Planning for successful cities - a proposed National Policy Statement on Urban Development

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Please Select
New Zealand

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Overall Position:

Clause
Do you support the features of a quality urban environment stated in draft objective O2? Why/why not? (see discussion document, page 26)

Notes
No. The glaring omission relates to the companion NPS - Highly Productive Soils. At present, they do not complement each other but set up a clash which will be left to local councils to resolve - with the predictable death by a thousand cuts for the natural environment. Highly productive land is finite, is limited in scale and location, and will become more important as the nation shifts to a low emission, clean protein, economy based on high quality high value plant production as opposed to the currently dominant low value animal production. The NPS-UDC should explicitly bar urban development on highly productive soils. People looking for houses do not have to live there - they do have a choice to move. The soil does not. That is the bottom line.

Clause
What impacts do you think the draft objectives O2-O3 and policies P2A-P2B will have on decision-making (see discussion document, page 26)?

Notes
The omission of highly productive soils will have the unfortunate impact of facilitating urban expansion onto this irreplaceable resource, a resource which will be needed more in the future than now. The prioritisation of short-term economic convenience over long-term economic necessity seems to be a consistent theme in RMA planning.