

EARTHQUAKE-PRONE PRIORITY BUILDINGS POLICY 2019



Adopted by Hutt City Council Wednesday 15 August 2018

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Roads, footpaths or thoroughfares need to be identified for prioritisation because of the risk of an unreinforced masonry building falling in an earthquake.

1. BACKGROUND

The system for identifying and managing earthquake-prone buildings changed on 1 July 2017 when the Building (Earthquake-prone Buildings) Amendment Act 2016 became effective. The new system prioritises identification and remediation of earthquake-prone buildings that either pose a high risk to life safety, or are critical to recovery in an emergency. Certain hospital, emergency and education buildings that are earthquake-prone will be 'priority buildings'. Other earthquake-prone buildings may be priority buildings due to their location and the potential impact of their failure in an earthquake on people. These buildings must be identified with community input. Priority buildings must be identified and remediated in half the usual time, to reduce the risks to life safety more promptly.

2. THE PROPOSAL

The following roads, footpaths and other thoroughfares are identified as having sufficient vehicular and pedestrian traffic to warrant prioritization, and have the potential for part of an unreinforced masonry building to fall onto the thoroughfare:

- **Jackson Street, Petone** (That part of Jackson Street between Cuba Street and Petone Avenue)
- **Cuba Street, Lower Hutt** (That part of Cuba Street between Emmersons Street and Montague Street)
- **High Street, Lower Hutt** (That part of High Street between Daly Street and Melling Road)
- **Bunny Street, Lower Hutt**
- **Everest Avenue, Naenae**
- **Hillary Court, Naenae**
- **Rimu Street, Eastbourne**

Refer to High Traffic Area maps below for an overview of the listed streets. The individual streets are shown as yellow lines, and each corresponding area is shown as a green box in an overview of the Hutt City.

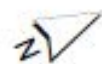
Jackson Street Area includes Jackson Street; Cuba Street Area includes Cuba Street; Hutt Central Area includes High Street and Bunny Street; Naenae Area includes Everest Avenue and Hillary Court; and Eastbourne Area includes Rimu Street.




Jackson Street Area



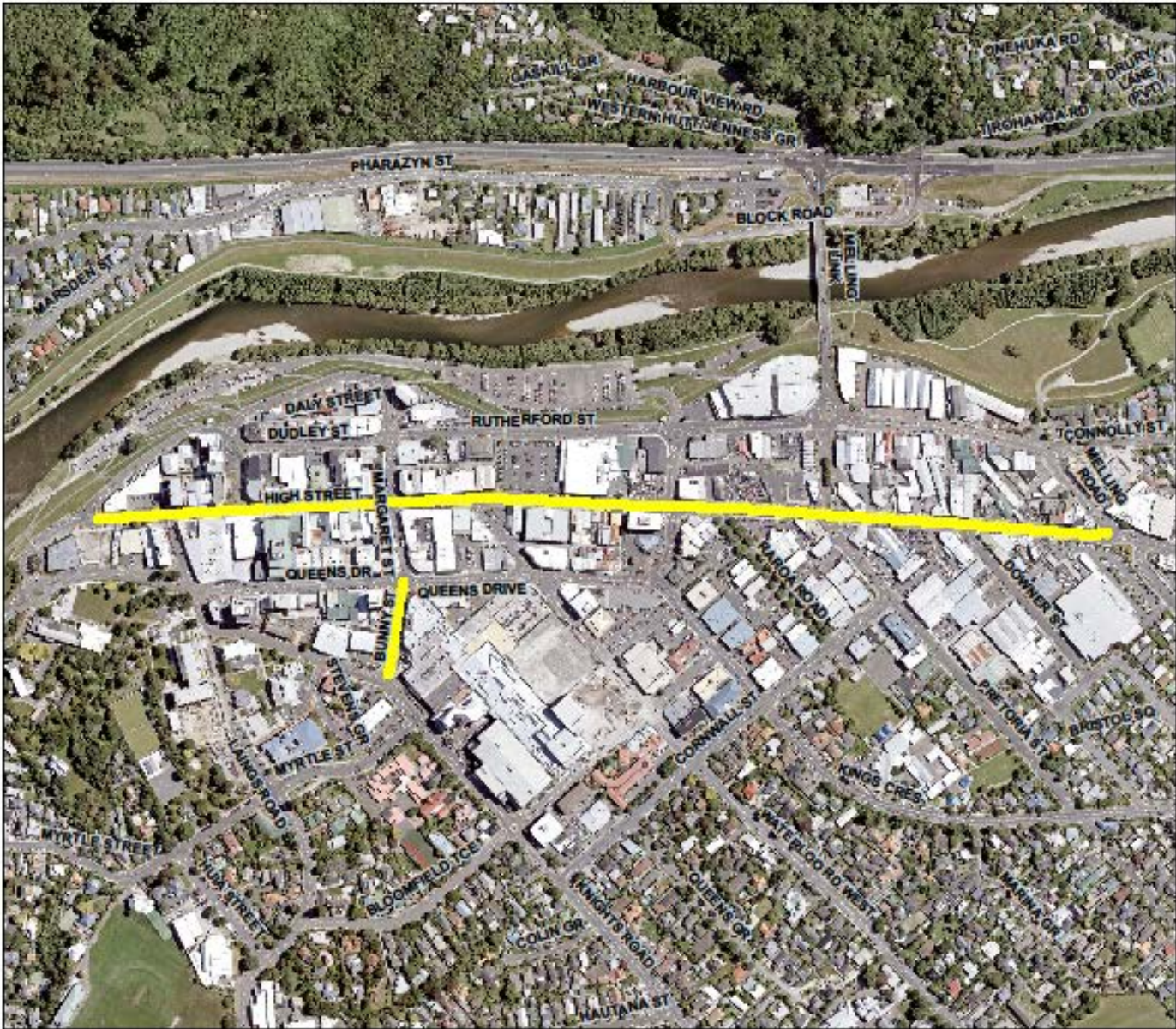
 High Traffic Area



 High Traffic Area

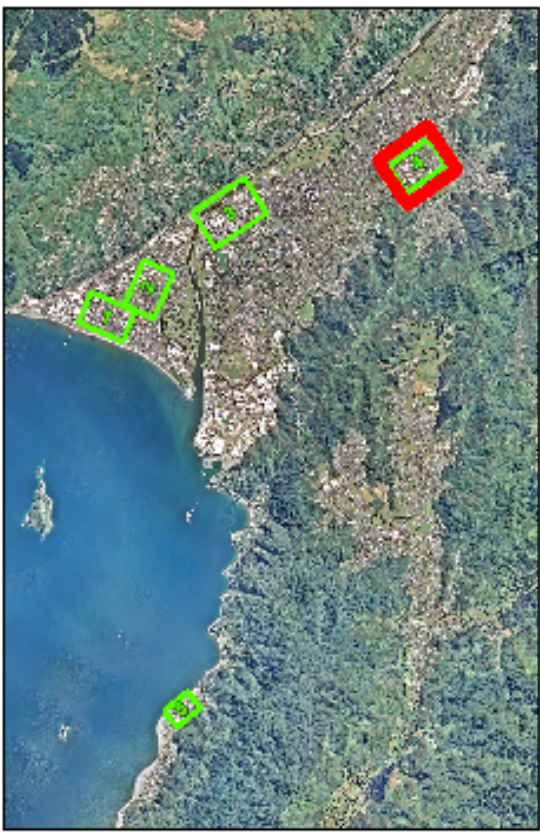
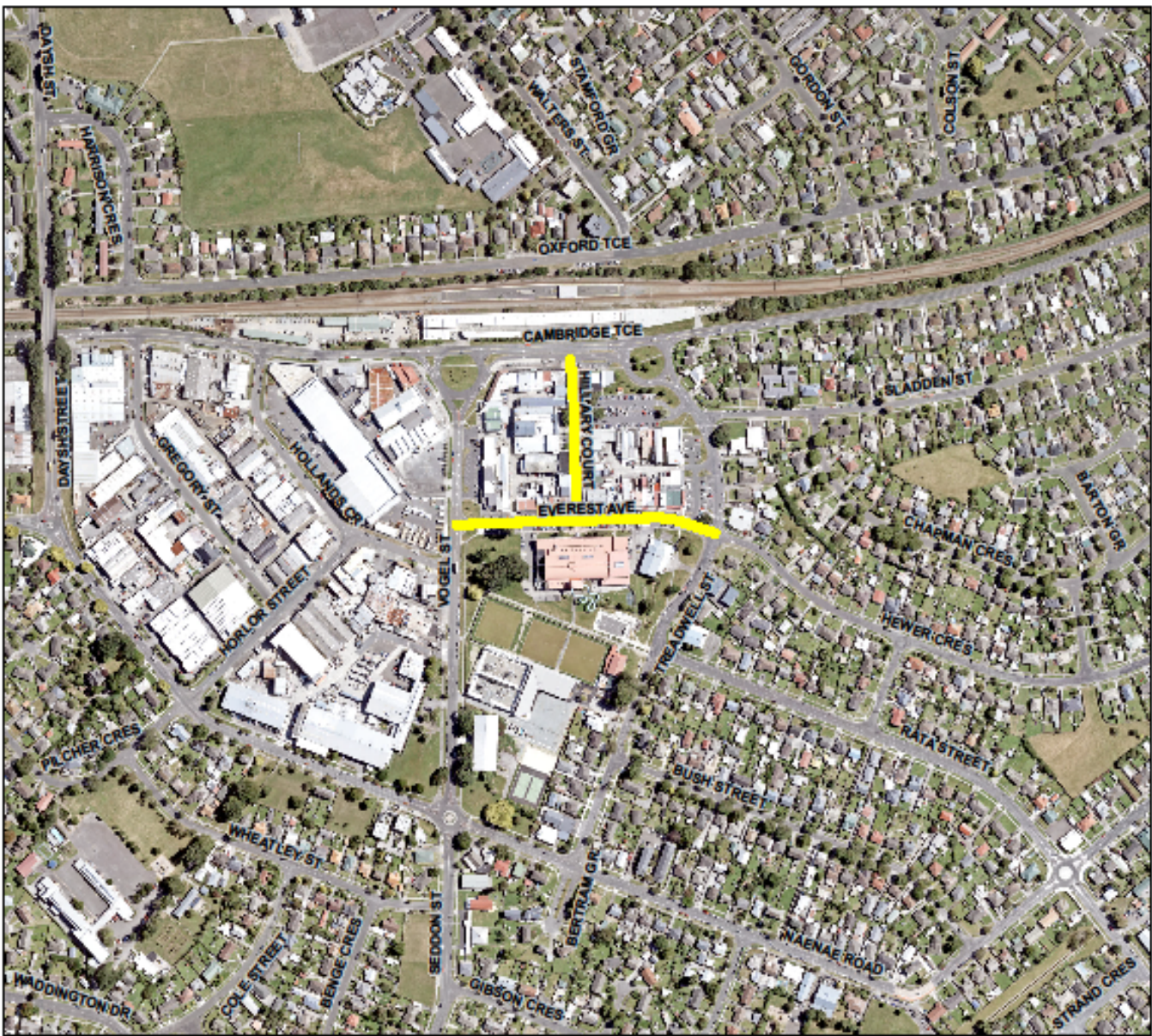
Cuba Street Area






 High Traffic Area

Hutt Central Area




 High Traffic Area



Naenae Area



 High Traffic Area

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Eastbourne Area

3. BACKGROUND INFORMATION

3.1 NEW SYSTEM FOR MANAGING EARTHQUAKE-PRONE BUILDINGS

The Building (Earthquake-prone Buildings) Amendment Act 2016 came into force on 1 July 2017. It changes the current system for identifying and remediating earthquake-prone buildings.

The new system ensures the way buildings are managed for future earthquakes is consistent across the country and provides more information for people using buildings, such as notices on earthquake-prone buildings and a public register. Owners of earthquake-prone buildings will be required to take action within certain time frames depending on the seismic risk their building is located in. Affected owners will be contacted by the Council.

More information about the new system can be found at:

<https://www.building.govt.nz/managing-buildings/managing-earthquake-prone-buildings/how-the-system-works/>

3.2 PRIORITY BUILDINGS POSE A HIGH RISK TO LIFE SAFETY, OR ARE CRITICAL TO RECOVERY IN AN EMERGENCY

The new system prioritises identification and remediation of earthquake-prone buildings that either pose a high risk to life safety, or critical to recovery in an emergency. These buildings are called 'priority buildings'. Priority buildings must be identified and remediated in half the time allowed for other earthquake-prone buildings, to reduce the risks to life safety more promptly.

This means that Council must identify potentially earthquake-prone buildings in this district by the end of 2019, and building owners must strengthen or demolish earthquake-prone buildings within 7.5 years from the date the earthquake-prone building notice was issued.

Further guidance on priority buildings is available at:

<https://www.building.govt.nz/building-code-compliance/b-stability/b1-structure/priority-buildings-earthquake-prone/>

To determine which other buildings may be priority buildings, Council must identify which thoroughfares have sufficient vehicular or pedestrian traffic to warrant prioritisation, if part of a unreinforced masonry building were to fall onto them in an earthquake.