

ASSESSING THE RESILIENCE OF ROADING ORGANISATIONS TO EARTHQUAKES

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TOPIC: *Planning for Earthquakes*

Recent catastrophic seismic events have demonstrated that the functionality of road transport networks is vital in saving lives, reducing costs and enhancing the resilience of the community to recover from the earthquake event. This is recognised and highlighted by the New Zealand's Civil Defence Emergency Management Act (2002) enforcing that transport networks need to be able to function to the fullest possible extent during and after an emergency event.

In the framework of a wider collaborative research program between University of Canterbury and Transit NZ, a specific research has been promoted in order to understand the strengths and weaknesses of Transit NZ's Readiness, Response, Recovery and Reconstruction capabilities in the event of an earthquake.

This paper presents a first insight of the research method that has been widely developed to assess the Resilience of roading organisations to different kind of crisis events in New Zealand. The specific implementation of the proposed method to earthquake events will be performed with reference to two different desktop study cases, namely "Exercise Capital Quake '06" and "Exercise Pandora '07", simulating, respectively, a 7.6 Richter Magnitude earthquake on the Wellington fault line and an 8.2 Richter Magnitude earthquake along the Main Alpine Fault.