



# Changing Wellington skyline shown in month-long timelapse

By Matt Stewart

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Rubble from one of Wellington's first high rise buildings should be cleared by early next month in the final phases of demolition clean-up at 61 Molesworth St, following damage from the November 14 Kaikoura earthquake.

Built by Fletcher Construction in 1965 for chemical company ICI the building's foyer featured a concrete mural by sculptor Jim Allen that mimics the micro-structure of copper crystals.

Demolition began in late November and Wellington City Council earthquake recovery team project manager Gunther Wild said an assessment would be made next week to decide if the mural can be saved.



ROSS GIBLIN

Demolition of the earthquake damaged building at 61 Molesworth St began in late November.

Wild said clean fill debris from the site was expected to be cleared by late January or early February when the site would go back to slab level and be returned to its owner - Prime Property developer Eyal Aharoni.

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- \* [Council finds people living illegally in second Wellington office building](#)
- \* [Owner of condemned building on Molesworth St accepts fault over tenants](#)
- \* [First section of quake-damaged Wellington Reading car park demolished](#)

Aharoni has admitted since the November quake that at least six people were living in the non-residential zoned Molesworth St building.

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SUPPLIED

The office tower - once considered a 'Thorndon landmark' - was built as two structures in 1965, a nine-storey main block and an 11-storey service block linked by flexible joints.

Some of the same machinery used to tear down the building is being used on a quake-damaged Wellington car park.

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KEVIN STENT/STUFF

Prime Property owner Eyal Aharoni in discussions with Mike Scott from Wellington City Council about his condemned building at 61 Molesworth St.

Tory St, between Wakefield St and Courtenay Place, is blocked off as an excavator claws its way into the Reading Cinema car park.

That demolition started shortly after New Year's Day and was expected to be completed by the end of March.

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