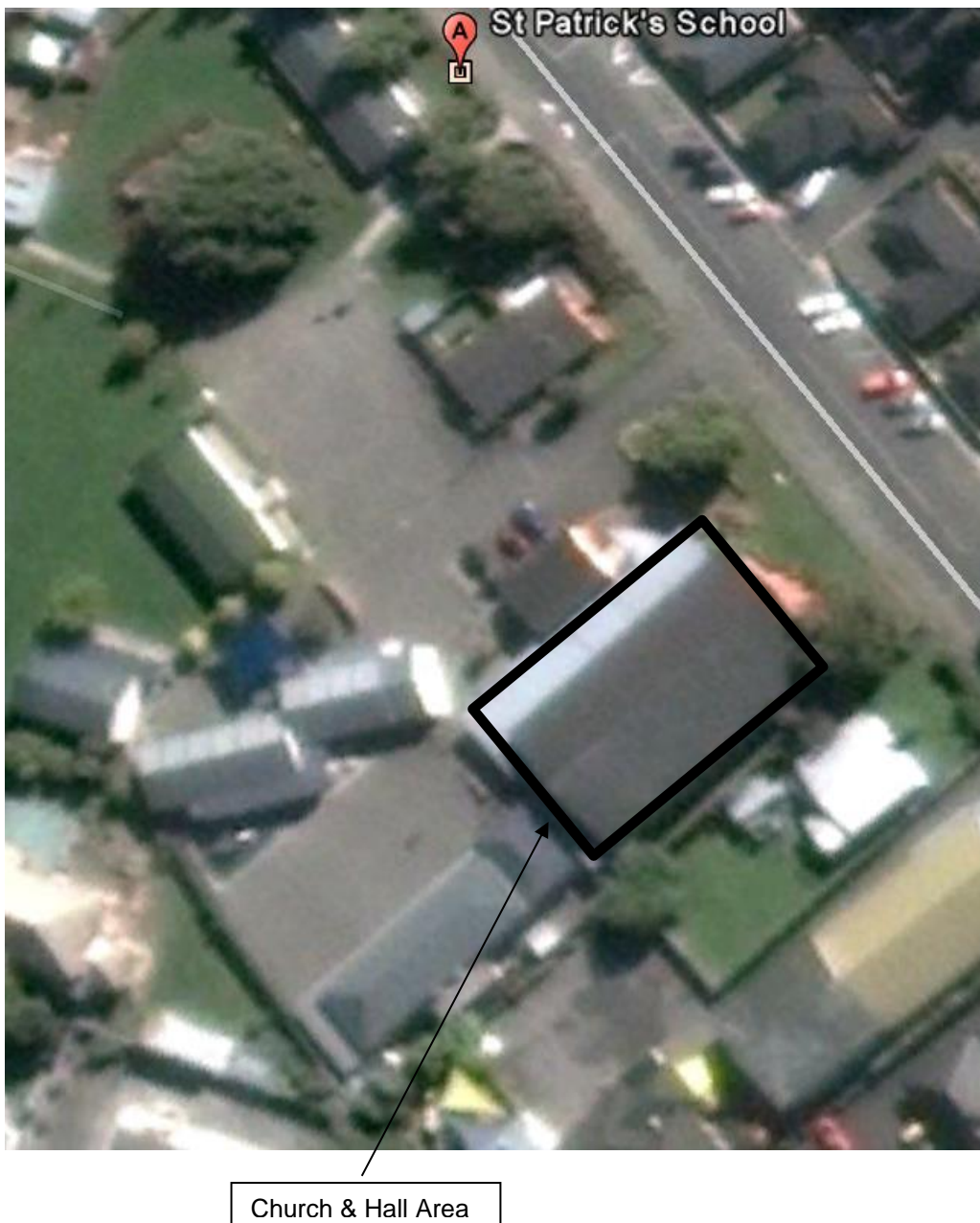


St Patrick's Church & St Patrick's School (Kaiapoi)



During the preparation of the detailed engineering evaluation (DEE) for St Patrick's Church & Hall, the structural engineers from Opus International Consultants have determined the building to be "earthquake prone". It is assessed to be less than 34% of New Building Standard (NBS). Thus the Church & Hall building requires remedial work in order to meet appropriate building standards.

As the school occupies three integrated areas within the Hall section of the Church & Hall building this affects the school's use of the building, in school time and for school functions.

The structural engineers have alerted the Catholic Diocese of Christchurch to this preliminary finding, and the Diocese has determined that the Church & Hall area (including the lounge) is to be closed for use by school students forthwith.

While the building is earthquake prone, (assessed to be less than 34% of New Building Standard (NBS)) it was not significantly damaged in the earthquakes and is not considered to have a critical structural weakness; i.e. it is unlikely to suddenly collapse in an earthquake. Consequently the Church & Hall building can be legally occupied but, consistent with actions taken at other diocesan schools, it is not considered to be suitable for use by school students, in school time and for school functions.

The following actions have been and/or will be undertaken:

1. A concept strengthening scheme for the Church & Hall building has been prepared by Opus.
2. The concept has been costed by a quantity surveyor.
3. After consideration by the parish and the Bishop a decision will be made whether to proceed with the detailed design of the strengthening works.

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