

Who's
putting local
issues on
the national
agenda?

**We are.
LGNZ.**
Te Kāhui Kaunihera o Aotearoa.

15 March 2021

Rt Hon Jacinda Ardern
Prime Minister
Private Bag 18 888
Parliament Buildings
Wellington 6160

Kia ora Prime Minister

Thank you for your time and energy at the Central Government Local Government Forum on housing on Wednesday 3 March 2021. We found it to be a hugely positive conversation and our mayors came away energised by the genuine invitation from central government to work together openly and collaboratively. We are convinced that strong central and local government partnerships will help us break down some of the major barriers impeding on housing development and unlock more stock for both social and private use.

Our Vice President, Mayor Hamish McDouall of Whanganui, was delighted to receive a call from Minister Poto Williams' office the day after the forum addressing one of the issues raised in the discussion, namely the difficulty converting commercial buildings for residential use. He felt this was a positive indication of our mutual intent.

Since our discussion, we have developed an action plan from the matters discussed in the meeting intended to, amongst other things:

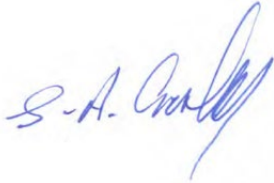
- Provide concrete answers to the three questions that were posed in the meeting;
- Highlight major barriers and potential solutions to housing development around the country;
- Identify quick and deliverable wins for both metro and rural/provincial councils including providing examples that could be leveraged for broader impact;
- Quantify the scale of additional social housing that could be developed with appropriate funding support; and
- Identify highly skilled and experienced people from central and local government to form a working group to support Minister Mahuta.

We are also keen to work with Ministers Mahuta, Woods and Williams on the issues raised in the meeting around the Rating Act and how it can be used to dis-incentivise land banking, the inappropriate use of covenants, and developing a more flexible framework for adaptive land use respectively.

In essence, we are eager to liaise with Taituarā, and as a sector support the Government to find workable solutions for our communities and look forward to a strong and open dialogue on how we might do that together – and with iwi.

Please feel free to contact me with questions/suggestions any time and I look forward to discussing this further at our next quarterly meeting.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "S. A. Crosby". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large, sweeping flourish at the end.

Stuart Crosby
President
Local Government New Zealand