

LOCAL GOVERNMENT FORUM

1 August 2011

Steven Bailey
Inquiry Director – Housing Affordability Inquiry
New Zealand Productivity Commission
PO Box 8036
WELLINGTON 6143
Email: inquiries@productivity.govt.nz

HOUSING AFFORDABILITY INQUIRY

Dear Mr. Bailey,

I am writing on behalf of the Local Government Forum regarding the New Zealand Productivity Commission's Inquiry into Housing Affordability.

On 24 August the Chair of the Commission, Murray Sherwin, will be attending the next meeting of the Local Government Forum to discuss the two inquiries the Commission is currently working on. Forum members are looking forward to discussing housing affordability at this meeting and some of the individual organisations may be making their own submissions on the Issues Paper. However, our meeting is occurring following the closing of submissions on the Issues Paper so I wanted to take the opportunity to provide you with some information on the Forum's views on housing affordability.

Forum members agree that housing affordability is an important issue and a good one for the Productivity Commission to consider at this time. The Forum has taken an interest in this issue in the past. In 2008 the Local Government Forum made a submission to the Local Government and Environment Select Committee on the Affordable Housing: Enabling Territorial Authorities Bill. A copy of this submission is attached for your information.

Also, in 2010 the Local Government Forum in conjunction with the Property Council New Zealand published a report *Taxing Growth and Development: A Critical Review of Development and Financial Contributions*. We are pleased that this report has been cited in the Issues Paper.

We are looking forward our meeting with Mr. Sherwin when we will be able to discuss the Issues Paper.

We are also looking forward to further engagement with the Commission on this issue, including possibly submitting on the draft report due in December.

Yours sincerely,

Michael Barnett
Chair

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LOCAL GOVERNMENT FORUM

ABOUT THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT FORUM

The Local Government Forum comprises organisations that have a vital interest in the activities of local government. Its members include Business New Zealand, the Electricity Networks Association, Federated Farmers of New Zealand, New Zealand Business Roundtable, New Zealand Chambers of Commerce, and New Zealand Retailers' Association. The Forum was established in 1994 to promote greater efficiency in local government and to contribute to debate on policy issues affecting it.

Forum members are each significant representatives of ratepayers in their own right but the Forum's perspective is to advance community welfare through the advocacy of sound public policy. We believe that local government can best serve the interests of the community and ratepayers by focusing on the efficient provision of public goods at a local level.