



Media release

SmartGrowth calls for affordable housing registrations of interest

3 May 2017. For immediate release

The SmartGrowth Housing Affordability Forum is seeking responses from entities with the capability and capacity to deliver best practice examples of sustainable, affordable and good quality housing.

Spokesperson Bill Wasley said that the aim of the pilot project is to provide contemporary, affordable, healthy housing that is accessible to a wide range of buyers. The Forum is looking for registrations of interest from those who can demonstrate sustainable design and build outcomes and possibly ownership and financing methods that will create change in the local housing market.

Mr Wasley said that with high house prices nationally, it was critical to provide quality solutions for those who can't afford expensive homes and the pilot project is regarded as one way of showing what is possible.

Using the common definition of affordable housing (housing costs should equal or be less than one third of gross household income), Mr Wasley said that median incomes in the western Bay were a long way off from being able to service a mortgage for a house in the median range. "We are looking for innovative, creative thinking within that price bracket for designs with an x factor and architectural merit. We're interested in seeing innovative form and shape of the building bulk, materials, colour, texture and site layout. Innovation could also come in the services reticulation and or site fabrication of building components."

Suitably qualified respondents are invited to demonstrate their relevant experience, expertise and capability in designing and constructing affordable housing on a block of land up to 4,000 square metres in area. The land may be either in the Omokoroa Special Housing Area offered by the Western Bay of Plenty District Council or any other similar sized land that is appropriately located for affordable housing.

The SmartGrowth Housing Affordability Forum Pilot Project is an opportunity to demonstrate to the building industry and the community that it is possible to provide quality affordable housing in the sub-region for those on low to medium income household incomes and the wider community, including adjacent residents.

The Housing Affordability Forum is a SmartGrowth Partnership working group that was established in 2008 to advocate for the development of more affordable housing solutions for Tauranga City and Western Bay of Plenty District (the western Bay of Plenty sub-region). The focus of the forum is primarily on the significant impact housing affordability has on the sub-region's ability to house its workforce and attract new business and skilled people

For those interested in reading the Registration of Interest document refer to GETS the Government Electronic Tendering System www.gets.govt.nz RFX ID: 18613196 or the SmartGrowth website [here](#)

Ends

For more information contact the SmartGrowth communications coordinator Bruce Fraser on 021 687 533