

Aim

The Bishop of Christchurch (the Proprietor) continues to gather information in order to determine what would be required to return the College to its Marian College site; should the information gathered demonstrate that this is possible.

Current Position

On behalf of the diocese, and supported by its insurer, I am able to convey the following summary of the information from the Opus International Consultants' reports on the Marian College buildings, services and site:

Geotechnical Summary

1. Significant liquefaction has occurred on the College site from the February and June earthquakes. This has resulted in most buildings on the site suffering differential settlement in many areas of up to 215mm.
2. In addition to this there has also been lateral spread within the site that has resulted in F Block moving 200mm from its previous position in relation to M Block. Although the buildings have suffered extensive damage they have performed to the design requirement to avoid collapse.
3. Geotechnical site testing on the College site carried by Opus Consultants has identified that sand layers in the top 10 metres of the ground profile are highly susceptible to liquefaction.
4. A future earthquake of similar magnitude 6 may cause disruption of a similar order to that already experienced. GNS Science advises the risk of a magnitude 6 or greater earthquake in the Canterbury region to be in the order of 25% within the next 12 months.
5. Opus Geotechnical Engineers advise that ground improvements are unlikely to be economic.
6. **With the elevated risk of a similar seismic event a realistic probability Opus Geotechnical Engineers advise any repairs be deferred for at least 1 to 2 years until the elevated risk is much reduced.** The Proprietor accepts this recommendation.

Structural Summary

The following represents the Opus International Consultants structural engineers' recommendations only; the diocesan insurer has not had an opportunity to consider these recommendations nor undertake a process of due diligence on these recommendations. Thus the following is provided by way of an indicative position only.

1. Blocks A (Administration) & M (old section): the buildings have suffered differential settlement and severe structural damage; the Opus recommendation = demolition and replacement.
2. Block C (Common Room) & Block T (currently relocated to St Bede's College): the buildings have not suffered structural damage; the Opus recommendation = repairable*/relocatable.
3. Block F (Food Tech; Drama & Teaching) & Chapel & Block M (new section) & Block S: the buildings have suffered differential settlement but no significant structural damage; the Opus recommendation = repairable*.
4. Block H (Gymnasium): the building has suffered differential settlement and structural damage; the Opus recommendation = repairable* (the gym floor, changing rooms, toilets (under the low level roofs) to be demolished and replaced; whilst the gym structure should be strengthened).

5. Block K (Music): the building has suffered differential settlement and has moved laterally; the Opus recommendation = demolition and replacement.
6. Block P (Pool): the pool has suffered structural damage with opening of the control joints by up to 25mm; the Opus recommendation = demolition and replacement.

***Note:** Where a building is recommended (above) as “repairable”, the physical costs for repair have yet to be fully quantified and actual costings may (or may not) dictate replacement as a more economic option.

In addition, you will also be only too well aware that the Canterbury Earthquake Recovery Authority (CERA) has yet to determine the status of the Marian College land (white zone) and the residential properties surrounding Marian College (orange zone).

Conclusion

On the basis of the above reports, the Proprietor has determined the following:

1. As notified previously, the double shifting/co-locating at St Bede’s College will not continue in 2012.
2. It is not possible to place relocatable classrooms on the Marian College site due to the risk of lateral spreading adjacent to Dudley creek, the confined nature of the site, and the fact that if a return site is deemed possible the entire site will, in effect, be a construction zone for a significant period.
3. **In 2012 Marian College will relocate to the Catholic Cathedral site for the medium term, using a combination of permanent and relocatable classrooms.** The medium term is anticipated, with the knowledge gained to date, to be in the order of 2 – 4 years.
4. Moving to the Catholic Cathedral site:
 - Allows the Marian College students to return to a “normal” (8.30am – 3.00pm) school day.
 - Provides the possibility for senior classes at Marian College and Catholic Cathedral College to be timetabled together ...as was previously the case with Marian College and Shirley Boys’ High School.
 - Affords the Marian College students the possibility to access Catholic Cathedral College’s specialist science, art and technology facilities.
5. Marian College will have its own administration and office areas at the Catholic Cathedral site.

The above reports, and the upcoming wider information from CERA, will form the basis for further discussion on the long term diocesan planning for the education of Marian College students. Those plans will also need to take into account any long term changes to the network of secondary school provision in Christchurch city.

The Bishop wishes to thank St Bede’s College for welcoming and hosting Marian College throughout 2011 and Catholic Cathedral College for their willingness to welcome and accommodate Marian College from 2012.

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(2 August 2011)