



Summary of Information

Consultation on Earthquake-prone Priority Buildings and Routes of Strategic Importance and Dangerous, Affected and Insanitary Buildings Policy

Reason for the Proposal

The system for identifying and managing earthquake-prone buildings changed on 1 July 2017 when the Building Act 2004 was amended. The new system prioritises identification and remediation of earthquake-prone buildings that either pose a high risk to life safety, or are critical to recovery in an emergency. The changes are designed to manage and reduce the risk to people – be they occupants or passers-by. The new law focuses on the most vulnerable buildings and their risk to public safety.

Priority Buildings

The Council must consult on whether buildings are “priority buildings” due to their location and the potential impact of their failure in an earthquake on people.

Schools, hospitals and emergency response buildings are already identified in the legislation as “priority buildings”. The Council is not required to consult on those buildings. However the Council is required to consult the community to help identify routes with sufficient vehicle and pedestrian traffic that could be affected if unreinforced masonry buildings (URM) with falling hazards (such as parapets or verandas) fell on people during an earthquake.

Priority buildings must be identified and remediated in half the usual time, to reduce the risks to life safety more promptly. This means that the Council must identify potentially earthquake-prone priority buildings in the District within 5 years, and building owners must strengthen or demolish earthquake-prone priority buildings within 12.5 years from the date the earthquake-prone building notice is issued.

The Council has proposed that commercially zoned areas in Hāwera (Town Centre) Eltham and Ōpūnake (Mixed Use), as identified in the District Planning Maps, will be used as the basis for determining priority buildings that pose a high risk to life safety, as it considers these areas have sufficiently high pedestrian and high vehicular traffic than other areas of the District because this is where the highest numbers of people go to shop and do business and therefore they warrant prioritisation. The maps of these areas are set out below.

Hāwera Town Centre - Commercial Zoned Area	Eltham Mixed Use – Commercial Zoned Area	Ōpūnake Mixed Use – Commercial Zoned Area
		

The Council would like to hear your answers to the following questions:

- Questions**
1. Do you agree with the thoroughfares identified for prioritisation?
 2. If not, which thoroughfares do you disagree with and why?
 3. Are there any other thoroughfares that meet the criteria but are not listed?

Once priority routes have been finalised, i.e. after the Council has considered public feedback and adopted the policy, the Council staff will look at all buildings on those routes to determine whether they are potentially earthquake prone in accordance with methodology set out by the Ministry of Business, Employment and Innovation. Only those buildings in Category A, i.e. URM, or parts of a URM such as parapets or verandas, will be considered to be priority buildings.

Buildings on a transport route of strategic importance

Access to emergency services in emergencies is essential for a number of reasons, including saving lives. Buildings impeding a strategic transport route in an earthquake could inhibit an emergency response to the detriment of the community, i.e. loss of life, if access to emergency care is not possible. The Council determined, after speaking with New Zealand Transport Agency (NZTA), the NZ Police, Fire and Emergency New Zealand (FENZ), AA, the Taranaki District Health Board (TDHB) and St John Ambulance Service, that there were no routes in the District that were used by emergency services, where there was no alternative routes available, that, in the event

of an emergency, would be impeded by a building collapsing over the road. The Council seeks your views on whether there are any emergency routes that you think should be prioritised.

Questions

1. Do you agree with the Council that there are no emergency routes to be prioritised?
2. If not, which routes do you think meet the criteria and why?

Dangerous, Affected and Insanitary Buildings Policy

The Dangerous, Affected Insanitary and Earthquake-prone Building Policy needs to be reviewed at the same time. The Earthquake-prone parts of the Policy are superseded by the legislation and the Priority Buildings Policy. The current policy will be revoked and replaced with the Dangerous, Affected and Insanitary Building Policy. The Council seeks your views on this Policy.

More Information

Where to get a copy of the Statement of Proposal

The Statement of Proposal sets out in more detail information about the Earthquake-prone Priority Buildings and Routes of Strategic Importance proposal. The Dangerous, Affected and Insanitary Buildings Policy is available separately. These are available on the Council's website www.southtaranaki.com and at any LibraryPlus or the Hāwera Administration Building. You can request a copy be posted to you by calling 0800 111 323 or (06) 278 0555.

Have your say

Written submissions on the Council's proposals can be made by:

- Completing the online submission form(s) at www.southtaranaki.com
- [Sending an email to policy@stdc.govt.nz](mailto:policy@stdc.govt.nz)
- [Complete a hard copy submission form and post it to us at](#) Private Bag 902, Hāwera, 4640 or drop it into any LibraryPlus or the Hāwera Administration Building
- [Fax us on \(06\) 278 8757](tel:062788757)

Submissions must be received by Council by 5 pm on Monday, 24 September 2018. Please indicate if you wish to speak to your submission. Those submitters who wish to speak to their submission can do so on Monday, 8 October 2018 at the Council Chambers in Albion Street, Hāwera. If you have any questions please contact Coral Hair, Policy and Governance Manager on 0800 111 323 or (06) 278 0555 ext 8842.