

Earthquake Affected Cadastral Boundaries in New Zealand – Legislation and Maintenance of Cadastral Spatial Accuracy

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SUMMARY

The New Zealand Canterbury Earthquake sequence in 2010-2011 caused severe disruption to the city and surrounding areas – including to the system of cadastral boundaries in the region. This included land movements of several metres within individual properties. The Canterbury Property Boundaries and Related Matters Act 2016 has since provided a framework for resolving boundary issues in the Canterbury region. However additional movement of boundaries has since occurred in 2016 in another earthquake sequence near Kaikoura further to the north east. These earthquakes raise questions about the maintenance of the spatial cadastre and what is an appropriate level of spatial accuracy to aim for.

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