

To: Kevin O'Leary
General Manager of Business North Harbour

Via kevin@businessnh.org.nz

10th February 2023

Dear Kevin,

Thank you for your letter dated 8th of February in follow up to our conversation. I appreciated our conversation and your proposals to support businesses through the recent Auckland flooding.

I also wanted to inform you and your members about our Government's announcement to support businesses affected by the floods. Our Government announced on Wednesday that we will be providing a \$5 million package of emergency support to help businesses significantly affected by the recent flooding in Auckland.

Like we discussed, the floods were devastating for many businesses in the Auckland region. The flooding was sudden and could not be reasonably prepared for. As such, our Government wanted to take action to support businesses while they recover and start operating again.

Our Government also ensured that the \$5 million package was developed with Auckland business leaders so that it reflected the needs they identified.

The Auckland business support package includes:

- Flood recovery payments for significantly affected businesses
- Extra mental wellbeing support through a boost to the First Steps programme
- Funding for small business advice focused on business continuity and resilience
- Inland Revenue will waive penalties for late payments for Auckland, Northland, the Bay of Plenty, Thames/Coromandel and Waikato

The support will be delivered through the Auckland Business Chamber, the Employers and Manufacturers Association, Whāriki (Auckland's Māori Business Network) and the Pacific Business Trust. The Minister of Finance has also stated that they will consider further support if required.

Please feel free to reach out to my office if you have any questions or would like to raise anything with me. I'm always keen to hear from local businesses on how we can best support them.

Kind regards,



Vanushi Walters | MP for Upper Harbour

