



22 July 2020

Urban Perspectives Ltd
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Wellington

Attention: Peter Coop

Dear Peter

ADAPTATION OF THE EXECUTIVE WING

This letter confirms the Government's objectives for the adaptation of the Executive Wing.

The adaption of the Executive Wing is a critical component of the Future Accommodation Strategy for Parliament, commenced in 2015 with the following strategic objectives:

- Provide accommodation at the best economic value over the life of the asset.
- Improve operational effectiveness and utilisation of the Crown buildings.
- Provide workspaces that offer flexibility.
- Reduce overall Precinct footprint by at least 5%¹.
- Ensure the security of precinct occupants and general public is maintained.

Government's primary objective for this project is to enhance the effectiveness and efficiency of Government decision-making by adapting the Executive Wing to accommodate all Ministers of the Crown in a way that compliments the Executive Wing and its setting.

A secondary but important objective is to remedy the earthquake prone rear part of the Executive Wing.

When the Executive Wing was designed in the 1960's its design capacity reflected the then desire to accommodate 19 Ministers of the Crown, together with associated support services and functions. Since then, New Zealand's population has steadily grown and the electoral system has changed. Successive Prime Ministers have found they need more Ministers to meet the public policy requirements of New Zealand and wider world obligations.

Since it was constructed, the Executive Wing has also been internally and externally adapted as far as is reasonably practical to try and increase its utilisation and capacity to accommodate Ministerial accommodation and functions, and to keep pace with increasing security requirements.

¹ For example, returning Parliamentary functions from external 'off site' locations back into the core Parliamentary Precinct buildings, reducing overall footprint.

At the moment, only 19 of the present 29 Members of the Executive, and their immediate support staff are able to be accommodated within the Executive Wing. Currently the additional Ministers therefore need to be accommodated elsewhere, within Bowen House located on Lambton Quay. This dislocation is operationally ineffective and compromises Ministerial functions, particularly when a coordinated whole of Government approach is required.

The current dislocation also poses security, communication and privacy risks for Ministers.


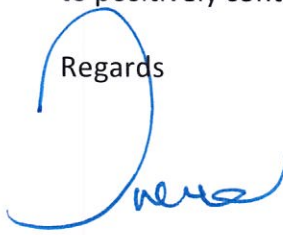
A further recent constraint is that the rear of the Executive Wing (the Press Gallery) has been found to be earthquake prone, is unsuitable for occupation in its current state and subject to a requirement to remediate.

Co-location of Ministers and their immediate support staff in a seismically safe and secure Executive Wing is therefore regarded by the Government as an essential outcome of the adaptation project. The Government's requirement is for the increased Ministerial accommodation to be to a seismic standard consistent with other comparable buildings within the Precinct, i.e. 100% NBS IL3.

The project has been the subject of cross-Party consultation and has widespread support.

I also confirm that it is the intention to proceed with this project as quickly as possible in order to positively contribute to the purpose of the COVID-19 Recovery (Fast Track Consenting) Act.

Regards



Rt Hon Trevor Mallard
Speaker of the House of Representatives

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