

A dummies guide to seismic strengthening

The tragic story of the three little pigs

April 2015

The Dominion Post 29 August 2014. Wellington New Zealand

Three little pigs murdered after eviction from 'earthquake prone' brick house

Upper Hutt police confirmed that the partially devoured bodies of the three little pigs had been found in Whitemans Valley shortly after they were evicted from their earthquake prone brick house.

Ministry of Business Innovation and Employment spokesman, Brad Lambeauchamp, confirmed that the three little pigs' two-story building, which had been divided into three units, had been designated as earthquake prone in line with the Ministry's policy. "There was a widespread consensus that it posed an unacceptable risk to the occupants". Neighbors said that after the designation, the three little pigs were

unable to obtain insurance at less than a ruinous price, and the bank recalled their mortgage and evicted the pigs.

Reacting to claims that the Ministry's policies had sent the much loved local personalities to an almost certain death, Lambeauchamp said it was important to appreciate that the three little pigs were running a one in a million year risk of being killed in an earthquake, and that this risk had now been reduced.

Police are seeking a large wolf, thought to reside in the area, to assist them with their inquiries. Residents have been warned not to approach the wolf who is known to be bad.

Artist's recreation based on eyewitness accounts © Disney



Dominion Post 30 June 2016.

Former Chief Executive of MBIE imprisoned for 8 years for manslaughter of the three little pigs

The former chief executive of MBIE, David Staup, was sentenced in the Wellington High Court to 8 years imprisonment for the manslaughter of the three little pigs in 2014.

Justice Terremoto commended the jury for coming to the right decision. Staup's defence that the three little pigs were the authors of their own misfortune because they should have built a non-earthquake prone house out of straw or sticks was risible, said Justice Terremoto.

The Justice said that he was imposing a severe sentence in this case, not just because of the horrific way the three little pigs met their end, but because of Staup's disregard for the welfare of the vulnerable in our society in

pursuing his own interests. "You knew that the earthquake strengthening had very limited benefits and heavy costs, and even the smallest child knows that a brick house is the only protection little pigs have against wolves. Nevertheless you promoted a ridiculously vigorous strengthening policy, that was bound to result in the loss of the house and lead to the three little pigs deaths, just to make yourself look good in the post Christchurch quake environment".

Earlier Brad Lambeauchamp, a former public relations consultant for the Ministry, had been given a light sentence. Lambeauchamp pleaded in mitigation that he was "just the coms guy and didn't know anything".



Lambeauchamp being sentenced

Dominion Post 24 May 2019

Upper Hutt New Zealand

Memorial to three little pigs unveiled

A memorial to the three little pigs, who were murdered by the big bad wolf in 2014, was unveiled today in Whiteman's Valley, Upper Hutt.

Speaking at the unveiling the Prime Minister said that the tragic deaths of the three little pigs had not been in vain. "It provided the spark that led to the scrapping of the iniquitous earthquake strengthening legislation and to reforms that were truly effective in requiring civil servants to produce evidence based analysis".

Former Minister of Building, Maurice Williamson, said that the three little pigs affair was the biggest regret of his political career. "I suspected that the

Ministry was feeding me nonsense and I should have taken notice of outside advice and stood up to them.

Whiteman Valley resident 'Wolf' Woolferd, who discovered the bodies of the three little pigs, and who campaigned for the memorial, said that it now a time for reconciliation. "Mr. Wolf was not all bad. Given his upbringing he could hardly have resisted the temptation placed his way by the Ministry."

Wolf was released from jail in 2018 and is now serving in a rehabilitation center for troubled puppies.



The Three Little Pigs memorial Whitemans Valley Upper Hutt