

23 January 2012

Our Ref No: 10520

Royal Commission of Inquiry
Into Building Failure Caused by
the Canterbury Earthquake
PO Box 14053
CHRISTCHURCH 8141

Attn: Mark Zarifeh

Dear Mark

Request for extension of time to file submissions on Building Assessment After Earthquakes

I refer to your telephone conversation with Judith Cheyne on the above matter. The Council requests an extension of time for filing submissions to enable full and proper consideration by Councillors of issues related to building assessment after earthquakes.

Building assessment after earthquakes deadline and hearings

You will be aware that the Royal Commission's submissions schedule sets a deadline for the filing of submissions for "the process of and authority for building assessment after earthquakes (sticker/placarding)" of 17 February 2012.

The media release from the Royal Commission on 18 January 2012 outlined that this matter will not now be heard in March, as earlier indicated. The new date for this hearing will be established once the Government has made a decision on the Royal Commission's request for an extension of time for its final report.

Council's additional URM submission and workshop with Councillors

The Council will be filing its additional submission related to URM Buildings, as agreed with the Royal Commission, on 20 February. We are holding a workshop with the full Council on 7 February to discuss the issues arising from this submission with them, and so they can reach a view on the submission to be made to the Royal Commission on the remaining URM buildings issues.

At present the workshop on 7 February is also planned to cover matters related to the building assessment after earthquakes issue, so that staff have time to prepare that submission as well for filing by the deadline of 17 February.

Extension of time sought to enable Council to hold two separate workshops on the two matters

Both topics require a considerable amount of information to be conveyed to the Councillors. To try and cover both issues in one 3 hour workshop will not do justice to the issues or the understanding of the Councillors.

CG:FP

TRIM: 11/372003

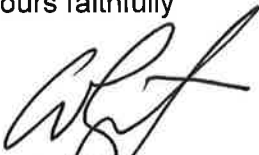
It would be greatly appreciated if the Council could have an extension of time from the 17 February date to the end of March, or at least the 17 March, to make submissions on this topic.

This would give sufficient time for two separate workshops for the Councillors where they can more fully address both issues carefully so that a considered submission can be provided to the Royal Commission on each topic.

With the hearing date extended for the building assessment after earthquake matter, and with so many other matters for the Royal Commission to consider before that issue can be heard, we hope it would not be inconvenient for the Royal Commission to receive Council's submission at a later date.

I look forward to hearing from you as soon as possible with regard to this request. You can also telephone me on 941-8561, if you would like to discuss my letter, or to advise about the extension request.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'CG', written over a horizontal line.

Chris Gilbert
Solicitor
Manager Legal Services