

#### 4. HOUSING CORPORATION AMENDMENT BILL

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Corporate Plan Output: Housing	

The purpose of this report is to summarise the Council's submission to the Parliamentary Social Services Committee on the Housing Corporation Amendment Bill. The report also comments on the verbal submission to the Social Services Committee, made in Wellington by Councillor Anderton and the Council's Property Manager.

##### INTRODUCTION

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

##### BACKGROUND

The Council's submission on the Housing Corporation Amendment Bill is attached. The Council's Legislation Committee, with advice from the Property Manager, has now submitted its submission, acting with delegated authority from the Council.

##### COUNCIL'S SUBMISSION

The Council's submission recommends a strengthening of the Housing Corporation Amendment Bill from a social, economic and environmental sustainability perspective.

The Council's submission includes the addition of the following words and concepts to give effect to triple bottom line sustainability as follows:

##### Social Sustainability

- Crown's **social** housing operations
- **Affordable and accessible** rental housing
- Land for **social** housing
- **Working in partnership with local authorities in the delivery of social housing**
- **Working in partnership with other social housing providers, including the voluntary sector and churches in the delivery of social housing**
- **Monitor trends, and undertake research relating to affordable housing needs throughout New Zealand**
- **Ensuring that tenant support is facilitated in order to assist state tenants to live independently, and achieve a good quality of life**

##### Economic Sustainability

- **Efficiently** manages its assets
- Reporting must state **performance bonuses paid**
- **Makes every endeavour** to cover all its annual costs
- **Makes every endeavour** to act, as a successful going concern
- Members must also **monitor performance so as to ensure accountability**
- **The Minister may remove a member from office at any time, by written notice to the member. Any removal of a member from office by the Minister will be without compensation**

##### Environmental Sustainability

- **Operating in a sustainable manner**
- **In accordance with all relevant legislation**

## **VERBAL PRESENTATION TO THE SOCIAL SERVICES COMMITTEE**

Councillor Anderton Chairperson of the Housing Working Party and the Council's Community Services Committee, and the Property Manager verbally presented this submission to the Select Committee. The 30 minutes allowed was extended to 45 minutes, the Select Committee giving the Council representatives a good hearing.

## **CONCLUSION**

The Council's submission on the Housing Corporation Amendment Bill has been based on over 60 years of providing social housing in Christchurch. The Council submission, will, if adopted enhance the social, economic, and environmental sustainability of Housing New Zealand Corporation, in the best interests of the community of Christchurch. In doing so, the Council has contributed in an 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"*

## **Chairman's**

**Recommendation:** That the information be received.