

National Advisory Group for Integrated Planning

Terms of Reference

1.0 Introduction

The need for effective, integrated and spatial systems to assist strategic planning, policy analysis and decision-making is widely recognised. In particular, spatial planning has recently received a lot of attention as a means to respond to rapid change, population growth and urban development. The Local Government (Auckland Council) Amendment Act 2010 requires Auckland Council to produce an integrated spatial plan with a 20-30 year timeframe. Spatial planning integrates the four well beings – economy, environment, people and culture – and helps to coordinate policy development and implementation between agencies and central/local government.

The benefit of a National Advisory Group is to provide a focal point to share, communicate and coordinate research and applied work related to developing and using systems for best practice integrated planning approaches across central/regional/local government with consistent and accessible information ('Open Data'). The National Advisory Group for Integrated Planning is seen as an important link to the end users and beneficiaries of such planning systems developed through research, such as the Sustainable Pathways (SP2) and Creating Futures FRST programmes.

Integrated spatial planning systems include both qualitative and quantitative approaches, for example:

- Horizon scanning (identifying and analysing emerging issues)
- Scenario planning (exploring plausible futures)
- Deliberation and mediated modelling (debating issues through active learning)
- Computer simulation models and spatial policy decision support systems, (exploring the effects of future development scenarios, trade-offs and the consequences of policy options).

2.0 Purpose

The focus of the National Advisory Group is on providing strategic direction and effective coordination for the development and application of systems to support integrated long term planning in the public sector (Central and Local Government).

Key purposes and responsibilities of the National Advisory Group are:

- 3.1 Provide context: provide insights into needs and delivery of systems for integrated planning to ensure research questions, objectives and approaches meet end user's needs and are understood and useful to the practitioners.
- 3.3 Build capability and capacity: create interest and gain knowledge of integrated planning, so members become effective advocates for integrated planning and assist in the dissemination of best practise through their networks.
- 3.4 Assist coordination: support an inclusive and coordinated approach to the development, maintenance and further improvement of systems for integrated long term planning. This includes making links to other research and work programmes, exploring potential funding opportunities and providing advice to relevant initiatives at the local/regional and national level.

Specifically, members have the responsibility to:

- Communicate the results and findings of current work to each member's organisation and to other appropriate networks available to the member
- Outline member organisation's/stakeholder's understanding, requirements and expectations regarding integrated planning
- Serve as a key point of contact for accessing member's organisation
- Provide input into specific research programmes, as requested by research programme leaders, and critique/review methods and approaches being developed¹

Each member is expected to engage and participate actively. If for any reason a member becomes unable to serve, that member shall notify the Convenor as soon as practicable and nominate another person from the member's organisation to serve instead.

3.0 Membership

Membership for the Advisory Group comprises senior representatives of potential end user groups or organisations (Appendix 3). It builds on the current members of the Creating Futures FRST Project, taking into account key end users of the Sustainable Pathways 2 FRST project and also considers current and future developments and use of integrated planning systems, regionally and nationally. Together the members represent a broad cross-section of organisations and agencies with an interest in integrated planning.

Membership of the National Advisory Group includes:

- Auckland Council (AC)
- Wellington Regional Council (WRC)
- Environment Waikato (EW)
- Other regional councils (BoP, HBRC)
- Wellington City Council (WCC)
- Local Government NZ (LGNZ)
- CRIs and Universities
- Department of Internal Affairs (DIA)
- New Zealand Transport Authority (NZTA)
- Ministry of Economic Development (MED)
- Ministry for the Environment (MfE)
- Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry (MAF)
- Statistics NZ (SNZ)
- Department of Conservation (DoC)
- Ministry of Science & Innovation (MSI; formerly FRST/MoRST)
- Parliamentary Commission for the Environment (PCE)
- Ministry of Social Development (MDS)
- DHBs / Ministry of Health (MoH) (?)
- Te Punui Kokiri (TPK) (?)
- National Infrastructure Unit/Treasury (?)

3.1 Conflict of Interest

Members will advise the National Advisory Group fully of any conflict of interest of which they are aware regarding their participation, and will use their reasonable endeavours to avoid any conflict of interest. If a new conflict of interest occurs, members will advise the National Advisory Group as soon as practicable. If the National Advisory Group does not consent fully to a member continuing to participate in view of such new conflict of interest within a reasonable time of its notification, then that member's participation shall cease upon notification by the National Advisory Group.

¹ It is acknowledged, however, that not all members will be interested in providing advice and feedback on research projects. For example, the SP2 programme needs advice on Auckland and Wellington related issues and it is anticipated that only a sub-set of members will be interested in this.

4.0 Relevant Projects

The following projects are specifically identified to be of interest and relevance to the Advisory Group. Other projects may be added, as agreed by the National Advisory Group.

4.1 Sustainable Pathways 2 (FRST, 2009 - 2015)

Refer to Appendix 1

www.sustainablepathways.org.nz

4.2 Creating Futures (FRST, 2006 – 2010)

This four-year FRST project finished in October 2010. It developed integrated planning tools, including WISE (Waikato Integrated Scenario Explorer), an integrated (economic, demographics, environmental, land use change) and spatial simulation model to explore future scenarios and the consequences of policy options. Some members of this National Advisory Group have already assisted as members of the Creating Futures project advisory group.

Refer to Appendix 2

www.creatingfutures.org.nz

www.youtube.com/watch?v=RgEABCz1Rrl

4.3 The use of Modelling Tools by Regional Councils – A Survey

As part of the SP2 FRST programme the use of models by regional councils was evaluated. This included the identification of what models are being used and what for, and also discussed any barriers to the use and up-take of models.

See www.sustainablepathways.org.nz/project-outputs/publications/

4.4 Advanced Integrated Decision Support Tools for Integrated Policy, Planning and Resource Management (Envirolink project, 2010)

A workshop was held in September 2010 to review the current state of integrated decision support systems in NZ and to explore opportunities to make better use of these tools.

Workshop notes will be available on the Envirolink website in early 2011.

4.5 Web-based Directory of Decision Support Tools (including examples of applications/case studies)

The above workshop (refer section 4.4) identified the development and ongoing up-date of a directory of spatial models and other non-spatial decision support systems as a priority for regional councils, to assist resource management and spatial planning, policy analysis, strategic planning and decision-making. A proposal has been approved by the Envirolink Governance Committee and recommended to the Foundation for Research, Science & Technology as one of three new resource management tools to be developed using Envirolink funding. A decision from FRST is expected in the near future, with work likely to start in July 2011.

Contact: Beat Huser, Environment Waikato (beat.huser@ew.govt.nz)

4.6 Development of a National Integrated Spatial Decision Support System (NZ-ISDSS)

The tools developed as part of Creating Futures and SP2 are generally applicable to other regions and nationally. It is proposed to undertake a scoping study to develop a national ISDSS (possibly with regional sub-models), and to explore suitable funding options.

4.7 Any Other Projects?

5.0 Linking with other Stakeholders

Specific stakeholder groups, for example for the SP2 project, see Appendix 1, will be engaged through workshops, presentations and seminars, as required.

Additional end user groups may be established for the testing, validation and dissemination of specific research initiatives.. This may take the form of workshops/seminars where the projects' outputs and progress are presented and discussed.

6.0 Meeting Frequency and Administration

The SP2 Programme will serve the National Advisory Group. This includes:

- Organising at least two meetings per year, or more often if required.
- Agenda and background material will be circulated at least 7 days prior to meeting.
- Notes will be limited to a summary of main discussion points and resulting actions, and provided within 10 days of meeting.
- Agendas, minutes and other relevant resources will be made available through the SP2 website.
- Chair will rotate annually (e.g. local/central government).

The use of video/teleconferencing will be explored.

7.0 Proposed Meeting Schedule

Based on the Project Plan the table below outlines the timing and likely topic(s) of interest to the Advisory Group. Members will have a number of opportunities to provide input on generic topics as well as specific input as part of the SP2 project.

Meeting	Proposed Agenda Content	
	General Topics	SP2-specific Topics
February 2011	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Terms of Reference/membership • Overview of projects 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mediated modeling (MM) workshops (Auckland and Wellington) • Stakeholder management plan
August 2011	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Confirm ToR and membership • Review of Creating Futures project (applied Waikato case studies) • Envirolink projects (EW/LCR/HBRC) • End user needs • Explore need for national model 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Scoping of urban issues (Auckland & Wellington) • Scoping of regional models (ISDSS) for Auckland & Wellington • Feedback from MM workshops
February 2012	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Communication & Stakeholder Engagement Strategy (including funding options) • Research needs and strategy, including funding options 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Spatial dynamic modeling: ISDSS (Auckland & Wellington) • Reflective co-learning from MM and ISDSS development process
August 2012	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Data management (up-dating and maintaining critical datasets and models) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review of MM workshops • Development Scenarios for Auckland & Wellington • Functional ISDSS prototypes for Auckland & Wellington

Appendix 1 Overview of ‘Sustainable Pathway 2 (SP2)’

Sustainable Pathways 2 is a FRST funded, 6-year (2009 – 2015) continuation of the Sustainable Pathways FRST funded research programme at Massey University (EERNZ – Ecological Economics Research New Zealand). This research will enable cities and regions to better plan for sustainable development by providing them with practical tools and methods on alternative future development scenarios. These scenarios will seek to illuminate and link the economic, social and environmental dimensions of sustainable development and project changes in time frames ranging up to 30 years, using user-friendly dynamic models. The scenario development process will be evidence-based, relying on detailed and well researched empirical data, which is spatially referenced where available. This process will also be inclusive and collaborative, building a common understanding of the sustainability options amongst stakeholders.

Three Objectives are inter-connected:

1. Mediated Modelling to scope for systemic drivers in a changing environment together with key stakeholders in Auckland and Wellington, with an emphasis on transportation, energy, waste and water. This will develop collaborative and adaptive capacity among end-users and its result measurements through action research.
2. Spatially Explicit Multi-scale Modelling provides a comprehensive platform for exploring the potential implications of systemic growth scenarios in the Auckland and Wellington regions. This modelling integrates existing (land-use, socio-economic, transport and energy) models and datasets and the overarching systemic drivers of Objective 1, while also creating new spatial interaction models that explain the spatio-temporal consequences (economic, environmental and social) of emerging urban forms.
3. Benefit transfer of both scoping and management modelling tools to NZ regional councils. This will develop result measurements on context, content and process aspects and emphasize vertical integration in conjunction with Objectives 1 and 2.

Appendix 2 Overview of ‘Creating Futures (CF)’

Creating Futures, formerly known as ‘Choosing Regional Futures’ has been a four year (2006-2010) FRST funded research programme that was managed by Environment Waikato and undertaken in partnership with seven research organisations.

The project has been established to address council needs for frameworks, data, and tools that they require to achieve the goals of the Local Government Act (LGA) and to fulfil requirements of Council’s Long Term Plan (LTP) process, i.e. long-term sustainable community outcomes. The project has three specific objectives:

1. Develop frameworks for integrated assessment that support long-term integrated planning through the use of appropriate knowledge, methods, models, and tools.
2. Integrate the resulting knowledge and tools into local council planning processes, particularly through the use of scenarios to explore possible long-term community outcomes.
3. Foster integrated research and interaction among research providers and end-users, including industry sectors/business and integrated economic development strategies

The project has used the Waikato Region as a case study to leverage off existing research and planning processes already in place. However, the concepts, methods, tools and knowledge gained are applicable in principle nationally, for other regions and at district/local scale.

The Creating Futures project has been completed on 30 September 2010.

For further information consult the project website www.creatingfutures.org.nz

Appendix 3 List of Advisory Group Members

* = members of the former Creating Futures Programme Advisory Group

() = unconfirmed

Name	Surname	Organisation	Location	Email
Campbell	Jensen	Ministry for the Environment *	Wellington	campbell.jensen@mfe.govt.nz
Karlheinz	Knickel	Ministry for the Environment *	Wellington	karlheinz.knickel@mfe.govt.nz
Gerald	Rys	Ministry of Agriculture & Forestry *	Wellington	gerald.rys@maf.govt.nz
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Fiona	Ryan	Ministry of Economic Development *	Auckland	fiona.ryan@med.govt.nz
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(Eric	Pyle)	Ministry of Science & Innovation	Wellington	eric.pyle@mrst.govt.nz
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(?) *		Environment Bay of Plenty *	Whakatane	
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Judy	Lawrence	Institute of Policy Studies (Victoria University)	Wellington	judy.lawrence@vuw.ac.nz
Jacques	Poot	National Institute of Demographic and Economic Analysis (University of Waikato)	Hamilton	jpoot@waikato.ac.nz
Peter	Salter	Ministry of Social Development	Wellington	peter.salter001@msd.govt.nz
Eduardo	Villouta	Department of Conservation	Wellington	evillouta@doc.govt.nz
Julia	Forsyth	Wellington City Council	Wellington	julia.forsyth@wcc.govt.nz
Adam	Cooper	Land Information NZ (LINZ)	Wellington	adam.cooper@linz.govt.nz
David	Hermans	National Infrastructure Unit – Treasury	Wellington	david.hermans@treasury.govt.nz

Additional members on mailing list: Richard Murcott (LINZ), Mary Sue Severn (LINZ), Michael Tucker (AC), Eva McLaren (AC), Karl Majorhazi (MfE).

Please let me know if you would like to be placed on the mailing list (beat.huser@ew.govt.nz).