

Frequently asked questions

What is new about this offer?

The Government had previously offered a cash grant of \$10 million to the Church, along with a \$15 million interest free loan. That loan offer is now an **interest free suspensory loan of \$15 million. Repayment will be suspended and forgiven if the loan conditions are fulfilled.**

Reinstatement, restoration and rebuild – what’s the difference?

What does reinstatement mean?

Reinstatement is not the same as restoration.

Reinstatement is a term to describe a combination of repair, restoration, reconstruction/rebuild and seismic strengthening.

In the case of the Cathedral, some deconstruction is required to make the building safe. Reinstating the Cathedral would mean it would be indistinguishable in appearance, for most people, from the pre-earthquake building.

It would involve upgrading and improving the building’s functionality as a place of worship, a centrepiece of the city, and a key tourist attraction.

What are the benefits of reinstatement?

- Seismic strengthening and user safety.
- Flexible interior layout and seating options.
- Improved linkages to the Square precinct.
- New ancillary facilities and buildings.
- Replacement tower and spire.
- Most importantly, we’re getting a decision to move forward.

Why is the Government supporting reinstatement over any of the other options?

The offer is not about favouring reinstatement over restoration or a contemporary new-build. It’s about finding a way forward.

- The Cathedral sits at the very heart of Christchurch — it’s the city’s namesake, an icon, a place of worship, a community facility, a tourist attraction and a beloved heritage building.

Estimated timeframes

If the Synod votes in favour of reinstatement, what will happen and when?

September 2017:

- Synod votes Sept 8/9/10
- The Fundraising Trust can be established straight after the Synod vote.

There's an indicative timetable of seven years for the completion of the main and ancillary buildings, and up to a further three years for the tower and spire.

What was the Cathedral Working Group Recommendation Report?

The report recommended reinstatement and outlines a plan for how it can be achieved.

The Cathedral Working Group was made up of two trustees from the Church Property Trustees, one from the Great Christchurch Buildings Trust, and two Government-appointed independent members, including the chair.

The group ceased on 7 December 2016.

The report can be found at: <https://www.dpmc.govt.nz/publications/cathedral-working-group-recommendation-report-released-26-may-2017>

What is the Government-led offer to support the reinstatement of the ChristChurch Cathedral?

- The offer includes funding of \$48.7 million from the Government, Christchurch City Council (subject to consultation) and Great Christchurch Buildings Trust.
- A Fundraising Trust would be established and the project would be jointly managed by the Church Property Trustees and Fundraising Trust.
- The Crown offer is conditional upon the Synod voting in favour of reinstatement.

Where is the \$48.7 million coming from?

- Crown cash grant of \$10 million.
- Crown interest free suspensory loan of \$15 million. Repayment will be suspended and forgiven if the loan conditions are fulfilled.
- Christchurch City Council grant of \$10 million, in principle, subject to public consultation and being provided for in the 2018-2028 Long Term Plan.
- Great Christchurch Buildings Trust confirmed donor pledges of \$13.7 million.

What is the Fundraising Trust?

- An independent Fundraising Trust will be established to lead the public fundraising effort for the remainder of the funds required to complete the reinstatement and provide for future maintenance.
- The Crown will appoint the Trustees.

How will the Church Property Trust and Fundraising Trust manage the project?

- A Joint Venture is envisaged between the Church Property Trustees and the Fundraising Trust to govern and manage the delivery of the reinstatement project.
- An indicative timetable of seven years for the completion of the main and ancillary buildings, and up to a further three years for the tower and spire.

- Church Property Trustees' liability will be capped at its insurance contribution, less an allowance for internal costs.

What about maintenance and insurance?

- The Joint Venture will establish a Maintenance and Insurance Fund at the outset of the project, and allocate \$5 million to the Fund.
- A final determination on the long-term level of maintenance and insurance funds required by the completion of the project will be made by an independent expert.
- There are opportunities once it is reinstated and open, to charge fees as a tourist attraction, which will help support the building's ongoing overheads.

Funding

Will the Government consider providing any additional funding?

- No.

Why are you spending taxpayer money on the Cathedral?

- The Government's \$25 million contribution is a balance between the national heritage value of the Cathedral, the need to break the current stalemate and to encourage stakeholders to contribute toward to project.
- The lack of progress on the future of the Cathedral building has inhibited development of Cathedral Square itself, and detracts from the significant progress underway in the central city. The Government views delays around the Cathedral as affecting confidence in the regeneration.
- The Crown contribution is conditional upon the Synod approving the proposal.

What happens if the reinstatement goes over budget?

- This would need to be fundraised.

Are you confident that the shortfall can be fundraised?

- The shortfall is considered very manageable.