



PORT VILA CITY COUNCIL

Earthquake Recovery Report #5

Central Business District

15 April 2025



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Background

Following the December 17 2025 earthquake, a CBD restricted area was established in Port Vila to manage safety risks, coordinate recovery efforts, and support economic recovery.

Key objectives were to:

1. ensure public safety
2. support economic recovery through phased reopening of the restricted area
3. manage stakeholder expectations

This report outlines our current state and future actions.

Current State

Buildings initial assessments

There were 9 buildings categorized in the initial assessment by USAR “rapid assessment” as red, and 16 buildings categorized as yellow. Over time, business owners with insurance companies assessed their building and decisions were made to demolish. This can happen as it may be uneconomic to repair the building.

Demolition program within CBD

The demolition works has progressed quickly with a total of 14 demolitions within the CBD. There was 12 red buildings and 1 yellow building.

There are 7 further buildings requiring demolition. It is anticipated to have the remaining demolitions completed by mid-late April 2025. At least two buildings of the remaining 7 are uninsured and the building owners have stated that they wish to progress demolition slowly with their own contractors. This would prevent the CBD fully opening as well as impacting neighbouring occupancy and transport routes. The building concerned is: **Bougainville Building**. In addition, there is a risk of harm to public during their demolition works.



Reductions of restricted area

The reductions of the restricted area of the CBD are detailed in the Public Notices are outlined below:

30 January 2025

- opening of the road of one way from Winston Churchill Street to Kumul High Way Street

21 February 2025

- opening of the road of Kumul High Way Street from Moorings to Fung Kwei
- the road from the Port Vila Municipal Council junction to Eric Wong
- the road from the Vanuatu Financial Service Commission to the Vanuatu National Provident Fund

25 March 2025

- opening road of Rue Mercet to one way to Nambatu, Nambatri and Pango



11th April 2025

- Opening Kumul Highway Road from Bred Bank to Ex Post Office junction

Future Actions

Challenges

These are our key challenges

Demolition programme

- Maintaining a forward work programme to ensure specialist skills and equipment is well utilised and remains in Vanuatu to complete the demolition programme. For example, if there are large gaps in the demolition will lead to contractors leaving with only manual and slow demolition methods available.
- Receiving detailed engineering assessments in a timely manner to ensure demolition forward work programme is maintained. For example, Bougainville House was assessed by different engineers with different outcomes and this has delayed decision making.
- Delays in government departments applications for demolition of government properties
- Delays in business owner's decision making where properties are uninsured and under insured are impacting the full opening of the CBD. For example, Iven Store and Melitco building.

Information Management

- Emails and documents are held across multiple agencies and individual's inboxes. All earthquake recovery information (documentation) in a central repository to ensure that there is no information gaps should there be any future litigation of decisions made during this phase of recovery.
- The pace of demolition and decision making within the CBD is not providing sufficient time to fully review the building assessments provided by building owners.
- There is been some delays by building owners providing their building assessments.

Recommendations

1. Letter of expectation to be sent to property owners that have not yet provided a detailed engineering report
2. Government ministries to provide demolition plan and applications to PVCC as soon as possible
3. PWD to review all assessments (rapid assessment and detailed engineering assessment) received
4. PWD to provide a central repository for all building/property assessments to PVCC

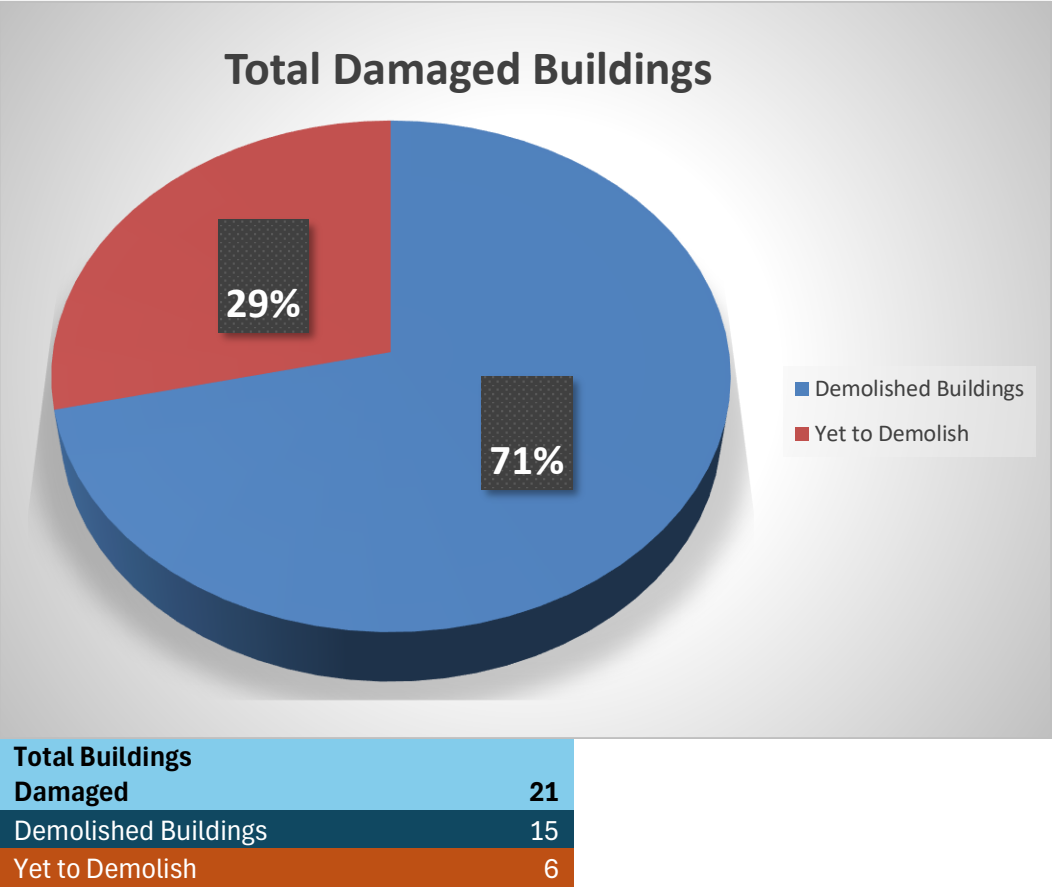
Appendices

List of demolitions completed - 1 buildings

Number	Building Name	Building Category	Works
1	ABM & Seaview	Red	Demolition
2	Chantily	Red	Demolition
3	Ex MOL Building	Red	Demolition
4	ex Trader Vicxs / Moorings	Red	Demolition
5	Ex VAT Office	Red	Demolition
6	La Casa D'Andrea	Red	Demolition
7	Lolam Building	Red	Demolition
8	Malapoa school dormitory	Red	Demolition
9	Market	Yellow	Demolition
10	NBV	Red	Demolition
11	Olympic Hotel	Red	Demolition
12	Part Central Market house	Red	Demolition
13	Wong Garage Building Tagae	Red	Demolition
14	VNPF Top floor	Red	Demolition
15	URA	Red	Demolition

Future demolitions within CBD, 5 buildings

- 1. Bougainville House
- 2. Chinese Club
- 3. Ex MOL Building
- 4. Iven Store
- 5. Melitco
- 6. All In One (Presbyterian Church Building opposite New Look)



Future demolitions map

