



Media release
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Council allows homeowners to rent out family flats

Selwyn District Council has temporarily changed its District Plan provisions so that people can now rent out small family flats to people who are not family members.

The changes are being made under the Canterbury Earthquake (Resource Management Act Permitted Activities) Order 2011. This order allows the Council, by public notice, to permit certain activities which do not comply with the usual District Plan rules, if they assist earthquake recovery.

“Temporarily allowing the use of these flats by anyone will go some way to providing more housing options for people, particularly given the loss of many houses throughout greater Christchurch following the earthquakes,” says David Smith, Selwyn District Council’s Planning Team Leader.

“This change will make more housing available for people at a time when there is a high demand for rental properties. There are many people looking for lower cost flats and homeowners who may wish to rent out family flats temporarily will help meet this demand,” says Mr Smith.

Until now District Plan rules required that family flats could only be used by people related to the occupiers of the main house.

“The Council has proactively responded to the need for additional residential and business land supply following the earthquakes”, says Mr Smith. “We have rezoned land for over 6,000 new residential sections in Rolleston, Lincoln and Prebbleton and are ensuring additional business land and community facilities are planned to match this population growth.”

“This change to who may occupy a family flat is part of the Council’s commitment to ensuring greater Christchurch recovers from the earthquakes by providing additional housing options for people,” he adds.

A family flat is a small self-contained unit of around 70m² either attached to or separate from the main house on a site. There are potentially hundreds of family flats located throughout the district in both rural and residential areas.

The changes to District Plan rules are temporary, and will expire when the Canterbury Earthquake Recovery Act expires in 2016.

Homeowners wishing to rent out their family flat need to advise the Council’s planning department on 03 347 2868 so that the Council can keep records of how many people are renting out these flats.

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