MEDIA RELEASE

Monday 12 September 2011

WAIMAKARIRI DISTRICT COUNCIL

Council supports interim process for rebuilding in white zone

Following this afternoon's Ministerial announcement about an interim process for rebuilding in white zone areas, the Waimakariri District Council says it supports the approach being proposed.

The new process which applies mainly to non-residential properties in white zone areas in Canterbury and all non-residential properties within the Waimakariri District white zone areas has been developed to enable some white zone commercial property owners to begin their repairs or rebuilds.

Canterbury Earthquake Recovery Minister Gerry Brownlee says that while white zone areas will eventually be reclassified from the white zone, the Government wanted to put an interim process in place to expedite the rebuilding process.

In most cases, property owners will be required to submit an appropriate geotechnical report with their building consent application in order for it to be processed and the process will be reviewed if there is another aftershock over magnitude 5.5.

Waimakariri District Council Chief Executive Jim Palmer says the Council supports the approach being proposed by the Government as it is consistent with what Waimakariri District Council has been doing to date.

"We have been processing building consent applications for non-residential buildings in liquefaction prone zones provided they have been appropriately supported by geotechnical and structural engineering design."

> *"Waimakariri District Council Chief Executive Jim Palmer says the Council supports the approach being proposed by the Government as it is consistent with what Waimakariri District Council has been doing to date.*

For more information contact:

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