



# Building response capability and readiness for a future magnitude 8 Alpine Fault earthquake

Tuesday 8th October, Wellington

**Caroline Orchiston** // Science Lead AF8, Deputy Director Centre for Sustainability, University of Otago



**Ministry of Civil Defence  
& Emergency Management**  
Te Rākau Whakamarumarū



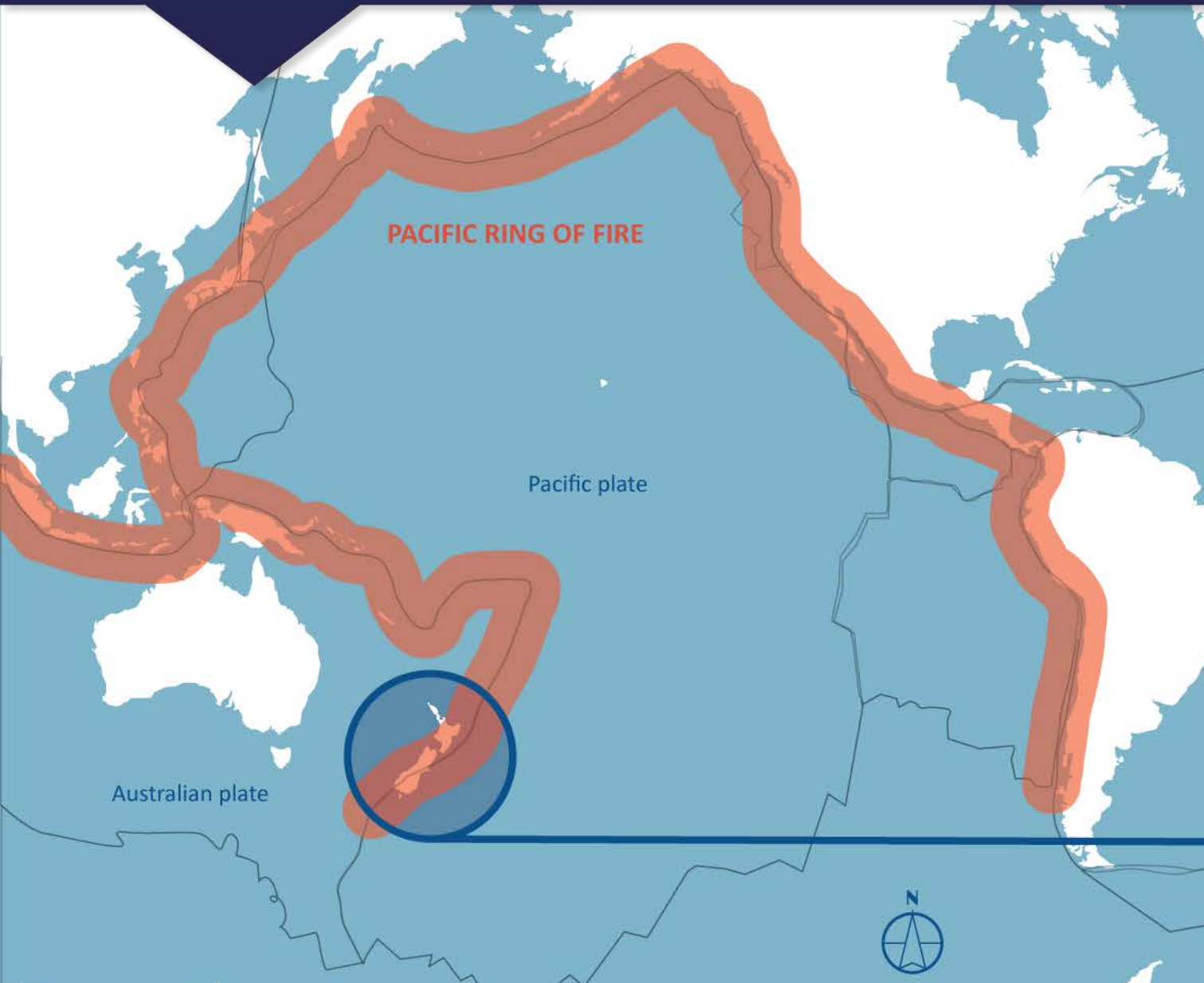
**QuakeCoRE**  
NZ Centre for Earthquake Resilience  
Te Hiranga Rū

**RESILIENCE  
TO NATURE'S  
CHALLENGES**

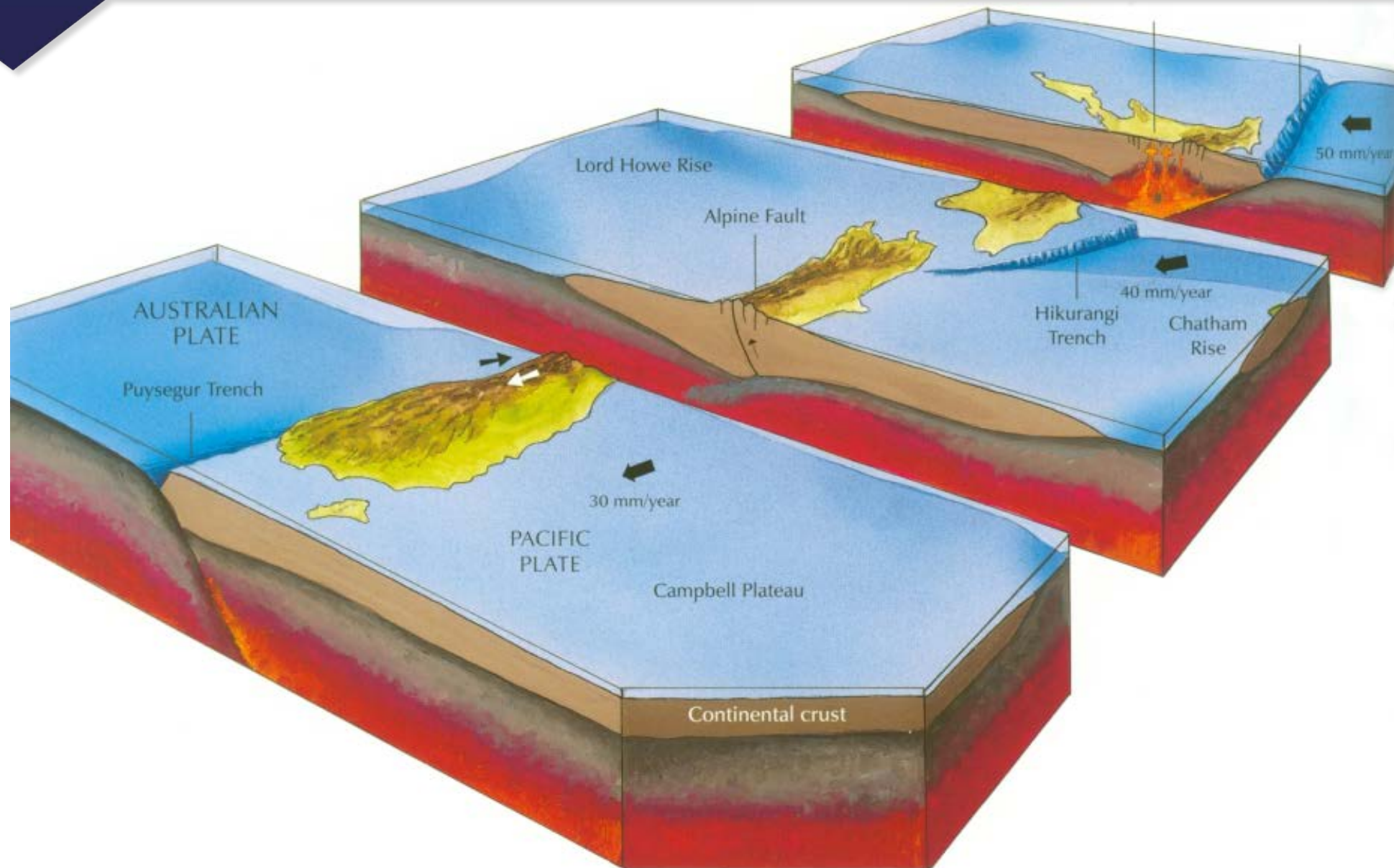
Kia manawaroa  
– Ngā Ākina o  
Te Ao Tūroa

National  
**SCIENCE**  
Challenges

# Tectonic setting of NZ



# Tectonic setting of NZ







Harold Wellman







Harold Wellman



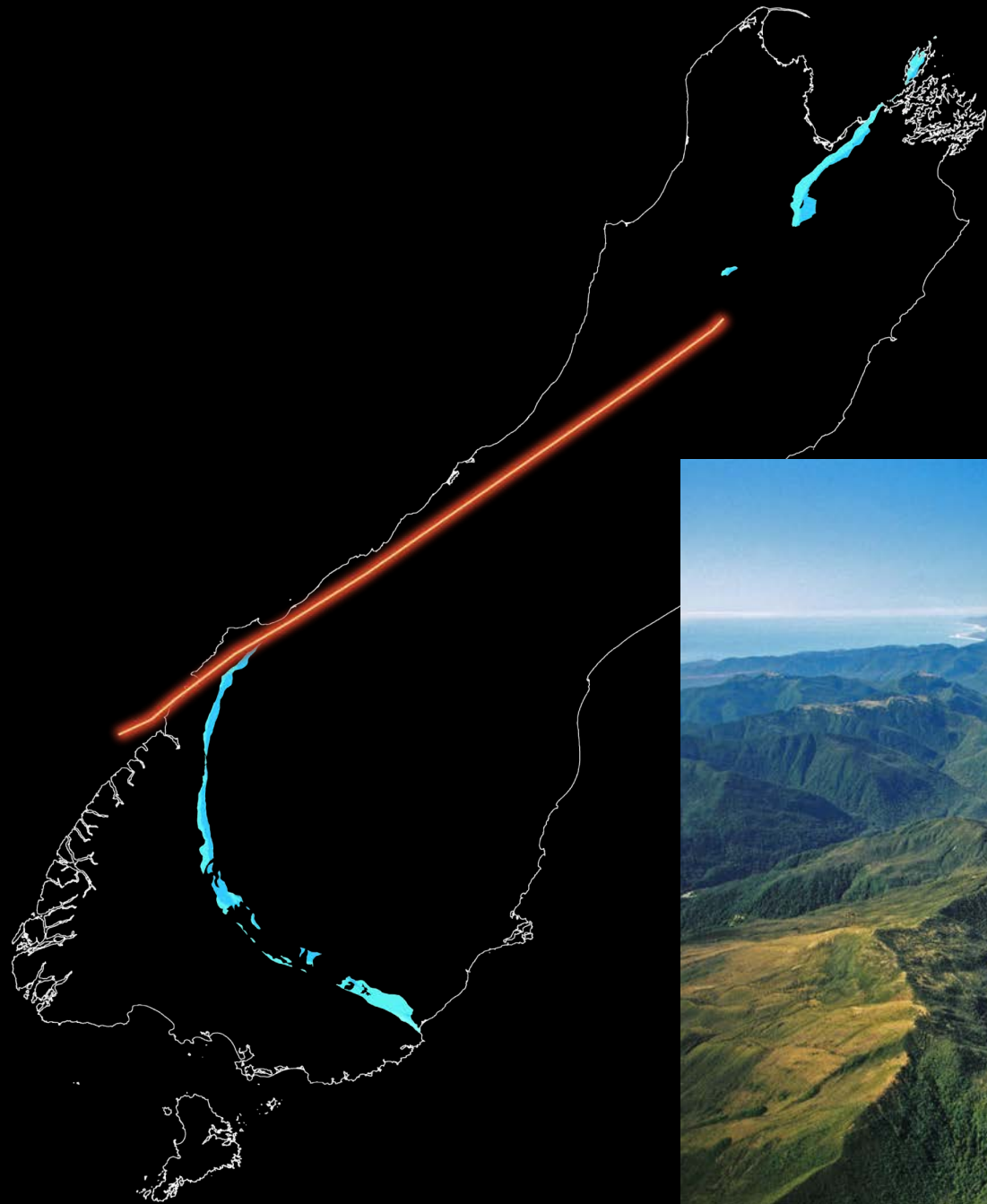


Harold Wellman





Harold Wellman





An aerial photograph of a rugged, mountainous landscape, likely in New Zealand. The terrain is characterized by steep, brownish-grey slopes and numerous small, dark, irregularly shaped features, possibly lakes or depressions. The mountains are oriented roughly north-south. To the left, a dark blue body of water is visible, with a red arrow pointing to a specific location on the coast. To the right, another body of water is visible, with two red arrows pointing to specific locations on the coast. The overall scene is a high-contrast, top-down view of a complex geological environment.

Alpine Fault

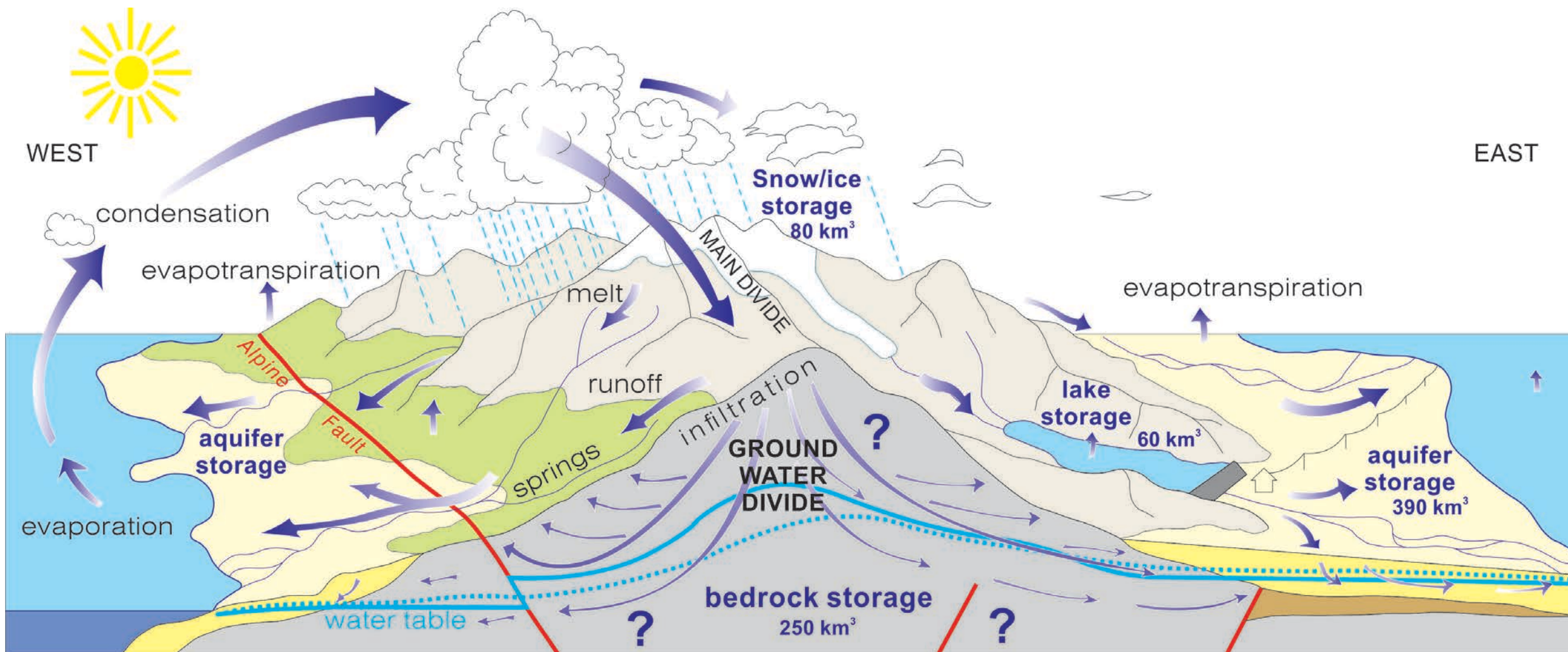
Waimakariri River

Rakaia River



# Geological and climatic coupling

Slide courtesy of Dr. Simon Cox, GNS Science





# BUILDING OUR COLLECTIVE RESILIENCE





# What is AF8?



- ▶ A programme of scientific modelling, response planning and community engagement.
- ▶ Particular focus on impacts on South Island communities.
- ▶ Building our collective resilience to future events



# What is AF8?



- ▶ Year 1-2 focus: to co-create a collaborative **response framework** (SAFER Framework)
- ▶ Year 3 focus: to outreach and **engage widely** (Roadshow)
- ▶ Year 4 focus: Response, Engagement, Risk Communication and Recovery



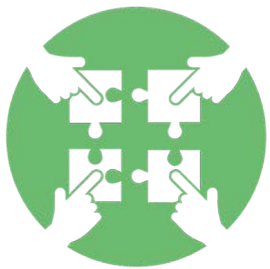
# What is AF8?



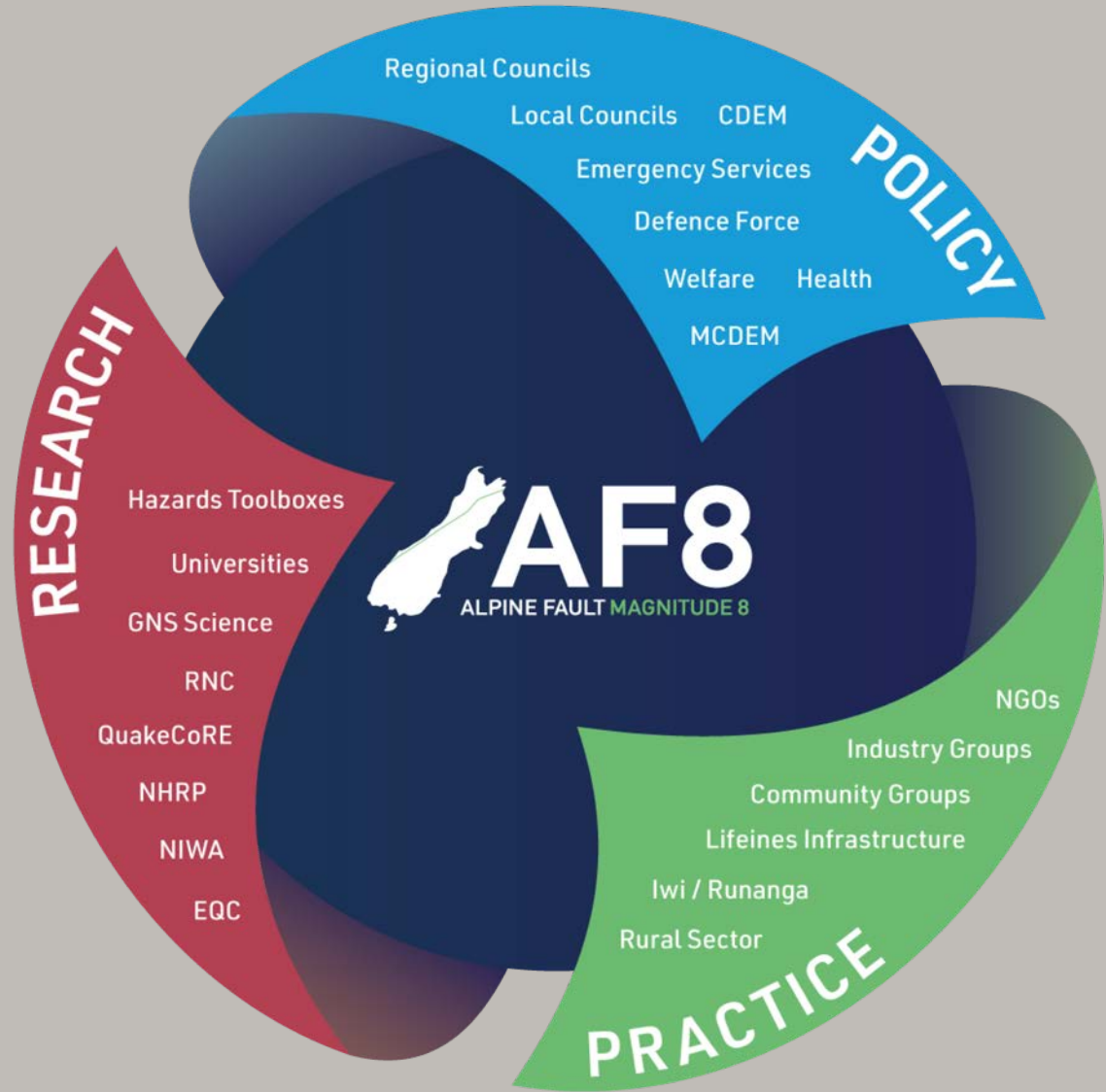
**RESEARCH**



**POLICY**



**PRACTICE**





# Response Framework



## RISK TEAM

- ▶ 30+ Researchers
- ▶ 6 Universities
- ▶ 2 Consulting firms



## RESPONSE TEAM

- ▶ 6 CDEM groups
- ▶ Project AF8 Project Manager
- ▶ Ministry of Civil Defence  
Emergency Management



# Response Framework

## South Island Alpine Fault Earthquake Response Framework

Available for download  
from the AF8 website:

[www.af8.org.nz](http://www.af8.org.nz)



MANA TANGATA: POWER OF LEADERSHIP THROUGH THE PEOPLE



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SHARED  
SITUATIONAL  
AWARENESS AND  
OPERATIONAL  
COORDINATION  
IN THE EVENT  
OF A MAJOR  
ALPINE FAULT  
EARTHQUAKE.

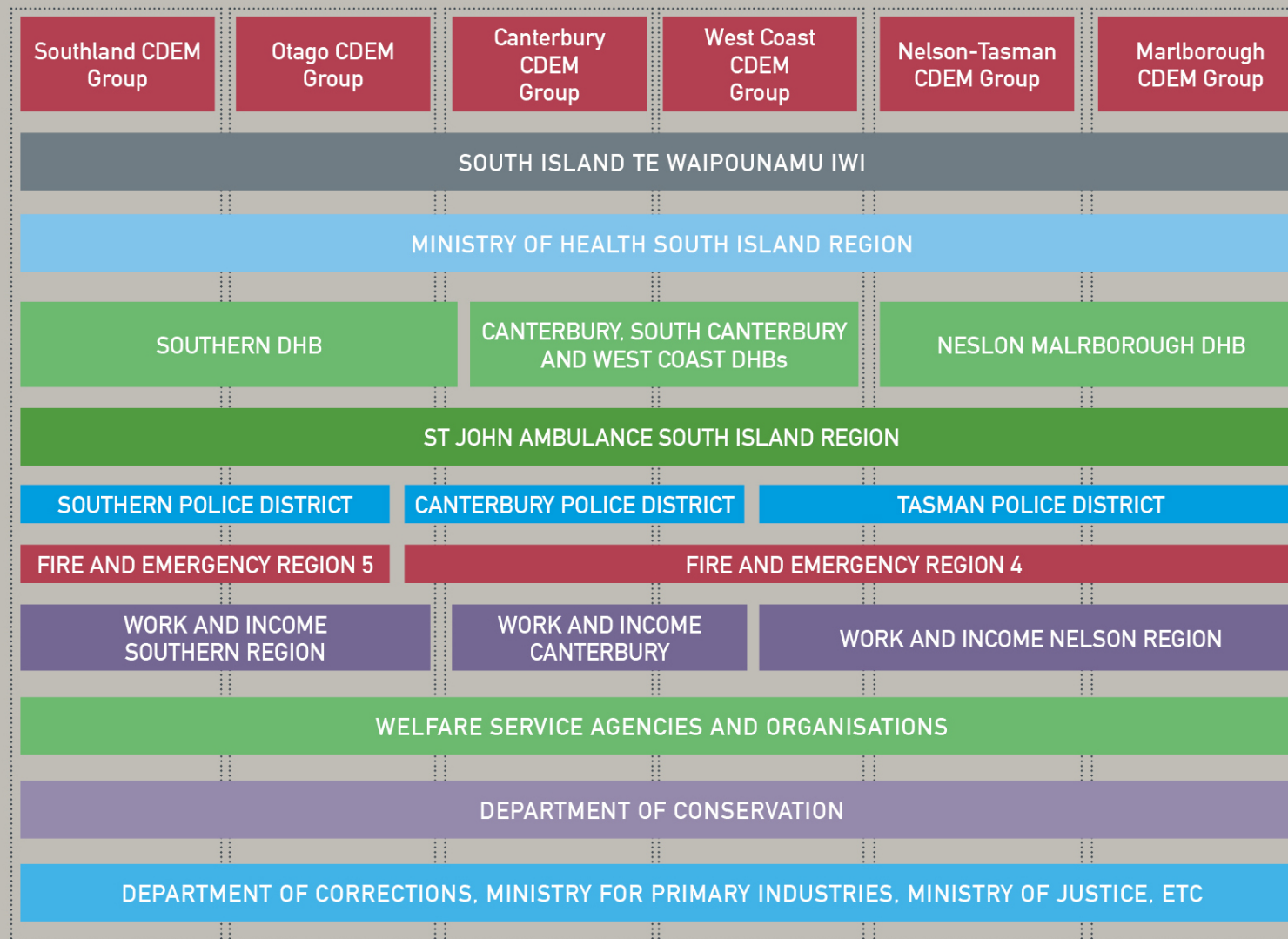
Cover image:  
NASA Earth Observatory via Wikimedia Commons, the free media  
repository.

Internal images:  
GNS Science Visual Media Library; Dr. Caroline Orchiston; Unsplash:  
Tyler Lastovich, Jeff Finley and Adam Edgerton; and, Wikimedia  
Commons, the free media repository.



## NATIONAL COORDINATION: NCMC, All agency NCCs, Sector Coordinating entities

### SOUTH ISLAND COLLABORATIVE COORDINATION





# What will an Alpine Fault earthquake be like?



# Alpine Fault hazard-risk-impact

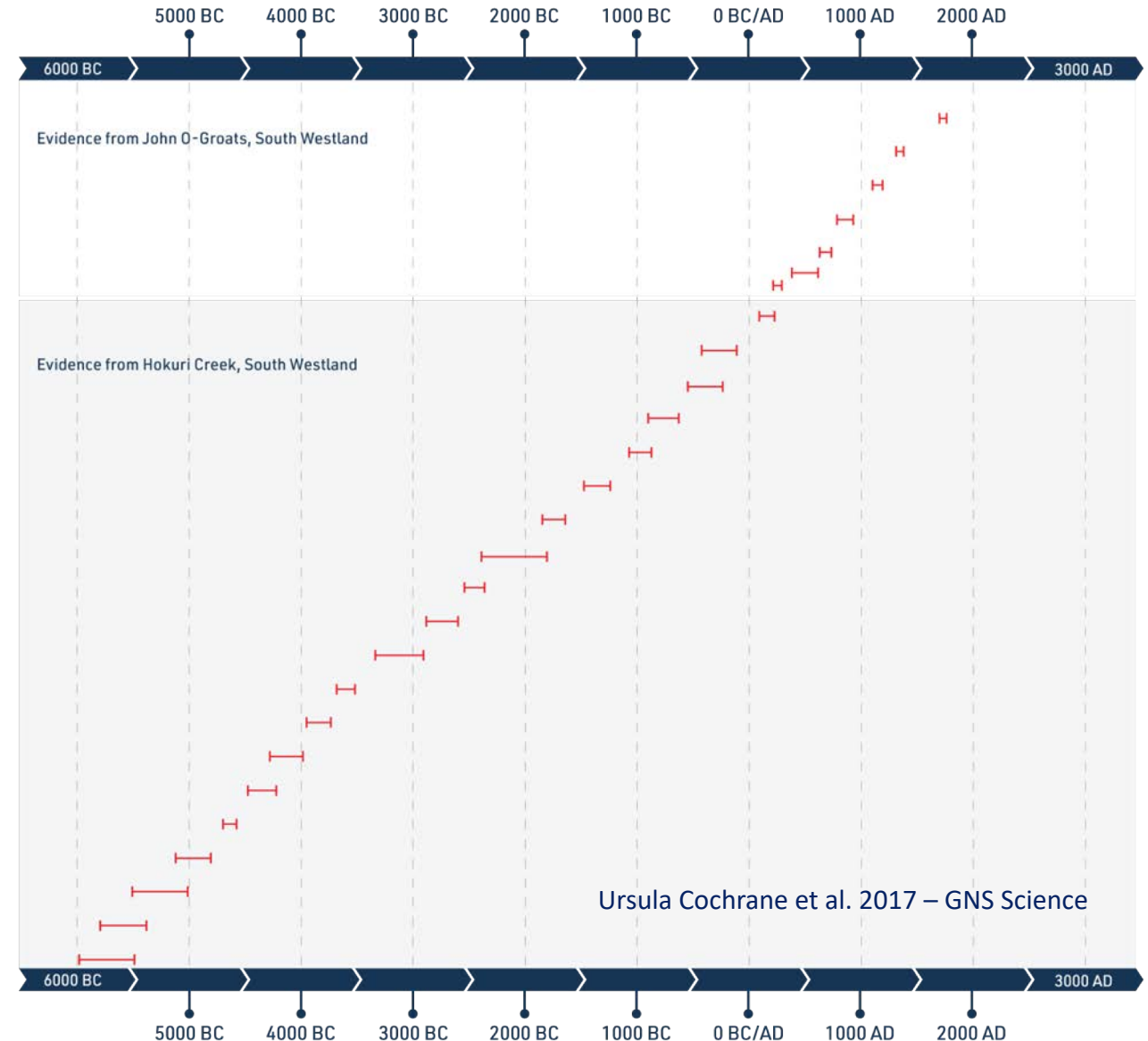


- **Frequency** – when is the next event likely to occur? (probability)
- **Magnitude** – how big?
- **Intensity** – how strong/long will the effects be?
- **Hazard footprint** – what area will be affected?
- **Impacts/Consequences?**
- **Risk reduction - infrastructure/community/societal resilience?**



# Frequency

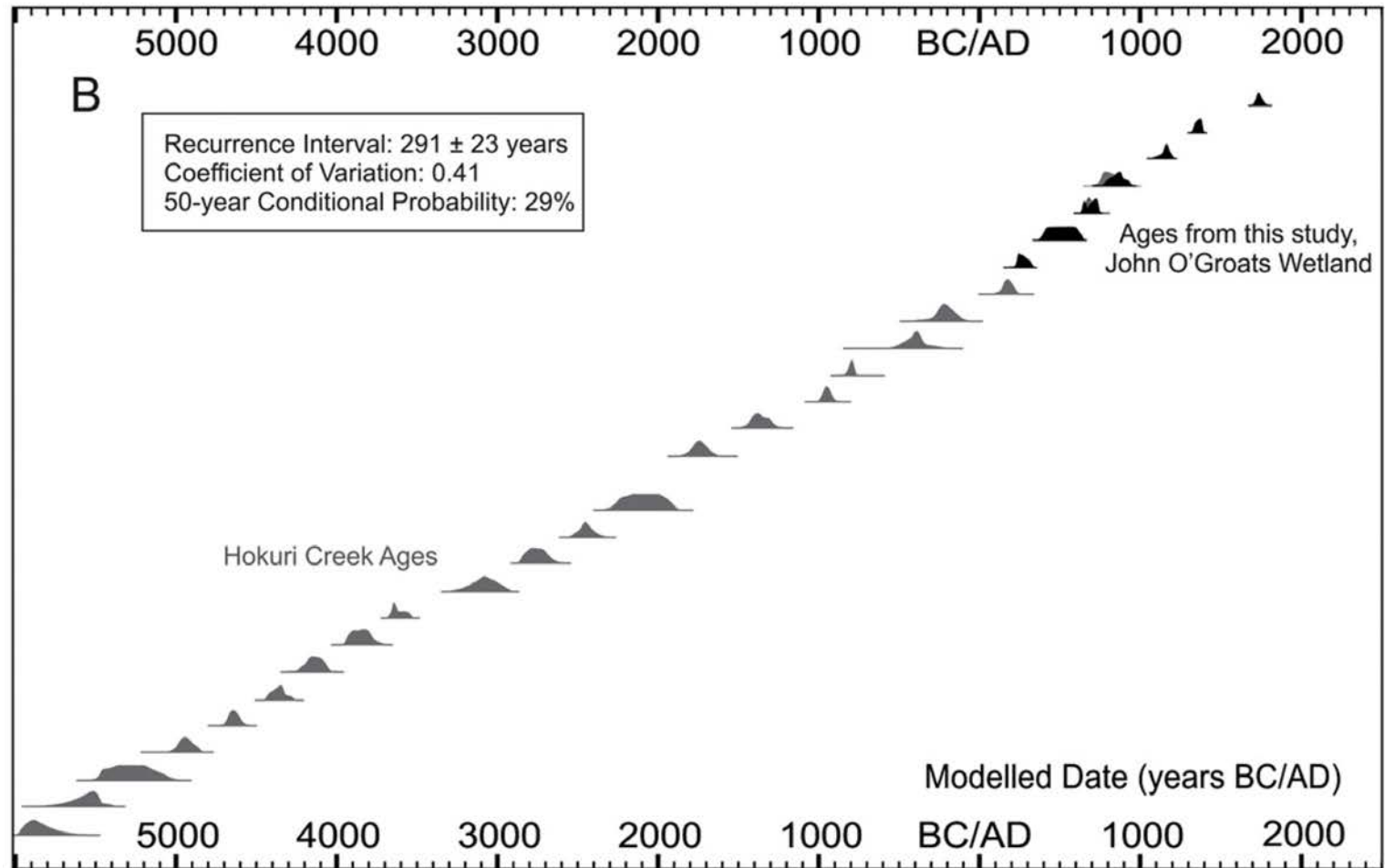
- ▶ Evidence of 27 earthquakes over the past 8,000 years
- ▶ Long history of large earthquakes
- ▶ Remarkably regular
- ▶ Mean recurrence interval of ~300 years
- ▶ Last significant earthquake was 1717AD
- ▶ The next one is inevitable



# Frequency

**Frequency – when is the next event(s) going to occur?**

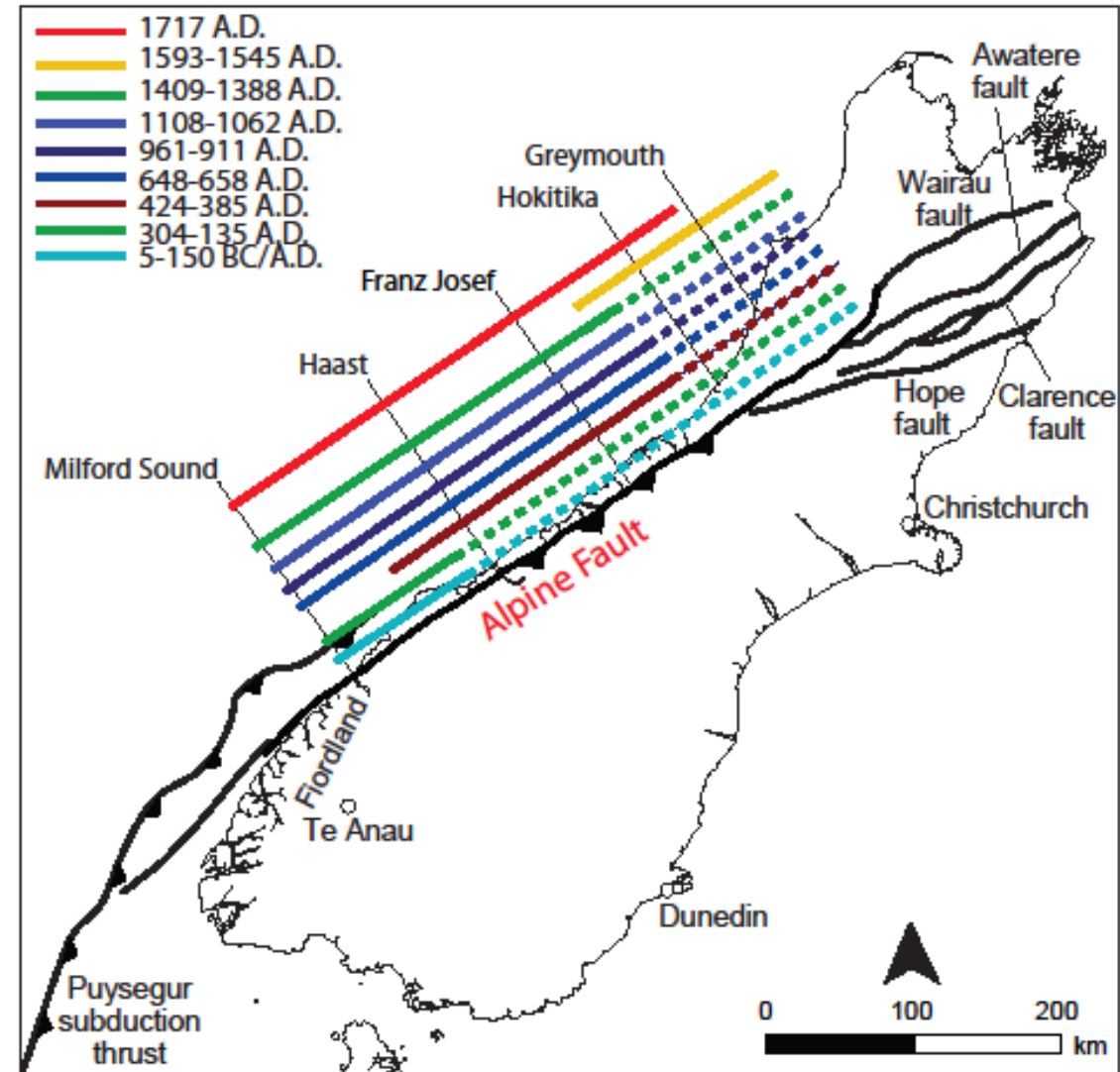
- ▶ Longest interval ~510 yrs
- ▶ Shortest interval ~140 yrs





# Magnitude

- ▶ Of the last 9 earthquakes, 8 appear to have been  $>400$  km  $M_w8$  events
- ▶ Fault has stored enough energy to move  $>8$  m horizontally and  $>2$  m vertically

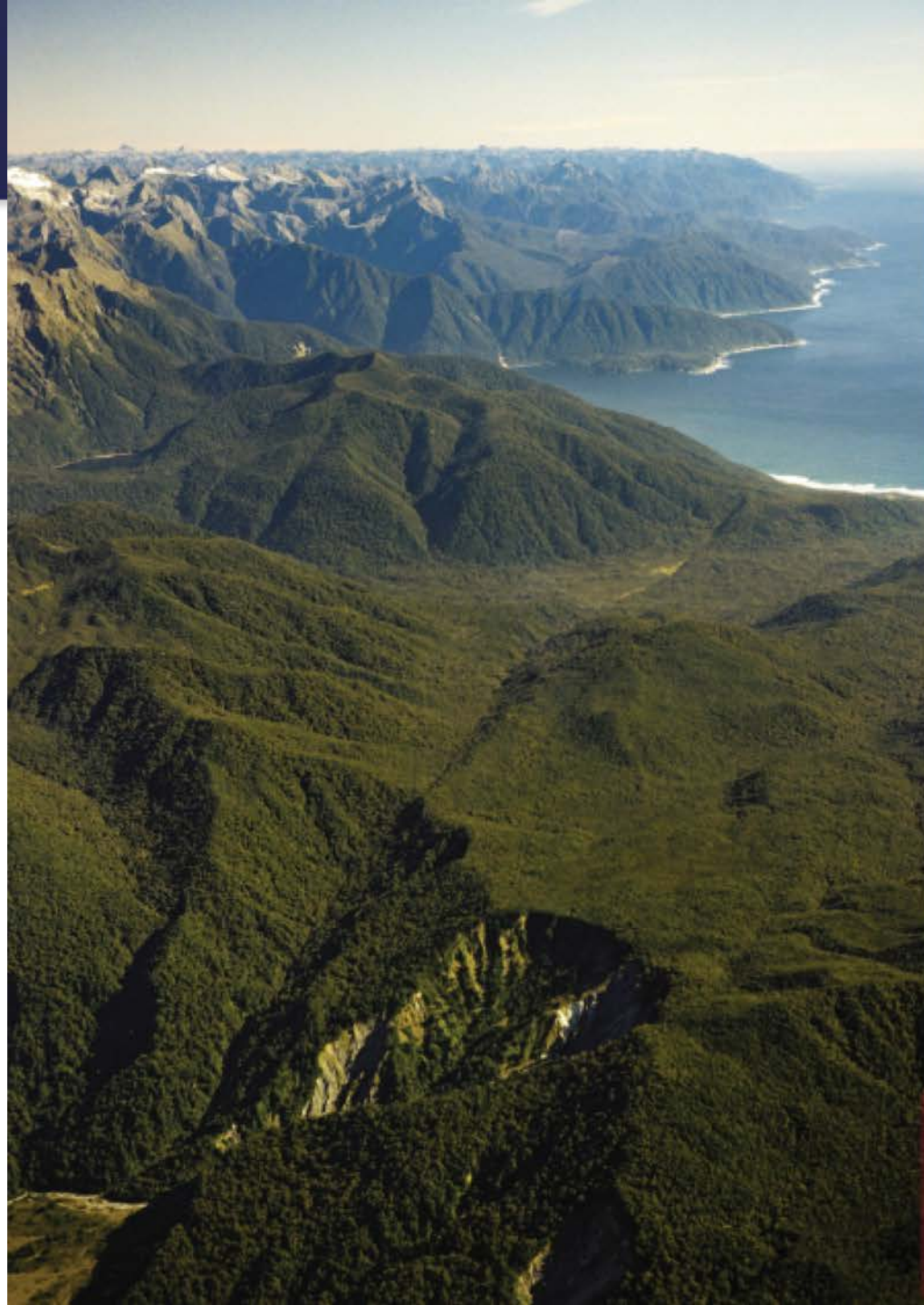


(Cochran et al.; Howarth et al.)

# Magnitude

## Next earthquake likely to be ~Mw8.0

- ▶ 32x more energy released than 4 Sept 2010 Darfield EQ (Mw 7.1)
- ▶ 1000x more energy released than 22 Feb 2011 Christchurch EQ (Mw 6.2)

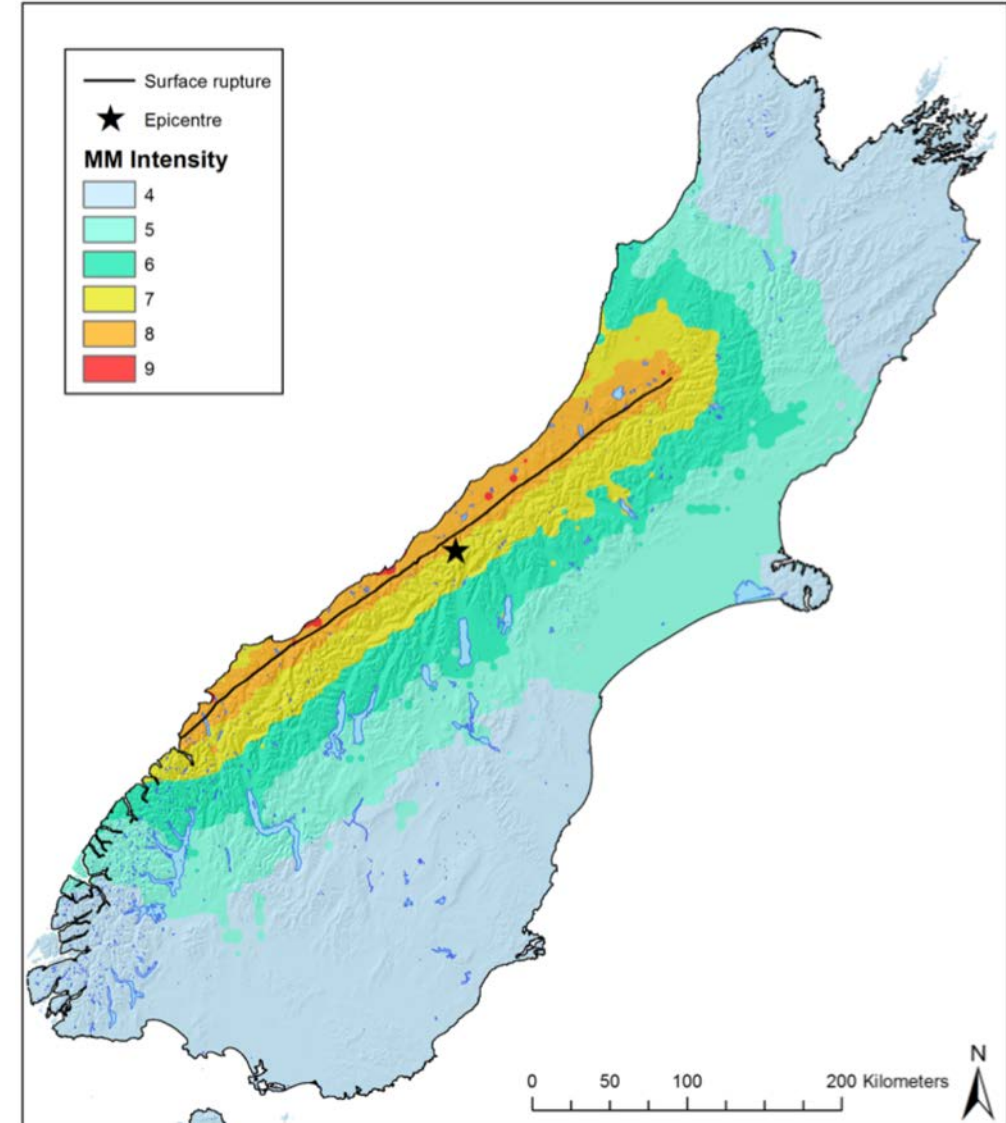
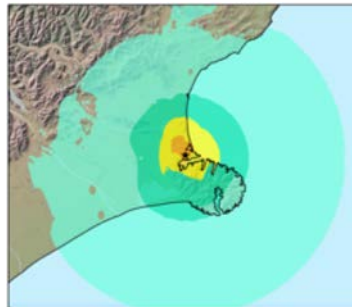
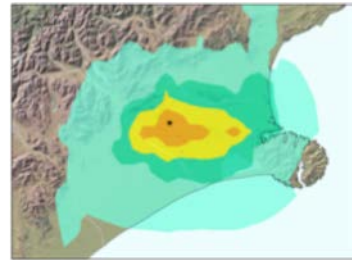


# Intensity - Hazard Footprint

## SHAKING INTENSITY

4 September 2010  
Darfield Earthquake  
(to scale)

22 February 2011  
Christchurch Earthquake  
(to scale)

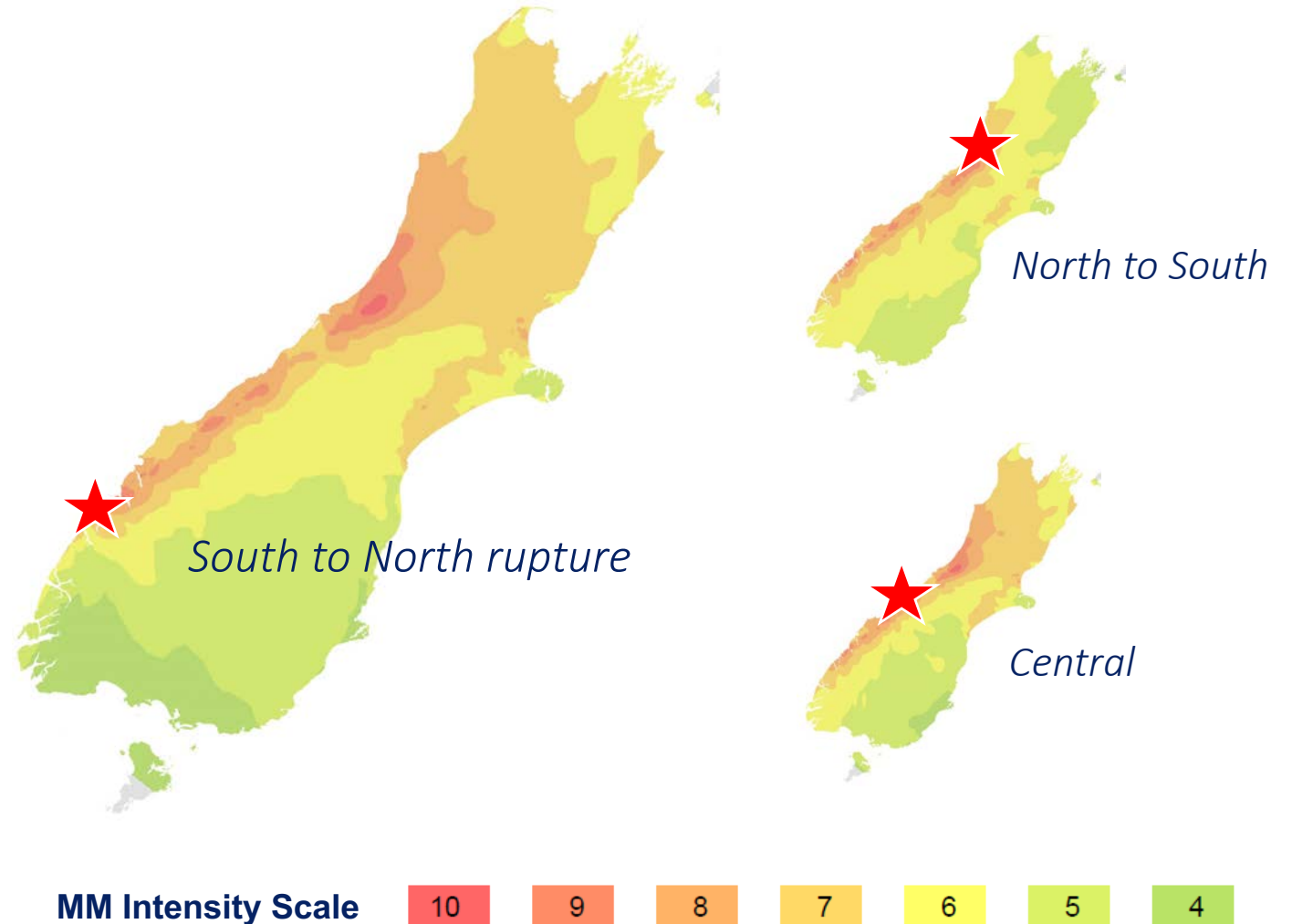




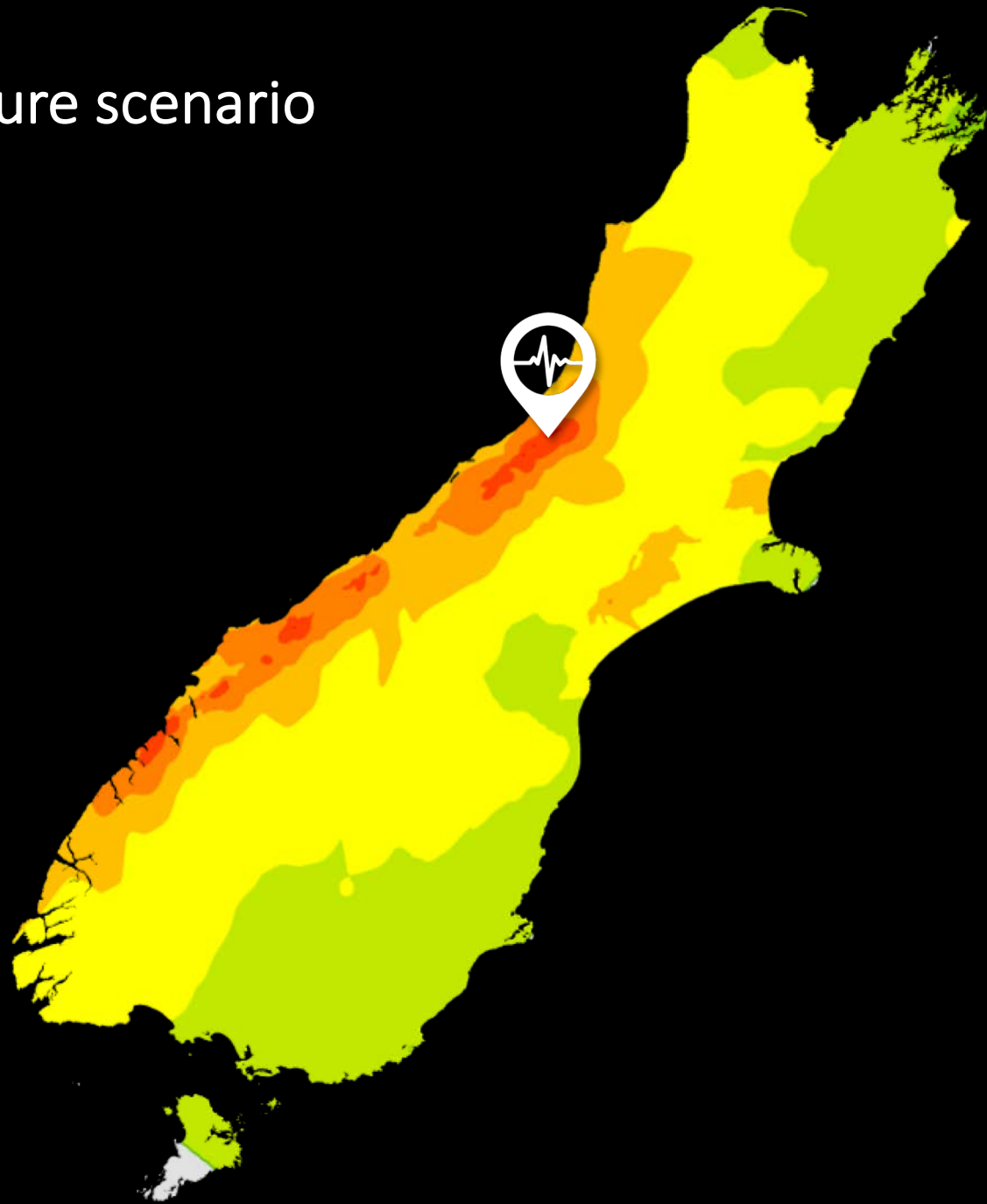
# Science-based Scenarios

## AF8 science scenario:

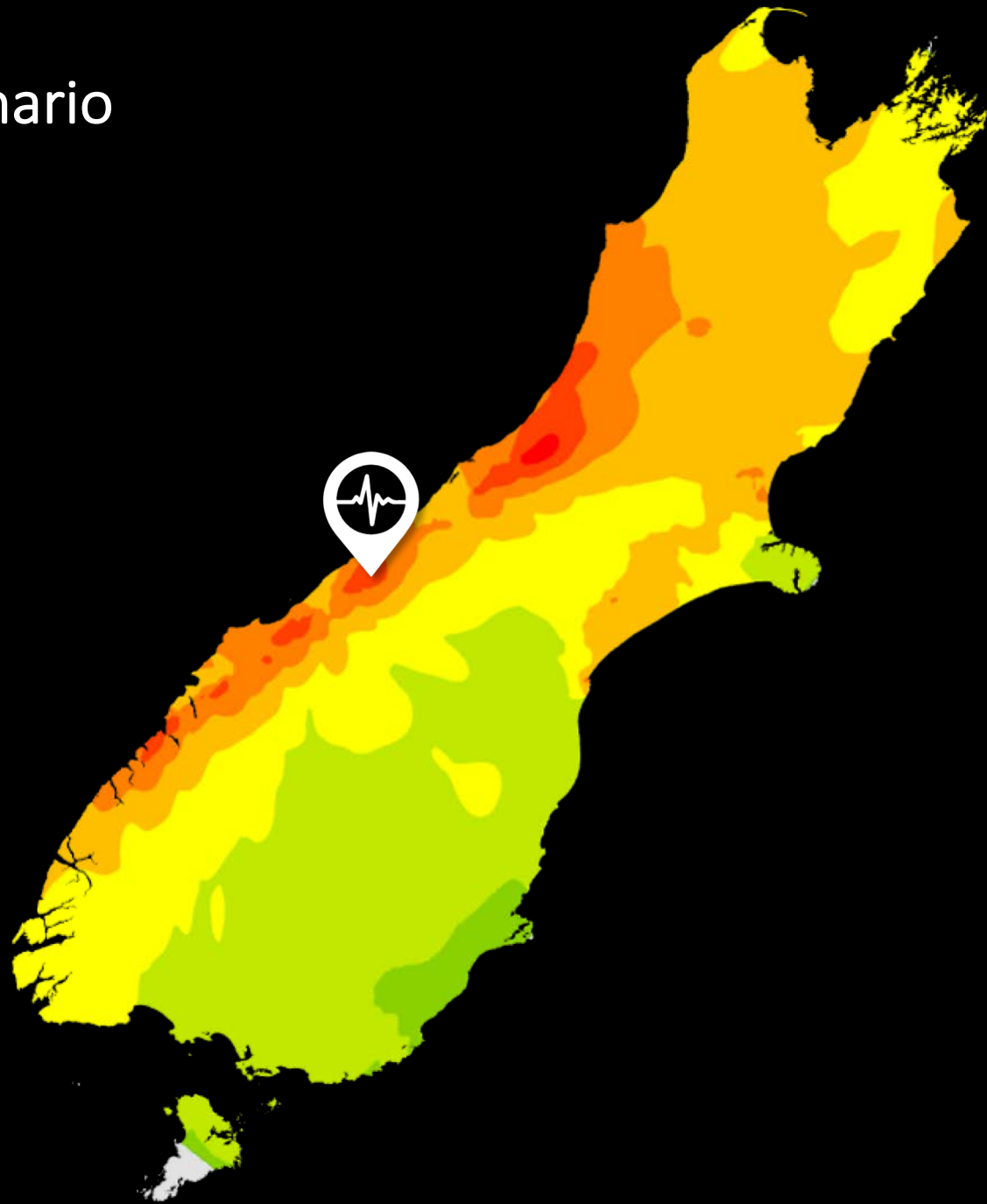
- ▶ Magnitude 8
- ▶ MM Intensity 4-10
- ▶ Major cascading consequences and secondary hazards
- ▶ Significant human, environmental, infrastructure and economic impact



North to South rupture scenario

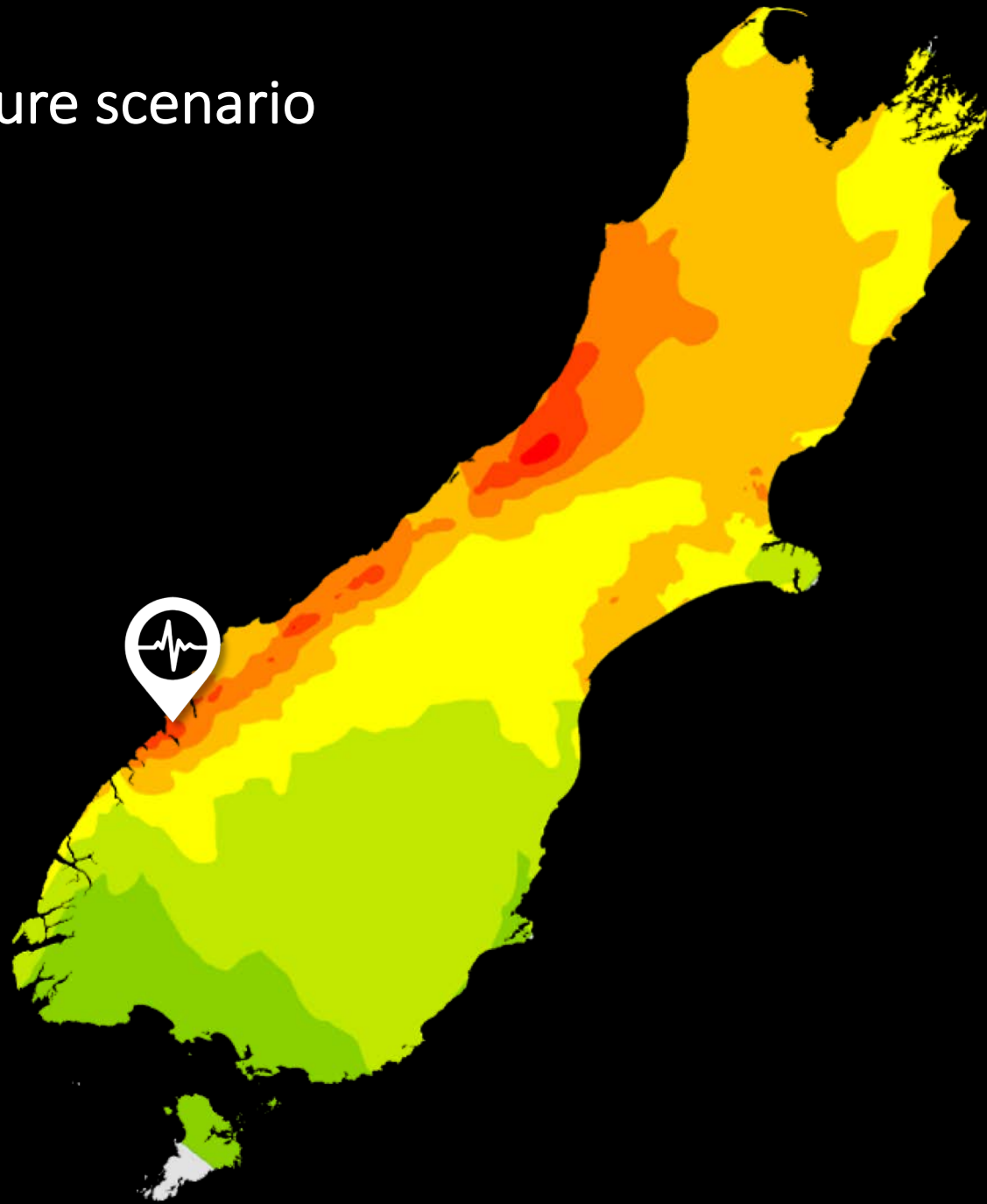


## Central rupture scenario





South to North rupture scenario



# Earthquake Hazards





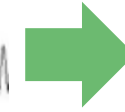
# Secondary Hazards

Earthquakes are not just the initial strong ground shaking

They cause a series of secondary hazards which cascade on from each other

- + Aftershocks
- + Weather Events
- + Fire

**EARTHQUAKE**



**LANDSLIDE**



**QUAKE LAKE**

**DAMBREAK FLOOD**

# Secondary Hazards

**Often these secondary hazards can be worse than the initial shaking:**

- ▶ **2004 Indonesia – Tsunami**
- ▶ **2011 Japan – Tsunami**
- ▶ **2010-11 Christchurch – Liquefaction & Landslides**
- ▶ **2016 Kaikōura – Landslides**



Liquefaction in Christchurch: CEISMIC Digital Archive (Mark Lincoln)



Landslides on SH1 following the Kaikōura earthquake (GeoNet)



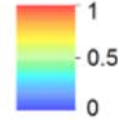
# Secondary Hazards



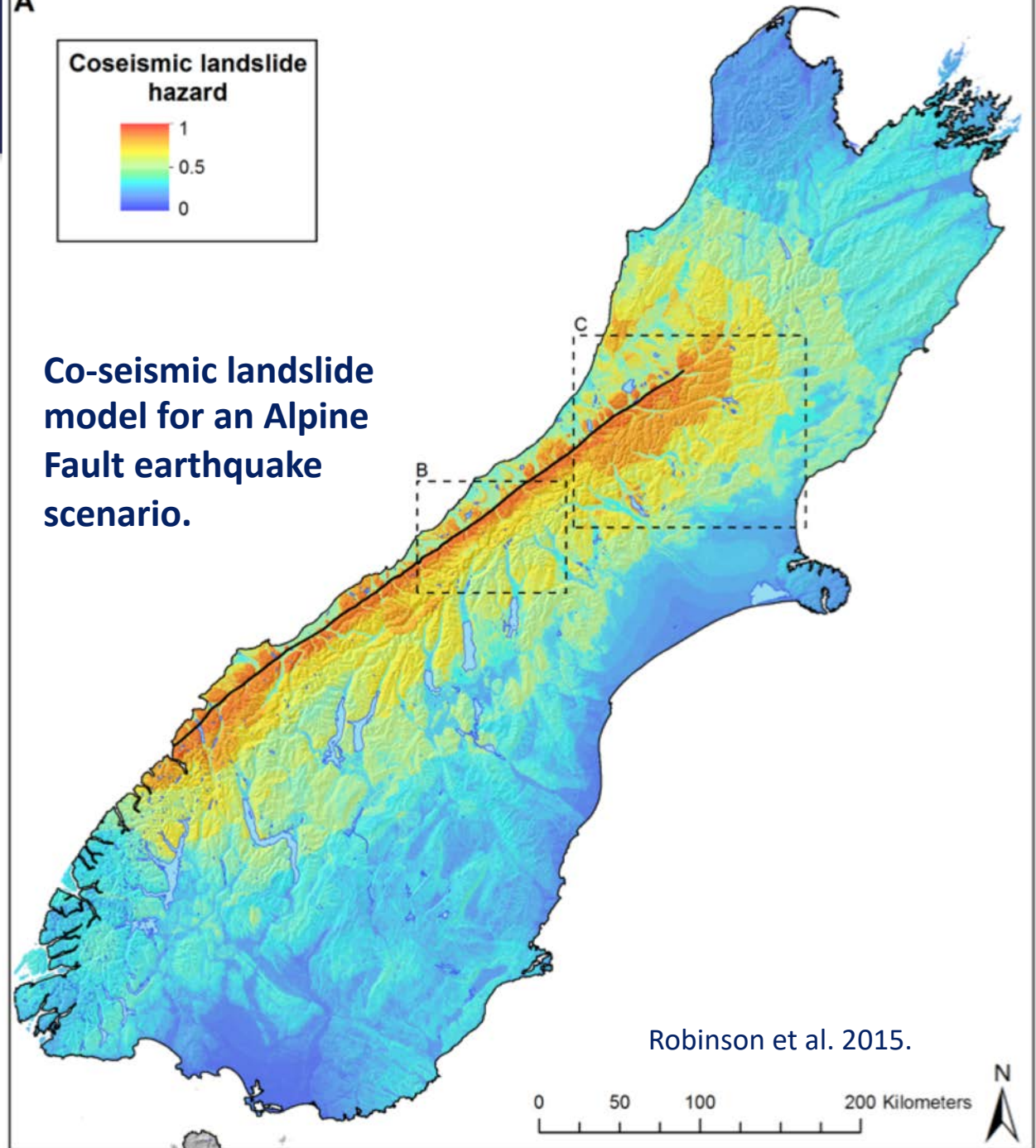
Landslide dam  
following the 2016  
Kaikōura  
earthquake

A

Coseismic landslide  
hazard



Co-seismic landslide  
model for an Alpine  
Fault earthquake  
scenario.



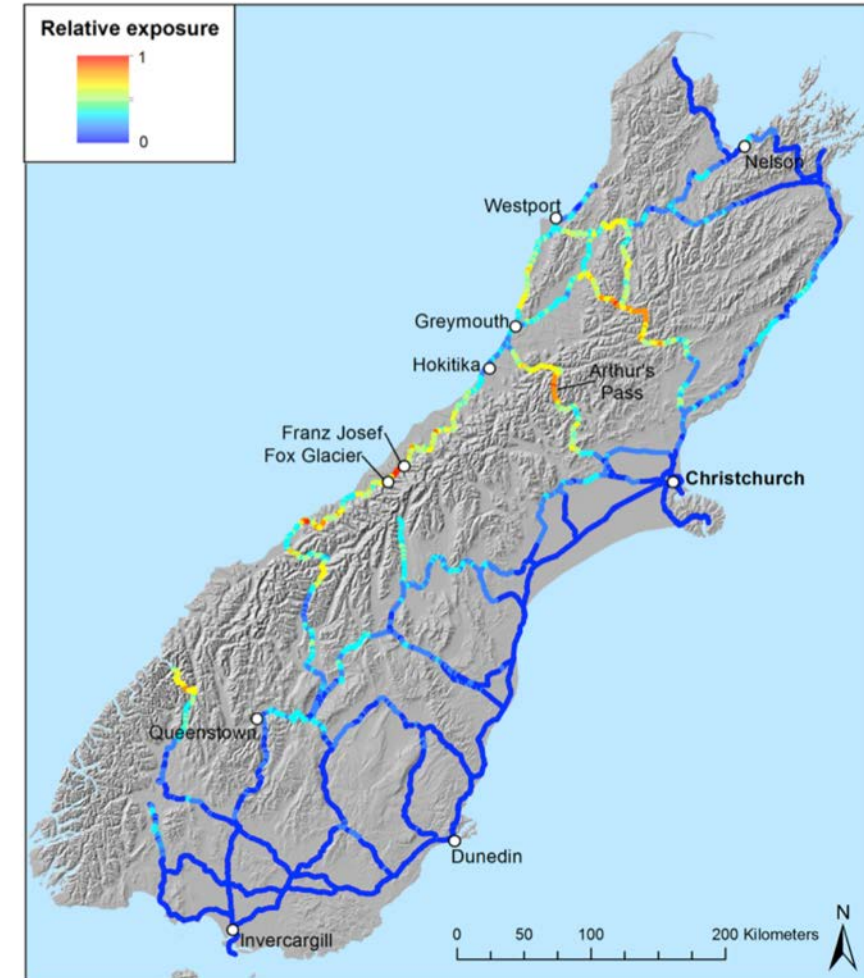
Robinson et al. 2015.



# State Highway Network

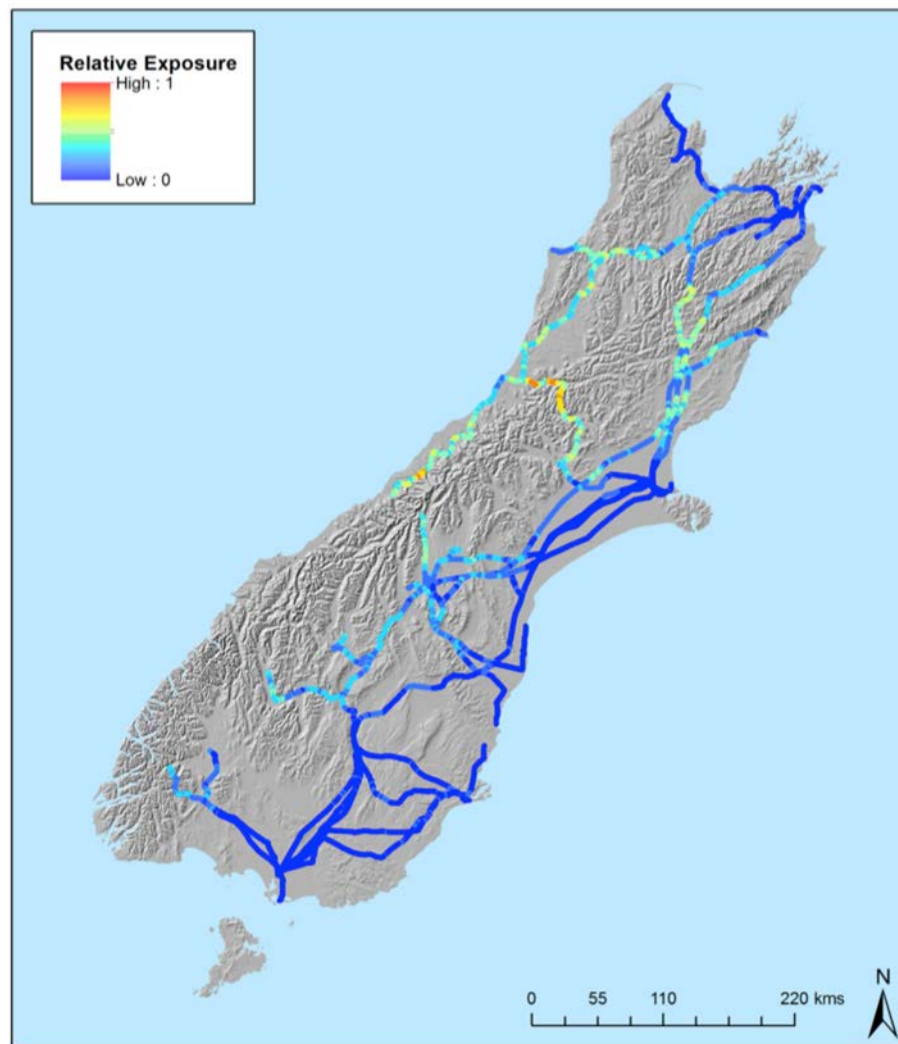
## South Island road network exposure

- ▶ Traverses steep, landslide prone terrain
- ▶ Little redundancy in networks
- ▶ Loss of roads will hinder response and recovery
- ▶ Road closures will have long term impacts on economy



# Electricity Network

- ▶ Pylon/poles damaged
- ▶ Transformers damaged
- ▶ Dam shutdowns - restart requires power
- ▶ Inter-island connection vulnerable
- ▶ Implications for North Island supply



Transmission network exposure to Alpine Fault co-seismic landslide scenario (Robinson et al. 2015)



Benmore Dam

# Telecommunications Network

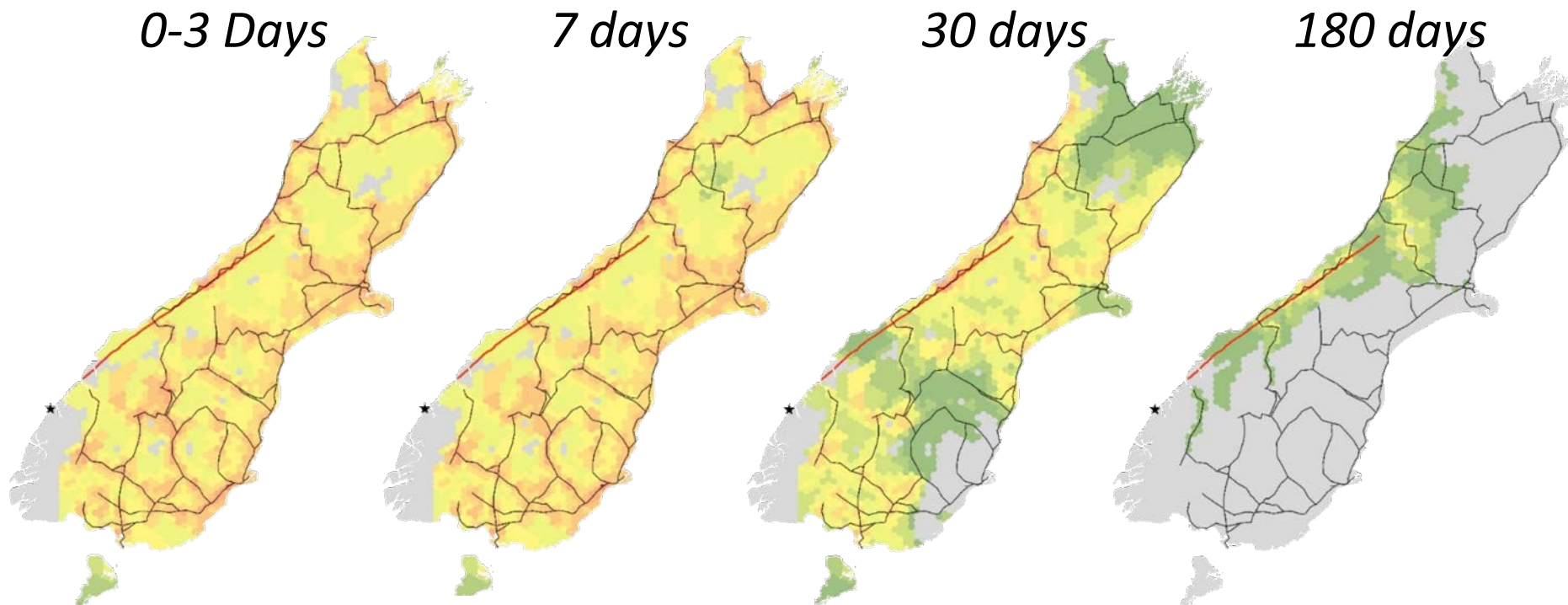
- ▶ Telecommunications increasingly important for post-disaster response coordination and community well-being
- ▶ Disruption due to loss of electricity and loss of access to site (generator + fuel) estimated to be largest impact





## AF8 Scenario:

Recovery of cumulative disruption of infrastructure networks



Number of infrastructure systems  
with some level of disruption



# What next for AF8?



## Response

- National Exercise Planning
- SAFER Planning
- Multi-agency planning

## Engagement

- Science outreach
- Public Education
- *Science Beneath Our Feet* roadshow and forums

## Risk Communication

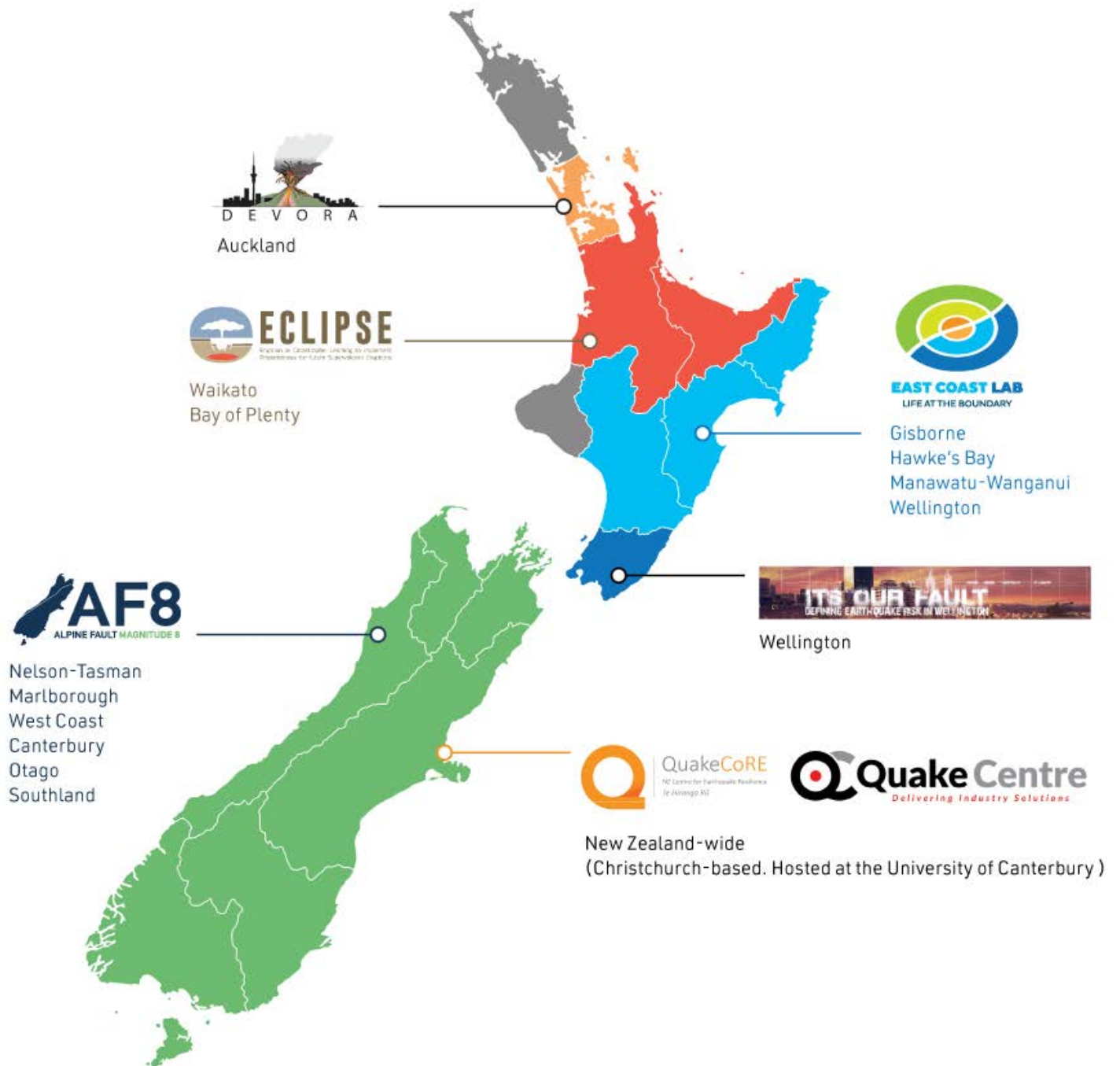
- Digital media
- Coordinated communication across national projects

## Recovery

- Tourism
- Economic
- Hazard Science
- Cultural / Community



# Regional Natural Hazard Programme Alliances



# Outreach and Engagement



- Tier 3 South Island AF8 Exercise, November 2019
- Tier 4 National Exercise on the Alpine Fault, October 2020





# The Science Beneath Our Feet

AF8 Roadshow 26 March – 13 April 2019





## AF8 Roadshow

### The Science Beneath Our Feet

Bringing Alpine Fault science and hazard impact information to South Island communities, in areas most likely to be affected by an AF8 earthquake.

## Sharing the Science Beneath Our Feet



AT THE SCIENCE TALKS

YEARS 7-13

6.5 x THE LENGTH OF  
THE ALPINE FAULT

6 CDEM Groups

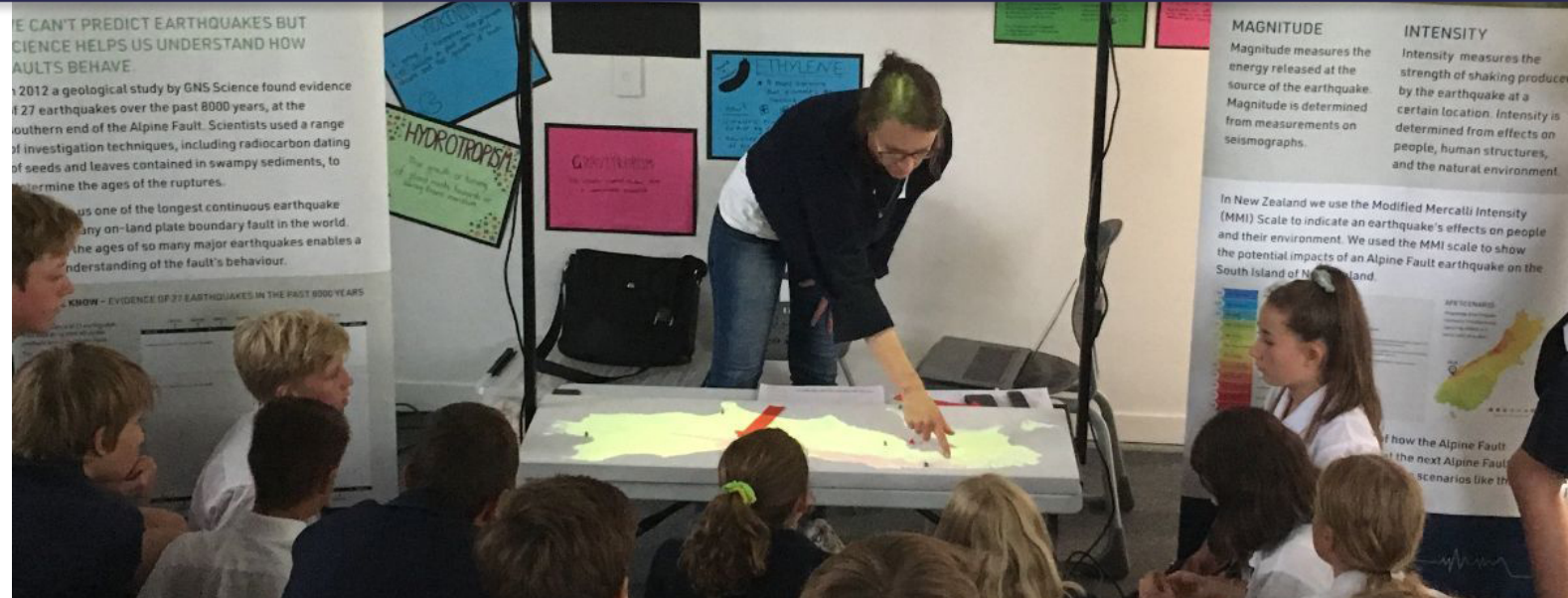
12 Emergency Management Officers

6 Scientists

1 Communicator

## The Science Beneath Our Feet

- ▶ Interactive school sessions with Y7-13 students
- ▶ Community Science Talks







# TOURISM FORUM

26 September 2019

Distinction Hotel | Te Anau

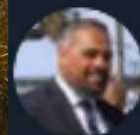


**AF8**

@alpinefault8

Followers you know

Followers



**Hon. Peeni Henare MP** ✓

@PeeniHenare Follows you

Member of Parliament for Tāmaki Makaurau  
MP, Parliament Buildings, Wellington).





# SAFER

SOUTH ISLAND / TE WAIPONAMU  
ALPINE FAULT EARTHQUAKE RESPONSE

# FORUM

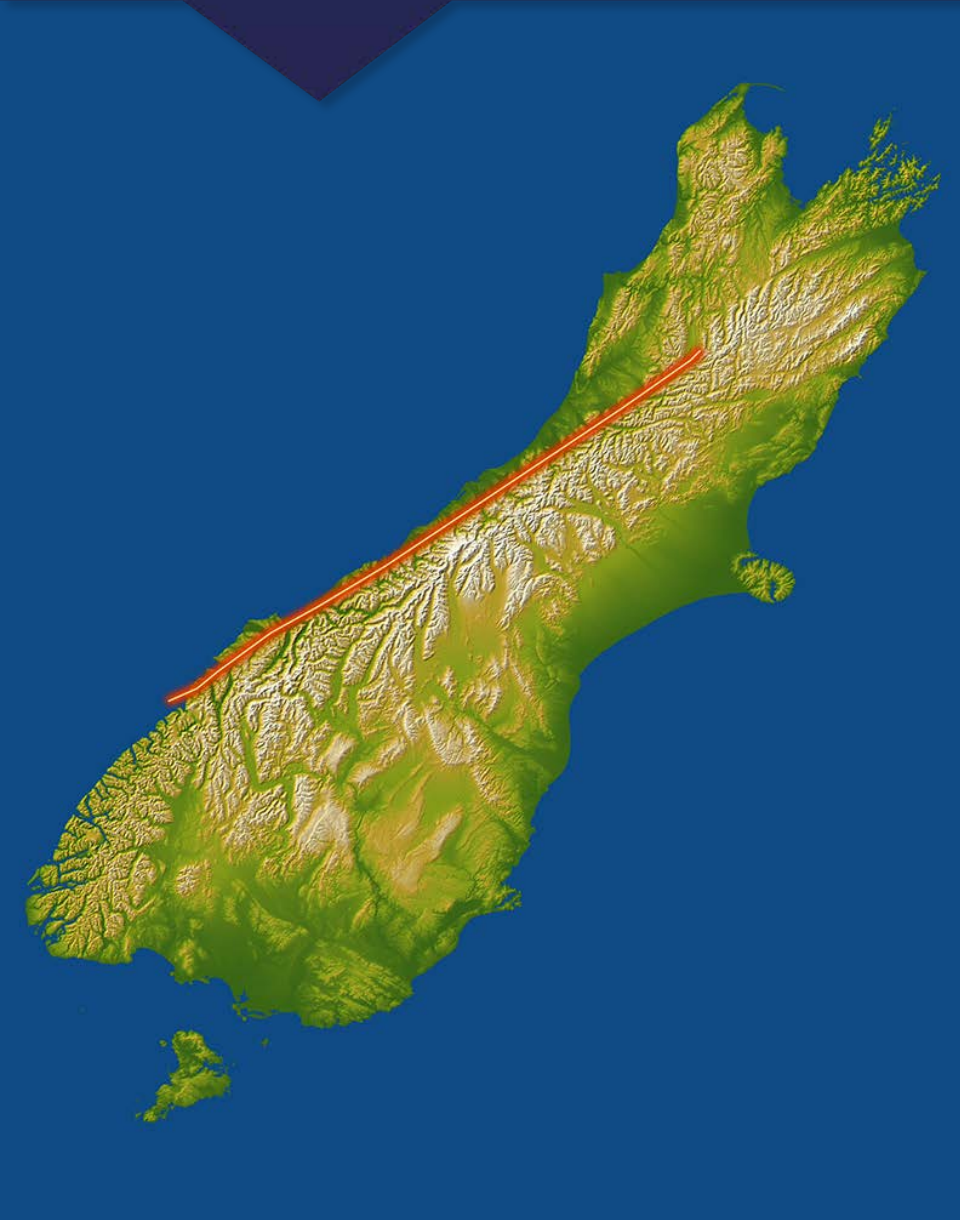
23 October 2019 | Nelson





# Society of Local Government Managers – Excellence in collaborative governance, 2019





- ▶ High chance next AF earthquake will be a **Mw8**
- ▶ Effects across South Island and lower North Island
- ▶ Widespread **secondary hazards** (e.g. landsliding) will present immediate and long-term issues
- ▶ Likely **isolation** of areas for long periods of time, and extended **utility service outages**
- ▶ ‘Scenario earthquakes’ never quite what is expected
- ▶ Strong **pre-existing networks** essential
- ▶ An Alpine Fault earthquake will happen again  
**Preparation is key**





# Thank you!

[www.af8.org.nz](http://www.af8.org.nz)



**Ministry of Civil Defence  
& Emergency Management**  
Te Rākau Whakamarumarū

**RESILIENCE  
TO NATURE'S  
CHALLENGES**

Kia manawaroa  
– Ngā Ākina o  
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National  
**Science**  
Challenges



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NEW ZEALAND