

Proposed:	September 2022
Adopted	8 December 2022
First review date:	8 December 2027
Engagement required:	The Special Consultative Procedure is required
Sponsor/Group:	Group Manager Regulatory and Growth

Dangerous and Insanitary Buildings Policy

Purpose and scope

1. To outline the approach the Council will take and clarify Council's priorities in performing its functions under the Building Act 2004.

Principles

2. The Council will seek immediate or early resolution of any defect to minimize potential risk to public health or safety.
3. The Policy recognises the importance of Otorohanga District's heritage buildings and will protect the heritage value of these buildings wherever possible, without compromising public health and safety.
4. The Council will work pro-actively with building owners to ensure the best outcome for all parties.

Definitions

Term	Means
Affected Building	Defined in s121A of the Act; A building is an affected building for the purposes of this Act if it is adjacent to, adjoining, or nearby: (a) a dangerous building as defined in Section 121; or (b) a dangerous dam within the meaning of Section 153.
Building Owner	Defined in s7 of the Act; Owner in relation to any land or buildings on the land, (a) means the person who – (i) is entitled to the rack rent from the land; or (ii) would be so entitled if the land were let to a tenant at a rack rent; and (b) includes – (i) the owner of the fee simple of the land; and (ii) for the purposes of sections 32, 44, 92, 97, and 176(c), any person who has agreed in writing, whether conditionally or unconditionally, to purchase the land or any leasehold estate or interest in the land, or to take a lease of the land, and who is bound by the agreement because the agreement is still in force.

Dangerous Building	<p>Defined in s121 of the Act;</p> <p>(1) A building is dangerous for the purposes of this Act if:</p> <p>(a) in the ordinary course of events (excluding the occurrence of an earthquake), the building is likely to cause—</p> <p>(i) injury or death (whether by collapse or otherwise) to any persons in it or to persons on other property; or</p> <p>(ii) damage to other property; or</p> <p>(b) in the event of fire, injury or death to any persons in the building or to persons on other property is likely.</p> <p>(2) For the purpose of determining whether a building is dangerous in terms of subsection (1)(b), a territorial authority:</p> <p>(a) may seek advice from employees, volunteers, and contractors of Fire and Emergency New Zealand (FENZ) who have been notified to the territorial authority by the board of FENZ as being competent to give advice; and</p> <p>(b) if the advice is sought, must have due regard to the advice.</p>
Heritage Building	<p>Defined in s7 of the Act;</p> <p>Means a building that is included on :</p> <p>(a) the New Zealand Heritage List/Rarangi Korero maintained under section 65 of the Heritage New Zealand Pouhere Taonga Act 2014; or</p> <p>(b) the National Historic Landmarks/Ngaa Manawhenua o Aotearoa me onaa Korero Tuturu list maintained under section 81 of the Heritage New Zealand Pouhere Taonga Act 2014.</p>
Immediate danger	<p>Defined in s129 of the Act;</p> <p>(1) This section applies if, because of the state of the building;</p> <p>(a) immediate danger to the safety of people is likely in terms of section 121 or 123; or immediate action is necessary to fix insanitary conditions.</p>
Insanitary Building	<p>Defined in s123 of the Act;</p> <p>A building is insanitary for the purposes of this Act if the building:</p> <p>(a) is offensive or likely to be injurious to health because:</p> <p>(i) of how it is situated or constructed; or</p> <p>(ii) it is in a state of disrepair; or</p> <p>(b) has insufficient or defective provisions against moisture penetration so as to cause dampness in the building or in any adjoining building; or</p> <p>(c) does not have a supply of potable water that is adequate for its intended use;</p> <p>or</p> <p>does not have sanitary facilities that are adequate for its intended use.</p>
Property file and register	<p>A record of legal information the Council is required to maintain in terms of 216 of the Act</p>
Structural condition	<p>The structural condition of the building at the time the Council carries out an inspection of the building to ascertain its state.</p>
Territorial Authority	<p>Defined in s7 of the Act;</p> <p>(a) means a City Council or District Council named as Part 2 of Schedule 2 of the local Government Act 2002; and</p> <p>(i) in relation to land within the district of the territorial authority, or a building on or proposed to be built on such land, means that territorial authority; and</p> <p>(ii) in relation to any part of a coastal marine area (within the meaning of the resource management Act 1991) that is not within the district of the territorial</p>

	<p>authority, or a building on or proposed to be built on any such part, means the territorial authority whose district is adjacent to that part; and</p> <p>(b) includes the Minister of Conservation or the Minister of Local Government, as the case may be, in any case in which the Minister of Conservation or the Minister of Local Government is the territorial authority under section 22 of the Local Government Act 2002.</p>
The Act	The Building Act 2004
The Council	The Otorohanga District Council

Policy

Identifying dangerous and insanitary buildings

5. The Council will respond to building complaints received from the public, the FENZ, or any person or organisation that has a health and safety interest in a particular building and investigate the complaint and assess the condition of the building.
6. The assessment of dangerous buildings will be in accordance with Section 121 of the Act.
7. The assessment of insanitary buildings will be in accordance with Section 123 of the Act.

Actions for dangerous and insanitary buildings

8. Priority for action will be decided after investigation of complaints.
9. The Council will liaise with FENZ to discuss the proposed action when notification has been received from FENZ of a dangerous building.
10. The Council may also engage a subject matter expert to assist with determining the course of action.
11. The Council may use the powers given in Section 124 of the Act to take action regarding dangerous or insanitary buildings to serve formal notice in accordance with the Act and consider if it should erect a hoarding, fence or warning sign.
12. On being advised of conditions that are alleged to be insanitary within the provisions of Section 123 of the Act, the buildings will be inspected and a determination made whether action in terms of Sections 124 or 129 of the Act will be taken.
13. Where it is considered measures are necessary to avoid immediate danger or to fix insanitary conditions. The Council may use the powers given in Section 129 of the Act.

Working with building owners

14. Where there is an agreement between the Council and the building owner to rectify any deficiency, the Council may elect to forego the issue of a formal notice, but will retain details of the building in the property file and register.
15. Where an acceptable agreement between the building owner and the Council cannot be obtained, the Council will exercise its powers and issue a notice under Section 124 of the Act. The Section 124 notice will outline the danger to be removed and a timeframe to achieve the necessary result.
16. In urgent cases the Council may at the outset serve formal notice under Section 124 of the Act.

Recording a building's dangerous or insanitary status

17. The Council will keep a record of all dangerous and insanitary buildings noting the status of requirements for improvement or the results of improvements as applicable.
18. In addition, the Council will keep and record the following information that may be placed on the Land Information Memoranda (LIM) for each dangerous or insanitary building:
 - a. A statement that the building is considered to be dangerous or insanitary.
 - b. The date by which rectification of any deficiency, or demolition is required (only if known).
 - c. If a notice under Section 124 is issued in respect of any dangerous or insanitary building, then a record may also be included.
 - d. A statement that further details may be available from Council's property file.

Access to information

19. Information concerning the dangerous or insanitary status of a building (if known) will be contained in the property file.
20. If a notice under Section 124 is issued in respect of any dangerous or insanitary building, then a record of that will also be available on the relevant property file.
21. Access to information may be available through a LIM application or request for information in terms of the Official Information and Meetings Act 2002.
22. Building owners will be able to access information from the Council relating to their building during normal office hours.

Heritage buildings

23. Heritage buildings will be assessed in the same way as other dangerous and insanitary buildings.
24. The Council will work with the building owner to ensure the development of appropriate management and planning for these buildings for their protection wherever possible. This will be achieved by:
 - a. Recognising the heritage buildings that exist in the district, including the Heritage New Zealand Register, the Heritage Items Schedule of the Otorohanga District Plan, listed heritage places, and buildings of significance to iwi, and other buildings of significance to the community, for example:
 - b. Any listed in a strategy or management plan prepared under the Conservation Act 1987 or Reserves Act 1977
 - c. Any within a reserve identified by the Te Turi Whenua Maori Land Act 1993 for historic and cultural purposes;
 - d. Any listed in an iwi management plan;
 - e. Buildings or structures associated with historic cemeteries or memorials;
 - f. Any building managed for heritage purposes by agencies, such as Heritage New Zealand, Department of Conservation or by Council; and
 - g. Buildings or structures subject to heritage order, heritage covenant or other protective covenant.
 - h. Informing relevant statutory organisations, including Heritage New Zealand, with regards to any listed building identified as dangerous or insanitary.
 - i. Ensuring the consideration of any advice from Heritage New Zealand or professional conservation organisation, heritage professional, including the Council's own heritage advisers (if relevant).
 - j. Considering any relevant conservation report, conservation plan, condition report, management plan, heritage assessment or other document.
 - k. Any statutory protection, including any listing in the Heritage Items.
 - l. For any notice issued in relation to a heritage building under Section 124 of the Act, the Council will provide a copy of the notice to Heritage New Zealand.

Monitoring and implementation

25. The implementation of this policy will be monitored by the Group Manager Regulatory and Growth.
26. The policy will be reviewed in response to any issues that may arise, every five years as required under section 132 of the Act, at the request of Council or in response to changed legislative and statutory requirements (whichever occurs first).