

Out of scope

**From:** Laura Lumley  
**Sent:** Tuesday, 11 April 2023 4:17 pm  
**To:** Richard Almand; Dave Gittings; Devin Glennie  
**Cc:** Sarah Sinclair  
**Subject:** FW: Exploring MBIE's help to create THOW acceptable solution under Building Act [UNCLASSIFIED]

Kia ora koutou,

Can I leave this with you guys to respond to? Can you please confirm who will address this so that I can acknowledge the email with Sharla as I have held a relationship with her for the last few years on tiny houses.

Thank you!

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**From:** Sharla May 9(2)(a)  
**Sent:** Tuesday, 11 April 2023 4:14 PM  
**To:** Laura Lumley <Laura.Lumley@mbie.govt.nz>  
**Cc:** Rebecca McLean 9(2)(a)  
**Subject:** Exploring MBIE's help to create THOW acceptable solution under Building Act

Dear Laura,

I hope this email finds you well. In March, my colleague Rebecca McLean and I were invited to speak at the Local Government NZ Rural and Provincial Sector meeting. Our topic was focused on the challenges facing the tiny house industry, and we introduced our proposed solution to help address these issues and also how Tiny Houses on Wheels can be one solution to help improve the housing unaffordability crisis in New Zealand.

During our attendance at the meeting, we had the pleasure of meeting Richard Almand from MBIE, who joined us on stage for the Q&A session after our discussion. Prior to the session, I had the opportunity to speak privately with Richard. We discussed the roadblock we are facing with our tiny house-on-wheels building standard. While the Tiny House Association has previously drafted one, we hit a roadblock when Standards New Zealand informed us that for it to become one of their standards, we would have to invest \$100,000 into its development. Unfortunately, the NZTHA does not have enough funding to self-fund this initiative.

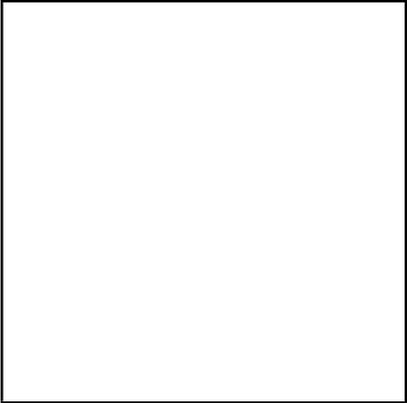
However, Richard mentioned that there might be a possibility of working with MBIE to create an acceptable solution under the Building Act instead. I wanted to reach out to you to explore the feasibility of such a solution and to discuss how we could move forward with it?

Also, in case you are not aware, the Australian Tiny House Association has been working with the Shire of Esperance Council to develop and implement a Local Planning Policy for Tiny Houses. [We have included a link to their Press Release, Tiny House Planning Policy and the Tiny House on Wheels Fact Sheet for your reference.](#)

Our intention is to create a similar system in New Zealand that councils can implement across their regions. To achieve this, [we are inviting all councils to register for a special online working group](#) to develop this system for New Zealand.

Following the sector meeting, Kaipara District Council, Western Bay of Plenty District Council, and Invercargill City Council have all expressed interest in signing up for the working group.

Thank you for your time, and I look forward to hearing your thoughts on this matter.



Yours Sustainably,

**Sharla May**  
Founder and Director at  
**Collab Developments Ltd**

9(2)(a) [Redacted]

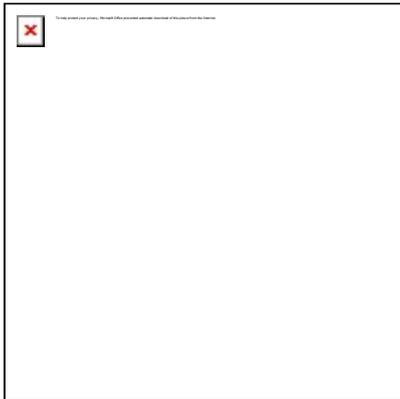
- w. [www.tinyhousehub.co.nz](http://www.tinyhousehub.co.nz)
- w. [www.tinyhouseexpo.co.nz](http://www.tinyhouseexpo.co.nz)
- w. [www.landshare.nz](http://www.landshare.nz)

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**From:** Sharla May 9(2)(a)  
**Sent:** Monday, 18 December 2023 3:59 pm  
**To:** Richard Almand  
**Subject:** Re: Formal Request for Inclusion in NZ Building Code Amendment Process

Hey Richard

Thanks for passing on the email to Matt and Rolf. It's great to know we're getting a head start on this, especially if it turns into a government request. Looking forward to seeing what plans they come up with!



Yours Sustainably,

**Sharla May**  
Founder and Director at  
**Collab Developments Ltd**

9(2)(a)

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On Mon, Dec 18, 2023 at 3:35 PM Richard Almand <[Richard.Almand@mbie.govt.nz](mailto:Richard.Almand@mbie.govt.nz)> wrote:

Hi Sharla,

I have forwarded the email to two of the guys (Matt and Rolf) who are beginning plan how we could do this I the government request it.

Chat again soon

Regards

**Richard Almand**

Senior Advisor Building Performance

Registered Architect

Building System Performance | Building, Resources & Markets

Ministry of Business, Innovation & Employment (MBIE)

[Richard.Almand@mbie.govt.nz](mailto:Richard.Almand@mbie.govt.nz)

Telephone 9(2)(a)

25 The Terrace, PO Box 1473, Wellington 6011, New Zealand



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**From:** Sharla May 9(2)(a)

**Sent:** 18 December 2023 13:12

**To:** Richard Almand <[Richard.Almand@mbie.govt.nz](mailto:Richard.Almand@mbie.govt.nz)>

**Subject:** Formal Request for Inclusion in NZ Building Code Amendment Process

Dear Richard,

Following our recent discussion, I am writing on behalf of the New Zealand Tiny House Association to formally request our involvement in the ongoing work related to the proposed extension to Schedule One of the NZ Building Code, particularly concerning the "Granny flat development".

As the coalition plans to amend the Building Act and the Resource Consent system to allow the construction of granny flats and small structures up to 60m<sup>2</sup> with only an engineer's report, we see a significant opportunity for our association to contribute positively to this initiative. Our extensive experience in the tiny house sector provides us with unique insights into sustainable living and innovative housing solutions.

Furthermore, we would like to extend our request to include representation of our community in addressing the legal challenges faced by owners of Tiny Houses on wheels. We believe that the planned amendments offer a timely opportunity to also improve regulations surrounding tiny houses on wheels, which are an integral part of the housing solutions we advocate.

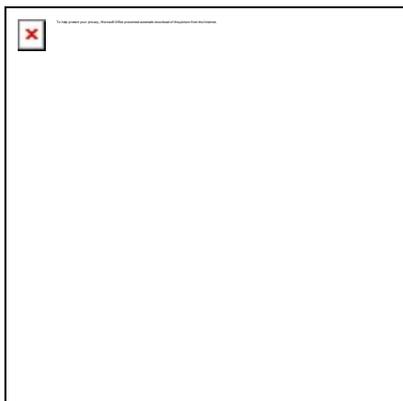
Our association is keen to share our expertise and engage in meaningful dialogue to enhance the effectiveness of these proposed legislative changes. We are confident that our participation can offer valuable perspectives, ensuring that the amendments not only support the development of granny flats but also address the broader

spectrum of small-scale housing solutions, including tiny houses on wheels.

We are hopeful that our involvement will help in shaping policies that are inclusive and considerate of the diverse needs of all stakeholders in the tiny house community. Your support in facilitating our participation in this process would be greatly appreciated.

Please advise us on the necessary steps to formalise our involvement. We are ready to engage with MBIE and other stakeholders at your earliest convenience and look forward to a collaborative and fruitful partnership.

Thank you for considering our request. We eagerly await your response and are excited about the potential to contribute to this important initiative.



Yours Sustainably,

**Sharla May**  
Founder and Director at  
**Collab Developments Ltd**

9(2)(a)

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