



## Waiapu Cathedral Seismic Information Q&A

*Updated 1 December 2023*

Some of this Q&A was prepared following parish meetings and feedback in October 2023. It is regularly updated as new questions are raised and information is received.

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### **Q1: What is the current status of the Cathedral building in Napier?**

The Cathedral building is a strong, reinforced concrete construction and safe in a low to moderate earthquake. However it was built in a different time – 1955-65 – and is now at 20% of the current building code but needs to be at 33% minimum. The official notice from Napier City Council was issued in mid-October. The bell tower and lack of bracing above the nave are the main concerns.

### **Q2: What's the timeline for strengthening the building?**

The Cathedral parish has 15 years to get the building up to the current code but the risk assessment gives us 5-7 years of safe use from April 2023.

### **Q3: What is the estimated cost for strengthening?**

The Cathedral seismic committee assessed the cost of strengthening the building alone is around \$20m based on other similar projects. However after the Feb 2023 cyclone there are fewer funding options with government and funding organisations focused on rebuilding.

### **Q4: What is the heritage status of the building?**

Napier City Council notified its proposed district plan on 17 September 2023 which has designated the Cathedral as a Heritage 1 building. There have been two cathedrals on this site plus an early church so the site has strong heritage and spiritual values. We will be submitting on the proposed heritage listing by the due date, 15 December 2023.

### **Q5: Who are you consulting about the future of the cathedral?**

We have discussed this with our parish, and with Napier council. We will be discussing this further with the council, with heritage experts and with the wider diocese as well as Pihopatanga (the Māori tikanga, strand of the Anglican church). There has been some news media coverage and we will open a wider discussion with the public early in 2024 because many people in community have ties to the Cathedral. Also traditionally cathedrals have been built/owned/used by the community and/or government authorities.

**Q6: How long until a decision has to be made about what action to take?**

The Cathedral seismic committee intends to make a submission to NCC by 15 December regarding the heritage status and the options facing the parish and the council. We need to make a decision by 2025.

**Q7: Is \$20M for strengthening work sufficient for the future of this building?**

The Cathedral was built 60+ years ago and there have been substantial changes in building regulations which mean more funding would be needed to bring facilities up to code. There's limited flexibility for different types of events/functions which the public enjoy in this place, and we have no space for church outreach or parish activities. Ongoing costs for rates and power increases, heating, insurance, and maintenance continue to rise. We currently have a small parish base to fund these.

**Q8: Is a new build a better option?**

We are considering this as starting with an empty site would be more affordable. We could create a building that provides for and respects the sacred spaces, but which is aimed at the next 50-100 years of serving our community, and in a way that is affordable and manageable.

**Q9: Who owns and/or funds the Cathedral?**

The Waiapu Board of Diocesan Trustees owns the land and building. However the parishioners donate money and give regularly to cover regular costs. Many of our parishioners provide practical support with tasks around the building and parish at no cost. Visitors' donations also contribute to the costs, as does hiring the Cathedral for concerts and events. It costs approx \$1200 a week to keep the Cathedral open to the public. The Cathedral receives no government or council funding.

**Q10: Why are we here?**

We are to be partners in God's mission to all people – serving them, demonstrating God's love, and providing a place of hope. We need to think and plan how best we can do that, and whether a restored and improved version of our current building is the best answer, or whether a new one would be more fit for purpose.

***For more information go to [napiercathedral.org.nz](http://napiercathedral.org.nz) and look for the seismic info link.***