Growth misconduct? Can we do better on urban intensification?

16 February 2010

OPENING
Wellington Mayor – Kerry Prendegast 8.45 –9:00

Session 1 International Best Practice 9-10.30

Billie-Giles Corti – University of Western Australia
Winthrop Professor/Director, Centre for the Built Environment and Health School of Population Health

Increasing densities in cities: How do we maximize benefits and minimize harm?

There is growing recognition globally that to accommodate a growing population and to build more sustainable cities, land use will need to be intensified and housing densities increased. However, to produce the best outcomes, thought needs to be given to how to build higher density housing, with the aim of maximizing community-wide benefits, and minimizing unintended consequences. This talk will consider factors that influence optimizing higher density housing and highlight areas that require further research.

Tricia Austin – University of Auckland
Senior Lecturer, Department of Planning

Planning more sustainable districts: what can we learn from European best practice?

Drawing on European best practice, from Scandinavian eco-districts to English sustainable community plans and Dutch more intensive town extensions, this presentation will consider how different architects and developers working within the same set of master-plan design briefs, can result in opportunities for interesting and diverse designs, more sustainable performance and provide for mixed income communities.

Michelle Thompson-Fawcett
University of Otago, Assoc. Professor, School of Geography – NZCSC

Fuzzy Futuring: Danish Distinction

The paper will consider current international debates on technical and governance issues regarding intensification and compact cities. It will illustrate some aspects of these debates via a case study of innovation in peripheral settlement development in a Danish suburban setting that is contextually similar to the New Zealand situation.

Discussion

Morning tea 10.30-11.00

Session 2 Setting Scene – NZ 11.00-11.50

Pengjun Zhao
New Zealand Centre for Sustainable Cities (NZCSC), Post Doctoral Fellow

Mapping and visualizing urban form: urban intensification analysis for New Zealand cities

Urban intensification is one of key issues for local carbon management as it has influences on community energy consumption and related greenhouse gas emissions. This presentation will report the results of urban density analysis for major New Zealand cities. The density of these cities will also be compared with the density of corresponding Australian cities. In the final part of this presentation, the applications of the density results for the next step research will be discussed.

Helen Viggers
New Zealand Centre for Sustainable Cities (NZCSC)

Mortgagee sales and density

The spatial distribution of mortgagee sales across New Zealand cities, between 2000 and mid 2009 was examined. The changes in location over time period, corresponding to both a real-estate boom and rising transport costs may reflect future patterns of value.

Yvonne Webber
Senior Analyst, New Zealand Urban Design Protocol Ministry for the Environment

The Urban Design Protocol and its influence on towns and cities growth

The New Zealand Urban Design Protocol was launched in 2005 with signatories making a voluntary commitment to undertake specific urban design initiatives. In the last 5 years signatory numbers to the Protocol have increased from 80 to over 170, made up of primarily of local government and consultants. This presentation examines the recent research that shows how the Protocol has improved the understanding of urban design and has influenced current urban design frameworks and statutory documents. Ultimately this will influence how towns and cities grow if there is the urban design skills and capacity to undertake these challenges.
Technical, political and community challenges and opportunities

Strategising, planning and building - the leaps between each and

What does a community understand about the rules governing

support for this change and we have learnt and are still learning

Tauranga has been through two very different attempts to secure

requiring a complete relook at how we approach planning from the

the agreed sub regional growth strategy called SmartGrowth. This is

intensification of established residential areas. This is to implement

% of the forecast, sub regional urban growth to 2051 by way of

Tauranga City faces a challenge in accommodating around 30

and transport costs are key factors that influence the

residential location choices made by families, and they explain

the rapid increase in the number of children living in cramped

apartments in the Auckland CBD. But while such apartments offer

advantages of affordability and convenience there are downsides

for children and their parents living in dwellings, complexes and

neighbourhoods not designed to meet their needs. To be socially

sustainable for a diverse range of household types residential

intensification needs long term planning. Housing in the Auckland

CBD is an example of laissez-faire planning, raising questions about

its social sustainability.

Lunch

Session 3 Barriers and Problems 11.50-12.30 – part 1

Karen Witten and Penelope Carroll

Massey University – Assoc. Professor – Shore (NZCSC)

Intensification, housing affordability and families: learning from the Auckland CBD

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