

## Hon Phil Twyford

MP for Te Atatū

Minister for Disarmament and Arms Control  
Minister of State for Trade and Export Growth

Associate Minister for the Environment  
Associate Minister of Immigration



3 August 2022

PT02715/ CORM-569

Jean-Paul Gaston  
Deputy Chief Executive, District Development, Rotorua Lakes Council  
c/o Kim.McGrath@rotorualc.nz

Dear Jean-Paul

Thank you for your letter of 18 March 2022, notifying the Minister for the Environment, Hon David Parker, of insufficient housing development capacity in Rotorua, as identified in your recent Housing Development Capacity Assessment (HBA).

On behalf of the Minister of Housing, Hon Dr Megan Woods and in my role as Associate Minister for the Environment, we acknowledge the amount of work undertaken by your council to complete the HBA. This was an important step towards meeting your requirements under the National Policy Statement on Urban Development (NPS-UD).

The actions you have identified to increase the development capacity are critical to address the district's housing shortfall identified in your HBA. We want to thank you for the bold leadership your council is taking to do what you can to address Rotorua's housing crisis.

The decision to join the tier 1 councils in implementing the Medium Density Residential Standards (MDRS) will enable significantly more housing across Rotorua. Implementation of the MDRS as well as the NPS-UD intensification policy in your upcoming plan change (due to be notified by 20 August 2022) will be transformational for your communities.

This will increase housing supply close to employment and amenities, increase the viability of travel by active and public transport for residents, reduce emissions, and help to address the city's severe issues with housing unaffordability.

We note you applied to the Infrastructure Acceleration Fund for support for stormwater infrastructure capacity improvements. The Government will continue to work with you to support and enable urban development, and address housing needs in Rotorua.

Officials at Te Tūāpapa Kura Kāinga - Ministry of Housing and Urban Development and the Ministry for the Environment will continue to liaise with you and provide support with ongoing implementation of the NPS-UD. We look forward to working with you on this important mahi.

Yours sincerely

Hon Phil Twyford  
**Associate Minister for the Environment**

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'PT', with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

cc Hon Dr Megan Woods, Minister of Housing