

Earthquake recovery update

CERA
Canterbury Earthquake
Recovery Authority



ONE YEAR ON

1,000 workers working on roads and the 3 waters (water supply, stormwater and sewer). This number is expected to peak at 3000 to 4000 by late next year

24kms of water mains damaged – 100% of city now has access to reticulated water (excluding CBD) – permanent repairs will be undertaken over a five year period

52 wells repaired since 22 Feb

500,000 tonnes of silt from liquefaction removed from properties and roads from earthquakes

600 km roads seriously damaged – 20 roads are currently closed not including CBD – permanent repairs will be undertaken over a five year period

50,000 truck movements in and out of the red zone

300 km sewer pipes to be replaced

11 km of large diameter pressure mains replaced

600 11kV power cable faults – now repaired

600 people in 80 odd crews are working in the CBD red zone every day to deconstruct buildings and clear the sites for redevelopment

546 buildings have been demolished and the sites cleared for the rebuild

40% of damaged buildings five stories or higher will be demolished by September 2012, with the balance tendered and work under way. Demolition of all those CBD buildings less than five stories that need to come down will be completed by February 2012

180,000 homes in green zone

4,840 residential red zone property owners have been made an offer to purchase their property by the Crown

7,800 households are in the orange zone awaiting decisions on their land



With 'quake damage behind them, Corinne Hardy young (left), 2 year old Logan Young and Fay Hardy admire the city garden's Spring flowers.

What will recovery look like to you?

That's the question being asked of everyone in the greater Christchurch area as CERA seeks comments on its draft Recovery Strategy for the region.

"This strategy is about how we are all going to recover from the earthquakes, so it's really important that people go to the CERA website, read the Strategy and let us know what they think." CERA Chief Executive Roger Sutton says.

The draft Recovery Strategy is a suggested road map for recovery from the 2010 and 2011 earthquakes, including direction for major activities needed to make the recovery well co-ordinated, effective and timely.

It is also the overarching document into which a series of more specific recovery plans and programmes for greater Christchurch will feed. One of these is the Central City Plan, the draft of which was released by the Christchurch City Council in August. Other plans and programmes that fit under the Strategy include the Economic Recovery Plan; the Worst Affected Suburbs Programme; the Land, Building

and Infrastructure Recovery Plan; the Built Heritage Recovery Plan and Education Renewal Recovery Plan. These plans and programmes will contain the detailed methods and actions essential for recovery.

The best way to read the document and comment on it is to visit www.cera.govt.nz. A summary of the strategy and a comment form were also delivered to households in greater Christchurch in mid September. Extra copies of these are available from Council service centres and libraries in the greater Christchurch area.

A series of information sessions has been held on the Strategy but people are welcome to run their own discussion groups before individuals or groups make online or hard copy comments. If you would like to run your own discussion group on the Strategy, visit the CERA website for guidelines and a presentation that you can use to lead your meeting.

People are able to comment on the draft strategy until Sunday 30 October.

"Big ticket" job needs a social conscience



Richard MacGeorge
CERA GM – Infrastructure

Richard MacGeorge is Christchurch-born but with an infrastructure policy and finance career spanning no fewer than 38 countries, including Mozambique, Sri Lanka, Laos, Vietnam and Tanzania and sometimes in difficult, under-developed or post-war areas. Among his many tasks have been organising a national infrastructure investment plan for Tonga and leading the financial advisory team for a \$US1100 million power station in Thailand.

He now heads CERA's infrastructure team, overseeing what he calls "big ticket physical things that serve people's lives" such as land-supply, buildings, roads, power, water and sewerage. His overseas experience can be drawn on in helping Canterbury's recovery, he says, but "none of it equips you fully for something like this".

"It's not just about fixing pipes, or the like, it's about having a strong social conscience and focusing on a goal of happy, productive people. In the short-term, insurance issues, plus land-supply and affordability for those dislocated, may be among the big issues, but we can't ever forget long-term targets of people's livelihoods, of productivity and not least the need for recreation, arts and culture. Having said that, resources are not unlimited, so we'll need to be creative."

Richard, who is married with three children aged from 16 to 20 and has a house he describes as "a write off" in one of the orange zones, experienced the 13 June aftershock, but shares a "sense of guilt" with other locals away from the area on 22 February. "My family was in Christchurch, but I was in Vietnam. It made me think seriously about allegiances, and I realised my bonds were here."

At CERA, he says, "I'm merely an organiser of a group of really talented and dedicated people who are trying to strike the right balance between getting things done fast and done in the right way".



Gerry Brownlee
Canterbury Earthquake
Recovery Minister

A number of residential red zone property owners have already taken up the Government's offer to purchase their properties. I'm sure these weren't easy decisions and I wish these people well.

We know many more are intending to take up the offer and I know some are unsure where they will live. In June CERA requested information about potential residential land developments and is currently working hard analysing these. A range of issues must be considered, but I am confident CERA can facilitate a significant amount of land reaching the market in the near future.

I appreciate that for many of you living in land still zoned orange, the wait for some certainty about your land is extremely frustrating.

Unfortunately, where land is still zoned orange the decisions are not as clear-cut as they were where land has been zoned green or red. The issues are complex from a geotechnical and economic perspective.

I assure you we never forget we are making difficult decisions about the land people have chosen and the homes they have built. The Government will not sign off those decisions without sufficient robust and detailed information to reflect and justify the importance of those decisions.

I must ask you draw on a little more patience for a little longer.

Frustrations waiting for insurance companies to write new policies are well documented though not universal with a lot of people managing to secure new insurance. Many of you will be aware I recently travelled to Monaco to attend the Reinsurance Rendezvous, an event which brings together representatives from all of the world's larger reinsurance providers (the companies which effectively insure the insurance companies), along with brokers, lawyers, accountants, actuaries, risk managers and others. While there, I hosted over 14 meetings and spoke with all the major reinsurance companies. We need them to commit to insurers operating in New Zealand and to New Zealand.

They are understandably cautious about the risk here.

We presented information reflecting our extensive knowledge of the seismic risk, about how we are assessing land damage and zoning for ongoing use, and about the building standards we propose. Our intention was to help these companies understand the risk and how we are managing and mitigating that risk.

These companies are in the business of risk. It is my firm belief they will return to the insurance market here when they are comfortable the risk is acceptable. Exactly when that will be I cannot tell you, but Government intends to show proactive leadership throughout the recovery and rebuild of our city. I appreciate the overwhelming support so many of you have expressed for the approach we are taking.

Gerry Brownlee



Roger Sutton
CERA Chief Executive

It's now just over a year since a 7.1 magnitude earthquake struck Canterbury and seven months since a tragic aftershock took so many lives. Since those events, people have had to try to cope with devastating loss; of family and friends, of businesses and jobs and in thousands of cases, of their homes.

Looking back over the past 12 months, however, the resilience of fellow Cantabrians seems just as remarkable as the disasters we've been through. Yes, some have left the province, and I don't blame them for doing so, but the mass exodus that a few commentators predicted after 22 February has not happened. While we move from winter to spring, and from short-term emergency responses to more long-term planning, as reflected in this update, the region might not be fully blossoming yet but we see the first buds.

Instead of gradually stagnating business-wise, as feared by the most pessimistic, we have extra activity, ranging from commitments by large companies to stay and expand, to the smallest one or two-person firm operating in innovative new ways – for example in a temporary shipping-container, a caravan or from a rival business's office. Exports and imports from major ports and the airports are higher than the same period last year and have leapt since the February earthquake, while manufacturing has been expanding since May and at a rate higher than the rest of New Zealand.

This all amounts to a faith and indeed a love for this region that I share with other locals. Of course, there are huge problems to be addressed yet both in the suburbs and CBD. For some, life will never be the same and for others it could take years, not months, to feel that a daily, less-stressful, routine has been restored. We welcome input from those of you who have urgent needs still not met – and I admit this is all unprecedented and we will make mistakes – but I want to hear good news stories too. It's vital one year on that we reflect, honestly, on what has happened but equally important, for the future of Canterbury, to celebrate this season of hope.



Workshops for Christchurch residential red zoned residents

If your property is in Christchurch, has been zoned red and you have received your letter of offer from the Government, do you know what you want to do next? Do you know what is involved and who you need to talk with?

A series of workshops organised by CERA from Monday 3 October until Friday 14 October are interactive sessions where residents can talk about their issues and have their questions answered by industry and government experts. They include how to respond to the Government's offer, insurance, banking, and what to do about housing.

Getting sorted for summer

The Earthquake Commission (EQC) aims to settle all contents claims by Christmas – as long as Canterbury residents have valid, fully completed forms in by Labour Day (24 October).

EQC National Claims Manager, Gail Kettle, says EQC is committed to paying claimants who suffered damage to their home's contents in the Canterbury earthquakes.

"EQC intends to assess and pay all contents claims by Christmas 2011. However, in order to do that, we need to receive correctly completed schedule of contents forms, along with the required receipts, valuations and quotations. The more information claimants can provide, the quicker we will be able to assess and pay the outstanding contents claims."

As of 14 September 2011, EQC had received a total of 163,824 contents claims. EQC has assessed and closed 53,056 claims, however there are approximately 80,000 claims that are unable to be processed because of a lack of documentation.

EQC aims to settle these contents claims as quickly and as efficiently as possible, says Ms Kettle.

"As a result of publicity we're currently running about the Labour Day deadline, we expect a possible spike in claims so have brought on extra claims staff to help speed things up and settle more claims faster."

Ms Kettle says EQC will settle claims in the order in which they are received and urged Canterbury residents to get their outstanding contents claims in by October 24.

"We are working towards getting all complete contents claims paid by Christmas, so you'll be sorted for summer."

For further information, or for help completing your contents claim, contact 0800 DAMAGE (0800 326 423) or visit www.canterbury.eqc.govt.nz where you can also download a contents schedule form.



White to green for more than 9700 properties in Port Hills

ISSUES

In the Port Hills, the issues have largely involved potential rock fall, cliff collapse, land slips and risks of that nature.

ASSESSMENT

Extensive geotechnical assessment supported the decision to rezone most of the Port Hills to green as it had shown a low geotechnical hazard risk.

REZONED

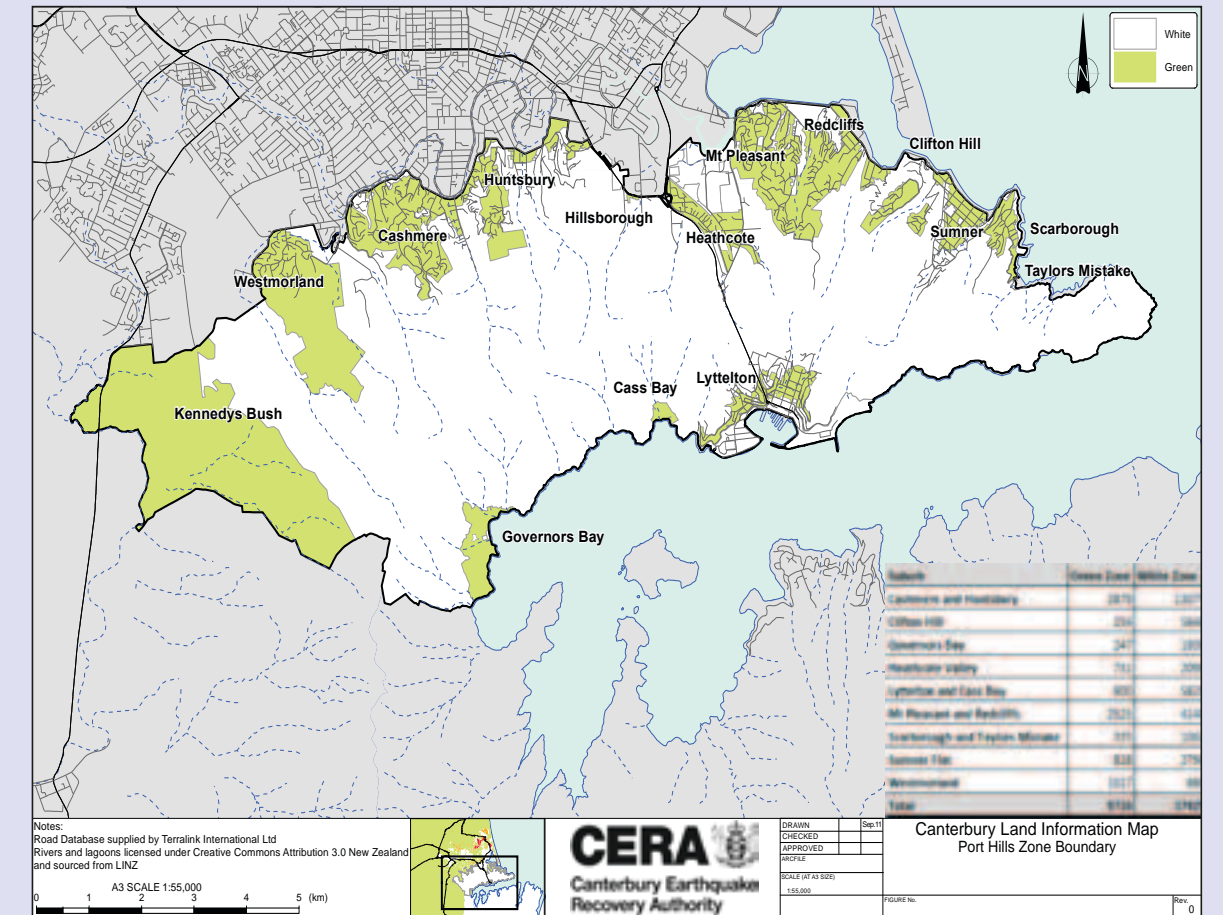
More Port Hills land will be rezoned green soon, once further investigation and assessment is completed.

WEBSITE

The www.landcheck.org.nz website has been updated to reflect the new zoning.

INFORMATION

A letter from CERA was posted to the Port Hills area homeowners with further information on Tuesday 6 September 2011.



ON THE MOVE



Homeowners receive first red zone settlement

Roger Sutton of CERA with Keith and Margaret Moran from Dallington, who received the first residential red-zone property payout from the Government earlier this month.

What happens after purchase settlement in the residential red zone?

Over the next two years red zoned communities will be on the move as households complete their purchase settlement and leave their suburbs.

"It's a big move for everyone," says CERA chief executive Roger Sutton. "When people get their money, the reality and scale of the next stage will literally be brought home."

"I encourage people working towards settlement to start thinking early about what this will mean in a practical sense, planning what to take, and what to leave behind, realising that once you have settled your sale with the Crown you can't go back, and the property will become a work site."

"It's about saying goodbye to one place, and becoming connected to a new place. Most importantly people should ask for support when they need it."

The first demolitions in the residential red zone will begin soon. People should be aware that demolition will be total and the property site will be left clear. The pattern of demolitions in the early phase will be determined by where purchase settlements have been completed.

Moving house:

- **Chattels and fixtures** – You may take any chattels with you before settlement. You can only take any fixtures that CERA have agreed to you taking as part of your settlement arrangements with the Crown. Chattels are items that are not fixed to your land or your home; fixtures are physical property that is permanently attached or fixed to your home and may damage the house if removed. Anything that you leave behind will, on settlement, become the property of the Crown and will be removed and disposed of.

- **Moving on** – You will have to move out of your home before the settlement date. When you hand keys over to CERA ownership of anything that remains on the property will pass to the Crown. You will not be able to re-enter the property after the settlement date.

Demolitions may begin in your neighbourhood soon. You can expect:

- **A busy place:** Contractors will be hard at work; plan to take time out.
- **Traffic management:** Please take particular notice of signage.
- **Heavy vehicle movements:** Contractors will be required to take care but residents will need to stay aware and cautious. Please supervise children.
- **Police reassurance** and security patrols will increase.
- **Fenced properties and work sites:** Soon after ownership of a property transfers to the Crown the property will become a work site. Please do not enter. As demolitions begin properties will be more dangerous than they were as a result of earthquakes and aftershocks.
- **Services to your property:** There should be no disruption to services such as power or phone. However, if a service is interrupted please contact the service provider directly.
- **Dust and debris control:** CERA requires demolition contractors to control dust and to secure trucks transporting debris. However there is likely to be some dust, particularly on windy days.

Need more information?

www.cera.govt.nz
0800 RING CERA (0800 7464 2372)
landinfo@cera.govt.nz

Residents asked to conserve water



Mark Christison
Christchurch City Council
Water and Waste Manager

Christchurch residents face water restrictions this summer as a result of earthquake damage to the city's water supply infrastructure.

For the last two weeks, residents have been asked to conserve water in preparation for the water restrictions, which are expected to be introduced next week.

Christchurch's water supply systems were badly damaged during the 4 September, 22 February and 13 June earthquakes. These will be the first water restrictions in the city for 13 years.

"We are working hard to repair reservoirs and drill new wells but we need Christchurch residents to limit their outdoor water use. This is a city-wide problem," says Christchurch City Council Water and Waste Manager Mark Christison.

"The infrastructure required to pump water around the city on a peak-demand summer day, has been severely damaged by earthquakes during the last 12 months.



"We need to reduce the outdoor water consumption across the city this summer, as the damaged water infrastructure can not support this level of demand over the summer months," he says.

"If we don't start conserving water now and reduce the traditional high summer time outdoor water demand, watering bans will have to be imposed for the city – which is not something Christchurch gardening enthusiasts want to hear."

Mayor Bob Parker says the restrictions are necessary to ensure we can supply Christchurch residents with the indoor water they need as summer approaches.

"I understand that this may feel like another blow following the quakes, but it is a problem that shouldn't come as a surprise to residents. We are renowned for being the Garden City, and while we want to retain this image, particularly in summer, we do have to be clever in how we use water this year."

Residents urged to take care with research requests

While there are hopeful signs the seismic event we are experiencing is lessening over time, there is still an enormous amount of interest from the wider research community in establishing the impact it has had on people.

While the Canterbury seismic event is unprecedented on a world scale there is concern that researchers can intrude on people's lives when they are at their most fragile.

CERA consultants Dr Sarah Beaven, and Associate Professor David Johnston have some words of caution for Canterbury residents who are approached to become part of a research project.

"Ask to see proof of their ethics approval."

Dr Beaven and Associate Prof Johnston say in the initial aftermath of the earthquake the National Controller of the emergency response was concerned to protect the community from research pressure, and had the power to deny researchers access to quake affected people, if the research was not necessary for response purposes.

However, when the National Emergency ended, researchers did not have to seek official approval to approach people. Dr Beaven says the National Hazard Platform group, of which she is a member, which co-ordinates the research effort into earthquakes, is keeping a watching brief on the large number of research projects looking at various facets of the event.

Her concern is while people may be happy to be part of some research, they need to know it is not compulsory they become involved, and participants can always withdraw from research at any stage of the process.

"People can say no if they do not want to be part of a research project. And if they are not sure if the research is legitimate then they can ask to see proof that the researcher has received ethics approval from an appropriate ethics committee."

Associate Prof Johnston says there are a huge amount of learnings from the earthquake that need to be shared with the rest of the world, but that research needs to be of high quality and sound to make it worthwhile.

"So it's imperative all research meets the standards expected by the academic community and seeking ethics approval is one of the core standards."

Dr Beaven is happy to assist anyone who has concerns about becoming involved in an earthquake research project. She can be contacted by email at Sarah.beaven@canterbury.ac.nz



Associate Professor David Johnston
CERA Consultants

Dr Sarah Beaven

Your central city red zone – work progressing quickly

Central city cordons have now reduced by more than half the original size from when the central city was closed following the 22 February earthquake.

CERA General Manager Demolition, Warwick Isaacs says there is no doubt that CERA is making good progress in the central city.

"Work is progressing at speed. Demolitions in the Cashel Mall area are substantially completed, opening the way for the construction of new temporary structures for the Re:Start project.

"Progress in Cashel Mall is an excellent example of how private enterprise and the public sector can work together to reopen the city.

"The cordon will be progressively reduced, with targets for Christmas 2011, Waitangi Day and Easter 2012. There will be some cordons remaining around large buildings after Easter, but as few as possible."

The reduction of the CBD red zone is dependent on:

- the completion of the full or partial demolition of dangerous buildings,
- demolition of buildings for economic reasons,
- engineering requirements on remaining buildings being met,
- traffic management plans being in place before the cordon is reduced.

To find the latest information on cordon reductions, check out www.cera.govt.nz.