

Media Release

Building implosion a sign of progress

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The implosion of Radio Network House on Sunday morning is another sign of progress in the Christchurch rebuild, says Canterbury Earthquake Recovery Authority (CERA) chief executive Roger Sutton.

"This is more than the demolition of a building," Mr Sutton says.

"It is a symbol of the beginning of a new era for Christchurch. We are now looking beyond those buildings that are lost, and to the birth of a new central city."

"While it is sad to see buildings such as Radio Network House go, they will make way for an exciting new central city as outlined this week in the Christchurch Central Recovery Plan. There is now a real sense of momentum building in the city."

The implosion of Radio Network House is the first of its kind in Christchurch since the earthquakes. The building is a good contender for implosion because it has few neighbours and is sound enough for demolition workers to enter to rig it for the implosion.

A detailed demolition plan was put forward which has met the strict criteria required.

Other buildings such as the Hotel Grand Chancellor and Copthorne Hotel in Durham Street have been considered for implosion, but for various reasons it was considered impractical.

If Sunday's implosion proves successful, it is possible other earthquake damaged buildings will be demolished by the implosion method, which is faster and cheaper than other methods being used.

Proposals to implode buildings are considered by CERA on a case by case basis.