

## 7 Riccarton Road

Hearing: Wednesday 14 December 2011, 9.30am

### Summary

The building that was situated at 7 Riccarton Road was a two-storey stand-alone unreinforced masonry building, housing a second-hand bookshop.

After a Level 1 Rapid Assessment on 6 September 2010 it was green placarded by an engineer conducting assessments on behalf of the Council.

The next day a Level 2 Rapid Assessment inspection by a structural engineer, David Elliott, on behalf of the tenant, noted cracks in the façade. The building was green placarded.

This was confirmed by Mr Elliott in another brief inspection 2 days later.

Then on 11 September 2010 a further Council Rapid Assessment inspection by a building inspector and an engineer was carried out following a concern expressed by the tenant. This inspection resulted in a yellow placard, because of concerns with cracking to the façade.

Subsequently, after a further investigation by Mr Elliott on or about 17 September 2010, he completed a CPEng certificate stating that the building's "condition is not considered worse than prior to EQ".

The Council accepted the CPEng certificate and the placard was changed to green and re-occupation allowed.

In the February earthquake Henry (Ross) Bush was killed as he sat in his motor vehicle parked outside 7 Riccarton Rd, when the façade collapsed out onto the street and onto his vehicle.

### Proposed Witnesses:

1. Peter Smith, Spencer Holmes Ltd, structural engineer
2. Christchurch City Council

3. Nigel Harwood, structural engineer inspected on 6/9/10
4. David Elliott, Aurecon, structural engineer
5. Russell Officer, CCC inspector on 11/9/10
6. Vaughan McMillan, structural engineer inspected on 11/9/10
7. Ross Kain, CCC inspection on 19/10/10 (written statement only)
8. David Yan, owner
9. Morris North, tenant
10. Robert Ling, structural engineer
11. Lynette Andrell, neighbour (written statement only)
12. Beth Adam, CCC employee (written statement only)

### **Likely Issues**

1. Application of the Council's earthquake prone policy to the building
2. Assessment of the building after the September earthquake
3. Assessment of the building after the Boxing Day aftershock.
4. The CPEng documentation required to change building placard.