

# Media Release

## Partial retention of Odeon Theatre being explored

Release Date: 27 March 2015

The Canterbury Earthquake Recovery Authority is investigating whether key parts of the Odeon Theatre can be retained as it embarks on the demolition of badly damaged parts of the structure.

The theatre property was purchased by the Crown as a part of the South Frame. The heritage-listed building suffered extensive damage in the earthquakes and the hazardous rear part of the structure is to be deconstructed early next week. Canterbury Earthquake Recovery Authority acting Chief Executive John Ombler says the deconstruction works have been commissioned under section 38 of the CER Act.

"Given it is a heritage-listed building and a special building for many, we want to explore all avenues to see how the front of house area and the façade can be stabilised while making the building safe," says Mr Ombler.

"CERA has already completed extensive investigations on the building and is working with Heritage New Zealand and Christchurch City Council on a number of options for the future of the building."

"A heritage structural engineer has also been engaged to peer review the method of deconstruction and various aspects of the structural work to make sure that heritage elements are able to be retained during the works."

"Once the badly damaged parts of the building have been removed, we will be able to see if the front of house and façade are able to be made safe."

Equipment will begin arriving at the site today and temporary stabilisation work of the parapets will begin before the main part of the deconstruction begins. Heritage New Zealand has granted archaeological authority for the deconstruction and an archaeologist will be onsite for in ground works.

The roof of the Odeon Theatre was not included in the sale and purchase agreement with the Crown. It has been salvaged and removed.