



DIOCESAN EARTHQUAKE PRONE BUILDINGS Policy and Guidelines

1. Objective

- 1.1. The objective of this policy is to reduce the potential for injury, loss of life, or damage to the property of others in the event of an earthquake.

2. Definitions

“The General Trust Board”	shall mean the General Trust Board of the Anglican Diocese of Auckland.
“Ministry Unit”	shall mean a Parish, Mission District, Local Shared Ministry unit, Mission Venture or Cooperating Parish (where property is owned by the General Trust Board) in accordance with the Ministry Unit Statute 2013.
“Territorial Authorities”	Territorial authorities are the second tier of local government in New Zealand, below regional councils.
“NBS”	NBS is the abbreviation for ‘New Building Standard’ in relation to the Building Code (Schedule 1 to the Building Regulations 1992).
“EPB notice”	Notices, known as Earthquake Prone Building notices, are issued by territorial authorities when they determine that a building or part of a building is earthquake prone.
“IEP report”	An IEP report is an Initial Evaluation Procedure that provides a NBS percentage score for a building.
“Priority Buildings”	Priority buildings are defined by the Building Act 2004, section 133AE.
“Earthquake Prone Buildings”	Earthquake Prone buildings are defined in the Building Act 2004, section 133AB.
“Building(s)”	shall mean any building owned or part owned by the General Trust Board.

3. Background

Amendments to the Building Act of 2004 came into effect on 1 July 2017, stating:

- 3.1 Territorial authorities will go through and identify potentially earthquake prone buildings.
- 3.2 Owners who are notified by their territorial authority must obtain engineering assessments of the building carried out by a suitably qualified engineer.
- 3.3 Territorial authorities will determine whether buildings are earthquake prone, assign ratings, issue notices, and publish information about the earthquake prone building in a public register.
- 3.4 Owners are required to display earthquake prone building notices on their building(s) and to remediate their building(s) according to the set time frames.

4. Introduction

- 4.1 Ministry units are the guardians of church property, including but not limited to churches, halls, and vicarages.
- 4.2 Church community buildings, which are deemed to be earthquake prone by their local territorial authority, will have been either: prior to the amendments of 2017 provided with an Initial Evaluation Procedure (IEP); or after the amendments of 2017 advised to provide their territorial authority with an IEP by a suitably qualified engineer, within specified time frames.
- 4.3 Ministry units will be provided with a time frame to undertake seismic strengthening by their territorial authority. The time frame and priority will differ depending on the local territorial authority, due to its location and policy adopted by that territorial authority under the Building Act 2004.
- 4.4 Ministry units will be provided with a notice by their territorial authority that must be displayed at the entrance of the building.
- 4.5 The General Trust Board as Trustee of the buildings has an interest to ensure all legal obligations are fulfilled.

5. Earthquake Prone Buildings Policy

Where a church building is deemed to be earthquake prone by the territorial authority, Diocesan Council adopts the following:

- 5.1 The ministry unit must notify the Diocesan Council of any IEP received from either their territorial authority or by a suitably qualified engineer.
- 5.2 Any EPB notice provided by the territorial authority must be prominently affixed to the building.
- 5.3 The building can continue to be utilised, unless there are other structural risks presenting a risk to occupants.
- 5.4 Either Diocesan Council or the General Trust Board can require the closure of a church building, if either entity believe it is in the best interests of public safety to do so.
- 5.5 If the building is to remain in use, a plan to strengthen the building to a minimum of 67% National Building Standard (NBS) must be developed by the ministry unit and provided to Diocesan Council, to address the structural issues within the time frames provided by the territorial authority, to a standard of no less than 67% NBS.
- 5.6 Any ministry unit wishing to strengthen the building to less than 67% NBS will require the permission of Diocesan Council.
- 5.7 Diocesan Council will advise the General Trust Board on matters of earthquake prone buildings based on their interest as legal owners.
- 5.8 Nothing in this policy shall impede the General Trust Board's unfettered rights as Trustee of buildings.
- 5.9 Nothing in this policy shall impact Diocesan Council's rights or authorities in respect of buildings.

6. Review

- 6.1 This document will be reviewed annually by Diocesan Council and any amendment communicated to ministry units.

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7. Reference

Information for ministry units – Earthquake Prone Buildings