

# Southern Response Earthquake Services Limited

# Statement of Performance Expectations

For Financial Year ending 30 June 2026

This Statement of Performance Expectations (SPE) is submitted by the Board of Directors of Southern Response Earthquake Services Limited ('Southern Response' or the 'Company'), pursuant to the Crown Entities Act 2004. It sets out the performance expected of Southern Response for the period 1 July 2025 to 30 June 2026.

# STATEMENT OF RESPONSIBILITY

Southern Response is responsible for the statements contained in this document, including the appropriateness of the assumptions underlying them. Southern Response is responsible for internal control systems that provide reasonable assurance as to the integrity of its financial reporting.

**Alister James** 

Chair

**Bevan Killick** 

Born Killing

Director

13 June 2025

# ABOUT THE COMPANY

### SCOPE AND PURPOSE

Southern Response (formerly AMI Insurance Limited) exists as a result of the Crown providing support to customers following the failure of AMI Insurance that occurred during 2011 to 2012. On 5 April 2012, the Company became a Crown-owned Company and was named in Schedule 4A of the Public Finance Act. This occurred following the sale of the Company's non-earthquake claim related business to IAG (NZ) Holdings Limited.

The Company is responsible for settling the Covered Claims<sup>1</sup> of AMI residential policyholders arising from earthquakes that occurred in the Canterbury Earthquake Sequence up to 5 April 2012.

The Company's core purpose is to resolve its customers' claims in a fair, timely and enduring manner, within the terms of the insurance policy and in a financially effective and efficient way.

This will have been achieved once the insurance claims associated with the Canterbury earthquake events up until 5 April 2012 have been settled and the Company has discharged all of its obligations, including any obligations arising from its build programme, the delivery of the Package<sup>1</sup> and the resolution of any legal disputes and/or proceedings in respect of settled claims.

#### **CLAIM SETTLEMENTS**

The Company has settled 49,821 Covered Claims in its lifetime, resolved over 1,100 post-settlement claims<sup>1</sup> and made payments on over 9,660 claims under the Package.

As at 31 March 2025, the Company was currently liable for a total of 109 Covered Claims (107 overcap¹ claims and 2 other claims¹), was managing 22 post settlement claims, and was second defendant in two litigated undercap claims.

The Company continues to become liable for new overcap claims that originate from the Natural Hazards Commission Toka Tū Ake ("NHC") re-openings and there remains significant uncertainty as to how many new claims will ultimately be received by the Company in the coming years.

Of the 107 open overcap Covered Claims, only 38 of these (35%) are long-standing legacy claims which had been opened prior to the inception of the Agency Agreement<sup>1</sup> (January 2020). The balance of open Covered Claims (69) is the result of NHC re-openings (682 opened, 613 settled) since this time.

Claim forecasts, which are consistent with NHC forecasts, indicate that the Company can expect to receive claims until at least 2029 and likely beyond.

The Company ensures that the customer is at the centre of its processes, communications and systems whilst maintaining a culture of fiscal discipline to settle claims within the terms of the insurance policy. The Company actively works to facilitate alternative settlement pathways where appropriate in a transparent and collaborative way, looks to identify flexible solutions and to work proactively with customers to reduce disputes, acknowledging that in some instances dispute resolution services or the courts are necessary to reach an outcome.

# **OPERATIONS**

The Company continues to ensure it remains fit for purpose with focused resources and controlled costs as it works towards the ultimate wind-down and closure of its operations.

Day-to-day claim settlement activities are outsourced to the Natural Hazards Commission Toka Tū Ake ('NHC') under an Agency Agreement but the Company retains ultimate responsibility, key decision making and liability for its Covered Claims.

The Company continues to manage its operations in an effective and efficient way and engages a small team of employees and contractors to; support NHC to settle claims, process residual Package applications, discharge its governance, financial and legal obligations and resolve any legal disputes and/or proceedings.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> Glossary of terms on page 3 of this document.

The eventual operational wind-down of the organisation remains a key focus for the Company. The Company works proactively, openly and cooperatively with the Crown and other key stakeholders in considering the options of possible future pathways to ensure obligations are met in the most efficient and effective manner

# **GLOSSARY**

Covered Claims	a) Any Retained Claim – any claim made by or on behalf of a policyholder under any customer insurance contract relating to any Retained Claim Event, irrespective of whether the claim is made prior to, on or after 5 April 2012.		
	Retained Claim Event means the Canterbury earthquake events recognised by EQC <sup>2</sup> as occurring from 4 September 2010 through 9 October 2011; and any other event that occurred prior to, or was continuing in progress, as at 5 April 2012 which entitles Southern Response to make a reinsurance claim		
	b) Any other claim for which the Company is or may be liable pursuant to Clause 13 of the IAG Sale Agreement (relating to customer insurance contract indemnities and retained claims not clear at 5 April 2012 – essentially claims for which AMI was entitled to make a reinsurance claim and which are being managed on its behalf by IAG). <sup>3</sup>		
	c) Any claim arising in respect of any Covered Insurance Contract.		
	Covered Insurance Contract means any contract works or similar insurance policy under which Southern Response is or may be liable from time to time; and any other insurance policy under which Southern Response may be liable from time to time and which has been approved by the Crown (either individually or as a class of insurance business).		
The "Package"	During the 2022 to 2025 financial years, the Company delivered a Package to provide eligible policyholders who had cash settled Covered Claims prior to October 2014 with an additional payment. The Company continues to process any claims under the Package but further proactive contact activities for customers that the Company has already attempted to reach will have effectively ceased from 1 July 2025.		
Agency Agreement	The Amended and Restated Agreement Relating to Management of Outstanding Canterbury Earthquake Claims (between NHC and Southern Response).		
Overcap Claims	At the time of the Canterbury Earthquake Sequence, NHC insured the first \$100,000 + GST (\$115,000) of damage to a house for each earthquake event (the 'cap'). NHC pays its contribution for each event and the private insurance company takes over responsibility for managing and settling the claim and paying the amount in excess of the cap that is 'overcap'.		
Other Claims	Other claims include undercap and overcap temporary accommodation, out-of-scope ("OOS"), contents, and loss of rent claims		
Post Settlement Claims	Post settlement claims are settled Covered Claims that have re-opened due to post settlement issues or events.		
OOS Claims	An "out-of-scope" claim is a claim made under the AMI policy for earthquake damage to property items 'outside the scope' of the Earthquake Commission Act 1993 but covered under the wider definition of "house" in the AMI policy (which includes, for example, garages, fences, drive ways, paths and swimming pools).		

 $<sup>^{2}</sup>$  As of 1 July 2024, the Earthquake Commission (EQC) became the Natural Hazards Commission Toka Tū Ake (NHC)  $^{3}$  Note that work on claims that meet this specific definition has not been required for a number of years.

# STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES

### PLANNING AND REPORTING FRAMEWORK

This Statement of Performance Expectations is supported by the following corporate documents which together provide an accountability framework that allows the Company to demonstrate and report on its organisational performance against its objectives.

The Statement of Intent which sets which sets the Company's strategic objectives for the three-year period 1 July 2025 to 30 June 2028.

The Annual Report which highlights progress against the Statement of Intent, assesses results against the Statement of Performance Expectations, and provides an overview of key activities and achievements.

#### PERFORMANCE TARGETS

Performance targets for the Company's activities are measured as milestones and KPIs in respect of each strategic objective. These are not defined as reportable outputs under the Crown Entities Act.

The Company's current strategic objectives are:

- 1. Notified Covered Claims and residual Package claims are settled effectively
- 2. Litigated claims and legal risks generally are appropriately managed
- 3. Ongoing governance, financial and legal obligations are met
- 4. The Company is efficiently and effectively managed through its final phase

### **OBJECTIVES**

# Objective 1 - Notified Covered Claims and residual Package claims are settled effectively

The Company will continue to settle the remaining overcap and out-of-scope Covered Claims of AMI policyholders with claims resulting from the Canterbury Earthquake Sequence:

- in accordance with insurance policy obligations and,
- in a timely, fair and enduring manner.

The Company will also continue to process residual Package claims in line with the principles agreed with the Crown and ensure post settlement claims are managed effectively.

The table below (Table 1) sets out the number of open Covered Claims as at 31 March 2025 and the forecast of total open claims at both 30 June 2025 and 30 June 2026. The Company continues to receive new overcap claims arising from NHC undercap re-openings and there remains significant uncertainty as to how many new claims from NHC that the Company will become liable for in the coming year.

Table 1 - Covered Claims

Claim type	31 March 2025	30 June 2025	New claims	Settled claims	30 June 2026
Overcap	107	103	80	112	71
Other claims	2	3	13	12	4
Total	109	106	93	124	75

### What will achievement of this outcome look like?

- The number of Covered Claims reduces in accordance with the Company's actuarial forecasts for the year (refer Table 1).
- The outcome of audits of NHC acting as the Company's agent at the end of the financial year record only minor or moderate findings.
- Package applications are processed and paid (where eligible) within 90 days of receipt of the application.

### Objective 2 - Litigated claims and legal risks generally are appropriately managed

It is necessary for the Company to discharge any obligations arising from its build programme and resolve any legal disputes and/or proceedings in respect of post settlement claims.

The Company is involved in ongoing litigation and recognises that in the current legal landscape there is a risk of further potential representative actions. It is important that litigation and legal issues faced by the Company are appropriately managed and the implications of any judicial decisions are understood.

### What will achievement of this outcome look like?

- Where it is appropriate to do so, the Company has demonstrably offered alternative dispute resolution channels to customers when any form of litigation arises.
- The Company has a clear understanding of its portfolio of claims that remain and also those that have settled.
- The number of litigated claims reduces in accordance with the Company's actuarial forecasts.

### Objective 3 - Ongoing governance, financial and legal obligations are met

The Company must ensure that appropriate resources are in place to enable the Company to meet its ongoing governance, legal and financial obligations. The Company will act in a financially responsible manner and be open and collaborative with the Treasury to report on commercial and financial performance.

### What will achievement of this outcome look like?

- The Company is compliant with obligations arising from the Public Finance Act 1989, the Crown Entities Act 2004, the Companies Act 1993 and any other relevant legislation.
- Liquidity is managed in accordance with the Company's treasury policy, including reporting of projected shortfalls to accompany funding requests in a timely manner.
- The Company achieves a positive audit report in relation to its management, financial and service performance, information systems and controls.

# Objective 4 - The Company is efficiently and effectively managed through its final phase

As the claims settlement process nears completion, the Company will continue to work towards the wind-down and closure of its operations with fiscal discipline and to ensure any remaining obligations or liabilities are appropriately managed until they can be ultimately discharged.

There will continue to be a focus on driving down costs and seeking innovative operational improvements by adapting to the current climate of claim activity, and regularly right sizing the organisation and its resources to achieve sustainable cost-efficient delivery of services.

The Company will continue to work with the Treasury and any other relevant parties to provide them with any assistance when future options for the Company are assessed.

With the significant uncertainty as to how many new claims will still be received by the Company in the future, it will continue to explore options available to expedite the tail of Canterbury claims and work collaboratively with NHC and the Treasury on any opportunities that arise.

The Company will ensure that, to the extent that is practicable and possible, corporate knowledge is documented, refreshed, and retained in a readily accessible way. This will mitigate the risk of key personnel departing the organisation as its operational size reduces.

# What will achievement of this outcome look like?

- Operating costs are in line with financial forecasts
- The Company has worked collaboratively with the Treasury and NHC to provide shareholding Ministers with an analysis of options to expedite the tail of Canterbury claims.
- The Company's Corporate Manual is up to date and record of the Company's physical and intangible assets, residual rights, obligations and liabilities, and data holdings is maintained.

# FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

### FORECAST FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

The forecast financial statements below include a Forecast Statement of Comprehensive Income, Forecast Statement of Financial Position, Forecast Statement of Changes in Equity and Forecast Statement of Cash Flows for the 2025 and 2026 financial years.

The Company is funded by the Crown to deliver its objectives. In August 2024, the Company exhausted its share capital funding as set out in the Crown Support Deed and its subsequent amendments. The Company continues to request funding under the Crown Indemnity during the year. This funding is recognised as income. Other income received by the Company is by way of interest earned on surplus cash balances held in short-term investments.

The Company incurs expenditure as part of its activities. Operating expenditure (i.e. the day-to-day running of the Company) is split between claims handling expenses (for the claim management costs and associated overheads) and 'corporate expenditure' (for all other Company expenditure and overheads).

Claims handling expenses are provisioned for as a component of the liability for incurred claims and are unwound through "insurance service expense" in the statement of comprehensive income as it is incurred. Corporate expenditure is recognised as it is incurred in the statement of comprehensive income.

# FORECAST STATEMENTS OF COMPREHENSIVE INCOME

	Year Ending 30 June 25	Year Ending 30 June 26
	FORECAST	FORECAST
•	\$000	\$000
Income		
Investment Income	1,208	901
Crown Indemnity income	45,000	40,000
Total Income	46,208	40,901
Insurance results		
Insurance finance expense (discounting unwind)	(7,399)	(2,269)
Insurance service expense	(14,063)	0
Net insurance result	(25,135)	(2,269)
Total Corporate Expenses	(2,202)	(1,920)
Gain on Disposal of Fixed Assets	3	o
Total Expenses	(27,334)	(4,189)
Surplus/(Deficit)	18,874	36,712
	20,0/4	30,712
Taxation	О	0
Surplus/(Deficit) After Tax	18,874	36,712

# FORECAST STATEMENTS OF CHANGES IN EQUITY

	30 Ju FORE	Ending ine 25 ECAST 000	Year Ending 30 June 26 FORECAST \$000
Opening Equity	(1	29,199)	(104,324)
Surplus / (Deficit) After Tax		18,874	36,712
Call on Uncalled Share Capital		6,000	o
Closing Equity	(1	04,324)	(67,611)

# FORECAST STATEMENTS OF FINANCIAL POSITION

	30 June 25 FORECAST \$000	30 June 26 FORECAST \$000
EQUITY		
Share Capital	1,457,939	1,457,939
Retained Earnings / (Losses)	-1,562,263	-1,525,550
TOTAL EQUITY	-104,324	-67,611
Represented By: ASSETS		
Cash & Cash Equivalents	29,936	17,882
Sundry Debtors	1,032	506
Fixed Assets	30	10
TOTAL ASSETS	30,998	18,398
LIABILITIES		
Sundry Creditors	2,000	2,000
Liability for Incurred Claims	133,322	84,009
TOTAL LIABILITIES	135,322	86,009
NET ASSETS/(LIABILITIES)	-104,324	-67,611

### FORECAST STATEMENTS OF CASH FLOW

	Year Ending 30 June 25	Year Ending 30 June 26
	FORECAST \$000	FORECAST \$000
Cash Flows From Operations		
Investment Income Received	1,208	901
Proceeds from Crown Indemnity	45,000	40,000
Claims Paid (incl. utilising risk adjustment)	-45,279	-46,071
Other Operating Expenses Paid	-9,155	-6,884
Net Cash Flow From Operations	-8,226	-12,054
Cash Flows From Investing		
Sale of fixed assets	3	o
Purchase of fixed assets	-16	o
Net Cash Flow From Investing	-13	0
Cash Flows From Financing		
Proceeds from Uncalled Capital Facility	6,000	О
Net Cash Flow From Financing	6,000	0
NET CASH MOVEMENT	-2,239	-12,054
Opening Cash Balance	32,175	29,936
CLOSING CASH BALANCE	29,936	17,882

# NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

# **Reporting Entity**

Southern Response is a limited liability company incorporated and domiciled in New Zealand and registered under the Companies Act 1993.

The Company is a Crown-owned entity listed in schedule 4A of the Public Finance Act 1989.

The principal business is to manage the settlement of claims from AMI Insurance policy holders arising from the Canterbury earthquakes occurring between 4 September 2010 and 5 April 2012.

# **Basis of Preparation**

These prospective financial statements have been prepared for the purpose of providing information on the Company's future operating intentions and financial position against which it must report and be formally audited at the end of the financial year.

These prospective financial statements have been prepared:

- in accordance with the relevant requirements of the Public Finance Act 1989 and the Crown Entities Act 2004, which include the requirement to comply with New Zealand generally accepted accounting practice (NZ GAAP).
- in accordance with FRS-42 and NZ GAAP as it relates to prospective financial statements.
- in accordance with NZ GAAP as appropriate for profit oriented companies.
- on a GST-exclusive basis, except for trade payables which are presented on a GST-inclusive basis.
- on a historical cost basis, except for certain assets which have been measured at fair value and all insurance liabilities have been measured in accordance with NZ IFRS 17 Insurance Contracts.
- in New Zealand dollars rounded to the nearest thousand (\$000).
- The forecast financial statements have been presented on a going concern basis, deemed appropriate given the funding available under the Crown Indemnity and the further indemnity agreed to in principle by the Company's Shareholding Ministers under 65ZD of the Public Finance Act 1989.

### Statement of Significant Underlying Assumptions

### **Timelines and Scope of Activities**

The forecast is based on:

- Actual, unaudited results to 31 March 2025.
- An independent actuarial valuation of the liability for incurred claims as at 31 March 2025 and the accompanying future payment patterns.
- The Company being responsible for the management of an ultimate number of 9,547 properties with overcap claims. As at 31 March 2025, approximately 9,333 have been reported to the Company.
- Continuing to outsource claims management to NHC as agent. A small number of employees and contractors continue to be engaged directly by the Company to; provide support to NHC, process residual Package applications, and fulfil corporate responsibilities. The majority of employees are on fixed term contracts through to 30 June 2026, at which point demand for services will again be re-assessed based on the remaining level of outstanding claims.

### **Insurance Contract liabilities**

- The actuarial valuation at 31 March 2025 assessed the risk adjustment of the discounted liability for incurred claims, with at least 75% probability of sufficiency, at \$38 million.
- The forecast financial statements assume the risk adjustment will be required to settle customer claims and accordingly is not amortised (credited) to the profit and loss account as claims are paid.
- The liability for incurred claims includes a provision for future claims handling expenses that represents:
  - the claim management services outsourced to NHC,
  - employees and contractors engaged directly by the Company who provide claim settlement support, and
  - an allocation of Company overheads.
- By 30 June 2025, nearly all of the Package is forecast to be finalised, with a small residual remaining.
- It is assumed that the Company will continue to receive new claims (albeit at a reduced rate) until the end of calendar year 2029.
- The total number of outstanding overcap claims as at 30 June 2026 is forecast to be 71.

#### **Taxation**

The Company is a tax paying entity and has incurred significant tax losses to date. The tax losses are available and sufficient to offset any assessable income that may arise in future years; however, the tax benefit of the losses has not been recognised as an asset.

# **Expenditure**

Company overheads include employee and contractor costs (e.g. management, reporting and administration), legal & professional fees and depreciation that are not directly claims related. The portion remaining after allocation to the future claims handling expense provision is shown in the statement of comprehensive income as 'corporate expenses'.

# **Income**

- The existing Crown Indemnity will provide funding until 2027. The Company will request funding on a quarterly basis.
- A second Crown Indemnity will cover any funding shortfall from 2027 onwards
- Investment income is interest earned on cash and cash equivalents held with New Zealand registered banks on call or short term deposits.

### **Key Risks to the Financial Forecasts**

- The actuarial valuation of the liability for incurred claims may increase in subsequent valuations. Key components of this are:
  - The ultimate number of claims increasing beyond what has been allowed for in the valuation, and
  - Escalation in settling the remaining body of outstanding claims, including additional costs for settling disputed and litigated claims.
- The risk adjustment is subject to ongoing review by the Company's appointed actuary and may be amended in response to changes in the risk profile of remaining claims.

### **Material Accounting Policies**

### **Accounting Policies Related to Insurance Contracts**

The Company's portfolio of insurance contracts consists of general insurance policies held by AMI Insurance customers who are entitled to make a claim under their policy for the Canterbury earthquake events that occurred between 4 September 2010 and 5 April 2012. The Company no longer carries out any underwriting business and its reinsurance contracts are extinguished. The Company therefore has no insurance service income or insurance asset.

- Insurance service expenses include changes in the estimated future cashflows relating to the liability for incurred claims, and changes in the risk adjustment.
- Insurance finance expenses comprise the change in the carrying amount of the liability for incurred claims arising from the effect of the change in the time value of money.
- Insurance contract liabilities solely comprises *liability for incurred claims (LIC)*.
  - LIC is the Company's obligation to investigate and pay valid claims for insured events that have already occurred, including events that have occurred but for which claims have not been reported, and other incurred insurance expenses.
  - The LIC is measured as the estimate of future cash flows that arise from a substantive obligation under a group of insurance contracts, discounted for the time value of money, then adjusted to reflect the compensation for bearing the uncertainty about the amount and timing of the cash flows that arise from non-financial risk.

# **Critical Accounting Estimates and Assumptions**

In preparing these forecast financial statements, the Company has made estimates and assumptions concerning the future. These estimates and assumptions may differ from the subsequent actual results and the variations may be material.

Estimates and assumptions are continually evaluated and are based on expectations of future events that are believed to be reasonable under the circumstances. The estimates and assumptions have significant risk of causing material adjustment to the carrying amount of the assets and liabilities within the forecast financial statements.

### Significant judgements and estimates in valuing the LIC

In measuring the fulfilment cash flows (FCF) of the LIC, the estimation of the number of incurred but not reported claims and the ultimate cost of all unfulfilled claims involves a number of key assumptions and is the most significant accounting estimate.

### Process to determine estimates and assumptions

# Estimates of future cash flows to fulfil insurance contracts

Estimated claim payment patterns have been used to determine the liability for incurred claims. The payment patterns adopted are based on the best estimate of when the payments are likely to be made. Assumptions used to develop estimates about future cash flows are determined separately for payments in relation to the Package and the remaining run-off of earthquake claims. The assumptions are reassessed at each reporting date and adjusted where required. The assumptions have not changed in the current financial year.

Most outstanding earthquake run-off claims are overcap in nature. The key uncertainty in deriving the liability for incurred claims is estimating the quantity of future overcap claims that are not yet reported. A projected settlement size for the reported and not yet reported claims is estimated using the Company's cost assessment data and recent trends in historic settlement values relative to cost assessments.

### Claims handling expenses

A provision for claim handling expenses is included in the future cash flows that make up the LIC. These are the forecasted direct costs of administering the claims, plus an allocation of fixed and variable overheads that are considered directly attributable to fulfilling insurance contracts. This overhead allocation is based on the proportion of direct claims handling personnel engaged by the Company (i.e. for back-office personnel costs, rent and depreciation), or based on the outputs generated by the overhead function (such as internal audit, actuarial services and other consultancy costs).

# Allowance for uncertainty - the risk adjustment

The risk adjustment represents the level of compensation required such that the Company would be indifferent between a certain compensation and the uncertain insurance liabilities. The Company has taken a confidence level approach and has expressed the risk adjustment as a percentage of the discounted LIC. The level of risk adjustment is intended to achieve 75% probability of adequacy.

### Discounting

Future cash flows are considered illiquid, as policyholders have limited avenues to receive an upfront or earlier payment after lodging a claim. The Company has therefore adopted the bottom-up approach method to determine the discount rate applied to future cash flows. The discount rate is based on the selected risk-free discount rate, plus a duration appropriate illiquidity premium.