

Waiheke Local Board feedback on the Government's Kāinga Ora – Homes and Communities Bill

Feedback

The Waiheke Local Board:

- i. supports, in principle, the establishment and objective of the new entity Kāinga Ora – Homes and Communities Bill.
- ii. supports the intent of consolidating the Government's housing and urban development initiatives into one entity.
- iii. opposes any overlap in functions between Kāinga Ora – Homes and Communities and local government.
- iv. notes that the Kāinga Ora – Homes and Communities Bill does not include the powers of Kāinga Ora – Homes and Communities entity.
- v. strongly opposes any removal of planning powers from democratically-elected local government, and any government entity having the powers to override local government planning regulations or forgo community consultation.
- vi. notes extensive community consultation occurred during the development of local government planning strategy documents. Any aggregation of power over local development at a national level is not in the best interests of communities and is counterintuitive to the four well-beings contained within the Local Government Act 2002.
- vii. notes with concern the lack of alignment between the Kāinga Ora – Homes and Communities Bill and various national policy documents on urban development either in existence or to be developed (Government Policy Statement on housing and urban development, National Policy Statement on Urban Development, National Policy Statement on Urban Development Capacity), in particular with regard to the timing of the completion or withdrawal of these documents and how they will impact the direction and operations of Kāinga Ora – Homes and Communities entity.
- viii. requests a greater focus on environmental sustainability and climate resilience than is currently reflected under the sustainability principle (14(1)(j)), and asks how this will be given effect to in practice, for example development locations reflecting predicted sea level rise and flood plain areas.
- ix. requests increased focus on building community resilience and the creation of connected, complete communities.
- x. requests that it is expressly stated in legislation that development undertaken by Kāinga Ora – Homes and Communities is liable for development contributions assessed under section 198 of the Local Government Act 2002.