

## Expansion of land use control for disaster mitigation in New Zealand

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Some local authorities in New Zealand have controlled land use on or close to active faults using a permission system called 'Resource Consent' in compliance with the Resource Management Act 1990. However, there is considerable variation in the way that individual councils have approached their responsibilities of land use planning. The Active Fault Guidelines based on a risk-based approach were released (as an interim in 2003 and final in 2004) by the Ministry for the Environment, aiming to assist in planning to avoid or mitigate fault rupture hazard. The follow up study was held in 2005 after two years from the release of the draft. The study shows that a few local authorities have started using the guidance, but others have found some of the resulting issues too difficult to resolve and have chosen not to implement the recommendations for that time (Becker, Saunders and Van Dissen, 2005). The paper clarifies the present situation and the problems of some local authorities that have already adapted the guidelines to their planning process. On the other hand, Guidelines for Assessing Planning Policy and Consent Requirements for Landslide Prone Land (Landslide Guidelines) were released in 2007 by the Institute of Geological and Nuclear Sciences (GNS). The Landslide Guidelines aim to assist planners and other interested parties in determining whether planning documents and resource consent applications at regional and district levels incorporate appropriate information on landslide and slope instability hazards (Saunders and Glassey, 2007). The evolution of disaster mitigation policies with extension of the covering hazards looks similar to the chronicle of the policies in California in the United States. This paper also considers the process how and why the Landslide Guidelines were developed and their implications.

Becker, J., Saunders, W. & Van Dissen, R., 2005. Planning for the Development of Land on or Close to Active Faults: A study of the adoption and use of the Active Fault Guidelines, GNS science report 2005/16.

Saunders, W. & Glassey, P. (Compilers) 2007. Guidelines for Assessing Planning, Policy and Consent Requirements for Landslide-prone Land, GNS Science Miscellaneous Series 7.

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