

Our region, our future

Auckland Regional Policy Statement Review

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BACKGROUND DOCUMENT

PART A

issues and approaches to be addressed in the review of the Auckland Regional Policy Statement

October 2008



Auckland
Regional Council
TE RAUHĪTANGA TAIAO

This is one of two companion background documents covering:

- The review of the Auckland Regional Policy Statement (Part A)
- The preparation of a new Auckland Regional Land Transport Strategy (Part B)

Many issues overlap, so these processes are being coordinated. Any feedback you give may be applied to both.

Each section of the background documents has been given a number (Part A starts at 1 and Part B at 17). Please refer to these numbers when giving feedback, as it will help us to collate and cross-reference information.

The feedback we receive now will shape the draft documents and inform discussions by the Regional Strategy and Planning Committee and the Regional Transport Committee.

Early next year you will have the opportunity to comment on the draft of the revised Auckland Regional Policy Statement and, in addition, the draft Regional Land Transport Strategy will be open for submissions.

Please take some time to review the enclosed information and submit your feedback to us:

→ by email to workroom@arc.govt.nz

→ by mail to:

Hamish Glenn
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You can also find more information at www.arc.govt.nz/workroom.

Telephone enquiries should be directed to Hamish Glenn on 09 366 2000 ext. 8660.

Your comments should be submitted no later than **14 November 2008**.

AUCKLAND REGIONAL POLICY STATEMENT REVIEW

Introduction

A review of the Auckland Regional Policy Statement (ARPS) is underway, with the Auckland Regional Council aiming to notify the next-generation ARPS in November 2009.

The existing ARPS, Auckland's first, has been in place since August 1999. New challenges have emerged since, such as climate change, while the significance of other issues has diminished.

Law changes over the past 10 years, and new national and regional policies, will also have a bearing on what the new Auckland Regional Policy Statement should look like.

Some existing policies are working well, and they don't need to change. Others need improvement.

This introductory document contains the main areas we think should be covered in the new ARPS. It also identifies projects that will impact on the review. The feedback we get from this first phase of consultation will help us to prepare the first drafts of the new ARPS, the new Regional Land Transport Strategy (RLTS), and other regional strategies and plans.

To ensure the two processes are aligned, we aim to release drafts of the new ARPS and RLTS in March 2009, and will seek your feedback on both documents. Final versions will be made public in November 2009. The ARPS will then be formally notified, followed by public submissions and hearings (with appeal rights to the Environment Court).



The Wider Context

What is a regional policy statement?

The Auckland Regional Policy Statement is the fundamental resource management and planning document for the Auckland region. It sets the direction for growth and development while protecting what Aucklanders value. It must achieve the purpose of the Resource Management Act (RMA) by providing an overview of the region's resource management issues, and by outlining policies and methods for the integrated management of natural and physical resources.

A regional policy statement must:

- Identify important resource management issues (issues)
- Outline what is to be achieved (objectives)
- Describe what is to be managed, where and how, to make progress towards the objectives (policies)
- State who is going to implement the policies, and by what mechanism (methods)

A statement must also include the reasons for adopting the objectives, policies and methods, and anticipated environmental results.

Under the RMA, the Auckland Regional Policy Statement sits above all district and regional plans in Auckland. It serves to integrate the many RMA policies and can ensure a consistent approach across city and district council boundaries.

What has changed?

The Auckland Regional Policy Statement must be reviewed every 10 years. There have been significant law changes and policy developments over the past decade.

Section 6 of the RMA now includes new matters of national importance relating to the protection of historic heritage from inappropriate subdivision, use and development, and the protection of recognised customary activities.

Amendments to section 7 (Other Matters) pick up on energy use, renewable energy and climate change. The ARC now has to integrate infrastructure with land use, maintain indigenous biodiversity and take iwi planning documents into account.

There are also new national policy statements directing how regional policy statements deal with certain issues. These are:

- Proposed New Zealand Coastal Policy Statement (May 2008)
- Proposed National Policy Statement for Freshwater Resources (July 2008)
- National Policy Statement on Electricity Transmission (March 2008)
- Proposed Policy Statement for Renewable Electricity Generation (August 2008)
- Hauraki Gulf Marine Park Act 2000
- Waitakere Ranges Heritage Area Act 2008.

Under the RMA, both the Hauraki Gulf Marine Park Act 2000 and the Waitakere Ranges Heritage Area Act 2008 have the status of a national policy statement. The Hauraki Gulf Marine Park Act (sections 7 & 8) recognises the national significance of the Hauraki Gulf and states management objectives. The Waitakere Ranges Heritage Area Act 2008 promotes the protection and enhancement of the heritage features of the ranges, its foothills and coast. The Auckland Regional Policy Statement must give effect to these Acts' purpose and objectives.

The Local Government Auckland Amendment Act 2004 (LGAAA) requires Auckland local authorities to integrate land transport and land use provisions, and to make them consistent with the Auckland Regional Growth Strategy. Proposed Change 6 to the Regional Policy Statement which was developed in response to the pressures of growth and its impacts on the finite resources of Auckland's natural and physical environment, seeks a compact city approach. This ensures urban development is contained within defined limits, with a significant part of future growth occurring within and around high-density town centres and corridors linked by an efficient transport system. It also ensures a more efficient use of infrastructure. Proposed Change 6 also introduced provisions for managing extensions to the urban limits, and managing the creation of new rural and coastal towns.

Drivers for change

Matters such as air and water quality, transport choice, urban growth, urban design and heritage have become more important to the community. While the existing Auckland Regional Policy Statement provides a framework for managing these issues, the new one may need to more explicitly set out the environmental, economic, social and cultural outcomes sought.

Principal directions

The ARC has developed principal directions:

- The Auckland Regional Policy Statement (ARPS) must identify all significant resource management issues for the region and address each in turn. Given that the whole approach of the RMA is issue-driven, issues need to be carefully and appropriately defined. A unifying theme is the protection and enhancement of quality of life.
- Law changes and policy developments over the past decade mean the new ARPS will be broader in scope. In particular, the requirement for district and regional plans to give effect to the new ARPS elevates its status, and suggests it should be written in a completely different way.
- The new ARPS will reflect the strategic objectives the ARC has identified for the region and will take into account the priorities and issues of territorial authorities, stakeholders and the public.
- We need to consider the balance between old and new. Some provisions may not (or should not) require a fundamental rethink and can be rolled forward into the new ARPS. Proposed Change 6 will be carried forward as a current response to these issues.
- The reactive nature of many of the policies in the Auckland region's current planning documents has in many instances resulted in suboptimal outcomes. More directive and proactive policies are required in the new ARPS to address this.

CHALLENGES FOR THE REGIONAL POLICY STATEMENT REVIEW

01

Our region,
our future //
Auckland Regional
Policy Statement
Review
(background document)

Integration

Issues

The RMA was amended in 2005 to require all city and district councils to give effect to the Auckland Regional Policy Statement (ARPS). Previously, their district plans had to be 'not inconsistent'. This confirms the top-down hierarchy of planning documents introduced in the RMA. If the ARPS requires something to be done by a council, then the council must do it in its district or regional plan.

A common thread in recent Environment Court decisions is a tendency to read down the Auckland Regional Policy Statement's relevance or applicability in resource consent hearings. The 'give effect' requirement may cement this in, as it suggests there is no need to look further than a district plan's objectives, policies and rules when considering a resource consent application. This means the ARC will need to ensure district plans give effect to the ARPS.

One of the principal purposes of the ARPS is to achieve integrated resource management across the whole region. We are looking at the structure of the new ARPS to ensure better integration within the document itself, and with other non RMA documents. The next-generation ARPS should provide a better strategic framework for integrating urban growth issues with resource management.

Current response

The existing Auckland Regional Policy Statement (ARPS) identifies issues by function. The functions set out in sections 30 and 62 of the RMA are the main organising themes for issues, objectives and policies. This approach tends to assume that if the RMA prescribes a function, there must be an issue/potential issue, and policies and methods developed accordingly. This initial approach was understandable, given the absence of any regional or district plans to carry out the functions.

The existing ARPS also promotes a linear relationship between issue, objective, policy and method. This suggests issues exist independently of one another, and that each issue has a unique objective and policy response. Such an approach was promoted in the 1990s to achieve rigour in policy development.

Potential approach

The elevation of the Auckland Regional Policy Statement's status (through the 'give effect' requirement) suggests the new ARPS should be comprehensively redrafted to be more prescriptive.

Some issues addressed in the existing ARPS have been superseded by developments in district plans and the formulation of several regional plans. The new ARPS may need to take a strategic overview, rather than focusing on managing adverse environmental effects.

Since 1999, when the existing ARPS was made operative, case law, the Ministry for the Environment and other commentators have also provided guidance on what the next ARPS should deliver. Planning and resource management practice has also changed considerably over the past ten years. New initiatives, including a desire for better urban design outcomes are now central to our thinking. The ARC needs to decide if these changes and guidance can be dealt with incrementally by reviewing the provisions in the existing ARPS or whether they trigger a need for a completely new approach.

Another challenge is setting priorities. The existing ARPS has been criticised for being vague and providing insufficient guidance on regional priorities, particularly when competing demands conflict. These conflicts have usually been decided case-by-case through the consent and appeal process. Is there a need to identify a set of regional priorities and, if so, how would we go about determining these?



Matters of Significance to Iwi

Issues

Under the RMA the regional policy statement is required as matter of national importance to recognise and provide for the relationship of Māori and their culture and traditions with their ancestral lands, water, sites, waahi tapu and other taonga. It should have particular regard to kaitiakitanga, take into account the principles of the Treaty of Waitangi, recognise the historic, traditional, cultural, and spiritual relationship of the tangata whenua with the Hauraki Gulf and its islands and state matters of resource management significance to iwi authorities.

The ARPS review timeframe coincides with the timing of a number of historical Treaty of Waitangi grievance claims and settlement processes.

The settlement process usually involves an agreed historical account, a Crown apology, cultural redress, and commercial and financial redress.

Whilst the settlement negotiation process primarily involves the Crown and iwi, councils may be required to take into account or give effect to elements of a settlement. Settlements may have implications for a range of functions of local government including, Council decision-making, Parks and Reserves Management, Policy and Planning, Regulatory Services and potential joint management approaches.

The ARPS may have a role by ensuring the spatial outcomes of this process are identified and appropriately resolved.

Over a number of years tangata whenua have identified a number of key issues. These have been recognised through the Regional Community Outcomes process undertaken in 2004. In particular:

The significant place of tangata whenua is acknowledged and their role as kaitiaki is recognised by:

- Māori participation in the RMA process,
- Give effect to the Treaty of Waitangi in relation to article two,
- The Mauri of water is preserved and stormwater and wastewater are managed better,
- Greater recognition of tangata whenua and improved awareness of Māori culture.

Māori are succeeding socially and economically, and contribute to decision-making.

- Strong economic base for the future of Tamariki
- Open, inclusive and appropriate consultation with Māori
- Give effect to the Treaty of Waitangi in relation to article three
- Recognition of Māori culture and sustainable management.

Current response

Chapter 3 of the ARPS states the broad issues which are of resource management significance to tangata whenua, and all the objectives and policies which stem from these issues. The three principal issues of significance to tangata whenua are:

- Relationships with ancestral taonga are being adversely affected by inappropriate processes and activities.
- There is a need for direct and effective involvement of tangata whenua in the sustainable management of ancestral taonga.
- The Treaty of Waitangi needs to be recognised in the sustainable management of ancestral taonga.

Potential approach

The focus of the existing Auckland Regional Policy Statement is on processes to address the matters identified above and this approach is likely to be carried forward into the regional policy statement review.

These broad resource management issues are still relevant to a regional policy statement review. Their significance is increased by RMA changes to provide for Māori customary rights, by the settlement of Treaty claims which have strengthened

Tangata whenua have made a significant contribution to the development of the Auckland Sustainability Framework and as part of that process a Mana Whenua Framework has been developed, Te Kohao o te Ngira.

The Mana Whenua Framework will be used as a regional integration point for the various tangata whenua groups of the region as well as between mana whenua and the public sector. In reviewing and developing major strategies it is envisioned that decision-making is undertaken in a manner that:

- Recognises mana whenua as the indigenous peoples of the region,
- Accords value to te ao Māori,
- Gives due effect to Te Tiriti o Waitangi/Treaty of Waitangi,
- Contributes to Māori needs and aspirations.

Through its implementation the Auckland Sustainability Framework is tasked to give due consideration of the following:

- Mana whenua relationships with ancestral taonga, their cultural practices and traditions and future development,
- Effects of sustainability challenges on mana whenua and their relationships to land and people,
- Effects of strategy and policy on mana whenua relationships,
- Māori economic, social, cultural, spiritual and environmental connections to the region's natural and physical resources and by Māori expectations to be partners in the management of these resources.

One major shift in both a statutory sense (with the RMA amendments), and as a general consultative requirement, is our relationship with iwi and their engagement into the process. We will need to consult with iwi to gain their input into the development of the proposed Auckland Regional Policy Statement.

Urban Environment

Issues

The region is experiencing rapid population increase and may have 2 million people as early as the year 2035. Accommodating more people while minimising the impact on existing communities and retaining Auckland's natural setting is a critical issue.

We face a significant demand for dwellings, jobs, infrastructure and services. Auckland's population is also becoming more diverse, and demographics are changing in significant ways. By 2025 there will be more people over the age of 65 than people aged 16 and under. This will affect health and care services, labour supply and housing requirements.

Growth stimulates economic development and employment demand. By 2031, the number of jobs in the region is expected to increase by about 55 per cent (or 337,000 jobs).

In meeting the challenges of growth in the region, new development should meet high standards of urban design and provide functional and pleasant environments. Urban intensification will be a key method in which future populations are accommodated in the region and it will be critical that this provides for good urban form and design outcomes that contribute to high levels of accessibility, amenity and liveability. In particular, access to transport, social infrastructure and open space.

Planning for the region's growth also needs to provide for mixed communities that prevent the concentration of deprivation in geographic areas, and that provide greater housing choice, including affordable housing.

Under Proposed Change 6 to the ARPS, there is now an explicit commitment to integrate land use and transport considerations.

The strategic integration of land use and transport is vital for the growth of the Auckland region. The promotion of a compact urban form can provide the population densities necessary to stimulate the provision of rapid transit services and interchanges close to where people live. At the same time, the transport system can stimulate new development (i.e. new/improved transport connections to previously undeveloped areas, or better public transport infrastructure in existing urban areas).

In practice, it is often difficult to get clear integration between land use and transport planning. Residential locations in parts of Auckland are still not well integrated with public transport service provision, and public transport is yet to encourage demand for intensive living. This is a key issue for the joint reviews of the Auckland Regional Policy Statement and the Regional Land Transport Strategy to address, and for funding prioritisation.

Current response

The existing Auckland Regional Policy Statement (ARPS) seeks to manage growth by limiting outward urban expansion and promoting a compact urban form. Proposed Change 6 reinforces this approach and the continued use of the metropolitan urban limits. This fundamental direction is embodied in the Auckland Regional Growth Strategy and has been given greater statutory weight by the Local Government Auckland Amendment Act 2004 (LGAAA) requiring the ARPS and district plans to give effect to the Regional Growth Strategy.

Under Proposed Change 6 all the region's councils seek to contain the majority of future growth within the existing metropolitan urban limits, with limited expansion into greenfield land (effectively a 70:30 split between the current urban area and any future urban areas). Proposed Change 6 provides clear policy on the nature, extent and location of extensions to the metropolitan urban limits.

Within the metropolitan urban limits, all councils have agreed to greater intensification of existing (and potential) centres, corridors and business areas. Proposed Change 6 also introduces Schedule 1 to the Auckland Regional Policy Statement. Schedule 1 lists preferred growth areas (high-density centres and corridors and future urban areas) and provides guidance on the population such areas can accommodate (and employment numbers where relevant).

Potential approach

Proposed Change 6 requires district plans to have a programme for the sequence and timing of development sufficient to accommodate growth, based on a minimum 20-year timeframe. The region needs to decide whether it will maintain a certain level of land capacity for future growth (i.e. a 20-year supply), and for what length of time. A 20-year land supply covers the existing planning cycle, but a 30 to 50 year horizon may better suit planning for major infrastructure (e.g. water supply). Beyond 50 years, caution is needed - would we be satisfied today with an Auckland entirely planned in the 1950s?

We also need to consider the preferred urban form for accommodating future growth and the resource management tools to achieve this. This also provides an opportunity for the new ARPS to enhance the region's approach to urban design and to introduce policy regarding the sustainable design of new development.

Proposed Change 6 is the review's starting point in respect to urban and transport matters. It has resulted in a substantial updating and rewriting of the relevant chapters, and the consequential alignment of district plans. Our initial view is that the new ARPS should maintain the approach set out in Proposed Change 6, but update it to deal with land supply matters, particularly housing affordability and business land supply.

Integrating land use and transport is discussed further in Part B of this document (which is about the preparation of a new Regional Land Transport Strategy).



Infrastructure

Issues

The RMA identifies the need to manage infrastructure. Section 5 requires physical resources to be managed in a way or at a rate enabling people and communities to provide for their social and economic well-being, and for their health and safety.

Section 7 requires the ARC to have particular regard to the efficient use and development of natural and physical resources, the maintenance and enhancement of amenity values, and the quality of the environment.

Under section 30 (1) (gb), the ARC must ensure the strategic integration of infrastructure with land use through objectives, policies, and methods. Proposed Change 6 also requires the Auckland Regional Policy Statement to integrate transport infrastructure with land use patterns.

Infrastructure, particularly regionally significant infrastructure (such as the Auckland International Airport, Port of Auckland, Mangere Wastewater Treatment Plant, energy and telecommunications networks, and State Highways), is essential for social and economic well-being. The long-term viability of regionally significant infrastructure can be adversely affected by conflicts if sensitive uses are allowed to develop near them, or if they are inappropriately located (for example, in hazard-prone areas). Equally, regionally significant infrastructure can have adverse effects if not appropriately planned for and managed.

Whilst the provision of infrastructure is essential to people's wellbeing in the Auckland region, it shouldn't compromise the significant environmental values of the region, particularly values relating to landscape and ecosystems. If not managed appropriately, infrastructure can impact negatively on people's health and safety. Infrastructure needs to be designed and located in a way that recognises Auckland's character, identity and sense of place.

Current response

Chapter 2 of the existing Auckland Regional Policy Statement (ARPS) contains policies requiring the whole range of effects (including potential cumulative effects on development patterns in the region) to be considered when changes are proposed to, and future sites designated for regionally significant infrastructure.

The ARPS acknowledges the need to manage potential conflict with sensitive activities, but this is expressed as an issue statement (and not explicitly carried through into any objective or policies).

Proposed Change 6 introduces a number of additional policies requiring regionally significant infrastructure to support and reinforce the Auckland Regional Growth Strategy (and its proposed outcomes). Significant reverse sensitivity effects must be avoided and land use developments must demonstrate that infrastructure, including social infrastructure (schools, libraries, public open space), can be provided.

Potential approach

Under Proposed Change 6, the ARC recently amended the provisions relating to infrastructure. The majority could be rolled over to the next-generation ARPS.

Rural Environment

Issues

Rural Auckland contains some of the best food producing and pastoral farming land in the country, and farms cover about 90 per cent of the region's land area. The significant landscapes, amenity and character of 'outer Auckland' also help make the region one of the most desirable parts of New Zealand in which to live.

Significant shifts in Auckland's rural economy are currently taking place for example changes in the types of farming activities with a decline in dairying and increase in intensive horticultural activities. The growth of associated activities has also been noticeable for example tourism/cafes associated with wineries. At the same time, the close proximity to urban Auckland has resulted in a growing lifestyle population. As a result of these trends, a range of activities take place in rural areas, including:

- horticulture, farming, forestry and mineral extraction,
- services for rural people and their activities (e.g. schools and transport companies),
- rural residential and lifestyle occupation (countryside living),
- resource-based recreation,
- resource conservation (e.g. enhancement of bush remnants).

Activities in the rural areas are often competing for the same resources and may compromise the finite natural resources and biodiversity necessary for long-term adaptability and resilience.

There is a need to better understand the relationships and interdependency between rural and urban Auckland, especially the different growth pressures, constraints and implications affecting different rural and coastal areas. Relationships with neighbouring regions are similarly important.

Current response

The ARC has a role under the RMA to protect the potential of the land to provide for future generations. The ARPS currently protects the versatile land, significant landscapes, amenity and character of the rural parts of the region. Proposed Change 6 also directs urban expansion and new countryside living away from areas of elite land (highest and most valuable form of versatile land for food production).



The current approach under the existing ARPS and Proposed Change 6 is to promote those activities that rely on rural resources for their location and minimise any resulting adverse effects. Activities that also seek a rural location but are not necessarily dependent on the rural resource are directed in the first instance to existing urban areas, or if those areas are not suitable, to areas where adverse effects are mitigated or minimised.

The policy approach in the existing ARPS and Proposed Change 6 is supportive of existing rural settlements developing appropriately. However the amount of development, particularly residential, occurring in rural areas outside of existing settlements has the potential to undermine rural qualities and as such is controlled through the ARPS.

Potential approach

The current issues and approaches identified in the ARPS are still relevant and the issues and policy direction embodied in Proposed Change 6 will continue to be the focus during the ARPS review.

The versatile land, significant landscapes, amenity and character of the rural parts of the region still warrant protection from activities that could undermine their use by future generations.

The issue of urban development outside of existing rural towns is still seen as a significant issue. A more proactive approach to the appropriate location and scale of future urban development in both countryside living and rural towns, is important.

06

Our region,
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(background document)

Coastal Environment

Issues

Auckland's coasts give the region its unique identity. They contribute to our sense of place, character and heritage, recreation and economic opportunities. The coastal environments range from sheltered harbours and estuaries to exposed, high-energy shores.

Coastal land has been the focus for resource management, but the coastal marine area is coming under pressure by often competing uses. Much of Auckland's coastline has been the focus of ribbon-type urban development and this threatens a range of significant environmental, social and cultural values. There is an ongoing requirement to manage all of these pressures and demands while still protecting the natural values and physical resources that make the coastal environment desirable in the first place. Pressures on the amount and quality of open space and public access to the coast are always present, and will increase as Auckland's population grows.

Commercial uses of the coastal environment, such as aquaculture, and the construction of significant infrastructure (e.g. port facilities, roads, powerlines and pipes) also place pressure on specific areas, and may conflict with existing or future recreational, open space and public access expectations.

Current response

The New Zealand Coastal Policy Statement (NZCPS) provides national direction on what a regional policy statement must address. The Hauraki Gulf Marine Park Act 2000 and the Waitakere Ranges Heritage Area Act 2008 direct what a regional policy statement must address in relation to these two areas.

Chapter 7 of the existing Auckland Regional Policy Statement states the issues of significance to the coastal environment. The principal issues are:

- Auckland's coastal environment ranges from areas predominantly in their natural state to those extensively modified. This needs to be taken into account when preserving natural character and protecting it from subdivision, use and development.

- Subdivision, use and development need to be in appropriate locations, and not inhibit public access. However some forms are dependent on a location in the coastal environment and provision needs to be made for them. Recreation is a particularly important use.
- In many parts of the region there is a lack of understanding about coastal processes. It is not always possible to determine likely environmental effects with much certainty.
- Dredging is a necessary activity and the disposal of tailings needs to be accommodated.
- The coastal environment is of special value to tangata whenua.
- Fragmented management of the land and water components could lead to undesirable environmental effects.

Other chapters of the existing Auckland Regional Policy Statement (such as the strategic direction and overview, heritage, water quality and natural hazards) have provisions relevant to the coastal environment.

Potential approach

The implementation of the NZCPS, the Hauraki Gulf Marine Park Act 2000 and the Waitakere Ranges Heritage Area Act 2008 will occur through a number of different sections of the Auckland Regional Policy Statement (ARPS). To give effect to these statutes, the overall response in the new ARPS will need to be integrated and comprehensive in its approach.

Public access to the coast remains a fundamental issue for the new ARPS to address.

Preservation of the natural character of the coastal environment and its protection from inappropriate subdivision, use and development is an ongoing challenge. The proposed NZCPS 2008 provides criteria for identifying important areas of indigenous biodiversity, outstanding natural features and landscapes, and other natural areas and features for their contribution to natural character. We need to apply the criteria in the new ARPS.

Under the proposed NZCPS, the ARPS must identify where subdivision and development is appropriate or inappropriate in the coastal environment. The proposed NZCPS is going through the public submission process and when finalised, we will need to give effect to it. The issues and policy direction embodied in Proposed Change 6 will also continue to be the focus of our approach to managing growth in the coastal environment.



Heritage and Landscape

Issues

Heritage is an encompassing term. The existing Auckland Regional Policy Statement (ARPS) states “Auckland’s heritage involves those aspects of both the natural and cultural environment which have been inherited from the past, define the present and will be handed on to the future generations.” Indigenous ecosystems and habitats as natural heritage, areas and features of geological heritage, places and sites of cultural heritage, natural features and landscapes, and places of significance to tangata whenua are all recognised as part of the region’s heritage.

Auckland is defined by its landscape values. The volcanic cones, the Hauraki Gulf, the Waitakere Ranges, the varied terrain and topography and the many indents and harbours along both coastlines form a unique sense of place that Aucklanders value. The RMA requires as a matter of national importance that the ARC identify areas of outstanding natural landscape.

Following an amendment to the RMA, historic heritage has been elevated in status to a matter of national importance. Until now, historic heritage protection has largely evolved from the bottom up, with territorial authorities and the New Zealand Historic Places Trust determining what buildings, sites, places or areas are important. A challenge for the ARPS is to consider how to best identify and manage regionally significant historic heritage, and the relative roles of regional and district planning documents.

The ARPS will also need to consider how to identify and manage the much greater range of areas, features and places now covered in the new definition of historic heritage.

Current response

Chapter 6 of the existing ARPS states that the heritage of the Auckland region has been depleted and continues to be under threat. It addresses a range of resources and values generically identified as heritage. These include natural heritage (e.g. ecosystems), geological heritage, landscape, volcanic cone sightlines and cultural heritage. The latter essentially corresponds to historic heritage.

The existing ARPS identifies areas of outstanding or regionally significant landscape quality. Change 8 in 2005 introduced new landscape objectives and policies, and new areas of Outstanding Natural Landscapes (ONLs). A number of concerns regarding the boundaries of the Outstanding Natural Landscapes, their relationship to other landscape areas and the unintended consequences of the new policies were raised in the hearing of submissions to Change 8. The ARC is re-looking at these as part of this review.

Potential approach

Urban growth management strategies, the form and intensity of new development in urban areas and in rural and coastal settlements, and our management strategies for rural areas and coastal environments all need to ensure that heritage resources are identified and protected from inappropriate development, such as demolition or removal. The potential for heritage resources to contribute to the character, amenity and quality of urban and rural environments needs to be evaluated when addressing growth-related issues.

There is also an opportunity to positively frame an issue statement around historic heritage’s contribution to the region. The protection and restoration of historic heritage helps to make Auckland unique and ‘world-class’, with a strong sense of place.

The Auckland Regional Policy Statement could also focus on geographic or location-specific issues. Coastal development is threatening historic heritage. There are also significant concentrations of historic heritage items in some centres earmarked for intensification. These are more vulnerable to loss and damage, e.g. in the CBD, Newmarket, Onehunga, Henderson and New Lynn.

There is a lack of recognition of post-1940 buildings and only 30 per cent of the region has been surveyed for archaeological sites. Not all of these should necessarily be identified as significant resource management issues, and some may be better dealt with in other ways.

The Auckland Regional Policy Statement could specify a policy framework for addressing historic heritage as an issue, or it could introduce a schedule of regionally significant sites and heritage items.

The existing work on outstanding natural landscapes will be re-examined and the accompanying policy framework reassessed. Further work is required to identify regionally significant landscapes. The volcanic sightlines have just been reviewed in Proposed Change 8. While they are subject to appeal, they represent the latest thinking on volcanic sightlines and it is not proposed to revisit the policy framework associated with them in this review.

Through our work on Proposed Change 8, it became clear that there are some significant gaps in our current approach to the protection of other landscapes (i.e. not ONLs). In particular, the existing ARPS and Change 8 do not adequately address amenity landscapes, rural character, historic landscapes and outstanding natural features (additional to the volcanic cone sightlines) and coastal natural character. We are assessing these matters in the review.



Ecosystems and Biodiversity

Issues

Our natural ecosystems and indigenous biological diversity are fundamental to a high-quality, unique environment. They contribute to Auckland's character and identity, distinguishing it from other regions. Healthy and functioning ecosystems contribute to improved water quality, soil conservation and carbon sinks, as well as being key components of our landscape and providing opportunities for our recreation, economic and cultural use.

A considerable amount of Auckland's land-based biodiversity is represented in natural areas not of high-quality in themselves, but which cumulatively contribute to the overall ecological character and health of the region. This is particularly the case in urban areas, where indigenous biodiversity may be in sparse and degraded fragments. A key challenge is to maintain and restore these linkages as the urban area develops. Redevelopment can be planned to ensure that this a positive effect of growth and change. Outside urban areas, ecosystems such as scrublands, wetlands, freshwater lakes and streams, and coastal dunes and habitats are under threat. Coastal development has resulted in the loss or reduction of rare plants and animals in dune habitats.

Many ecosystems require active management, including weed and pest control if they are to continue to exist. Degraded ecosystems can be restored.

We know less about our coastal and marine ecosystems and biodiversity than we do about land-based ecosystems. Declining shellfish numbers indicate a decline in benthic and marine fauna, attributed mainly to the discharge of pollutants from land. This particularly affects sub-tidal habitats close to urban areas where there is a low-energy wave environment. It suggests that the priority for managing coastal and marine ecosystems and biological diversity is dealing with pollution.

Following an amendment to the RMA, biodiversity is now a specific matter which must be addressed by the ARPS.

Current response

Chapter 6 of the existing Auckland Regional Policy Statement addresses the preservation and protection of heritage resources, including natural heritage. The main focus is the identification and assessment of terrestrial ecosystems, particularly indigenous forest and scrub, and to address growth and development pressures on these resources.

Potential approach

The review must look at a wider range of ecosystems (such as freshwater lakes and streams, wetlands and coastal and marine ecosystems). It must address the management of indigenous biological diversity and directives contained in the new National Policy Statement for Freshwater and the proposed NZCPS 2008. These documents provide a framework for managing natural ecosystems and indigenous biodiversity. The challenge is to apply this to Auckland. The aim is to maintain natural ecosystems and indigenous biodiversity, and keep them healthy, as Auckland develops.

Genetically modified organisms could affect indigenous biodiversity. The review allows the region to consider responses to new scientific, technical and ethical issues surrounding GMOs.



Land and Freshwater Management

Issues

Plentiful, clean water is essential. We take it for granted that we can turn on a tap at home and not worry about whether the water is safe to drink or whether our supply will be cut off. We rely on fresh water for stock, irrigation, industry and commerce. Freshwater resources are valuable in our landscapes and for recreation.

Auckland's freshwater resources include streams, lakes, wetlands and groundwater systems. The region's streams are small by national standards. They total 10,000 km in length, yet most are less than 2 metres wide (almost small enough to jump across). They support native fish and water birds, and Māori have strong cultural and historic links to many streams, lakes and wetlands.

The ARC monitors water quality, water flow, groundwater levels, climate, and the abundance and diversity of flora and fauna. Some areas are pristine, such as the forested ranges of Waitakere. Others are not in good condition, particularly in areas heavily urbanised or intensively farmed. Sediment is smothering instream habitats and depositing in estuaries. Better management of urban stormwater and introducing low-impact design is a major challenge.

Current Response

Chapter 8 of the existing Auckland Regional Policy Statement (ARPS) presents an aspirational vision for freshwater quality. It says rivers and lakes should be suitable for swimming in; that rivers, streams and lakes are available for fishing, cultural, commercial and other purposes; and that natural ecosystems should be valued for their own sake and function without adverse effect.

The overall objectives seek to generally maintain good water quality, to enhance it where degraded, and to maintain water levels and flows. The ARPS provides for the specific management of water bodies susceptible to degradation, already degraded or possessing significant values. These water bodies are given priority, and new urban development is to be kept away from those susceptible to degradation. The ARPS intends that sustainable limits will be set in regional plans. Sustainable limits for groundwater (allowable annual yields) have been set in the proposed Regional Plan: Air, Land and Water, but minimum flows for streams and water quality standards have not been established. The proposed Regional Plan: Air, Land and Water instead relies on a best practicable option approach, particularly for stormwater discharges.

The Environment Ministry's proposed National Policy Statement (NPS) for Freshwater Management establishes a specific direction for managing all freshwater resources, and prescribes the respective roles of regional policy statements, regional plans and district plans. It sets a similar course to that envisaged in the existing ARPS (implemented to a limited extent so far).

Proposed approach

The ARPS review presents the opportunity to progress. However, we need to retain the present high-level aspirations and vision and include supporting provisions to achieve progress towards:

- Identifying outstanding freshwater resources and require they be protected,
- Identifying and improve degraded freshwater resources of notable value,
- Identifying tangata whenua values and interests in freshwater resources, and get tangata whenua involved in decisions about them,
- Identifying erosion-prone land and set management guidelines,
- Directing the ARC on how and when it will establish freshwater quality standards, and minimum flows and levels for freshwater resources,
- Set up processes ensuring land, freshwater and coasts are managed in an integrated manner, including catchment planning,
- Guiding district plans' management of impacts on stormwater, water demand and freshwater resources.

The proposed national policy statement for freshwater management represents a significant change of direction for the ARC's management of discharges to land and water. The ARC does not have a receiving water classification approach in the proposed Regional Plan: Air, Land and Water (ALW Plan). For example, in relation to stormwater discharges, the ARC has a mandatory best practical option approach, allied with a treatment device performance standard. Since identifying notable values is synonymous with the identifying water quality classes, this approach potentially signals a new policy direction.



Energy

Issues

Fossil fuels are New Zealand's largest single source of consumer energy, accounting for just over half of consumption. Most are used in transport. We produce some oil, but only about 20 per cent of what we use. Electricity is the second largest energy source. About 65 per cent is generated by hydro power, with gas, coal, geothermal, and wind accounting for most of the rest. Hydro storage is limited and the recent drought highlighted the fragilities of hydro power.

The potential phenomenon of peak oil is one threat to world oil supplies (others include sudden unexpected events, geopolitical tensions and escalating demand from world growth). Peak oil is essentially when the production rate of conventional oil reaches a maximum "peak" and then a decline in annual production sets in. There is considerable debate about when this will occur (sometime between now and 2040).

Energy supply is critical to the region's growth and development. The security of supply may be negatively affected by events such as a rise in the price of fuels (like coal or gas), natural disasters (such as floods), human error, national grid failure, geopolitical or industrial disruptions (e.g. oil shocks, industrial disputes), and the depletion or shortage of resources (e.g. peak oil).

The RMA defines energy as a natural and physical resource. The Auckland Regional Policy Statement has a role in promoting its sustainable management. RMA amendments have provided a greater emphasis on energy and climate change issues. When reviewing the Auckland Regional Policy Statement, the ARC must have particular regard to the efficiency of the end use of energy, the effects of climate change and benefits derived from the use and development of renewable energy. It is also required to integrate infrastructure with land use through objectives, policies and methods. This is an explicit requirement to integrate considerations of energy generation and distribution with land use.

A new National Policy Statement (NPS) on Electricity Transmission requires decision makers to recognise the national significance of the electricity transmission network by facilitating the operation, maintenance and upgrade of the existing transmission network and the establishment of new transmission resources to meet present and future needs, while managing adverse environmental effects.

The draft NPS on Renewable Energy Generation is the government's key policy tool to achieve its target for 90 percent renewable power by 2025. It requires decision makers to recognise the national significance of renewable electricity generation by promoting the development, upgrading, maintenance and operation of new and existing renewable electricity generation activities.

A key challenge for the Auckland Regional Policy Statement review will be to ensure that the potential benefits from the development and use of renewable energy in the region do not conflict with other regional objectives. In particular the development of renewable energy should avoid or mitigate any potential impacts on environmental quality, for example, large scale renewable generation activities may have potential impacts on natural environments and landscapes, and the use of onsite renewable technologies that may have visual or air quality impacts.

Current response

Chapter 5 of the Auckland Regional Policy Statement contains the following issues related to energy:

- The need for more efficient energy use,
- Because of the high dependence on non-renewable fuels, present use is not sustainable,
- The existing form of urban development in Auckland, including its transport system, is not sustainable,
- The production, distribution and use of energy are essential for Auckland's development, well-being and prosperity but may have adverse effects on the natural and physical environment.

Potential approach

The ARC has initiated the development of the Auckland Regional Energy Strategy, and its policy recommendations will be reflected in the new Auckland Regional Policy Statement (ARPS).

The ARPS review is an opportunity to further promote greater energy efficiency, and the use and development of renewable energy. It will also need to consider the impacts of increasing energy costs, particularly on vulnerable people.

Climate Change

Issues

Climate change is a fundamental challenge facing the world. Since 1999, there has been mounting evidence of its seriousness and increasing detail about potential impacts. Greenhouse gas emissions need to be reduced or temperatures will continue to rise. They could reach a tipping point where the earth's natural buffering systems are overcome, bringing catastrophic climate change. Even if all greenhouse gas emissions stopped now, it is predicted the world would still need to adapt to at least 100 years of irreversible climate change.

Expected impacts include drier springs and wetter summers, with more frequent storms and heavy rain (increasing the potential for flash flooding). Sea levels may gradually rise, increasing exposure to storm surges and flooding in low-lying coastal land. Droughts are expected to become more common, with the average interval between them reducing from once every 20 years to once in every five by the 2080s.

The government has ratified the Kyoto Protocol and New Zealand must reduce its greenhouse gas emissions to 1990 levels by 2012. A challenge for ARPS review is to support this commitment.

Current response

The existing ARPS does not have a chapter on climate change but greenhouse gas emissions are mentioned in Chapters 10 (Air Quality) and 11 (Natural Hazards).

Potential approach

The ARC has initiated the development of the Auckland Regional Response to Climate Change. Its recommendations will be reflected in the new Auckland Regional Policy Statement (ARPS) and the ARC could take a greater leadership role.

Natural Hazards

Issues

Auckland's growth will increase the pressure to develop areas with higher risks of natural hazards. There may be conflict around where people want to live and where they can live safely (for example along the north-eastern coastline, on fertile floodplains and on exposed ridges). We need to plan for extreme rainfall, flooding, rising sea levels and droughts. New development and infrastructure will need to be located and designed to reduce carbon dioxide emissions, and to withstand climate change.

The costs of not planning for climate change are significant – in 2007 weather-related loss totalled over \$96 million. Disaster-related insurance payouts are likely to exceed those of 2004, the year of the Manawatu floods. This would make 2007 the most expensive year for natural disasters since 1968, the year of the Wahine storm.

Current response

Chapter 11 of the existing Auckland Regional Policy Statement (ARPS) sets out a range of issues related to natural hazards. Proposed Change 10 clarifies roles and responsibilities, covering a more comprehensive range of natural hazards and management responses. This reflects law changes over the past decade, namely the Civic Defence Emergency Management Act 2002, the Building Act 2004 and an RMA amendment concerning energy and climate change.

The proposed New Zealand Coastal Policy Statement (NZCPS) contains objectives and policies recognising the expected effects of climate change, particularly in relation to coastal hazards.

Potential approach

Aside from an appeal relating to the 1-in-100 year flood level, proposed Change 10 has gone through the public notification process. Existing provisions in Chapter 11 and Proposed Change 10 are being reviewed, and we are looking at updating them to take account of any recommendations in the Auckland Regional Response to Climate Change Strategy.

Auckland's coasts are likely to bear the brunt of natural hazards generated by climate change, and this needs to be assessed as part of a wider regional programme of hazards management.

We will need to adapt to the effects resulting from climate change. Adequate measures will need to be put in place to manage potentially harmful events, and new development and infrastructure will need to be located and designed to withstand climate change.



Air Quality

Issues

Each of us inhales about 14,000 litres of air every day. People living in rural areas generally enjoy good air quality, but in urban Auckland an ageing vehicle fleet, domestic fires and congested roads are causing health problems. Spray drift from agrichemicals can have localised health effects. Dust and odours can reduce amenity and be a nuisance.

When the Auckland Regional Policy Statement (ARPS) was first written, there was little data on air quality. The ARC is now well-equipped with air quality and meteorological data, an emissions inventory, and a suite of emission prediction models, which together will be important tools for evaluating the best way forward.

The national framework changed substantially between development of the ARPS and the Air, Land, Water Plan. Ambient air quality guidelines and National Environmental Standards (NES) for air quality have come into force. Air quality in the urban area breaches the fine particle (PM10) standard. If we do not reduce levels sufficiently by 2013, the ARC will not be allowed to grant any industrial consents for the discharge of fine particles even though industry is a minor contributor. The main sources are domestic fires and motor vehicles. Emissions must be halved to meet the national PM10 standard.

Current response

Chapter 10 of the existing ARPS sets only general directions about what the ARC wished to achieve in terms of the state of air quality and associated effects. It identifies four issues:

- The contribution of discharges to local air quality and broader cumulative effects,
- The adverse effects of motor vehicles, industry, open burning, domestic heating and agrichemical spray drift,
- Stratospheric ozone depletion,
- The contribution of greenhouse gas emissions to climate change.

The general air management policies said cumulative effects should be minimised, and a precautionary approach should be adopted where there is uncertainty about the nature and extent of adverse effects.

Potential approach

Addressing the health effects of poor air quality will require changes to the ARPS, a variation to the Air, Land, Water Plan and the new Regional Land Transport Strategy. The new ARPS could include measures to significantly reduce domestic fire and motor vehicle emissions, and address reverse sensitivity effects (e.g. the location of sensitive land uses near busy roads) and amenity issues (discharges of odour or smoke).

The relationship between the NES ambient air quality standards and the Regional Air Quality Targets also needs to be made clear.

Minerals

Issues

Aggregates (crushed rocks, gravel and sand) are the region's primary minerals of economic value. These are used for such things as repairing and surfacing roads, manufacturing concrete products, drainage and filtration and beach nourishment projects. Mineral extraction can have a range of adverse environmental effects and needs to be planned and managed carefully.

There is a sustained demand for aggregates for construction and maintenance. Existing and potential sources could provide for Auckland's requirements for many years to come. Safeguarding these deposits and managing the adverse effects of aggregate extraction will continue to be a focus of the Auckland Regional Policy Statement (ARPS).

Consumption of aggregates and other mineral products correlates with population growth and the form and rate of urban development. Even during periods of low growth, the maintenance of infrastructure and buildings ensures a continuing demand for mineral products. Estimates of the current output from quarries in the Auckland region range from about 5.9 million tonnes (with a further 1.1 million tonnes produced for reclamation and fill) to more than 8 million tonnes per annum.

Until the 1950s Auckland relied almost entirely on basalt rock derived from the scoria volcanic cones and adjacent lava fields. Today basalt production is steadily decreasing. The largest of the basalt quarries, the Mt Wellington quarry closed in 2001. It has produced up to 2 million tonnes per year (about 25 per cent) of the region's demand. Remaining basalt rock resources in the region have been estimated at more than 1,500 million tonnes but virtually all has become inaccessible due to urban encroachment and the progressive expansion of protected areas.

Coastal sand extraction (sea sand mining) in the coastal marine area is the other main area of mineral extraction in the Auckland region. Sand is primarily used as a fine aggregate in concrete and asphalt, concrete structures and other cement-based products. Sand is also used for drainage systems and for beach nourishment projects such as at Mission Bay. Five coastal permits currently provide for sand extraction from the Auckland coastal marine area.

Current response

Chapter 13 of the existing Auckland Regional Policy Statement identifies two regionally significant issues:

- The adverse effects generated by mineral extraction.
- Increased environmental and monetary costs on the community for minerals needed for development and associated inter-regional issues.

Potential approach

Existing provisions are concise and contain clear outcomes in relation to managing the adverse effects of mineral extraction activity and protecting future land-based mineral resources. Evidence provided through the Proposed Change 6 process and a number of Environment Court decisions have confirmed the need to retain the existing provisions. In particular: the existing ARPS aims to future-proof areas of minerals (yet to be extracted) from activities which may compromise the ability of operators to extract or access those deposits.

For coastal sand extraction, one approach may be to retain the existing policies within the ARPS, in conjunction with the regional coastal plan and NZCPS, to provide a framework for managing the potential adverse effects of sea sand mining in near-shore east coast locations. An alternative approach may be to introduce a policy requiring coastal permit applicants wanting to extract sea sand for commercial purposes in east coast, near-shore locations to include an assessment of why alternative locations have not been pursued.

Hazardous Substances and Contaminated Sites

Issues

The Auckland region contains the largest quantities of hazardous substances of any region in New Zealand. Large quantities are contained in the Penrose, Rosebank, Wiri and East Tamaki industrial areas – often close to residential areas and valued environmental areas. The region's groundwater aquifer system, and the Waitemata and Manukau Harbours (including associated waterways) are examples of valued environmental areas.

Hazardous substances are transported, stored and used. A hazardous substance is any substance that may be explosive, flammable, able to oxidise, corrosive, toxic or eco-toxic. Accidental release can cause harm to the health and safety, or to the environment. Hazardous substances can enter the environment through sewerage and stormwater systems, by domestic and commercial wastes, and air emissions. Some enter through spills, leakages or accidents.

The use of chemicals and hazardous substances has resulted in the contamination of a significant number of sites within the region. A large number of these are old landfills. Contaminated sites may have adverse effects on public health and the environment, and can limit future land use and reduce land values. The public are becoming more aware of contamination and potential risks to public health and environment.

Current Response

Chapters 16 and 17 of the existing ARPS specify the respective roles and responsibilities of the ARC and territorial authorities in the management of hazardous activities and contaminated sites.

The ARC is responsible for overall co-ordination and more specifically for the management of activities which, use, store, dispose or transport hazardous substances in the coastal marine area. The ARC is responsible for co-ordinating the development and maintenance of a register of contaminated sites.

City and district councils are responsible for the use of land for the prevention or mitigation of any adverse effects of the storage, use, disposal or transportation of hazardous substances and the management of contaminated sites.

Potential approach

The ARPS review needs to consider policy setting out the requirements and expectations (both at the ARC, and at city and district council level) for managing the potential adverse effects arising from the storage, use, disposal (including contaminated sites) or transportation of hazardous substances.



Waste Management

Issues

The ARC does not have any specific waste management functions under the RMA, which focuses primarily on managing the environmental effects of waste (particularly discharges). Since the Auckland Regional Policy Statement was developed, a comprehensive national framework for waste management has been established. The New Zealand Waste Strategy, prepared in 2002, sets a number of targets for re-using and recycling high-volume wastes, minimising and managing hazardous wastes, upgrading waste disposal facilities, and charging waste generators for the true environmental cost of treatment and disposal. This strategy has been followed by the Waste Minimisation Bill currently before parliament. The Bill incorporates the waste management functions of territorial authorities that were previously contained in the Local Government Act, but places more emphasis on encouraging and promoting waste minimisation. The Bill does not prescribe any waste management responsibilities for regional councils.

Current response

Chapter 15 of the existing Auckland Regional Policy Statement addresses waste management. The objectives and policies of the existing regional policy statement for waste management can be grouped into four areas:

- waste minimisation,
- environmental effects of waste management,
- integrated management, and
- waste disposal facilities.

Potential approach

Given the comprehensive statutory changes, it is questionable whether the next ARPS needs to deal with waste management. The ARC has no waste management functions and the provisions of the New Zealand Waste Strategy and the upcoming Waste Minimisation Bill have overtaken most provisions of the previous ARPS. Nevertheless, there are real benefits to be gained from region-wide integration. If a two-tier system of local government continues in the Auckland region, then the ARPS could contain policies and methods supporting a regionally coordinated approach.

Other Regional Initiatives and Plans

While the Auckland Regional Policy Statement (ARPS) must be guided by the RMA, there are other regional strategies and plans to take into account. These help to highlight the region's significant resource management issues and may also be a way of implementing ARPS objectives.

Regional Plans

The ARC has prepared two major regional plans under the RMA - the Auckland Regional Plan: Coastal and the proposed Auckland Regional Plan: Air, Land and Water (ALW Plan). The council has also prepared plans dealing with sediment control and dairy farm discharges. The sediment control plan is being reviewed, and a variation under the RMA will bring sediment control into the ALW Plan. A plan variation for air quality management will be notified at the same time as the ARPS. This variation is urgently required to make progress towards complying with the national air quality standard for fine particles (PM₁₀). Regional plans must be kept up to date and advance when new environmental issues arise, and the ARC will prepare variations or changes as needed.

Auckland Regional Growth Strategy 1999

The Auckland Regional Growth Strategy (ARGS) was a product of the Regional Growth Forum established in 1996. The ARGS was published in 1999 and it promotes a 50-year view on how the region should manage population and economic growth through what it called its growth concept.

The growth concept is a snapshot of how the region could look in 2050. It promotes quality, compact urban environments, through greater intensification of town centres and major transport routes to create higher-density communities, with a variety of housing, jobs, services, recreational and other activities. Looking out to 2050, some expansion in new greenfield areas is seen as necessary to provide sufficient land and location choice for dwellings and businesses. However, development of the most highly valued and sensitive natural areas would be avoided.

Auckland Regional Land Transport Strategy 2005

The Auckland Regional Land Transport Strategy (RLTS) outlines the land transport system needed to meet the additional demands placed on it by more people and businesses. All organisations and authorities involved with land transport in Auckland need to ensure that they take into account the provisions of the RLTS.

The regional integration of transport and land use planning will be underpinned by work on new land use scenarios to refine and update the ARGS growth concept to 2050. The preferred land use scenario that emerges from this work will be reflected in the Auckland Regional Policy Statement review and also to assess transport options for the RLTS review. The consultation processes of both the ARPS and the RLTS reviews are being integrated to ensure consistency.

The Land Transport Management Amendment Act 2008 introduced new requirements for the RLTS, including a minimum 30-year planning horizon. This longer-term outlook reinforces the importance of effectively integrating the new RLTS with the ARPS review.

Long Term Council Community Plans

The Local Government Act 2002 encourages local authorities to promote social, economic, environmental and cultural well-being, consistent with the principles of sustainable development. The Act requires local authorities to consult with their local community (and crown agencies) to determine what the community wants. This process leads to "community outcomes", which are then translated into a 10 year strategic plan known as the Long Term Council Community Plan (LTCCP). This plan does not override the provisions of the RMA, nor is there any legal

requirement for the contents of the Auckland Regional Policy Statement to align with it. Nevertheless, the LTCCP will inform the review of the Auckland Regional Policy Statement since it records the outcomes identified by the community and how the regional council will contribute to these.

Auckland Sustainability Framework

The Auckland Sustainability Framework (ASF) is a long-term framework for the sustainable development of the region developed by the public and private sectors and mana whenua. Its purpose is to guide and integrate current and future strategies and plans, to provide a tool for reviewing and developing regional strategies to ensure they deliver sustainable outcomes, and to prioritise and align regionally-agreed actions. The ASF identifies eight goals and the responses to meet these goals. The goals reflect the four well-beings of the Local Government Act 2002. The ASF identifies matters of regional significance that need to be addressed in the Auckland Regional Policy Statement.

One Plan for the Auckland Region

One Plan has been produced by the Regional Sustainable Development Forum, successor to the Regional Growth Forum. It has both a short-term and a long-term focus. Its short-term aim is to deliver better on existing decisions and commitments and set a clear direction for the how the region will achieve sustainable development. The first version of the One Plan has focused on identifying major regional projects (including rail and roading upgrades) and the Wynyard Quarter waterfront development.

One Plan provides a parallel mechanism to the Auckland Regional Policy Statement to co-ordinate regional initiatives in terms of specific projects. These projects may help implement the Auckland Regional Policy Statement.



This is one of two companion background documents covering:

- The review of the Auckland Regional Policy Statement (Part A)
- The preparation of a new Auckland Regional Land Transport Strategy (Part B)

Many issues overlap, so these processes are being coordinated. Any feedback you give may be applied to both.

Each section of the background documents has been given a number (Part A starts at 1 and Part B at 17). Please refer to these numbers when giving feedback, as it will help us to collate and cross-reference information.

The feedback we receive now will shape the draft documents and inform discussions by the Regional Strategy and Planning Committee and the Regional Transport Committee.

Early next year you will have the opportunity to comment on the draft of the revised Auckland Regional Policy Statement and, in addition, the draft Regional Land Transport Strategy will be open for submissions.

Please take some time to review the enclosed information and submit your feedback to us:

→ by email to workroom@arc.govt.nz

→ by mail to:

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You can also find more information at www.arc.govt.nz/workroom.

Telephone enquiries should be directed to Hamish Glenn on 09 366 2000 ext. 8660.

Your comments should be submitted no later than **14 November 2008**.