

Draft Recovery Strategy for Greater Christchurch

Consistent with the requirements of the Canterbury Earthquake Recovery Act 2011, CERA has released a draft Recovery Strategy for public comment.

The Strategy essentially sets out the scale of destruction and the task required to rebuild. The vision is essentially about achieving "an attractive and vibrant place to live, work and invest" for current and future generations.

The goals which flow from that include:

- Revitalising Christchurch as the heart of a prosperous region by:
 - Recognising that one of the strongest determinants of recovery will be the availability of job opportunities
 - Public/private partnerships working effectively
 - Capital investment being retained and increased with early and substantial local and international investment
 - Skilled workers being retained and increased
 - Attracting students and supporting tertiary education (including R and D)
 - Instilling confidence in the business and insurance sectors
- Strengthening community resilience/quality of life etc.
- Developing resilient assets, housing, infrastructure and transport networks.
- Restoring the natural environment.

The Recovery is staged into the immediate "*Repair, patch and plan* (2011), the medium term "*rebuild, replace and reconstruct*" (2012/13) and the medium to long term "*construct, restore and improve*" (2014 +).

A series of **Recovery Plans and Programmes** is to be developed to provide the specific actions necessary to achieve the vision/goals. These complement the already drafted CBD Plan and comprise:

- A Land, Building and Infrastructure Recovery Plan (noted to be the one which will provide the "greatest guidance for the future").
- An Economic Recovery Plan
- An Education Renewal Recovery Plan
- A Finance and Funding Recovery Plan
- A Built Heritage Recovery Plan

Land, Building and Infrastructure Recovery Plan

This Plan will set out where, when and how rebuilding can occur. A spatial plan will be developed (issued by December 2011) and existing planning documents including the Urban Development Strategy will be reviewed to determine if they are still relevant (having been developed pre quake). "Early win" projects with the potential to improve the wellbeing of Christchurch and encourage additional services and businesses to establish will be identified and promoted.

Economic Recovery Plan

This plan is intended to address investment attraction and retention, business support, sector capability, labour market supply and "may include targeted programmes for specific sectors eg tourism and construction". The Strategy accepts that the planning and success of the other Recovery Plans are a significant input to economic recovery.

Education Renewal Plan

The focus of this plan is to "improve educational outcomes" and "enable innovative and cost effective provision of education from early learning to tertiary".

Finance and Funding Plan

This Plan is intended to "optimise public sector investment and re-establish private sector investment". It will manage the spending of funds via the Canterbury Earthquake Recovery Fund to co-ordinate government expenditure and will establish an external financial advisory group to advise CERA on global financial matters and develop the "Why Invest in Christchurch?" investment prospectus to give confidence to the private sector.

Built Heritage Plan

This plan is to be led by the Ministry of Culture and Heritage in conjunction with others such as HPT to "ensure the built heritage remains an important part of the greater Christchurch identity".

Other programmes

Complementing these plans are a series of programmes designed to build community support structures, resilience and recovery including sporting and cultural reinvestment and participation programmes. Natural resources will also be the subject of planning and review via the local and regional councils.

Overall Assessment

The Recovery Strategy is effectively a plan to plan. It sets out the various component parts of the task involved in rebuilding the Greater Christchurch area and indicates what groups and organisations will be involved in the development of those plans and strategies and by when.

Submissions

Submissions on the Recovery Strategy can be provided from now until 30 October 2011.

We will continue to provide information on the Strategy and the development of the various Recovery Plans as they come to hand. If you wish to discuss specific issues please contact us.

Lauren Semple

Partner
lauren.semple@andersonlloyd.co.nz
Mobile: 027 220 1456

Mark Christensen

Partner
mark.christensen@andersonlloyd.co.nz
Mobile: 027 487 8611

Jen Crawford

Partner
jen.crawford@andersonlloyd.co.r
Mobile: 027 436 6040