

1 March 2024

Hon Chris Bishop
Minister Responsible for RMA Reform
Private Bag 18041
Parliament Buildings
Wellington 6160

By email: c.bishop@ministers.govt.nz

Dear Minister

Plan Change 14

Thank you for your consideration of our request for an extension to the completion date for Plan Change 14 and for taking the time to meet with me. I also want to note my appreciation of your comments earlier this week excluding Christchurch from your concerns around housing capacity and availability in Tier 1 cities.

As we agreed at our 13 February meeting, we will now work to separate out the Medium Density Residential Standards components of Plan Change 14 and proceed with the remainder of the Plan Change. To action this, we will need a formal direction from yourself to the Council by way of a Gazette Notice. Attached is a draft proposed Gazette Notice for your consideration.

Once the Gazette Notice is issued, we will endeavour to complete Plan Change 14 by September 2024, but as per our staff advice to your officials, this will be difficult to achieve and there is a possibility that we may not be completed by September 2024.

One way to deliver in a timely manner would be for some of your existing technical staff within the Ministry for the Environment or Ministry for Housing and Urban Development to provide assistance to our staff. Council will engage directly with Ministry officials on what assistance they may require, but I would appreciate your approval for Ministry staff to action this request.

As also noted on 13 February, I anticipate that our Council will pursue a permanent exemption from the MDRS once legislative changes have occurred. I ask that your office please keep us informed of progress on this work.

Thank you again for your consideration of our request and I look forward to catching up again soon when you next visit Christchurch.

Yours sincerely



Phil Mauger
Mayor of Christchurch

Cc: Hon Penny Simmonds, Minister for the Environment