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Unitec deal marks major KiwiBuild milestone



Hon Phil Twyford

Housing and Urban Development

The Government has announced the first major development under its ambitious KiwiBuild programme with the purchase of 29 hectares of land for thousands of houses in Auckland. The land at Unitec's Mt Albert campus, just 9km from Auckland's CBD, will be transferred from Unitec to the Crown with the intention of building a community of between 3000-4000 homes.

Housing and Urban Development Minister Phil Twyford says it's an opportunity to build a whole new community around Unitec, and help address Auckland's housing crisis.

"Too many Aucklanders are suffering because of the housing crisis. This Government will not sit around while children are living in cars and families are cramped into overcrowded housing. We need bold action to solve this.

"There will be a mix of affordable KiwiBuild homes for first homebuyers, public housing and open market houses.

"This is a beautiful and historic piece of land with natural features such as the Oakley Stream running through it. It's close to education, employment and public transport. This new community will have open spaces, new parks and shops.

"We want to create a place for people to put down roots and to live, work, learn and play, for generations to come.

"We're looking forward to working with the Iwi of the Ngā Mana Whenua o Tāmaki Makaurau collective on this development, consistent with the agreements in their Treaty settlement," Phil Twyford says.

Unitec Chairman, Dr Lee Mathias, says the introduction of new homes would create a vibrant space around the campus. The sale of surplus land freed up capital currently used for maintenance work and provided funding for the institute's ongoing development.

"We have enjoyed this stunning campus for 30 years and it will be fantastic to open the space up to others who will make it their home, grow businesses, and create a community. All proceeds of this sale will support the delivery of our teaching and learning programmes," Lee Mathias says.

The announcement will be marked with an official welcome for the Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern and Housing and Urban Development Minister Phil Twyford at Unitec's Te Noho Kotahitanga Marae later this morning.

Further information is available at www.kiwibuild.govt.nz.