

EARTHQUAKE PRONE PUBLIC BUILDINGS BALANCING LIFE SAFETY RISKS AND COMMUNITY COSTS

PROJECT TEAM:

Michael Nuth (BRANZ), Charlotte Brown (Resilient Organisations),
Dave Brunson (Kestrel Group), John Hopkins (University of Canterbury), Emma
Hudson-Doyle (Massey University), Richard Ball (Resilient Organisations)

PROJECT AIM

Our aim was to establish, through consultation with Territorial Authorities, advice and tools that would help decision-makers improve confidence in their decision making around occupancy of earthquake prone public buildings.

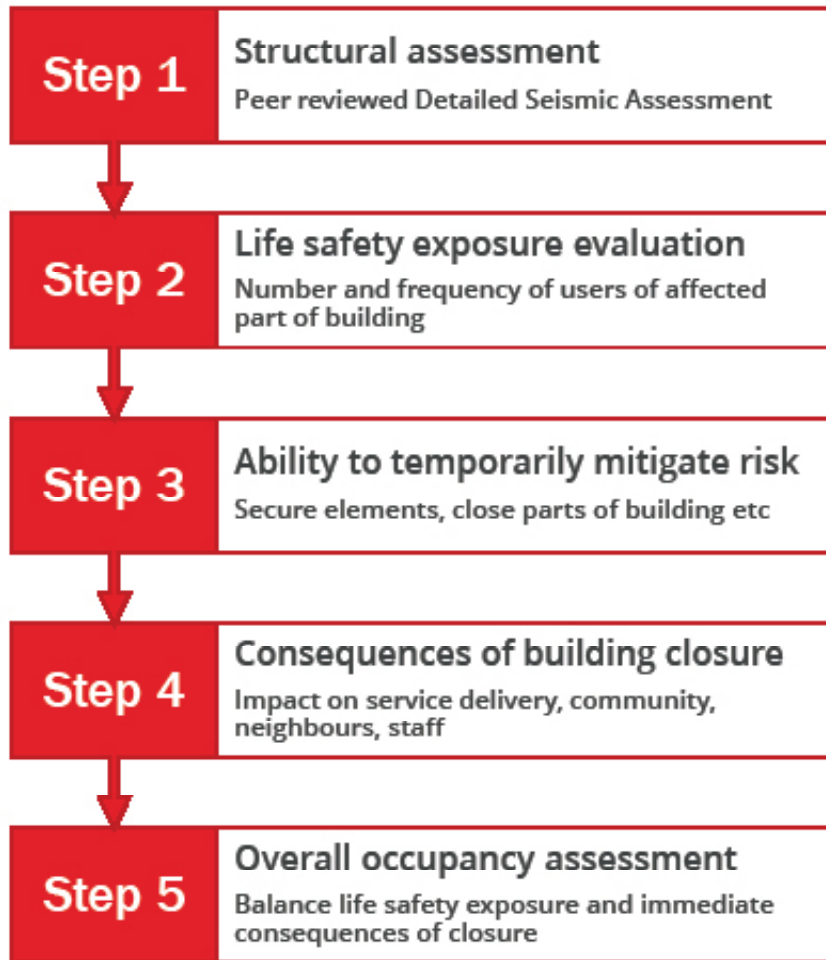
KEY FINDINGS

Currently, there is little consistency across Territorial Authorities (TAs) on how to make decisions related to occupancy of earthquake prone buildings.

TAs have a regulatory obligation as a person conducting a business or undertaking (PCBU) under the Health and Safety at Work Act 2015 (HSWA). Also under the Local Government Act 2002 TAs have an obligation to take into account the interests of both current and future communities when making decisions. This includes the seismic resilience of assets as well as the economic, social, and cultural impacts of closing such assets.

DECISION FRAMEWORK

Our framework steps TAs through a 5-step process that helps them balance their competing obligations and risks.



We think the challenge of managing earthquake prone buildings extends beyond TAs as owners of public buildings; the process and theory behind the framework developed here will be applicable to all building ownership situations.

The full project report and associated framework is due for publication in mid-2021.

CONTACT

Michael Nuth, BRANZ
E: michael.nuth@branz.co.nz
P: 021 108 6218

Charlotte Brown, Resilient Organisations
E: charlotte.brown@resorgs.org.nz
P: 021 142 5420