

Canterbury Earthquake Recovery Commission

Scientific, Engineering, Social and Economic Research following the Darfield Earthquake

Proposed resolutions for approval of the Commission.

The attached paper proposes that research work necessary to derive lessons from the Darfield Earthquake be gathered together under one “banner” – a Canterbury Earthquake Research Programme.

There is a need to subject research proposals (and programmes) coming out of the Darfield Earthquake to considerable scrutiny. The best possible value must be obtained. This requires that all researchers have an opportunity to contribute, and that end-users have meaningful input into the scope, content and priorities for research work proposed.

The benefits of a co-ordinated, identifiable programme are very significant. Special funding is involved and demonstrably robust mechanisms are needed to see that outcomes are worthwhile and represent good value for money.

To promote the idea of a Canterbury Earthquake Research Programme, I propose that the following resolutions be passed by the CERC at its meeting on 9 February:

The Canterbury Earthquake Recovery Commission:

1. *Recognises the need for scientific, engineering, social and economic research as a result of the Darfield earthquake. Lessons learnt can help reduce the impacts of future earthquakes on New Zealand communities.*
2. *Supports moves to fund such research as part of the recovery effort.*
3. *Believes there are advantages in bringing together this research into an identifiable separate programme to be governed and managed under the FRST / Natural Hazards Platform.*
4. *Believes that special criteria and processes will be needed in developing and implementing the programme to reflect the special funding under the recovery effort.*
5. **Recommends** *that Government considers the establishment of a co-ordinated scientific, engineering, social and economic research programme specifically aimed at drawing lessons for the future from the events of Darfield Earthquake.*
6. **Recommends** *that the Government considers funding such a research programme as part of the recovery strategy.*

David Hopkins

28 January 2011