REBUILDING CHRISTCHURCH

The Christchurch rebuild is going ahead full steam. We have a rare opportunity to build a new, vibrant and exciting city while recognising the things that have always made Christchurch a great place to live, work and raise a family in.

A re-elected National government will continue to ramp up construction in the central city, led by key anchor projects such as the Convention Centre, Justice Precinct, and Bus Interchange. Investment in these projects is encouraging businesses and retailers to return to the central city in force.

Our vision is for Christchurch to become one of the most liveable, innovative, and modern cities in the world. We will harness the opportunity to build state-of-the-art classrooms, tertiary facilities, hospitals, justice and emergency service facilities, and transport links. We will also use the chance to create something special in the red zone, taking into account public feedback and ideas.

As the role changes, the commitment remains

As we move further through the recovery phase, the role of Government’s agencies will change, but our commitment remains the same. We will move the Canterbury Earthquake Recovery Authority within the Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet from 1 February next year as a departmental agency. Housing CERA within DPMC will enable its functions to be wound back gradually. CERA will continue to operate in Canterbury beyond April 2016, when the earthquake recovery powers granted by the Canterbury Earthquake Recovery Act 2011, are due to expire.

We will also review the Canterbury earthquake legislation to decide what provisions are not required and what may need to continue beyond April 2016. National will also establish a group to advise on what CERA’s functions should be after April 2016, and plans for the transfer of roles and functions to other agencies.

The stable leadership of the National Government, and the resilience of Cantabrians, has kept the regional economy strong, with high levels of business and consumer confidence. We will stay the course and finish rebuilding Christchurch into a thriving city, standing by Cantabrians all the way.

POLICY HIGHLIGHTS

- The Government has committed more than $15 billion to the rebuild – the biggest economic undertaking in New Zealand’s history.
- National has progressed the central city rebuild, with key anchor projects underway.
- Rebuilding and repair of schools underway with 1,200 new classrooms planned, and world-class hospital facilities planned.
- Horizontal infrastructure rebuild now half way through.
- Nearly 60,000 EQC repairs complete.
- Key decisions made on post-2016 governance arrangements.
NATIONAL IS...

$ COMMITTING THE RESOURCES NEEDED

✓ Moved from the demolition phase to construction in the central city.
✓ Completed 1,000 demolitions in the central city so new construction can take place.
✓ Released the Central City Blueprint Plan outlining key anchor projects for the central city.
✓ Began the $650 million redevelopment of Christchurch and Burwood Hospitals and created the Health Precinct
✓ Started construction on:
  – A state of the art Bus Interchange in the central city
  – Avon River Precinct and Margaret Mahy Playground
  – Justice and Emergency Services Precinct
✓ Kickstarted the Innovation Precinct bringing together businesses, Callaghan Innovation and an ICT graduate school, with Vodafone as an anchor tenant. Kathmandu will also locate its new worldwide head office within the precinct.
✓ Driven progress on the Performing Arts Precinct, starting with the construction of a $12 million Music Centre.
✓ Committed $284 million to the new Convention Centre and selected the developer and operator.
✓ Chosen the site for an Earthquake Memorial on the Otakaro/Avon River and sought public input on the memorial’s design.

LISTENING TO CANTABRIANS

✓ Incorporated key ideas from the “Share an Idea” campaign into the central city blueprint.
✓ Ran the Amazing Place playground competition to give school students a say, with more than 6,000 taking part.
✓ Opened consultation on the future use of the Waimakariri Red Zone, and launched “Ideas to Remember” to consult the public on design of the Earthquake Memorial.

KEEPING JOBS AND SKILLS IN CHRISTCHURCH

✓ Immediately established wage subsidies following the February 22 2011 earthquake, with a $6.5 million business support package to keep businesses in Christchurch.
✓ Supported the Re:Start Mall to keep retailers in the CBD, and its recent shift to make way for permanent developments in the Retail Precinct.
✓ Committed $260 million to the redevelopment of Canterbury University, $107.5 million to Lincoln University and $118 million to CPIT.
✓ Established the Skills for Canterbury programme and injected a further $18.9 million for CPIT to expand its trades training capacity.
✓ Offered beneficiaries $3000 to cover the cost of moving to Canterbury if they find a job.
“Our vision is to make CHRISTCHURCH one of the best small cities in the world to LIVE, WORK, and RAISE A FAMILY IN.”

**SUPPORTED CANTABRIANS THROUGH THE TOUGH TIMES**

- Established the Residential Advisory Service to provide free, independent help to property owners facing challenges getting their homes repaired or rebuilt.
- Assisted property owners with more than 5,000 calls taken and held more than 1,000 meetings between homeowners and insurers.
- Established the Earthquake Support Coordination Service, 0800 Canterbury Support Line, and free counselling.
- Further funding support services with $13.5 million in Budget 2014 to help those who are struggling.
- Providing school-based mental health programme in 24 schools to support young people.

**REPAIRING AND IMPROVING INFRASTRUCTURE**

- Established the successful SCIRT alliance of five contractor companies to rebuild and repair roads and pipes, and committed $1.8 billion.
- Began construction on the $53 million, state-of-the-art Bus Interchange as the city’s public transport hub.
- Released the Accessible City transport plan to make inner Christchurch accessible and people-friendly to drivers, walkers, cyclists and public transport.
- Fast-tracked reclamation of Lyttelton Port and directed development of the Lyttelton Port Recovery Plan to allow quicker repair of port facilities.
REBUILDING, REPAIRING HOMES

Repairing tens of thousands of homes

✓ Completed more than 60,000 full EQC repairs, with the repair programme 86 per cent complete.
✓ Completed 47,000 emergency repairs and installed 18,740 heating units.
✓ Committed over $1 billion to repairing 5,000 and replacing 700 state homes.

Enabling new homes to be built quickly

✓ Enabled up to 40,000 new sections to be consented through the Land Use Recovery Plan.
✓ Signed a Housing Accord with the new Mayor of Christchurch to address pressures in social and affordable housing.
✓ Progressed 275 homes through the Awatea/Carrs Road Housing Development.
✓ Advanced the development of 180 units at Colombo Street and Welles Street. Partnered with the Canterbury Community Trust to provide $31 million for new social and affordable housing.

Tackling red tape

✓ Installed a Crown Manager to ensure council building consent processes are quick and effective.
✓ Proposed significantly streamlined planning rules for the central city living zone.
✓ Fast-tracked the review of the District Plan so planning rules are up to date and do not hinder development.

Giving certainty to homeowners through red and green zoning

✓ Purchased more than 7,300 of the most badly damaged homes from red zone property owners, enabling them to move forward with their lives.
✓ Extended the deadline for homeowners in the Port Hills red zone to consider the Crown offer, from August 2014 to February 2015.
✓ Gave certainty to green zone homeowners to allow them to get on with rebuilding.

Providing temporary accommodation to those most in need

✓ Established the Canterbury Temporary Accommodation Service that helped 3,500 people to find suitable accommodation.
✓ Provided $33 million to assist 2,300 people with the Temporary Accommodation Allowance.
✓ Made the Temporary Accommodation Allowance available for flood victims.
✓ Built four temporary accommodation villages at Linwood Park, Kaiapoi Domain, Rawhiti Domain and Rangers Park, and partnered with the private sector on providing temporary worker accommodation.
THE CANTERBURY EARTHQUAKE APPEAL TRUST

SUPPORTING COMMUNITY FACILITIES

✓ Raised $100 million through the Prime Minister’s Earthquake Appeal for new sport, youth, education, spiritual and faith, heritage and cultural projects.

✓ Supported the new Youth and Community Centre for Aranui, Pines Beach Kairaki Community Hall, Music Centre of Christchurch and Hagley Oval pavilion.

✓ Contributed to restoration of the Isaac Theatre Royal, Provincial Council Buildings, Riccarton House, and Arts Centre clocktower and Great Hall.

✓ $6.5 million for water attractions at the new Christchurch City Council Recreation and Sports Centre in the eastern suburbs.

✓ Funding for 58 sports clubs and projects.
OUR RESULTS SO FAR...

INSURANCE PROGRESS

EQC has made good progress, resolving more than 148,000 dwelling claims. The vast majority of EQC’s dwelling claims will be settled by Christmas. Fletcher and EQC staff have worked 35 million hours on the Home Repair Programme, which has provided high quality repairs to tens of thousands of homeowners. Private insurers have fully settled 80 per cent of commercial claims and 66 per cent of residential claims.

NEW HOMES ARE BEING BUILT

Residential building consents have exceeded the highs from 2007.

As at March 2014, $613 million of residential building work was in place. More than 11,500 new homes have been consented in greater Christchurch since 2012.

HORIZONTAL INFRASTRUCTURE IS BEING REPAIRED

The SCIRT alliance has made huge progress on infrastructure repair, with 50 per cent of its programme complete, including 68 per cent of central city work.

By Christmas, central city infrastructure repairs will be 90 per cent complete. SCIRT has completed the repair of:

- 306 km wastewater pipe (46 per cent of total)
- 14 km storm water pipe (52 per cent of total)
- 48 km fresh water pipe (69 per cent of total)
- More than 355,000sq metres of roading (27 per cent of total)
- 94 bridges and culverts (62 per cent of total)
NEW BUSINESSES ARE OPENING

With the economy steaming ahead, Christchurch is an attractive place to open new shops, cafes and restaurants.

11,000 new companies have registered in Christchurch since the earthquakes, and 1200 existing New Zealand companies have moved to Christchurch.

158 new restaurants and cafes have opened since the earthquakes, and 720 reopened. Many are in central Christchurch, bringing life and activity back to the city.

MORE JOBS AND HIGHER INCOMES

Employment and labour force participation rates are at their highest since data began. Unemployment is 2.8 per cent in Canterbury - the lowest since March 2008 – compared to 5.6 per cent nationally.

In the year to June 2014:
- 37,200 more people were employed in Canterbury (11 per cent increase)
- Unemployment dropped 1.6 percentage points to 2.8 per cent;
- 12,400 more jobs were created in retail trade, accommodation, and food services;
- 6,100 more jobs were created in public administration and safety;
- 10,300 more jobs were created in construction.

Household income increased by 16.6 per cent between 2008 and 2013 – more than double the national increase.
NEW BUILDINGS ARE GOING UP

Developers are flocking back to central Christchurch, attracted by the Anchor Projects and our clear vision for the city.

More than 200 private sector sites are built, reinstated or under construction within the four avenues. These include the state of the art Vodafone Building, Triangle Centre, 151 Cambridge, and UniMed building.

More than 16,000 consents have been issued for new buildings in Greater Christchurch since the earthquakes.

THE CANTERBURY ECONOMY IS GROWING STRONGLY

Latest statistics show that GDP growth over the last year was 4.9 per cent in Canterbury, compared to 4.1 per cent nationally. Canterbury’s economy has expanded in every quarter since the earthquakes.

Exports going out of Lyttelton have increased by 21 per cent in the year to May 2014, and the number of consumer transactions has grown by 9 per cent.
WHAT WE WILL DO NEXT . . .

1. BUILD A VIBRANT, THRIVING CENTRAL BUSINESS DISTRICT

By 2015

➔ Open the **Bus Interchange** to reconnect people to the city through public transport.
➔ Complete the **Avon River precinct** to create an attractive public space at the heart of the city.
➔ Establish the **Innovation Precinct** with an ICT graduate school, Callaghan Innovation, and Vodafone as anchor tenants.

By 2016

➔ Establish central city housing in the **East Frame**.
➔ Re-establish **The Square** as the heart of Christchurch city.
➔ Create an **Earthquake Memorial** on the banks of the Avon River as a place of reflection.
➔ Complete stage one of the **Accessible City** transport plan.
➔ Return **1,700** government employees to the CBD.

By 2017

➔ Open a **world class convention centre** to attract high value business and events tourism.
➔ Complete the **Metro Sport Facility**, equipped to host international events with a 50m pool and indoor stadium as well as recreational facilities.
➔ Open the new **Central Library**.
➔ Complete the **Justice and Emergency Services Precinct** bringing a further **1,100** government employees to the CBD.
2. REPAIR AND REBUILD HOMES, SCHOOLS AND HOSPITALS

→ Continue to repair 5,000 state houses and rebuild another 700 at a cost of over $1 billion.

→ Continue our $1 billion Education Renewal Programme to rebuild and renew classrooms in 115 Christchurch schools.

80 per cent of classrooms in greater Christchurch will be upgraded over the next ten years, and 1200 brand new classrooms will be built.

We are building 13 completely new schools, and rebuilding 10 schools on their current sites. A further 34 schools are being fully redeveloped.

→ Continue the world-class redevelopment of the Christchurch and Burwood hospitals.

The $650 million investment in Canterbury health facilities is the biggest ever investment in public health facilities in New Zealand.

3. HARNESS THE OPPORTUNITIES IN THE RESIDENTIAL RED ZONE

→ Continue public engagement on the future use of the Waimakariri red zone through the “Canvas” consultation programme.

Once decisions are made on horizontal infrastructure and flood mitigation, we will extend this consultation to include the Christchurch city red zone.

Decisions on how this land will be used therefore need to honour the past while also creating a legacy for the future.

We have an opportunity to make this land great for future generations and we want to hear as many ideas as possible from Christchurch residents.

4. ENSURE A SMOOTH TRANSITION AS CERA’S ROLE CHANGES

→ Move CERA into the Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet (DPMC) on 1 February 2015, to provide continuity by placing CERA within a permanent organisation.

We will gradually wind down CERA’s role as required, rather than have CERA close for business on a certain date.

CERA will continue to operate after April 2016, with functions that reflect its long term-role in recovery. We will review the CERA legislation, and remove any provisions that are not required for the long term recovery.

Within DPMC, CERA will be located alongside the Ministry of Civil Defence and Emergency Management, ensuring the lessons of the recovery are retained in the long term.

5. CONTINUE WORKING CLOSELY WITH LOCAL GOVERNMENT

→ Work with Christchurch City Council to review the shared costs of the rebuild, as already planned, by December 2014.

We will:

→ Co-fund area wide solutions for mass land movement on the Port Hills;

→ Continue working with the Crown Manager for building consents to ensure the City Council is re-accredited as a Building Consent Authority;

→ Support the City Council to ensure it has the clarity it needs to address its financial options;

→ Establish an Advisory Group of local councils and Ngai Tahu to seek their advice on any changes to CERA’s functions and powers.
DON’T PUT IT ALL AT RISK

Labour and the Greens would...

- Back a risky state owned insurance business, with taxpayers liable for the bailout if it goes under.
- Create a lawyers’ field day by driving more insurance cases to court rather than having them settled.
- Put the anchor projects at risk and put taxpayers up for an unknown expense through a wholesale review of the Cost Sharing Agreement with the Christchurch City Council.
- Bypass public consultation on the future arrangements for ECAN elections.
- Make an undected board accountable for the Government’s $15 billion plus spend in Christchurch.
- Grind the rebuild to a halt by removing the powers which enable the Recovery Plans and a faster District Plan review.