

LURP Review May 2015 Submission #6

From:

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RURAL RESIDENTIAL SUBDIVISION

I reside on a 14 acre lifestyle block at the above address and would like to subdivide off 4 acres at the front of the property and build myself a new sustainable, environmentally friendly retirement home. I have always been prepared to go through the normal resource consent process to achieve this aim.

The Selwyn District Council have advised me that I cannot apply for a subdivision and land use consent as it would be inconsistent with the LURP and fail to give effect to Chapter 6 of the Regional Policy Statement.

I have spoken with the Rt Hon Amy Adams, the Minister of Justice, who at the time the LURP was introduced was Minister for the Environment and Associate Minister of Earthquake Recovery. It was the Minister herself who took the LURF proposal to Cabinet and having it agreed to.

The Minister is adamant that the sole purpose of the LURP was to fast-track the development of the specific areas of land identified in the document for residential or commercial use. There was no other purpose. The LURF and consequently Chapter 6 are meant to relate solely to the areas of land identified in the Plan - not to the region/district as a whole.

She is also adamant that the LURP gave absolutely no right or power to Local Authorities to make District or Regional wide planning Rules.

If such Rules had been made they would be ultra vires the Local Authority. The Minister has asked that Local Authorities identify anywhere in the LURP where such authority is given.

The Minister has stated that if this has been done, and the Local Authorities were to continue with that interpretation of the LURP, she will simply go back to Cabinet and have the law changed to make the original purpose of the Plan perfectly clear. Common sense dictates that a senior Minister in this Government would not have authorised a Plan that vastly expanded the power of Local Authorities to restrict land use, when one of their main policies is to free up the restrictions on the use of land.

Your comments are looked forward to.