



Elma Turner Library to temporarily close due to earthquake-related concerns

Nelson City Council decided to temporarily close Elma Turner Library from Thursday 9 June after a recent inspection of the ceiling tiles discovered some tiles are much heavier than expected, weighing between 8kg and 11kg.

Ceiling tiles weighing more than 7.5kg are deemed 'heavy tiles' and are considered to pose an earthquake risk if not properly restrained. The inspection also found that the ceiling tiles are in a two-way grid, fixed at its perimeter to partitions and walls but with no visible diagonal bracing.

This latest inspection has built on Council's knowledge about the ceiling tiles, and as our knowledge increases, our response changes. Council had already identified a risk with the ceiling tiles and set aside funding of \$200,000 in this financial year (2021/22) for remediation work. This work has not been completed yet due to staff shortages and an issue identified with the tiles being used for heating purposes, but work will now take place with urgency.

The next step is for engineers to produce a report detailing the expected relative risks of the ceiling tiles and the NBS (New Building Standards) ratings for the ceilings, including whether the ceiling is considered to be a significant life safety hazard in the interim.

Council will also prioritise investigating whether it is possible to secure areas to address the hazard. This work has already been undertaken in parts of Civic House, where galvanised aluminium channels have been attached to brace the tiles, but it is unclear at this stage whether this will be appropriate for Elma Turner Library.

Chief Executive Pat Dougherty says even though legislative obligations did not require closure, the new information about the weight of the tiles was very concerning, particularly when combined with the vulnerability of library users – such as older adults and children – and a lack of furniture that can offer protection in the event of a major earthquake.

"Closing a much-loved community facility, even temporarily, is not an easy decision, but on the basis of what we know so far, we are not prepared to accept the level of risk the ceiling tiles at Elma Turner Library present to our community. Unfortunately, the Library needs to be closed as a precaution while we learn more about the risk and what we can do to mitigate it."

In terms of library services, Council staff are looking at options that could include expanding online library services and increasing hours at other branches (Stoke and Nightingale libraries), as well as considering the potential of opening a pop-up library in the Central City.

Library Manager Sarina Barron says as well as being difficult for customers, the closure will also be hard on staff.

"Library staff thrive on the interaction they have with the public, but at least the COVID-19 lockdowns have provided us with some valuable experience in how to operate differently and provide many of our services remotely. We ask that our community bear with us as we once again change the way we operate."

Community and Recreation Committee Chair Tim Skinner says he recognises the inconvenience caused to the public, but the decision to close Elma Turner Library was the right call in terms of safety.

"We cannot in good conscience allow this building to continue to be occupied knowing what we know about the weight of the tiles. We hope the community understand why we need to close as a precaution, and I hope we can get the Library back up and running soon."



Interested in standing for election?



Nelson City Council will be holding election info sessions at community centres around Nelson.

- **Pūtangitangi Greenmeadows**
Wednesday 29 June, 6 – 8 pm
- **Tāhunanui Community Hub**
Saturday 2 July, 2 – 4 pm
- **Victory Community Centre**
Tuesday 5 July, 6 – 8 pm
- **Council chambers, Civic House**
Special session for candidates
Wednesday 20 July, 6 – 8 pm



Council staff will be discussing changes for the 2022 local election, including the introduction of a mixed-ward system and Single Transferable vote, and will be available to answer questions about standing for election or voting. All are welcome to attend. Nominations to stand for election open Friday 15 July. Keen to run, but don't know where to start?

Click the Local Election tile at nelson.govt.nz or scan the QR code above with your phone to find an election 'roadmap' outlining the basic steps needed to stand for election.

Remembering John Mitchell

E kore e hekeheke, he kākano Rangatira / Our ancestors will never die for they live on in each of us.

A former Māori historian and adviser to the Nelson City Council, Māui John Mitchell (known as John), was remembered at a memorial service held by his whānau on Sunday 5 June.

John (Ngāti Tama, Te Ātiawa, Ngāti Toa, Taranaki Tūturu) passed in September of last year at the age of 80.

The service included the unveiling of a memorial seat and the planting of a totara tree in Rutherford Park.

Nelson Mayor Rachel Reese says John made an invaluable contribution to local government in Nelson.

"John was an incredible help in building the relationships between Council and iwi that we rely on today. He was a wonderful man who showed patience, tolerance, and wisdom in his guidance to Council and has undoubtedly made Nelson Whakatū a better place."

Before Council appointed an official Kaumātua (Māori elder) and Kaihautū (Manager of Māori partnerships), it was John who provided cultural support to Council and guided staff through questions about working with Māori. He provided advice from both a historical and a personal perspective, but always with a balanced and considerate view of other iwi.

John was also an excellent researcher and leaves a legacy through his many historical books, written and published with his wife and partner Hilary Mitchell. Together they wrote *Te Tau Ihu o Te Waka, a History of Māori of Nelson and Marlborough*, a four-volume series on the region's history, including the impacts of colonisation and European settlement on Māori.

Hilary says John loved the idea of the ancestors as stars in the heavens. The inscription on John's memorial seat reads *Haere koe kia whetūrangitia ki ngā tupuna / Go and be a star with your ancestors.*

John is survived by his wife Hilary, their children, Adam, Luke and Susan, and their grandchildren.



From left, John's wife, Hilary with children Susan, Luke, and Adam

Nelson Marina sets off on voyage to a community-focused future

A draft Masterplan setting out Nelson City Council's plans to transform Nelson Marina into a modern boating hub and place for everyone in our community to enjoy goes out for public consultation on 20 June.

The Draft Marina Masterplan is a 15-year vision, which incorporates the modernisation of facilities for boat owners with improved links to the city centre to encourage public access.

Strategic Development and Property Subcommittee Chair Gaile Noonan says the plan aims to create a thriving boating hub that will stimulate growth and activity within Nelson's local economy.

"There is so much potential at our Marina, and this masterplan aims to release it. The benefits to Nelson as a city are straightforward: a stronger connection between our city centre and the sea, a new space open to everyone in our community, and, at its heart, a modern facility for boaties that offers everything they would expect to see at a state-of-the-art marina."

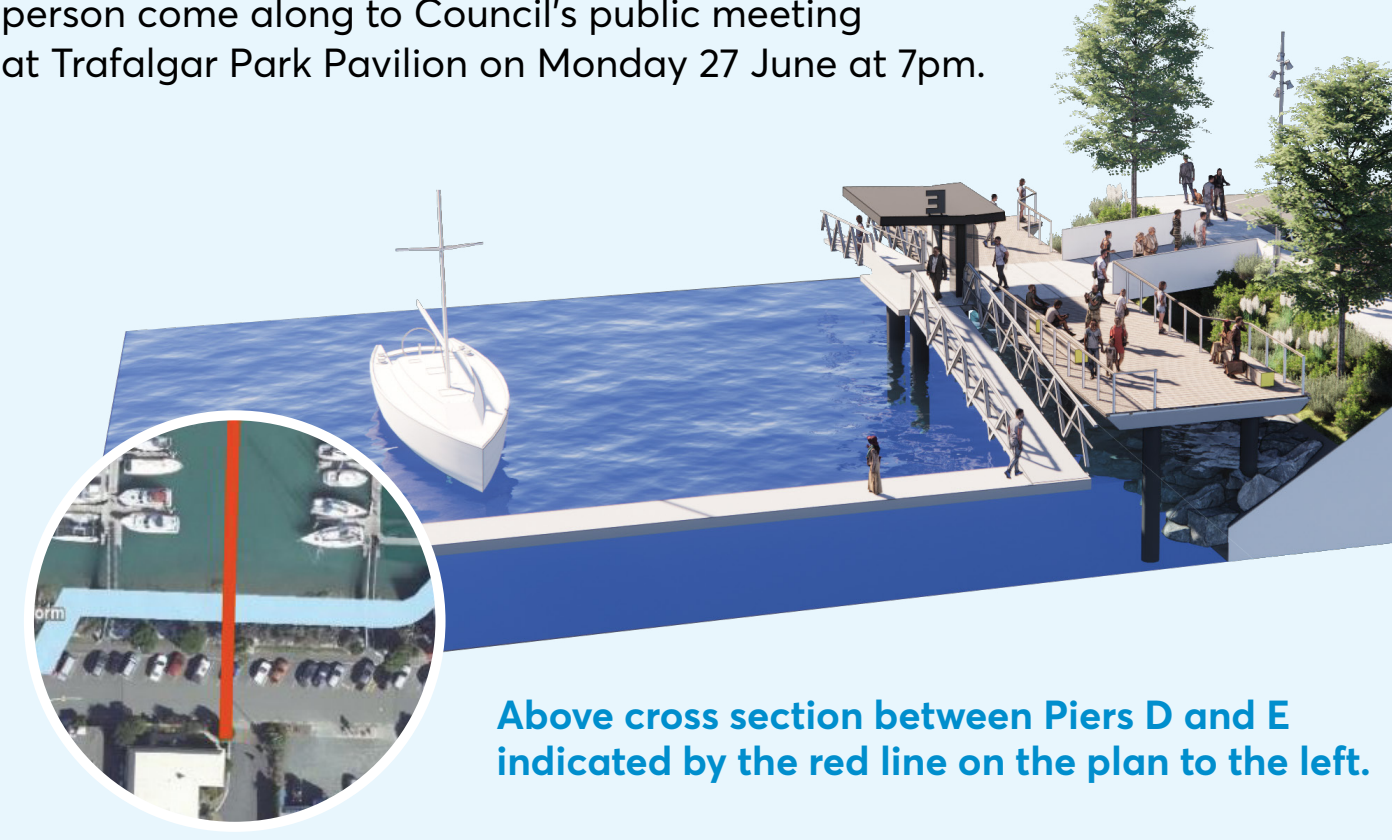
The masterplan contains a raft of new initiatives for the Marina:

- A new waterfront promenade for walking and cycling
- A revitalised pocket park
- New premises for a café and other food and beverage outlets
- A potential new sea sports facility
- A dedicated fuel pier
- Reconfiguration of the public boat ramp area to reduce congestion
- A future-proofed and nationally competitive marina hardstand and new boat hoist
- Reconfiguration of marina berths to meet excess demand for larger berth sizes

"We now want to hear from those who use the marina on a day-to-day basis, as well as the community as a whole," says Councillor Noonan.

Pending a final decision at the full meeting of Council on 14 June, consultation opens on June 20 and lasts for four weeks.

To find out more about the Masterplan in person come along to Council's public meeting at Trafalgar Park Pavilion on Monday 27 June at 7pm.



Above cross section between Piers D and E indicated by the red line on the plan to the left.



MEETINGS

Environment and Climate Committee

9am 16 Jun

Forestry Subcommittee

9am 21 Jun

Regional Transport Committee

1.30pm 21 Jun

Council meeting

9am 23 Jun

Infrastructure Committee

10am 23 Jun

Urban Development Subcommittee

9am 28 Jun

Community and Recreation Committee

9am 30 Jun

Nelson Regional Sewerage Business Unit

9.30am 1 Jul

Council meeting

9am 7 Jul

Hearings Panel - Other

9am 13 Jul

Nelson Tasman Regional Landfill Business Unit

9.30am 15 Jul

Civil Defence Emergency Management Group

9.30am 26 Jul

Chief Executive Employment Committee - Rūma Whakatū

2pm 26 Jul

Joint Committee of Tasman District and Nelson City Councils

1.30pm 27 Jul

Strategic Development and Property Subcommittee

9am 28 Jul

Council meeting

1pm 28 Jul

For a full list of meetings go to:

nelson.govt.nz/meetings



To read the latest updates or sign up for Our Nelson by email go to:

our.nelson.govt.nz