

15 April 2020

Update on plans for new homes at Maraenui

Tēnā koe,

We hope you and your whānau are keeping safe and well as we all unite against COVID-19.

We know you will have a lot to deal with right now, with all of us impacted in different ways, but we wanted to share an update with you about plans for new homes at Maraenui to meet the need for public housing in the area.

Most construction work is on hold across the country, and we want to assure you we will only commence construction when the COVID-19 Alert Level reduces to a safe level for us to start.

New homes across three Maraenui sites

The Government is delivering more public housing across New Zealand to meet the increasing need in our communities. As part of this work we are planning to build around 31 new family homes across three sites in Maraenui.

These homes will be a mix of two, three and four-bedroom homes and will be built on Kāinga Ora owned land at Kelvin Place, Bledisloe Road, and Percy Spiller Avenue. At Percy Spiller Avenue and Bledisloe Road we are aiming to deliver 9 homes on each of these sites, and we are looking to build 13 family homes at Kelvin Place. The homes will be high quality, built to modern building standards, and designed to fit in with the neighbourhood.

These homes will be public housing that will initially be used to meet the urgent demand for transitional housing. Transitional housing provides people and families in urgent need of housing with a warm, dry, safe place to live while they receive wraparound support services and are helped to find a more permanent place to live.

The people and families staying here may already be living, working or going to school locally. Others will be from nearby areas or districts. The homes will be managed by a contracted provider who will make sure families living there are looked after. The provider will also be available to provide support to neighbours and the community.

Next steps once the COVID-19 Alert Level reduces to a safe point

We are preparing so we're ready to start construction once the COVID-19 Alert Level reduces to allow our contractors to begin building work. Once it becomes clearer when that will be, we will get in touch about when we can look to start work, and how construction noise and disruption will be kept to a minimum.

As part of our preparations for managing COVID-19, we are putting in place additional health and safety measures in accordance with Ministry of Health guidance to ensure our workers are kept safe once work is able to begin onsite.

Working with you

We want to hear from you on how we can make sure these developments work well for the families who will live in these new homes at Maraenui, and the wider community.

Until the COVID-19 Alert Level reduces to a safe point, we won't be able to meet face-to-face but we would welcome the opportunity to hear from you over email, or talk over the phone.

If you have any further questions or feedback about the proposed developments please get in touch with me by emailing Theresa.O'Brien@kaingaora.govt.nz or by calling 021 359 214.

Nāku noa,

Theresa O'Brien

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Image 1: sites where the new homes will be developed



Image 2: an artist's impression of how these quality homes are expected to look.

