

06 November 2023

██████████
One News

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Tēnā koe ██████████

Thank you for your request to the Department of Conservation, received on 29 September 2023, in which you asked for:

- *'The amount of money spent per year for the last 15 years on storm/extreme weather events (I'm mainly thinking of repairs here- but please include anything relevant)*
- *The five most costly storms/extreme weather events for DOC- and details of what the money went towards*
- *If possible can you please include whether DOC has a per year budget for storms/extreme weather events. And if budgets have been exceeded.*
- *Can I also please request any reports DOC undertook or commissioned this year about the impact of storms/extreme weather events or climate change'*

We have considered your request under the Official Information Act 1982.

On October 13 you clarified (or refined) your request to reduce the period from which data is sought from 15 years to 10 years. This was done to enable us to provide you with accurate financial data.

On 25 October we extended the timeframe to respond to your request to 6 November 2023. This was due to the large quantity of information (financial data) which required searching to facilitate your request.

Context:

In relation to your first two questions, the Department does not specifically collect financial data based on storm events. Significant events are likely to result in a specific project being set up however other costs will be absorbed into business as usual and we are unable to identify them. In this respect figures provided via our response are not final and may be subject to change.

We also note that you refer to repair costs, in most cases cost figures provided relate to completely replacing rather than repairing damaged infrastructure.

Your questions and our responses are listed below:

1. *The amount of money spent per year for the last 10 years on storm/extreme weather events (I'm mainly thinking of repairs here- but please include anything relevant)*

Year	Amount (\$)
2015	113,000
2016	272,000
2017	167,000
2018	856,000
2019	287,000
2020	924,000
2021	2,327,000
2022	1,678,000
2023	3,584,000
YTD Oct 2024	7,931,000

For context we have included a year to date (YTD) October 2024 figure due to significant expenditure largely associated with Cyclone Gabrielle.

2. *The five most costly storms/extreme weather events for DOC and details of what the money went towards*

Event	Amount (\$)
Cyclone Gabrielle	7,017,000
Fiordland Storm Damage	4,730,000
Cyclone Dovi	1,625,000
Nelson/Marlborough 2022	1,425,000
Canterbury Storm 2022	412,000

For your reference capital funding mainly covered replacement of structures (bridges, barriers & platforms), rerouting around slips/erosion and the installation of retaining walls or protection of bridge piles/embankments to control further erosion. Operating funding was used to clear debris and windfall off tracks and structures, repair washouts to tracks (surface), repair drainage, and to generally make good the affected assets.

Please note that in some cases there is ongoing expenditure for these significant events, and it will take several years before required repairs / replacements are complete.

3. *If possible, can you please include whether DOC has a per year budget for storms/extreme weather events. And if budgets have been exceeded.*

The Department does not hold any specific storm damage contingency budgets. There is a pool of visitor asset capital held for reactive businesses cases, but this covers any reactive work that did not form part of the annual planned programme.

4. *Can I also please request any reports DOC undertook or commissioned this year about the impact of storms/extreme weather events or climate change?*

We have interpreted your request as seeking high-level reports on the impact of climate change/extreme weather events that we hold and were completed in the 2023 calendar year. In this respect infrastructure specific geotechnical impact reports have not been provided.

Please also note that the number of climate/extreme weather impact reports completed within the 2023 calendar year is limited with similar reports either completed outside of this period or primarily focused on climate change adaptation/mitigation. For more comprehensive reports on the impacts of climate change we suggest you contact Taihoro Nukurangi (NIWA).

Upon review we have identified four documents within scope of your request. This documentation accompanies our response as attachment 1 (items 1 - 4). For further information please refer to the documents table below:

Item	Date	Document description	Decision
1	12 April 2023	Estimating the economic impacts of Cyclone Gabrielle	Released in part
2	June 2023	DOC drought exposure assessment	Released in part
3	29 June 2023	Cultural Impact Assessment Climate Change Adaptation	Released in full
4	5 September 2023	2023-09-05 ATCT Landslides Climate Change SIGNED	Released in part

I have decided to release the relevant parts of the documents listed above, subject to information being withheld under one or more of the following sections of the Official Information Act, as applicable:

- personal contact details of officials, under section 9(2)(a) – to protect the privacy of natural persons, including deceased people,
- advice still under consideration, section 9(2)(f)(iv) – to maintain the current constitutional conventions protecting the confidentiality of advice tendered by Ministers and officials,



In making my decision, I have considered the public interest considerations in section 9(1) of the Official Information Act and determined there are no public interests that outweigh the grounds for withholding.

You are entitled to seek an investigation and review of my decision by writing to an Ombudsman as provided by section 28(3) of the Official Information Act.

Please note that this letter (with your personal details removed) and attached documents may be published on the Department's website.

Nāku noa, nā



Kevin Martin
Chief Financial Officer
Department of Conservation
Te Papa Atawhai