

# Media Release

## New tourism opportunities in Rebuild Zone

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Tourism operators are being invited to submit proposals for tours within Christchurch's Rebuild Zone, as the level of dangerous demolition work has reduced significantly.

Canterbury Earthquake Recovery Authority chief executive Roger Sutton says while the inner city cordon is the smallest it has been since the February 2011 earthquake, there are still areas that cannot be easily seen from behind the fences.

"And with the work inside the cordon now mostly being rebuilds and repairs, there is scope to make the area more easily accessible in the lead up to the final cordon being removed."

Mr Sutton says the Red Bus Tours that have been running since late last year have fulfilled a need, and will be able to continue as long as the company wants to. And the Punting on the Avon tour which runs through part of the cordoned area has also had great interest from the public.

But other, smaller tourism operators now have the chance to run their own short-term ventures that will be in place until the cordon is removed. That might be anything from walking tours, cycling tours, tuk-tuks, Segways, mini-vans or limousines.

Mr Sutton says the aim of this opportunity is to contribute to the wider recovery, so any proposals must take into account how their tour of the Rebuild Zone would benefit other retailers or other operators.

Proposals to CERA will also have to satisfy the strict health and safety criteria, and ensure that operators can keep their clients safe in the event of any major aftershock or other event.

"The CBD is now a completely different environment to the dangerous demolition zone it has previously been, but it is still a major worksite with elements of instability. So while we are on target to have the entire cordon removed in June, there remains the need for some safety restrictions," Mr Sutton says.

"This is an opportunity for interested operators to have a think about what they might offer the community, and let us know."

The proposals need to be submitted through the Government Electronic Tenders Service (GETS). Tours will initially need to run on a weekend but will be able to be expanded to weekdays if appropriate.

Operators will need to be aware that the Rebuild Zone cordon is constantly changing and there will be several large reductions between now and June, which will mean a need to be flexible.