

News



Local
News
NOW

Forum on quake experiences

■ By Gordana Rodden

DAME SILVIA Cartwright will front a public forum in West Melton next week to hear about people's experiences with EQC.

Dame Silvia, who is heading the Public Inquiry into the Earthquake Commission, will discuss the 7.1 magnitude



Silvia
Cartwright

Darfield earthquake on September 4, 2010, which caused severe damage.

EQC received about 160,000 claims in the three months following the quake. The

amount was compounded by the February 22, 2011, earthquake.

Prior to the quakes, the highest number of claims received by EQC was 10,500, after the 1968 7.1 magnitude Inangahua earthquake on the West Coast.

Minister for Greater Christchurch Regeneration Megan Woods highlighted the importance of the public inquiry to learn from Canterbury's experiences with EQC.

"The insurance system as a



LESSONS: Dame Silvia Cartwright will be talking to people in West Melton next week about their experiences with EQC after the September 4, 2010, earthquake.

whole, including EQC's role in that system, needs to be ready to deliver services to those affected by the next big event – whenever or wherever it happens," she said.

Dame Silvia said changes which have been suggested to her already presented clear themes. EQC's damage assessment process, managed repair process

and claims management were issues people said needed revision.

"I'm looking forward to hearing from people in the Selwyn district who may have had property damage and EQC claims arising from the Darfield earthquake, or from other subsequent events," Dame Silvia said.

"I'm also keen to hear from people who have had a role in the recovery, such as those working with or alongside EQC."

It is evident from the stories shared with her that people and families are still living with the lasting impacts of the event and its aftermath, Dame Silvia said.

"I appreciate it's often not easy to revisit difficult past experiences, but I hope people will do it for themselves and for others who will face the effects of natural disaster in the future."

The public inquiry will provide recommendations to the governor-general with suggestions about how EQC can improve claim management experiences in the future.

•The Selwyn forum will be held at 6pm on June 27 at the West Melton Community Centre.



New cinema to open at Lincoln pub

LINCOLN BAR The Labor

will open a cinema in August. Alterations to The Labor courtyard have started and a boutique cinema, which will show the latest films, will be created.

The Apollo Lincoln will have 15 seats, including one for wheelchair users. The venue on West Belt will be licensed with movie-appropriate snacks available.

The cinema will be open Tuesday to Sunday, with about four screenings a day. Along with the latest releases, Apollo Lincoln plans to host special screenings of old favourites themed evenings. Tickets will be available to purchase online or over the bar for \$17, with discounts offered to seniors and students for daytime screenings.