
From: Clare Hadley [mailto:clare.hadley@rangitikei.govt.nz]
Sent: Friday, 28 October 2011 12:38 p.m.
To: Sara Jamieson
Subject: EARTHQUAKE PRONE BUILDING POLICIES

I refer to your letter of 27 October.

Rangitikei District Council was in the process of reviewing its EQPB policy at the time of the Christchurch earthquake; a report was considered at its meeting on 24 February.

It released a draft policy for consultation from 14 March-15 April. Included in that period was a focus group with the commercial sector; historic property owners; other interested/affected parties. The turnout for that focus group was very poor.

Council considered the issue at its meeting at the end of May and adopted its proposed policy. The main change was the introduction of requiring building owners to have parapets and masonry chimneys checked and either strengthened or removed if deemed necessary (at the owner's cost); and modifications to buildings may proceed without requiring additional strengthening work provided the work undertaken does not further weaken the building. At this stage, no implementation steps have been taken regarding

Council's EQPB policy, first adopted in 2006 set some medium term targets which would have impacted on the community and on Council directly. (Our own Council administration building would not have complied – we would have required a new building by 2011.)

In 2009 this policy was reviewed, and whilst all outcomes remained the same, the target dates were altered, ie pushed out.

The policy adopted this year pushes these dates out further, but proposes lower cost, pragmatic interventions which aim to reduce risk:

- Removal of assessments of potentially earthquake prone buildings in each town centre;
- Removal of the requirement for building owners to undertake New Zealand Society of Earthquake Engineers' based evaluations of potentially earthquake prone buildings;
- A new requirement to have parapets and masonry chimneys checked and either strengthened or removed as deemed necessary within five years (at owners' cost)

The overwhelming issue for this Council and community is one of affordability.

I am unaware of any change in approach to the earthquake strengthening of existing buildings from insurers.

I should note that two or three educational institutions have already undertaken strengthening work.

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