



Office of Hon Dr Nick Smith

MP for Nelson

Minister for the Environment

Minister for Building and Housing

29 JUN 2015

Alex Harris

fyi-request-2758-54a57244@requests.fyi.org.nz

Dear Alex

Thank you for your email dated 23 May 2015 requesting the following information under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act):

On 21 May 2015 the Minister of Building and Housing announced a fund to facilitate Auckland housing development, aimed at purchasing crown land from government entities to make it available for housing development. I would like to request the following information under the OIA:

- All advice (including Cabinet papers, briefings, aides memoire, notes etc) on the fund to facilitate Auckland housing development. I am particularly interested in what areas of land have been identified as being possibly available, and in the expected number of houses that may be able to be built on them. I am happy to exclude emails from this request.*

The Government is assessing all Crown land in the Auckland region for possible inclusion in its residential land development programme. We are principally interested in Crown land that is vacant or near vacant that will have zoning that supports residential dwellings under the Proposed Auckland Unitary Plan, and that already has access to bulk infrastructure. Given that most Crown land is held for other purposes (such as roads, parks and reserves), it is not available for residential development. However, the Government has identified around 500 hectares of land that fit these criteria.

Of that 500 hectares, the Government must then determine whether each parcel is still needed for its current purpose. If it is not, the Government will then determine how suitable it is for residential development. This is an ongoing process.

To begin with, the Government has identified the 9.5 hectre site at the corner of Moire and Granville Roads, Massey, as a site that is both available and suitable for residential development. Another three sites that were identified as being considered for development were also announced. You may be aware that this information is already publicly available on the Beehive website and can be found at www.beehive.govt.nz/release/first-crown-land-parcels-development-identified.

Beyond these sites, the Government is yet to identify other specific parcels of land that are both available and suitable for development.

Separately, I will soon release the advice provided by the Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment about the Auckland Crown land programme. To this extent, the information you have requested is therefore refused under section 18(d) of the Act, as the information will soon be publicly available.

You have the right under section 28(3) of the Act to ask the Ombudsman to investigate and review my decision. The relevant contact details are:

The Ombudsman
Office of the Ombudsman
P O Box 10 162
WELLINGTON 6143
www.ombudsman.parliament.nz

Thank you for taking the time to write to me.

Kind regards

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Nick Smith', is written over a horizontal line.

Hon Dr Nick Smith
Minister for Building and Housing