

# Hon Nicola Willis

Minister of Finance  
Minister for the Public Service  
Minister for Social Investment  
Associate Minister of Climate Change



7 February 2024

Daran Ponter  
Greater Wellington Te Pane Matua Taiao  
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Dear Daran

Thank you for your letter of 28 November 2023 regarding “*Before the Deluge 2.0: the case to co-invest in New Zealand’s resilience to flooding*” - reaffirming its support from Regional and Unitary Councils.

I want to commend the work that has gone into developing the business case for ‘Before the Deluge’. We acknowledge that building resilience to future weather events is critical and our current focus (as outlined in our 100-day plan) is meeting with councils and communities to establish regional requirements for recovery from Cyclone Gabrielle and other recent major flooding events.

The Government is still considering and making decisions on Budget 2024 strategy and design. I encourage you to continue to engage with the Department of Internal Affairs on this work (as the lead agency working on local Government issues).

My thanks to you and those involved in bringing this to my attention. I do recognise this is an important issue and we are committed to improving the lives of all New Zealanders.

Thank you for taking the time to write.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Nicola Willis'.

Hon Nicola Willis  
**Minister of Finance**