



## Office of Hon Gerry Brownlee

MP for Ilam

Leader of the House

Minister of Transport

Minister for Canterbury Earthquake Recovery

Minister Responsible for the Earthquake Commission

29 MAY 2013

Brent Cairns  
info@foreveryoung.co.nz

Dear Mr Cairns

### OFFICIAL INFORMATION ACT COMPLAINT

I write regarding your Official Information Act complaint to the Ombudsman in relation to the decision to zone red parts of Kaiapoi North. The Office of the Ombudsman's reference number for this complaint is 319272.

I have considered further questions from the Office of the Ombudsman in relation to your complaint and now consider that two emails that were previously withheld can be released to you. These emails outline the extent to which valuers were engaged with regard to property prices in Kaiapoi before the decision to zone parts of the area red was made.

Please find attached the two emails referred to above. I have advised the Ombudsman that this information will be released to you.

I also wish to clarify my answer to three of the questions in your original request. These questions were:

"11.2 *Was a registered valuer questioned or commissioned to provide an estimate of future values" and*

"11.3 *With the current increase in property values in the Waimakariri area at 10.5%, was this not taken into account."*

The answer to both these questions is no. Further, I do not agree with your assertion that property prices had risen 10.5 percent at the time you refer to.

You also asked:

"11.4 *What information was obtained or commissioned to establish the impact of red zoning over 6000 homes to the property and land values in Canterbury?"*

Zoning was a short-term tool used to identify worst affected areas, and therefore where Crown offers should be made. The Government wished to avoid the uncertainty facing those on the worst damaged land and to help them move on with

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their lives. Information was not commissioned on what effect this would have on property values in Canterbury.

I trust this letter satisfies your further questions.

Yours sincerely

Hon Gerry Brownlee