



Media Release
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Strengthening work to start on Darfield Library

Earthquake strengthening work is to be completed on part of the Darfield Library and Service Centre building from Monday 22 August.

The work will occur on the oldest part of the library which is used as meeting space, the entrance foyer and a storage area. Extra bracing will be added to this area and this work is expected to take around one month. While the work occurs, the library and service centre meeting rooms will be temporarily unavailable.

The library and service centre will remain open during the work with normal hours however library access will be via a ramp from the side carpark. Library and service centre customers will need to park at the front of the building (two mobility car parks will also operate near the ramp). The after-hours return box will remain accessible while work takes place.

The library and service centre building was constructed in three stages. The original building, constructed prior to 1983, occupies the western area of the building and is currently used as community meeting room space, entrance and storage areas. The building was extended in 1983 to include the area facing the State Highway which is used for brochure and council information display, seating and a new workspace for staff. The larger main library area where books are displayed, additional seating is provided and the children's area is located was built in 2010.

The area of the library identified as requiring earthquake strengthening in an assessment is the portion of the roof of the original part of the library building.

"The engineers' report did not consider that there was any reason for the library to be closed to the public, but did recommend that strengthening work be undertaken in the future on the original older section of the building," says Douglas Marshall, Selwyn District Council's Property and Commercial Manager. "The report did not identify any concerns with the rest of the library building," he says.

Groups who use the library meeting space have been contacted by library and service centre staff to let them know about the planned work so that they can find alternative meeting venues, such as the Darfield Recreation and Community Centre.

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