



Ref: 6888

**SUBMISSION TO THE CANTERBURY EARTHQUAKES ROYAL COMISSION:
BUILDING MANAGEMENT AFTER EARTHQUAKES**

FROM: Adam Thornton/Alistair Cattanach/Paul Brimer

1. Dunning Thornton are a Wellington-based structural engineering consultancy with a staff of 21. Our notable specialties include damage control design structures and heritage seismic retrofit.
2. We have participated in the ACENZ/IPENZ submission on this topic (Adam Thornton) and concur generally with the submission.
3. We do however believe there is one aspect not dealt with in the original discussion paper, nor in the ACENZ/IPENZ submission. This relates to the difficulties of defining "an event" and the processes and responsibilities for defining a "trigger level".
4. We are concerned that for small events, the current public culture could demand that a large number (thousands for Wellington) of buildings are inspected before re-occupation. This could be extremely disruptive and potentially un-necessary if the accelerations are low.
5. This was evident in Wellington recently after the Wanganui Offshore earthquake, whose effects on Wellington were very minor. Several building owners contacted us regarding carrying out post event surveys, even though the shaking were small.
6. The most logical approach to this would be a co-ordinated one, where buildings' vulnerability could be identified according to the nature of the shaking (eg. tall buildings for distant long period events). Inspections could then be made on a number of selected "indicator buildings" to assess the likely impact on the whole population.
7. There is currently no process or framework around small-medium sized events, though these are the most likely to occur. We believe that a process is warranted to avoid the significant cost of business/personal disruption that could occur.

Regards,
on behalf of Dunning Thornton

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "A. Cattanach", is written over a light blue horizontal line.