

# MEDIA RELEASE

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## Council Responds to Reports of Kaiapoi Red Zone

*Despite media reports outlining suggested red zones in Kaiapoi, Waimakariri District Mayor, David Ayers, says that final decisions on the reclassification of Kaiapoi's orange zone into either red or green zones have yet to be made by Government.*

"The Council has contributed technical information and input from our Earthquake Recovery Team as part of those decisions" he said, "and our energies currently are focussed on arranging support for those affected once the decisions are announced. As yet we don't have the details of those decisions."

Mr Ayers says that, given the possibility that a significant part of what is now the orange zone will be declared red, the Council's priority will be to facilitate or fast-track residential development plans to ensure that affected Kaiapoi residents have suitable local options available to them.

In anticipation of the Government decision the Council is currently arranging a local drop-in centre to provide information and advice about the local options which will be available. Longer term Mr Ayers says the challenges to be met by the Council will include population drift, either away

from the District or to the District from other affected areas, suitable long-term plans for those land areas declared red, any potential effects on the redevelopment of the Kaiapoi Town Centre, and the development and encouragement of local business.

"As soon as we know the scope and size of the red zone, we will be able to begin tackling the issues that flow from that", he said. "While we can start putting some generic processes into place now, such as the probable need for social support, we, along with the community, will have to wait for the Government decisions before we can start to make substantive plans".

Mr Ayers says that, in any event, the broader goal for the Council will be to ensure that those property owners affected, residential or business, will have access to suitable alternative options as quickly as possible.

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