

To

The Canterbury Earthquakes Royal Commission

Roles & Responsibilities:

In my view, pertaining to structural engineering:

1. The users, occupants and anyone in the vicinity of any building should have a fundamental right to be informed of seismic risks associated with that building.
2. The Report of the IPENZ Structural Engineering Taskforce into the state of practice in structural engineering in New Zealand should be re-examined and relevant issues investigated further, including risks associated with existing newer buildings.
3. The level of peer review of structural design is, and has been, insufficient. Peer reviews should be undertaken primarily under the umbrella of MBIE or by an independently selected reviewer.
4. The producer statement system should include for peer review of engineering observation during construction (ie PS5).
5. Mandatory reporting to MBIE should be a requirement when substandard engineering is encountered during peer review.
6. MBIE should be responsible for implementation and enforcement of the requirements of the Building Act. This should include structural engineering practice. A pro-active and stricter approach with clarity on minimum standards is needed.
7. The 10 year time-frame in the Limitation Act is considered insufficient when considering latent design and construction defects with the seismic resisting systems of buildings.
8. The current legal, regulatory and insurance frameworks result in significant hurdles for enforcement associated with substandard construction.
9. Some transparency should be provided of the process by which the terms of reference of the royal commission were established.

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