



**Media Release**  
**Friday, 7 October 2011**

## **Huge hike in building activity**

Figures tallied by the Selwyn District Council show \$16,355,279 worth of earthquake-related building activity that has been consented in 170 applications between September 5, 2010 and the start of October this year.

SDC Building Manager Ian Butler says the numbers show a huge hike in activity – much of it related to repair work on homes in the district.

“It’s been a big year for my team, who understand fully what people are going through and have worked hard to turn consents around in 10 – 12 days, rather than the 20 working days that are standard targets.

“Along with these consents, we’ve also processed 254 exemptions – usually to do with the installation of solid fuel burners, which are also earthquake-related.”

He understands that things could potentially slow down because builders are facing massive increases in their on-site insurance premiums, with one local builder quoting a \$50,000 excess for each house rebuild.

“These guys are doing their best to get people rehoused, but there’ll be an effect on the smaller companies who can’t afford to take on the risk that an aftershock might leave them \$50,000 out of pocket,” Mr Butler says.

Selwyn District Council continues to meet frequently with Civil Defence officials from Canterbury and around the country, insurance company representatives, CERA officials and other Government departments.

“We’re progressing matters that are relevant to Selwyn people, making sure our residents have a voice in the discussions going on,” Mayor Kelvin Coe says.

Earthquake Community Recovery Support Officer Jenny Harkerss says people are still dealing with many issues as a result of the earthquakes. Key among those are insurance and wondering what to do about accommodation while repairs are done on their homes.

“We recommend people get in touch with the Canterbury Earthquake Temporary Accommodation Service on 0800 673 227, [www.quakeaccommodation.govt.nz](http://www.quakeaccommodation.govt.nz) for accommodation issues. Anyone who’s stressed about earthquake issues can contact the

Earthquake Support and Counselling Line on 0800 777 846. Or ring me through the Council, on 347 2800 or Darfield 318 8338," Mrs Harkerss says.

**ends**

For more information contact:

Selwyn Mayor Kelvin Coe, 03 347 2800, [kelvin.coe@selwyn.govt.nz](mailto:kelvin.coe@selwyn.govt.nz)

Selwyn District Council Building Manager Ian Butler, 03 347 2810,  
[ian.butler@selwyn.govt.nz](mailto:ian.butler@selwyn.govt.nz).

Earthquake Community Recovery Support Officer Jenny Harkerss, 03 347 2800.