

Historic Places Wellington online submission to Building Performance Team, Ministry of Business, Innovation & Employment on Earthquake Prone Buildings. 21 February 2025

Thanks for your feedback! We will use this information to continuously improve our information, education and guidance for the industry.

Have a question? Please email [building@mbie.govt.nz](mailto:building@mbie.govt.nz).

#### Earthquake Prone Buildings Feedback

Email *	<a href="mailto:wgtm@historicplacesaotearoa.org.nz">wgtm@historicplacesaotearoa.org.nz</a>
1) Which of the following best describes your role in the earthquake-prone building system: Building owner	Community - eg charitable organisation
Building tenant	Community - eg charitable organisation, community trust
Industry/other	Historic Places Wellington
2) Where are you located / where do you operate? Region	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Wellington</li></ul>
Type of location	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>urban (city centre)</li></ul>
3) Are you commenting on behalf of a group or organisation?	Yes
If Yes, please specify your organisation	Historic Places Wellington
4) Is there anything else you would like to tell us about your building or your role in the earthquake-prone building system?	we don't have premises but visit many buildings & structures that have been deemed earthquake prone & notice that they have low occupancy levels through the course of a year
FEEDBACK: 5) What has your experience been	we have found it confusing that a building that five years ago, say, was not considered earthquake prone is now regarded as such, and where its usage has remained the same. We understand that the weakest

---

**with the current earthquake-prone building system?**

rating of an element in a building determines the overall rating - when that element could be removed or its risk mitigated. If this approach were adopted, buildings could be retained with all their embedded carbon as well as their social, political and building history intact.

**What is working well?**

the Coalition government's focus on fast-track projects may give heritage sites some time to develop a logical approach to parts & whole of buildings rather than a simplistic single rating

**What isn't working well?**

refer above. the MFC in Wellington continues to be used - but media say it's EQ prone. There are many other examples e.g. City to Sea bridge structure is not e/q prone & the media discussion confused about the personal attributes of the carver of the decorative elements on the bridge (which could be removed & replaced by contemporary artists' contributions) rather than peer-reviewed structural analyses.

**6) Please tell us what, if anything, you would like to see in the future to manage the seismic risk in existing buildings.**

We understand that the weakest rating of an element in a building determines the overall building rating - when that element could be removed or its risk mitigated. If this approach were adopted, buildings could be retained with all their embedded carbon as well as their social, political and building history intact.

**7) Would you like to be sent updates of the Review to the email address provided?**

Yes

---