

2. HOUSING CORPORATION AMENDMENT BILL

This report summarised the Council's submission to the Parliamentary Social Services Committee on the Housing Corporation Amendment Bill. The report also commented on an oral submission to the Social Services Committee, made in Wellington by Councillor Anderton and the Council's Property Manager, Rob Dally.

This bill is a key part of the government's housing programme. Through the bill, a merged Housing New Zealand Corporation will be formed between Housing Corporation New Zealand and the housing policy function of the Ministry of Social Policy. The merged Housing New Zealand Corporation will continue as a Crown entity under the Public Finance Act 1989.

The Property Manager reported that the Council's submission recommended a strengthening of the Housing Corporation Amendment Bill. In relation to social, economic and environmental sustainability perspectives, the Council's submission also suggested the inclusion of a number of additional words and concepts which would give effect to the "triple bottom line" sustainability issues.

The aim of the Council's submission, if adopted, is to enhance the social, economic and environmental sustainability of Housing New Zealand Corporation in the best interests of the community of Christchurch. In doing this, the Council has contributed in its advocacy role to its vision statement in respect of affordable housing, which states:

"To contribute to the community's social well-being by ensuring safe, accessible and affordable housing is available to people on low incomes, including elderly persons and people with disabilities."

The Committee **received** the information.