

Timeline: Riccarton Racecourse housing development

Date	Context
February 2012	The Riccarton Racecourse Trustees approached the Christchurch office of the Department of Conservation regarding possible commercial uses of part of the racecourse land, such as a business park or housing, to provide income for the management and development of the racecourse.
March 2012- November 2012	Following the earthquakes in 2010 and 2011, there was some consideration of using the site to provide temporary accommodation for rebuild workers but nothing was progressed.
May 2013	A proposal, outlining the significant residential development of part of the racecourse, was sent to Minister Smith by Arrow Strategy on behalf of the Trustees.
September 2013	Trustees met with Minister Smith (as the then Minister of Conservation and Minister of Housing) with a proposal to better utilise the Riccarton Park racecourse reserve to increase the amount of revenue available to maintain and develop the reserve, and to promote racing on the site.
October 2013	Minister Smith wrote to Sir Mark Solomon, Kaiwhakahaere, Te Runanga o Ngāi Tahu, to advise that he has spoken to the Trustees, and advised them that any disposal would be subject to the Right of First Refusal in Part 9 of the Ngāi Tahu Claims Settlement Act 1998. The Minister also suggested to the Trustees that they seek Ngai Tahu's views on their proposal.
December 2013	The Land Use Recovery Plan was gazetted, including reference to Riccarton Racecourse as one of several potential housing exemplars at the request of the Trustees.
August 2014	Letter from Sir Mark Solomon to Minister Smith stating Ngāi Tahu is supportive of proposal, and that Ngāi Tahu Property has been working with the Trustees since November 2013.
August 2014	Letter from Chair of Trustees to Minister Smith seeking to update the Minister on progress since previous meeting in September 2013.
September 2014	Letter from Minister Smith to Chair of Trustees advising he has instructed officials to work with the Trustees on a possible legislative solution.
September 2014	Exemplar proposal submitted to Council by Trustees and Ngāi Tahu Property.
October 2014	Submission on Proposed Replacement District Plan seeking rezoning of the site on behalf of Trustees and Ngāi Tahu Property.
November 2014	Council Strategy and Finance Committee decision to grant "qualified approval in principle" to Riccarton exemplar proposal.
December 2014	Representatives from Trustees and Ngāi Tahu Property met with the Minister for Building and Housing and the Minister of Conservation to discuss the proposal.

January 2015	Draft proposal from Trustees and Ngāi Tahu Property submitted to Government seeking legislative assistance to develop site to include a mix of market and affordable housing.
February 2015	Cabinet agreed to progress legislation to enable residential development on the site, subject to certain housing outcomes being achieved (to be finalised in the Riccarton Development Scheme once the legislation is enacted).
March 2015	Council notified of proposal and assistance requested to promote a Local Bill to remove legislative barriers imposed by Christchurch Racecourse Reserves Act 1878, a Local Act.