

Hon Mark Mitchell

Minister of Corrections
Minister for Emergency Management and Recovery
Minister of Police



01 February 2024

REF: CR CORRE 013-2023-24

Gary Whitehead

By email: fyi-request-25208-550dade0@requests.fyi.org.nz

Kia ora Gary,

Thank you for your email about the damage to your home in the Auckland Anniversary floods and in Cyclone Gabrielle.

The Far North District Council has been provided with the option to enter into a cost-share agreement with the Government, should the Council choose to take the categorisation approach.

It is important to note that local authorities have the statutory responsibility for land use, and they will make the final decision to enter into a cost sharing agreement with the Government.

The press release you've referred to (www.beehive.govt.nz/release/govt-support-councils-buyout-and-better-protection-cyclone-and-flood-affected-properties) explains how the cost sharing process will work. However, if a council chooses not to enter into a cost sharing agreement, the affected properties in that region will not be categorised or bought out as part of a funding arrangement with the Government.

I appreciate that this will be frustrating, nor provide the certainty that you are seeking. I encourage you to talk further to the Council, and to your insurer.

Dealing with a damaged property due to extreme weather events is very distressing and can have a significant impact on your wellbeing. I want to assure you that there are resources available for anyone who needs them. You can find tools and information (as well as a list of support helplines) on the following website: www.health.govt.nz/your-health/services-and-support/health-care-services/mental-health-services/mental-health-and-wellbeing-where-get-help

Thank you for taking the time to write.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Mark Mitchell'.

Hon Mark Mitchell
Minister for Emergency Management and Recovery