



STUFF — TARANAKI DAILY NEWS — 22 JUN 2012

Theatre closes for repair work

Stratford's TET Kings Theatre faces a hefty repair bill for earthquake strengthening work which will force it to close for at least a month.

The theatre closed on Tuesday so immediate remedial work could be done.

Theatre spokesman Lyall Flett said it was necessary to close the building because of safety concerns in the cellar.

"We regret this inconvenience to theatre patrons and users but it is absolutely necessary," Mr Flett said.

Theatre operators were required to present a report to its funders showing that the building meets earthquake safety requirements.

This will require a major survey to be carried out at a cost of about \$30,000, he said.

Last week, in a preliminary assessment, a consulting engineer found an area in the basement that required urgent remedial work.

Mr Flett said he was unsure what the repair bill would be as he was still waiting for quotes.

The trust committee held a snap meeting and agreed the work would be done as soon as possible, he said.

"The safety of patrons, staff and renters comes first and foremost.

"We're very sorry for any inconvenience and we hope we will be back in the near future stronger than ever."

Movies had now stopped screening and the St Joseph's School's big show, due to be held next week, had to be relocated.

The theatre would cover the bill for short-term repairs but if the survey identifies more remedial work then it would have to call on money from its funders, TET.

"It belongs to the people of Stratford so we want to keep it if we can," Mr Flett said.

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