

To: ["RMAREform.portfolio"](#)
Cc: ["Christopher Luxon"](#); sally@charactercoalition.org.nz
Subject: RE: CB-COR1072 | Auckland's Special Character areas

Hello,

Another week has gone by, and we have still not received a response to our question that we first asked almost two months ago. Is it Government policy to require our Council to remove our Special Character Areas or not?

In the meantime, the Panel hearing submissions has issued another [Minute dated 16 December 2024](#)

We are very concerned to see that the Panel says :

"As matters presently stand, the PC 78 process is required to be completed in time for the Council to finalise its decisions on the Plan Change in time for notification on 31 March 2026. This will require the Panel to commence alternative dispute resolution in March 2025 and commence the hearing of submissions by May 2025, to be able to finalise its recommendations to the Council by late 2025."

We do not see how we, our member groups, or any of the other thousands of submitters, can sensibly prepare for and engage in alternative dispute resolution in March, and hearings from May when neither we nor the Panel know:

1. Whether the Minister is going to try to make Council remove all or some of our Special Character Areas.
2. Whether or not Council will be removing the MDRS for some or all areas:
3. What proposals Council is going to put forward in its Variation re-zoning the former Light Rail Corridor Area;
4. What areas Council is going to propose be excluded from intensification in its Natural Hazards Variation.

Would you please confirm urgently that the Minister will be granting an extension of the timeframe for completing this process?

We have copied this email to both Council and the Panel.

Kind regards,

John Burns

(for Character Coalition Inc)

From: John Burns [<mailto:jaburns@xtra.co.nz>]
Sent: Sunday, 15 December 2024 9:18 a.m.
To: 'RMAREform.portfolio'
Cc: 'Christopher Luxon'; sally@charactercoalition.org.nz
Subject: RE: CB-COR1072 | Auckland's Special Character areas

Good morning,

We are pleased to see that the Government has just introduced legislation to allow our Council to remove by a Plan Change the Medium Density Residential Standards (MDRS) which the previous Government compelled it to inflict on Auckland during its last term.

Fortunately the MDRS have not yet come into force in respect of our Special Character areas, but were they do so they would create a lot of damage to them without making any difference to the affordability of housing in Auckland.

We are also pleased that this legislation does not attempt to do away with our SCA's.

Does this mean that, despite the Minister's statement, that is not Government policy?

Kind regards,

John Burns

(for Character Coalition Inc)

Good Morning John,

Thank you for your email. Please be advised that a response is underway and will be with you shortly.

Apologies for the delay,

Office of Hon Chris Bishop

Minister for Housing, Minister for Infrastructure, Minister Responsible for RMA Reform,
Minister for Sport & Recreation, Leader of the House, Associate Minister of Finance

Email: christopher.bishop@parliament.govt.nz Website: www.beehive.govt.nz
Private Bag 18041, Parliament Buildings, Wellington 6160, New Zealand

From: John Burns <jaburns@xtra.co.nz>

Sent: Sunday, 8 December 2024 9:50 AM

To: Christopher Luxon <Christopher.Luxon@parliament.govt.nz>

Cc: Christopher Bishop (MIN) <C.Bishop@ministers.govt.nz>; 'Sally Hughes' <sally@charactercoalition.org.nz>

Subject: Auckland's Special Character areas

Kia Ora Sonya,

We have had no substantive response to our previous email from the Prime Minister , from the Minister for Housing, from the Minister for Auckland or from anyone else, though it is now over a month since we sent them.

We see from the attached Council Memorandum that Council expects legislation about Plan Change 78 to be introduced to Parliament later this month.

Is the Prime Minister, or someone from his Government , able to assure us that this legislation will not try to do away with Auckland's Special Character Areas?

Ngā mihi,

John Burns

(for Character Coalition Inc)

From: John Burns [<mailto:jaburns@xtra.co.nz>]

Sent: Tuesday, 3 December 2024 7:41 a.m.

To: 'Christopher Luxon'

Cc: 'Christopher Bishop (MIN)'; 'Sally Hughes'

Subject: Auckland's Special Character areas

Kia Ora Sonya,

Thank you for this email. It was written to Hon Christopher Luxon in his capacity as MP for Howick rather than Prime Minister, but we appreciate you forwarding it to the Minister for RMA Reform.

Unfortunately, although that was over a month ago we have not had any response from the Minister or his office, and we are becoming increasingly concerned about what appears to be a serious threat to Auckland's valuable character areas.

Would you please let us know what is happening?

Ngā mihi nui

John Burns

(for Character Coalition Inc)

From: Sonya Ford [<mailto:Sonya.Ford@parliament.govt.nz>] **On Behalf Of** Christopher Luxon
Sent: Thursday, 31 October 2024 2:43 p.m.
To: 'John Burns'
Cc: Christopher Bishop (MIN)
Subject: RE: Epsom's Special Character areas

Kia ora John,

Thank you for reaching out to the Prime Minister, Rt Hon Christopher Luxon. He appreciates people taking the time to share their feedback, concerns and ideas.

As the Prime Minister, he relies on his colleagues to respond on his behalf to specific matters relating to their portfolios. As such, I have forwarded your email onto the office of the Minister Responsible for RMA Reform, Hon Chris Bishop, for their consideration.

Thank you once again for taking the time to write and for your patience; it is very much appreciated.

Ngā mihi nui

Sonya Ford
Correspondence Lead Advisor | Office of Rt Hon Christopher Luxon
Prime Minister
Minister for National Security and Intelligence
Minister Responsible for Ministerial Services

Private Bag 18041, Parliament Buildings, Wellington 6160, New Zealand

From: John Burns <jaburns@xtra.co.nz>
Sent: Friday, 25 October 2024 9:38 AM
To: Christopher Luxon <Christopher.Luxon@parliament.govt.nz>
Subject: FW: Auckland's Special Character areas

Dear Prime Minister

We are concerned to see that the just released cabinet paper on Resource Management Act reform contains the statement from the Minister that :

"I do not believe that councils should be able to use resource management to apply blanket "special character" protection in urban areas."

As an Auckland MP, would you please let us know whether it is now Government policy to remove Auckland's Special Character Areas from our Unitary Plan?

Regards,

John Burns

(for Character Coalition Inc)
