

**Date:** 25 May 2012

**To:** Diocesan School Boards of Trustees

**From:** Mike Nolan

**Re:** Christchurch Earthquakes and the Diocesan 5-Year Property Programme (5YPP)

Further to my previous correspondence (02/03/12 ... *attached*) regarding the 5YPP moratorium, I write to provide an update on the:

- current "state of play" regarding earthquake strengthening;
- detailed engineering evaluation (DEE) process; and
- the commencement of providing a costings framework for the seismic strengthening works.

### Current Situation

As stated previously, the aim is to ensure the seismic capacity of all diocesan school buildings (*in every district of the Diocese*) is as near as practicable to 67% of the new build standard (NBS).

We have finalised the desktop evaluation exercise on building types and those building types that might potentially cause most concern have been systematically inspected, measured and evaluated on-site by structural engineers. We have moved to the detailed evaluation phase and any buildings that are, after further engineering modelling and analysis, deemed to be earthquake prone will be closed immediately and remedial actions undertaken as soon as possible.

This first round of remedial actions (*five emergency & temporary and one permanent*) on 6 classroom blocks at 6 schools has been completed.

### Detailed Engineering Evaluation Process

The DEE exercise will take time to complete but please be assured that the buildings most at risk (*in greater Christchurch*) are being tackled first.

We anticipate that the mandatory DEE process for those schools in the greater Christchurch area will be completed by December 2012.

At the completion of the DEE process for the greater Christchurch area, the structural engineers will commence the diocesan school DEE process in this (*most likely*) order:

1. Ashburton District
2. Timaru District
3. Waimate District
4. Mackenzie District
5. Grey District
6. Westland District

We anticipate that the DEE process for the schools in the above districts will be completed by June 2013.

Of course, any further earthquakes would necessarily extend the above timeframes.

## Towards a Costings Framework

This is an evolving situation and process.

Much of the substantial and unbudgeted and "necessary" seismic strengthening costs are not covered by insurance.

I say "necessary" not only because the safety of students and staff is the Bishop's priority, but also because increasingly Councils outside of Christchurch are also taking a more proactive policy position to ensure public buildings meet appropriate seismic capacities.

The level of insurance monies that will be provided towards any given situation is yet to be finalised/determined as negotiations and determinations continue in this regard; and the exact costings for any given building can only be determined once structural designs have been completed, consent granted and tenders received. Hence my statement, that this is an evolving situation and process.

In order to provide you with a "feel" for the magnitude of such costs (*costs incurred by the Bishop following the 22 February 2011 earthquake*), I provide the following information on (*rounded*) costs incurred thus far at those schools who have been "most" affected by earthquakes:

1. The necessary moves of Marian College from the North Parade site to St Bede's College and then to the Catholic Cathedral College site in Barbadoes Street (\$2,820,000)
2. Catholic Cathedral College (\$680,000)
3. St Paul's School (\$93,000)
4. Christ the King School (\$426,000)
5. St Anne's School (\$94,000)
6. St Peter's School (\$57,000)
7. St Mary's School, Christchurch (\$109,000)
8. St Bernadette's School (\$49,000)
9. Our Lady of the Assumption School (\$70,000)

**Please be assured that as DEEs are completed and individual building strengthening projects are finalised, I will provide you with an updated, diocesan-wide and increasingly (*over time*) full picture, project list and costs budget.**

May God's peace be with you.

Kind regards



**Mike Nolan**  
**Manager**  
**Catholic Education Office**

**PS Would all Principals be so kind as to ensure this information is provided to your school's Board of Trustees ... thanks (in anticipation).**