

Hon Dr Megan Woods



MP for Wigram

Minister of Energy and Resources

Minister for Greater Christchurch Regeneration

Minister of Housing

Minister of Research, Science and Innovation

Dear Ginny

Thank you for your letter of 25 February 2020 about the proposed housing development at Wood Street, Wainuiomata and your request that Kāinga Ora considers a mixed housing model for the site rather than purely transitional housing. You note that this approach was favoured by the local community at the public meeting held in January 2020.

Kāinga Ora advises that it has noted the community's preference for a mix of transitional and permanent public housing and that following engagement with the community, including two public meetings, it is continuing to review its plans for the site based on the ongoing community feedback.

Another issue raised in January was the possibility of Kāinga Ora purchasing the site, instead of leasing it. Kāinga Ora is making progress in both these areas, however, given the issues involved it will take a little longer for it to present any revised plans to the community.

In the meantime Kāinga Ora advises that it will continue to listen to and work with the community, acknowledging the preference for Wood Street development to be a mix of transitional and permanent housing. This also includes working closely with local iwi collective, Taranaki Whanui ki Te Upoko o Te Ika.

Naturally I share your concern for families compelled to reside in motels and for the effects of such temporary accommodation on children and their welfare and schooling. There is an urgent need in the Hutt Valley to get people and whanau out of emergency accommodation and into warm, dry homes.

Alongside the development at Wood Street, Kāinga Ora is building more public housing in Lower Hutt with up to 50 new homes delivered last year, as part of 270 new state homes that will be available in the city over the next two-to-three years. It is vital that such work continues and, to that end, your ongoing support within the community is greatly appreciated.

Yours sincerely



Hon Dr Megan Woods
Minister of Housing