

## **Aim**

The Proprietor (Bishop Barry Jones) continues to receive structural information in order to determine what works are required for Block 1 to be appropriately strengthened to meet the current seismic requirements of the building code.

## **Current Position**

Block 1 remains yellow “stickered” as the structural engineers from Opus International Consultants have determined that Block 1 has the *potential* for a “soft” collapse. Clearly Block 1 did not collapse; but the engineering consensus has determined that such potential exists.

Prior to the June earthquake the structural engineers were planning to resolve this potential by further strengthening of the building primarily in the longitudinal plane. The Opus team has determined a strengthening solution that includes the planned new 120m<sup>2</sup> library at the north end of Block 1. Engineering design work has been completed on this and the repositioning of Block 3 has been completed to allow for the siting of the library at the north end of Block 1.

Following the June earthquake the Opus structural engineers undertook further detailed radar and “invasive” assessments and have now determined that extra strengthening of the building in the latitudinal direction is also required. The Bishop is committed to maximising safety and has agreed to undertake this additional strengthening work.

Opus structural engineers and architects are currently developing further detailed engineering drawings associated with this additional latitudinal strengthening solution.

Previously the Bishop noted that (as at 13/05/11) the process was “on track for all students to return to the Greers Road site at the start of the 2012 school year”. The Bishop had also noted, “there remain items and matters (e.g. *further significant aftershocks & consenting timeframes*) beyond the Proprietor’s control that may extend the target date”.

The implications of the June earthquake mean the Block 1 strengthening process will be extended beyond the start of the 2012 school year (most likely towards the end of Term 2, 2012). That said, the Bishop remains committed to having all students educated on the Greers Road site for the start of the 2012 school year. With this in mind, the Bishop is currently working with his insurer to provide five relocatable classrooms for the start of the 2012 school year (*see attached diagram*).

The Bishop wishes to thank his integration partner (the Crown) and the Merrin School board of trustees, staff, student and parent community for their warm welcome and hosting of five Christ the King School classes at Merrin School throughout 2011.

## **Conclusion**

Whilst there remain items and matters (e.g. *further significant aftershocks & consenting timeframes*) beyond the Proprietor’s control that may extend the target date for the reoccupation of Block 1, I can say that we are on track for all students to return to the Greers Road site at the start of 2012.

**Mike Nolan**

**Manager**

**Catholic Education Office**

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