

# Office of Hon Chris Bishop

Minister of Housing  
Minister for Infrastructure  
Minister Responsible for RMA Reform  
Minister for Sport and Recreation  
Leader of the House  
Associate Minister of Finance



07 JUN 2024

CB-COR0247/CORM-2431

Richard Murcott  
By email: [richard.murcott@thorndon.org.nz](mailto:richard.murcott@thorndon.org.nz)

Dear Richard,

Thank you for your letter of 27 March 2024 regarding Wellington City Council's rejected recommendations on the Wellington City District Plan. I acknowledge your concerns with the change of zoning in parts of Thorndon and the process followed.

The Resource Management Act (Enabling Housing Supply and Other Matters) Amendment Act 2021 (RM-EHA) requires specified councils to progress an intensification plan change to implement the medium density residential standards (MDRS) and give effect to the intensification policies of the National Policy Statement on Urban Development 2020. The RM-EHA requires an independent hearings panel (IHP) to make recommendations to a council on its intensification plan change.

As the Minister Responsible for RMA Reform, I am the decision-maker on intensification plan changes where councils reject IHP recommendations. The Council notified me of its decisions on the IHP's recommendations on 19 March 2024. The Council rejected 20 of the IHP's recommendations and provided alternative recommendations for each of these. I was required to accept either the IHP's or the Council's alternative recommendation for each of the referred recommendations.

As you are aware, I have accepted the Council's recommendation regarding the City Centre Zone walkable catchment and the consequential zoning and height limits. My reasons for this decision were that Council's alternative recommendation would better give effect to the NPS-UD, would better achieve a well-functioning urban environment, and better provide for a competitive development market that could deliver a broader range and higher quantum of housing. I consider that due process was followed and that the relevant procedural requirements were met.

For more information about my decisions, please see my press release:  
<https://tinyurl.com/25jub442>

Thank you for taking the time to write to me.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Chris Bishop'.

Hon Chris Bishop  
**Minister Responsible for RMA Reform**