



Human Rights
Commission
Te Kāhui Tika Tangata

27 May 2015

Bill Bayfield
Chief Executive
Environment Canterbury
PO Box 345
Christchurch 8140

Dear Bill

In December 2013 the Commission published the Report "*Monitoring Human Rights in the Canterbury Earthquake Recovery*". Recommendations were made in relation to adequate housing. Several of the recommendations pertain either directly or indirectly to ECan. We are following up in regard to progress made on the recommendations.

One key purpose of the report was to encourage major agencies within the earthquake recovery space to apply a human rights approach to their work and to put people at the centre of all decision-making. Your agency has a lead role to play in applying such a framework. As a number of the recommendations relate to adequate housing we enclose a brochure that outlines the right to adequate housing.

The relevant recommendations from the report which explicitly pertain to the LURP are:

Housing affordability

The Commission recommends that the Government:

- 7 ensure the Land Use Recovery Plan facilitates planning and regulation incentives to support adequate housing to the maximum extent possible.

Accessibility and housing

The Commission recommends that the Government ensure accessibility and universal design are integrated throughout government work through:

- 10 requiring that the two proposed exemplar housing developments referred to in the draft Land Use Recovery Plan as notified in July 2013 have access as a key delivery requirement.

We would appreciate if you could outline the steps that ECan has taken on the recommendations and include any evidence of progress in these areas.

We would also appreciate knowing what indicators ECan has in place to monitor such progress.

We would welcome either a letter from you outlining your responses to our queries within the next month, or the opportunity to meet with you in person. If you would like to meet, please email Emilia Don Silva at emilias@hrc.co.nz to organise a meeting at your convenience.

We have decided to copy all letters we send to ECan on Canterbury housing issues to the Chief Executives of other agencies involved in housing. Therefore this letter has been copied to Treasury, CCC, MSD, HCNZ, MBIE and CERA. We cannot locate any coordination point for overall housing strategy in the Government. If there is one, please identify it for us.

We look forward to your response.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'D. Rutherford'.

David Rutherford
Chief Commissioner | Te Amokapua

Appendix 1

For your reference the general recommendations which pertain to ECAN are:

Housing affordability

The Commission recommends that the Government:

- 3 embed a human rights approach in all major initiatives related to the Canterbury earthquake recovery ensuring appropriate consideration of the adequacy of housing,ⁱ including for temporary housing

Accessibility and housing

The Commission recommends that the Government ensure accessibility and universal design are integrated throughout government work through:

- 3 government agencies ensuring that their own, and government funded initiatives for which they are responsible, comply with the Government Web Standards for accessibility and other accessible information and communication requirements

Health – Participation

The Commission recommends that:

- 5 government agencies provide accurate information about matters related to the earthquake recovery that affect citizens when and as required and in appropriate and accessible formats, including but not limited to community languages, Te Reo Māori and New Zealand Sign Language
 - 6 government agency officials involved in any emergency response are appropriately and adequately pre-prepared and trained to be familiar with a range of ways of communicating with vulnerable communities, including but not limited to Te Reo Māori, New Zealand Sign Language, the Video Relay service and interpreting services for community languages.
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