

Media Release

Single access programme for Red Zone

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A single access programme will be replacing the current access programmes for Christchurch's central city Red Zone. The Red Zone Access Programme will continue to help residents and business owners retrieve essential items, and will provide access for contractors, and building owners carrying out work around insurance, works to make safe, and structural assessments.

Canterbury Earthquake Recovery Authority Demolition Manager, Warwick Isaacs, says the access programmes have been a huge success.

"More than 7000 people have gained access to the Red Zone through these programmes."

From July, the single access programme will replace the three current programmes for the Red Zone: the business access programme, the residents' access programme and the temporary access programme.

To date more than 4230 people have gained access through the residents' and business programmes. Over 500 groups have gained access through the temporary access programme, representing around 2000 building owners and their tenants, and about 1000 contractors.

Mr Isaacs says the Red Zone Access Programme will continue to provide a coordinated and straightforward process around controlled, limited access.

"That's important because there is potential for risks to increase in the Red Zone around demolition sites. As a number of demolitions get underway from July, large portions of the zone will turn into work sites with heavy vehicles removing increasing amounts of debris."

In the past month demand for the resident and business programmes has reduced. The programme team has been contacting owners of multi-storied buildings in the Red Zone as well as the final displaced Red Zone residents who registered on the Earthquake Recovery News and Information (ERNI) service.

The Red Zone Access Programme includes an application process and requires applicants to provide a plan of what they hope to achieve.