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

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Submitter Type: Individual
Source: Web Form
Overall Position:

Clause
Are there other tools under the RMA, other legislation or non-statutory tools that would be more effective in achieving a quality urban environment and making room for growth?

Notes
In conjunction with an NPS design guides are a useful way to provide confidence to developers and the construction industry. I have researched water sensitive urban design and at present designs are presented in local authority guides but these can be very limited in their range. Auckland is recognised in general as a leader, but this role should be at the government level to support a more rapid and effective transition to better quality water management in urban development, and to ensure access to designs developed by experts. Ensuring there is flexibility to accommodate local variations such as climate and soil types is important but the need for locally specific should not prevent national level guides. The Building Code needs to improve and at a pace that keeps up with technological advances to not drag down quality design.

Clause
Question 4. Do you support the proposed approach of the NPS-UD providing national level direction about the features of a quality urban environment? Why/why not?

Position
Yes

Notes
Hopefully being an NPS it will have more influence than MfE's Urban Design Protocol which had good intention and information but does not seem to have been particularly influential.

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
I would like to see the benefit of efficient use of water recognised in O2.

Clause
Question 10. Do you support limiting the ability for local authorities in major urban centres to regulate the number of car parks required for development? Why/why not?

Position
Somewhat

Notes
An improvement in the availability and quality of public transport and car-sharing needs to support a transition away from private car use and therefore the demand for car parking. WRT car park areas, the current design is often sealed surfaces and limited planting. Including tree pits, rain gardens and permeable paving will reduce the runoff volume and pollutants and should form part of a quality urban development where car parking is provided.
Clause
Can you identify provisions that are enabling higher density urban development in local authority plans that could be provided for either nationally or in particular zones or areas?

Notes
International examples, particularly in the US, have used density bonuses to encourage higher quality urban landscaping and water management with the use of green walls and living roofs for example. The additional density offsets the cost of the green infrastructure. The landscape guides ensure a benefit to the public amenity, not just to the individual development itself.