

## Media release

# Ōrākei Local Board speaks out against Amendment Bill

Ōrākei Local Board has voted to challenge the proposed Resource Management Amendment Bill, which targets the city’s need for intensive development and the building of more homes, more quickly.

Under the proposal, the government wants to introduce intensification policies and apply medium density residential standards from August 2022 – allowing people to develop up to three homes of up to three storeys on most sites without needing resource consent.

But at its business meeting on Thursday, the local board questioned the need for the proposed bill and recommended the government should be asked to “pause and engage” with Auckland Council.

The board argues that Auckland’s Unitary Plan already supports public and private sector development and housing supply across Auckland and enables opportunities for different housing types and increased supply

It also has concerns over exemptions for character and heritage areas and the increased risk of bad planning and design outcomes.

Troy Churton, Ōrākei Local Board planning portfolio lead, says: “We will ask council’s planning committee to urgently request the government to pause and engage with council before making any further decisions in recognition of the significant impact this Bill will have on our communities.

“We already have challenges around density versus design, which means it is foreseeable that we will have greater negative cumulative effects if we start enabling density without consents as proposed under the Bill.”

Earlier this week, both Mayor Phil Goff and council’s planning committee chair Chris Darby said Auckland’s Unitary Plan had delivered significant new housing supply since being adopted in 2016, but highlighted insufficient investment in infrastructure and worries about the potential for poor design outcomes if the proposal goes ahead.

Ōrākei Local Board Chair, Scott Milne, supports those views and says: “We call for other Local Boards to join us at this fundamental checkpoint. The Bill seems unnecessary for the objectives it seeks to achieve and will not lead to a substantial increased supply of affordable housing for many areas of this city.”

Both Scott Milne and Troy Churton will seek to present to council’s planning committee on 4 November and will present at a government select committee hearing if the Bill proceeds to that stage.

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