

**Date:** Thursday 11 April 2024  
**Time:** 10.00am  
**Meeting Room:** Reception Lounge  
**Venue:** Auckland Town Hall  
301-305 Queen Street  
Auckland

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## **Komiti mō te Whakarite Mahere, te Taiao, me ngā Papa Rēhia / Planning, Environment and Parks Committee**

### **OPEN ATTACHMENTS**

**ADDITIONAL ATTACHMENTS  
UNDER SEPARATE COVER**

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## Hon Chris Bishop

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



26 MAR 2024

Wayne Brown  
Mayor  
Auckland Council  
[mayor.wayne.brown@aucklandcouncil.govt.nz](mailto:mayor.wayne.brown@aucklandcouncil.govt.nz)

Dear Wayne,

Thank you for your letter of 28 February 2024, regarding Auckland Council's request for a further 12-month extension to complete the Intensification Streamlined Planning Process (ISPP), giving the council until 31 March 2026 to complete the process.

I acknowledge your concerns, and the complex interactions between the Council's natural hazards work, and its implications on Plan Change 78. I also note the need to now provide for intensification within the Auckland Light Rail corridor.

I appreciate that Auckland is in a unique situation where there are a number of policy interactions with Plan Change 78. It is encouraging that both the Council acknowledge the need to enable more housing supply and provide intensification in the right places. As you are aware, the Government is progressing our Going for Housing Growth work programme. This requires councils to live-zone for 30 years of housing growth but gives them the flexibility to decide how that growth should happen.

Later this year, I am proposing to introduce legislation focused on these key changes. I am aware Plan Change 78 and the Council's concerns will need to be considered as part of this process alongside the Government's objectives and any other submissions received. I support central and local government to continue to work together to ensure there is an efficient and pragmatic legislative solution that addresses both the Auckland Council's concerns and the Government's objectives.

I support a 12-month extension, but I expect the council to continue working on preparing for a plan change process, or a variation to Plan Change 78, for both natural hazards and the Auckland Light Rail corridor. I expect Auckland Council to notify this plan change/variation by 30 April 2025. In addition, I expect the council to continue progressing the National Policy Statement on Urban Development (NPS-UD) elements of Plan Change 78 to ensure development capacity is enabled in a timely manner.

When the Council first notified Plan Change 78, it did not apply to the Auckland Light Rail Corridor as work was still progressing on the station locations. I understand that with the Government's decision on the Auckland Light Rail project, the council now needs to implement the NPS-UD and Medium Density Residential Standards (MDRS) along the corridor.

I will update my Direction to Auckland Council, with a new Statement of Expectations as follows:

#### Statement of Expectations

In accordance with clause 80L(2) of the RMA, the Minister's expectations for Auckland Council are to:

- (a) Notify a plan change, or similar, to address the management of significant risks from natural hazards by 30 April 2025.
- (b) Enable intensification within the Auckland Light Rail corridor, and ensure intensification is enabled in appropriate areas by 30 April 2025.
- (c) Continue to progress the parts of the Plan Change 78 subject to Policy 3 and Policy 4 of the National Policy Statement on Urban Development where practicable given the expectations outlined in (a) and (b) above.
- (d) Prior to notifying plan changes, or similar, on natural hazards, and to implement the National Policy Statement on Urban Development and the Medium Density Residential Standards in the Auckland Light Rail corridor, notify the Minister Responsible for RMA on the impacts on Auckland's development capacity.

The Minister expects Auckland Council officers to work closely with Ministry for the Environment officials on workable solutions to implement the above.

#### Reporting requirements

In accordance with clause 80L(1)(d) of the RMA, the Minister directs Auckland Council to provide a report to the Ministry for the Environment on 31 May 2024 and every three months after that date, about its progress on Plan Change 78 and any related plan changes or variations, including any plan change relating to natural hazards. The report shall demonstrate how the Council is having regard to the statement of expectations and identify any issues which may affect the Council's ability to comply with the Minister's Direction.

Thank you for all your work to date. Housing supply is a critical issue for the Government and I appreciate the work you are doing to advance housing solutions for Auckland.

Yours sincerely



Hon Chris Bishop

Minister Responsible for RMA Reform

cc Simon Brown,  
Minister for Auckland























































































































































































































































































































































































































































































































































































































