

# MEDIA RELEASE

Wednesday 1 December 2010



## Council encourages earthquake affected residents to heed claim deadline

*Ahead of today's (December 1) release of Stage Two of the geotechnical engineers' report into the land damage effects of the September 4 Canterbury earthquake, the Waimakariri District Council is encouraging residents to submit their claims before Saturday's deadline.*

The Earthquake Commission (EQC) will accept earthquake damage claims up until Saturday December 4th.

Mayor David Ayers says it is vital for claims to be submitted by the deadline date. "The Earthquake Commission have advised us that this deadline will not be extended", he said, "so it is very important for people to encourage friends, neighbours and family to get any claim in to the EQC by Saturday. All damage needs to be claimed for no matter how minor it may seem. There have been a number of cases where EQC inspectors have found damage that owners had not noticed".

Council Chief Executive Jim Palmer has announced that the Council is currently discussing with the Earthquake

Commission the possibility of project managing the land damage repair process in the Waimakariri District.

"We would estimate that locally based project management, combined with the depth of local knowledge that the Council has, will contribute to a smoother and potentially quicker process, allowing those affected to return to normality with the least possible delay. In any event this is going to be an extended process for some people and it is imperative that we are sensitive to their needs at the local level", he said.

The Earthquake Commission is also sending a series of letters to those people who have already made a claim and whose properties have been mapped and identified in terms of the extent of land damage suffered.

“*There have been a number of cases where EQC inspectors have found damage that owners had not noticed.*”

For more information contact:

David Ayers  
Mayor  
Phone: 03 311 8900 or 03 327 6834  
Email: david.ayers@wmk.govt.nz

Jim Palmer  
Chief Executive  
Phone: 03 311 8900 or 03 327 6834  
Email: jim.palmer@wmk.govt.nz