

**UNDER THE COMMISSIONS OF INQUIRY ACT 1908**

**IN THE MATTER OF ROYAL COMMISSION OF INQUIRY INTO  
BUILDING FAILURE CAUSED BY  
CANTERBURY EARTHQUAKES**

**KOMIHANA A TE KARAUNA HEI TIROTIRO I  
NGĀ WHARE I HORO I NGĀ RŪWHENUA O  
WAITAHA**

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**SUBMISSION ON "FOUNDATIONS ON DEEP ALLUVIAL SOILS" REPORT**

**DATE OF HEARING: 25 OCTOBER 2011**

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- 1.1 The purpose of this submission is to record that further research is currently in progress in relation to the state of soils in the Christchurch city central business district (“CBD”).
- 1.2 Tonkin & Taylor have been conducting a comprehensive ground investigation and geotechnical assessment in the CBD. This work includes both surface and sub-surface investigations. Tonkin & Taylor will divide the CBD into a number of zones and will produce a comprehensive factual report for each zone, along with a full interpretative report into central city soils.
- 1.3 The purpose of the Foundations on Deep Alluvial Soils Report is to set out only a general review of the alluvial soils found in the CBD (per Section 1, page 1). Section 4 of the Report discusses only observed liquefaction after the earthquakes. As the Tonkin & Taylor reports will also include the results of sub-surface investigations, the reports should be significantly more detailed than the Foundations on Deep Alluvial Soils Report, in relation to the analysis of CBD soils.
- 1.4 The Tonkin & Taylor reports were commissioned by the Canterbury Earthquake Recovery Authority (“CERA”). The Council is being advised of progress on the investigations as an interested party, and the preliminary findings from the Tonkin & Taylor research were taken into account in the writing of the draft Central City Plan.
- 1.5 As the Tonkin & Taylor reports were commissioned by CERA, the Council cannot provide the results of the research to the Royal Commission, as this is not information within the control of the Council.
- 1.6 However, given that Tonkin & Taylor’s research into CBD soils is more detailed than that carried out for the Foundations on Deep Alluvial Soils Report, the Council asks that Tonkin & Taylor’s findings are considered before any final recommendations are made by the Royal Commission.

7 October 2011

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 Peter Mitchell  
 General Manager  
 Regulation and Democracy Services  
 Christchurch City Council

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Date