

Begin forwarded message:

From: Ministerial Meetings <Ministerial_Meetings@hud.govt.nz>
Subject: Your query re: mobile homes/Tiny Houses - HUD ref: DRC19/20030044
Date: 18 June 2020 at 9:30:32 AM NZST
To: "[REDACTED]"

Dear [REDACTED]

Thank you for your email dated 11 March 2020 to the Ministry of Housing and Urban Development regarding mobile and tiny homes.

The Ministry of Housing and Urban Development is working across the system, with others, to prevent and reduce homelessness, increase public and private housing supply, make homes warmer and healthier, make housing more affordable for people to rent and buy, and to support quality urban development and thriving communities.

The Ministry of Housing and Urban Development is aware that tiny homes, including those on wheels, can provide people with a low-cost alternative home ownership opportunity, and this may be a preferably form of home ownership for some people. That being said, the building of tiny homes, including mobile homes, is not an option that is not currently being pursued by the Government and, as such, the Ministry does not have a formal advisory capacity on tiny homes, including those on wheels.

Instead, the Government has a comprehensive work programme to improve housing affordability. For example, you may have recently heard that the Government will deliver an extra 8,000 new public and transitional homes through Budget 2020. The additional housing places will be delivered by Kāinga Ora – Homes and Communities, Community Housing Providers and transitional housing providers. This is part of the Government's housing work programme to ensure that every New Zealander has a warm, safe, and dry place to call home.

As you are likely aware, it is possible for New Zealanders to choose to live in a tiny home, if it meets the requirements of the Building Act 2004, the Building Code, and applicable local planning rules under district plans. The Building Act and Code are administered by the Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment and it would be best placed to answer any questions you have with regards to how the Building Act and Code applies to tiny homes, including those on wheels.

Regarding district plans, these set out the objectives, policies and rules a council will use to manage the use and development of the land in its area. As these are set by councils, we recommend that you contact your local council if you have any questions about the rules set out in your council's district plan.

Thank you for taking the time to contact the Ministry of Housing and Urban Development.

Yours sincerely

(Ministerial Services on behalf of)
Julia Pearce
Principal Policy Advisor
Market and Supply Responses

Office of System Performance and the Chief Executive
Ministry of Housing and Urban Development
ministerial_services@hud.govt.nz | PO Box 82, Wellington 6140 | www.hud.govt.nz