

Report Earthquake Strengthening Subcommittee

This committee has been active during the year leading investigations, optionality, and discussion to inform the parish, diocese and the community on the challenges generated by Cathedral Earthquake Strengthening requirements.

The Cathedral has been formally given notice that the building is earthquake-prone and must be strengthened by 29 September 2038.

Additionally, Dave Brunsdon of Kestral Group completed a risk report to indicate the building could be safely used for up to 5-7 years.

The risk-based timeframe is more important than the earthquake-strengthening timeframe and a decision on the future of the Cathedral will likely have to be made before the end of 2026.

Napier City Council also categorised the Cathedral as a Heritage 1 building with effect from 21 September 2023. This has significant implications for upgrades, structural changes, or future alternative uses. Earthquake Strengthening is still possible, but the costs will be higher due to the Heritage status. Martin Williams kindly prepared a submission for Vestry opposing the changes to the District Plan and we expect a decision by late 2024.

Bishop Andrew, Dean Di and I will meet with the Mayor and Councillors in early April to explain the dilemma faced by the Parish and Diocese. It is unlikely an estimated \$20m earthquake strengthening project will be affordable yet the Plan Change and Heritage listing make alternative use or demolition non-complying activities. A team from Gemco and Red Steel visited the Cathedral and kindly offered to provide an estimate of strengthening cost based on their experience at Hawke's Bay Opera House and Woodford House. This estimate will be provided by 30 March.

The Parish and Diocese will conduct community engagement during the second quarter of 2024 to ascertain the views of the citizens of Napier and Hawke's Bay to assist with further decision-making.

I would like to thank all members of the committee for their support, meeting attendance and conduit for feedback. This is a difficult topic to broach with all stakeholders and I would particularly like to thank Bishop Andrew and Dean Di for their leadership and advice. I would also like to thank Vestry, the Waiapu Diocesan Board, and the Parish for the considered approach to this challenge.

Lawrence Yule

Chair