

Christchurch Report- Blueprint amidst Residential Controversy (Tuesday 31 July)

Recovery Plan Blueprint Released

The CCDU (Christchurch Central Development Unit) blue print was released Monday 30 July by Gerry Brownlee, Minister for the Canterbury Earthquake Recovery.

The **Recovery Plan blueprint showcases the new city**, providing for the replacement of the key facilities a city like Christchurch requires.

Mr Brownlee says the Recovery Plan contains a blueprint for a smaller, greener central city that will set Christchurch apart from any other urban centre.

The blueprint includes a new metro sports facility with an aquatic and indoor arena also offering high-performance training and sports medicine facilities, a new convention centre, a large L-shaped green space, a new area expected to be developed as urban living apartments and an area ideally suited to the health, innovation and education sectors.

For full details see CERA media release [“Impressive projects anchor a compact, green city”](#)

Discussions to begin on securing city land

Many landowners and developers have been awaiting this blueprint before confirming plans for their vacant land.

Canterbury Earthquake Recovery Minister Gerry Brownlee says with the design of the new central Christchurch area set out in the Recovery Plan it's now time to start discussions about the transfer of land ownership.

“Now that the locations and scope of the anchor projects and precincts have been confirmed, it is clear some large parcels of land are required for very different uses than their present ones,” Mr Brownlee says.

He says that while the Crown has the power to compulsorily acquire land under the Canterbury Earthquake Recovery Act 2011, the strong preference is for negotiations to now begin with the relevant parties in order to conclude purchases by the Crown on mutually agreed terms.

Prices for all land acquisitions in the central city (other than for central city red zone residential areas declared earlier this year) will be based on market values at the date the land is required.

For full details see CERA media release [“Discussion to begin on securing city land”](#)

Invest Christchurch – A new investment facilitation service announced

Hon Gerry Brownlee also announced last night a new unit to facilitate CBD investment. Invest Christchurch is a new investment facilitation service operating within the CCDU of the Canterbury Earthquake Recovery Authority (CERA). Minister Gerry Brownlee says the unit's initial focus will be the local and national investor, business and development communities, with an international investment marketing campaign set to be launched in the fourth quarter of this year.

“Invest Christchurch is required to assign an initial investment facilitator to all interested investors, businesses and developers within 24 hours of them making contact,” Mr Brownlee says.

“The service is open for business today and the team looks forward to getting down to work with the parties that will ultimately make the new Christchurch successful.”

For full details see CERA media release [“New Unit will facilitate CBD Investment”](#)

Residential Market Outlook

There has been some controversy over the new blueprint being announced while reportedly **28,000 quake damaged homes have not been touched**. Reverend Mike Colman of the Christchurch Wider Communities Action Network has told TV ONE's Close Up a proposed covered stadium that could cost up to half a billion dollars seems absurd when the worst homes in the city have not been repaired.

In the residential market, the recent announcement of a new \$200 million subdivision in Rolleston named 'Faringdon' will create more than 1000 sections on former farmland. This is positive news for red zoners forced to relocate.

Statistics New Zealand shows South Island increase in new dwelling consents in June 2012

Statistics New Zealand released yesterday that in Canterbury, earthquake-related building consents totalled \$45 million in June 2012. Of this, \$26 million was for non-residential work and \$19 million was for residential work, including 27 new houses.

Industry and labour Statistics Manager Blair Cardno said “In June, the number of new housing approvals in Canterbury more than doubled from a record low one year ago.” According to Statistics New Zealand, Canterbury had the largest regional increase in new housing numbers in June 2012, up to 296 from just 133 in June 2011. The majority of consents continued to be outside Christchurch city, in the surrounding districts – Waimakariri, Selwyn and Ashburton.