

## Property speculators targeted by Inland Revenue

On 27 November 2014, the Minister of Revenue, the Hon Todd McClay, stated that Inland Revenue's proactive strategy to track down those attempting to avoid paying tax was showing big dividends. The Minister noted that over the past four years, Inland Revenue had identified discrepancies of more than \$195m.

The Minister said that property speculation was a good example of the many ways people and companies attempted to avoid paying tax.

Inland Revenue had looked at property developers speculating in the residential market, particularly in Auckland and Queenstown. They had visited 2,500 industry and other interest groups to raise awareness of their tax-related responsibilities and they had monitored 26,000 property and property-related issues.

The Minister noted that the Government was taking tax avoidance very seriously. In 2013/14, \$165m had been spent for a return of \$1.24 billion resulting in a return of investment of \$8 for every dollar spent.