Impacts
As expected, the impacts of the earthquake were devastating. The social impacts were extensive; the USGS estimate that 5,700 people died in total, the majority of these came from the city of Valdivia; which is 350 miles from the capital, Santiago. Other primary impacts include the collapsing of buildings, especially those made of solid rock. A report by Imperial College London revealed that buildings made from solid inflexible rock were more likely to collapse to those made of combined materials. Oddly, it is thought that the wooden buildings were structurally better than those made of concrete, or rock, hence not as many collapsed. There was also a huge economic impact; in total the earthquake cost US$800 million, much of that coming from the destruction of the houses in Valdivia- 40% were destroyed. One environmental impact was caused by the soil becoming saturated and thus many houses in the bay slumped; parts of Chile did flood due the damming of lakes caused by the landslides, this destroyed habitats of wildlife.

The secondary impacts were mainly social, 200,000 people became unemployed as businesses, banks and schools were destroyed. Further to this, people became ill due to the lack of sanitation and the lack of clean drinking water as well as the lack of amenities. The USA and Mexico as well charities had to offer aid camps so that Chile would be able to cope with the survivors; they offered medical care, camps, food and many other basic amenities.