



Human Rights
Commission
Te Kāhui Tika Tangata

6 May 2014

Mayor Lianne Dalziel
Christchurch City Council
PO Box 73016
Christchurch 8154

Dear Lianne

When we last met we discussed the need for a greater degree of certainty for Canterbury residents who remain unable to move on as a result of insurance, zoning and rebuilding issues.

We both acknowledged the complexity of the issues relating to the recovery of housing and land and agreed that the lack of collaborative, systems-based thinking on problems has resulted in a number of temporary-fix type solutions that are at best, not sustainable, and at worst, causing further harm to affected residents in terms of increased psychosocial stress and related health impacts.

We agreed on the need for a forum of people working collaboratively to progress solutions to recovery issues affecting people in Canterbury. The forum would provide a mechanism for those involved in the recovery to in the first instance identify and agree on the following:

- What are the blockages preventing residents from moving on with their lives?
- What are the options for solutions?
- Who owns the solution?
- How long will the solution take?
- How will this be communicated horizontally and vertically?

Participants in this forum would include those who have a mandate to make decisions, who understand the problems, and who have thoughts about how these issues can be resolved. This would include the CCC, CERA, MBIE, ECAN, insurers, banks, and community representatives such as Cancern and John Patterson.

I see this as a facilitated discussion where solutions are brokered. This collaborative method of problem solving, if successful, could be undertaken on a regular basis to resolve a range of problematic issues.

As we discussed, it would make most sense for this forum to be led by yourself as Mayor. I would be happy to participate and to provide the names of those who could contribute.

If you feel that time constraints and a workload make this difficult for you, the Commission would be happy to play a coordinating role. I think it has become urgent that we create some method of working together to solve the more intractable problems that are hindering a successful recovery.

An example of the difficult issues being faced by that need us to think of simple solutions is the situation in the Port Hills. The lack of a joined up approach has led to a number of anomalies both in the zoning process and in the application, issuance and determination of section 124 notices. As a result, three years on, a number of affected residents remain unable to access their homes as a result of s. 124 hazard notices, but lacking any form of guidance on what practical steps they can take to mitigate these hazards.

MBIE have recently overturned some of the s.124 notices through the determination process. This suggests there may be errors in the way these notices have been applied and that that there is worth in the Council seeking an independent review of all the Port Hill s.124 notices rather than making individuals go through the lengthy and complex determination process. This would also seem to be more cost effective for the Council which has to respond to each complaint.

I am aware of the heavy workload the Council currently faces and the variety of calls on your resources. I therefore intend writing to MBIE to suggest they could support you in the resolution of the Port Hills issues by providing guidance to residents on how to mitigate rock fall risks.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'D. Rutherford', with a stylized flourish at the end.

David Rutherford
Chief Commissioner
Te Amokapua