

# Hon Chris Bishop

Minister of Housing  
Minister for Infrastructure  
Minister Responsible for RMA Reform  
Minister of Transport  
Leader of the House  
Associate Minister of Finance  
Associate Minister for Sport and Recreation



9 May 2025

CB-COR1439

Phil Mauger  
Mayor  
Christchurch City Council  
By email: [mayor@ccc.govt.nz](mailto:mayor@ccc.govt.nz)

Dear Mayor Phil Mauger,

**Decision on Christchurch City Council's request for an amendment to its Direction under section 80M of the Resource Management Act 1991**

Thank you for your letter of 8 April 2025 requesting an amendment to *The Resource Management (Direction for the Intensification Streamlined Planning Process to the First Tranche of Specified Territorial Authorities) Notice 2022*. You have requested an extension of nine months, until 30 September 2026, for Christchurch City Council (the Council) to complete the Intensification Streamlined Planning Process (ISPP).

I am declining this extension request as I consider that any additional time to complete the ISPP would not achieve an expeditious planning process, as required by the Resource Management Act 1991 (RMA). I have considered previous extensions and the cumulative effect that a further extension would have, noting the overall timeframe would significantly exceed the standard plan change timeframe specified in the RMA. I also note the Council received the Independent Hearings Panel's recommendations in July 2024, allowing sufficient time to make decisions. The reasons provided for the extension do not meet the intent of section 80D or support the purpose of the Intensification Planning Instrument provisions in the RMA.

Therefore, the Council is still required to notify its decisions on the remaining parts of Plan Change 14 by 12 December 2025.

I acknowledge the Council's position on Plan Change 14 and the links to the Resource Management (Consenting and Other System Changes) Amendment Bill 2024 (the Bill). Thank you to Council staff for testing the workability of options with my officials. This has been helpful in informing officials' advice to the Select Committee on the Bill. The Select Committee is scheduled to report back to the House on the Bill in June 2025. I consider there should be sufficient time for the Council to consider its position and prepare to proceed (regardless of the outcome in the Bill) after the Select Committee's report back and still meet the 12 December deadline.

Thank you for your ongoing work on Plan Change 14. I encourage Council staff to continue engaging with officials on enabling development capacity in Christchurch.

Yours sincerely

Hon Chris Bishop  
**Minister Responsible for RMA Reform**