

Arthur's Pass slope stability information

This letter is to inform Arthur's Pass property owners about a Slope Stability Assessment for Arthur's Pass village, which includes information about potential impacts on the village. The report was commissioned by Environment Canterbury and the work was carried out by Golder Associates (NZ) Limited.

You will find information below about a public meeting to be held in the village next month and details on how you can get a copy of the report.

There are a number of conclusions in the report – firstly that Arthur's Pass is susceptible to rockfall, debris flow and rock avalanche because of the steep slopes, the earthquake hazard and the high rainfall. The most significant risk to the village appears to be a rock avalanche, such as can be seen at Falling Mountain in the Taruahuna Pass. The consequences from such an event in the village could be severe, but the likelihood of this occurring in Arthur's Pass is low.

Another significant issue for the village is debris flow and the impacts that may have on dwellings and infrastructure. The report highlights the need for ongoing work to maintain the effectiveness of protection measures within the study area.

There are a number of recommendations in the report, and Selwyn District Council will work to implement those where appropriate and will encourage other agencies to do the same.

Sign up to Selwyn Gets Ready

Selwyn District Council offers a free Civil Defence alerting system to residents, which sends text and email alerts to subscribed households in the event of an emergency like wildfire, extreme snowfall or other severe weather. Following an earthquake, the system may be used to communicate important safety information, but this will be dependent on the state of communications networks.

We strongly recommend that your household subscribes to this service. To join, visit www.selwyn.getsready.net and click 'join'. You can register up to two emails and mobile phones per household to receive alerts.

Be Prepared to Respond

Ensure you have a family emergency plan. The plan should cover what you will do in the event of an earthquake, flood or storm and where you will meet up after a disaster.

You should also have a family emergency kit that includes food and water and essential medications. Arthur's Pass could be cut off for some time so you need to be prepared to look after your family and community.

It's a good idea to have a getaway kit too, in case you have to evacuate in a hurry. More information is available at www.getthru.govt.nz

Where to from here?

Selwyn District Council is planning to hold a public meeting in the township to discuss the report. The meeting will be recorded, so that bach owners who can't make the meeting can watch it at a later date. The meeting will be at the Arthur's Pass Community Centre, 76 School Terrace, at 7.00 pm on Wednesday 12 July. If you have any questions that you would like us to consider prior to the meeting, please email them to ryan.o'rourke@selwyn.govt.nz.

Speakers will include Marion Schoenfeld, Environment Canterbury Geological Hazards Analyst and Douglas Marshall, the Civil Defence Controller for Selwyn District. There will be an opportunity to ask questions, both about the report and also about the Alpine Fault.

Copies of the report are being emailed to property owners, where we have email addresses. You can also download a copy from www.selwyn.govt.nz/apslope, or collect a printed copy from the DOC Visitor Centre in the village.

Selwyn District Council has begun work on an Alpine Fault response plan and local community input into the plan will be a key part of the plan preparation.

Douglas Marshall
Selwyn District Council Civil Defence Controller