



Canterbury Earthquake Recovery Authority

4 July 2011

Dear [REDACTED]

Re: your property at [REDACTED]

This letter is to confirm your property at the above address has been zoned in the residential green (go) zone. You may have already visited the www.landcheck.org.nz website to confirm this.

It has been a tough time for all of us in Canterbury with these ongoing earthquakes. I would like to thank you for your patience and I am committed to keeping you well informed in my new role as Chief Executive of the Canterbury Earthquake Recovery Authority (CERA).

Advice from geotechnical engineers has seen all greater Christchurch residential land, including wider Kaiapoi, divided into four zones – red, orange, green, and white. You can find out more about what these zones mean on the CERA website – www.cera.govt.nz.

Being zoned in the green (go) zone means property owners in this zone no longer have to wait for the results of any area-wide land assessment reports by EQC or its engineering consultants. However, ongoing EQC and insurance claim assessments are continuing. For more information about EQC timeframes for assessments visit the EQC website – www.eqc.govt.nz.

There will be some isolated exceptions in the green zone where properties have severe land damage and further geotechnical assessment may be required. This will be dealt with by EQC and your insurance company under normal insurance processes.

While there may be some land damage or liquefaction on your property, this can be dealt with through the usual EQC processes on an individualised basis. For the most part homeowners in this zone can get on with the process of repairing or rebuilding their home if it was damaged by the earthquakes.

The total number of properties in the green (go) zone is more than 100,000 across Christchurch and the Waimakariri District.

It is suggested that your next step should be to now engage a building professional to assist you identify a repair or rebuild solution that will comply with the current requirements of the Building Code.

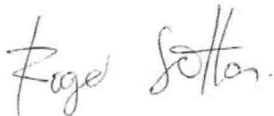
For some, EQC or your insurer may be providing (generally through a project management office) a suitably qualified person. If you intend to engage your own building professional, you should look for someone such as a licensed building practitioner, a chartered professional engineer or registered architect. You can find a list of licensed building practitioners on the DBH website - www.dbh.govt.nz/lbp-register.

These building professionals should be able to identify the appropriate repair or rebuild options for you. The Department of Building and Housing have developed guidance to assist engineers and others to assist this process with some common repair techniques. The guidance is being updated as more techniques are identified.

Repair and rebuilding work should take into consideration the risk of ongoing aftershocks, so some finishing tasks such as brick, plastering, painting and driveway concrete laying should be delayed until that risk decreases.

Given this news, I expect you will have some questions so I have enclosed a fact sheet, which I hope addresses some of these. You can also contact the government helpline on 0800 779 997 or visit our website www.cera.govt.nz for further information.

Yours sincerely,



Roger Sutton
Chief Executive

Residential Green Zone Fact Sheet

Geotechnical engineers Tonkin & Taylor have assessed and mapped residential land damage caused by the devastating Canterbury earthquakes of 2010 and 2011.

The residential green zone is the 'go zone'. This means that generally there are no significant land issues in this area that prevent rebuilding based on current adopted seismic standards.

The majority of greater Christchurch properties – more than 100,000 properties – are in this zone and have been given a green light to work with the Earthquake Commission (EQC) and their insurers to get on with the process of repairing and rebuilding of their homes.

The criteria for defining areas as residential green zone are:

- No significant land issues prevent rebuilding based on current adopted seismic standards.
- Land damage may be present but this can be repaired on an individual basis as part of the normal insurance process.
- Insurers can continue claim settlements on repairs and rebuilds on individual properties.
- The Department of Building and Housing (DBH) is preparing engineering guidelines for the repair and rebuild of houses in these areas.
- Some properties may require specific engineering design to comply with the DBH guidelines.
- Decisions on when to commence rebuilding or repairs should take account of ongoing seismic activity and the potential for significant aftershocks.
- Some isolated properties that have severe land damage where repair costs exceed the Earthquake Commission assessed land value may be reclassified into the residential orange (hold) zone once identified.

What does this mean for me?

Property owners in the residential green zone no longer have to wait for the results of any area-wide land assessment reports by EQC or its engineering consultants. However, ongoing insurance claim assessments are continuing.

There will be some isolated exceptions where geotechnical assessments may be required due to severe land damage, but for the most part homeowners in this area can get on with the process of repairing or rebuilding.

If you believe you have land damage in this area you should contact EQC on 0800 DAMAGE (0800 326 243).

Repair and rebuilding work should take into consideration the risk of ongoing aftershocks, so some finishing tasks such as brick, plastering, painting and driveway concrete laying should be delayed until that risk decreases.

Where can I get more information?

Residents can visit the www.landcheck.org.nz website and enter their address to find out what zone their property has been mapped into.

Residents can also contact the Government helpline on 0800 779 997 if they are unable to access the website or if they want more information.

Further information is also available on the Canterbury Earthquake Recovery Authority (CERA)'s website www.cera.govt.nz.