



Legal Advisory Group

SUBJECT	Meeting Minutes – 21 September 2021
PRESENT	Miriam Dean (Chair), Stacey Campbell (General Manager, Engineering NZ), John Hardie (Advisor, Internal Disputes Resolution), Hugh Matthews (Independent Lawyer)
IN ATTENDANCE	Darren Wright (Director, GCCRS), Aidan Prebble (Community Law), Elsa Marshall (Administrator, GCCRS), Edward Butler (Solicitor, MBIE), Gemma Wiig (Principal Advisor, MBIE), James Caldwell (Principal Advisor, MBIE)
APOLOGIES	Nicola Wills (Lawyer, Crown Law)

1. Meeting Administration

1. Conflicts of Interest

1. No new conflicts of interest were declared.

2. Actions Register

1. The Actions Register was reviewed and progress noted.

2. Updates

2.1 GCCRS Operational

1. The GCCRS Directors June 2021 Report was discussed with the members.
2. Number of open cases in the GCCRS are below 900. The data from August and September will be affected by the alert level changes and restrictions; however the overall trend of open cases is continuing to trend downwards.
3. EQC continues to dominate incoming cases, with an even split of on-sold and business as usual cases. The cases in GCCRS with private insurers continue to decrease.
4. The number of cases in the review and prepare category continues to decrease, this may be due to case managers and other 3rd parties have not been able to get on site during Alert Level 4 & 3. There has been an increase noted in gathering information which may also stem from Covid-19 restrictions.
5. The GCCRS exit survey results remain strong with a slight degradation this period. This was also noted in previous lockdowns and will continue to be closely monitored.
6. The Residential Advisory Service has been deployed to Westport. They note the demand for the service is strong as there is a high need for support from the homeowners who have been affected.

2.2 IDRS Updates

1. An update on IDRS was provided to the group. It was noted that Covid-19 level restrictions have caused the postponement of several IDRS Facilitations and Determinations.
2. The first 3rd party insurer has entered into a Determination. This hearing was scheduled for September but was affected by the covid-19 lockdowns.

2.3 Engineering New Zealand (ENZ) Update

1. Demand for panel services has dropped in the last period. There are currently 7 open cases.
2. A panel engineer has been appointed to assist a GCCRS IDRS Decision Maker for the first time.

3. Future Insurance Claims Resolution Consultation

3.1 Consultation

1. A consultation on Developing a Standing Dispute Resolution Mechanism was completed with the group. The work is a response to the EQC Inquiry Recommendation.
2. An overview of the paper was provided to the group; the paper will be provided to members of the group next week to read and submit feedback on.
3. Submissions on the paper are to be provided by 5.00pm Friday 15 October 2021.

4. Review of Agenda

4.1 General Business

1. Sid Miller has resigned from his role of CEO of EQC effective late March 2022.
2. Chris Summerville has retired as Chair of the Canterbury Earthquake Insurance Tribunal; no replacement Chair has been appointed yet.

4.2 Next Steps

1. The next Legal Advisory Group meeting date is confirmed for **Monday 13 December 2021**.

Meeting closed: 11.15am