

**IN THE MATTER OF
THE CANTERBURY EARTHQUAKES ROYAL COMMISSION**

**STATEMENT OF ANDREW WILLIAM AYERS
21 MAY 2012**

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1. My full name is Andrew William Ayers. I live in Christchurch.
2. I have been employed as a fire fighter by the New Zealand Fire Service (**Fire Service**) since 2001. I am presently a qualified fire fighter driver at the Christchurch Central Fire Station, a position I have held since approximately 2003. Prior to becoming a fire fighter I worked as a trade certified carpenter for about 10 years. In approximately 2003 I joined Urban Search and Rescue (**USAR**). I hold the position of Team Leader in Task Force 2 (**TF2**) based in Christchurch. As a member of NZFS and USAR, I have been involved in the response to several natural disasters including the Greymouth tornadoes in 2005 and the September 2010, December 2010, February 2011 and June 2011 Canterbury earthquakes.
3. I have been asked to give evidence to assist the Royal Commission with its inquiry in relation to the CTV Building on Madras Street and my role with the building after the Boxing Day earthquake.
4. On 26 December 2010 I was on duty with the Fire Service. When the earthquake struck my appliance responded by heading into the city. Most people were evacuating and leaving the city. We did what we could to assist and attended multiple alarm activations. There was a lot less damage in the central business district than I had seen following the September earthquake.
5. On 27 December 2010 I was instructed to join TF2 at the base in Woolston. Paul Burns (of NZFS and USAR) and one of the USAR engineers provided the task briefing and told us that USAR assistance had been requested. I do not recall who had requested our assistance but I remember that it was because most people were away and on holiday at the time.
6. We were tasked to undertake a rapid visual survey from street level of damage to buildings to check for any obvious signs of immediate danger to the public. We were given 'USAR Damaged Building Reconnaissance Report' forms to fill out. We were told not to worry about whether damage looked old or new.
7. The criteria we used to assess buildings on 27 December 2010 was very different to the sort of criteria that I imagine a structural engineer might use. We were only concerned with issues of immediate public safety, such as buildings that were at obvious risk of collapse or where materials had, or were, falling off and were posing a risk to people or property. If we saw

anything that looked serious, we would phone up the TF2 engineers and request their assistance.

8. In relation to the CTV building, my colleague and I completed a visual survey of the building from each direction. This included the alley between the CTV building and the Arrow International building. I noticed that there was glass on the ground which had come from the Arrow building. We also went up the alley between the Arrow building and the AA building. The older building next to the new Les Mills had many bricks that had fallen down, as did the back of Occidental Hotel (on Hereford Street). We spent quite some time blocking off public access to the areas around these buildings. It is likely that we noted on those report forms that an engineer's assessment was required.
9. From all angles the CTV building looked fine to me and did not appear to pose an immediate danger to the public. There was no obvious structural damage, obvious cracking in the columns, and no tell-tale signs on the ground e.g. spalled concrete. The only damage I observed was one broken window and pieces of glass which had fallen out onto cars in the car park below. We applied temporary hazard tape around the area beneath the broken window. I noted my observations on the report form for the CTV building (BUI.MAD249. 0167-2). I estimated that the overall damage visible from the street was 0 – 1%. Based on what I saw I did not consider that an engineering assessment was required.
10. When we had finished our surveys, we would have taken the completed forms back to the Woolston base. I cannot recall whether I gave the form to any one in particular. I was not involved with the CTV building again prior to 22 February 2011 or after the building collapsed.

This statement is true and correct to the best of my knowledge and belief and was made by me knowing that it may be used as evidence for the purposes of the Royal Commission of Inquiry into the Canterbury Earthquakes.

Dated 21 May 2012



A W Ayers

USAR Damaged Building Reconnaissance Report

Name Andy Gys Time _____ Date 27/12/10

Building Description	Address <u>219 Madras St.</u>	Construction (tick more than 1 if required)	Use (tick more than 1 if required)
	Building Name <u>CTU</u>	<input type="checkbox"/> Timber frame	<input type="checkbox"/> Dwelling
	GPS Coordinates (if available) _____	<input type="checkbox"/> Steel frame	<input type="checkbox"/> Multi Residential (No. _____)
	No. of stories at and above ground _____	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Concrete frame	<input type="checkbox"/> Public assembly
	No. of stories below ground _____	<input type="checkbox"/> RC frame / masonry infill	<input type="checkbox"/> School
Approx year of construction _____	<input type="checkbox"/> Concrete shear wall	<input type="checkbox"/> Religious	
	<input type="checkbox"/> Unreinforced masonry	<input type="checkbox"/> Commercial retail	
	<input type="checkbox"/> Confined masonry	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Commercial offices	
	<input type="checkbox"/> Other _____	<input type="checkbox"/> Industrial	
		<input type="checkbox"/> Government	
		<input type="checkbox"/> Heritage	
		<input type="checkbox"/> Other _____	

Damage / Hazards	Damage / Hazards	Estimated Overall Building Damage				
		Minor	Moderate	Severe		
	Collapse, partial collapse	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	0-1%	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
	Building or storey leaning	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	2-10%	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Parapet damage	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	11-30%	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Overhead falling hazard	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	31-60%	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Ground movement, settlement	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	61-99%	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Endangering neighbouring building	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	100%	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Endangered by neighbouring building	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		
	Glass Hazard	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		
Other / general damage description comments...				Photos Taken Y <input type="checkbox"/> N <input type="checkbox"/>		
<i>2m x 1m window on 2nd floor South face is broken & in danger of falling or collapse</i>						

Actions	Cordon / Public Safety	Engineering assessment required Y <input type="checkbox"/> *(Blue) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
	Temporary hazard tape applied <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> N <input type="checkbox"/>	Call me to discuss <input type="checkbox"/>
	Additional cordon / fencing required Y <input type="checkbox"/> *(Pink / Red) N <input type="checkbox"/> Urgent <input type="checkbox"/>	Urgent <input type="checkbox"/> Non-urgent <input type="checkbox"/>
	Non-urgent <input type="checkbox"/>	My contact phone _____
	Imminent danger to public reported to USAR command for action Y <input type="checkbox"/> N <input type="checkbox"/>	*(Lime Green)
Comments...		
*(colours noted are to be marked on maps)		

(CCC Office Use) - Entered into CCC Database Cordon requested Rapid eng assessment requested