**Christchurch- New Zealand**

**Background information**

New Zealand is located in the continent of Oceania in the Pacific Ocean. It is to the south east of Australia and consists of both a North and South Island. The Earthquake occurred in Christchurch on the 22nd of February 2011 at 12:51 and reached a magnitude of 6.3

**Causes**

New Zealand is along the Australian and Pacific plate boundary (conservative plate margin). The earthquake was caused when the Pacific plate slid past the Australian plate in the other direction.

**Effects**

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| **Primary**  | **Secondary** |
| 181 people were killed and around 2,000 people were injured | Business were put out of action for long periods causing losses of income and jobs |
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| Hundreds of kilometres of water and sewage pipes were damaged |

 | Schools had to share classrooms because of the damage to other school buildings |
| 50% + of Central City buildings severely damaged including the city’s cathedral which lost its spire | Damage to roads through liquefaction made it difficult for people and emergency services to move around |
| Liquefaction (where the ground gets saturated and loses strength) caused lots of damage to roads and buildings | People were affected mentally by the earthquakes and needed support |
| Part (size of 20 football fields) of the country’s longest glacier was broken off creating a large iceberg | Christchurch could no longer host Rugby World Cup matches so lost the benefits, e.g. tourism and income, they would bring |
| 80 percent of the city was out of electricity |  |

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**Response**

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| **Short Term Response** | **Long Term Response** |
| Cared for the most vulnerable people and ensured people were safe from dangerous buildings | Paid $898 million in building claims |
| Chemical toilets were provided for 30,000 residents | Provided temporary housing and ensured all damaged housing was kept water tight |
| Areas were zoned (green, orange, white, red) to classify damage/cost of repairs | Water and sewerage was restored for all residents by August |
| International aid was provided in the form of money (around $6-7 million) and aid workers | Roads and houses were cleared of silt from liquefaction by August and 80% of roads/50% of footpaths were repaired |