

# Glenorchy Liquefaction Vulnerability Assessment



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Undertaken for Otago Regional Council

Peer Reviewed by Frederick Wentz



# When and How Does Liquefaction Occur?

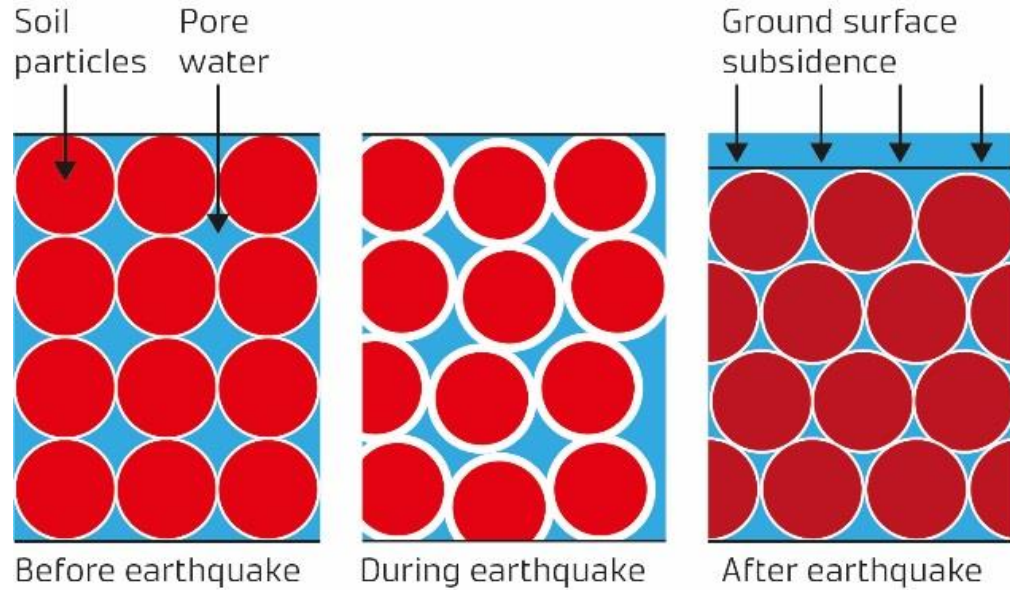
Three key elements are all required for liquefaction to occur

- 1: Soil condition: Non-plastic, “Loose” (*can include medium-dense*)
- 2: Saturated (*below groundwater table*)
- 3: Sufficient ground shaking (*combination of duration and intensity*)



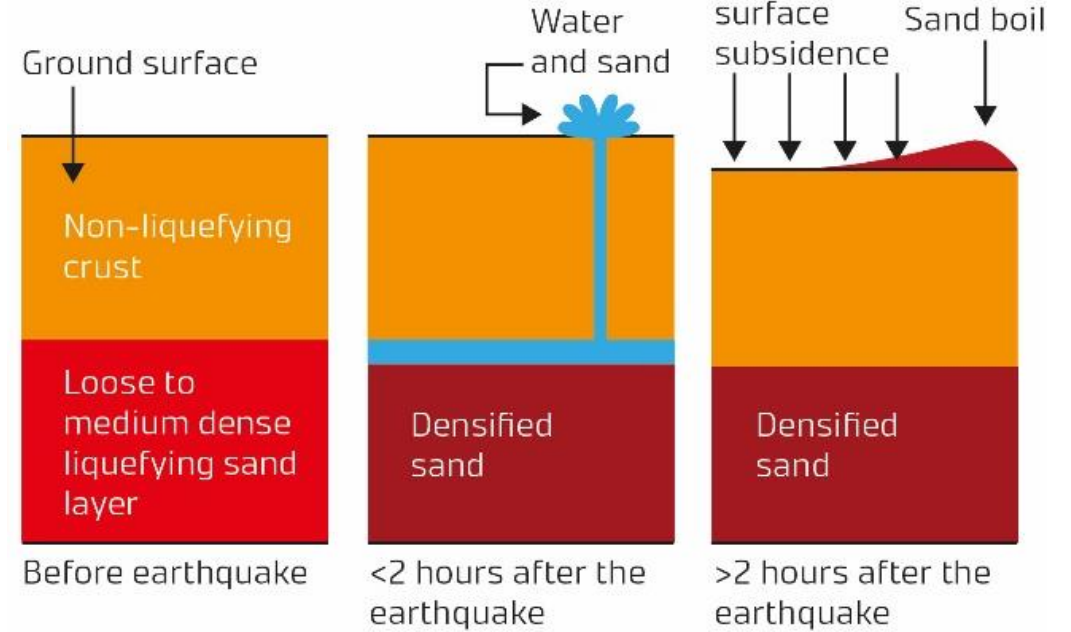
# What is Liquefaction?

## The liquefaction process



Soil loses strength and stiffness

## Formation of liquefaction ejecta



Significant quantities of water and sediment come out of the ground

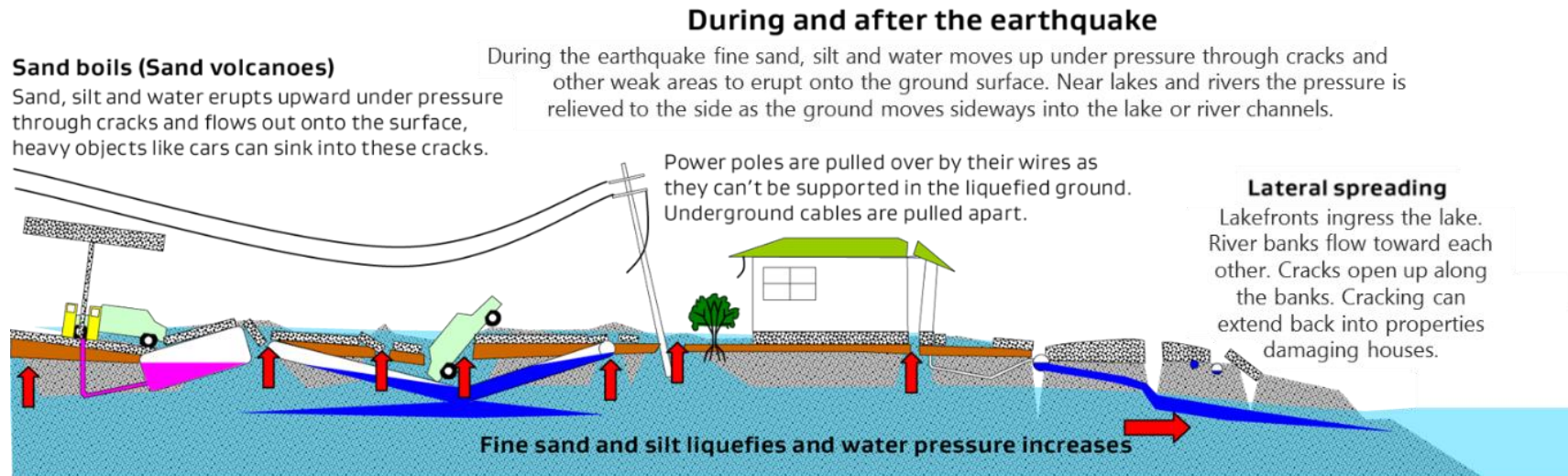
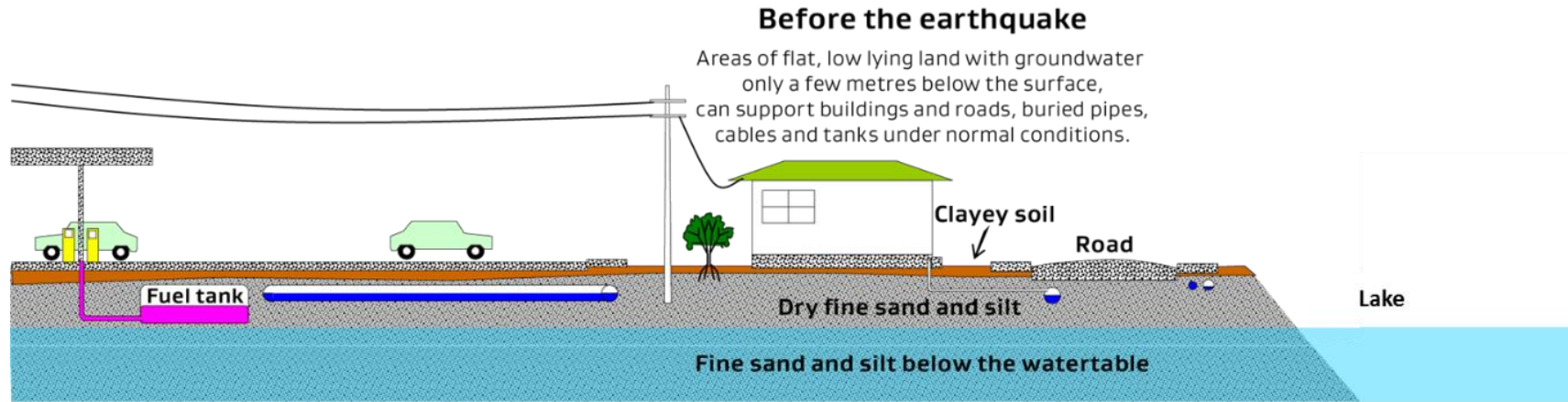


# What is Liquefaction?



# What are the Consequences of Liquefaction?

1. Differential settlement of the ground surface causing damage to buildings, buried pipes and roads

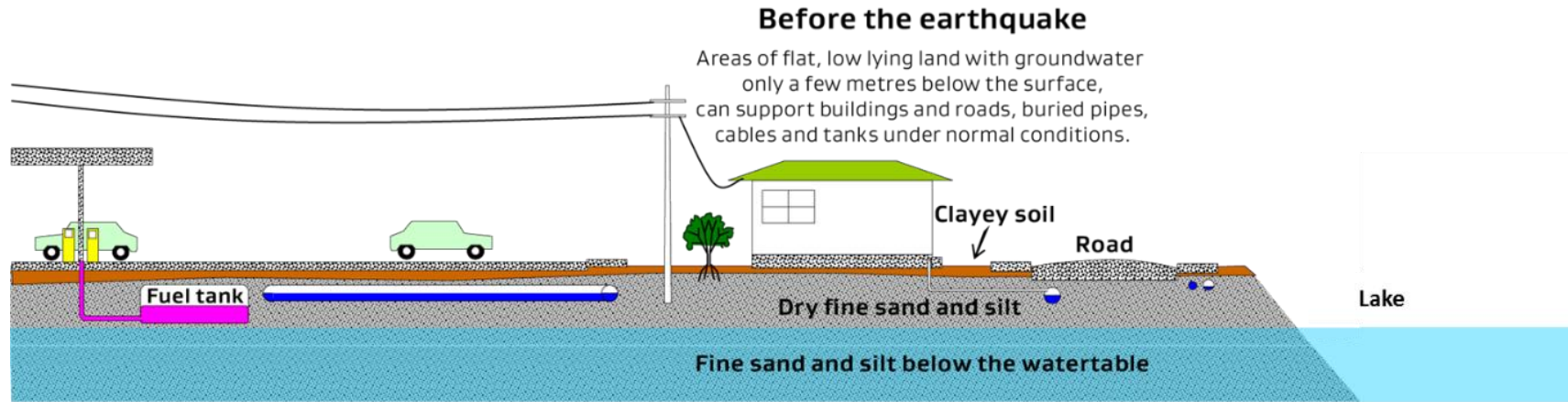


Tanks and pipes float up in the liquefied ground and break through the surface, pipes break, water and sewerage leaks into the ground.

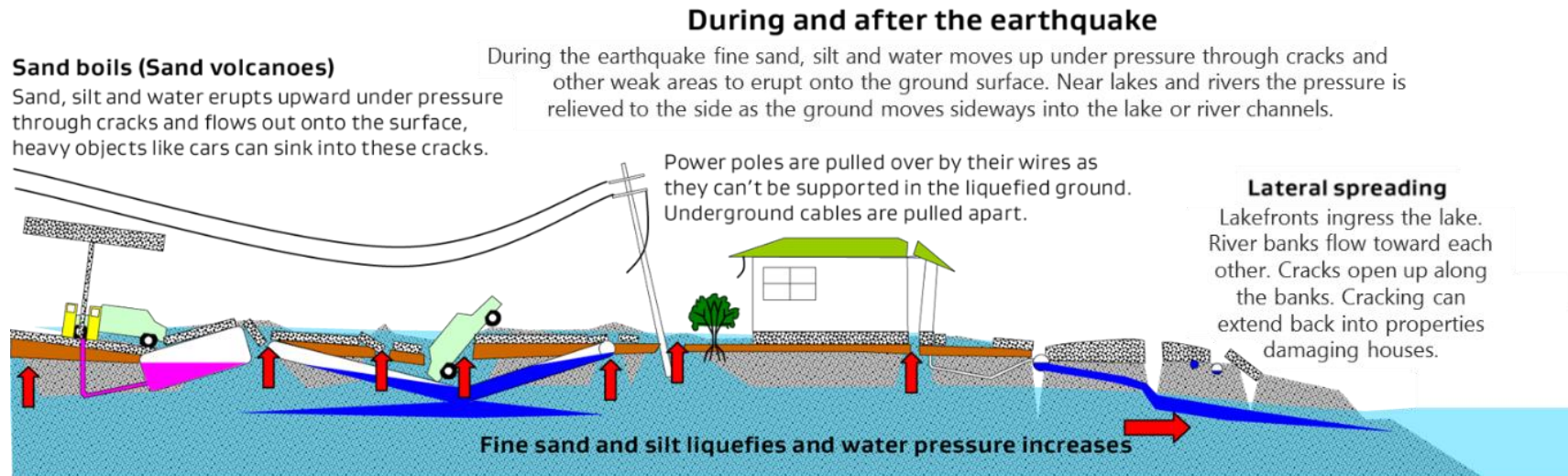


# What are the Consequences of Liquefaction?

1. Differential settlement of the ground surface causing damage to buildings, buried pipes and roads



2. Heavy objects sink (such as buildings and power transformers)



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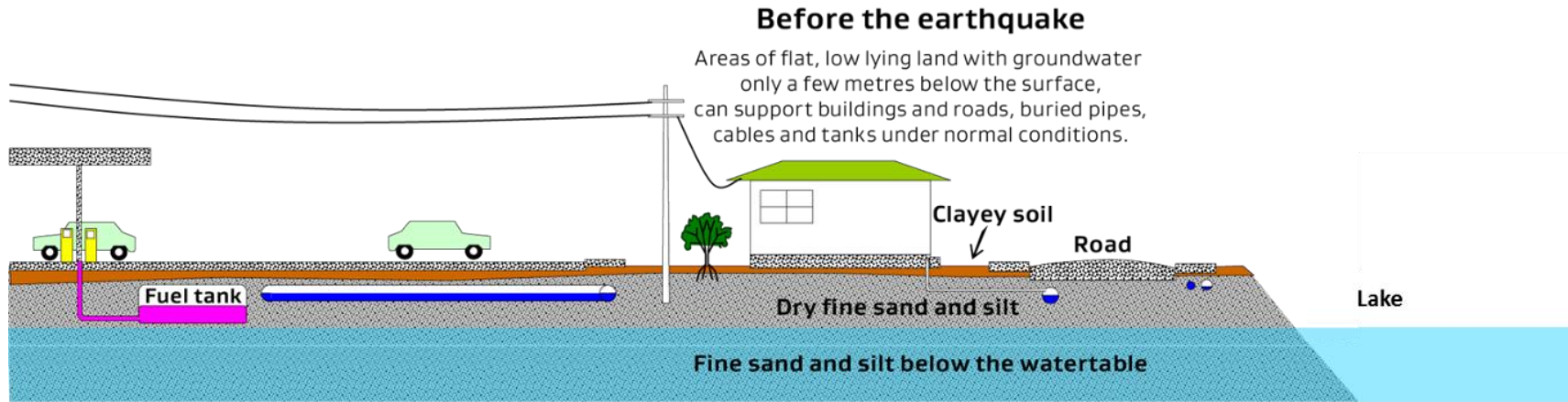




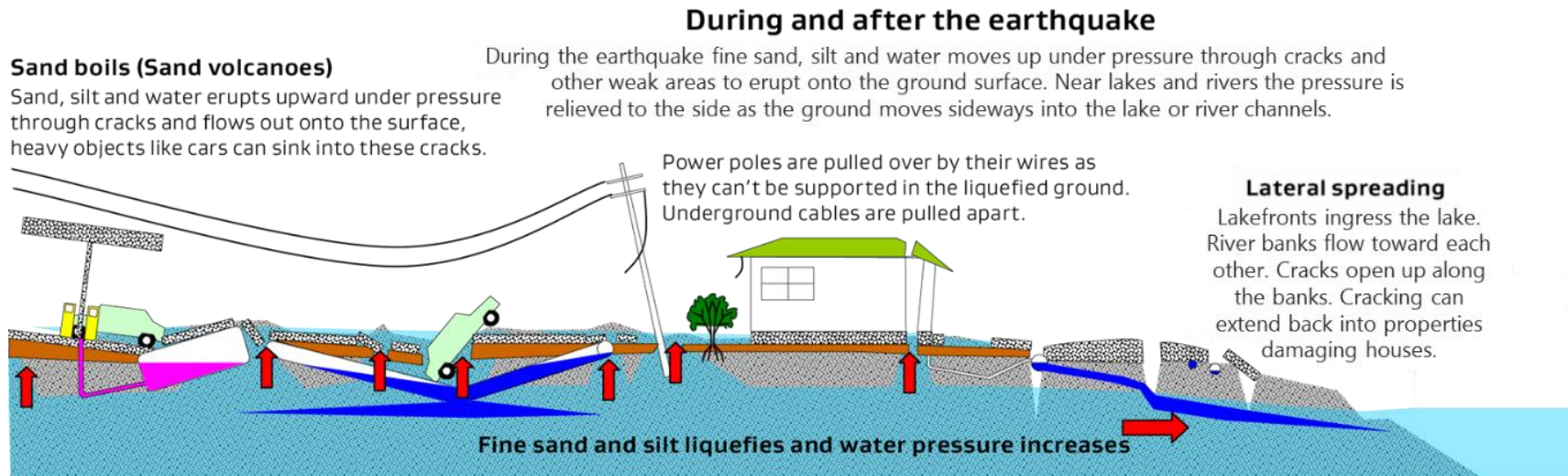


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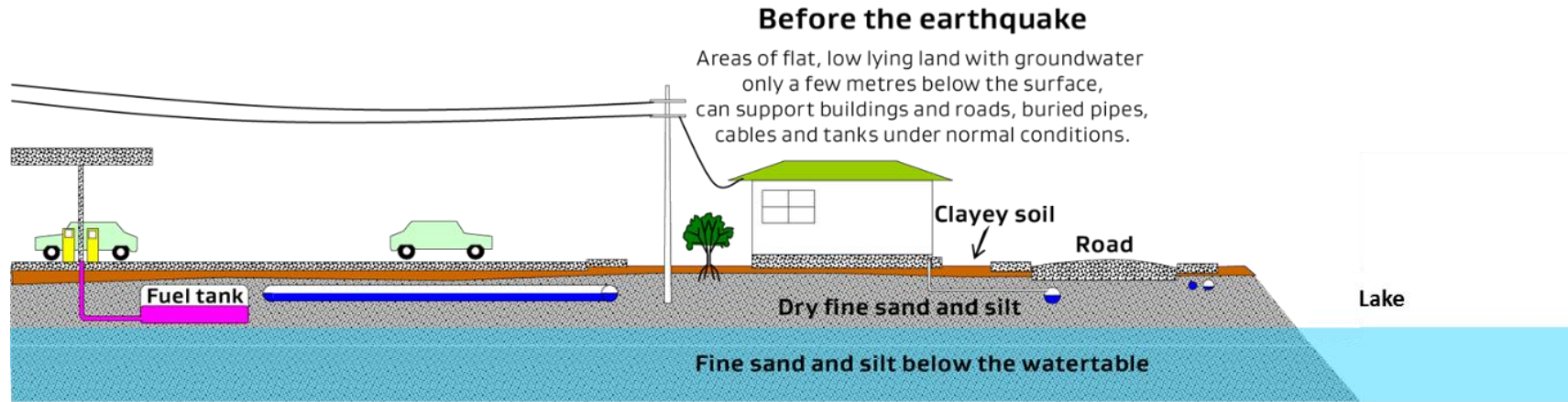
3. Light objects float (such as manholes and underground fuel tanks)

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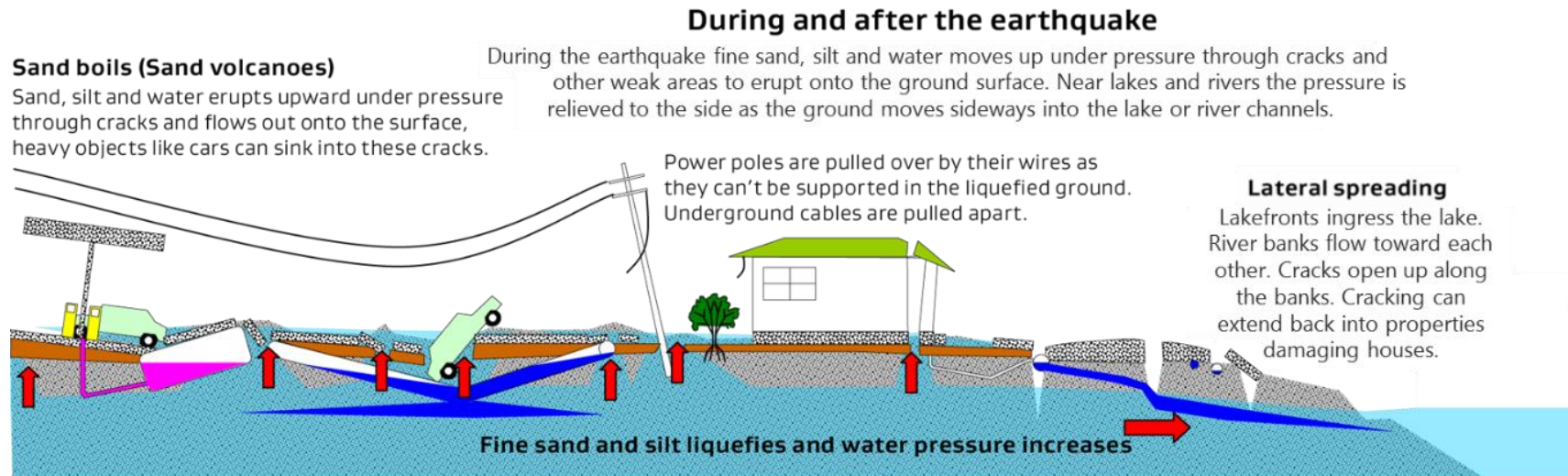
# What are the Consequences of Liquefaction?

1. Differential settlement of the ground surface causing damage to buildings, buried pipes and roads



4. Buildings, underground pipes & cables and roads are pulled apart

2. Heavy objects sink (such as buildings and power transformers)



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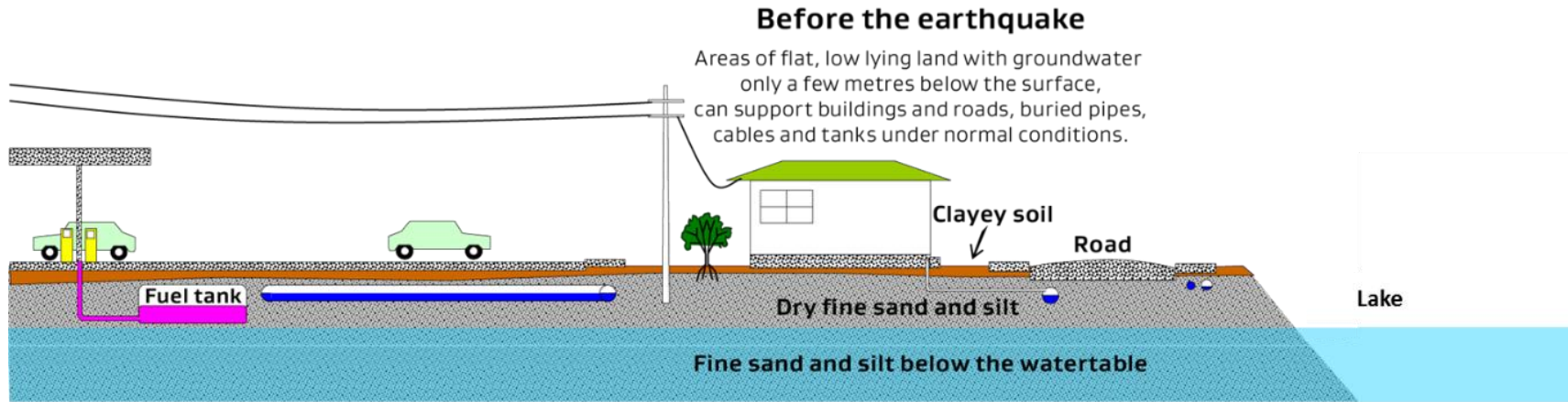






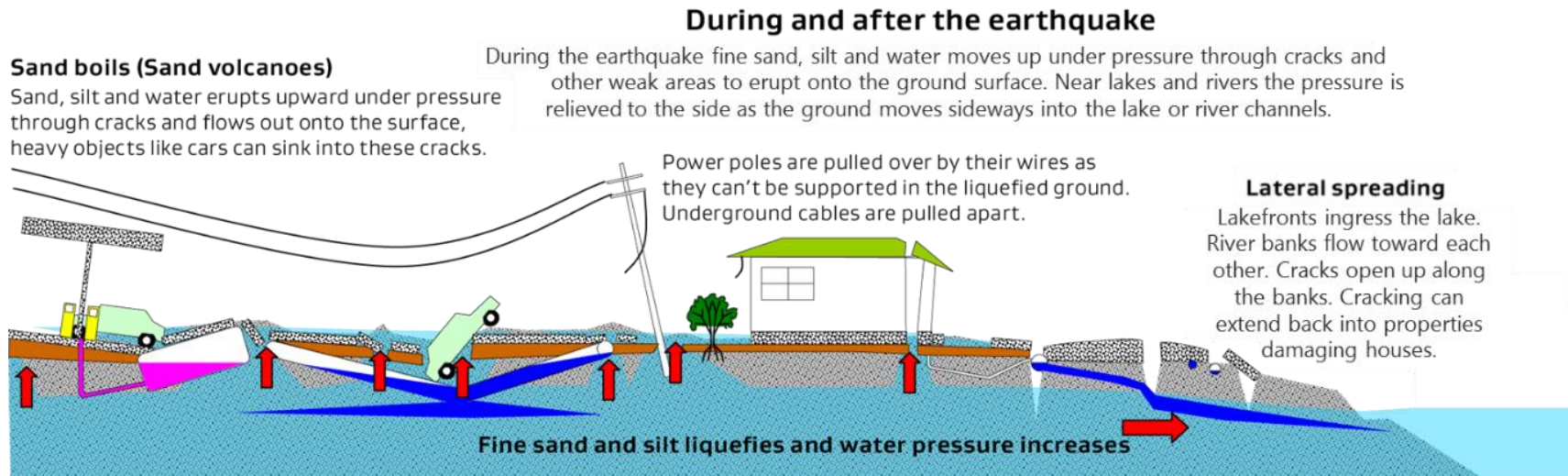
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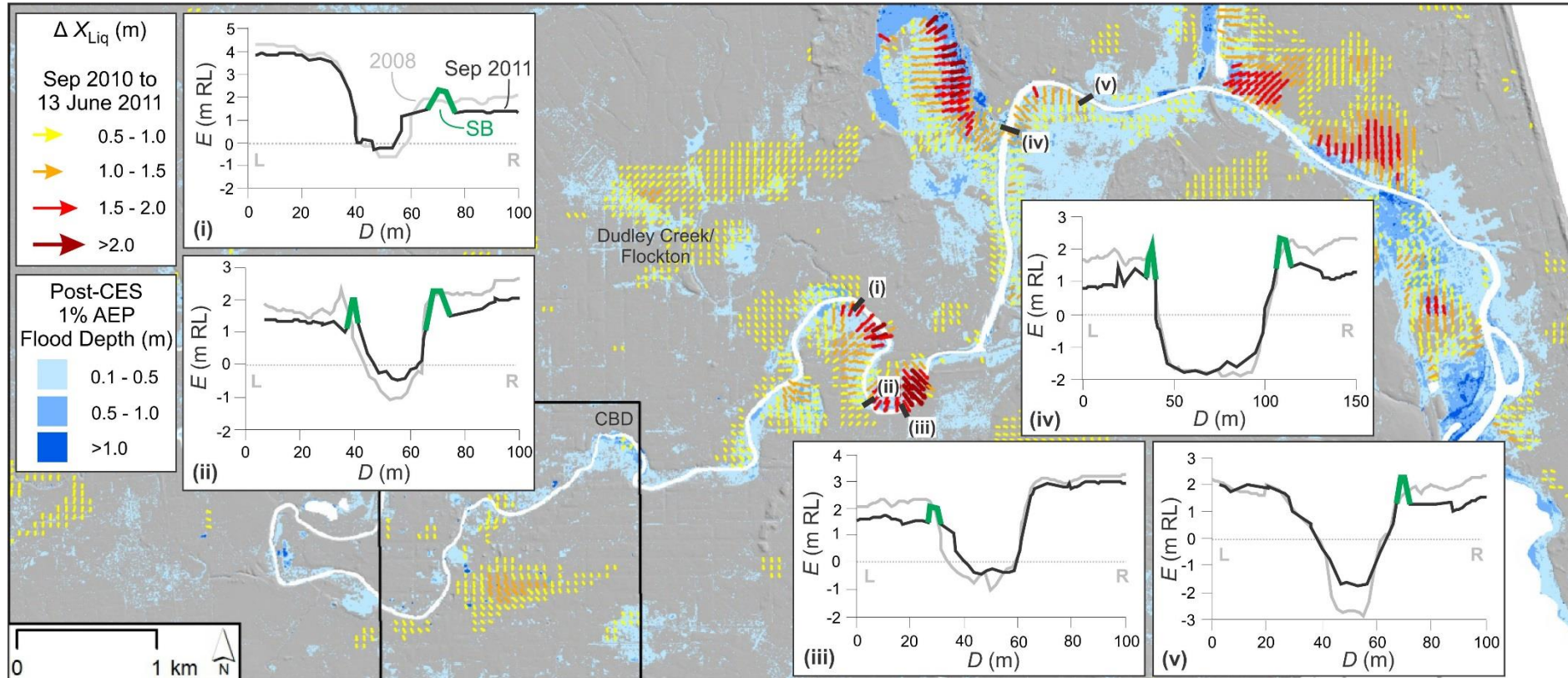
5. Significant ground surface subsidence (0.5m to 1m) making low lying areas more flood prone

3. Light objects float (such as manholes and underground fuel tanks)

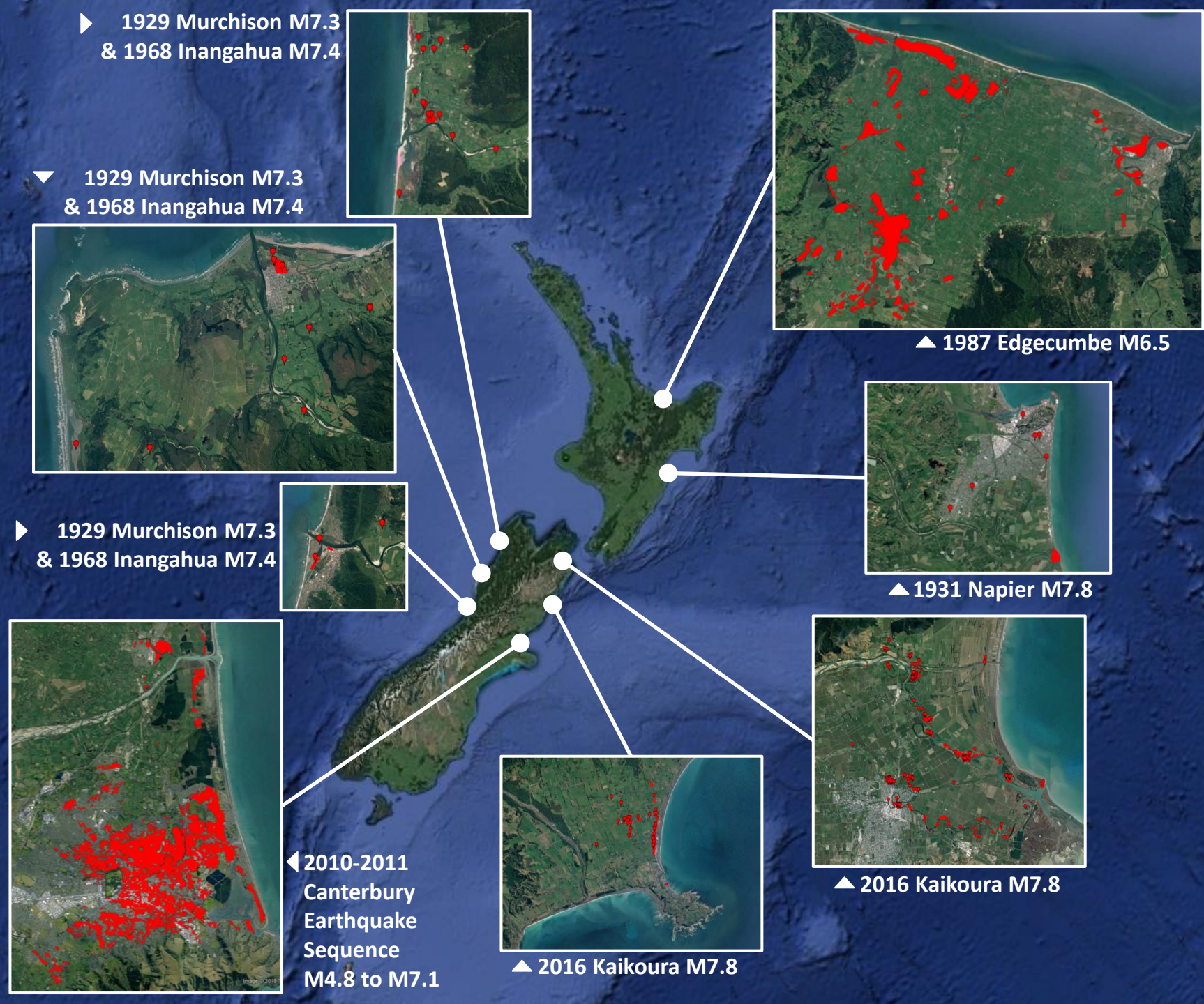
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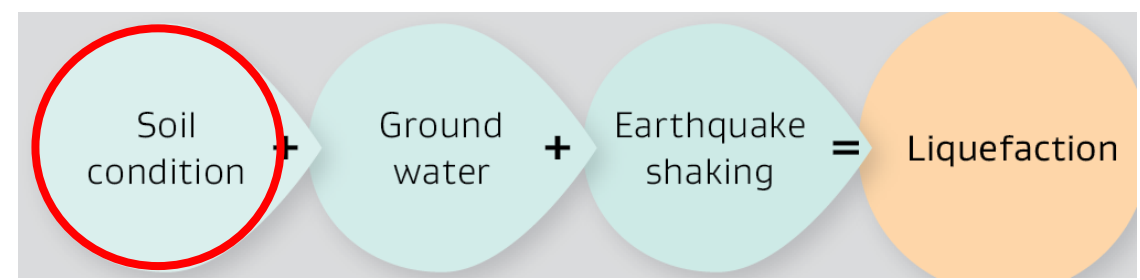
# Exacerbated Flooding (Pre Sept 2010 – Post Dec 2011)



# Observed Liquefaction from the last 100 years of earthquakes in New Zealand



# Glenorchy Liquefaction Assessment

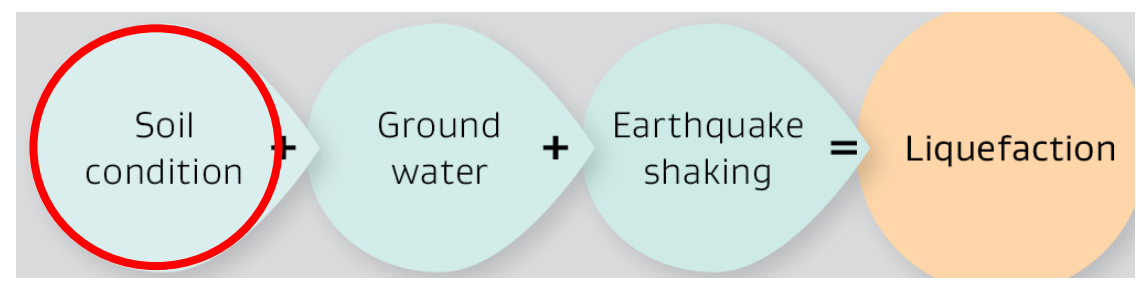


10-16 October 2021

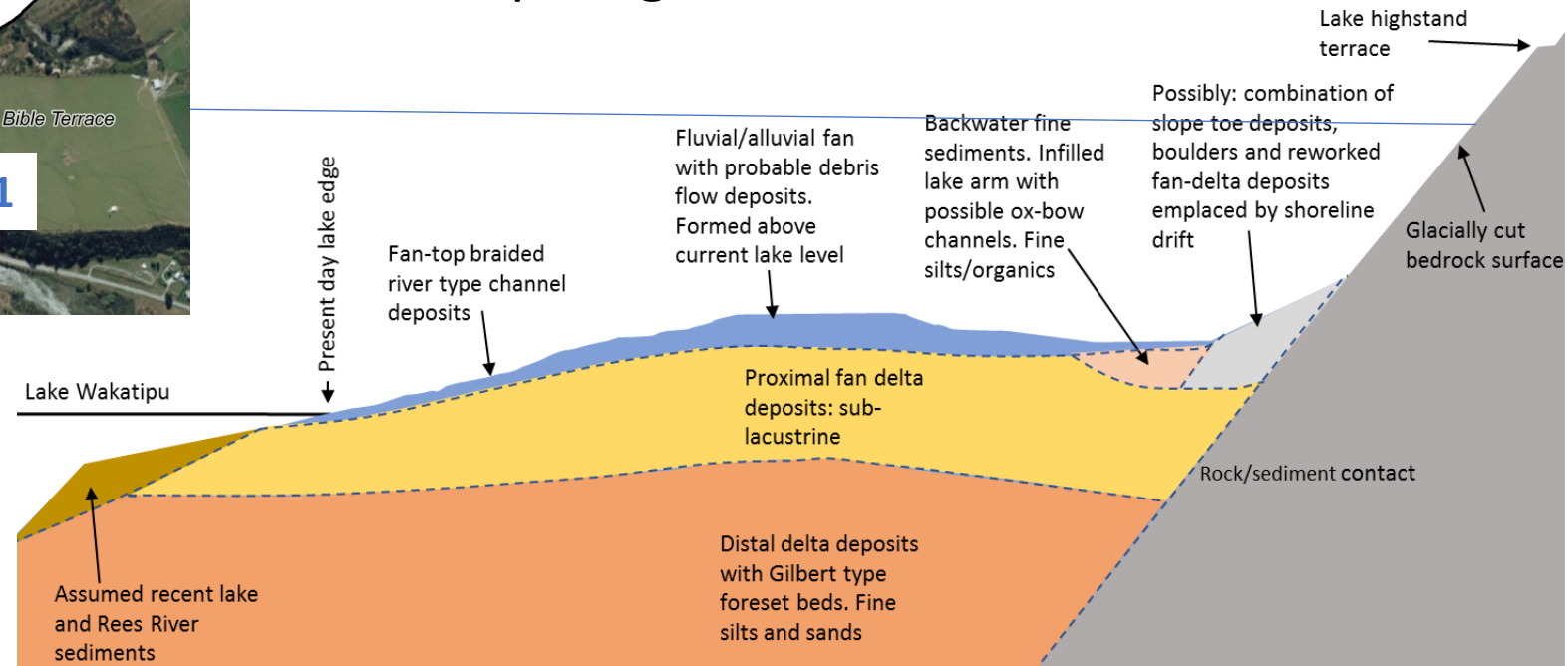
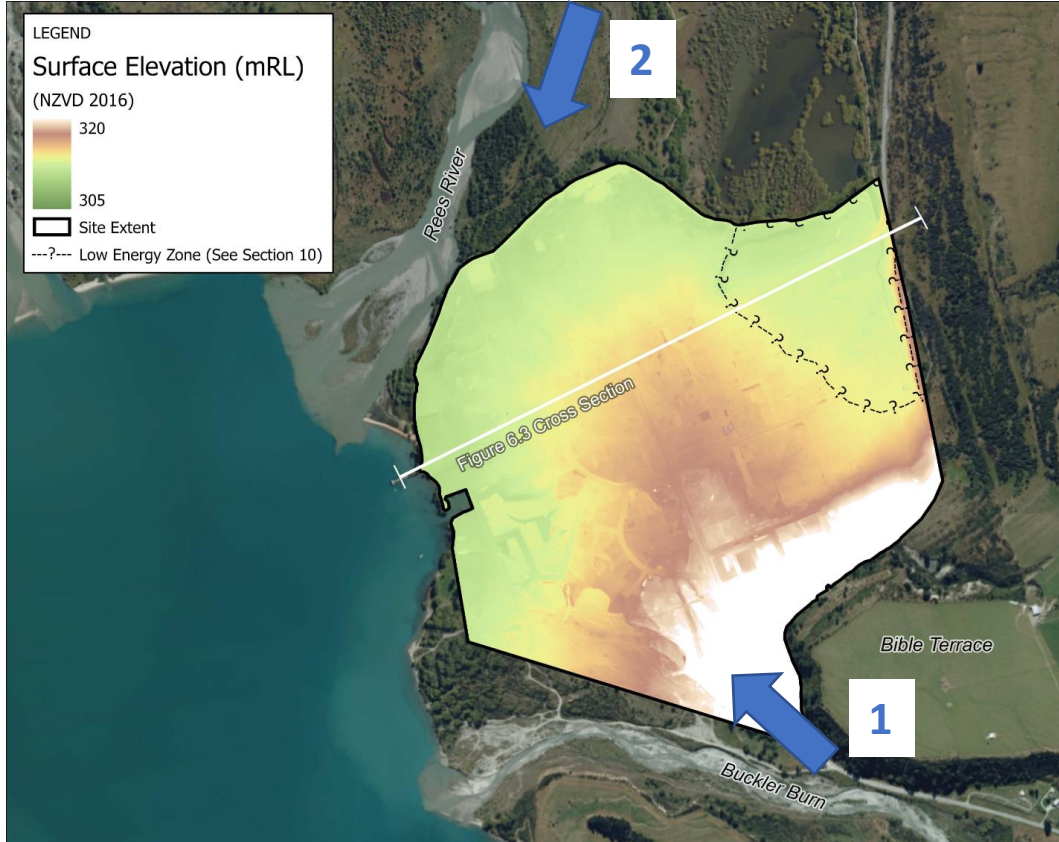
- 19 Cone Penetration Tests (CPT)
- 4 Machine Drilled Boreholes



# Glenorchy Liquefaction Assessment

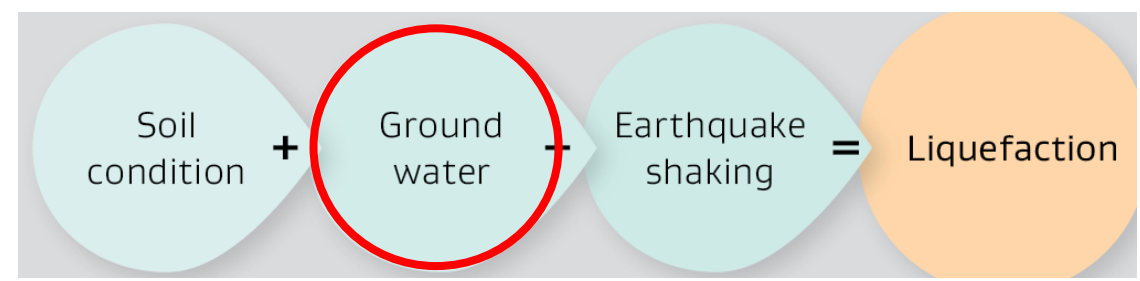


- The subsurface soil layers comprise loose to medium dense sands to depths greater than 20m





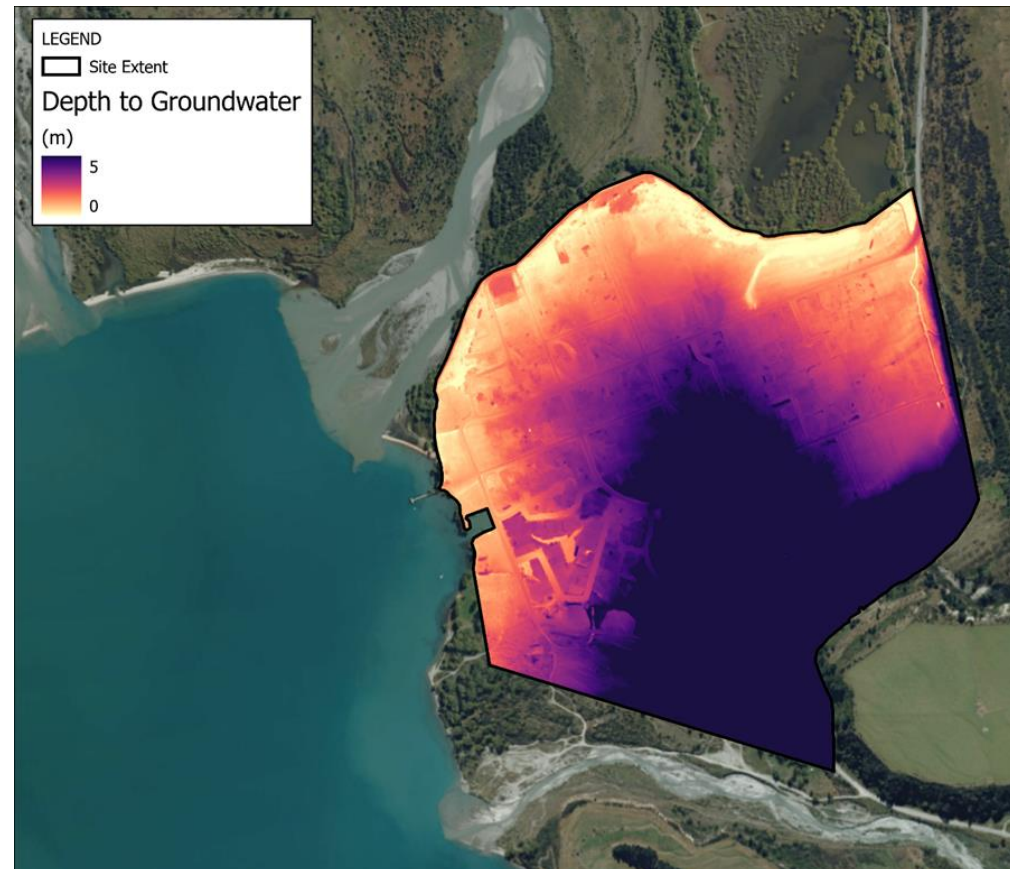
# Glenorchy Liquefaction Assessment



- Groundwater is shallow



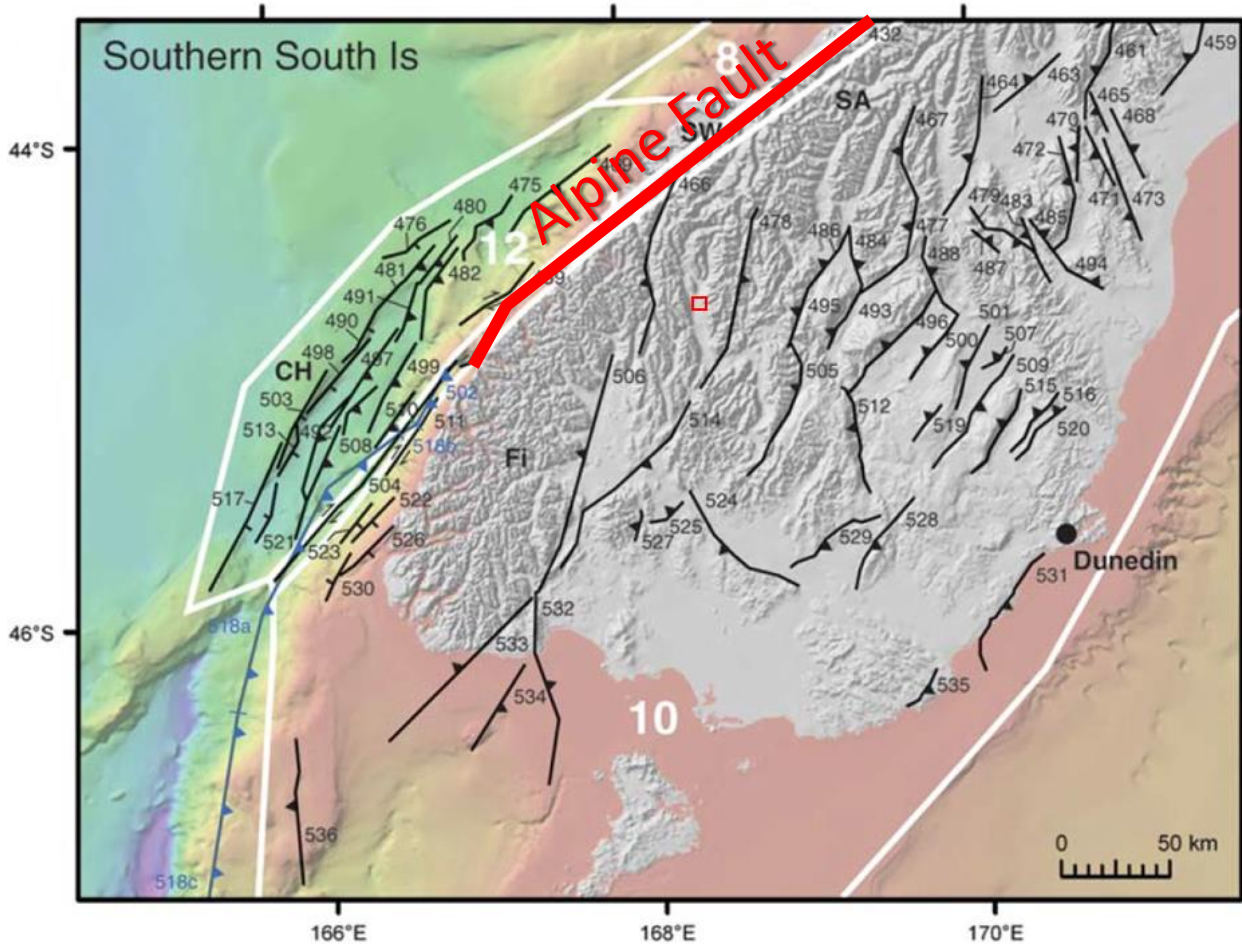
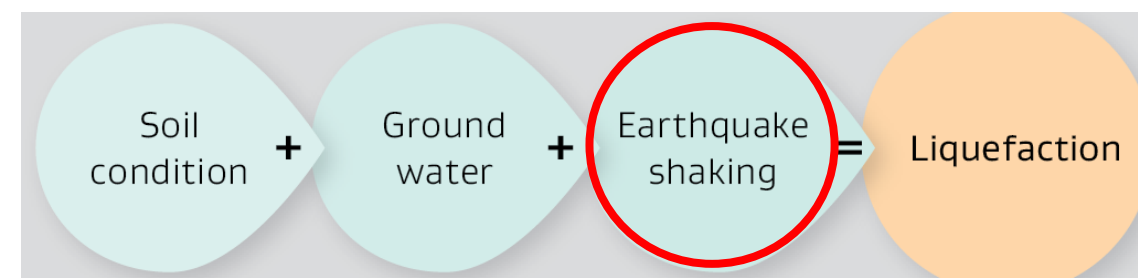
## ▼ Groundwater Levels



◀ Depth to Groundwater (m)

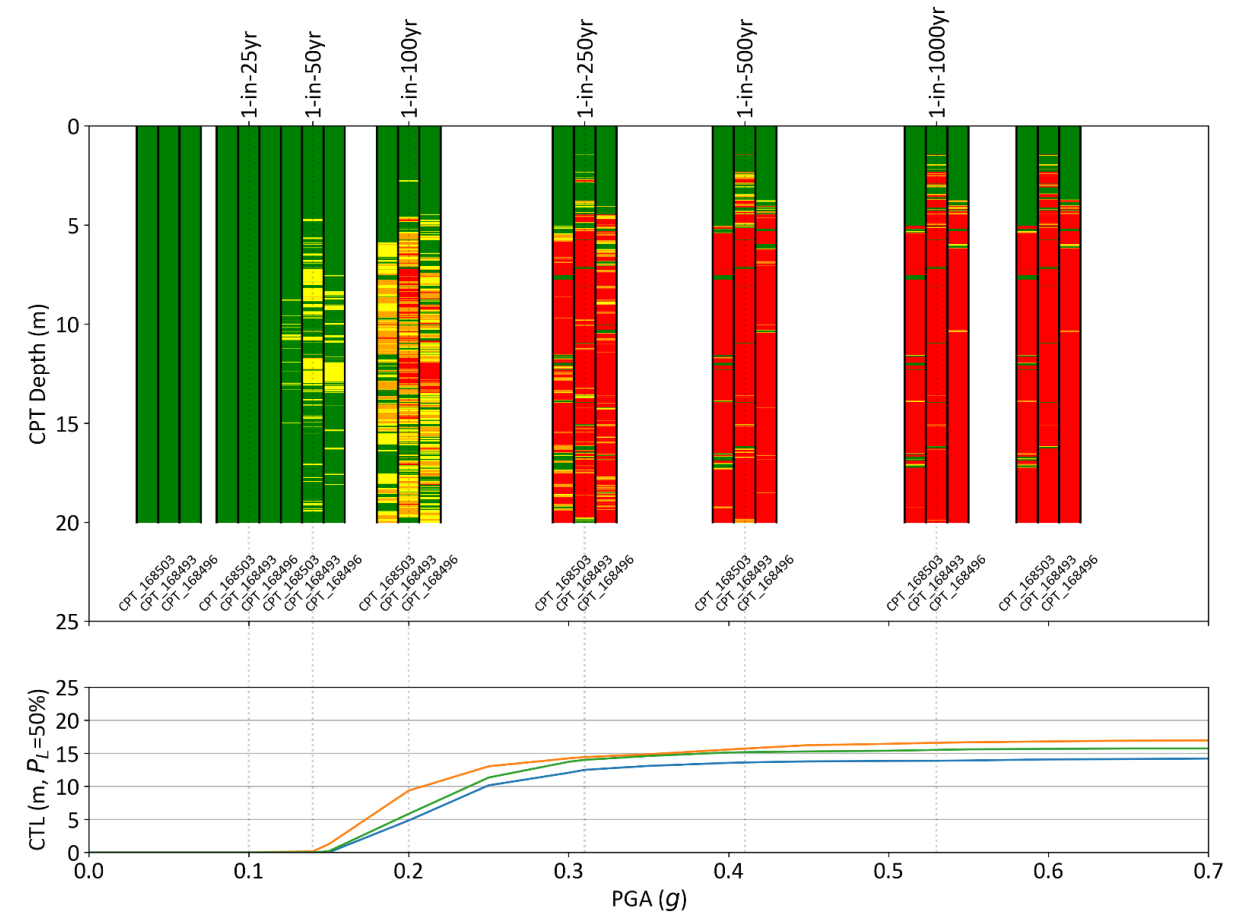
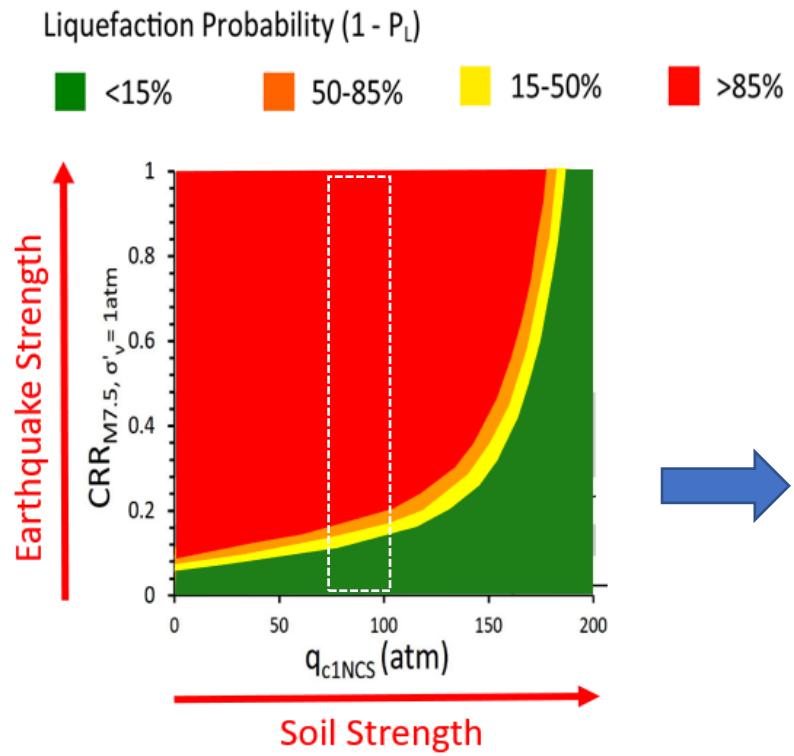
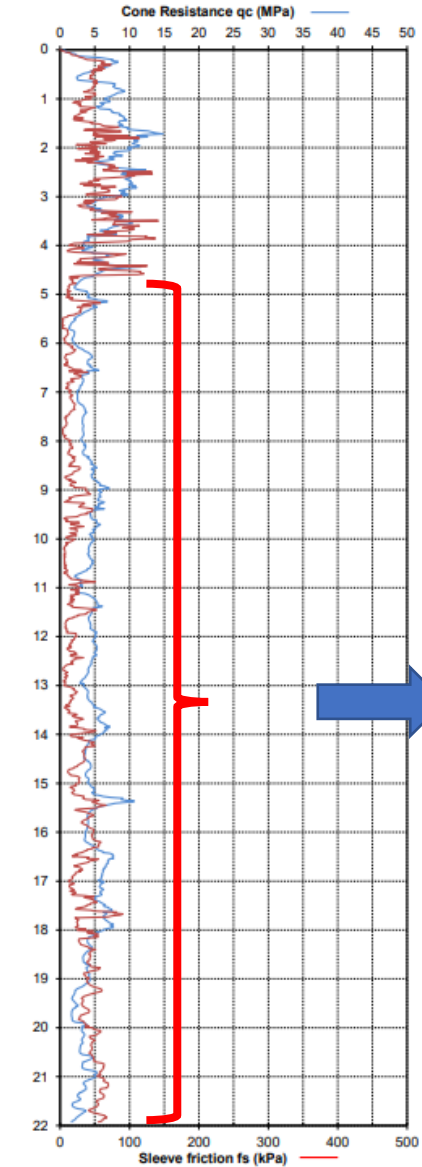
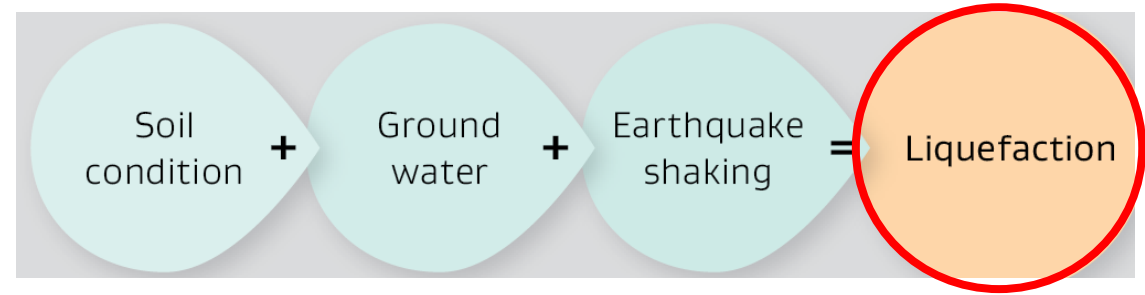
# Glenorchy Liquefaction Assessment

- Seismicity is high for the region and is likely to increase for many parts of New Zealand

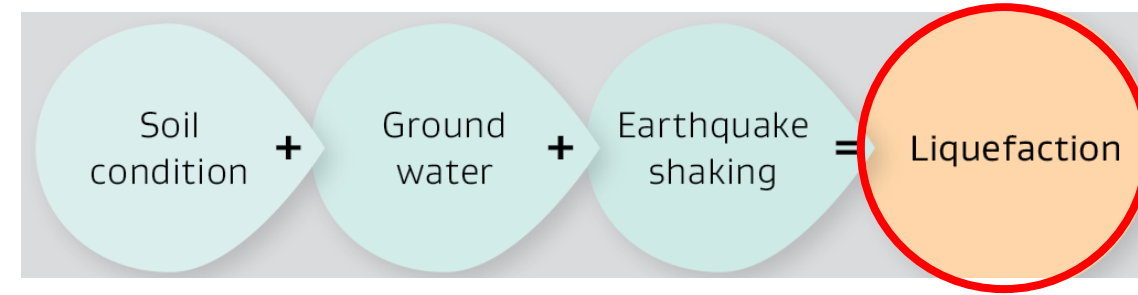


Return Period	25-yr	Alpine Fault Rupture Scenario (approx. 30-yr, conditional)	50-yr	100-yr	250-yr	500-yr	1000-yr	2500-yr
Annual Exceedance Probability	4%	3%	2%	1%	0.4%	0.2%	0.1%	0.04%
PGA (g)	0.1 to 0.16	0.11 (16 <sup>th</sup> percentile) 0.19 (50 <sup>th</sup> percentile) 0.32 (84 <sup>th</sup> percentile)	0.14 to 0.22	0.20 to 0.32	0.31 to 0.48	0.41 to 0.63	0.53 to 0.82	0.74 to 1.14
M <sub>w</sub>	6.1 to 6.5	8.1	6.1 to 6.5	6.1 to 6.5	6.1 to 6.5	6.5 to 7.1	6.5 to 7.1	6.5 to 7.1
Seismic Source (km)	62 to 17	55	60 to 17	57 to 17	54 to 17	50 to 17	46 to 17	41 to 17

# Glenorchy Liquefaction Assessment



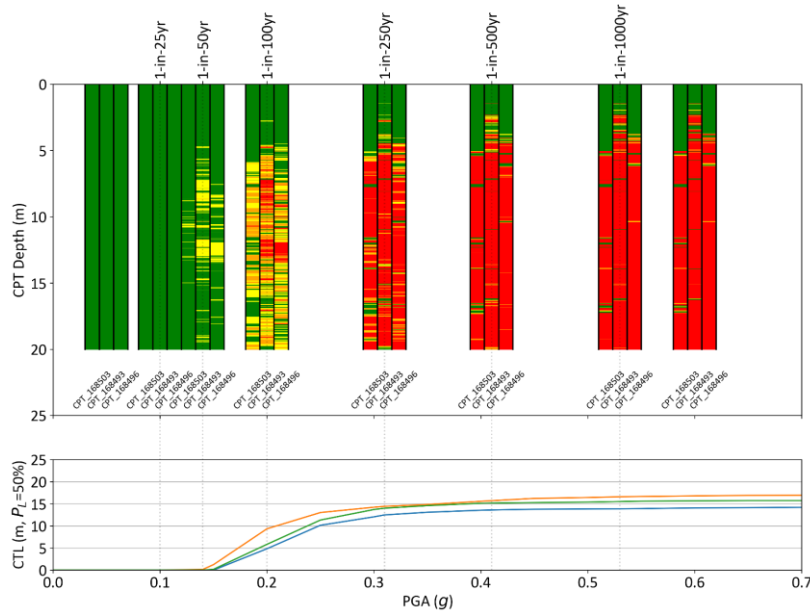
# Glenorchy Liquefaction Assessment



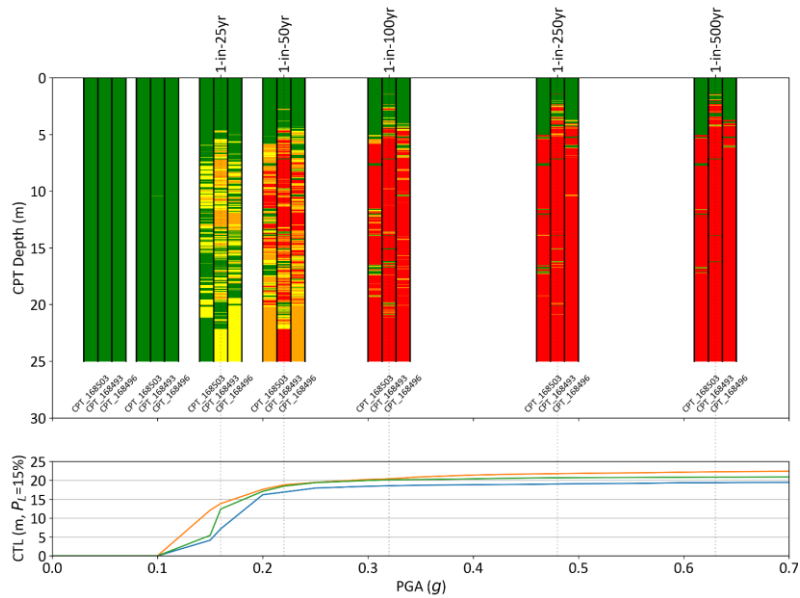
## Results

- Liquefaction triggering is predicted to occur at 25 to 100 year period levels of earthquake shaking
- The upper 20 to 25m of the soil is expected to liquefy for most of the Glenorchy township
- An Alpine Fault Rupture Event is likely to trigger widespread liquefaction. This event has a 75% probability of occurrence in the next 50 years

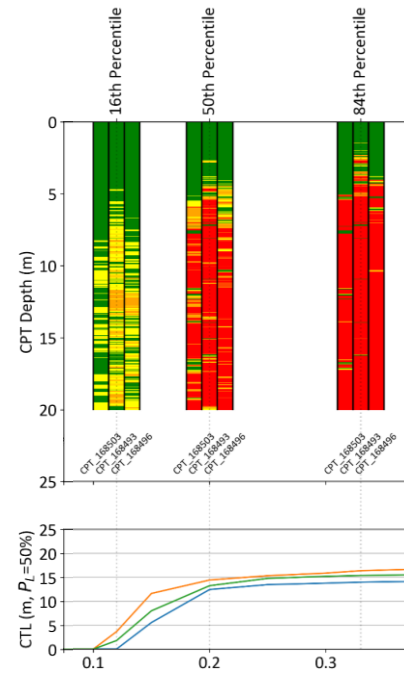
Lower bound



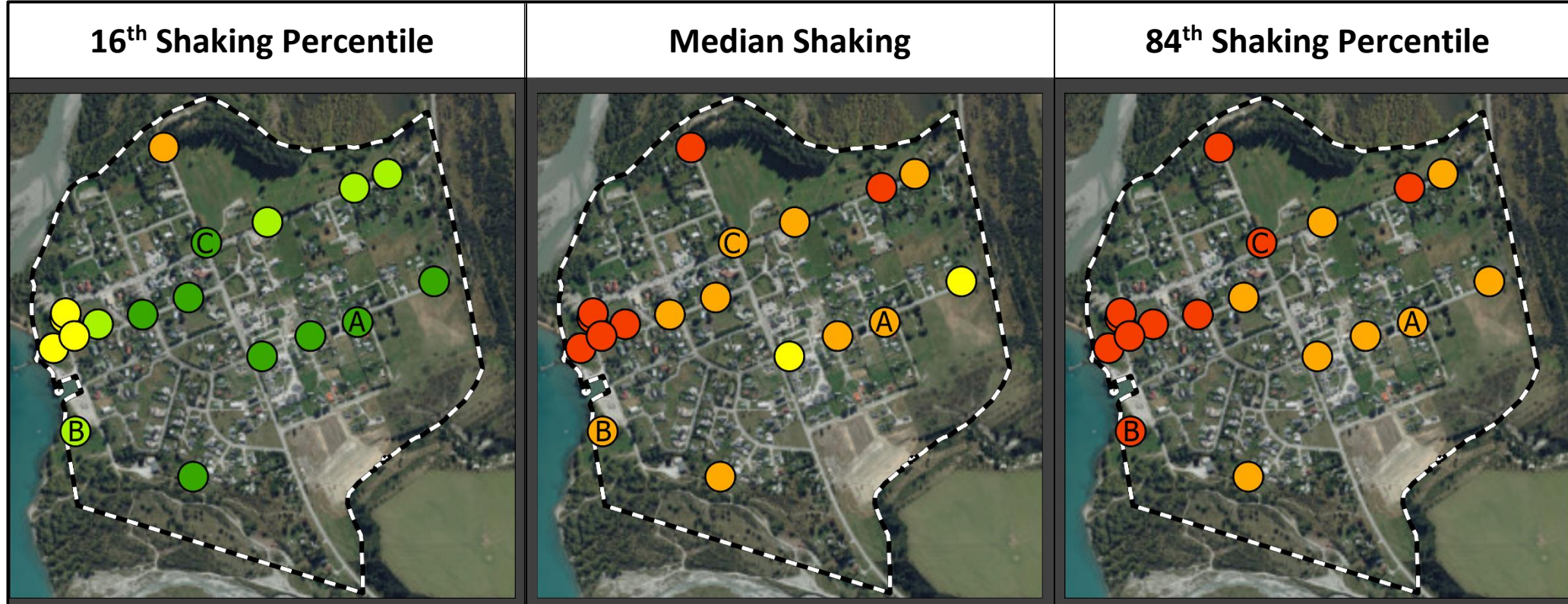
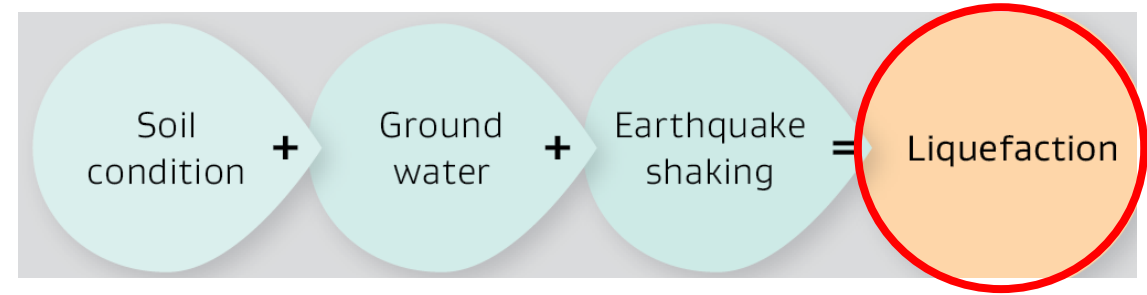
Upper bound



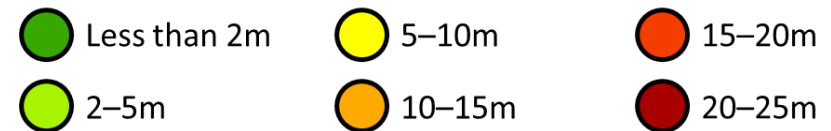
Alpine fault



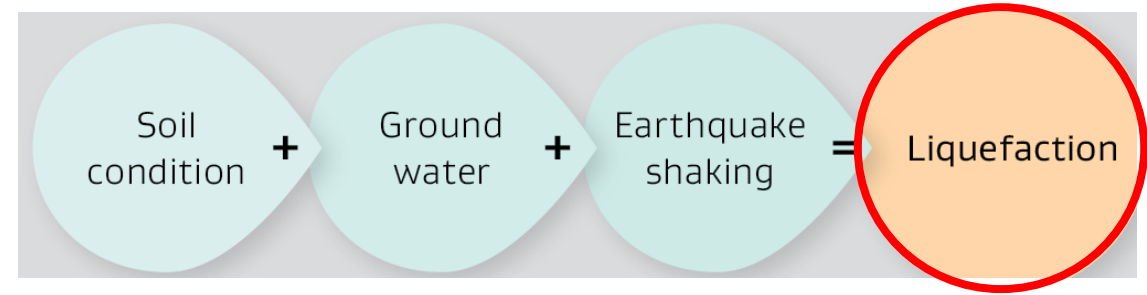
# Glenorchy Liquefaction Assessment








Predicted Thickness of Liquefaction  
for an Alpine Fault Rupture Event



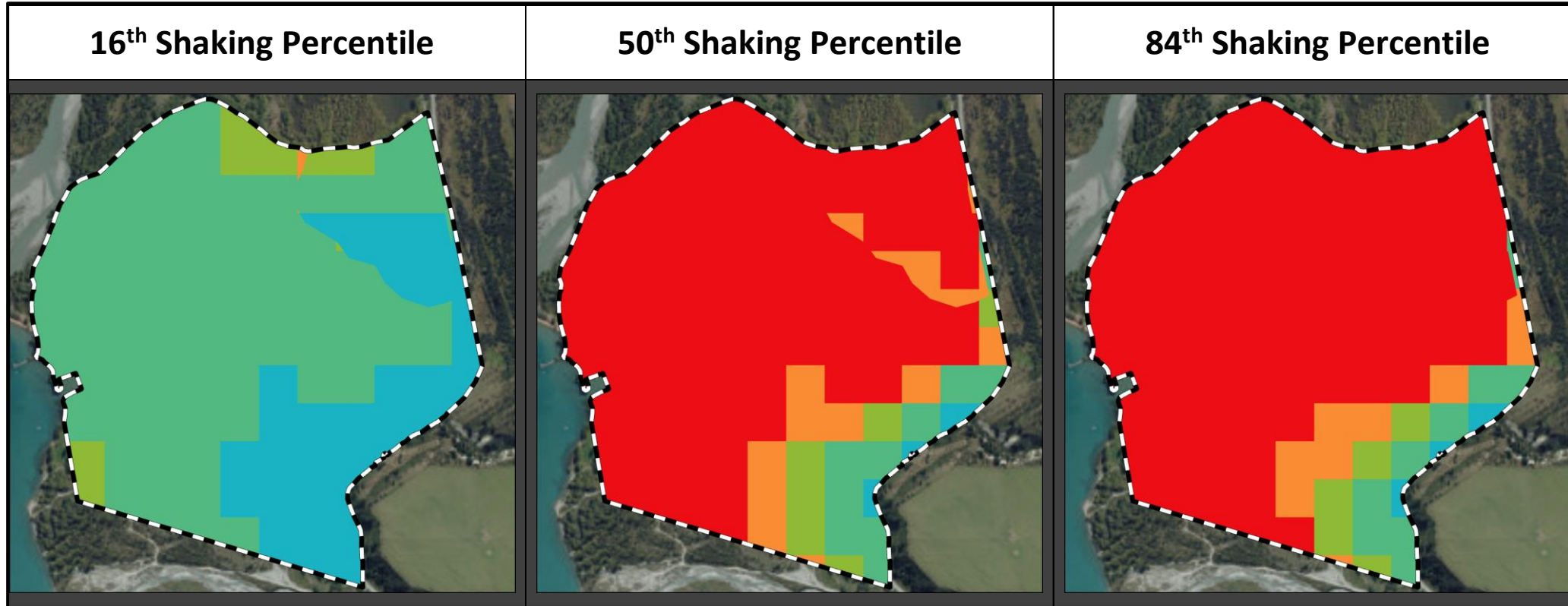
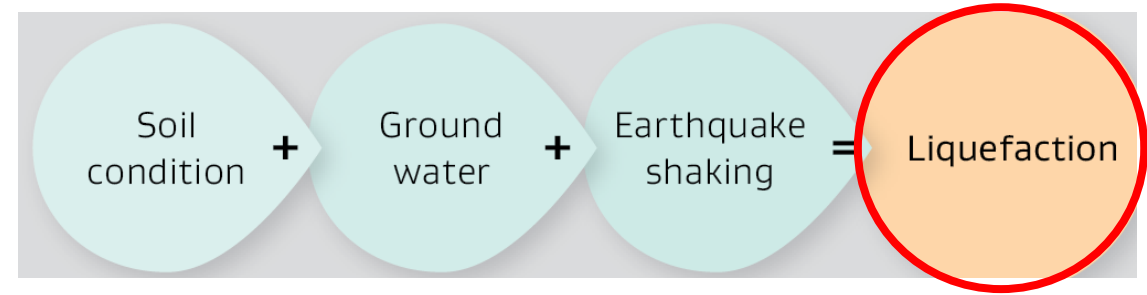
# Glenorchy Liquefaction Assessment



-  0–8 (None to Minor)
-  8–16 (Minor)
-  16–20 (Minor to Moderate)
-  20–25 (Moderate to High)
-  25+ (High to Severe)

Prediction of liquefaction ejecta is undertaken by calculating the Liquefaction Severity Number (LSN)

# Glenorchy Liquefaction Assessment



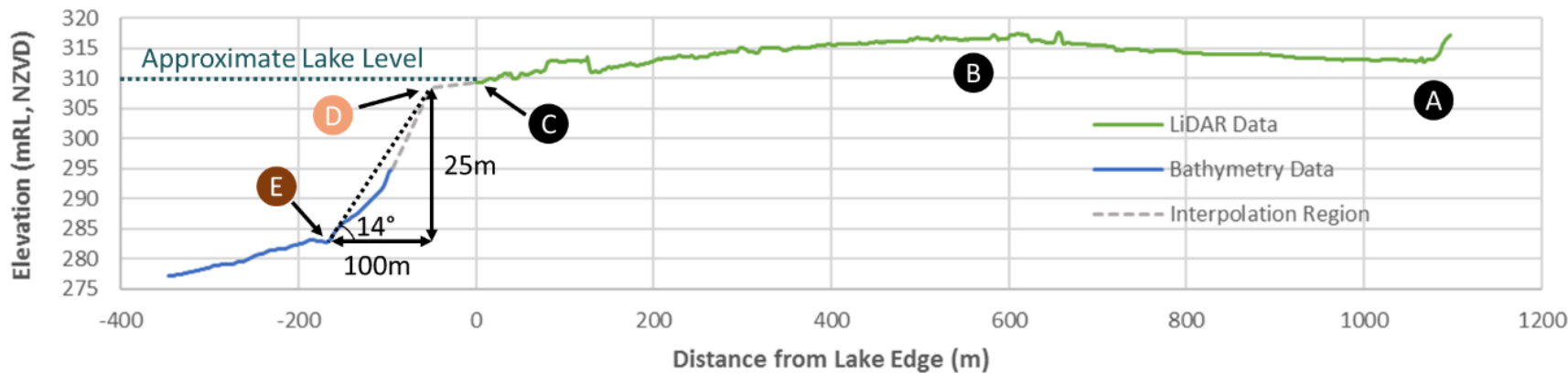
Extensive Moderate to Severe Liquefaction Ejecta is likely to occur across most of Glenorchy for an Alpine Fault Rupture Event

## LSN values

- |                     |                           |                      |
|---------------------|---------------------------|----------------------|
| 0-8 (None to Minor) | 16-20 (Minor to Moderate) | 25+ (High to Severe) |
| 8-16 (Minor)        | 20-25 (Moderate to High)  |                      |

# Glenorchy Liquefaction Assessment & Lateral Spreading

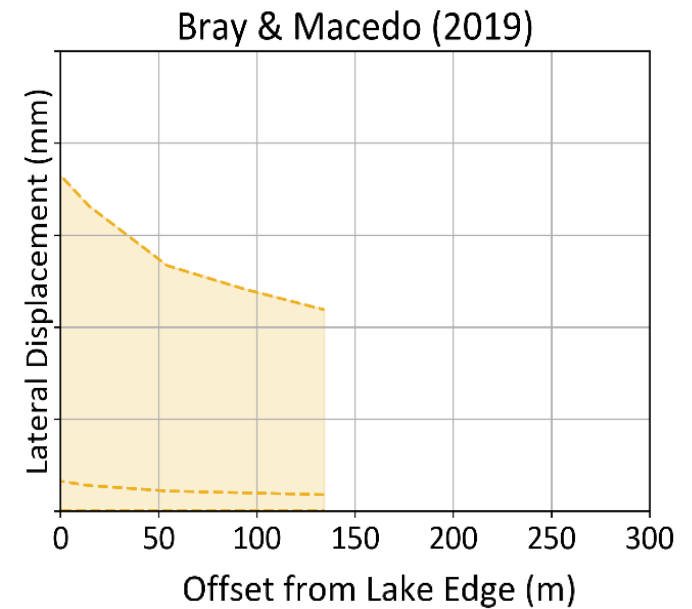
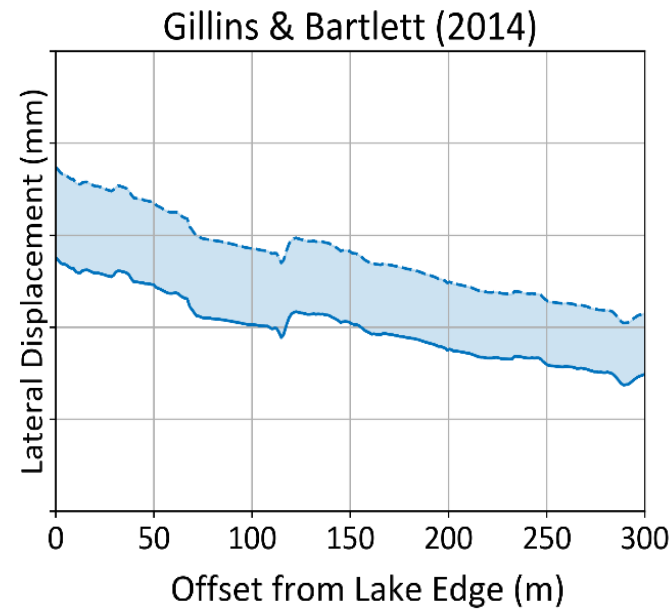
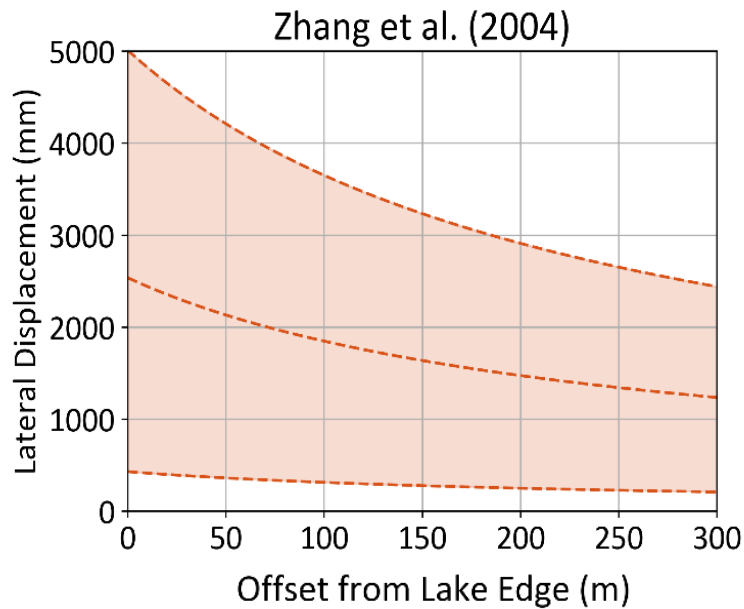
- The height of the drop off in Glenorchy is 5x greater than the areas where lateral spreading occurred in Christchurch and Blenheim





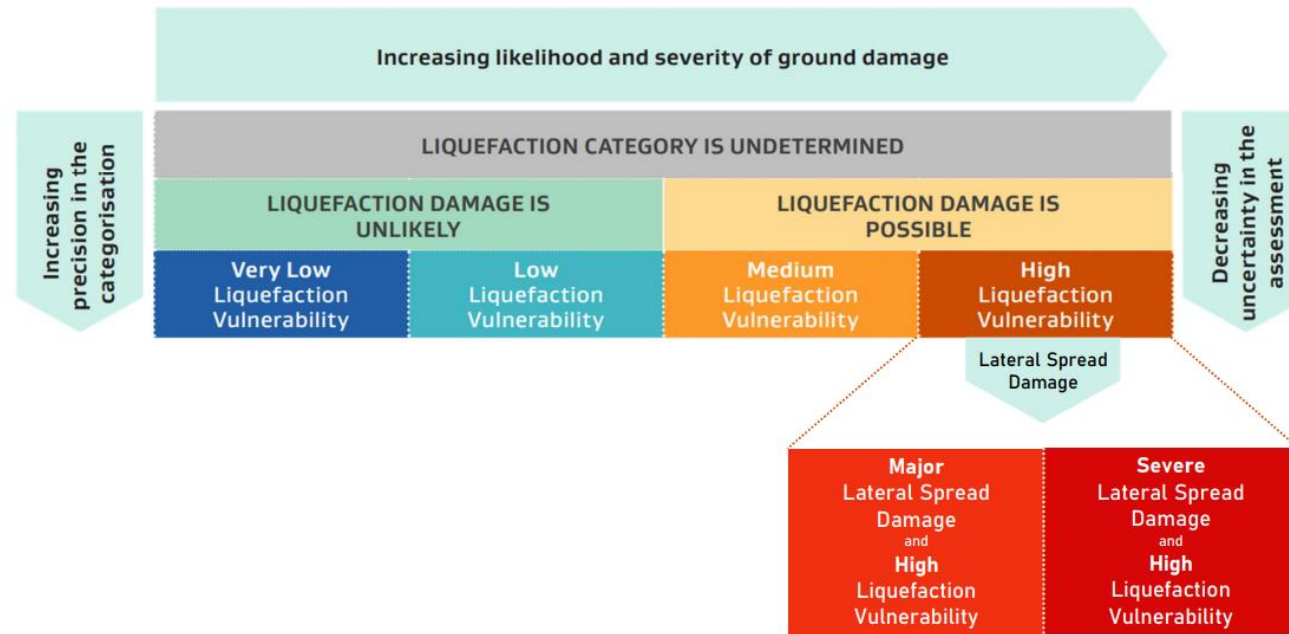
# Glenorchy Liquefaction Assessment & Lateral Spreading

- Three methods used to assess lateral spreading
- Generally 3 to 4m of lateral spreading is predicted for an Alpine Fault Rupture Event. This event has a 75% probability of occurrence in the next 50 years
- The lateral spreading decreases with distance back from the lake edge
- The predicted spreading is 2x worse than the lateral spreading that was observed in the Christchurch residential red zone



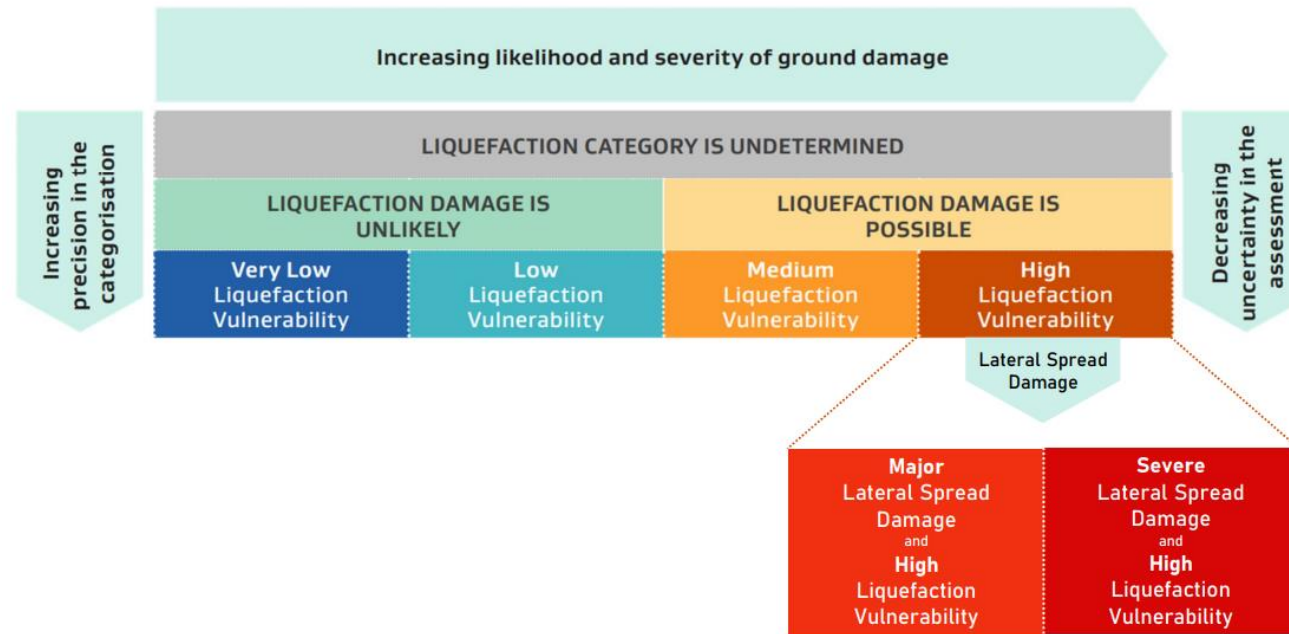
# Glenorchy Liquefaction Assessment – Damage Zones

- Based on the MBIE / MFE Guidelines<sup>1</sup>



- The MBIE/MFE Guidelines were developed for the consideration of the liquefaction hazard in the rezoning / development of greenfield land. For greenfield land the guidance recommends:
  - The areas with High Liquefaction Vulnerability be either avoided or area-wide ground improvement be undertaken before building houses on top, or houses be designed with more robust foundation systems to withstand the effects from high liquefaction vulnerability;
  - The areas with Major Lateral Spread Damage be avoided unless the lateral spreading hazard can be mitigated through ground improvement. In the case in Glenorchy, mitigating the lateral spreading is not practical; and
  - The areas with Severe Lateral Spread Damage be completely avoided (i.e. left as a greenfield).
- However, Glenorchy is already an existing town and not a greenfield area. There is no guidance on what to do for the different hazard zones for existing developed areas.

# Glenorchy Liquefaction Assessment – Damage Zones



- Given that the Glenorchy area is already developed, Section 12.2.2 of the Canterbury Recovery Residential Guidance (MBIE, 2012) provides guidance for building design for various levels of lateral spread damage vulnerability.
- For the Major Lateral Spread Damage zone only the most heavy duty foundation design options for residential buildings are likely to be suitable (as per the Canterbury Residential Guidance). They are approximately \$50 to \$100k over and above the cost of a residential house on conventional foundations.
- For the Severe Lateral Spread Damage zone more substantial engineering works are required, which are outside of the scope of the guidance. Without specific engineering design, residential buildings cannot be expected to safely withstand these levels of lateral spread damage.
- Vertical ground surface subsidence in the order of 1m can occur in the Severe Lateral Spread Damage zone, which can significantly increase the flood risks.



**LEGEND**

Study Extent

Zone boundary (see further legend in the top right for zone definitions)

Increasing likelihood and severity of ground damage

LIQUEFACTION CATEGORY IS UNDETERMINED

LIQUEFACTION DAMAGE IS UNLIKELY

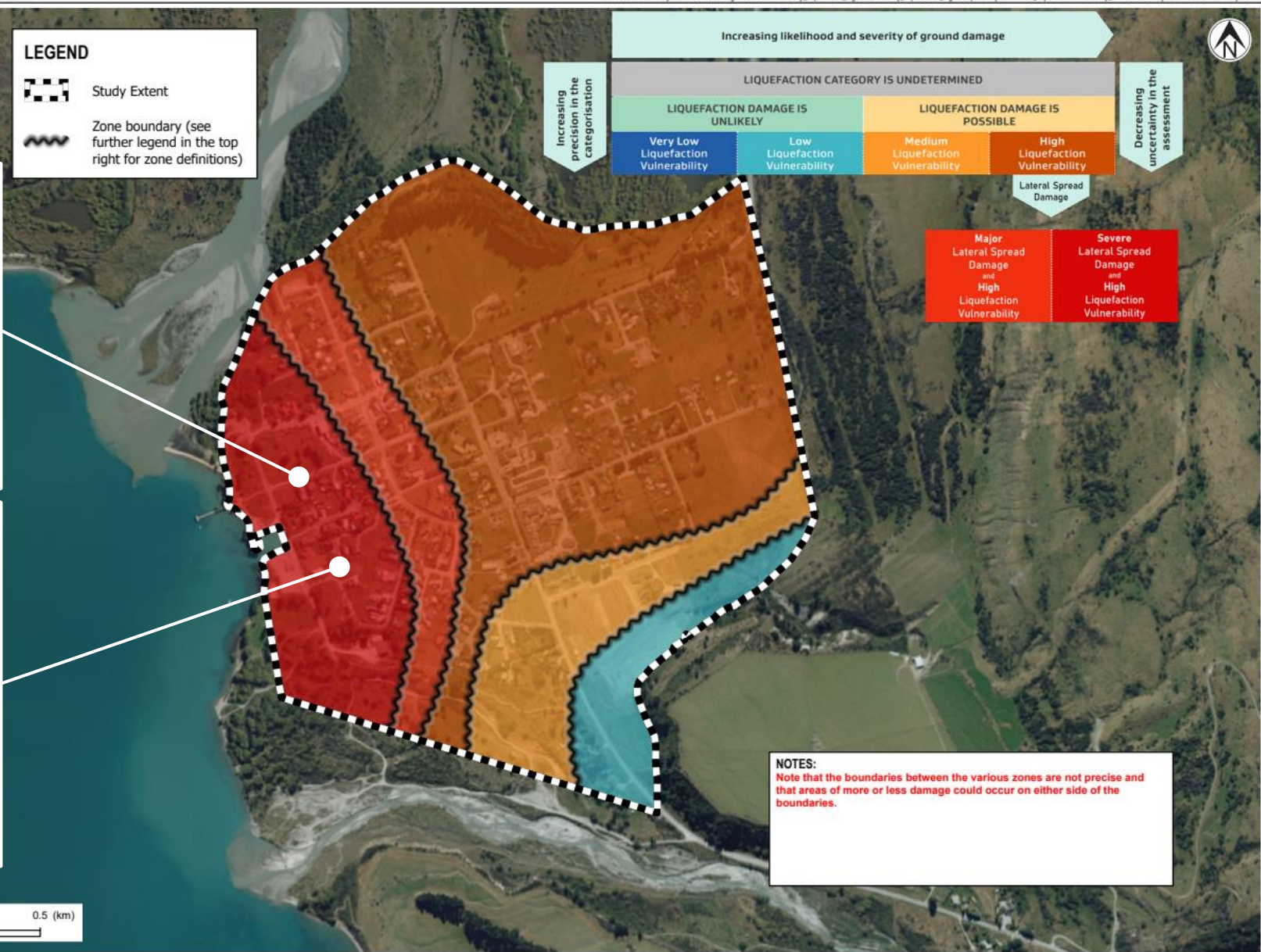
LIQUEFACTION DAMAGE IS POSSIBLE

Very Low Liquefaction Vulnerability    Low Liquefaction Vulnerability    Medium Liquefaction Vulnerability    High Liquefaction Vulnerability

Lateral Spread Damage

Major Lateral Spread Damage and High Liquefaction Vulnerability    Severe Lateral Spread Damage and High Liquefaction Vulnerability

Increasing precision in the categorisation    Decreasing uncertainty in the assessment



**NOTES:**  
 Note that the boundaries between the various zones are not precise and that areas of more or less damage could occur on either side of the boundaries.



**NOTES:**  
 Basemap NZ - Imagery: Eagle Technology, Land Information New Zealand, GEBCO, Community maps contributors, NZ Navigation  
 Map: Eagle Technology, LINZ, StatsNZ, NIWA, Natural Earth, © OpenStreetMap contributors.

1	Second version	NAMC	YYYY	16/05/22
REV	DESCRIPTION	GIS	CHK	DATE

PROJECT No.	1017916.2000		
DESIGNED	NAMC	MAY.22	
DRAWN	NAMC	MAY.22	
CHECKED			
LOCATION PLAN			
APPROVED	DATE		

CLIENT	OTAGO REGIONAL COUNCIL		
PROJECT	GLENORCHY LIQUEFACTION STUDY		
TITLE	LIQUEFACTION VULNERABILITY (MFE/MBIE CLASSIFICATION) AND LATERAL SPREADING DAMAGE ZONES		
SCALE (A3)	1:7,500	FIG No.	FIGURE A1
REV	1		



**Questions?**