



11 MAR 2023

DRC19/20020009

Colin Wightman  
[c.wightman@xtra.co.nz](mailto:c.wightman@xtra.co.nz)

Dear Mr Wightman

Thank you for your query and email to the Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment in which you forwarded a number of documents regarding homelessness and the benefits of tiny and mobile homes. As these matters are within the responsibility of the Ministry of Housing and Urban Development, your query was forwarded to me for response.

Currently, it is possible for New Zealanders to choose to live in a tiny home as long as it is fully consented. Should someone wish to build a tiny home, the building must meet the requirements of the Building Act 2004 and the Building Code, be appropriately plumbed for water and sanitary services, and comply with the requirements of local planning regulations in the Council's district plan. There are various avenues for communities to engage with the district plan process. You can visit your local council's website or contact them directly to find out how you can engage with the district planning process.

While the Government is not currently looking at specific policies to support tiny homes, the Ministry's purpose is to create thriving communities where everyone has a place to call home. This means that the ministry recognises everyone needs and deserves a home which is suitable, stable and secure. You can find more information about how the Ministry is achieving this at [www.hud.govt.nz](http://www.hud.govt.nz).

In the longer term, the Government is pursuing a range of programmes to make it easier for developers to build affordable housing in New Zealand. The Urban Growth Agenda (UGA) aims to create the conditions for the market to respond to growth and bring down the high cost of urban land. This includes freeing up land for housing and increasing development opportunities by removing constraints on the supply of land and infrastructure. Further information can be found at <https://www.hud.govt.nz/urban-development/urban-growth-agenda/>.

One element of the UGA is the National Policy Statement on Urban Development, which aims to remove unnecessary restrictions on development, to allow for growth 'up' and 'out' in locations that have good access to existing services and infrastructure. The NPS-UD will direct councils to enable a greater variety of housing to meet people's demands, including a range of typologies and at a range of locations. This will help bring down the high cost of urban land, improve housing affordability, and support thriving communities in our urban centres.

You also mention homelessness which is an important social issue and is one of the biggest challenges New Zealand is facing. I want to assure you that the Ministry is committed to ensuring that all New Zealanders have access to long-term housing. Our priority is that everyone has somewhere warm, safe and dry to live.

That is why, on 13 February 2020, the Government announced the Aotearoa New Zealand Homelessness Action Plan which provides over \$300 million to help prevent and reduce homelessness. The plan has 18 immediate actions to be put in place in 2020, and a number of actions to be implemented over 2020-2023. By taking the immediate actions, the plan will support over 10,000 people at risk of or experiencing homelessness over three years. Further information can be found at [www.hud.govt.nz/community-and-public-housing/support-for-people-in-need/homelessness-action-plan/](http://www.hud.govt.nz/community-and-public-housing/support-for-people-in-need/homelessness-action-plan/).

Thank you for taking the time to make contact, we have noted the information you have submitted.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Julia Pearce', written in a cursive style.

Julia Pearce  
**Principal Policy Advisor**  
**Market and Supply Response**