

Rt Hon Jacinda Ardern

Minister for Arts, Culture and Heritage

Statement on the 40th Anniversary of the Erebus Accident

Date: 24 January 2020

Title: Proactive release of Cabinet Material: *Statement on the 40th Anniversary of the Erebus Accident*

Author: Ministry for Culture and Heritage

This document has been proactively released by the Minister.

Title: CAB-19-MIN-0608 Minute of Decision: Additional Item: Statement on the 40th Anniversary of the Erebus Accident, dated 18 November 2019



Cabinet

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.

Additional Item: Statement on the 40th Anniversary of the Erebus Accident

Portfolio Prime Minister

On 18 November 2019, Cabinet:

- 1 **noted** that the Prime Minister intends to make a statement of apology at the 40th anniversary commemoration of the Erebus accident on 28 November 1979;
- 2 **noted** that the statement of apology will contain the following points:
 - 2.1 clarifies the facts of the matter;
 - 2.2 apologises for the delay in tabling the report of the Royal Commission of Inquiry;
 - 2.3 apologises for the actions of an airline, then in full state ownership, which caused the crash;
 - 2.4 builds on earlier apologies from the airline and acknowledgement from the government in relation to poor treatment of the families after the accident;
- 3 **noted** that the statement has been developed with input from the Ministry for Culture and Heritage, the Ministry of Justice and the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet; and has been reviewed by Crown Law;
- 4 **noted** that the statement does not create liability or risk for the Crown.

Michael Webster
Secretary of the Cabinet

Hard-copy distribution:
Prime Minister
Deputy Prime Minister