School of Surveying Te Kura Kairūri Lunchtime Seminar Series

Mobilising land for affordable housing: Policy options for private development in Dunedin City

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The growing demand in New Zealand for suitable affordable housing options is a regular feature of media articles and state-of-the-nation reports. It is routinely claimed that the national housing market is in 'crisis'. While the accuracy of this statement largely depends on how that term is defined, we do know that housing affordability has been declining over recent years and that housing in New Zealand is now significantly more unaffordable than in many comparable nations.

Dunedin City is no exception to this changing landscape, with one recent international study stating the region as being severely unaffordable. Factors such as population growth, reducing household sizes, and a lack of sufficient housing construction are all contributing to an increased level of stress in the housing market. Household incomes have not been rising as quickly as house prices. Consequently, housing in Dunedin City is becoming less affordable for a growing number of people.

This seminar examines the local setting and existing policy landscape to better understand why housing is becoming more unaffordable, and whether there is an opportunity to better enable the mobilisation of land for affordable housing purposes as a component of private land development activities.