

# Acquisition of land during the Canterbury Earthquake Recovery

Craig Harris (New Zealand)

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## SUMMARY

Following the Canterbury earthquakes in 2010 and 2011 some land in residential areas was identified as being unable to be rebuilt on for many years. Homeowners faced disruption that could affect their ability to recover from the earthquakes. The New Zealand government established a process to purchase these properties from affected landowners. This saw over 5,000 individual properties being acquired by the state, one of the largest acquisition programmes in the nation's history.

This paper describes how that process worked for both purchase offers and where compulsory acquisition of land was required. The paper identifies some of the issues face from such a mass acquisition programme, including determining property values in areas affected by land damage and distortion and the impacts on insurers and other parties with interests in the land. It also looks at acquisitions in the Christchurch central city where land was acquired for key 'anchor' projects as part of the redevelopment of the city.