

4 July 2013

Community Forum
Private Bag 4999
Christchurch 8140

Meeting notes for the meeting of the CERA Community Forum
Thursday 4 July 2013, 6.00pm
Canterbury Club, Durham St North

Present:

Community Forum members:

Richard Ballantyne, Leah Carr, Belinda Charteris, Weng Kei Chen, Leanne Curtis, Martin Evans, Wendy Gilchrist, Ruth Jones, Paul Lonsdale, Trevor McIntyre, Lesley Murdoch, Jocelyn Pappill, John Peet, Bruce Russell, Patricia Siataga, Emma Twaddell, Brian Vieceli

Apologies

Gill Cox, Tom McBrearty, Deborah McCormick, Faye Parfitt

Chair

Darren Wright

In Attendance

Hon Amy Adams, Associate Minister for Canterbury Earthquake Recovery

Jane Bryden, Office of the Hon Gerry Brownlee, Minister for Canterbury Earthquake Recovery

Don Chittock, Programme Manager – Strategic Programmes, Environment Canterbury

Alan Matheson, City Planning Team Leader, Christchurch City Council

Terry Wynyard, Land Recovery Coordinator, Earthquake Commission

Bruce Croucher, Senior Advisor – Remediation Projects, Ministry for the Environment

Benesia Smith, Deputy Chief Executive, Corporate and Governance, CERA

Caroline Hart, General Manager, Recovery Strategy and Planning, CERA

Jacinda Lean, General Manager, Office of Chief Executive, CERA

Jane Morgan, DCE Advisor, Social and Cultural Recovery, CERA

Carmen Hammond, DCE Advisor, Corporate and Governance, CERA (note taker)

Advisor, Recovery Strategy and Planning, CERA

Withheld under section 9(2)(a)

1. Notes Of The Last Meeting

(The 20 June meeting was cancelled due to bad weather)

Moved

That the meeting notes from the 6 June 2013 meeting be confirmed as an accurate record.

Carried

2. Matters Arising

Nothing to report

3. Land Repair Consenting – Caroline Hart, General Manager, Recovery Strategy and Planning, CERA

Caroline Hart outlined a joint-agency proposal to streamline consenting requirements for landowners seeking to repair their earthquake damaged land:

- The key parties involved with this work are CERA, Christchurch City Council, Environment Canterbury, the Ministry for the Environment and the Earthquake Commission.
- Repairing earthquake-damaged land could include digging, filling in land, or strengthening layers of soil (eg, by compacting or other methods) where the land is more vulnerable to liquefaction.
- Under the current rules some of these activities will require resource consent – even for smaller level repair work.
- The Earthquake Commission estimates that between 20,000 and 30,000 properties will need to obtain resource consent to undertake land repair activities on flat residential land within Christchurch under current regional and city plan rules.
- The aim between the parties has been to manage unacceptable environmental effects but to allow for the repair of earthquake damaged land without consent for repair activities where particular conditions are met. This will reduce the requirement for some activities to go through the process and cost of gaining resource consent.
- Proposals –
 - Environment Canterbury: Instead of needing to assess the activity against multiple rules in multiple plans, a single rule is being recommend in the regional plans which addresses all activities
 - Christchurch City Council: Will authorise land repairs as a permitted activity subject to meeting certain conditions.
- The proposed rules set a range of conditions which must be complied with for land repair to be permitted. If the repair does not comply with the conditions of the rule, resource consent is required.
- The proposed changes have been developed with input from planning, environmental, flood management, and geotechnical experts. The councils have considered comprehensively the potential environmental impacts.
- Resource consent will still be required where the land is potentially contaminated and where land repair works trigger the thresholds under the National Environmental Standard for Assessing and Managing Contaminants in Soil to Protect Human Health. It is not proposed that the NES would be altered as it serves an important function of protecting human health.
- In Selwyn and Waimakariri no changes are being proposed because there are less land damage claims and the existing thresholds for earthworks means less consents would be required.
- There will be a one-stop-shop located at Christchurch City Council premises to provide one 'consenting system' for the landowner to navigate, including issuing consents from both agencies under one application.

4 July 2013

- CERA seeks the Forum's feedback on the potential use section 27 of the Canterbury Earthquake Recovery Act 2011 to make the changes to the the Natural Resources Regional Plan (NRRP), the proposed Land and Water Regional Plan (pLWRP), the Waimakariri River Regional Plan (WRRP) and the Christchurch City District Plan provisions which cover permitted activity thresholds for earthworks for land repair related to Earthquake Commission settlements of residential land damage.

Discussion/comments:

- The Forum supported the proposals as an excellent way forward.
- The central point of entry through the 'one stop shop' is a good concept and needs to be supported by joint communications from the agencies involved.
- A lack of geotechnical engineers could slow down the process.
- There needs to be a linkage to flood zone impacted people.
- Confirmed that vibration standards are included in the proposed changes, not just noise standards.
- Need to consider the economic impact/cost to the householder - low income earners in particular. Terry Wynyard (EQC) noted that the cost of getting a geotechnical engineer to oversee the more substantial land repairs would be covered by EQC payments and that claims would remain open if additional costs were incurred by the landowners that were appropriate to the claim.
- Land repair sign-off needs to be transparent so that the householder can have confidence that it has been done properly. Alan Matheson (Christchurch City Council) noted that there are currently standards in place which landowners and geotechnical engineers can rely upon to undertake good practice repairs.
- The Forum suggested various ways to make sure that communications and information released is most useful and understandable for landowners.

ACTION: Subgroup to prepare written feedback/advice on land repair consenting proposals by Friday 12 July.

4. Canterbury Wellbeing Index – Jane Morgan, DCE Advisor, Social and Cultural Recovery, CERA

- Prior to the earthquakes, quality of life tracked close to the national average. As at 2012, an earthquake effect is apparent but there was also a national decrease which indicates that other factors, such as the global financial crisis may have also had an impact.
- When asked if their quality of life had changed since the earthquakes, 54% of respondents reported that it had decreased significantly or to some extent. Groups that are less likely to report a high quality of life are: people living in temporary accommodation, Maori, and people aged 50-64.
- Prior to the earthquakes, high levels of stress tracked close to the national average. As at 2012, while there has been a corresponding increase across New Zealand (which may reflect the impact of other factors such as the global financial crisis), the increase has been greater in Christchurch.

- There are a number of levels of psychosocial support services:
 - **Basic services and security** – These ‘whole of population’ services generally provide information about support services as well as self-care resources and messaging. For example, the ‘All right?’ social marketing campaign and the 0800 Canterbury Support Line.
 - **Community and family supports** – Large numbers of people can maintain their mental health and psychosocial well-being if they receive support from key community and family contacts.
 - **Focused, non-specialised supports** – These supports are necessary for a smaller number of people who require more focused individual, family or group interventions by trained and supervised workers (ideally selected from within the affected community). For example the Earthquake Support Coordination Service and Relationships Aotearoa’s free counselling services.
 - **Specialised services** – These services target the small subset of people who require specialised psychological or psychiatric supports. This assistance should include psychological or psychiatric supports for people with severe mental disorders whenever their needs exceed the capacities of primary/general health services. For example, specialised CDHB mental health services (both pre-existing and new): Child, Adolescent and Family (Inpatient and Outpatient) Mental Health Services (CAF) and Te Kuuwaha o te Whakaora Hinengaro single point of entry for adult community mental health services.
- The total number of adults seeking pre-existing mental health services has not increased significantly since the earthquakes. This may suggest that the provision of psycho-social support services has prevented increases in demand for more specialised mental health services. However, there has been an increase in demand for acute inpatient mental health services amongst 0-17 year olds since late 2012.
- Average private weekly rents are continuing to increase at a faster rate than the national rental average, including Auckland. Further analysis of the vacancy rate across the whole of the private sector rental market shows that it has fallen sharply from 3.6 per cent in 2010 to 2.8 per cent by December 2012.
- The next wellbeing survey will include health and disability questions.
- The Canterbury Wellbeing Index results are shared with central agencies.

Discussion/Comments

- The Canterbury Wellbeing Index provides good data to show the health of the community although it would also be useful to get data at the suburb or group level.
- Withheld under section 9(2)(f)(iv)
- There will be important variances in the results for the disabled, mobility impaired, and unemployed groups.
 - Accommodations costs in the Selwyn district have increased and there is lack of supply for rental accommodation.
 - Forum members discussed whether the business community is using this information to better support their workers, who are impacted the same as everyone else, and whether a best practice approach has been developed.

ACTION:

Withheld under section 9(2)(f)(iv)

5. Alcohol Policy – Brian Viecei

Brian discussed the Christchurch City Council's draft alcohol policy from an industry point of view and a business owner's perspective and noted:

- Misuse of alcohol is not just a Canterbury problem and it affects the whole community.
- The main issues are: opening and closing hours, noise, pre-loading, immediate community/neighbourhood impact.
- 75% of alcohol is purchased off-premises.
- The industry wants to invest money wisely, therefore there needs to be careful thinking and clear rationale behind the policy.
- Is the timing right, why change this policy now? Why not get the inner city going first?
- Learn from other New Zealand city centres – Wellington's policy is based on a best practice model.

Discussion:

- Changing the rules will not change the drinking behaviour of young people. Need to focus on the behaviour and culture.
- Victoria Street residents never had problems with the Casino and surrounding bars until now.
- Important to keep the young 'student' community here in Christchurch. University students make choices about what university they attend because of the social life activity that is on offer.
- Independent travellers will not be deterred from visiting the city if the rules are too restrictive.
- Important that this policy is not out of step with the rest of the country. Need to consider best practice.

ACTION: Sub-group to prepare written feedback/advice on draft local alcohol policy by Monday 8 July.

6. Local Government Elections

- The next Local Government elections will be held on 12 October 2013 for city and district councils, regional councils and district health boards. Candidate nominations open on 19 July 2013 and close on 16 August 2013.
- Existing members of the Forum may be intending to campaign and stand for positions on regional councils, territorial authorities (district and city councils), local community boards, district health boards and licensing trusts.
- The Forum has a unique role and statutory function in relation to Canterbury earthquake recovery.

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*CERA Community Forum
Meeting Notes*

4 July 2013

- As there is no direct guidance for Ministerial appointments such as the Forum in Local Government elections available, Forum members should agree a policy on this.

Chair Darren Wright proposed the following motion

If a Forum member is standing for a position as stated above, the member will stand down from Community Forum from their nomination date. If the member is successful, the member will resign from the Forum. If unsuccessful, the member will be welcomed back.

Seconded by Trevor McIntyre
Carried

7. Matters outstanding

- Hon Amy Adams, will attend every third meeting to provide a regular update to the members.
- The Forum had suggested that a Christchurch City Council representative could be invited to attend all Forum meetings. J Bryden advised that Christchurch City Council should be considered a key stakeholder and invited to attend Forum meetings where relevant, depending on the agenda items to be discussed.

Next Meeting – Thursday 18 July 2013, Canterbury Club

Meeting closed 8 pm

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Community Forum 4 July

Canterbury Wellbeing Index data: key points



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Canterbury Wellbeing Index

Pre and Post Quake Social Recovery Analysis

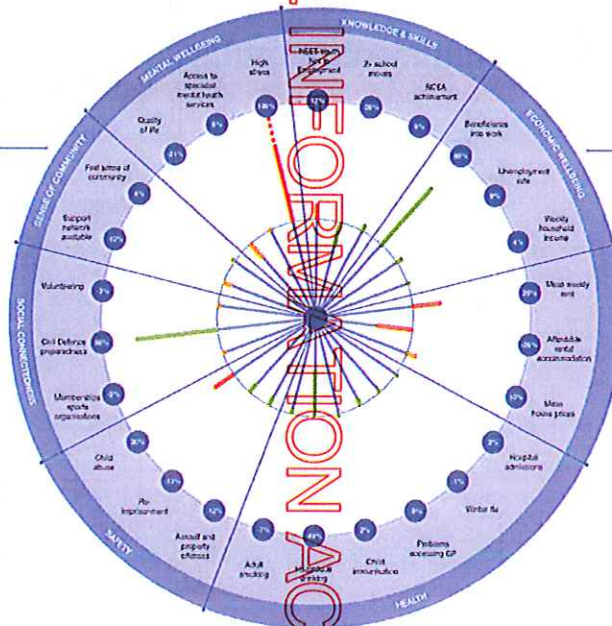
- **FAVOURABLE**
By comparison to pre-quake
- **NEUTRAL**
Average has not changed
- **LESS FAVOURABLE**
By comparison to pre-quake
- **PRE-QUAKE AVERAGE**
Represents average outcomes for each indicator pre-quake.

Interpreting changes in social recovery 2008-10 to 2012


The spider diagram uses 'spokes' to represent changes in each indicator.

- the blue dotted circle represents average data prior to the September 2010 earthquake (where possible using 8 two-year averages); and
- the spokes represent average data after 2011 (where possible using data for the entirety of 2012).

Longer spokes represent greater change. However, there is no relationship between indicators in magnitude of change. Spokes extending out from the blue circle indicate increases, and spokes extending inwards indicate decreases.





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SOCIAL RECOVERY

Psycho-social data



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CERA Wellbeing Survey findings: vulnerable populations

SOCIAL RECOVERY

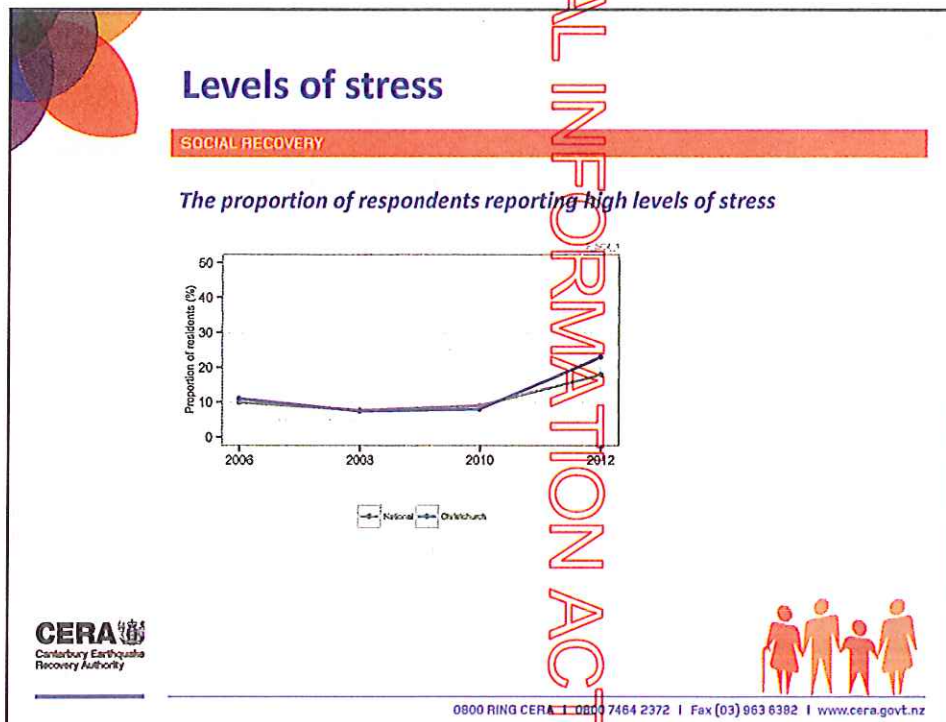
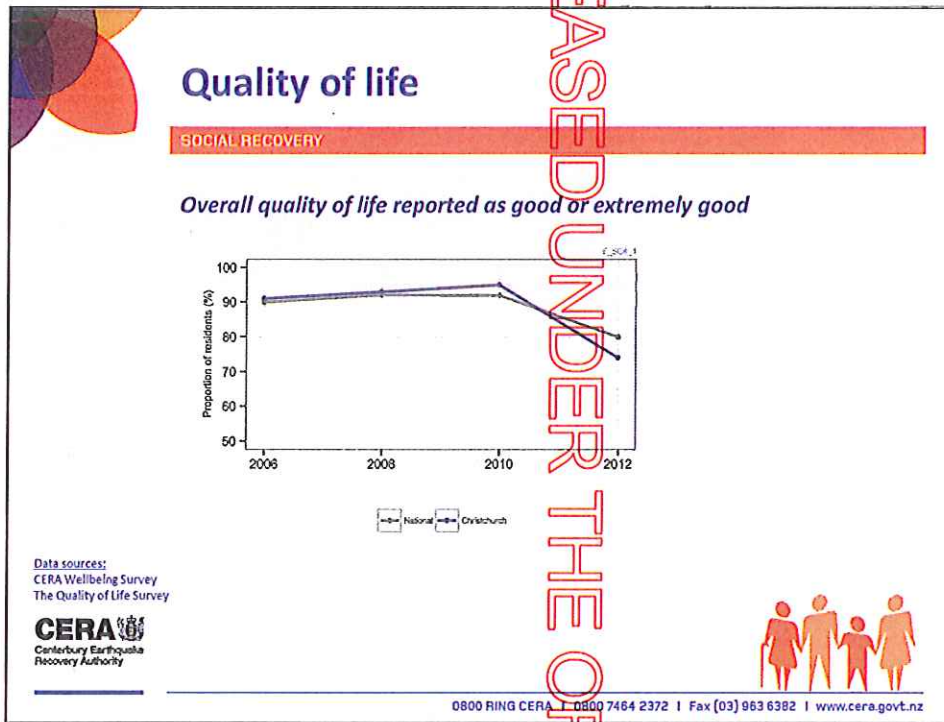
Most affected groups:

- residents of Christchurch city (vs SDC or WDC)
- people aged 35-49 and 50-64
- women
- people in temporary accommodation
- Maori



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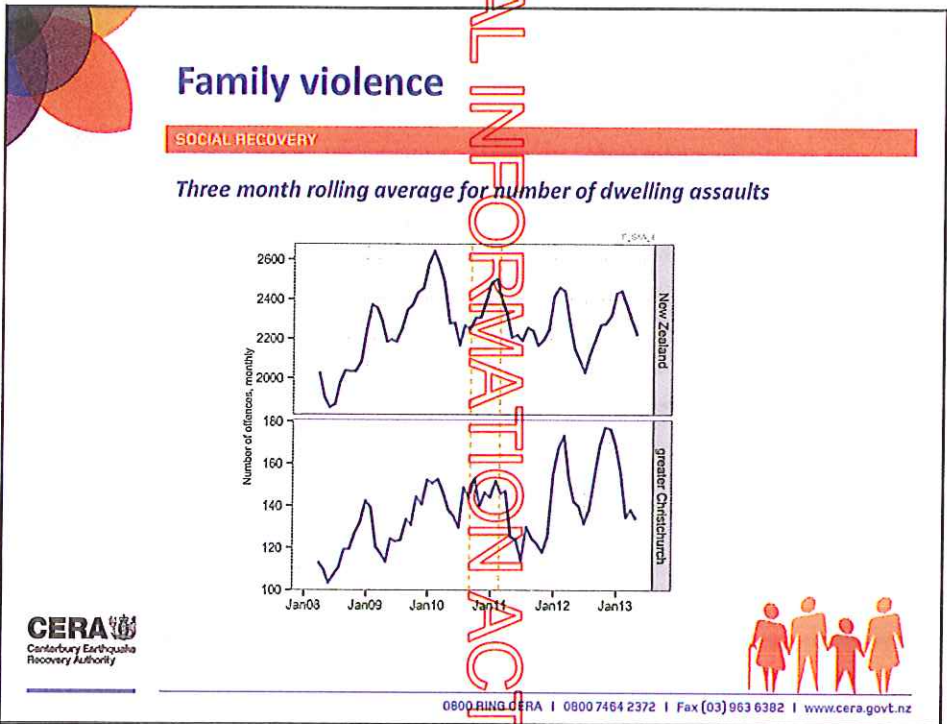


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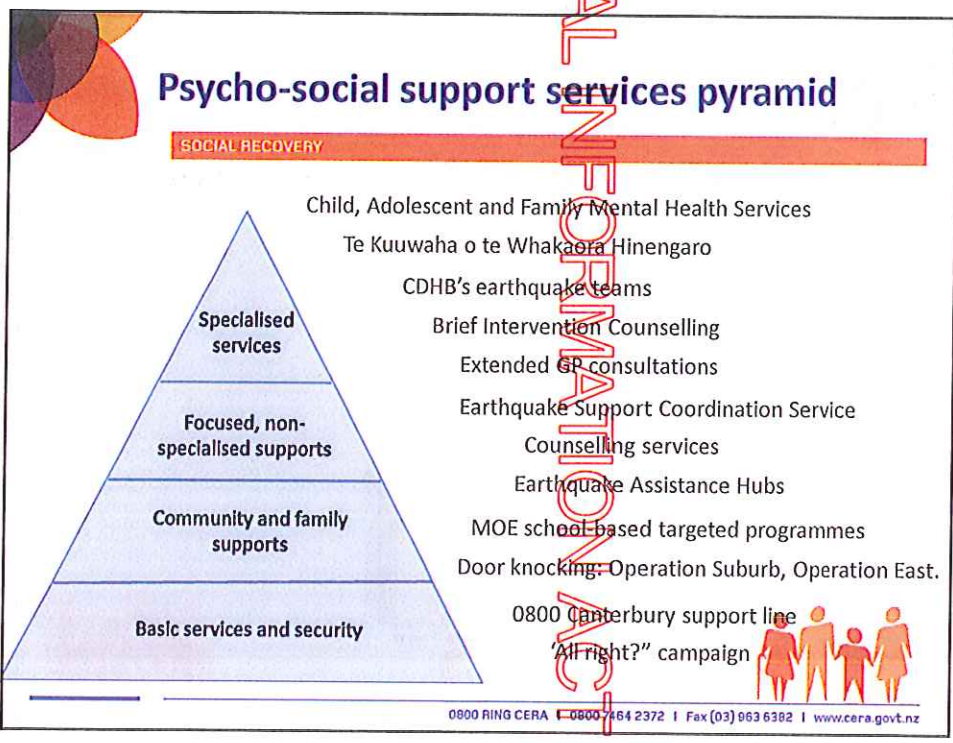
Stressors

SOCIAL RECOVERY

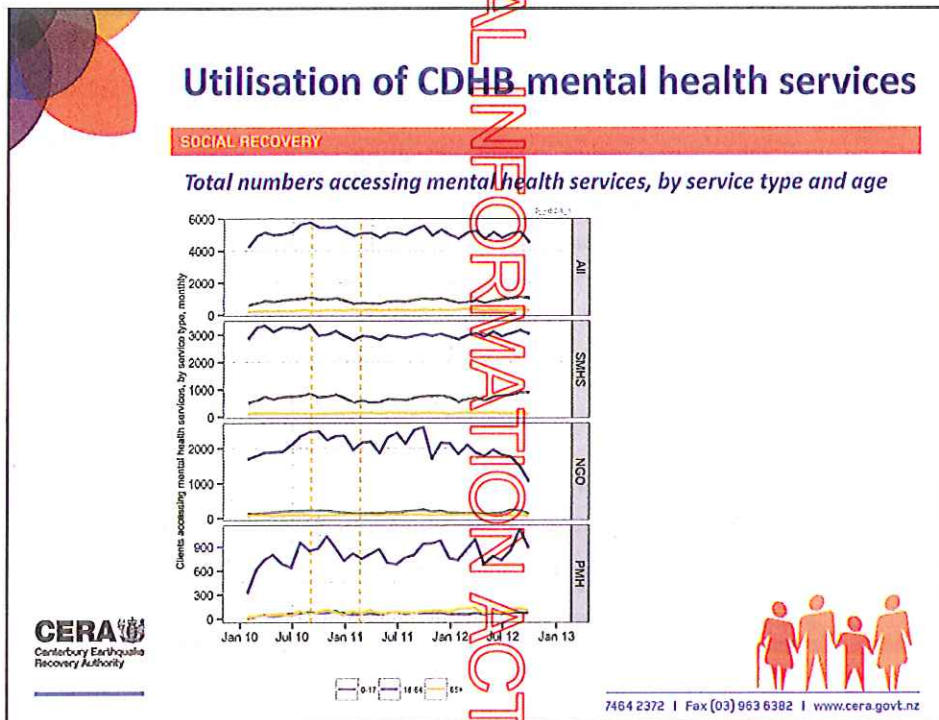
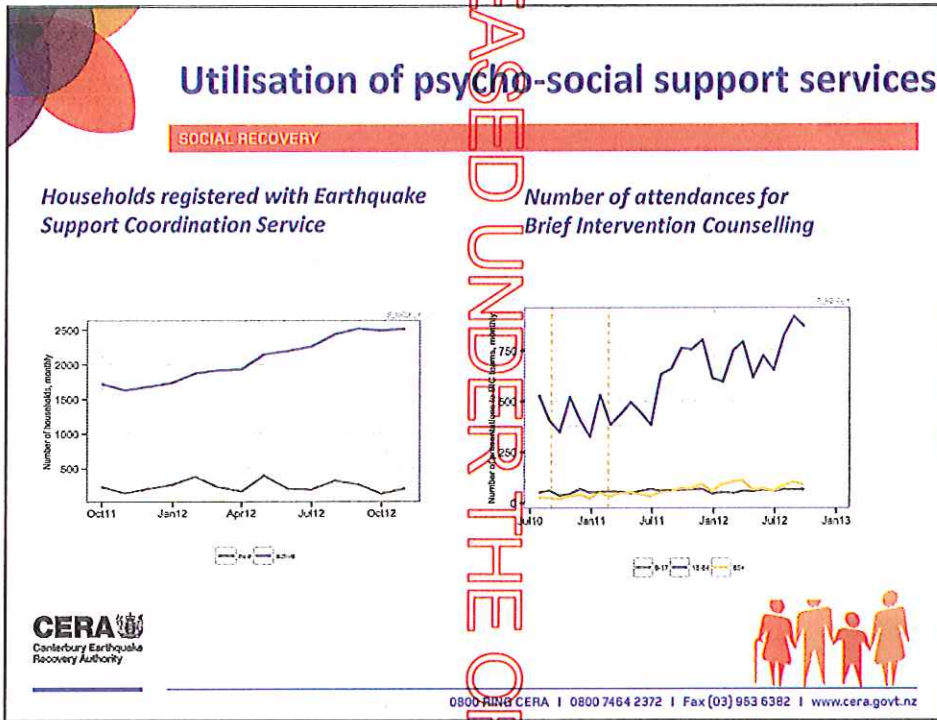
Negative Outcome	% of the population who experienced each issue	% of population who reported a high negative impact
Distress or anxiety associated with ongoing aftershocks	66%	42%
Dealing with EQC/Insurance issues in relation to personal property and house	65%	37%
Loss of other recreational, cultural, and leisure time facilities (cafes, restaurants, libraries, marae, arts and cultural centres)	69%	34%
Being in a damaged environment and/or surrounded by construction work	52%	30%
Uncertainty about my own or my family's future in Canterbury	46%	30%
Making decisions about house damage, repairs and relocation	54%	29%
Additional work pressures (e.g. workplace relocation, workload increasing as a result of the earthquakes)	45%	27%
Additional financial burdens (e.g. replacing damaged items, additional housing costs, supporting family members)	45%	26%




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SOCIAL RECOVERY

Youth data



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SOCIAL RECOVERY

Youth employment

Data source:
HLS, March 2013

Indicator	Greater Christchurch	NZ	Numbers (GC)
Unemployment rate (whole population)	4.5%	6.5%	13,100
Unemployment rate (20-24 year olds)	5.1%	10.9%	1,700
Unemployment rate (15-19 year olds)	25.6%	25.6%	3,900
NEET rate (not in education, training, employment)	11.6%	13.7%	8,500
NEET rate (females)	15%	17%	4,900
NEET rate (males)	8.8%	10.4%	3,600


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SOCIAL RECOVERY

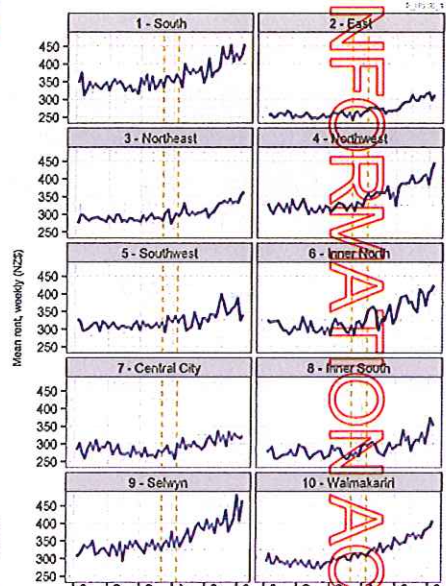
Housing data

CERA
Canterbury Earthquake
Recovery Authority




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Rental market

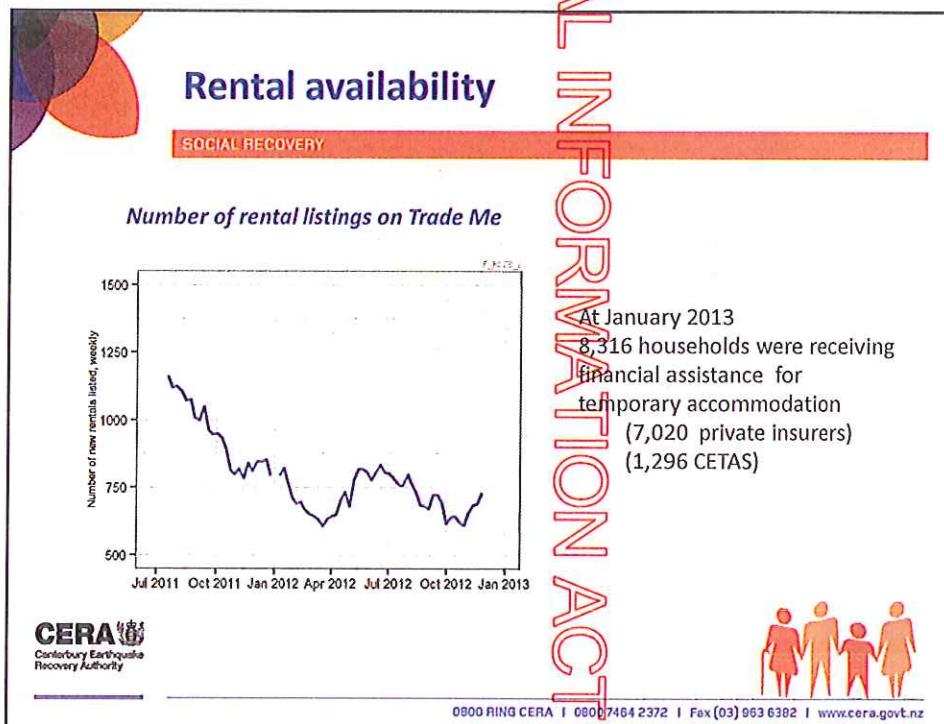
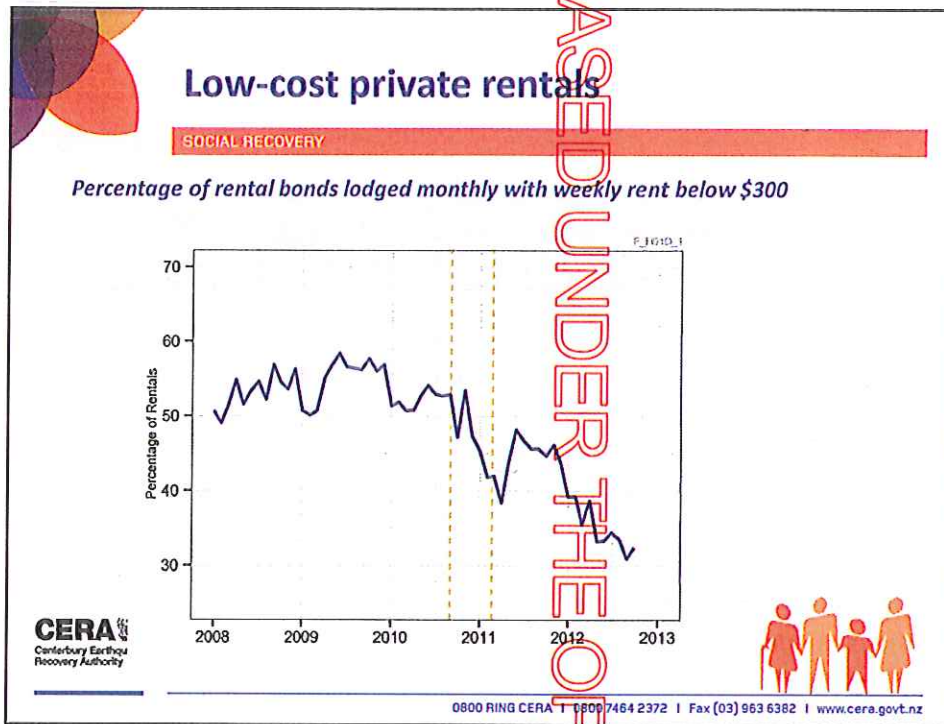


Change in mean weekly rent:
(three months to February 2010
and three months to February
2013)

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People in temporary accommodation



SOCIAL RECOVERY

Earthquake impact	People in temporary accommodation	Rest of population
Positive rating for overall quality of life	58%	74%
Quality of life has decreased	70%	54%
Have experienced relationship problems	42%	28%
High negative impacts of dealing with EQC/insurance over personal property	55%	19%
Have experienced additional financial burdens	74%	45%
Have experienced transport-related problems	52%	36%
High negative impacts of dealing with frightened, upset or unsettled children	30%	18%

Key points

SOCIAL RECOVERY

- 10 June to CER
- 26 June public release of the data and stakeholder session – multiple agencies attending
- Greater Christchurch Strategic Psychosocial Plan – cross agency support required to co-lead and deliver this plan
- Residential Advisory Service/vulnerability criteria
- Wellington-based agencies to maintain a ‘greater Christchurch lens’ when planning service delivery and workforce supports
- Particular focus on prioritising youth people’s wellbeing (employment opportunities and mental wellbeing)
- CERA and MBIE led Housing Recovery Programme



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Land Repair Consenting

Community Forum: 4 July 2013

Potential use of CER Act s. 27 powers to make amendments to regional plans and City Plan



Christchurch City Council
Environment Canterbury Regional Council
Kaitiaki Take Kōwhiri

Overview

- 1.Context
- 2.Proposed amendments
- 3.Supporting processes
- 4.Your feedback

Insert key priorities here

2

Context

Some land repair activities require resource consent

Issues:

- Current thresholds set at low levels
- Complexity of plans
- Burden on landowners - time-consuming and costly
- Number of resource consents
- Burden on Council

Insert key priorities here

3

What options were considered?

- A normal RMA process
- Recovery Plan
- Order in Council
- Global Consent
- Section 27 CER Act (**recommended**)

Insert key priorities here

4

Proposed Amendments

ECan:

- Multiple plans to consider (NRRP, PLWRP)
- Condensed to single rule
- Geographic scope and implications (SDC/WDC)
- New standards (e.g. dewatering)

CCC:

- straight forward / small size = permitted
- more technical or complex / larger volumes = permitted with engineer oversight
- contaminated sites, flood areas, highly technical repair methods = resource consent
- Definitions, rules, advice notes
- New standards (e.g. noise and vibration)

Alignment between CCC and ECan's rules

Insert key priorities here

5

Examples where consent still required

- Discharges into waterways which contain high concentrations of sediment
- Placing treated timber piles into confined groundwater in a community well protection zone
- Injecting large volumes of cementitious grout into land or groundwater
- Dewatering on site where previous activities may have caused ground contamination
- Certain types of excavation on landfill sites as example

Insert key priorities here

6

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What the amendments achieve?

- Focuses on the important issues and most risk
- Ensures Human Health and Environmental safety
- Most land damage repairs will not require consent
- Focus control of repairs based on locations and repair type



Supporting Processes



Insert key photo

5

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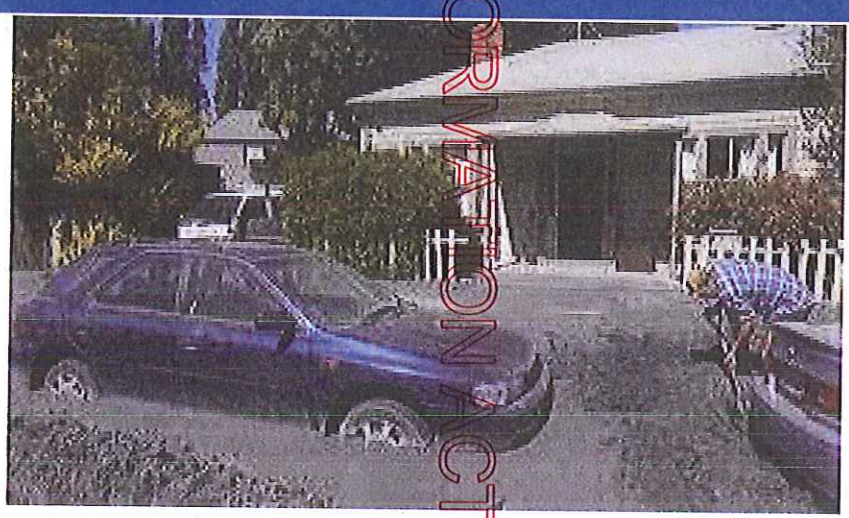
Section 10 CER Act Test

1. Section 27(2)(a) of the CER Act
2. Section 10 of the CER Act has two subsections which must be satisfied for any exercise of power by the Minister:
 - (i) The Minister must ensure that when he exercises a power under the Act he does so for the purpose of the Act; and
 - (ii) The Minister may exercise the power where he reasonably considers it necessary.
3. Preliminary assessment of proposals

Insert key priorities here

9

Request for feedback



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EXTRA SLIDES

Insert key priorities here

11

Proposed amendments

Where EQC makes a payment for repairs on flat residential land, the draft provisions will allow following:

Permitted Repairs	'simple' land repairs = permitted activity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> to a maximum of 50m³ volume of fill (cumulative) 2000m³ in a Rural Zone, or In a Flood Management area not more than 10m³ shall be above ground level.
Permitted with Engineer overseeing repairs	Some more 'substantial' repairs = permitted activity but to be designed, supervised and certified by a suitably qualified and experienced registered engineer.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> From 51m³ to a maximum of 250m³ volume of fill (cumulative).
Consent Required	Consent will still be needed to authorise <u>more extensive earthworks or where standards are not met</u>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> where over 250m³ volume of fill is required, or if standards are not met, addressing such matters as: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Depth and volume of earthworks Erosion and sediment control Depth/volume/weight/concentration of cements and grouts Engineering certification.

COMMUNITY FORUM

c/- Office of the Chief Executive, CERA
Private Bag 4999, Christchurch 8140

10 July 2013

Diane Turner
Deputy CE Recovery Strategy, Planning and Policy
CERA

Dear Diane

Earthquake-Related Land Repair: Streamlining Consenting Requirements

The Community Forum set up under section 6 of the Canterbury Earthquake Recovery Act 2011 provides the following information and advice as referred below.

- The Forum congratulates the CCC, ECAN, EQC, CERA and other parties for their commitment to work together in creating a co-ordinated one stop shop for earthquake related land repair consents. This piece of work represents the leadership and co-ordination of resources that the people of Canterbury have been looking for in this recovery.
- The Forum, whilst not in a position to comment on the legality of the use of the CER Act to enforce this change, would request that it be completed and brought into action in a timely fashion and not left to wait. People are receiving EQC payouts now and therefore need this clarity now.
- The Forum supports the notion of three tiers of consenting requirements as a clear and simple process but would like further information on how this will be monitored.
- The Forum believes that in order to make this change effective in our communities work will need to include:
 - The issuing of a fact sheet aimed at homeowners that clearly sets out why this change has been made, what the change is, how it affects home owners and what their responsibilities are, if they have any. Some sort of easy to understand volume statement would also be extremely useful (ie 50cum is roughly a trampoline area).
 - Homeowners need to be informed, in their own language, on the process of Engineers issuing their PS certificates, what they mean, why they are important and how they affect them now and in the future.

- They also need to be informed on how to ensure your Engineer is correctly qualified.
- Where a PMO is involved the homeowner must be given information on what it is they should receive in terms of documentation from the PMO and the importance of keeping this information for future reference (consents, PS4s, Code Compliance etc). The Forum suggests that the work carried out to date by MBIE be extrapolated to cover this.
 - The Forum questions why this should only apply to earthquake damage and whether it should be extended to create an across the board policy. The Forum would like more information on how earthquake damage will be defined and monitored to ensure this is only used for earthquake damage. Residents need a very clear understanding of what triggers the use of this consenting process.
 - The Forum requests clarification from EQC as to the payments being made for land damage and the "open cheque" nature of those payments. EQC stated in our meeting that if costs associated with land repair exceed the payments made residents should pass those costs back to EQC, including costs associated with Geotech and Engineer reports. We request further clarity on this statement.
 - The Forum requests further clarity on the Port Hills with respect to this, why does it not apply in this area and what the process will be for Port Hills residents. It is important that any communication on this policy include this information so Port Hills Residents understand it.

Conclusion

The Forum congratulates those involved in this process as it has been a fantastic example of what can be achieved by true cross party co-ordination and collaboration. This proposal represents the type of leadership and co-ordination that to date has been limited in the recovery process. The Forum requests that this be enacted as soon as possible and that it be backed by clear and concise communications to ensure an informed and pro-active community.

Yours sincerely

Darren Wright
Chair, Community Forum

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