



File No. 1617-1014

24 March 2017

B Evans

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Dear Ms Evans

Thank you for your request of 28 February 2017, under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act), for the following information:

...on what basis was it determined that part of Point England Reserve was 'under-utilised' and therefore could be considered for housing development under the Crown Land Development Programme?

Point England Recreation Reserve has been used partly for passive recreation and grazing, and partly for sports fields, since it was acquired by the Crown in 1945 and set apart for housing purposes. Since that time, a number of different uses have been proposed but not adopted, including a university campus, camping ground, and forming part of a motorway roading system. Subsequent government decisions amended the purpose for which the land could be used until, in 1957, it was designated a reserve for recreation purposes.

The Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment (the Ministry) understands that a portion of the 45.5 hectare reserve is intensively used for sports and recreation, including playing fields and a coastal track, and the remainder is open public space. This open public space of over 18 hectares has limited public access and has been under-utilised as it has been fenced and used for grazing cattle and horses.

The Government must consider if its land holdings are being used in the most appropriate way at all times, but it is particularly essential at this time when the need for housing is acute. Grazing cattle on a site that is near the central business district of Auckland and other employment centres, and in an area that is well serviced by infrastructure, is not considered appropriate use.

The Ministry acknowledges the value of the sports fields to the community and has engaged with Ngāti Pāoa, Auckland Council and the Maungakiekie-Tāmaki local Board to agree an area for development that balances the interests of all parties, including the public in the Point England Recreation Reserve, as much as possible given that a viable housing development is also an objective.

Green spaces are about quality as well as quantity. The Government is committed to 100 per cent of the proceeds of the land for housing development being reinvested in the Tamaki community. We are in discussions with the Auckland Council on the redevelopment of the reserve and a significant portion of the funds will be required for enhanced recreational facilities and improvements in the reserve's amenities. This may result in an upgrade of the remaining playing surfaces at Point England Recreational Reserve and will mean the maximum seven hours per-week of playing hours on each field would

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become at least twenty hours per-week, meaning there is less space but more available playing hours. This would also address the current limitations on sports in winter.

A Regulatory Impact Statement (RIS) prepared by the Ministry provides an analysis of options for making up to 11.7 hectares of land at Point England available for housing. This RIS is available at: <http://www.mbie.govt.nz/publications-research/publications/housing-and-property/ris-point-england-development-enabling-bill.pdf>.

Yours sincerely



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