

Media Release

Clarendon Tower demolition contract awarded

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Demolition of one of the more dangerous buildings in the CBD will begin early next year.

Mainzeal Property and Construction Ltd has been awarded the contract and will take possession of the 17-storey building on January 4.

CERA general manager of operations, Warwick Isaacs, says the building is extremely dangerous given the damage the February earthquake caused, and that will make the demolition process long and complicated.

"Workers will not be going into the building until each floor is stabilised, and that will be done from the top down. The structural damage on floors eight to 11 make the building extremely unstable and no-one will be allowed inside the lower floors while the damaged areas remain."

"This is an example of the CER Act being used when all other avenues are exhausted. The building cannot remain there, we have to get moving to get it down," Mr Isaacs said.

The CERA Act gives special powers to demolish any dangerously quake-damaged buildings.

Clarendon Tower tenants will have the opportunity to retrieve their belongings through Mainzeal, but they will not be allowed access to the building. Mainzeal and CERA will work with tenants to develop a retrieval programme in the New Year.

Mr Isaacs says this reflects the dangerous nature of the building.

"We know it's in very bad shape, we can't put the general public at risk so the professionals will be carrying out that retrieval."

Mainzeal begins its work in January, although the first stage will be involve more structural assessments and planning. The removal of the top floor will begin once that is completed.

The work is expected to take 59 weeks, which means it will not be finished until the start of 2013.

Three companies tendered for the demolition job.