

Funding our storm recovery and resilience - Feedback from the Auckland City Centre Residents Group

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Thank you for the opportunity to provide this feedback.

Overview

While the Auckland Anniversary storm, and Cyclone Gabriel were severe events for Auckland, they are not uncommon across the globe.

As the earth warms, primarily from vehicle and industry emissions, these weather patterns will become more frequent and more damaging.

CCRG are strongly of the view that the majority of costs associated with these events needs to be funded from the industries causing the emissions.

We accept that New Zealand does not have a lot of influence on global emitters and even less on global warming.

However, being a relatively small and isolated country, it is possible for us to show what can be done to lower emissions and manage the impacts of global warming.

NZNZ certainly did not say, when asked to fight in WW1 and WW2 that 'We are too small to make any difference'.

Council Climate Action Plan has all of the outcomes and processes that are required to be done – CCRG would ask that this be implemented immediately to its fullest extent.

CCRG have already presented to the Expenditure and Control Committee on the proposal to implement an annual \$500 per vehicle Parking Permit in Auckland.

This was referred to Auckland Transport to action but to date we have had no response from them as to progress with the implementation.

Our suggestion was that all parking meters be removed except those required for time management.

If each of the 1.7m registered vehicles in Auckland had to pay this annual parking permit, Auckland Transport could raise \$850,000.00 annually.

That equates to just \$1.30 per day to park a vehicle anywhere in Auckland which is a very, very small daily cost and would pay for Councils expected flood recovery costs.

It also needs to be noted that everyone else who uses public space for a private benefit has to pay for it so vehicles need to be bought into the same framework?

In terms of the questions raised in the consultation document we support Council accepting the funding proposal with Council and agree with the three Categories for damaged properties.

In terms of purchasing properties, CCRG are of the view that this could be much more flexible than the current suggestions.

We do not think that the buyout methodology needs to be as confined as it is shown but we do expect that all owners in the same category will be treated the same.

We do support the notion that “some community-scale solutions can be funded as risk mitigation projects proposed in this funding package, such as upgrades to stormwater and drainage systems and geotechnical mitigations. The Crown is leading engagement in relation to any recovery on whenua Māori”.

We wonder also whether this presents to NZ a possible new industry e.g. Climate Change Remediation tradespeople, Community Resilience/Risk Mitigation Professionals, who have the local skills and experience to support communities across New Zealand as, and when needed. This is not the Emergency Management people but those who are there immediately after the event and assist/support communities to deal with the immediate challenges and plans for future redevelopments. Clearly there will be a need for professionals such as engineers, but their work usually comes at a later stage of recovery. The proposed Climate Change funding CCRG have recommended via annual Parking Permits could pay the salary and training costs of these Community Resilience Professionals.

As an example, many homes and ancillary buildings will be beyond repair, but there may well be a lot of materials that can be removed, stored locally and repurposed rather than dumped.

Over a period of time, a good quantity of these materials could be available at very short notice on an ‘as required’ basis to support communities following a major weather event.

These materials from Category 1 and possibly Category 2 properties, could be used quite quickly to establish open spaces with fencing, gates, playgrounds, picnic facilities and the likes.

Utilising these spaces for the purpose the purpose nature created them i.e. flood plains, is exactly the kind of climate initiatives that need to be put in place now so that communities are supported when they need it most.

We trust our support and suggestions are a helpful additional to the storm remediate work being proposed.

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