

MEDIA RELEASE

Friday, 28 October 2011



More Kaiapoi houses rezoned green

Following today's Government announcement that more than 6400 properties in Canterbury orange zones have been rezoned green, including a number in Kaiapoi Lakes and an area of Kaiapoi West; the Waimakariri District Council says it welcomes the decision for these households, but is disappointed for those who remain in the orange zone.

While there are 29 houses in Kaiapoi West and 13 houses in the Kaiapoi Lakes that have been rezoned to green enabling these homeowners to move forward and start repairing or rebuilding, 27 houses in Kaiapoi West will remain in the orange zone pending further investigation.

"We welcome the announcement today regarding the rezoning of Kaiapoi Lakes and part of Kaiapoi West from orange to green, although we are disappointed part of Kaiapoi West remains orange and understand there will be continuing frustration for these residents," Waimakariri District Mayor David Ayers.

"We hope people who are now in the green zone who need to repair or rebuild their homes can reach a rapid settlement with the Earthquake Commission (EQC) and insurance companies."

Canterbury Earthquake Recovery Minister Gerry Brownlee says that extensive geotechnical land damage assessment and investigation in the orange zone areas enabled the determination that most properties can be repaired on an individual basis which is why they have been rezoned green.

"Even though land damage may be present on some properties in the newly classified green zone, most can be repaired on an individual basis as part of normal insurance processes."

Owners of properties rezoned green as a result of this announcement should receive a letter about their property tomorrow or Monday next week. Information about specific properties is immediately available at www.landcheck.org.nz.

The Department of Building and Housing (DBH) has also today released standards for foundations in repaired or rebuilt homes. "The Department of Building and Housing has developed three technical categories for residential foundation

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design as part of its guidance for repairing and rebuilding earthquake damaged homes in Canterbury. These new categories apply to liquefaction prone flat land in the green zone in the greater Christchurch urban area," Minister Brownlee says.

Most of the properties rezoned from orange to green will be in Technical Category 3 as they will require site-specific geotechnical investigation and specific engineering foundation design.

Further information about the new technical categories for residential foundation design is available on the CERA website at www.cera.govt.nz.

For more information contact:

Simon Markham, Social Recovery Manager

Phone: 03 311 8900 or 03 327 6834

Email: simon.markham@wmk.govt.nz

David Ayers, Mayor

Phone: 03 311 8900 or 03 327 6834

Email: david.ayers@wmk.govt.nz