

# MEDIA RELEASE

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## Council commits to cooperative effort in earthquake recovery

*Following the Earthquake Commission's (EQC) release of the Stage Two land damage report from geotechnical engineers Tonkin and Taylor today, the Waimakariri District Council has committed to a collaborative approach to the land damage repair and rebuilding process.*

"The contents of this report display a more defined roadmap in the recovery process", said Mayor David Ayers. "The information gathering and analysis has, of necessity, taken a long time. This is difficult and frustrating for those who have spent the past three months or so waiting for the next step. I think this stage of the report puts some time frames into place which allows those affected to have a clearer idea of what lies ahead for them".

The Mayor said that the Council was dedicated to working alongside all of the agencies involved in the earthquake recovery process, both at a social and physical level to ensure that the recovery was carried out as smoothly and quickly as possible. "Our goal is to get those affected back to normality in the shortest time possible and to do that in a thorough and planned manner that will ensure that construction and repair standards are kept to a high level. There is still a long way to go for some people and some uncertainty will

continue for a time – but we will work with all parties to reduce that time and uncertainty as much as possible."

In individual letters to all claimants the EQC has specified three different damage zones – A, B and C, dependent on the level of the land damage suffered within those zones, and outlined to property owners the process to be undertaken before and if rebuilding can begin.

Council Chief Executive Jim Palmer says that Council staff are examining methods by which the consenting process for rebuilding can be streamlined. "While we have specific legal obligations to fulfil in the consenting process", he said, "we are looking for ways to simplify and expedite the way we carry out the procedures involved."

The Council is currently negotiating with the EQC to undertake project management of the land damage repair work in the Waimakariri district and the outcome of those discussions should be known within the next couple of weeks.

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Our goal is to get those affected back to normality in the shortest time possible.

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