



Artist's impression: The Margaret Mahy Family Playground in the North Frame will be planted with a mix of exotic and indigenous plants.

Strong trees the backbone of Avon River Planting Strategy

The concept of a 'city in a garden' is one step closer to reality now that a large-scale planting and landscaping programme has started at Te Papa Ōtākaro/Avon River Precinct in central Christchurch.

Over the life of the project, 1,700 new, established trees will be planted, along with more than 100,000 native and exotic shrubs. The result will be a distinctive, green environment that reflects the cultural diversity of the area.

Christchurch Central Development Unit Director Warwick Isaacs says the Avon River project will play a core part in transforming the central city into something we will be proud to pass on to the next generation.

The outstanding noble trees along the river form the backbone of the green city, says Mr Isaacs. However, following a detailed inspection, arborists have identified 183 trees that have reached the end of their natural lives. These trees will eventually be removed from the 25-hectare area that comprises Te Papa Ōtākaro/Avon River Precinct and the North and East frames.

"Trees, especially grand landmark trees, are understandably treasured by the community. Great care has been taken in the planning of this project to make sure the trees that are diseased and dangerous are removed to ensure Te Papa Ōtākaro/Avon River Precinct, and North and East frames are safe, and rejuvenated spaces," says Mr Isaacs.

Earlier this year two mature trees near the Bridge of Remembrance were urgently removed as the extent of their decay had become hazardous.

The two trees in Victoria Square that will be removed next are also extensively decayed.

As part of the precinct project, landscape architects have designed a succession plan in which new trees and plants will replace those that have reached their natural end. Alongside this natural backbone will be a new promenade that people can use to easily move about the city and enjoy the attractive new landscape.

"This promenade will link the city together: imagine walking from your home in the East Frame to work in the Health Precinct, or to a new restaurant along the Terraces; from your car park to the Town Hall to see a new show. This is what makes me excited about the city," says Mr Isaacs.

Te Papa Ōtākaro/Avon River Precinct is a \$96 million project and stretches the 3.2 kilometres from Christchurch Hospital to Barbadoes Street, redefining the 30 metres of each side of the river.



Artist's impression: Plantings at Victoria Square will reflect the heritage and cultural diversity of the area.

Te Papa Ōtākaro/Avon River Precinct Planting Strategy:

- 1,700 new trees and more than 100,000 shrubs will be planted.
- The intensive landscaping project will take four years to complete where normally a task of this size would take up to 20 years.
- 183 trees have been identified for removal because they are decayed, are structurally unsound or have poor growth.
- The next round of plantings will be part of the Terraces development in the area between Cashel and Hereford streets. ♻️





Hon Gerry Brownlee
Minister for Canterbury Earthquake Recovery

Recent weeks have seen us don our winter woollies again – but also take in some of those crisp, glorious Canterbury days that follow the bitter frosts. These days are good reminders that we live in a special, beautiful place that is on its journey of recovery from the major earthquakes that struck our region.

The central city rebuild is progressing well with public and private sector projects forging ahead. CERA has recently released the *Public Sector Rebuild Programme of Work* which keeps people updated on the progress of the many public sector projects in Christchurch.

The Government has committed over \$15 billion to the greater Christchurch rebuild and there are a lot of projects underway. The Programme of Work provides a snapshot of projects and current timelines on a range of public sector developments, from anchor projects such as the Convention Centre Precinct and Bus Interchange, through to new school builds and the redevelopment of Christchurch Hospital.

The construction sector and investors have asked for this information and it is now available online where it will be regularly updated. You can check it out at: www.cera.govt.nz/public-sector-rebuild

The Stronger Christchurch Infrastructure Rebuild Team (SCIRT) has recently marked some good milestones with its central city work programme. It has now completed 57 per cent of its central city work – with the bulk to be completed by the end of the year. SCIRT reports the most intensive central city work affecting road users is scheduled to drop off from July – that means fewer delays and detours!

A recent SCIRT survey shows that although most road users say they are impacted by road works, they are adapting to them and seeing them as a sign of progress for the city.

Still with the roads, the City Sense project team that will design and oversee the construction of elements of An Accessible City transport plan is now into its work. The widening of Manchester Street into a tree-lined boulevard is one project; another is changing Tuam Street to a west-east one-way street. Overall, the plan will see some streets prioritised for traffic or public transport, while others are prioritised for walking and cycling. It will play an important part in the transformation of our central city into a busy, exciting and people-centred place – a place where businesses will want to be.

While I acknowledge there are large and complex challenges in this rebuild, I am generally pleased with how the recovery is going. When I look at where we were a year ago, and think of where we'll be in a year from now, I'm heartened that greater Christchurch's recovery is happening at a reasonably good pace, and work is being delivered to a high standard.

With the Earthquake Commission's Canterbury Home Repair Programme due to be largely complete by the end of this year, and with private insurers' major repairs and rebuilds also picking up pace, there is a lot to be positive about in greater Christchurch, and a lot to look forward to. 🔄

Gerry Brownlee

UPDATE FROM EARTHQUAKE COMMISSION (EQC)

What is increased flooding vulnerability?

In some parts of Christchurch, the earthquakes changed residential land in ways that mean some houses are now susceptible to flooding where previously they weren't and some are now more likely to experience a greater depth and/or frequency of flooding.

As this land damage is not easily identified by simply visiting properties and observing the land, EQC has had to complete more in-depth analysis of the land, using extensive topographical surveys and detailed river and overland flow flood modelling.

Engineers are now visiting all properties potentially affected by increased flooding vulnerability (IFV) in order to validate the modelling results. Once this is complete, if a property is still considered as potentially having IFV, a valuer will also visit the property to collect further information necessary for EQC to settle the claim.

It will take EQC some time to work through these assessments. If it has not informed the home owner of their property's IFV status by September, it will write with an updated timetable.

Settlement

EQC has been exploring alternative settlement approaches, as it will often not be possible to identify a feasible and consentable repair to the land for IFV properties.

One option is to settle based on diminution of value (the loss of market value of the insured property as a result of


IFV). This option is currently being tested by EQC in High Court declaratory judgment proceedings.

EQC has also been working with Christchurch City Council to identify whether there are area-wide, off-site flood mitigation works that could be undertaken to remove the flooding vulnerability or at least reduce it to pre-quake levels. Where these schemes can be identified, costed and completed in a timely manner, then EQC is open to contributing as a way of resolving some IFV claims.

EQC is now contacting home owners potentially affected by IFV damage and will be letting them know the next steps. Some may have already received a land settlement for observable land damage (for example, where the land has cracked during an earthquake) and may now receive a letter regarding IFV.

To date, EQC has settled 65 per cent of Canterbury land claims. Any settlement for increased flooding vulnerability land damage will be additional to an observable land damage settlement.

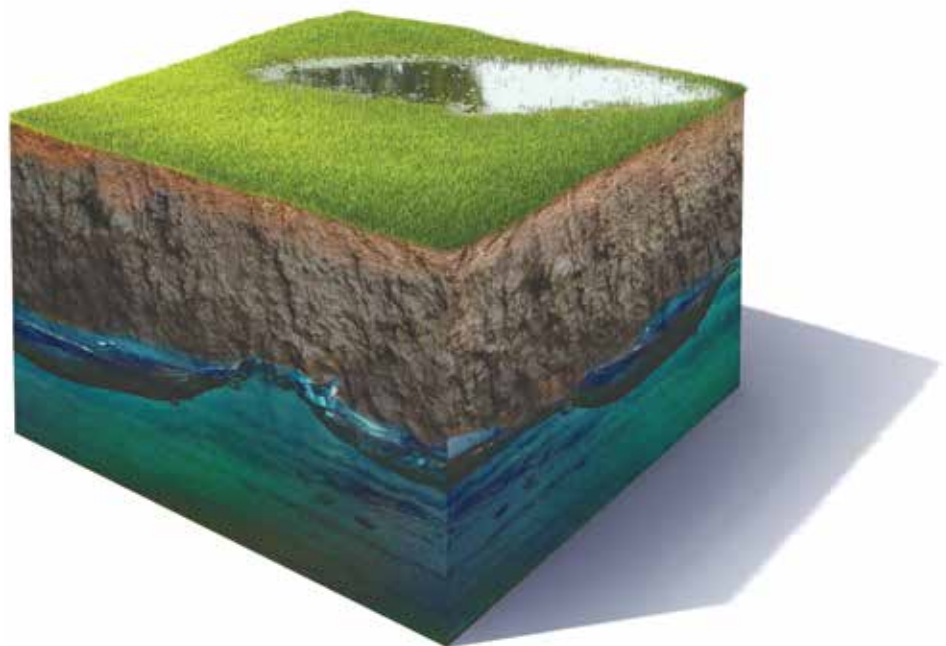
For more information, go to: www.eqc.govt.nz 🔄



EQC
EARTHQUAKE COMMISSION
Kōwhiri Kōwhiri

Phone: 0800 DAMAGE
(0800 326 243)

Web: www.eqc.govt.nz



Increased Flooding Vulnerability is a type of land damage covered by EQC.

Flood work underway across city

People whose homes have been affected by flooding are being asked to contact Christchurch City Council so their properties can be included in planned flood mitigation work.

"We need accurate information about which properties have flooding issues so we can make sure they will be effectively covered by the work we plan to do," says Land Drainage Operations Manager Mike Gillooly.

Flooding rates relief

The Council has agreed to stop charging rates for properties that are uninhabitable due to the floods that have occurred since 5 March 2014.

"This 100 per cent rates remission applies to properties on the Flood Taskforce list of vulnerable properties, when repairs to make them habitable can't proceed without further Council action to reduce the flooding risk," says Mayor Lianne Dalziel.

How to apply for rates relief

Ratepayers can apply for the remission by filling out a form from the Council website www.ccc.govt.nz, at Service Centres, or by phoning the Call Centre on **03 941 8999** or **0800 800 169**.

Properties most vulnerable to flooding since the earthquakes

The Council set up a Flood Taskforce on 30 April to identify the most vulnerable homes and short-term, temporary solutions that could be done immediately. The Taskforce described three levels of vulnerability to flooding since the earthquakes:

- Level 1: the house has flooded at least twice above the floor boards
- Level 2: the house has flooded at least twice under the floor boards
- Level 3: residents have been unable to access their property at least twice

Nine worst-affected areas

The Taskforce found nine areas where residents had been worst affected by flooding since the earthquakes:

- Flockton/Dudley Creek
- Heathcote Valley
- Little River
- Lower Avon
- Lower Heathcote/Woolston/Opawa
- Lyttelton
- Southshore
- Redcliffs/Sumner
- Upper Heathcote

Short-term solutions

The Taskforce identified three types of short-term, immediate flood protection work for vulnerable homes. This was in addition to the long-term flood protection work that will take up to several years to complete. The solutions are:

- Individual house solutions such as raising the house, waterproofing it, sandbagging, re-grading or bunding around the property.
- Relocation either by moving the family into temporary accommodation or moving the house to a new site.
- Local area schemes comprising a combination of practical activities such as better maintenance of drains and waterways, removing debris and obstructions, flood water diversion, local pumping stations, street-wide bunding, stop banks, flap gates and localised dredging.

Ongoing work

Council contractors have been clearing drains, widening river channels, removing obstructions from rivers and clearing vegetation. They have also dredged an average of 40cm of sediment from the first reach of Dudley Creek below Hills Road.

Public meetings

Flood Taskforce engineers have been giving presentations to residents at public meetings in each of the worst affected areas. They are answering residents' questions and asking people to fill in a questionnaire if they have been affected by the floods.

Upcoming community meetings:

Lower Avon and Central City

7-9pm, Wednesday 11 June
Wainoni Methodist Church
878 Avonside Drive

Heathcote Valley

7-9pm, Thursday 12 June
St Mary's Church Hall
Corner Martindales and Truscotts Road

Christchurch City Council

Phone: 03 941 8999
Web: www.ccc.govt.nz
Email: info@ccc.govt.nz



Roger Sutton
CERA Chief Executive

Change is occurring in the residential red zones.

For those of you who have driven alongside Ōtākaro/Avon River through the residential red zone, you will have noticed the clearances of large areas of housing. As the houses are removed, the Crown-owned land is grassed and maintained until its future use is decided.

Good progress is being made with the clearances. Of the over 7,100 residential red zone properties settled with the Crown, more than 60 per cent have now been cleared from the sections. This is not to say they have all been demolished and scrapped. There has been ongoing interest in the recovery and reuse of these houses. After all, some were almost new at the time of the earthquakes. It is the land they are on that is damaged. However, not all houses can be reused. Some have very heavy roofs and can't be shifted, others are too damaged, or too big to be cut up; and there is little demand for older houses.

So far over 350 dwellings have been relocated to new sites and there is a prospect of relocating more. These houses have been moved far and wide. Some have been shifted within Christchurch city; some have gone further afield to new developments in Rolleston and Rakaia, to rural locations in Canterbury or further south; and several have been deconstructed and sent to Auckland.

Over the last couple of months I have mentioned the community-led initiative in partnership with official agencies and insurers, the 'Let's Find & Fix' campaign. So far, almost 5,000 homes have been door-knocked as part of this campaign. Almost 500 calls have been received to the 0800 line (**0800 233 551**) and 248 repairs are in progress.

One of the community groups involved in the assessment and repairs part of this initiative is Community Energy Action (CEA), a charitable trust. When CEA visited me recently, Caroline Shone, the Chief Executive, was telling me about a number of its programmes including Healthy Homes, a targeted programme for insulating the homes of those on a low income in our community with medical conditions, or homes that have children under the age of 18 or people over the age of 65 living in them; and their free advice service and home energy checks. CEA is also working with those vulnerable home owners that are repairing their earthquake-damaged properties, helping them rebuild their homes to be better than they were before the earthquakes.

The programme that is of particular interest to me is the Curtain Bank. This is another example of reusing and recycling that makes a difference to people's lives. Curtains are the easiest way to make a house warmer. Reasonably clean curtains and tracks have been collected or donated from some of the residential red zone houses and other premises such as damaged hotels, businesses and retail outlets, as well as from 20 collection bins in the community. The project is available at no cost to home owners and tenants who cannot afford good curtains. This is a great initiative that meets the needs of others. More information and contact details can be found on the CEA website: www.cera.co.nz

LET'S FIND & FIX
a community led initiative

If you or someone you know is living in a house that was damaged during the earthquakes and has:

- holes in the roof, floor or external walls, or has plastic used as cladding.
- problems with drainage where the toilet backs up, or there is raw sewage/wastewater or polluted liquefaction on the property.
- external windows or doors that do not open, shut or lock properly.

You may qualify for a temporary fix.

0800 233 551

An Accessible City

– transport plan coming to life

Seeing the Christchurch central city through the eyes of the pedestrian, cyclist, motorcyclist, motorist or bus passenger is the challenge facing one of the teams involved in implementing the city's transport plan.

An Accessible City is the transport chapter of the Christchurch Central Recovery Plan. Multinational company URS – supported by a range of sub-consultants including Jasmax architects, Aurecon, Align and QTP – will design and oversee construction of three major projects within phase one of the plan.

This team, known as City Sense, will focus on developing Manchester Street, roading changes in the Oxford Terrace/Tuam Street area and the enhancement of the Durham Street/Cambridge Terrace corridor between Kilmore and Tuam streets.

URS Project Director Andrew Whaley says having the opportunity to play such a crucial role in the rebuild of inner Christchurch is a privilege.

"We want to contribute to the development of a central city that makes people want to be there. At the centre of our planning is understanding the way people share the streets and spaces differently. That means seeing the central city and how people move around it through their eyes. Our goal is to provide a safe, accessible and attractive transport environment which is efficient at the same time."

Andrew Whaley says the transformation of Manchester Street into a boulevard will be the biggest change.

"The boulevard will be vital as a major public transport route into the inner central city, East Frame and the Bus Interchange. Dedicated bus lanes and a bus 'super stop' will facilitate that. It also needs to safely accommodate all other types of traffic and road users. All this wouldn't be possible within the current road corridor so the widening into the East Frame is essential. The tree-lined boulevard will create a pleasant atmosphere for people as well as a safe, functional traffic corridor."

This contract will deliver \$56 million of the \$72 million budgeted for Phase one of An Accessible City's work programme. The work will take until December 2015 to complete.

For more information on An Accessible City, go to: ccdu.govt.nz/the-plan/an-accessible-city



Manchester St – indicative streetscape and bus lanes.

Manchester Street

- Manchester Street will be widened to create a tree-lined boulevard 29 metres wide (this involves widening the road by up to 9 metres into the East Frame).
- Dedicated bus lanes will be installed in each direction and the street will be designed to accommodate general traffic, cycles and pedestrians.
- A bus 'super stop' will be built between Gloucester and Worcester streets.



Tuam St – indicative streetscape and cycleway.

Oxford Terrace/Tuam Street (area known as Hospital Corner)

- Tuam Street will become a west-east one-way with a new, separated cycleway.
- Oxford Terrace will be closed to through-traffic between Antigua and Durham streets. It will become a key pedestrian route as part of Te Papa Ōtākaro/Avon River Precinct and provide links for cyclists and pedestrians.
- A new bus 'super stop' will be located near Christchurch Hospital.



Indicative enhanced one-way distributor – Durham St/Cambridge Tce near Ōtākaro/Avon River.

Durham Street/Cambridge Terrace

- The streetscape of Durham Street South/Cambridge Terrace will be upgraded.
- Enhancements will include intensified tree planting and a new, separated cycleway.
- The 'look and feel' will complement the adjacent Te Papa Ōtākaro/Avon River Precinct.

All projects will provide for the ultimate 30 kilometres per hour speed zone within the central city Core (bordered by Montreal, Tuam, Manchester and Kilmore streets).

An Accessible City

– sharing streets and spaces differently

The development of An Accessible City was led by CERA in collaboration with Christchurch City Council, Environment Canterbury and New Zealand Transport Authority. It sets out how we will travel around our central city and, as importantly, how it will become a more welcoming and people-centred place. It seeks to strike the right balance between cars, buses, pedestrians and cyclists.

- An Accessible City aims to increase cycle numbers and bus patronage by 300 per cent.
- There could be 20,000 people (10,000 households) living within the four avenues – an increase in nearly 12,000 on pre-quake levels.
- Unless transport patterns change, by 2041 there will be a 40 per cent increase in central city traffic – an additional 71,000 additional cars.
- Consultation information is also being used to develop improved routes for road users such as supply vehicles and emergency services.
- A main objective is to avoid congestion and improve traffic flow in the central city.

Ongoing engagement over affordable housing initiative

In February this year the Government announced an affordable housing proposal to develop about 275 homes on an 11.5 hectare site bounded by Carrs Road, Awatea Road and Wigram Road.

The development aims to offer a mix of private homeownership and rental housing that is both affordable and of good quality.

Internationally, affordable housing is broadly defined as housing at a cost that does not cause substantial financial hardship to the occupants. It is different from social housing which is usually rented accommodation provided by the government, councils and/or community housing associations.

Affordable homeownership helps people get onto the property ladder, particularly couples with young children or first home buyers.

The Awatea/Carrs Road development will help meet the needs of Cantabrians who require good-quality, affordable housing both now and in the future.

The first stage of community engagement on the development has now been completed with local community leaders.

An online survey was also sent out through local community networks to find out what residents in surrounding communities like about the area.

Results from the survey highlighted the need to connect the development to the rest of the community and to have a well-planned urban design that gives its residents easy access to public transport, parks and other facilities.

The results of the survey will now help inform how the site is developed.

Engagement with the surrounding communities will continue once a preferred developer has been selected. ♻️

Progress made with complex Port Hills property clearances

The first cluster of the more complex clearances of Crown-owned properties in the Port Hills has been completed, with CERA working in collaboration with insurer Southern Response.

A number of houses on Clifton Hill, above Sumner, were left in a precarious state after the Canterbury earthquakes. Work on the complex clearance of four Crown-owned Clifton Hill properties began in early May. Within three weeks all properties were cleared of their large structures, foundations and some retaining walls.

The cleared properties will now allow safer access to more challenging properties closer to the cliff edge.

Crown-owned housing clusters in Nayland Street and Bridle Path Road were cleared at the same time.

CERA expects the clearance of all Crown-owned properties in the Port Hills to take a number of years to complete. ♻️

UPDATE FROM ENVIRONMENT CANTERBURY

Past land use may require soil testing for rebuilds

Only a small percentage of those land owners whose Christchurch properties have recently been identified as potentially contaminated will need to do anything about it, says Environment Canterbury Investigations and Monitoring Director Ken Taylor.

Environment Canterbury is currently mailing information packs to the owners of about 11,000 greater Christchurch properties that may have soil contaminated by chemicals or hazardous substances remaining in the ground from a previous use of the land, such as an orchard, market garden or landfill.

"People have a right to know what their land has been used for in the past if it could have contaminated the soil. Most people receiving notification will not need to do anything. It's only those land owners needing to carry out major land repairs, foundation work or rebuilds as a result of the earthquakes who will have to take any action," Mr Taylor says.

There are 665 properties likely to be affected because of significant land damage (EQC - Increased Vulnerability to Liquefaction) and a further 450 affected by having to undertake a major rebuild.

"In most instances, major repairs are likely to be covered by either EQC (land repairs) or their private insurer (rebuilds), which means the necessary consents and soil testing work would be managed for the land owner," Mr Taylor says.

Canterbury Medical Officer of Health Dr Ramon Pink says that there is very low risk to health from living on contaminated land.

"Even if a property is contaminated, it is very unlikely that the level of contamination will be high enough to result in any health issues," says Dr Pink.

Dr Pink says that there are some simple things people can do – such as washing your hands after being in the garden – that will further reduce any health risks. For more information on minimising any potential health risk, go to: www.cph.co.nz/HAIL

Land owners not engaged in major land repair or rebuilding may choose not to get their soil tested.

"In many cases, the soil will be fine. Just because someone's land has been an orchard, for instance, does not necessarily mean hazardous substances were actually used or buried there – just that they could have been," Mr Taylor says. "It's our job to record this and let the land owner know."

"Based on our experience, it's not that common to find concentrations of contaminants on a Canterbury site high enough to cause long-term health effects."

Visit www.llur.ecan.govt.nz to find out more information about your property. ♻️



Phone: (03) 353 9007
Web: www.ecan.govt.nz

Health Precinct takes a significant step forward

A collaboration agreement between agencies developing key elements of Christchurch's new Health Precinct is being heralded as a significant step forward for the central city anchor project.

The Health Precinct will capitalise on the fastest-growing sector in the world, delivering economic growth and world-leading health services. It also has significant advantages of its own, with the busiest tertiary hospital in Australasia and tertiary education providers willing to co-locate.

Representatives from CERA, the Canterbury District Health Board, University of Otago, University of Canterbury and CPIT are working together to develop the new precinct. It will incorporate health services alongside state-of-the-art research and teaching facilities. The agreement will oversee the partnership and provide opportunities for new collaborative research activities and teaching initiatives.

CERA Chief Executive Roger Sutton says the Health Precinct concept has made great steps in its planning since it was announced as part of the Christchurch



Precinct partners: Dr Rod Carr, Vice Chancellor University of Canterbury; Professor Harlene Hayne, Vice Chancellor Otago University; Roger Sutton, Chief Executive CERA; Fiona Haynes, CPIT; and David Meates, Chief Executive Canterbury District Health Board.

Central Recovery Plan's Blueprint Plan. He is pleased to see the private sector already stepping up its plans.

"With so many players involved, this is an understandably complex project, with layer upon layer of parts needing to be connected. I am very pleased that we remain on the same page with a common goal of creating this world-class precinct."

The next step is to set up an Advisory Council. This will oversee the partnership and provide opportunities for new collaborative research activities and teaching initiatives. In tandem, the planning, design and construction of the facilities that will feature within the Precinct will continue. ♻️

The Health Precinct will boost New Zealand's health workforce, provide new opportunities for cutting-edge research and enhance the link between education and health, the Precinct partners say.

Over it?

That's why SCIRT's getting on with bridge repairs

Bridges are very much part of life in greater Christchurch. With more than 250 bridge structures (including road and foot bridges, overbridges and larger culverts) in the city, it's surprising how many we cross and re-cross each day without even realising it.

However, what we do notice quite quickly is when a bridge on our regular route is closed for repairs, resulting in delays or detours.

Following the earthquakes, SCIRT had around 150 of those bridge structures to repair. Fortunately not all repairs are major or require the bridge to be closed. Sometimes it's simply a speed reduction. Or a lane reduction.

And while safety is its number one priority for work crews and the public, SCIRT does look for ways to minimise impact on the community and travellers.

Unfortunately, detours and traffic changes are unavoidable. They're part of getting on with the city's rebuild.

The good news is that SCIRT has completed nearly two-thirds of its bridge structure repairs.

Bridges are different

Bridges are significant pieces of infrastructure. Repairs often require challenging engineering and traffic management. The repair time for each bridge varies, but typically can take many months.

Designing a traffic change

When a bridge is closed for repairs, travellers need to temporarily find a different route. Often it's a less convenient one. SCIRT looks carefully at traffic change options to ensure the wider road network has enough capacity to keep operating during bridge repairs.

Wherever practicable, SCIRT also provides alternative pedestrian and cycle access for the community to stay connected to local amenities such as schools and parks.

Programming bridge repairs

Bridge repairs can't all be done at once. SCIRT will not start on some bridges until others are completed. For example, the Gayhurst Road bridge was not started until the Avondale bridge was repaired and re-opened to enable traffic in the area to continue to flow.

The end result

SCIRT is repairing bridges to their pre-earthquake levels of service. Modern materials and construction methods are used to improve resiliency and bring bridges up to current design standards, where required. The appearance of the bridges will not vary greatly. Where SCIRT needs to rebuild or replace bridge sections, it generally follows a similar design.

Keeping in touch

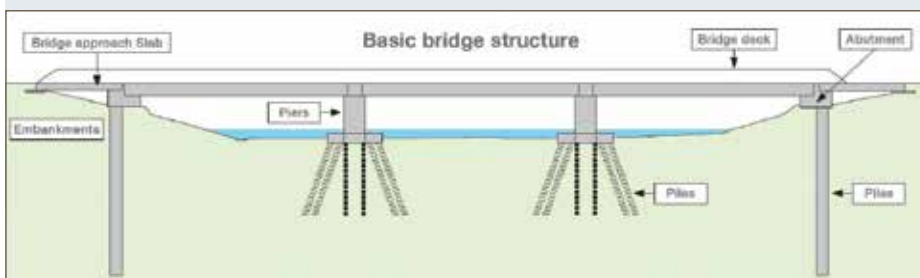
SCIRT distributes information about upcoming work to the community and also tries to give travellers as much notice as possible if travel routes are impacted.

For information about SCIRT works, visit:
www.strongerchristchurch.govt.nz

For the quickest and safest routes around greater Christchurch, visit:
www.transportforchristchurch.govt.nz



Phone: (03) 941 8999
Email: info@scirt.co.nz
Web: www.strongerchristchurch.govt.nz
Twitter: @SCIRT_info



Are you In The Know?

In the Know is a question-and-answer website which makes it easier and faster for residents of greater Christchurch to get information about the residential rebuild and repair process.

Since the website launched in March, thousands of people have visited it and more than 200 new questions have been submitted.

Here are some examples of some the questions and answers you will find there.

Question 40: With regard to Class 1 of the GNS report on mass movement, a) how will the category intolerable risk be defined, b) how will loss of value or loss of function of land be compensated and c) what is the timeframe for communicating the decision making?

Answer; CCC: Following the completion of stage two and three GNS Science mass movement reports, the Council, in conjunction with GNS Science, will produce a life risk model, similar to those that have been developed for rock roll and cliff collapse. This model will be used to determine tolerable or intolerable risk. We are still several months away from receiving the final reports.

Question 49: Can a claim still be lodged for an EQC contents claim for damages incurred in the earthquakes?

Answer; EQC: According to the Earthquake Commission Act 1993, claims need to be lodged within three months of the event. Meeting this claim deadline is important because the EQC Act doesn't give EQC any discretion. If you don't make your claim within three months of the earthquake that caused damage to your building, contents or land, EQC can't accept your claim.

Question 56: How are major differences between repair strategies proposed by Fletcher EQR and the EQC resolved? How long should this take? Who is the first point of contact for the claimant?

Answer; EQC: Fletcher EQR is the project manager for EQC in the Canterbury Home Repair Programme. If a homeowner has concerns about recommended repair strategies, they should first discuss this with the contractor and the Fletcher EQR Contract Supervisor. These people raise your concerns with the hub EQC staff, which may trigger a visit to review the damage and the proposed strategies to repair it. EQC will then either approve or decline changes to the Scope of Works.

How long this process takes can depend on many factors including the complexity. In the simplest cases it can take a week. www.eqc.govt.nz/news/eqcs-approach-to-repairing-houses

To find out more, go to: www.intheknow.org.nz



Summer of Fun – still connecting communities even after the woolly hats come out

Waimakariri residents are finding new ways to encourage community connections, spurred on by the success of recent Summer of Fun events.

Thirteen community Fun Days were held in the area over the summer months as part of the Summer of Fun programme of events run throughout greater Christchurch. Although Christchurch Earthquake Appeal Trust and CERA provide funding and support, it's the local communities that organise all the events.

Reverend Philomena Kinera of the Waimakariri Shared Ministry says the Fun Days were a great success and attracted people of all age groups and interests.

"The Fun Days are a good way of connecting - they are fun and they are free. In this community where a lot of people are doing it hard after the earthquakes, we felt it was really important to provide some fun – without all the costs."

Reverend Kinera says holding the Fun Days on church grounds in Cust, Rangiora and Woodend helped bridge the gap between the community and local churches.

"The events have helped make the church more approachable. Through that we have had people coming in for food parcels or looking for the curtain bank. It has brought people a step closer to being able to ask for help."

Another positive outcome for the North Canterbury community is the flow-on from the Summer of Fun events to other initiatives.

In Woodend, monthly movie afternoons have started at the Methodist Parish Church hall.

The church was destroyed by the earthquakes but the hall and another building are still operational. Local parishioner Evelyn Wilson says the movie session is mostly for elderly people who may be feeling isolated or aren't mobile enough to travel to a movie theatre.



Celebrating Summer of Fun success in the Waimakariri community. L-R Jenny Atkinson, Elaine Hassall, Reverend Philomena Kinera, Evelyn Wilson, Ada Smith.

Reverend Kinera says after the Summer of Fun events, they put the word out and tried to explore every possible use for church amenities.

St David's Union Church in Cust, host of another successful Summer of Fun event, is now home to the area's weekly community market.

Parishioner Ada Smith says the Cust Village Market seems to have grown and has attracted people who wouldn't normally attend an event at a church on a Sunday.

Meanwhile, the Trinity Methodist Church in Rangiora offered nearby Rangiora Borough School an area of land behind the church where the children could plant gardens. Raised beds were built in April.

Reverend Philomena Kinera says the community has got right in behind the project.

"Everyone chipped in to help dig it all out; materials and plants have been donated. People really took ownership of what they were doing."

The church parishioners will cook the vegetables from the gardens into meals for the children to eat. Reverend Kinera says that way the children learn about plants and gardens, and food nutrition.

"All these initiatives are a way for us [local churches] to become more visible in the community. We want to say 'Here we are; the church exists for the community and is part of the community'." 🔄

Cake connections – creating stronger neighbourhoods

Greater Christchurch residents recently savoured an initiative aimed at encouraging them to connect with their neighbours.

The Neighbourhood Project was launched over the weekend of 29–30 March 2014, using the slogan: "Knowing your neighbour is a Piece of Cake". Postcards with space to include names and contact details for neighbours were distributed to homes throughout Christchurch, Selwyn and parts of the Waimakariri district. With postcard in hand, people might then pop next door or over the road and introduce themselves over a piece of cake or a cup of coffee.

Spokesperson for the project Anita Voisey says the weekend was a celebration of getting together over something simple. It also reminded Cantabrians that relying on their neighbours was a big part of life after the earthquakes.

"The project was about encouraging neighbours to get to know each other's names. We hope it will help tackle isolation in the community and make it easier for people to approach their neighbours in the future should they need some support."

Businesses, government departments, schools and churches picked up the message and found ways to identify with it. Feedback from some who took part was heart-warming with reports of neighbourhood afternoon teas, cake bake-offs and other cake-fuelled social activities.

Here are some examples of the kind of feedback the project received.

- *Just had a wonderful afternoon sharing cake with my neighbours. My next-door neighbour and I baked cakes and dropped postcards and an invitation to afternoon tea into the other 14 houses in our cul-de-sac. 20 neighbours gathered together at our house and had such a good time that we have already begun planning the next event. Thanks for the nudge Neighbourhood Project!*
- *We did a 'bake off' and had a great time – the inaugural Chester Community Bake-off was a great success on Sunday afternoon with about 10 different entrants voting on a wide variety of delicious treats!*

- *They [the postcards] are ideal for new neighbours and I will continue to give them out as the neighbourhood changes – Dallington neighbour support coordinator.*

The Neighbourhood Project will continue to encourage people to connect and share – because everybody needs good neighbours.

Visit the Neighbourhood Project at:
www.facebook.com/theneighbourhoodproject

Follow it on Twitter: [@pieceofcakechch](https://twitter.com/pieceofcakechch)
[#theneighbourhoodproject](https://twitter.com/theneighbourhoodproject) 🔄



UPDATE FROM SELWYN DISTRICT COUNCIL

Earthquake repairs near completion in Selwyn

Earthquake repairs in Selwyn district are well on their way to completion. So far \$8.9 million has been spent on repairing earthquake-damaged Council assets following the 2010 and 2011 Canterbury earthquakes, which is around 75 per cent of the total expenditure needed for repairs.



While there was considerable damage to personal property, the district was reasonably fortunate that there was not widespread damage to Council infrastructure. The main areas of damage were to community centres and halls, cemeteries, roading, water and wastewater systems.

The majority of earthquake-damaged roads were repaired by the end of June 2011.

Repair work to quake-damaged water and wastewater systems was completed in late 2010. Damage to these systems was not significant following the February 2011 quakes.

Six of the seven cemeteries that sustained significant damage in the earthquakes have now been repaired.

Following the earthquakes, repair work or complete replacements were necessary for 69 community centres, halls, toilet blocks or swimming pools. Of these repairs or replacements, 74 per cent have been completed. The last of the earthquake repairs to community buildings will be to Southbridge Hall and Glentunnel Library and are expected to be completed by the end of July. Lakeside Hall, Greenpark Hall, Doyleston Memorial Hall and Dunsandel Hall suffered extensive damage and were demolished. Consultation has been completed on what needs to be included in new facilities and planning is underway for the replacement of these facilities.

The estimated final cost of earthquake repairs to Council assets in Selwyn is around \$12.1 million. Funding for repairs has come from a number of sources including insurance (for wastewater systems, water systems, buildings), the Earthquake Commission (for properties), New Zealand Transport Agency (for roading) and central government (for welfare and recovery).

The cost of the Selwyn rebuild was aided by the \$135 earthquakes rates levy which was added to Selwyn residents' 2011/12 rates and provided close to \$2 million. This has helped meet 16 per cent of the cost for earthquake repairs which could not be met from other sources.

According to Census 2013, the Selwyn district is the fastest growing territorial authority in NZ



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UPDATE FROM WAIMAKARIRI DISTRICT COUNCIL

Work on traffic solutions underway

The Waimakariri district has seen exponential growth in residential development as a direct impact of the earthquakes. On average, around 450 residential building consents were processed per year in pre-quake days. Over the past two years that number has risen to over 1,200 per year, accommodating households from both local and Christchurch city residential red zones.

Overall, the district is experiencing around nine average years of new housing in the space of three years.

It's a good news – bad news story: good news for households needing new, reasonably priced housing, but frustrating for those commuters who now live in the Waimakariri and work in Christchurch city.

The steadily increasing volume of commuter traffic on the Northern Motorway between Waimakariri and Christchurch has multiplied, and peak-time congestion is producing frustrating delays and uncertainty in combination with the quake-disrupted roading network in Christchurch city.

Structural resolution to the issue lies some distance into the future – the planned Western Belfast Bypass is not currently scheduled for completion until 2017/18; the Northern Arterial Extension route, from just beyond the Waimakariri Bridge to QEII Drive, not until 2020. What can practically be done to accelerate these projects is a matter to be put before an incoming Government.

In the interim the reduction of congestion issues relies strongly on commuter behaviour.

Waimakariri District Council, in cooperation with the New Zealand Transport Agency, Environment Canterbury, Christchurch City Council and the Christchurch Transport Operations Centre, is currently working on shorter-term management of the congestion issues – more particularly, the impact that changes to driver behaviour programmes can have on congestion. Carpooling, Park n' Ride, priority for public transport, 'merge like a zip' and the efficient use of lane capacity are all options that are currently coming under the microscope, with some implementation already underway.

Statistically some of the traffic flow appears to be seasonal, with the heaviest average daily flows occurring between October and March, and lesser flows over the winter months between April and September.

Population growth in the Waimakariri district (Census 2013)



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