MEDIA RELEASE

Friday, 2 March 2012

WAIMAKARIRI DISTRICT COUNCIL

Partial Closure of High Street to Vehicles Following Farmers' Decision

Following the immediate closure of the Rangiora Farmers Building this morning, theWaimakariri District Council needs to fence off more of High Street and close it to vehicles between Percival and Victoria treets on Saturday morning, lthough pedestrian access will be maintained.

Farmers says that the closure is due to concerns with the structural integrity of the site and that it will keep all stakeholders up to date with further developments.

Council's Consulting Engineers have reviewed the building this afternoon and due to concerns about the building's parapets, Council needs to close off part of High Street to vehicle traffic. The other half of the street was closed following the closure of the Lambert's Building.

Council's Planning and Regulation Manager Nick Harrison says that while both sides of the road have been closed, there is room for pedestrian access down the middle of the road.

The Council will meet with representatives of Farmers and the building owner to address the issues of concern so this part of High Street can open to traffic as soon as possible.

"The Council's approach to earthquake-prone buildings does not change, nor does our distinction between earthquake-prone and dangerous buildings. However, if a building owner makes their own decision to close a building that is their right as the owner of the building," Harrison says.

> *"While both sides of the road have been closed, there is room for pedestrian access down the middle of the road.*

For more information contact:

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