



## COVERSHEET

<b>Minister</b>	Hon Chris Penk	<b>Portfolio</b>	Building and Construction
<b>Title of Cabinet paper</b>	Focusing the earthquake-prone building system	<b>Date to be published</b>	23 February 2026

### List of documents that have been proactively released

<b>Date</b>	<b>Title</b>	<b>Author</b>
December 2025	Building (Earthquake-prone Buildings) Amendment Bill: Approval for Introduction	Office of the Minister for Building and Construction
11 December 2025	Building (Earthquake-prone Buildings) Amendment Bill: Approval for Introduction LEG-25-MIN-0259 Minute	Cabinet Office

### Information redacted

### YES / NO

Any information redacted in this document is redacted in accordance with MBIE's policy on Proactive Release and is labelled with the reason for redaction. This may include information that would be redacted if this information was requested under Official Information Act 1982. Where this is the case, the reasons for withholding information are listed below. Where information has been withheld, no public interest has been identified that would outweigh the reasons for withholding it.

Some information has been withheld for the reason of Confidential advice to Government.



# Cabinet Legislation Committee

## Minute of Decision

*This document contains information for the New Zealand Cabinet. It must be treated in confidence and handled in accordance with any security classification, or other endorsement. The information can only be released, including under the Official Information Act 1982, by persons with the appropriate authority.*

### Building (Earthquake-prone Buildings) Amendment Bill: Approval for Introduction

**Portfolio**                      **Building and Construction**

On 11 December 2025, the Cabinet Legislation Committee:

- 1        **noted** that the Building (Earthquake-prone Buildings) Amendment Bill (the Bill) currently holds <sup>Confidential advice to Government</sup> priority on the 2025 Legislation Programme <sup>Confidential advice to Government</sup>
- 2        **noted** that the Bill will amend the earthquake-prone building (EPB) system to:
  - 2.1      focus mitigation requirements on high-risk building types only;
  - 2.2      remove low seismic zones (Auckland, Northland, and the Chatham Islands) from the system, and move coastal Otago (including Dunedin) from a low to a medium seismic zone;
  - 2.3      introduce simpler and more cost-effective mitigation requirements for most remaining EPB owners;
  - 2.4      enable territorial authorities to grant cumulative deadline extensions of up to 15 years, which can apply to EPBs that passed their remediation deadline before commencement;
  - 2.5      remove the requirement to undertake upgrades to meet Building Code fire and disability requirements when doing seismic work, and limit the extent of seismic work required when undergoing a change of use;
  - 2.6      make consequential amendments to regulations;
- 3        **noted** that in September 2025, the Cabinet Economic Policy Committee agreed that the new up-to-15-year deadline extension would not affect the current up-to-10-year heritage EPB extension [ECO-25-MIN-0139], but this was predicated on the Minister for Building and Construction's initial five-year deadline extension proposal;
- 4        **noted** that the decision in paragraph 3 above will create an inconsistency in the Bill, as owners of heritage EPBs will have a shorter extension period than non-heritage EPBs;
- 5        **agreed** to remove the up-to-10-year deadline extension for heritage EPBs, and enable these buildings to access the same up-to-15-year deadline extension as all other EPBs;

- 6 **noted** that the Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment will provide guidance to territorial authorities on fire and disability access/facilities provisions in the building code, for providing to earthquake-prone building owners who are applying for a building consent for an alteration involving only seismic work;
- 7 **approved** the Building (Earthquake-prone Buildings) Amendment Bill [PCO 27107/5.0] for introduction;
- 8 **agreed** that the Bill be introduced in December 2025;
- 9 **agreed** that the Government propose the Bill be:
- 9.1 referred to the Transport and Infrastructure Committee;
- 9.2 enacted by September 2026.

Tom Kelly  
Committee Secretary

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**Present:**

Hon Paul Goldsmith  
Hon Louise Upston (Chair)  
Hon Judith Collins KC  
Hon Nicole McKee  
Hon Chris Penk  
Hon Scott Simpson  
Stuart Smith, MP  
Todd Stephenson, MP  
Jamie Arbuckle, MP

**Officials present from:**

Officials Committee for LEG  
Office of the Leader of the House