

From: Ken Smith [mailto:ken.smith@kapiticoast.govt.nz]
Sent: Friday, 28 October 2011 8:40 a.m.
To: Sara Jamieson
Subject: Review of Earthquake Prone Buildings policy

Morning Sara. In response to the request for information I can confirm that Kapiti Coast District Council has not as yet reviewed its current (2006) Earthquake Prone Buildings Policy. It was decided by Council that our review would be best to wait until the findings of the Royal Commission of Enquiry were completed as it was concerned and suspects that some changes to the definition of earthquake prone building will be made. Given that Council is required to follow the consultative process in the Local Government Act 2002 it was considered that it would be inappropriate to commence that process now with the potential for that to be repeated after the enquiry if a recommendation for change was an outcome. In addition as Kapiti's commercial building stock is either relatively modern or consists of older timber framed buildings (pre 1976) up to two storeys in height there are no building at catastrophic risk of collapse. In regards to what steps Council will take once the policy is reviewed (mid 2012) the process will include, communication with property owners and tenants and the general community during the consultative process required under the Local Government Act. Council has no knowledge of any action by insurers in regard to earthquake strengthening following the Canterbury earthquakes.

Incidentally the current thoughts of Council officers is that the level of strengthening of buildings required under the Building Act 2004 is too low (33%) and would like to see a higher target of 67% but have been advised that to do so would be unenforceable under the current legislation.

Regards



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