



Media Release  
Monday 15 September

## Halls to be temporarily closed

The Sheffield Hall and part of the Springston Hall have been temporarily closed after Selwyn District Council received Detailed Engineering Evaluation (DEE) reports on the halls.

The evaluations, carried out by independent engineers, were completed under the Canterbury Earthquake Recovery Act requirement for all commercial and public buildings to undergo a detailed structural assessment.

The evaluation of the Sheffield Hall found that although the building had suffered light to moderate earthquake damage it had not been significantly structurally weakened by the earthquakes. It found the halls age and construction material meant that it would perform poorly in a future earthquake and should not be occupied.

The Sheffield Hall was built in 1901 and is constructed partly in cement render over timber framing, and partly in unfilled concrete masonry blocks. The hall's construction is typical of many older halls and community buildings in New Zealand.

The older main hall at Springston, built in 1907 with a timber frame construction, was also found to be in a condition that would perform poorly in a future earthquake, and should not be occupied. The newer amenities block attached to the main Hall at Springston will not be closed and can remain available for use.

Council staff have met with the two hall committees to discuss the temporary closures and arrangements for hall bookings. The Sheffield Hall committee has made arrangements with regular hall users for bookings and events to be transferred to other local facilities, including Trinity Hall Darfield, St James Church, Sheffield Domain Pavilion and the Plunket rooms. The Springston Hall committee is currently liaising with users to find alternative locations for events.

The closures are temporary, until options for the future status of the halls can be considered and a preferred option implemented after consultation with the community. Further information is now being sought on the cost of strengthening the halls. Once this is received Council staff will prepare a report to Council, in consultation with the hall committees.

The DEE process is separate from inspections completed shortly after the Canterbury earthquakes to determine earthquake damage, and focuses on assessing the construction type and overall strength of the building.

The Council is continuing to work through evaluations of its 24 community centres and halls across the district. To date 15 DEE reports have been completed. Facilities that suffered significant earthquake damage were prioritised and have already been assessed and other facilities are now being evaluated.

Ends

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