

SEISMIC ASSESSMENTS

1.1 What is happening with the Walter Nash Centre?

A detailed seismic assessment for the old part of the Walter Nash Centre has been received.

The report identified that while many aspects of the primary structure are rated highly, there is one area of the facility which is of concern. This area is the western corridor which was rated at 20% NBS at IL3, seismic grade D equating to high risk.

This means that the corridor is classified as earthquake prone. The area has been isolated and closed off to the public and staff based on the engineer's advice of potential risk.

We are progressing with remediation options as a priority for the corridor.

1.2 What were the results of the engineering assessments?

You can find the Detailed Seismic Assessment for the Walter Nash Centre on the Hutt City Council website here: huttcity.govt.nz/seismicregister

1.3 Will the Walter Nash Centre close?

No, a revised operating model can be implemented which still allows use of the stadium and meeting spaces.

1.4 Why is the stadium and meeting room still being used?

Other components of the structure of the old side of Walter Nash Centre have been rated above 34%, meaning that they are not classified as earthquake prone. In closing the corridor the public can still access and use the meeting space and stadium using the Tocker Street entrance.

1.5 Is there any impact on the new side of Walter Nash Centre?

No, there is no impact on the new side of the Walter Nash Centre and this will continue to operate as normal.

There is a seismic gap between the original building and the new part. The new building is 100% NBS.

1.6 Is there a plan to fix this?

Yes, we are working on a solution for the corridor. This involves working with the engineers, our regulatory staff and commissioning contractors to undertake the work.

1.7 When was the Walter Nash Centre built?

Construction on the original Walter Nash Centre was completed in 1973. The new facility opened in 2015.

1.8 What actions have been made to care and maintain the building in recent years?

Since 2015 an asset management plan has been in place and is actively being carried out. On average approximately \$100,000 per annum is spent on preventative maintenance, replacements and upgrades.

1.9 What about other council buildings?

Hutt City Council, like many councils around the country, is undertaking engineering assessments of our buildings, to understand what the issues are and to take action to safeguard the public and our staff. The recent assessments of the Walter Nash Centre are part of this process.

Building standards in New Zealand are continually being updated.

As a council it is our role to ensure that we are applying these new standards to our buildings so that they are assessed as being safe to occupy. We routinely commission building assessments and engineering reports on our buildings. When undertaking this work we generally incorporate any work identified as part of our annual general programme of maintenance.

1.10 What are the legal requirements for closing an earthquake prone building?

There are no legal requirements to close a building classified as earthquake prone. The legal obligation under the Building Act is to strengthen earthquake prone buildings to above 34% of the New Building Standard (NBS).

For Walter Nash there is no requirement to close the building on the basis of the engineering information that has been received. The affected area doesn't extend all of the way to the new building and has been isolated so there is no risk to the public or staff.

1.11 Where can I find out more information?

The engineering report and other information can be found here: huttcity.govt.nz/seismicregister