

Hon David Parker BCom, LLB

Attorney-General

Minister for the Environment

Minister of Transport

Associate Minister of Finance



18 AUG 2023

Wayne Guppy
Mayor of Upper Hutt
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Helen Hamilton
Director – Planning and Regulatory Services
Upper Hutt City Council
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Dear Mayor Wayne Guppy

Approval of Upper Hutt City Council's request for an amendment to its Direction under section 80M of the Resource Management Act 1991

On 31 July 2023 I received a letter from Upper Hutt City Council officials (the Council) requesting an amendment to The Resource Management (Direction for the Intensification Streamlined Planning Process to The First Tranche of Specified Territorial Authorities) Notice 2022. This amendment would give the Council an extra four months to complete the Intensification Streamlined Planning Process (ISPP).

I am granting this extension request. Once the amended direction notice is published in the New Zealand Gazette, Upper Hutt City Council will be required to notify decisions on the Independent Hearings Panel's recommendations for its intensification planning instrument by 20 December 2023. Ministry for the Environment officials will let you know when the amended direction takes effect. This timeframe extension will enable sufficient time for IHP deliberation and report writing, and UHCC's consideration of IHP recommendations.

Interestingly, a recent report by the Auckland University Business School looked at the impacts of the 2016 upzoning changes to the Auckland Unitary Plan on housing costs. The report findings emphasise the importance of enabling intensification in New Zealand's main urban centres. This report is available here: <https://cdn.auckland.ac.nz/assets/business/about/our-research/research-institutes-and-centres/Economic-Policy-Centre--EPC-/WP016.pdf>

I encourage Council staff to continue to engage with Government officials during the development of the intensification planning instrument. I wish you well in the remainder of your plan review process.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'David Parker'.

Hon David Parker
Minister for the Environment