

30 April 2024

By email:

Minister Louise Upston (MSD)
Minister Simon Court (Housing)
Minister Mark Mitchell (Recovery)

cc. Hon Simeon Brown

Tēnā koutou Ministers Upston, Court and Mitchell

Extension of temporary accommodation services and products

We are reaching out to bring attention to the ongoing challenges faced by displaced homeowners affected by the severe weather events of 2023. These events affected over 6,000 properties in Auckland, and approximately 1,000 households are still displaced.

Currently, two government services and products, the Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment Temporary Accommodation Service (TAS) and the Ministry of Social Development Temporary Accommodation Assistance (TAA), are available to support displaced homeowners, currently funded until June 2024. The weather events' scale and complexity mean that recovery efforts were always expected to extend well beyond June 2024. This is in line with global experience which acknowledges the inherently uncertain and prolonged nature of recovery journeys.

Our elected members have been in regular contact with impacted people in communities across Auckland, hearing firsthand about the stress and anxiety they are enduring due to their housing and financial predicaments following the storms.

We ask that you consider extending TAS and TAA to June 2025 and review the TAA eligibility criteria.

The pace of categorisation work has accelerated and Auckland's progress is in line with other storm affected regions, however we expect categorisation will continue well into 2025. An extension to accommodation support is critical to ensure that all affected homeowners receive the necessary support throughout the property repair or buy-out process.

While the recent TAA eligibility adjustments have expanded support to more homeowners, and this has been appreciated, it still falls short of effectively addressing the needs of displaced homeowners in Auckland. **Specifically, homeowners with properties held in trusts who are still excluded from eligibility, despite facing similar challenges as other displaced homeowners.**

We ask for your consideration and a positive response to our requests for the extension of TAS and TAA to June 2025, along with a revision of the eligibility criteria for TAA to include Aucklanders whose properties are held in trusts. These measures are pivotal in providing holistic support to displaced homeowners. We would be happy to meet with you to discuss this further with you.

We look forward to your response.



Wayne Brown
Mayor of Auckland



Desley Simpson
Deputy Mayor of Auckland
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