

Appendix 2 – Chapter 3.9 introduction without amendments tracked – RPS Change 1 Hearing Stream 4

This appendix is to be read in conjunction with Appendix 1, which shows tracked changes.

The Wellington Region is facing multiple pressures, including population growth and change, poor housing stock quality and increasing unaffordability, degradation of ecosystems, loss of productive land, and increasing exposure to natural hazards and the impacts of climate change. Historic patterns of *urban development* and growth have had ongoing impacts and adverse effects on mana whenua / tangata whenua throughout the Wellington Region, and their relationship with their culture, ancestral land, water, sites wāhi tapu and other taonga.

Subdivision, use and development that is poorly planned, designed, serviced and connected can have significant adverse effects, including cumulative effects, on the natural environment, sites and areas of significance to Māori, the quality, viability, vibrancy and accessibility of *urban*, suburban and *rural areas*, and the ability to manage, use and operate, existing *infrastructure*. Responding to the pressures facing the region presents opportunities to do things better.

Regional form is about the physical arrangement within and between urban and rural communities. Good urban design and planning seeks to ensure that the design of buildings, places, spaces, and networks works well for mana whenua / tangata whenua and communities, and that they are *environmentally responsive*.

How this chapter works

The regional form, design and function applies to the whole region. It provides an integrating frame for how and where development is undertaken in the Wellington Region's *urban* and *rural areas*, which balances different aspects of national direction. It also emphasises the value of spatial planning to ensure that development is responsive to the local characteristics, values, location and accessibility of land, protects natural and cultural values, and is sequenced with the provision and maintenance of all necessary *infrastructure*.

The chapter and associated provisions include:

- a) An over-arching objective for *regional form* (Objective 22). This sets out the outcomes to be achieved in *urban* and *rural areas* and how these areas are connected to each other. There is also a specific objective about meeting housing demand (Objective 22A).
- b) A policy articulating what contributing to well-functioning *urban areas* means in the Wellington Region (Policy UD.5).
- c) Policies providing direction to development to seek a strategic and coordinated approach to enabling development capacity, including by integrating with infrastructure and transport planning and seeking that planning decisions can be responsive (Policy UD.4, Policy 31, Policy 32, Policy 33, Policy 55, Policy 56, Policy 57, Policy 58, Policy UD.3).
- d) Policies to enable the expression of Māori cultural and traditional norms in use and development (Policy UD.2) and the occupation, use and development of ancestral land by mana whenua / tangata whenua (Policy UD.1).

- e) Methods to achieve the policies.

Well-functioning urban environments and areas

The concept of well-functioning urban environments was introduced in the National Policy Statement on *Urban development 2020* (NPS-UD), which provides a minimum definition. The Wellington Region contains several *urban environments*, as well as smaller centres and towns that contain *urban zones*, for example some towns in the Wairarapa. The term ‘well-functioning urban areas’ has been used throughout this chapter where the direction applies to all *urban areas*. Well-functioning urban areas encapsulate well-functioning urban environments as defined in the NPS-UD.

Well-functioning urban areas enhance the quality of life for residents as it is easier to get around, allow for a greater supply and choice of housing close to where people work or to public transport, support equitable access to green and open space as well as housing, and provide vibrant, safe, and cohesive centres that are well connected by public and active transport and enhance business activity. Well-functioning urban areas enable Māori to express their culture and traditions, and provide for the cultural visibility of *mana whenua / tangata whenua* to be incorporated, integrated, and expressed through design guides and other opportunities. Planning decisions relating to urban environments must take into account the principles of Te Tiriti o Waitangi as required by the NPS-UD.

Well-functioning urban areas enable communities and businesses to be more resilient to the effects of climate change, and support the uptake of zero and low-carbon emission modes throughout the region. They have compact urban form through urban intensification, and are well-designed and planned to be low impact, give effect to *Te Mana o Te Wai* and retain productive rural land. Well-functioning urban areas are supported by inter-disciplinary design guides, prepared in partnership with *mana whenua / tangata whenua*, to ensure best practice urban design is undertaken which supports the health and wellbeing of people and the region’s natural resources. Well-functioning urban areas protect *regionally significant infrastructure* from potentially incompatible development and reverse sensitivity effects, and they are supported by a reliable local supply of aggregate to enable urban development and associated infrastructure.

Supporting the role of regional spatial planning

Wellington City contains the central business district for the region. Its continued viability, vibrancy and accessibility are important to the whole region. There are also other regionally significant centres that are an important part of the region’s form. Good quality high and medium *density* housing in and around these centres of business activity, and existing and planned rapid transit stops, would benefit the viability of centres and provide increased housing choice, quality and affordability. Enabling intensification in the right places can bring significant environmental, social and economic benefits that are necessary for achieving well-functioning urban areas. Additional local employment and educational opportunities in and around these centres could also provide people with greater choice about where they work, learn, and live. Connections between communities and community resilience can also be fostered by more people living, commuting, and accessing services and amenities within neighbourhoods.

Collaborative spatial planning supports a compact, well-designed *regional form* by taking a strategic approach to determining how development capacity will be enabled and delivered, so that it responds to the characteristics, location, values, capability, and limitations of land, and is coordinated with land release sequencing, *infrastructure* provision, and maintenance.

The Wellington Regional Growth Framework³ provides a spatial plan that has been developed by local government, central government, and iwi partners in the Wellington-Horowhenua region. It sets out the key issues identified for urban growth and development and provides a 30-year spatial plan that sets a long-term vision for changes and *urban development* in the Wellington Region. The Wellington Regional Growth Framework identifies the three key growth corridors within the Wellington Region being the western, eastern and Let's Get Wellington Moving growth corridors. Territorial authorities may also have their own local frameworks or strategies about where and how future *urban development* should occur in that district.