anō

Following discussion with Misty I have updated the timeline in the report (MoSR 2025-0677).
Now aiming for either Cabinet 6 or 13 October.

Ngā mihi

Mereama Chase

9(2)(a) privacy

[IN-CONFIDENCE]

From: Mereama Chase
Sent: Wednesday, 3 September 2025 4:38 pm
To: Ministerial Services <Ministerial.services@publicservice.govt.nz>
Cc: Hugo Vitalis <Hugo.Vitalis@publicservice.govt.nz>; Steven Riley <Steven.Riley@publicservice.govt.nz>; Joshua Blackmore <Joshua.Blackmore@publicservice.govt.nz>; Amber Bill <Amber.Bill@publicservice.govt.nz>
Subject: Ministry of Cities, Regions and Environment

Kia ora Team

Apologies for sending these papers through so late, I did give Misty a heads up. I understand Minister Bishop's office is expecting these.

Ngā mihi

Mereama Chase

Strategy, Policy & Integrity

9(2)(a) privacy

From: Mereama Chase
Sent: Monday, 15 September 2025 9:51 am
To: Misty Mossman
Cc: MAES
Subject: RE: New entry in spreadsheet: MoSR 2025-0677 / Appendix 2 - Draft Cab Paper / 9(2)(g)(i) free and frank

Thank you Misty

Ngā mihi

Mereama Chase

9(2)(a) privacy

From: Misty Mossman <Misty.Mossman@parliament.govt.nz>
Sent: Monday, 15 September 2025 9:49 am
To: Mereama Chase <Mereama.Chase@publicservice.govt.nz>
Cc: MAES <MAES@publicservice.govt.nz>
Subject: RE: New entry in spreadsheet: MoSR 2025-0677 / Appendix 2 - Draft Cab Paper / 9(2)(g)(i) free and frank

This email was sent from someone outside of Te Kawa Mataaho. Please take extra care.

Good morning

Minister Bishop has signed the report: [Minister Bishop Signed MoSR 2025-0677 Options to transfer MfE functions into MCRE.pdf](#)

Minister Bishop has agreed that option 1 is the best and “we can get it done”.
He has said “let’s get a short Bill away this year for first reading/Select Committee”.
He also has some comments on the draft Cab paper at 2.2 to please add “and now Housing Investment System for social and affordable housing”.

Kind regards

Misty

Misty Mossman

Private Secretary (Public Service) | Office of Hon Judith Collins KC MP

Member of Parliament for Papakura

Attorney-General | Minister of Defence | Minister for Digitising Government | Minister for the Public Service |
Minister Responsible for the GCSB | Minister Responsible for the NZSIS | Minister for Space



Mobile: 9(2)(a) privacy
 Email: Misty.Mossman@parliament.govt.nz Website: www.Beehive.govt.nz
 Private Bag 18041, Parliament Buildings, Wellington 6160, New Zealand

From: MAES <MAES@publicservice.govt.nz>
Sent: Wednesday, 3 September 2025 5:23 pm
To: Misty Mossman <Misty.Mossman@parliament.govt.nz>
Cc: MAES <MAES@publicservice.govt.nz>; Mereama Chase <Mereama.Chase@publicservice.govt.nz>
Subject: New entry in spreadsheet: MoSR 2025-0677 / Appendix 2 - Draft Cab Paper / 9(2)(g)(i) free and frank

Good afternoon Misty

There are new entries in the spreadsheet:

MoSR 2025-0677 - REPORT - Options to transfer the Ministry for the Environment's functions into MCRE	MoSR 2025-0677 - REPORT - Options to transfer the Ministry for the Environment's functions into MCRE
Appendix 2 - DRAFT CABINET PAPER - Planning and Infrastructure arrangements	Appendix 2 - DRAFT CABINET PAPER - Planning and Infrastructure arrangements

9(2)(g)(i) free and frank

I have saved these into the restricted folder, so Commission staff access is restricted. @Mereama Chase, I have granted you access to these links.

Please facilitate these being provided to Hon Bishop's Office.

Many thanks
 Alana

Alana Fasavalu ([she/her](#))

Kaitohutohu Mātāmua | Principal Advisor

Ngā Ratonga ki Ngā Minita me Te Tari Tumu | **Ministerial and Executive Services**

Ratonga Whakamana | **Enabling Services**

waea pūkoro: 9(2)(a) privacy | **īmēra:** alana.fasavalu@publicservice.govt.nz



Te Kawa Mataaho Public Service Commission
www.publicservice.govt.nz | www.govt.nz



From: [Mereama Chase](#)
To: [MAES](#); [Amber Bill](#); [Gaye Searancke](#); [Hugo Vitalis](#)
Cc: [Misty Mossman](#); [Steven Riley](#); [Gabrielle Wilson](#)
Subject: RE: [IN-CONFIDENCE] RE: Updated Cabinet paper - MCRE
Date: Friday, 21 November 2025 4:50:55 pm
Attachments: [image001.jpg](#)

[IN-CONFIDENCE]

Just spoke to Misty. Minister Bishop will undertake full ministerial consultation on this paper. This will push us out a week, now aiming for Cabinet on 8 Dec.

Ngā mihi

Mereama Chase

9(2)(a)

i

[IN-CONFIDENCE]

From: Misty Mossman <Misty.Mossman@parliament.govt.nz>
Sent: Friday, 21 November 2025 1:43 pm
To: Mereama Chase <Mereama.Chase@publicservice.govt.nz>
Cc: MAES <MAES@publicservice.govt.nz>; Amber Bill <Amber.Bill@publicservice.govt.nz>; Gaye Searancke <Gaye.Searancke@publicservice.govt.nz>; Hugo Vitalis <Hugo.Vitalis@publicservice.govt.nz>; Steven Riley <Steven.Riley@publicservice.govt.nz>
Subject: [IN-CONFIDENCE] RE: Updated Cabinet paper - MCRE

This email was sent from someone outside of Te Kawa Mataaho. Please take extra care.

Thanks, I have sent this to Hon Bishop's office and Minister Collins.

Kind regards

Misty



Misty Mossman

Private Secretary (Public Service) | Office of Hon Judith Collins KC MP

Member of Parliament for Papakura
Attorney-General | Minister of Defence | Minister for Digitising Government | Minister for the Public Service |
Minister Responsible for the GCSB | Minister Responsible for the NZSIS | Minister for Space

Mobile: 9(2)(a)
Email: Misty.Mossman@parliament.govt.nz Website: www.Beehive.govt.nz
Private Bag 18041, Parliament Buildings, Wellington 6160, New Zealand

From: Mereama Chase <Mereama.Chase@publicservice.govt.nz>
Sent: Friday, 21 November 2025 1:23 pm
To: Misty Mossman <Misty.Mossman@parliament.govt.nz>
Cc: MAES <MAES@publicservice.govt.nz>; Amber Bill <Amber.Bill@publicservice.govt.nz>; Gaye Searancke <Gaye.Searancke@publicservice.govt.nz>; Hugo Vitalis <Hugo.Vitalis@publicservice.govt.nz>; Steven Riley <Steven.Riley@publicservice.govt.nz>
Subject: Updated Cabinet paper - MCRE

[IN-CONFIDENCE]

Kia ora Misty

Please find attached a report and updated Cabinet paper on establishing MCRE.

Ngā mihi

Mereama Chase
Strategy, Policy & Integrity

9(2)(a)

.....
Confidentiality notice: This email may be confidential or legally privileged. If you have received it by mistake, please tell the sender immediately by reply, remove this email and the reply from your system, and don't act on it in any other way. Ngā mihi.

[IN-CONFIDENCE]

From: [Misty Mossman](#)
To: [Mereama Chase](#)
Cc: [MAES](#)
Subject: RE: New Entry - MCRE paper
Date: Monday, 24 November 2025 10:47:43 am
Attachments: [image003.jpg](#)
[image004.png](#)
[image005.png](#)

This email was sent from someone outside of Te Kawa Mataaho. Please take extra care.

Good morning

Minister Collins has signed the report: [MoSR 2025-0769 - SIGNED REPORT - Planning and Infrastructure arrangements updated Cabinet Paper.pdf](#)

I'll let you know when I heard from Hon Bishop's office.

Kind regards

Misty



Misty Mossman

Private Secretary (Public Service) | Office of Hon Judith Collins KC MP

Member of Parliament for Papakura
Attorney-General | Minister of Defence | Minister for Digitising Government | Minister for the Public Service |
Minister Responsible for the GCSB | Minister Responsible for the NZSIS | Minister for Space

Mobile: 9(2)(a)
Email: misty.mossman@parliament.govt.nz Website: www.Beehive.govt.nz
Private Bag 18041, Parliament Buildings, Wellington 6160, New Zealand

From: Enquiries <enquiries@publicservice.govt.nz>
Sent: Friday, 21 November 2025 2:02 pm
To: Misty Mossman <Misty.Mossman@parliament.govt.nz>; Mereama Chase <Mereama.Chase@publicservice.govt.nz>
Cc: MAES <MAES@publicservice.govt.nz>
Subject: New Entry

Hi Misty

The below links have been added to the spreadsheet.

- [2025-0769 -REPORT - Planning and Infrastructure arrangements updated Cabinet Paper.docx](#)
- [2025-0769 -REPORT - Planning and Infrastructure arrangements updated Cabinet Paper.pdf](#)

Donna Fowler

Ngā Ratonga ki Ngā Minita me Te Tari Tumu | **Ministerial and Executive Services**
Ratonga Whakamana | **Enabling Services**
waea pūkoro: 9(2)(a) **īmēra:** donna.fowler@publicservice.govt.nz

Confidentiality notice: This email may be confidential or legally privileged. If you have received it by mistake, please tell the sender immediately by reply, remove this email and the reply from your system, and don't act on it in any other way. Ngā mihi.

From: [Misty Mossman](#)
To: [Mereama Chase](#); [Amber Bill](#)
Cc: [MAES](#); [Misty Mossman](#)
Subject: MR 2025-0402-MCRE Cab paper to lodge
Date: Thursday, 4 December 2025 11:57:39 am
Attachments: [image001.jpg](#)
[MCRE Cab paper lodge.docx](#)
Importance: High

This email was sent from someone outside of Te Kawa Mataaho. Please take extra care.

Good morning

Here's the final version of the MCRE paper which is now lodged. Let me know if you spot any issues.

Thanks

Misty



Misty Mossman

Private Secretary (Public Service) | Office of Hon Judith Collins KC MP

Member of Parliament for Papakura
Attorney-General | Minister of Defence | Minister for Digitising Government | Minister for the Public Service |
Minister Responsible for the GCSB | Minister Responsible for the NZSIS | Minister for Space

Mobile: 0(2)(a) [REDACTED]
Email: misty.mossman@parliament.govt.nz Website: www.Beehive.govt.nz
Private Bag 18041, Parliament Buildings, Wellington 6160, New Zealand

From: [Misty Mossman](#)
To: [Amber Bill](#)
Cc: [Gabrielle Wilson](#); [Gaye Searancke](#); [Mereama Chase](#); [Ministerial Services](#); [Misty Mossman](#)
Subject: RE: Additional Talking Points - Planning and Infrastructure Arrangements (MCRE)
Date: Tuesday, 9 December 2025 1:08:52 pm
Attachments: [image006.jpg](#)
[image007.png](#)
[image008.png](#)
[image009.png](#)
[image010.png](#)
[image011.png](#)

This email was sent from someone outside of Te Kawa Mataaho. Please take extra care.

Done – thanks Amber.

Kind regards

Misty



Misty Mossman

Private Secretary (Public Service) | Office of Hon Judith Collins KC MP

Member of Parliament for Papakura
Attorney-General | Minister of Defence | Minister for Digitising Government | Minister for the Public Service |
Minister Responsible for the GCSB | Minister Responsible for the NZSIS | Minister for Space

Mobile: 9(2)(a) [REDACTED]
Email: Misty.Mossman@parliament.govt.nz Website: www.Beehive.govt.nz
Private Bag 18041, Parliament Buildings, Wellington 6160, New Zealand

From: Amber Bill <Amber.Bill@publicservice.govt.nz>
Sent: Tuesday, 9 December 2025 12:28 pm
To: Misty Mossman <Misty.Mossman@parliament.govt.nz>
Cc: Gabrielle Wilson <Gabrielle.Wilson@publicservice.govt.nz>; Gaye Searancke <Gaye.Searancke@publicservice.govt.nz>;
Mereama Chase <Mereama.Chase@publicservice.govt.nz>; Ministerial Services <Ministerial.services@publicservice.govt.nz>
Subject: Additional Talking Points - Planning and Infrastructure Arrangements (MCRE)

Hi Misty

As discussed yesterday evening, please see below additional talking points for Minister Bishop in relation to the MCRE paper being discussed at ECO tomorrow. Can you please ensure his office receive these and add them to the previous talking points provided.

Also note that Sir Brian and James Palmer will both attend ECO tomorrow should any additional questions come up (I will also be available to talk through any of the more detailed aspects should that be required).

Additional Talking Points – Planning and Infrastructure Arrangements, ECO/Cabinet

Bringing together housing, transport, local government and environmental functions

- Housing, transport, local government and environmental planning are deeply connected. By bringing these functions together, we can deliver better services.
- Systems to ensure evidence based environmental advice will be built into the design of MCRE. Environmental functions currently primarily sit within the administration of the Environment Act.
- The Chief Executive/Secretary will be responsible for administering functions of the Environment Act. MCRE’s design will need to ensure that this is operationalised effectively and at the most senior levels. A similar approach could be taken to administering the new Planning and Environmental Management legislation, to help implement the distinctly different approaches to managing the impact on people and natural resources under each Act.
- The proposed MCRE structure could accommodate a discrete, branded delivery unit for natural environment functions if desired. This approach balances a degree of functional separation with opportunities for collaboration, consistent with the intent of the two Bills

A standalone natural environment entity is not recommended

- Officials initially recommended a staged approach to establishing MCRE to minimise disruption to work programs and staff. This would have enabled functions to transition in and out of MCRE in a planned, deliberate manner after the merger.
- Officials have not undertaken detailed analysis of separating natural environment functions at this stage. This work is better suited to a later phase, ensuring decisions are well informed and risks managed.
- The Commission does not support creating a bespoke entity for natural environment policy. Such an entity would:
 - lack scale
 - be costly to establish and operate
 - increase fragmentation, contrary to efforts to reduce fragmentation in the Public Service operating model.
- If natural environment functions were removed from MCRE, they should sit within an existing Public Service agency close to Ministers, not a Crown Entity like the EPA, reflecting the important policy decisions needed in this area.

9(2)(g)(i) free and frank

Kind regards

Amber Bill

Assistant Commissioner | Kaikōmihana Tautāwhi
Public Sector Performance Group | Te Aromātai Whakatutukitanga
waea pūkoro: 9(2)(a) | ĩmēra: amber.bill@publicservice.govt.nz



Te Kawa Mataaho Public Service Commission
www.publicservice.govt.nz | www.govt.nz



.....
Confidentiality notice: This email may be confidential or legally privileged. If you have received it by mistake, please tell the sender immediately by reply, remove this email and the reply from your system, and don't act on it in any other way. Ngā mihi.

From: [Misty Mossman](#)
To: [Mereama Chase](#); [Steven Riley](#)
Cc: [MAES](#); [Misty Mossman](#)
Subject: RE: New entry in the tracking spreadsheet: REPORT - Planning and infrastructure arrangements - updated Cabinet paper to lodge
Date: Friday, 12 December 2025 11:53:13 am
Attachments: [image001.jpg](#)
[image002.png](#)
[image003.png](#)

This email was sent from someone outside of Te Kawa Mataaho. Please take extra care.

Good morning

The Cabinet Office advises that no changes need to be made to the paper as it is just using a working title. The formal name can be set through the Order in Council. Minister Bishop's office and MoF's office are comfortable with this.

Kind regards

Misty



Misty Mossman

Private Secretary (Public Service) | Office of Hon Judith Collins KC MP

Member of Parliament for Papakura
Attorney-General | Minister of Defence | Minister for Digitising Government | Minister for the Public Service |
Minister Responsible for the GCSB | Minister Responsible for the NZSIS | Minister for Space

Mobile: 9(2)(a) [redacted]
Email: misty.mossman@parliament.govt.nz Website: www.Beehive.govt.nz
Private Bag 18041, Parliament Buildings, Wellington 6160, New Zealand

From: MAES <MAES@publicservice.govt.nz>
Sent: Friday, 12 December 2025 11:20 am
To: Misty Mossman <Misty.Mossman@parliament.govt.nz>
Cc: Mereama Chase <Mereama.Chase@publicservice.govt.nz>; Steven Riley <Steven.Riley@publicservice.govt.nz>; MAES <MAES@publicservice.govt.nz>
Subject: New entry in the tracking spreadsheet: REPORT - Planning and infrastructure arrangements - updated Cabinet paper to lodge

Hi Misty

Please see new entry in the tracking spreadsheet:

MoSR 2025-0800 - REPORT - Planning and infrastructure arrangements - updated Cabinet paper to lodge.pdf	MoSR 2025-0800 - REPORT - Planning and infrastructure arrangements - updated Cabinet paper to lodge.docx
CABINET PAPER - Planning and infrastructure arrangements.pdf	CABINET PAPER - Planning and infrastructure arrangements.docx

Thanks
Etiana

Etiana Roebeck

Ngā Ratonga ki Ngā Minita me Te Tari Tumu | **Ministerial and Executive Services**

Ratonga Whakamana | **Enabling Services**

waea pūkoro: 9(2)(a) [redacted] | **īmēra:** etiana.roebeck@publicservice.govt.nz

Confidentiality notice: This email may be confidential or legally privileged. If you have received it by mistake, please tell the sender immediately by reply, remove this email and the reply from your system, and don't act on it in any other way. Ngā mihi.

From: 9(2)(a)
To: [Merema Chase](#); [Amber Bill](#); [Callum Butler](#); [Gabrielle Wilson](#)
Cc: [MAES](#); [Misty Mossman](#); [Carla Lingnau](#)
Subject: MR 2026-0006-Cabinet Committee Dates - 1 wk shift.
Date: Wednesday, 14 January 2026 10:26:15 am
Attachments: [image001.jpg](#)

This email was sent from someone outside of Te Kawa Mataaho. Please take extra care.

Good morning all,

Apologies for such a large 'to' list, I've made an educated guess on who this may apply to.

Are there any issues with changing the cabinet committee dates for the Thursday Cabinet Legislation Committee, from 12 Feb to 19 Feb - for these two:

Orders in Council – Planning and infrastructure arrangements (MCERT) (multiple orders)
The Minister won't be at LEG on 12 Feb, recommend targeting 19 Feb LEG instead

out of scope

Please let me know if I've consulted the wrong people, or if you have any feedback on a one week delay.

Thank you,



9(2)(a) privacy
Attorney-General | Minister for the Public Service | Office of Hon Judith Collins KC MP
Member of Parliament for Papakura
Attorney-General | Minister of Defence | Minister for Digitising Government | Minister for the Public Service | Minister Responsible for the GCSB | Minister Responsible for the NZSIS | Minister for Space
Mobile: 9(2)(a)
Email: 9(2)(a)@parliament.govt.nz Website: www.Beehive.govt.nz
Private Bag 18041, Parliament Buildings, Wellington 6160, New Zealand

From: 9(2)(a)
To: [Margaret Mabbett](#)
Cc: [Mereama Chase](#); [Helen Murdoch](#)
Subject: RE: Your query on the MCERT paper
Date: Thursday, 22 January 2026 12:41:08 pm
Attachments: [image001.png](#)
[image002.png](#)
[image003.png](#)
[image004.png](#)
[image005.png](#)

This email was sent from someone outside of Te Kawa Mataaho. Please take extra care.

Oh and one more procedural question, sorry.
Is it still proper that Hon Collins is the signatory on the back page?

From: 9(2)(a) privacy
Sent: Thursday, 22 January 2026 12:39 pm
To: 'Margaret Mabbett' <Margaret.Mabbett@publicservice.govt.nz>
Cc: Mereama Chase <Mereama.Chase@publicservice.govt.nz>; Helen Murdoch <Helen.Murdoch@publicservice.govt.nz>
Subject: RE: Your query on the MCERT paper

Thank you for the quick response –

I do have one more request, if it is at all possible:

With the complexity of all the ministers involved, it would be immensely helpful if you/someone in your team could expand on that opening table on the covering report – specifically regarding the sequence of which Minister actions what, and in parallel or series. This will support faster actioning.

out of scope

Thank you

9(2)(a)
privacy

From: Margaret Mabbett <Margaret.Mabbett@publicservice.govt.nz>
Sent: Thursday, 22 January 2026 12:36 pm
To: 9(2)(a) privacy <[redacted]@parliament.govt.nz>
Cc: Mereama Chase <Mereama.Chase@publicservice.govt.nz>; Helen Murdoch <Helen.Murdoch@publicservice.govt.nz>
Subject: Your query on the MCERT paper

Kia ora 9(2)(a) privacy, following up on our conversation just now:

- Many thanks for the heads up on lodging for LEG 12 Feb happening on 4 not 5 Feb due to Waitangi Day (!)
- You queried the 'As Minister of Housing' at the start of para 14 of the draft LEG paper. I

think this is fine – the para is about the Public and Community Housing Order for which Min Housing is the lead Minister.

Give me a shout if there's anything else I can help with in Mereama and Helen's absence.

Noho ora mai
Margaret

My working days are Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday

Margaret Mabbett (she/her)

Kaitātari Mātāmua | Principal Analyst

Policy, Machinery of Government

Rautaki, Kaupapahere me te Ngākau Pono | Strategy, Policy and Integrity Group

waea pūkoro: 0(2)(a) [REDACTED] | **īmēra:** margaret.mabbett@publicservice.govt.nz



Te Kawa Mataaho Public Service Commission

www.publicservice.govt.nz | www.govt.nz



.....
Confidentiality notice: This email may be confidential or legally privileged. If you have received it by mistake, please tell the sender immediately by reply, remove this email and the reply from your system, and don't act on it in any other way. Ngā mihi.

From: [Misty Mossman](#)
To: [Amber Bill](#); [Mereama Chase](#); [Helen Murdoch](#); [Margaret Mabbett](#)
Cc: [MAES](#)
Subject: RE: REPORT - Final decisions for LEG paper to establish the Ministry for Cities, Environment, Regions and Transport
Date: Thursday, 29 January 2026 12:47:05 pm
Attachments: [image001.jpg](#)
[image002.png](#)
[image003.png](#)

This email was sent from someone outside of Te Kawa Mataaho. Please take extra care.

Good morning

Please see the signed reports:

[MoSR 2026-0004 - HJC and PS SIGNED REPORT - Final decisions for LEG paper to establish MCERT.pdf](#)

[MoSR 2026-0004 - HJC AND LU SIGNED REPORT - Final decisions for LEG to establish MCERT.pdf](#)

[MoSR 2026-0004 - CB SIGNED REPORT - Final decisions for LEG paper to establish MCERT.pdf](#)

The LEG paper is out for Ministerial consultation (due by COP Tuesday 3 Feb). We plan to lodge by 10am on Weds 4 Feb for LEG on 12 Feb.

Initial feedback on draft LEG paper from Hon Simmonds

- Para 5 – remove ‘the’ MFE
- Will the signature block at the end have all three Ministers?
- If so, will rec(s) 1 be ‘we’ or ‘I’?
- Does there need to be comms section/rec on which Ministers (s) will do comms on this Bill and OICs?

The goatskins are in Ministers’ House boxes to sign today before they head off for recess next week.

Kind regards

Misty



Misty Mossman

Private Secretary (Public Service) | Office of Hon Judith Collins KC MP

Member of Parliament for Papakura
Attorney-General | Minister of Defence | Minister for Digitising Government | Minister for the Public Service |
Minister Responsible for the GCSB | Minister Responsible for the NZSIS | Minister for Space

Mobile: [9\(2\)\(a\)](#)
Email: Misty.Mossman@parliament.govt.nz Website: www.Beehive.govt.nz
Private Bag 18041, Parliament Buildings, Wellington 6160, New Zealand

From: [9\(2\)\(a\) privacy](#) <[9\(2\)\(a\)@parliament.govt.nz](mailto:9(2)(a)@parliament.govt.nz)>

Sent: Monday, 26 January 2026 12:00 pm

To: Misty Mossman <Misty.Mossman@parliament.govt.nz>

Subject: FW: New entry in the tracking spreadsheet: REPORT - Final decisions for LEG paper to establish the Ministry for Cities, Environment, Regions and Transport

From: MAES <MAES@publicservice.govt.nz>

Sent: Tuesday, 20 January 2026 1:22 pm

To: [9\(2\)\(a\) privacy](#) <[9\(2\)\(a\)@parliament.govt.nz](mailto:9(2)(a)@parliament.govt.nz)>

Cc: Amber Bill <Amber.Bill@publicservice.govt.nz>; Mereama Chase <Mereama.Chase@publicservice.govt.nz>; Helen Murdoch <Helen.Murdoch@publicservice.govt.nz>; Margaret Mabbett <Margaret.Mabbett@publicservice.govt.nz>; MAES <MAES@publicservice.govt.nz>

Subject: New entry in the tracking spreadsheet: REPORT - Final decisions for LEG paper to establish the Ministry for Cities, Environment, Regions and Transport

Kia ora 9(2)(a)

Please see new entry in the tracking spreadsheet:

MoSR 2026-0004 - REPORT - Final decisions for LEG paper to establish the Ministry for Cities, Environment, Regions and Transport.pdf	MoSR 2026-0004 - REPORT - Final decisions for LEG paper to establish the Ministry for Cities, Environment, Regions and Transport.docx
--	---

Note: to be forwarded to the offices for Ministers Chris Bishop, Penny Simmonds, Nicola Willis, and Louise Upston.

MHUD have provided us with the following social housing contacts in Minister's offices (in case you don't have these already):

- **Hon Bishop, Minister of Housing:** sarah.mccarthy@parliament.govt.nz and Chyi.Sim@parliament.govt.nz (providing cover while Sarah on leave)
- **Hon Upston, Minister for Social Development and Employment:** Sarah.palmer@parliament.govt.nz

Also note it will be the first time the Office of the Minister of Finance is briefed on her role under the Public and Community Housing Management Act, originally set up when Hon English was Minister of Finance.

Thanks 9(2)(a) !
Etiana

Etiana Roebeck

Ngā Ratonga ki Ngā Minita me Te Tari Tumu | **Ministerial and Executive Services**

Ratonga Whakamana | **Enabling Services**

waea pūkoro: 9(2)(a) | **īmēra:** etiana.roebeck@publicservice.govt.nz

Confidentiality notice: This email may be confidential or legally privileged. If you have received it by mistake, please tell the sender immediately by reply, remove this email and the reply from your system, and don't act on it in any other way. Ngā mihi.

From: [Misty Mossman](#)
To: [Amber Bill](#); [Mereama Chase](#); [Helen Murdoch](#); [Margaret Mabbett](#)
Cc: [MAES](#)
Subject: RE: REPORT - Final decisions for LEG paper to establish the Ministry for Cities, Environment, Regions and Transport
Date: Monday, 2 February 2026 3:54:40 pm
Attachments: [image001.jpg](#)
[image002.png](#)
[image003.png](#)

This email was sent from someone outside of Te Kawa Mataaho. Please take extra care.

Good afternoon

Here is the copy of the report signed by MoF, for your records: [MoSR 2026-0004 - NW SIGNED REPORT - Final decisions for LEG paper to establish MCERT.pdf](#)

Kind regards

Misty



Misty Mossman

Private Secretary (Public Service) | Office of Hon Judith Collins KC MP

Member of Parliament for Papakura
Attorney-General | Minister of Defence | Minister for Digitising Government | Minister for the Public Service |
Minister Responsible for the GCSB | Minister Responsible for the NZSIS | Minister for Space

Mobile: [9\(2\)\(a\)](#)
Email: misty.mossman@parliament.govt.nz Website: www.Beehive.govt.nz
Private Bag 18041, Parliament Buildings, Wellington 6160, New Zealand

From: [9\(2\)\(a\) privacy](#) <[9\(2\)\(a\)@parliament.govt.nz](mailto:9(2)(a)@parliament.govt.nz)>

Sent: Monday, 26 January 2026 12:00 pm

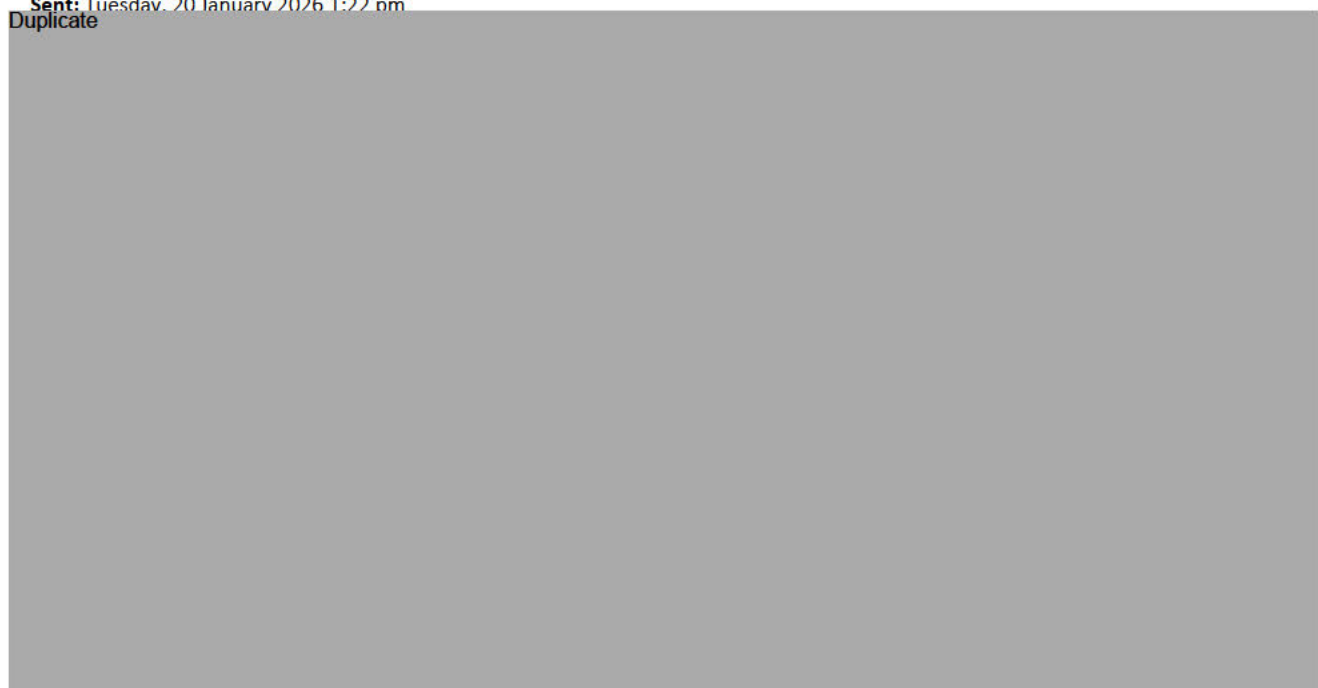
To: Misty Mossman <Misty.Mossman@parliament.govt.nz>

Subject: FW: New entry in the tracking spreadsheet: REPORT - Final decisions for LEG paper to establish the Ministry for Cities, Environment, Regions and Transport

From: MAES <MAES@publicservice.govt.nz>

Sent: Tuesday, 20 January 2026 1:22 pm

Duplicate



From: [Mereama Chase](#)
To: [Misty Mossman](#); [Helen Murdoch](#); [Anna Fleming](#)
Cc: [MAES](#); [Amber Bill](#)
Subject: RE: MCERT LEG paper - OICs
Date: Thursday, 12 February 2026 10:43:56 am
Attachments: [image001.jpg](#)

Kia ora Team

Confirming the MCERT papers all went through this morning at LEG. All on track for 1 April.

Ngā mihi

Mereama Chase

9(2)(a)

i

From: Misty Mossman <Misty.Mossman@parliament.govt.nz>
Sent: Thursday, 12 February 2026 9:07 am
To: Helen Murdoch <Helen.Murdoch@publicservice.govt.nz>; Anna Fleming <Anna.Fleming@publicservice.govt.nz>; Mereama Chase <Mereama.Chase@publicservice.govt.nz>
Cc: MAES <MAES@publicservice.govt.nz>
Subject: MCERT LEG paper - OICs

This email was sent from someone outside of Te Kawa Mataaho. Please take extra care.

Good morning

Hon Bishop has signed the last two OICs – I'll drop them off to the Cabinet Office today.

[OICs to establish MCERT SIGNED by Hon Bishop x2.pdf](#)

Kind regards

Misty



Misty Mossman

Private Secretary (Public Service) | Office of Hon Judith Collins KC MP

Member of Parliament for Papakura
Attorney-General | Minister of Defence | Minister for Digitising Government | Minister for the Public Service |
Minister Responsible for the GCSB | Minister Responsible for the NZSIS | Minister for Space

Mobile: 9(2)(a)
Email: Misty.Mossman@parliament.govt.nz Website: www.Beehive.govt.nz
Private Bag 18041, Parliament Buildings, Wellington 6160, New Zealand

From: [Misty Mossman](#)
To: [Mereama Chase](#); [Amber Bill](#)
Cc: [MAES](#); [Helen Murdoch](#)
Subject: Re: [IN-CONFIDENCE] FW: Administrator of the Government Notice
Date: Friday, 30 January 2026 2:08:07 pm
Attachments: [image001.jpg](#)
[image002.png](#)

This email was sent from someone outside of Te Kawa Mataaho. Please take extra care.

Thank you - could you please send the pack over as an attachment so I can forward it on quickly while I'm out of the office? I'm not sure what time their bag closes

From: Mereama Chase <Mereama.Chase@publicservice.govt.nz>
Sent: Friday, January 30, 2026 2:00:41 PM
To: Amber Bill <Amber.Bill@publicservice.govt.nz>; Misty Mossman <Misty.Mossman@parliament.govt.nz>
Cc: MAES <MAES@publicservice.govt.nz>; Helen Murdoch <Helen.Murdoch@publicservice.govt.nz>
Subject: RE: [IN-CONFIDENCE] FW: Administrator of the Government Notice

Kia ora Misty

An updated Cabinet paper (clean version and tracked changes version) and Aide Memoire will be with you shortly. The pack also includes several attachments from PCO, including the draft Environment Amendment Bill. Min Bishop and Simmonds are yet to agree which Cabinet Committee the Bill will be referred to, have left as TBC for now. The Housing Order goatskin I held back yesterday has now been updated following feedback from MHUD. Ministerials will bring this across for Min Bishop's signature.

Ngā mihi

Mereama Chase

9(2)(a)

From: Mereama Chase <Mereama.Chase@publicservice.govt.nz>
Sent: Thursday, 29 January 2026 12:16 pm
To: Amber Bill <Amber.Bill@publicservice.govt.nz>; Misty Mossman <Misty.Mossman@parliament.govt.nz>
Cc: MAES <MAES@publicservice.govt.nz>; Helen Murdoch <Helen.Murdoch@publicservice.govt.nz>
Subject: RE: [IN-CONFIDENCE] FW: Administrator of the Government Notice

Thanks for the update Amber. Cabinet paper will come across tomorrow.

Ngā mihi

Mereama Chase

9(2)(a)

From: Amber Bill <Amber.Bill@publicservice.govt.nz>
Sent: Thursday, 29 January 2026 11:25 am
To: Mereama Chase <Mereama.Chase@publicservice.govt.nz>; Misty Mossman <Misty.Mossman@parliament.govt.nz>
Cc: MAES <MAES@publicservice.govt.nz>; Helen Murdoch <Helen.Murdoch@publicservice.govt.nz>
Subject: Re: [IN-CONFIDENCE] FW: Administrator of the Government Notice

Kia ora koutou

No change to the MCERT name at this point. A range of options have been considered, but at this point the preference is to stick with what we have.

There is a chance that Minister Bishop's office may still get some suggestions by Monday but it is unlikely and the message right now is to continue with MCERT.

Thanks
Amber

Get [Outlook for iOS](#)

From: Mereama Chase <Mereama.Chase@publicservice.govt.nz>
Sent: Thursday, January 29, 2026 10:04:05 AM
To: Misty Mossman <Misty.Mossman@parliament.govt.nz>
Cc: MAES <MAES@publicservice.govt.nz>; Helen Murdoch <Helen.Murdoch@publicservice.govt.nz>; Amber Bill <Amber.Bill@publicservice.govt.nz>
Subject: RE: [IN-CONFIDENCE] FW: Administrator of the Government Notice

Kia ora Misty

Goatskins will come across shortly with Hugo. Have used MCERT as the name. These will need to be updated if this name changes following the meeting with Min Bishop's office today.

There are three Orders – for Public Service, Protected Disclosures and Ombudsmen. The latter lists the Minister of Justice as responsible Minister but can be signed by our Minister on their behalf.

Have held back the Housing Order as we are still consulting HUD on this. To be signed by Min Bishop.

Ngā mihi

Mereama Chase

9(2)(a)

i

From: Misty Mossman <Misty.Mossman@parliament.govt.nz>
Sent: Wednesday, 28 January 2026 4:54 pm
To: Mereama Chase <Mereama.Chase@publicservice.govt.nz>
Cc: MAES <MAES@publicservice.govt.nz>; Helen Murdoch <Helen.Murdoch@publicservice.govt.nz>; Amber Bill <Amber.Bill@publicservice.govt.nz>
Subject: RE: [IN-CONFIDENCE] FW: Administrator of the Government Notice

This email was sent from someone outside of Te Kawa Mataaho. Please take extra care.

I'll need the goatskins on Thursday morning to be signed in time, as it is recess next week so the Minister won't be here.

Kind regards

Misty



Misty Mossman

Private Secretary (Public Service) | Office of Hon Judith Collins KC MP

Member of Parliament for Papakura
Attorney-General | Minister of Defence | Minister for Digitising Government | Minister for the Public Service |
Minister Responsible for the GCSB | Minister Responsible for the NZSIS | Minister for Space

Mobile: 9(2)(a)
Email: Misty.Mossman@parliament.govt.nz Website: www.Beehive.govt.nz
Private Bag 18041, Parliament Buildings, Wellington 6160, New Zealand

From: Mereama Chase <Mereama.Chase@publicservice.govt.nz>
Sent: Wednesday, 28 January 2026 4:46 pm
To: Misty Mossman <Misty.Mossman@parliament.govt.nz>
Cc: MAES <MAES@publicservice.govt.nz>; Helen Murdoch <Helen.Murdoch@publicservice.govt.nz>; Amber Bill <Amber.Bill@publicservice.govt.nz>
Subject: RE: [IN-CONFIDENCE] FW: Administrator of the Government Notice

We'll need to have the updated agency name on these Orders. Amber will discuss/confirm the name with Min Bishop's office on Thursday. We can then provide the updated Cabinet paper and Orders on Friday and send the Goatskins over at the same time.

Ngā mihi

Mereama Chase

9(2)(a)

From: Mereama Chase

Sent: Tuesday, 27 January 2026 1:36 pm

To: 'Misty Mossman' <Misty.Mossman@parliament.govt.nz>

Cc: MAES <MAES@publicservice.govt.nz>; Helen Murdoch <Helen.Murdoch@publicservice.govt.nz>

Subject: RE: [IN-CONFIDENCE] FW: Administrator of the Government Notice

Happy New Year to you too! Hope you enjoyed your holiday.

Will action for pick up on Wednesday afternoon.

Ngā mihi

Mereama Chase

9(2)(a)

From: Misty Mossman <Misty.Mossman@parliament.govt.nz>

Sent: Tuesday, 27 January 2026 1:30 pm

To: Mereama Chase <mereama.chase@publicservice.govt.nz>

Cc: MAES <maes@publicservice.govt.nz>

Subject: [IN-CONFIDENCE] FW: Administrator of the Government Notice

This email was sent from someone outside of Te Kawa Mataaho. Please take extra care.

Good afternoon and happy new year!

The MCERT Orders in Council will need to be adjusted for the Administrator of Government to sign on 16 February. Once they are ready could you please arrange for the goatskin versions to come over (or I can pick them up on Wednesday or Thursday when I come over for meetings.

Thanks

Misty



Misty Mossman

Private Secretary (Public Service) | Office of Hon Judith Collins KC MP

Member of Parliament for Papakura
Attorney-General | Minister of Defence | Minister for Digitising Government | Minister for the Public Service |
Minister Responsible for the GCSB | Minister Responsible for the NZSIS | Minister for Space

Mobile: 9(2)(a)

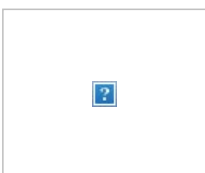
Email: Misty.Mossman@parliament.govt.nz Website: www.Beehive.govt.nz
Private Bag 18041, Parliament Buildings, Wellington 6160, New Zealand

From: Ann-Maree Beard <Ann-Maree.Beard@parliament.govt.nz>

Sent: Tuesday, 27 January 2026 1:18 pm

To: #Office of Judith Collins 9(2)(a) privacy

Subject: FW: Administrator of the Government Notice



Ann-Maree Beard

Senior Private Secretary | Office of Hon Judith Collins KC MP

Attorney-General | Minister of Defence | Minister for Digitising Government
Minister for the Public Service | Minister Responsible for the GCSB
Minister Responsible for the NZSIS | Minister for Space

9(2)(a) | ann-maree.beard@parliament.govt.nz

From: CabinetOffice [DPMC] <CabinetOffice@dpmc.govt.nz>
Sent: Tuesday, 27 January 2026 1:18 PM
Subject: Administrator of the Government Notice

[IN-CONFIDENCE]

Good afternoon,

Please find attached an **Administrator of the Government Notice**.

This is for internal use only. Please share this with staff in your Minister's office by email and/or post on your Pūkete site; or in your agency by email and/or post on your intranet.

Ngā mihi,
The Cabinet Office



The Cabinet Office | Te Tari o Te Kōmiti Matua
Cabinet Office, Executive Wing
Parliament Buildings, Wellington 6011, New Zealand

The Cabinet Office is a business unit of the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet.

The information contained in this email message is for the attention of the intended recipient only and is not necessarily the official view or communication of the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet. If you are not the intended recipient you must not disclose, copy or distribute this message or the information in it. If you have received this message in error, please destroy the email and notify the sender immediately.

The information contained in this email message is for the attention of the intended recipient only and is not necessarily the official view or communication of the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet. If you are not the intended recipient you must not disclose, copy or distribute this message or the information in it. If you have received this message in error, please destroy the email and notify the sender immediately.

.....
Confidentiality notice: This email may be confidential or legally privileged. If you have received it by mistake, please tell the sender immediately by reply, remove this email and the reply from your system, and don't act on it in any other way. Ngā mihi.

.....
Confidentiality notice: This email may be confidential or legally privileged. If you have received it by mistake, please tell the sender immediately by reply, remove this email and the reply from your system, and don't act on it in any other way. Ngā mihi.

From: [Mereama Chase](#)
To: [Misty Mossman](#); [Anna Fleming](#); [Helen Murdoch](#); [Fran Hook](#)
Cc: [MAES](#)
Subject: RE: New entry in the tracking spreadsheet: AIDE MEMOIRE / LEG PAPER - MCERT
Date: Monday, 2 February 2026 4:32:30 pm
Attachments: [image001.jpg](#)
[image002.png](#)
[image003.png](#)

MHUD have the paper and are making changes to it. PCO are drafting the Orders. I'll review the pack and send your way tomorrow.

Ngā mihi

Mereama Chase

9(2)(a)

i

From: Mereama Chase

Sent: Monday, 2 February 2026 3:04 pm

To: 'Misty Mossman' <Misty.Mossman@parliament.govt.nz>; Anna Fleming <Anna.Fleming@publicservice.govt.nz>; Helen Murdoch <Helen.Murdoch@publicservice.govt.nz>; Fran Hook <Fran.Hook@publicservice.govt.nz>

Cc: MAES <MAES@publicservice.govt.nz>

Subject: RE: New entry in the tracking spreadsheet: AIDE MEMOIRE / LEG PAPER - MCERT

Unable to update the Cabinet paper today. Can do this tomorrow. Need some further info from MHUD on this to include in the paper.

Ngā mihi

Mereama Chase

9(2)(a)

i

From: Misty Mossman <Misty.Mossman@parliament.govt.nz>

Sent: Monday, 2 February 2026 2:53 pm

To: Mereama Chase <Mereama.Chase@publicservice.govt.nz>; Anna Fleming <Anna.Fleming@publicservice.govt.nz>; Helen Murdoch <Helen.Murdoch@publicservice.govt.nz>; Fran Hook <fran.hook@publicservice.govt.nz>

Cc: MAES <MAES@publicservice.govt.nz>

Subject: RE: New entry in the tracking spreadsheet: AIDE MEMOIRE / LEG PAPER - MCERT

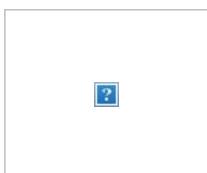
Importance: High

This email was sent from someone outside of Te Kawa Mataaho. Please take extra care.

I understand that PCO has advised MHUD it can provide a draft Order by COP today. Are you able to update the LEG paper or are you happy for Hon Bishop's office to do this? I understand their bag is closing early – am checking what time that is.

Thanks

Misty



Misty Mossman

Private Secretary (Public Service) | Office of Hon Judith Collins KC MP

Member of Parliament for Papakura
Attorney-General | Minister of Defence | Minister for Digitising Government | Minister for the Public Service |
Minister Responsible for the GCSB | Minister Responsible for the NZSIS | Minister for Space

Mobile: 9(2)(a)

Email: misty.mossman@parliament.govt.nz Website: www.Beehive.govt.nz
Private Bag 18041, Parliament Buildings, Wellington 6160, New Zealand

From: Misty Mossman

Sent: Monday, 2 February 2026 1:00 pm

To: 'Mereama Chase' <Mereama.Chase@publicservice.govt.nz>; Anna Fleming <Anna.Fleming@publicservice.govt.nz>; Helen Murdoch <Helen.Murdoch@publicservice.govt.nz>; Fran Hook <fran.hook@publicservice.govt.nz>
Cc: MAES <MAES@publicservice.govt.nz>
Subject: RE: New entry in the tracking spreadsheet: AIDE MEMOIRE / LEG PAPER - MCERT

I understand MHUD is also getting in touch with PCO to see if it would be possible to make the Order in time

From: Mereama Chase <Mereama.Chase@publicservice.govt.nz>
Sent: Monday, 2 February 2026 12:49 pm
To: Misty Mossman <Misty.Mossman@parliament.govt.nz>; Anna Fleming <Anna.Fleming@publicservice.govt.nz>; Helen Murdoch <Helen.Murdoch@publicservice.govt.nz>
Cc: MAES <MAES@publicservice.govt.nz>
Subject: RE: New entry in the tracking spreadsheet: AIDE MEMOIRE / LEG PAPER - MCERT

I wasn't aware of this one. Frustrating that HUD legal didn't raise this with Anna either. My preference would be to do these altogether.

Anna/Fran any chance you can contact PCO to see if they can draft this Order? Might need to lodge this Cabinet paper late as a result.

Min Housing should be able to sign this one off (unlike the Public and Community Housing Order – which required the agreement of Mins of Finance, Housing and Social Development).

Ngā mihi

Mereama Chase

9(2)(a)

From: Misty Mossman <Misty.Mossman@parliament.govt.nz>
Sent: Monday, 2 February 2026 10:37 am
To: Mereama Chase <Mereama.Chase@publicservice.govt.nz>; Anna Fleming <Anna.Fleming@publicservice.govt.nz>; Helen Murdoch <Helen.Murdoch@publicservice.govt.nz>
Cc: MAES <MAES@publicservice.govt.nz>
Subject: RE: New entry in the tracking spreadsheet: AIDE MEMOIRE / LEG PAPER - MCERT
Importance: High

This email was sent from someone outside of Te Kawa Mataaho. Please take extra care.

Good morning

I've just had a query from Hon Bishop's office:

"A Housing related OIC update (to change the name from HUD to MCERT in the Order) is missing: [Infrastructure Funding and Financing \(Monitor and Recommender\) Order 2020 \(LI 2020/191\) Contents – ...](#). Has the LEG paper been signed off by all your Ministers? If so, how difficult would it be for them to sign off an updated paper with the IFF Act OIC in it before lodgement on Wednesday (conscious a lot of Ministers are heading up to Waitangi)? Just wanting a sense of difficulty, to help work out how hard our office might push on the possibly of getting the IFF Act order drafted quickly and added in now for completeness/tidiness, instead of going back to Cab in a couple months. Thanks"

Any thoughts?

Thanks

Misty

Misty Mossman

Private Secretary (Public Service) | Office of Hon Judith Collins KC MP

Member of Parliament for Papakura
Attorney-General | Minister of Defence | Minister for Digitising Government | Minister for the Public Service |
Minister Responsible for the GCSB | Minister Responsible for the NZSIS | Minister for Space



Mobile: 9(2)(a) [redacted]
 Email: Misty.Mossman@parliament.govt.nz Website: www.Beehive.govt.nz
 Private Bag 18041, Parliament Buildings, Wellington 6160, New Zealand

From: MAES <MAES@publicservice.govt.nz>
Sent: Friday, 30 January 2026 2:11 pm
To: Misty Mossman <Misty.Mossman@parliament.govt.nz>
Cc: Mereama Chase <Mereama.Chase@publicservice.govt.nz>; Helen Murdoch <Helen.Murdoch@publicservice.govt.nz>; Anna Fleming <Anna.Fleming@publicservice.govt.nz>; MAES <MAES@publicservice.govt.nz>
Subject: New entry in the tracking spreadsheet: AIDE MEMOIRE / LEG PAPER - MCERT

Hi Misty

Please see new entry in the tracking spreadsheet:

MoSR 2026-0013 - AIDE MEMOIRE - Ministry for Cities, Environment, Regions and Transport (MCERT) - updated LEG paper for lodgement on Wednesday 4 February.pdf	MoSR 2026-0013 - AIDE MEMOIRE - Ministry for Cities, Environment, Regions and Transport (MCERT) - updated LEG paper for lodgement on Wednesday 4 February.docx
CABINET PAPER - MCERT LEG.pdf	CABINET PAPER - MCERT LEG.docx
	CABINET PAPER - MCERT LEG (Tracked Changes).docx
Public and Community Housing Management Order.pdf	Public and Community Housing Management Order.docx
Environment (Disestablishment of Ministry for the Environment) Amendment Bill v5.0.pdf	Public Service (Ministry for Cities, Environment, Regions, and Transport) Order 2026 v4.0.pdf
Ombudsmen (Ministry for Cities, Environment, Regions, and Transport) Order 2026 v4.0.pdf	Protected Disclosures (Protection of Whistleblowers) (Ministry for Cities, Environment, Regions, and Transport) Order 2026 v3.0.pdf
Public and Community Housing Management (Appointment of Agency and Regulatory Authority) Order 2026 v3.0.pdf	

Will drop off the hard copy at reception

Thanks
Etiana

Etiana Roebeck

Ngā Ratonga ki Ngā Minita me Te Tari Tumu | **Ministerial and Executive Services**
 Ratonga Whakamana | **Enabling Services**
waea pūkoro: 9(2)(a) [redacted] | **imēra:** etiana.roebeck@publicservice.govt.nz

Confidentiality notice: This email may be confidential or legally privileged. If you have received it by mistake, please tell the sender immediately by reply, remove this email and the reply from your system, and don't act on it in any other way. Ngā mihi.

Confidentiality notice: This email may be confidential or legally privileged. If you have received it by mistake, please tell the sender immediately by reply, remove this email and the reply from your system, and don't act on it in any other way. Ngā mihi.

From: [Misty Mossman](#)
To: [Mereama Chase](#); [MAES](#)
Cc: [Helen Murdoch](#); [Anna Fleming](#)
Subject: RE: MCERT LEG paper
Date: Tuesday, 3 February 2026 12:43:01 pm
Attachments: [image002.jpg](#)
[image003.png](#)

This email was sent from someone outside of Te Kawa Mataaho. Please take extra care.

Good afternoon

Minister Collins has signed the updated LEG paper: [MoSR 2026-0013 - HJC SIGNED AIDE MEMOIRE - MCERT updated LEG paper for lodgement on Wed 4 Feb.pdf](#)

Hon Bishop has approved lodgement of the paper and I'm waiting to hear from Hon Simmonds office that she is also happy for it to be lodged.

Could you please load it into Cabet today and I'll lodge it once we have confirmation?

Thanks

Misty



Misty Mossman
Private Secretary (Public Service) | Office of Hon Judith Collins KC MP

Member of Parliament for Papakura
Attorney-General | Minister of Defence | Minister for Digitising Government | Minister for the Public Service |
Minister Responsible for the GCSB | Minister Responsible for the NZSIS | Minister for Space

Mobile: [9\(2\)\(a\)](#)
Email: [mossman@parliament.govt.nz](#) Website: [www.Beehive.govt.nz](#)
Private Bag 18041, Parliament Buildings, Wellington 6160, New Zealand

From: Mereama Chase <Mereama.Chase@publicservice.govt.nz>
Sent: Tuesday, 3 February 2026 10:53 am
To: Misty Mossman <Misty.Mossman@parliament.govt.nz>
Cc: Helen Murdoch <Helen.Murdoch@publicservice.govt.nz>; Anna Fleming <Anna.Fleming@publicservice.govt.nz>
Subject: FW: MCERT LEG paper

Kia ora Misty

MfE has sent the following to Minister Bishop's office. I am fine with all the changes that have been made to cover this new Housing Order. The only outstanding matter on the Cabinet paper is to confirm the Select Committee the bill will be referred to. MHUD will provide a goatskin to Min Bishop for his signature.

Ngā mihi

Mereama Chase

[9\(2\)\(a\)](#)

i

From: Helen Murdoch <Helen.Murdoch@publicservice.govt.nz>
Sent: Tuesday, 3 February 2026 9:52 am
To: Mereama Chase <Mereama.Chase@publicservice.govt.nz>
Subject: MCERT LEG paper

From: Simon King <Simon.King@mfe.govt.nz>
Sent: Tuesday, February 3, 2026 9:28 AM
To: Sarah McCarthy [EXTERNAL] (PARLIAMENT) <Sarah.McCarthy@parliament.govt.nz>; environment portfolio [EXTERNAL] (parliament) <environment.portfolio@parliament.govt.nz>; Nicholas Smith [EXTERNAL] (Parliament) <Nicholas.Smith@parliament.govt.nz>

Cc: Chyi Sim [EXTERNAL] (PARLIAMENT) <Chyi.sim@parliament.govt.nz>
Subject: RE: [IN-CONFIDENCE]RE: Draft LEG paper for your Minister to sign

This email was sent from someone outside of Te Kawa Mataaho. Please take extra care.

Kia ora koutou

A quick update on the MCERT LEG paper.

HUD identified a missing OIC in the Housing portfolio that has now been drafted by PCO, and relevant minor edits made to a revised draft of the paper. Josh just needs to confirm the select committee the bill will be referred to for the paper to be finalised – can you please give him a nudge on this or I can call him if easier.

I've also attached the disclosure statement as an FYI for Ministers but nothing controversial in there to bring their attention to.

PSC has confirmed they will lodge the paper once the paper has been finalised.

Apologies for the late change and please call if any issues with the above!

Ngā mihi

Simon

Simon King

*Chief Advisor | Kaitohutohu Whakararae
Office of the Chief Executive*

Ministry for the Environment | Manatū Mō Te Taiao
9(2)(a) | simon.king@mfe.govt.nz | mfe.govt.nz

-
We are located at 8 Willis Street.

From: Sarah McCarthy <Sarah.McCarthy@parliament.govt.nz>
Sent: Friday, 30 January 2026 3:46 pm
To: Simon King <Simon.King@mfe.govt.nz>; environment portfolio [EXTERNAL] (parliament) <environment.portfolio@parliament.govt.nz>
Cc: Chyi Sim [EXTERNAL] (PARLIAMENT) <Chyi.sim@parliament.govt.nz>
Subject: RE: [IN-CONFIDENCE]RE: Draft LEG paper for your Minister to sign

Thanks Simon, yes we've got hard copies from Min Collins office too, thanks.

Yes the talking points should cover the full scope.

Thanks very much

Sarah

From: Simon King <Simon.King@mfe.govt.nz>
Sent: Friday, 30 January 2026 3:42 PM
To: Sarah McCarthy <Sarah.McCarthy@parliament.govt.nz>; Environment Portfolio <Environment.Portfolio@parliament.govt.nz>
Cc: Chyi Sim <Chyi.Sim@parliament.govt.nz>
Subject: RE: [IN-CONFIDENCE]RE: Draft LEG paper for your Minister to sign

Too easy, can do. If Min Bishop is taking the paper by himself, then the talking points will presumably need to cover the OICs as well as our Bill content?

Have attached a few more docs:

- The email from PSC with the update LEG paper attached – this should come to you via Min Collins' office
- The latest version of the Bill
- The draft Departmental Disclosure Statement (which still has a couple of things to square away with Cat on Monday).

Really happy to discuss

Simon

Simon King

Chief Advisor | Kaitohutohu Whakarae

Office of the Chief Executive

Ministry for the Environment | Manatū Mō Te Taiao

9(2)(a) | simon.king@mfe.govt.nz | mfe.govt.nz

-

We are located at 8 Willis Street.

From: Sarah McCarthy <Sarah.McCarthy@parliament.govt.nz>

Sent: Friday, 30 January 2026 1:08 pm

To: Simon King <Simon.King@mfe.govt.nz>; environment portfolio [EXTERNAL] (parliament) <environment.portfolio@parliament.govt.nz>

Cc: Chyi Sim [EXTERNAL] (PARLIAMENT) <Chyi.sim@parliament.govt.nz>

Subject: RE: [IN-CONFIDENCE]RE: Draft LEG paper for your Minister to sign

Hi Simon

We understand from our team meeting this morning that this paper will be taken by Minister Bishop to LEG, Ministers Simmonds and Collins won't be there.

Commissioning this while I remember!

Can you please provide LEG talking points to support the Minister by 4pm, Tues 10 Feb.

Thanks

Sarah

From: Simon King <Simon.King@mfe.govt.nz>

Sent: Wednesday, 28 January 2026 4:35 PM

To: Environment Portfolio <Environment.Portfolio@parliament.govt.nz>

Cc: Sarah McCarthy <Sarah.McCarthy@parliament.govt.nz>; Chyi Sim <Chyi.Sim@parliament.govt.nz>

Subject: [IN-CONFIDENCE]RE: Draft LEG paper for your Minister to sign

Thanks Nick, have passed on to PSC.

I'm expecting an updated version on Friday

Simon

Simon King

Chief Advisor | Kaitohutohu Whakarae

Office of the Chief Executive

Ministry for the Environment | Manatū Mō Te Taiao

9(2)(a) privacy | simon.king@mfe.govt.nz | mfe.govt.nz

-

We are located at 8 Willis Street.

From: Environment Portfolio <Environment.Portfolio@parliament.govt.nz>

Sent: Wednesday, 28 January 2026 4:29 pm

To: Simon King <Simon.King@mfe.govt.nz>

Cc: Sarah McCarthy [EXTERNAL] (PARLIAMENT) <Sarah.McCarthy@parliament.govt.nz>; Chyi Sim [EXTERNAL] (PARLIAMENT) <Chyi.sim@parliament.govt.nz>

Subject: FW: Draft LEG paper for your Minister to sign

Kia ora Simon

All Ministers have now signed, with LEG paper out for ministerial consultation.

Note my comments below. Chyi may have more.

Please keep us updated on developments.

Cheers

Nick

Duplicate



From: [Helen Murdoch](#)
To: ["Simon King"](#)
Subject: RE: [IN-CONFIDENCE]RE: SIGNED Brief + Approved LEG paper for min consult
Date: Wednesday, 28 January 2026 11:27:00 am
Attachments: [image001.jpg](#)

Thanks – just double checking, does this mean the signature blocks for all three Ministers is on the lodgement approval of the LEG paper?

On the MCERT name timeline Mereama is just following up with Amber as she understood that Amber had sought advice from a brand advisor and there was going to be a discussion on names with Hon Bishop on Thursday evening. We are working on the assumption the name is confirmed at that meeting and we get a final pack of LEG paper, a tracked changed LEG paper, and the advice sheets out to Ministers on Friday.

We're also following up with PCO on timeline implication if we get them a name first thing Tue and still want a 10am Wed lodgement. Seems like there are two parallel processes happening at the moment so I'll just get ready the bits I can and try to make either work.

I'll also be getting Steve to do a QA later in the week when he's less jetlagged.

From: Simon King <Simon.King@mfe.govt.nz>
Sent: Wednesday, January 28, 2026 11:01 AM
To: Helen Murdoch <helen.murdoch@publicservice.govt.nz>
Subject: FW: [IN-CONFIDENCE]RE: SIGNED Brief + Approved LEG paper for min consult

This email was sent from someone outside of Te Kawa Mataaho. Please take extra care.

Some more from Bishop's office

Simon King
Chief Advisor | Kaitohutohu Whakarae
Office of the Chief Executive

Ministry for the Environment | Manatū Mō Te Taiao
9(2)(a) privacy | simon.king@mfe.govt.nz | mfe.govt.nz

-
We are located at 8 Willis Street.

From: Chyi Sim <Chyi.Sim@parliament.govt.nz>
Sent: Wednesday, 28 January 2026 10:20 am
To: Simon King <Simon.King@mfe.govt.nz>
Cc: Sarah McCarthy [EXTERNAL] (PARLIAMENT) <Sarah.McCarthy@parliament.govt.nz>
Subject: RE: [IN-CONFIDENCE]RE: SIGNED Brief + Approved LEG paper for min consult

Thanks Simon. The paper does need a bit of proof reading and formatting. We will need signature blocks for all the three ministers. Additionally, can you work with PSC to make sure there's a clean and tracked change version so it makes it easier for the Ministers to know (including where it reflects their decisions)... I will pass on similar comments to the Public Service PSEC here as well.

The name... we will talk to Josh/Hannah.. for now, you can have a placeholder name in the LEG paper to come over on Friday.....

Chyi

From: Simon King <Simon.King@mfe.govt.nz>
Sent: Wednesday, 28 January 2026 10:07 AM
To: Chyi Sim <Chyi.Sim@parliament.govt.nz>
Cc: Sarah McCarthy <Sarah.McCarthy@parliament.govt.nz>
Subject: [IN-CONFIDENCE]RE: SIGNED Brief + Approved LEG paper for min consult

Thanks Chyi – PSC is now on it and will have another draft for Friday.

The one last bit of information needed to finalise the paper is the name, and I understand it will be discussed by CEs at the first MCERT board meeting on Monday at 430

Simon

Simon King
Chief Advisor | Kaitohutohu Whakarae
Office of the Chief Executive

Ministry for the Environment | Manatū Mō Te Taiao
9(2)(a) privacy | simon.king@mfe.govt.nz | mfe.govt.nz

-
We are located at 8 Willis Street.

From: Chyi Sim <Chyi.Sim@parliament.govt.nz>
Sent: Tuesday, 27 January 2026 5:58 pm

To: Simon King <Simon.King@mfe.govt.nz>

Cc: Sarah McCarthy [EXTERNAL] (PARLIAMENT) <Sarah.McCarthy@parliament.govt.nz>

Subject: SIGNED Brief + Approved LEG paper for min consult

Hey Simon,

See attached signed PSC briefing + approved LEG paper for Ministerial consult.

The Minister also asked for the bill to be sent to Environment Committee for two months. I have passed this on to Josh/Hannah – FYI.

Can you work with PSC to update the LEG paper accordingly?

Sarah and I will follow up with the Public Service Private Secretary about next step. I am expecting a final LEG paper with us early Friday or Monday for the Minister to approve the paper for lodgement before he leaves for Waitangi?



Chyi Sim (she/her)

Private Secretary | Office of Hon Chris Bishop
Minister Responsible for RMA Reform
Minister of Housing
Minister for Infrastructure
Minister of Transport
Leader of the House
Associate Minister of Finance
Associate Minister for Sports and Recreation

M: 9(2)(a) privacy

Email: chy.sim@parliament.govt.nz Website: www.Beehive.govt.nz
Private Bag 18041, Parliament Buildings, Wellington 6160, New Zealand