

# Earthquake Assessment

- ▶ The buildings Block C (Building 105), Clinical Services Building (Building 104), Special Departments Block (Building 107), Maternity (Building 116) and ICT Services (Building 114) have been assessed as provisionally 'Earthquake Prone' but there is **no need for alarm**.

- ▶ The safety of our staff and patients is our priority, as is maintaining our hospital's clinical and acute services.

- ▶ The integrity of the buildings themselves has not changed – they are still the same buildings that have been there for decades. What has changed is that today's building standards have been raised.

- ▶ Seismic structural assessments of our hospital buildings in 2010/11 did not identify any Earthquake Prone Buildings.

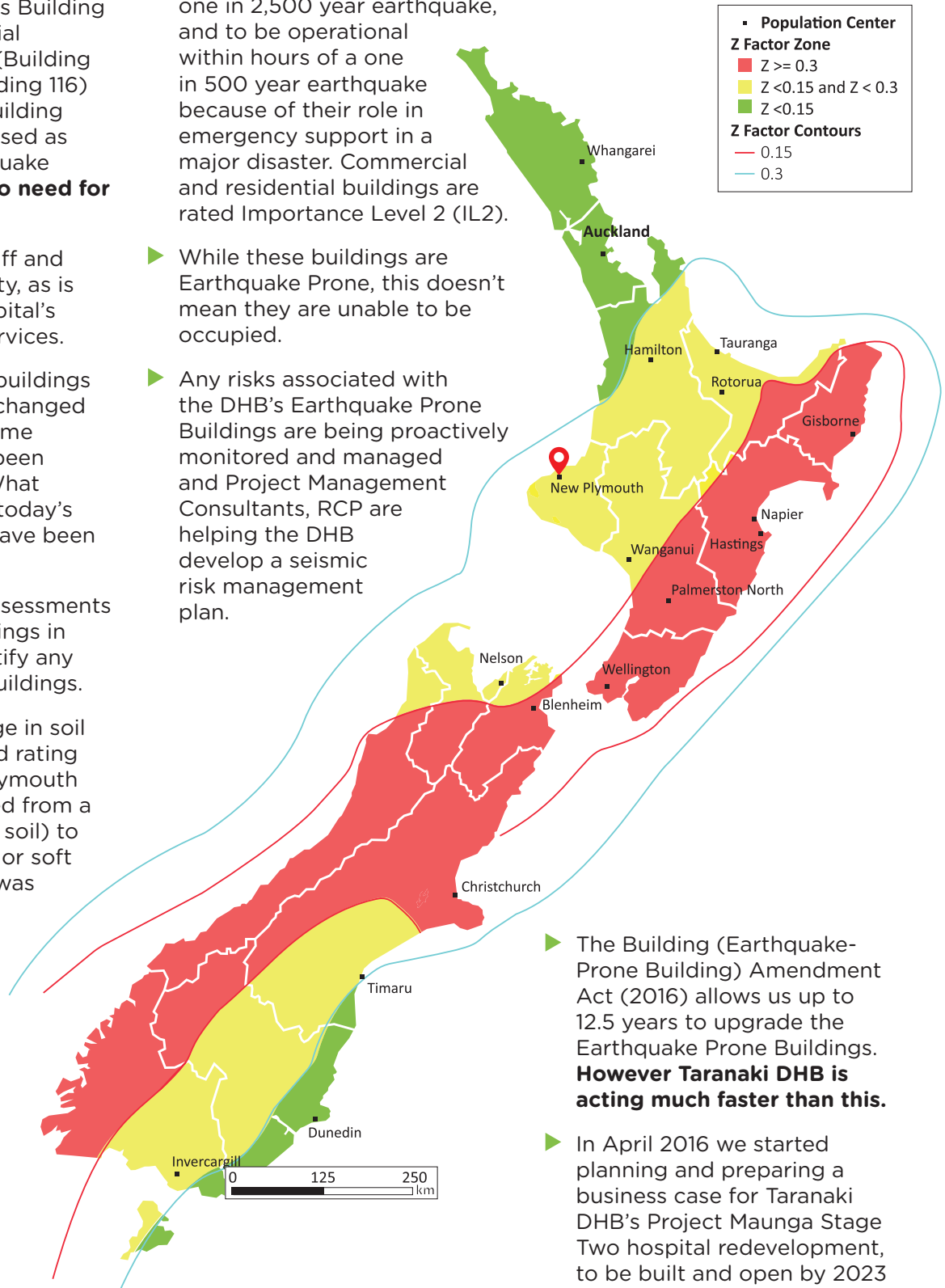
- ▶ In April 2017 a change in soil risk classification and rating has seen the New Plymouth city area downgraded from a Category C (shallow soil) to a Category D (Deep or soft soil) and this rating was used when Taranaki Base Hospital's buildings were assessed this year.

- ▶ Acute hospital buildings with emergency facilities are 'priority buildings' and are required to meet a high earthquake rating Importance Level 4 (IL4). This means the building

will be able to withstand a one in 2,500 year earthquake, and to be operational within hours of a one in 500 year earthquake because of their role in emergency support in a major disaster. Commercial and residential buildings are rated Importance Level 2 (IL2).

- ▶ While these buildings are Earthquake Prone, this doesn't mean they are unable to be occupied.

- ▶ Any risks associated with the DHB's Earthquake Prone Buildings are being proactively monitored and managed and Project Management Consultants, RCP are helping the DHB develop a seismic risk management plan.



- ▶ The Building (Earthquake-Prone Building) Amendment Act (2016) allows us up to 12.5 years to upgrade the Earthquake Prone Buildings. **However Taranaki DHB is acting much faster than this.**

- ▶ In April 2016 we started planning and preparing a business case for Taranaki DHB's Project Maunga Stage Two hospital redevelopment, to be built and open by 2023 or sooner.

**Taranaki DHB takes health and safety issues seriously. The safety of staff and patients is our priority and risks associated with our provisionally Earthquake Prone Buildings are being proactively monitored and managed.**

# Provisionally Earthquake Prone

## What does that mean?

- ▶ The buildings Block C (Building 105), Clinical Services Building (Building 104), Special Departments Block (Building 107), Maternity (Building 116) and ICT Services (Building 114) have been assessed as provisionally 'Earthquake Prone' but there is **no need for alarm**.
- ▶ If a building has been classified as provisionally 'Earthquake Prone' it means the building is more likely to sustain damage following a moderate earthquake and, as a result, there would be a higher risk to staff and public safety.
- ▶ Taranaki is a medium risk zone for earthquakes compared to other parts of the country such as Wellington and Christchurch, which are categorised as high risk zones for earthquakes.
- ▶ According to GNS Science calculations the annual likelihood of a magnitude 6.0 earthquake (large enough to damage buildings and move furniture) to be 5% in South Taranaki and 3% in North Taranaki. Around 200-300 earthquakes are recorded each year in Taranaki, up to ten of those might be large enough to be felt by residents.
- ▶ Taranaki's strongest ever large shallow earthquake was in 1853. It was a 6.8 and was 25km deep.
- ▶ The safety of staff and patients is our priority, as is maintaining our hospital's clinical and acute services.
- ▶ Any risks associated with our provisionally Earthquake Prone Buildings are being proactively monitored and managed. The Building (Earthquake-Prone Building) Amendment Act (2016) allows us up to 12.5 years to upgrade the Earthquake Prone Buildings. **However Taranaki DHB is acting much faster than this.**
- ▶ In April 2016 we started planning and preparing a business case for Taranaki DHB's Project Maunga Stage Two hospital redevelopment, to be built and open by 2023 or sooner.

**Figure 1.1** Occurrence of large shallow earthquakes in New Zealand since 1840



**Taranaki DHB takes health and safety issues seriously. The safety of staff and patients is our priority and risks associated with our provisionally Earthquake Prone Buildings are being proactively monitored and managed.**