

Market Relocation & SaveMart Site

Date Requested: 4 August 2025
Date Provided: 5 August 2025

Request

It would be helpful to clarify:

1. How long the market is expected to stay in the temporary location, and what support is available for the transition, especially for food trucks
2. What options were considered before fencing off the site, whether any alternatives are still being looked at, and what the timeline is
3. Whether Council will commission an independent engineering report
4. How local elected members are being kept informed, and how the principles of Weaving the East are being applied, particularly around involving communities, respecting local knowledge, and ensuring clear, timely, and accessible communication, even when things are uncertain
5. I'd also appreciate some context around the timing. The 2019 engineering report has been available for some time, and the space outside Savemart and other earthquake prone buildings has been (and continues to be) used regularly for markets and community events. A six-week kids' programme has been held in that laneway, and infrastructure like an events box was installed to support activation



Council Response

1. How long the market is expected to stay in the temporary location, and what support is available for the transition, especially for food trucks

Until a more permanent suitable location becomes available. Staff are working with the market on both making the temporary location suitable where possible and on the longer-term issues.

2. What options were considered before fencing off the site, whether any alternatives are still being looked at, and what the timeline is

With a potential H&S risk having been raised, staff have been put in the invidious position of mitigating that and limited options to do so. Council do not control the timeline on the risk from the wall and are reliant on the property owner to provide engineering advice and/or do some work.

3. Whether Council will commission an independent engineering report

We would not do this. It is not Council's practice, nor do we have a budget or plan to do so.

4. How local elected members are being kept informed, and how the principles of Weaving the East are being applied, particularly around involving communities, respecting local knowledge, and ensuring clear, timely, and accessible communication, even when things are uncertain Staff are working closely with the market and sharing information with elected members.

Responses are being joined up between the mall project management, the property team, the local governance team and the New Brighton Project. From a Weaving the East perspective it is working well.

5. I'd also appreciate some context around the timing. The 2019 engineering report has been available for some time, and the space outside Savemart and other earthquake prone buildings has been (and continues to be) used regularly for markets and community events. A six-week kids' programme has been held in that laneway, and infrastructure like an events box was installed to support activation.

This is not an EQPB enforcement or Dangerous Building action under the Building Act. The building has been listed as earthquake-prone since 2019, but that status alone does not restrict occupancy or public access under current legislation—many EQPBs across the city remain occupied. The Building Act does not allow Council to compel demolition or strengthening unless specific statutory criteria are met.

This decision is a proactive H&S measure based on our role as an event and space manager rather than a regulatory enforcement action. It arises from a recent question of risk being escalated to staff.