

Hon Jenny Salesa



MP for Manukau East

Minister for Building and Construction

Minister of Customs

Minister for Ethnic Communities

Associate Minister of Education

Associate Minister of Health

23 MAR 2020

Ref: Corr2020/051

Colin Wightman
Eco Cottages NZ
c.wightman@xtra.co.nz

Dear Mr Wightman

Thank you for writing to me to request a meeting to discuss issues around tiny houses. I was pleased to meet with you and the tiny house group at the Tiny House Hikoi on 5 March 2020, and listen to your concerns about tiny houses.

I appreciated the opportunity to speak to you at Parliament steps and reassure you that the Government will continue to focus on providing warm, dry and healthy homes for all New Zealanders, including people living in tiny houses.

I would like to reiterate that I support innovative housing solutions, such as tiny houses. As you know I'm making changes to the Building Act to support a greater supply of houses. These changes under the Modern Methods of Construction programme will make consenting quicker, easier and cheaper for certified manufacturers, including those that build tiny houses. These changes will mean that in the future tiny homes can be built in factories without the need for Council inspections.

With regard to your request to meet, I have asked my officials in the Building Performance and Engineering team of the Ministry of Business, Innovation & Employment to contact you directly. Richard London is the team leader for Building Performance, and will make contact with you in the near future. This team advises me on building regulations and performance settings for building and construction. I would like you to meet Richard to discuss your concerns so we can understand your situation and consider all the options for regulating tiny houses.

Thank you for taking the time to write to me.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jenny Salesa', written over a white background.

Hon Jenny Salesa
Minister for Building and Construction