



Justice Precinct anchors Christchurch

Christchurch Justice and Emergency Services Precinct



Client: Ministry of Justice

Location: Christchurch

Completion Date: 2017

The 2011 earthquakes caused widespread damage to Canterbury, particularly to Christchurch city centre. The local community have shown their resilience and determination in rebuilding a city that is not only stronger but that looks to the future with modern and sustainable infrastructure. Being a part of the Christchurch community, Opus is proud to be at the forefront of the rebuild as part of the Christchurch Justice and Emergency Services Precinct team.

Making this project an 'Anchor Project' showed a commitment from the New Zealand Government to bring staff, business and development back to the CBD, and encouraged other developers and businesses to follow in their lead.

Opus, in collaboration with Warren & Mahoney, and Cox, provided architectural design as well as the buildings services design and engineering, and peer review for the 40,000m squared precinct which will house the Ministry of Justice, New Zealand Police, Department of Corrections, St John New Zealand, the New Zealand Fire Service, Ministry of Civil Defence and Emergency Management, Christchurch City Council, and Environment Canterbury.

With the aim of setting design standards for the rebuild of Christchurch for sustainability, energy efficiency and safety, Opus harnessed our expertise in innovation and use of world-class

technologies. The precinct is heated and cooled by ground sourced heat pumps connected to the Christchurch Aquifers, the largest system to be installed in New Zealand and one of the largest in the world. The precinct proves the viability of the abundant aquifers as a cheap energy source for both heating and cooling for other developments in the CBD.

With a building importance level 4, the precinct has seismic resilience to operate immediately after an earthquake and a purpose-built Emergency Operations Centre ensures state-of-the-art emergency response capability for local and national events. In the event of an emergency, the precinct will have independent power, water and waste disposal for at least 72 hours.

The Christchurch Precinct puts the needs of the community first. It is the first building-oriented precinct to be delivered to the people of Christchurch as part of the post-earthquake rebuild and embodies to the fullest extent the ideals of the Christchurch Recovery Plan. Accommodating 1100 people across three buildings for the eight public sector agencies, the Christchurch Precinct is a world class facility that reflects a civic presence, stands for the integrity of the occupants, and of which the people of Christchurch can be proud.

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