

Businesses remain committed

A RECENT survey of the members of the Canterbury Business Leaders Group (CBLG) has revealed that there is still ongoing widespread commitment to the region.

The CBLG was formed following the February 22, 2011 earthquake to provide a united business leadership approach to the recovery.

It continues to work closely with other organisations in the city and members remain confident about the long-term economic and social prosperity of the region, spokesman Dr Don Elder said.

“The reality is that the economic strengths of the Canterbury region remain and are becoming stronger, and most of the foundation pillars of the city also remain.

“We have always been a strong, proud community, and we still are, and we are in one of the best places in the world to live, to play, and to enjoy life.

“As business leaders, we recognise that we need to play our part to build on these pillars to create a strong vision for the region that gives our staff and their families

certainly, hope, and excitement for the future.”

The group represented organisations across a wide range of industries, as well as tens of thousands of employees across the region. Many of them were examples of what local businesses could achieve in times of need, Dr Elder said.

Abley Transportation Consultants Ltd, for example, has become a key transportation partner for the city. Following the February earthquake, it has helped the University of Canterbury implement a temporary shuttle service that enabled the latter to keep students in the region.

It also helped Environment Canterbury to design a new public transport system and, at the same time, contributed to other city projects that will shape the structure of the city for decades to come, Dr Elder said.

The company relocated to Sydenham due to its Victoria Street premises being demolished. Despite the upheaval, all but one of its pre-earthquake staff remained



CBLG spokesman Dr Don Elder

with the company and next month, it will have achieved significant staff growth year on year.

Managing director Steve Abley said this growth had been achieved through market expansion.

“We have expanded our market presence throughout New Zealand and today, we are doing work in Auckland, Hamilton, Taupo, Hastings, Palmerston North, Kapiti, Wellington, Nelson, Canterbury, and Timaru.

“This is a significant achievement, but when contrasted against the background of domestic issues that all Cantabrians are enduring, it is truly impressive and a credit to our dedicated team and the ongoing support of our clients.”