

# LESSONS LEARNED **CHRISTCHURCH EARTHQUAKE EXPERT ENGINEERING PANEL**

LEGACY DOCUMENT 1

OVERVIEW



**engineering  
new zealand**  
te ao rangahau

# THE LEGACY PROJECT :: OVERVIEW

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In 2018, the Government developed two key initiatives to resolve the outstanding insurance claims related to the Canterbury Earthquake Sequence. These were the Greater Christchurch Claims Resolution Service (GCCRS) and the Canterbury Earthquakes Insurance Tribunal (Tribunal).

To support the work of the GCCRS Engineering New Zealand established an independent expert panel - the Christchurch Earthquake Expert Engineering Panel (the Panel). The GCCRS called upon the Panel for expert technical appraisals, peer reviews, engineering mediations (facilitations) and expert determinations. In June 2019 an agreement was also signed with the Ministry of Justice to provide Panel services to the Tribunal including expert technical advice, peer reviews and engineering mediations.

In February 2023 the Government replaced the GCCRS with the New Zealand Claims Resolution Service (NZCRS), extending support to all homeowners for all natural disasters throughout New Zealand. As part of this service, Engineering New Zealand was asked to expand the Panel to support the extended service.

With the transition to the NZCRS, the Engineering Advisory Group (EAG) supporting the Panel recommended to the NZCRS that Engineering New Zealand develop legacy documents to support homeowners, insurers and engineers involved in residential damage assessments resulting from natural disaster. This involved capturing and consolidating the key process elements and documentation from the Canterbury Earthquake Sequence residential repair and rebuild for future events. Documentation was also to include guidance for service administrators in setting up an event-specific expert panel after a future significant event.

The following documents; Core Documents, Tools and Reference Library have been developed by Engineering New Zealand in response to this request. These documents were completed with input from the Panel and the EAG, and in consultation with stakeholder representatives from the Homeowners Advisory Group, private insurers, Toka Tū Ake EQC, NZCRS and lawyers. Thank you to all the contributors to these documents.

In addition to these documents, there were other areas identified that could not be included in this project due to funding and time limitations. These have been referenced in the Table below. It is strongly recommended that the following documents are developed in the next one to two years

Document Type	Ref	Document/ Item
Summary	1	Legacy Documents Overview
Core Documents	2	Engineering New Zealand's Panel Instruction Letter and Brief <i>Letters of Engagement and Report templates based on GCCRS panel referrals</i> <i>Example reports from past GCCRS Panel engagements</i> <a href="#">Panel Legacy Document - Panel Instruction and Brief.pdf</a>
	3	Guidance for Homeowners on what to expect from engineers

Document Type	Ref	Document/ Item
		<a href="#">Panel Legacy Document - Guidance for Homeowners.pdf</a>
	4	Guidance for Engineers on residential damage assessment and reinstatement <a href="#">Panel Legacy Document - Guidance for Engineers on residential damage assessment and reinstatement.pdf</a>
	5	The Canterbury Earthquakes Engineering Journey <i>A summary of the key engineering themes and experiences in the residential recovery following the Canterbury Earthquake Sequence</i> <a href="#">Panel Legacy Document - Engineering Journey.pdf</a>
Tools	6	Guidance for Facilitators <i>Guidance on mediating the reconciliation of seismic assessments</i> <a href="#">Panel Legacy Document - Guidance for Facilitators.pdf</a>
	7	Guidance for Engineers on Insurance Law <i>A summary of key legal and insurance considerations from the Canterbury Earthquake Sequence, including a summary of case law relevant to engineers working in the area of natural disaster damage assessment and repair.</i> <a href="#">Panel Legacy Document - Guidance for Engineers on Insurance Law.pdf</a>
	8	Instructions for setting up a regional expert panel service after a significant event <i>Guidance on process and document templates</i> <a href="#">Panel Legacy Document - Instructions for setting up a regional expert panel service.pdf</a>
Reference Documents	9	Reference Library <i>Key technical documents relevant to engineering assessments</i> <a href="#">Panel Legacy Document - Reference Library.pdf</a>
Future Documents to Develop	F1	Technical aspects <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Plasterboard - dealing with different levels of damage</li> <li>• Older concrete foundation walls (incl. use of epoxy resin)</li> </ul>
	F2	Regulatory aspects <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Consentability obligations for Building repairs</li> </ul>