

Office of Hon Gerry Brownlee

MP for Ilam

Leader of the House

Minister of Transport

Minister for Canterbury Earthquake Recovery

Minister Responsible for the Earthquake Commission

30 NOV 2012

Dear Workshop Attendee

I am writing to thank you for your participation in the Residential Recovery Workshop in October, and to provide you with a copy of the Action Plan we have developed as a result.

The purpose of the workshop was to identify solutions and remove barriers to rebuilding residential properties and commercial activity in Technical Category 3 (TC3) areas. I trust you were able leave the workshop with a greater understanding and confidence in rebuilding and operating in these areas.

While there were a number of issues raised throughout the day, I did not hear any views expressed that these were fatal flaws preventing commercial enterprises, including engineers, banks and insurers operating in TC3 areas.

As such, the Action Plan is focused on enabling faster and more certain activity, overcoming information constraints, easing minor obstacles and providing 'proof of concept' progress, rather than breaking down major barriers.

The key issues that the workshop identified included:

- Reservations around potential liability incurred by engineers undertaking TC3 work,
- Stigmatism of TC3 areas through lack of information, understanding and confidence in engineering solutions,
- Lack of clear and coherent information for both industry and homeowners,
- Some greater clarity regarding some regulatory and consenting requirements.

The Action Plan contains several initiatives, as a result of the workshop, that will impact homeowners:

- A rigorous programme of engagement with property professionals aimed at giving them the tools to better inform homeowners about TC3 issues (Canterbury Earthquake Recovery Authority (CERA)),
- 'Proof of concept' demonstration projects (CERA, Housing New Zealand and others),
- The development of a more comprehensive information portal to guide both industry and residents to the right place and the best information, guidance and support that they need (CERA with the Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment (MBIE)).

This is supported by a number of activities to assist the engineering and building industry:

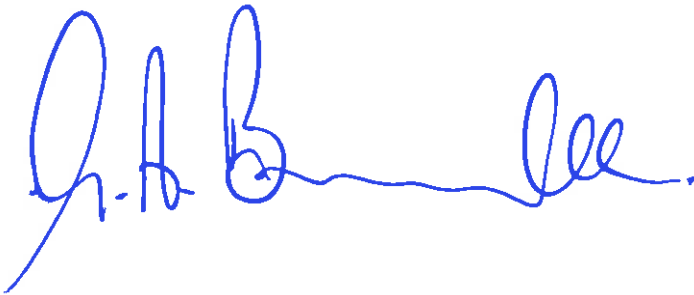
- Stepping up the training programme for engineers (MBIE),
- Developing better costing information for rebuilding in TC3 (MBIE with CERA),
- A number of clarifications to the regulatory requirements (MBIE),
- A combined industry work programme on engineers' liability (MBIE with the Institute of Professional Engineers New Zealand (IPENZ)).

The pilot repair programme by Housing New Zealand, the HIVE pre-fab exhibition and other initiatives will also support the Action Plan.

Also attached (Attachment B) is the Workshop Proceedings document, which details the summary of the pre workshop questionnaires and the discussion on the day. This will also be available from both the CERA and MBIE websites.

I propose to repeat this workshop quarterly to continue the cross-sector discussion and to track progress across the residential rebuild within TC3. The next workshop will be in February 2013. During these sessions my team will report back on our progress and work with you to understand what needs to happen next to hasten the repair and rebuild of damaged homes throughout greater Christchurch.

Yours sincerely



Hon Gerry Brownlee
Minister for Canterbury Earthquake Recovery

Attachment A
Attachment B

Action Plan
Workshop Proceedings