



# Planning for successful cities summary

An 'at a glance' summary of the discussion document on a proposed  
National Policy Statement on Urban Development



**MINISTRY OF HOUSING  
AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT**



Ministry for the  
**Environment**  
*Manatū Mō Te Taiao*

New Zealand Government

Everyone in New Zealand deserves healthy, secure and affordable homes that provide access to jobs, education, amenities and services.

As New Zealand moves to a more sustainable, productive and inclusive economy, cities will play an increasingly important role in the well-being of our communities. Our cities need to be able to adapt and respond to the diverse and changing needs of all people, whānau, communities and future generations, and function within environmental limits. When performing well our cities can raise living standards for all.

The Government is looking at ways to make our cities perform better by making room for growth, investing in transport to drive more efficient and liveable urban forms, and ensuring active travel that provides health benefits is a more attractive and accessible choice.

The Government's Urban Growth Agenda takes a new approach to planning, based on the idea of making room for growth. The aim is to remove unnecessary restrictions on development, to allow for growth 'up' and 'out' in locations that have good access to existing services and infrastructure. This will require change to how land use is regulated in our towns and cities.

## A new National Policy Statement on Urban Development

As part of the Urban Growth Agenda, the Government is consulting on a proposal for a new National Policy Statement on Urban Development (NPS-UD).

The NPS-UD will provide clear direction to local government about how to enable opportunities for development in New Zealand's urban areas in a way that delivers quality urban environments for people, now and in the future.

The NPS-UD will replace the National Policy Statement on Urban Development Capacity 2016. It will work alongside other government initiatives that will see central government working more closely with major cities to respond to growth pressures.

## Wider national direction

The proposed National Policy Statement has been developed alongside several other government priorities for national direction. In light of this, the Ministry for the Environment and the Ministry of Housing and Urban Development have worked closely with other agencies to ensure all the national direction tools, both existing and proposed, are aligned. This is particularly important for the current proposals the Government is consulting on for highly productive land and for freshwater.

### Essential Freshwater

This work programme proposes amendments to the National Policy Statement for Freshwater Management 2014, as well as new National Environmental Standards for Freshwater Management. The objectives of this work programme include:

- ▶ stopping further degradation and loss of freshwater resources
- ▶ reversing past damage
- ▶ addressing water allocation issues.

### National Policy Statement for Highly Productive Land

The Government is proposing a new National Policy Statement for Highly Productive Land to improve the way highly productive land is managed under the Resource Management Act 1991, to:

- ▶ recognise the full range of values and benefits associated with its use for primary production
- ▶ maintain its availability for primary production for future generations
- ▶ protect it from inappropriate subdivision, use and development.

## Our cities, your say

We've heard from a range of organisations and individuals on their ideas for improving urban development activity in New Zealand. We now invite you to share your views.

The discussion document and information about the consultation process, including how to make a submission and attend a workshop around the country, can be found at [www.mfe.govt.nz/consultations/nps-urbandevelopment](http://www.mfe.govt.nz/consultations/nps-urbandevelopment).

We want to hear from interested organisations and individuals by **5pm on 10 October 2019**.

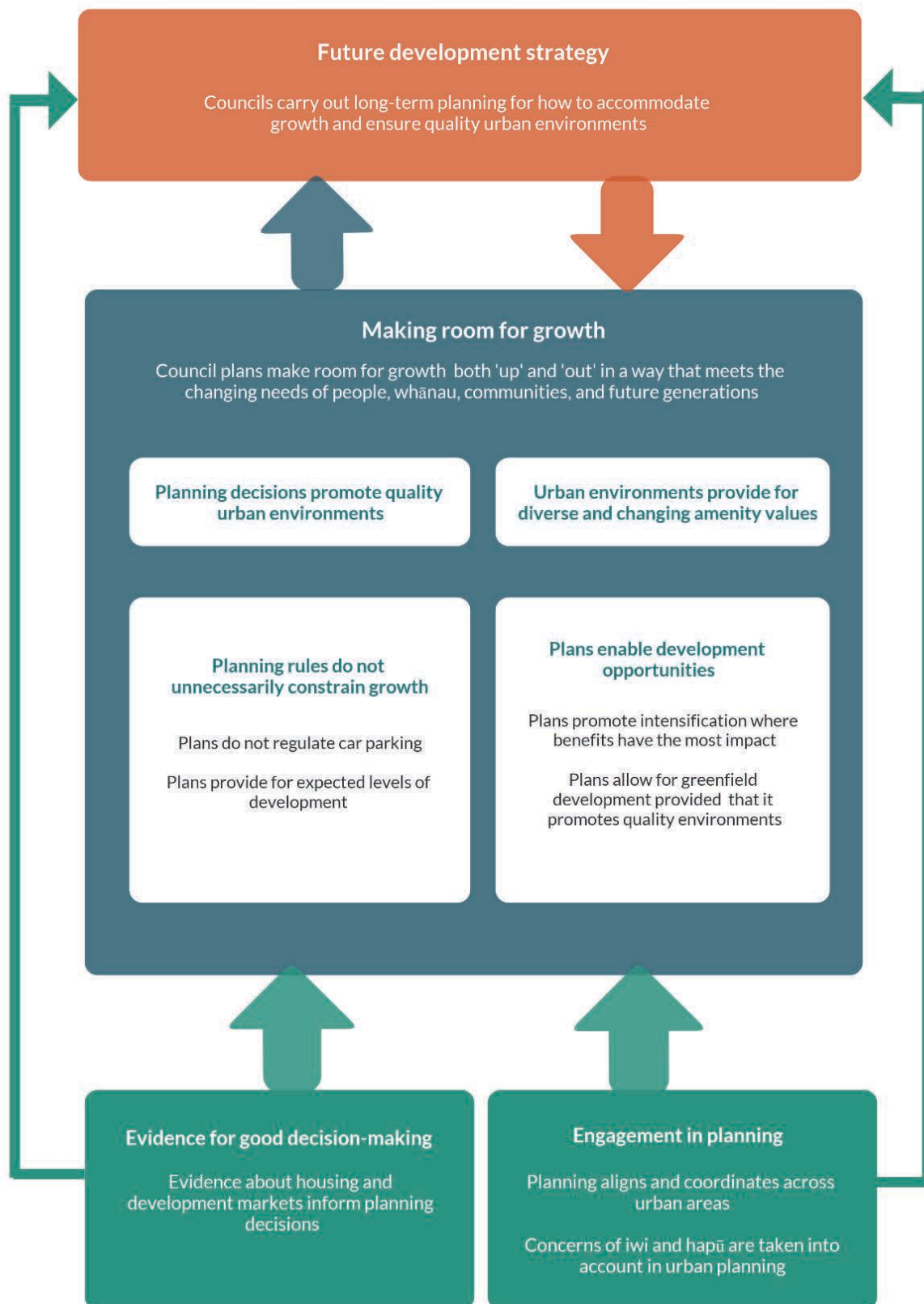
- ▶ An online submission tool is available at [www.mfe.govt.nz/consultations/nps-urbandevelopment](http://www.mfe.govt.nz/consultations/nps-urbandevelopment).
- ▶ Submissions can also be emailed to [npsurbandevelopment@mfe.govt.nz](mailto:npsurbandevelopment@mfe.govt.nz).
- ▶ Or posted to: Ministry for the Environment, PO Box 10362, Wellington 6143

You can also share your views and have questions answered at workshops being held around the country.

If you have any questions or need more information, email [npsurbandevelopment@mfe.govt.nz](mailto:npsurbandevelopment@mfe.govt.nz).



# How the parts of the National Policy Statement on Urban Development fit together



# Summary of proposals

| Proposal  | What it would mean for our cities   |
|---|---|
| <b>◆ Future development strategy</b> <p>Requires councils to carry out long-term planning about how their cities will grow in the future</p>  | <p>Growth is coordinated and is responsive to demand, and regional and district plans protect areas unsuitable for development</p>  |
| <b>◆ Making room for growth</b> <p>Describes the kinds of features that make a quality urban environment</p> <p>Clarifies what is meant by amenity in urban environments</p> <p>Requires councils to provide enough opportunities to meet demand for development</p> <p>Requires councils to describe the type of development they expect and ensure their plans allow for expected levels of development</p> <p>Requires councils to enable more dense housing development in certain areas</p> <p>Allows consideration of urban development where land has not yet been released or not identified for urban development</p> <p>Limits the ability of councils to regulate the number of car parks required for a development</p> <p>General proposals to require, preclude the use of, or replace particular rules in district plans</p> | <p>Cities provide a range of housing types, with good access to transport, services and amenities</p> <p>Councils consider the types of amenity that benefit the whole community, not just individual property owners, when making decisions</p> <p>More land is identified and zoned for housing across a range of types and prices</p> <p>People have a good understanding of what their community is intended to look like in the future and planning rules align with that vision</p> <p>More compact, multi-unit dwellings are built close to public transport, services and amenities</p> <p>Greenfield development can be considered when it doesn't align with planned growth, provided costs (economic, social, cultural and environmental) can be met</p> <p>Reduction in unnecessary carparks so the space can be used more efficiently</p> <p>Planning rules don't get in the way of good development</p> |
| <b>◆ Evidence for good decision-making</b> <p>New requirements for councils to gather evidence about the housing market to inform their planning decisions</p>  | <p>Planning decisions are informed by good information about housing and business demand</p>  |
| <b>◆ Engaging in urban planning</b> <p>Provides opportunities for iwi and hapū to identify aspirations and issues of concern, and ensures these are considered</p> <p>Encourages councils to work together on implementing the NPS-UD and on engaging with iwi/hapū and infrastructure providers</p>  | <p>The way our cities grow better reflects the aspirations of iwi and hapū</p> <p>When councils talk to iwi/hapū and infrastructure providers about urban development, they do it in a streamlined and efficient way</p>  |