

Political Dimension

Noel Reardon - ARC





HOW DID THE FORUM OPERATE

- ☀ Formal meetings
- ☀ Workshops
- ☀ Hearings Sub-Committee





WORKSHOPS

- ☀ Values of TAs
- ☀ Regional vision and outcome
- ☀ Prioritising regional outcomes
- ☀ Options for accommodation growth
- ☀ Implementation Issues
- ☀ Draft produced
- ☀ Changes to Draft arising from Hearings and further work





RESULTS OF THE PROCESS

- ★ Strength in unity
- ★ Diversity important
- ★ Not just an RMA matter
- ★ Need for greater alignment





REASONS FOR FORUM

- ✿ Auckland growing rapidly
- ✿ Infrastructure at capacity
- ✿ Environmental degradation
- ✿ Conflict amongst local government
- ✿ Certainty lacking





REASONS FOR FORUM (contd...)

- ☀ Co-operative partnership
- ☀ All the Region's councils
- ☀ Regional Growth Strategy
- ☀ Agreed vision for Auckland



POLITICAL COMMITMENTS (Noel Reardon, Auckland Regional Council)

Doug Craig's notes on Noel Reardon's presentation

Noel Reardon indicated that the exercise of coming up with a Regional Growth Strategy had cost at least \$6m.

There were three areas of work for the Forum

- ❖ Consultation
- ❖ Technical studies
- ❖ Political agreements

All were important but political agreement was critical to success.

The reasons for the Forum were:

Rapid growth – currently 1.9% per annum but up to 2.5% previously.

Existing infrastructure at capacity

Concern over continuing environmental degradation

Conflicts between local bodies (both public and private sectors wanted a resolution for more certainty for development)

Planning for land-use and infrastructure done about 30 years ago now out-dated.

It was agreed that there needs to be a co-operative partnership bringing in all the Regions councils to come up with an agreed vision for Auckland. This will be embodied in a Regional Growth Strategy rather than a Plan. [Plan was perceived to have more pitfalls.]

Method of Working

Formal meetings were initially held at the ARC for the politicians, but these weren't working so moved to Eden Park with a mediator. This was a more informal setting where politician could talk to official and official to official.

Workshops (see overhead)

Hearings sub-committee just as in a statutory process where submissions could be heard.

No votes were taken within these processes but consensus was encouraged. Participants agreed what they could agree on.

Results of Process

Strength through unity of viewpoints

However diversity also important

Realisation that strategy not just an RMA matter.

Need for greater alignment between TLA's and others.

It was a long process but Noel said they have not reached the end, just the end of the beginning. The process of agreement was what counted for the future.

Questions

Michelle Rush asked about improvements to the rail corridors. How important would it be to the Regional Growth Strategy? Noel replied that negotiations were proceeding with Tranz Rail and the value to Auckland development would lie in corridor development in the future.

Prue Taylor (University of Auckland) asked about what happens if TLA wanted to pull out of agreement. Noel indicated that the MOU (Memorandum of Understanding) was not legally binding but was a moral commitment. TLA's in future will have to take a more regional view. In particular the process has been educational for new councillors and had built up a spirit of collective good will. It was also partly pragmatic in building a collective approach to an impeding crisis.

Another asset for Auckland was the presence of Infrastructure Auckland which holds a number of regional assets and could fund certain infrastructural developments. Its objectives can not be inconsistent with the RGS and it holds the carrot of substantial funding.

Ann Pomeroy commented on the need to consider Auckland's consumption of resources versus the value of investing in other regions.

[Overheads]