

Priority Buildings – Earthquake-prone Buildings Consultation FAQs

What is a Priority building?

The *Priority Buildings* that are referenced in this consultation are defined as:

- | Any part of an unreinforced masonry (URM) building that could:
 - i) fall from the building in an earthquake (for example, a parapet, an external wall, or a veranda); and
 - ii) fall onto any part of a public road, footpath, or other thoroughfare that a territorial authority has identified under section 133AF(2)(a):

Why are you consulting on *Priority Building Areas*?

Council is required by legislation to undertake public consultation to identify the thoroughfares with sufficient vehicular or pedestrian traffic to warrant prioritisation onto which part of a URM building could fall in an earthquake.

Undertaking public consultation will enable our community to decide the appropriate level of risk to accept as a community, informed by their knowledge of the local economy, portfolio of buildings and their uses.

What happens when the consultation closes?

Council will hold a hearing to hear submissions, followed by deliberations; Council will then make a decision on what will be defined as priority areas in our district. Once Council has made a decision it will be publicly notified and Officers will work to inform any affected building owners, and move forward with the project.

What does this mean for building owners?

If the area proposed is to become a priority area, we will profile all buildings within the zone using the new Earthquake-prone Building Methodology (EPB) to determine whether or not they are potentially earthquake-prone. If they are, we will request an engineering assessment from building owners, or, if applicable ask that building owners formally accept the engineering assessment we have on file.

We will then assess what is presented in the report and determine whether or not the building is Earthquake-prone.

We have to adhere to timeframes as set out in the Building Act 2004, therefore all priority buildings in Horowhenua must be identified and remediated in half the usual time, to reduce the risks to life safety more promptly. This means that we must identify potentially earthquake-prone priority buildings in our district within 2.5 years (January 2020), and building owners must strengthen or demolish earthquake-prone priority buildings within 7.5 years from the time of the notice being issued.

Remember, the identified areas are only proposed at this stage and we welcome your thoughts and feedback via submission.

My building has recently been strengthened why have I been included in the proposed *priority* area?

Council identified the proposed areas based on them having sufficient pedestrian and/or vehicular traffic to warrant prioritisation, your building is included in the area because of this. Your building will then be included in the profiling process using the new EPB methodology.

Who can make a submission?

Anyone can make a submission; it's not limited to building owners or tenants. This can be done by completing a submission form, these are available from all Council Service Centres in Levin, Shannon and Foxton, downloading or completing online via the Have Your Say page on our website <http://www.horowhenua.govt.nz>

My building isn't in the proposed *priority* areas; does this mean I won't be included in any Earthquake-prone Buildings identification process?

Council will undertake the same process to identify all potentially-earthquake-prone buildings in the District. The reason priority buildings are being identified now is because this is the first stage in identifying all potentially earthquake-prone buildings in our district. Also, Council has a shorter timeframe to identify them; Council has 2.5 years from 1 July 2017 to identify all potentially earthquake-prone *Priority* Buildings and 5 years from 1 July 2017 to identify all other potentially earthquake-prone buildings.

I've had an engineering assessment done on my building; does Council have a copy of this?

Council as a Territorial Authority (TA) has a number of engineering assessments for Buildings on record; you can call us on 06)3660999 to check whether or not the TA has this on record. If not, we encourage you to be pro-active and send a copy of the report to EPB@horowhenua.govt.nz. We will need to review the information to ensure it complies with legislative requirements, if it's adequate we'll use this information in the profiling process using the new EQB methodology to determine whether or not the building is potentially earthquake-prone, and Earthquake-prone thereafter if applicable.