

Hon Chris Bishop

Minister of Housing
Minister for Infrastructure
Minister Responsible for RMA Reform
Minister of Transport
Leader of the House
Associate Minister of Finance
Associate Minister for Sport and Recreation



23 MAR 2026

CB-COR2531

John Duguid
General Manager – Planning and Resource Consents
Auckland Council
By email: John.Duguid@aucklandcouncil.govt.nz

Dear John,

Thank you for your letter dated 19 December 2026 about the Council's referral of the two rejected Independent Hearings Panel (IHP) recommendations on Plan Change 78: Intensification for the Metropolitan Centre Zone in the Auckland Unitary Plan (AUP).

As you note in your letter, your reason for rejecting the IHP recommendations is that they apply to land outside of the Newmarket Metropolitan Centre Zone, and this land was subject to the partial withdrawal of PC78 on 9 October 2025.

As such, I consider that there is no decision for me to make as the operative provisions of the AUP applied at the time you took decisions on the IHP recommendations.

I understand you have been having conversations with MfE on this matter. If you would like to discuss further or have any feedback on this approach, please contact Stephanie Gard'ner: Stephanie.Gard'ner@mfe.govt.nz.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Chris Bishop'.

Hon Chris Bishop
Minister Responsible for RMA Reform