

COUNCIL IS ON THE MOVE

FAQS

Current as at 8 December 2017

NAPIER CITY COUNCIL CIVIC AND LIBRARY BUILDINGS

WHAT DO THE SEISMIC STRENGTH RATINGS FOR THE TWO COUNCIL BUILDINGS MEAN?

When a building is assessed, an assessor assigns a rating to various points of a building. Under the Building Act, assessors are required to take the lowest rating and assign this to the entire building. This means that while the Civic Building has been rated at 10%, and the Library Building at 15%, not every part of each building carries this level of risk.

The risk is calculated against the chance of a 1 in 1000 year earthquake event happening – this is an extremely powerful earthquake.

HOW HAVE THE BUILDINGS BEEN ASSESSED?

These buildings are two of the first in the country to be assessed using a new technique introduced nationwide at the end of 2016.

Seismic reports in 2017 are very different to those undertaken in 2010 prior to the Christchurch earthquake. The rules and requirements have changed since then.

We undertook the seismic assessment now so it was done based on the latest standards – if we upgrade our buildings we want them to be fit for purpose for the next 30 to 50 years and be fully informed for our decision making.

WILL THERE BE SIGNS ABOUT THE EARTHQUAKE PRONE NATURE OF THE BUILDINGS?

Yes, they are in place now.

WHY HAS THE IRD LEFT THE LIBRARY BUILDING?

It is up to individual organisations to decide whether they vacate a building with this level of seismic strength rating. Given the IRD's previous experiences, such as in Wellington following the Kaikoura earthquake event, their national policy is to get out immediately, and stay out until their management says otherwise.

They may decide to return to the building soon. We will continue to work with the IRD and provide them with the information so that they can determine their response.

WILL EITHER COUNCIL BUILDING BE CLOSED AND IF SO, WHEN?

Council administration teams that currently work across both the Civic and Library buildings will be moving to three temporary locations between October to December 2017. Our Customer Service Centre will open from the ground floor of Dunvegan House, Hastings Street from early January 2018.

IF THE BUILDINGS HAVE TO BE FIXED, WHEN WILL THIS HAPPEN?

Staff and public safety are our top priorities and will be a key factor in decisions regarding both buildings' futures.

The Library Building is expected to be an easier fix, the first stage of which is likely to bring its compliance up to our target of 50%. This work is expected to start as soon as possible.

The second stage will bring its compliance level to as close to 100% as possible.

It is important to note the implementation of a new earthquake prone policy in the Building Act. Although legally we have 7.5 years to remedy the buildings we are acting much more proactively than this. We have begun the process of looking at alternative accommodation already.

HOW MUCH WILL THIS ALL COST AND WILL IT AFFECT RATES?

We budgeted for an upgrade to our Civic Building in the last Long Term Plan – we have \$7.5m available for this. Is it enough? It's too early to say at this stage.

HOW HIGH CAN A BUILDING BE BUILT ON THE CIVIC SITE?

The rules that govern how high a new building can be constructed to sits within the Napier District Plan. The civic site is zoned Fringe Commercial. In this zone, the maximum building height is somewhat complicated, and dependent on the length of the building façade and the setback from the boundaries. For more information, see Rules 17.13 and 17.14 of the District Plan www.napier.govt.nz/services/planning-and-resource-consents/district-plan/. A resource consent would be required for any development that does not meet the requirements of the District Plan.

WILL COUNCIL HAVE CONTROL OVER THE DESIGN OF THE BUILDING?

Council is committed to ensuring good urban design that contributes to a lasting legacy for the city. Although full control of the future design of any building would be limited, design matters would likely be discussed during any negotiation with future purchasers/leasees, and through the development process.

COULD THE SITE BE USED FOR CARPARKING?

The civic site is a prominent corner site, on a busy shopping street, and in a newly developing precinct. Car parking would not be a good use for this site, and would not provide the significant benefit to the city that other uses could. A parking strategy is currently being prepared to review car parking availability and address any shortfalls.

WILL YOU BE SELLING OR LEASING OUT THE SITE?

If Council would like to progress this project, it will have the option of a long-term lease or selling the site. A decision on which option to progress won't be made as part of this process.

HOW OFTEN WILL YOU UPDATE THE PUBLIC?

As often as possible. We will be making plans with speed and communicating them as we go.

Napier Library's move to MTG Hawke's Bay

WHY IS THE LIBRARY MOVING?

The Library Building was recently assessed for seismic strength by an independent, qualified consultancy called Strata Group. The building was found to be 15% of New Building Standards (NBS). This is very low, and could pose a potential risk to visitors and staff in the event of a large earthquake. The widely accepted standard for NBS is a minimum of 67%. Napier City Council is committed to the wellbeing of our staff and our community and are now working through moving the facility until the building can be strengthened to an acceptable level.

WHERE IS IT MOVING TO?

The rear of the MTG building on Herschell Street.

WHEN IS IT MOVING?

We will be closing Napier Library at 12noon on 22 December and will reopen at MTG Hawke's Bay on 7 February 2018.

WHERE CAN I RETURN MY BOOKS WHILE THE LIBRARY MOVES TO MTG HAWKE'S BAY?

Library items can be returned during this time to the National Aquarium of New Zealand, MTG Hawke's Bay, Kennedy Park Resort and Pak 'n' Save Tamatea.

WHO DID YOU CONSULT BEFORE MAKING THIS DECISION?

We worked through the options with Councillors, Library and MTG Hawke's Bay staff, the Friends of the Napier Library group, and other community groups. The reality is that we have to move, there are very few appropriate CBD buildings available, and we don't have a long time to reach out to all of our community – we just have to get on and do it for the safety and peace of mind of our staff and library users.

HOW DO I GET IN TO THE NEW SITE?

The main way to access the library will be the entrance shared with MTG Hawke's Bay on Tennyson Street.

IS IT WHEELCHAIR OR PUSHCHAIR ACCESSIBLE?

Yes.

WILL THE LIBRARY HAVE THE SAME OPENING HOURS AS MTG HAWKE'S BAY?

The Napier City Council Community Services committee passed a resolution on Wednesday (6 December) to extend the hours of operation for the MTG Hawke's Bay, and both Napier and Taradale library. The decision will be discussed again at the last full Council meeting for the year, on 20 December.

If confirmed, MTG's opening hours will increase from 49 to 52.5 hours per week, and Napier Library's hours will increase from 50 to 52.5 hours. The co-located facilities will be open seven days a week, from 9.30am to 5pm.

Taradale Library hours will also increase, from 50 to 52, and will open from 9.30am to 5.30pm weekdays, and weekends 10am to 4pm.

WILL THERE BE A BUS ROUTE TO MTG HAWKES BAY?

Yes. Free transfers will be available (within 90 minutes of purchase of original ticket) from Dalton Street bus stop to MTG Hawke's Bay using the Route 15 Ahuriri/Westshore/Bay View bus. This stops on Marine Parade,

right outside MTG Hawke's Bay/Library. To return to Dalton Street, the nearest bus stop will be outside the Hawke's Bay Club, on Browning Street. This service will be in operation from 7 February 2018.

HOW LONG WILL THE STATION STREET LIBRARY CLOSE FOR?

We don't know yet. We anticipate it will be closed for at least two to three years.

I SAW THAT THE LIBRARY MIGHT MOVE ALTOGETHER TO CLIVE SQUARE?

We are developing a Library Strategy which will assess how a modern library should look, how it should perform, what it might house in terms of books, resources, and technology, as well as where it might be. Station Street might not be the best location for our permanent City Library so we will investigate a number of options. However we might find that Station Street is the optimal location, in which case the Library will return once the building is seismically strengthened.

HOW DO I KNOW THE TEMPORARY LOCATION IS SEISMICALLY SAFE?

MTG Hawke's Bay has been assessed and is seismically sound at 67% NBS.

WON'T THE TEMPORARY SPACE BE TOO SMALL?

The temporary (MTG Hawke's Bay) space is smaller than our current space. However it is only temporary and we are working through how we will deliver all our current services – and maybe even some new ones – from a smaller footprint.

YOU CAN'T FIT ALL THE EXHIBITS IN THE CURRENT MTG SPACE SO HOW CAN YOU FIT A LIBRARY?

All museums retain exhibits that aren't always on display as well as historical archives, records and stored materials that don't need to be viewed by or accessed by the public at all times. We currently use a large area of our current MTG Hawke's Bay space for this purpose – archives and collection storage – while some of these items are stored offsite. It is a better use of public space to store ALL of these exhibits and archives offsite and use this portion of prime CBD real estate for something far more usable – temporarily for a public library and then for more gallery display space.

WILL MORE SERVICES BE DELIVERED FROM TARADALE AS A RESULT?

We will look to increase the number of book titles available from Taradale and we will continually monitor our level of service there so we can adapt to changes in demand.

WHAT IS THE FOOTPRINT OF THE TEMPORARY SPACE?

550m³

WILL THERE BE FREE WIFI THERE?

Yes

WILL ANY CURRENT LIBRARY STAFF LOSE THEIR JOBS?

No

WILL I HAVE TO PAY TO USE THE LIBRARY?

No. Councillors removed the entry fees to MTG Hawke's Bay effective 2 October 2017 so that our community can seamlessly move between the two spaces without any barrier to entry.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN TO THE BOOKS THAT DON'T FIT IN THE TEMPORARY LIBRARY?

We will have access to retrievable book stock at an offsite location. We are currently working through how that will work to make sure we give our customers the best possible service.

WILL THERE STILL BE BOOK RESERVATION FEES?

No. Council decided to remove these charges on 6 December effective immediately. There are over 100,000 books across the Napier Libraries collection. Not all of these will be out on the shelves every day, so this will speed up the process for users to reserve books and get the books they want. Books can be reserved onsite or via the Napier Libraries website.

WILL THE CHESS SET AND PING PONG TABLE REMAIN AT THE SAME LOCATION?

Yes, at this stage both the chess set and the ping pong table will be available for use daily in their current location.

HOW DO I HAVE MY SAY ON OUR TEMPORARY OR FUTURE LIBRARY?

As we develop our Library strategy we will be seek feedback from all our stakeholders to make sure what we do next reflect the needs of the community. We are always happy to receive feedback from our customers and will continue to ask for it!

WHAT DOES CREATING A LIBRARY STRATEGY MEAN?

WILL YOU BE GETTING RID OF BOOKS?

We aim to replace older books with new books at the same level i.e. what we remove we replace so stock levels maintain the same with fresh content. This can be between 20,000-40,000 books every year. If we did not replace books each year to this level, we would need to build a new library the same size every seven years! We replace books against a set of criteria which includes the age of the title, use, whether it has out of date information or has been replaced by a more recent publication. Napier Libraries have traditionally purchased at least two copies of most titles. The majority of titles are duplicates where demand has decreased, or titles that have not been used since 2015. Heritage items are not usually replaced, unless they contain updated material.

We sell books we remove from our collection in a library book sale, as well as donate to local groups. If a title is not wanted, it is recycled. Recycled titles are generally those that are damaged in some way or hold obsolete information, such as old legislation or out of date health advice.

WHO WILL BE WRITING THE STRATEGY?

Sally Jackson, Manager of Visitor Experiences and Darran Gillies, Library Manager, will be leading the strategy work alongside consultants Morrison Low who are experts at this kind of work. We will be consulting with the public extensively during this process to make sure we get a strategy the community wants for its Library.

WHEN IS THE STRATEGY GOING TO START?

From 17 October 2017 until October 2018.

HOW DO PEOPLE GET INVOLVED IN THE LIBRARY STRATEGY?

We are developing a communication engagement strategy with the Community Strategies Team right now and we aim to share this in November 2017.

DO YOU HAVE THE ORDER RIGHT? SHOULD WE IDENTIFY A SITE FOR THE LIBRARY FIRST BEFORE DECIDING WHAT'S GOING TO GO IN IT?

The strategy involves asking our community what they want from their library which will help shape the decision on what kind of library building is needed and where it should be located.

WHAT THE NAPIER LIBRARY MOVE MEANS FOR MTG

WHY IS THE MTG HOUSING THE LIBRARY?

The Library Building was recently assessed for seismic strength by an independent group called Strata. The building was found to be 15% of New Building Standards (NBS). This is very low, and could pose a potential risk to visitors and staff in the event of a large earthquake. Napier City Council is committed to the wellbeing of staff and our community and are now working through moving the facility to MTG until the building can be strengthened to an acceptable level.

WHAT PART OF THE MTG IS BEING USED TO HOUSE THE LIBRARY?

The rear of the MTG building will be used on Herschell Street.

IS THE MTG SEISMICALLY SAFE?

The MTG is considered seismically sound at 67% NBS.

YOU CAN'T FIT ALL THE COLLECTION IN THE CURRENT MTG SPACE SO HOW CAN YOU FIT A LIBRARY?

All museums have collection objects that aren't always on display as well as historical archives that don't need to be viewed by or accessed by the public at all times. We currently use a fairly large area of our MTG space for this purpose – archives and collection storage – while some items are stored offsite. It is a better use of public space to store most collection objects and archives offsite and use this portion of prime CBD real estate for something far more usable by the community.

WHEN IS IT MOVING?

The Library will be opening at MTG Hawke's Bay on 7 February 2018, however we will be closing the archives and Octagon and Bestall Galleries on 2 October to enable the archives and exhibitions to be moved safely.

HOW LONG WILL THE LIBRARY BE HOUSED AT THE MTG?

We don't know yet. We anticipate it will be at least two years.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN WITH THE EXISTING EXHIBITIONS?

MTG will still have permanent and temporary exhibitions on display. Some exhibitions will be moved to different spaces over the next 6 months, but there will always be something for visitors to see.

WILL THERE BE ANY NEW EXHIBITIONS COMING UP?

Yes. We have an exciting programme of exhibitions and programmes being planned.

HOW WILL YOU KEEP PUBLIC ART AVAILABLE TO THE PUBLIC WITH LESS SPACE TO EXHIBIT?

We are looking at ways to maintain, as close as possible, to existing levels of collections on display such as: increasing the number of items in individual exhibitions, displaying more material in non-gallery spaces for example; corridors, outside lifts and in the main entry. These plans and ideas will be developed over the coming months and we plan to continue to offer a vibrant and rich experience for all our visitors.

WILL THERE BE A SEPARATE LIBRARY ENTRANCE?

The main access to the Library will be via the Louis Hay doors on Herschell Street. Visitors will also be able to access the Library through the main museum entrance.

WILL THERE STILL BE ADMISSION TO THE MTG?

Councillors removed the entry fees to MTG effective 2 October 2017 so that our community can seamlessly move between the two spaces without any barrier to entry.

HOW WILL THIS AFFECT ANY EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMMES RUN BY MTG?

MTG's education programmed will run as before.

WHAT HAPPENS IF I'M A "FRIEND OF THE MTG" AND HAVE ALREADY PAID?

MTG is currently looking at the benefits of a Friends membership going forward, in the meantime Friends still receive a 10% discount in our MTG shop, and invitations to exhibition openings and special events as supporters of the museum. This is in keeping with other public museums and galleries with no entry fee.

WHAT IS THE FOOTPRINT OF THE TEMPORARY SPACE?

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WILL THERE BE FREE WIFI?

Yes

WILL THE MTG HAVE THE SAME OPENING HOURS AS THE LIBRARY?

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HOW WILL THIS AFFECT ANY EVENTS AT THE MTG CENTURY THEATRE

The Century Theatre will play host to concerts, conferences, performances and films as usual.

WILL THIS AFFECT ACCESS TO MTG ARCHIVES?

From 25 September to the end of the year the archive reading room and collection services will closed. We will be focusing on relocating the archives and de-installing exhibitions to make room for the Napier Library. Photograph reproduction requests will be available only where there is an existing digital image and turn-around times for orders will be longer than usual.

Archive reading room visits will resume in late December at the offsite facility. Visits will be by appointment only.

WILL THE PERMANENT EARTHQUAKE EXHIBITION STILL BE THERE?

Yes

WILL THERE BE A BUS ROUTE TO MTG HAWKES BAY?

Yes. Free transfers will be available (within 90 minutes of purchase of original ticket) from Dalton Street bus stop to MTG Hawke's Bay using the Route 15 Ahuriri/Westshore/Bay View bus. This stops on Marine Parade, right outside MTG Hawke's Bay/Library. To return to Dalton Street, the nearest bus stop will be outside the Hawke's Bay Club, on Browning Street. This service will be in operation from 7 February 2018.

CAN BOOKS BE RETURNED TO MTG HAWKE'S BAY WHEN THE LIBRARY SHUTS?

Books can be returned to the museum from 22 December 2017. Library items can also be returned to the National Aquarium of New Zealand, Kennedy Park Resort and Pak 'n' Save Tamatea during this time.