



NEW ZEALAND ASSOCIATION FOR IMPACT ASSESSMENT (NZAIA)
Annual Conference: 29th-30th Nov 2007, Auckland

Assessing the impacts of growth on our urban areas

Last year the New Zealand Association for Impact Assessment held a very successful meeting in Dunedin, addressing the impacts of energy development. This year we will build on that success with a conference to be held in Auckland, in late November, on the issue of urban growth and its impacts.

New Zealand is one of the most urbanised countries in the western world, although many of its centres are small by international standards. Recent years have seen renewed growth in virtually all our urban areas, with some experiencing exceptionally high growth rates, both in terms of population size and the increase in housing, industry, infrastructure and associated land uses. The drivers for urban growth are varied, and can differ in importance around the country. However, the main drivers include regional and national economic growth and our general rise in affluence, inward net migration to New Zealand, inter-regional migration within the country, and in some centres the growth in tourism.

The consequences are all too evident, especially without firm control over the growth processes: infrastructure straining to cope, urban expansion across high quality rural land, a rise in ethnic tensions as the composition of communities changes, and pressure to expand the housing stock and social services to meet new needs. Yet growth also brings opportunities to renew, replace and re-energise urban areas. The challenges of coping with urban growth have produced creative responses, from regional growth strategies and structure plans to the urban design protocol, from new thinking on public transport to cycling strategies, from urban conservation movements to local eco-living initiatives. In the long term, then, our planning for, and management of, urban growth needs to mitigate, reduce or avoid the adverse impacts of growth and maximise the benefits.

In this year's NZAIA conference we will bring together a variety of speakers (planners, policy makers, consultants, academics) to discuss practical approaches to assessing the impacts of growth in and around our urban areas, with particular emphasis on how we need to adapt our thinking and methods to manage growth in a way that safeguards the social, economic, cultural and environmental wellbeing of our communities.

The conference will be of interest to anyone involved in decisions about energy development local, regional and central levels, including policy planners and consents officers in local and regional councils, environmental and public health staff, environmental consultants, academics, iwi, and local community groups.

Conference venue:

Parnell Community Centre, Auckland. Conference details and information on the accommodation options in the local area will be posted on the NZAIA web site: www.nzaia.org.nz

Further information:

Prof. Richard Morgan (Chair of the organizing group)
Department of Geography, University of Otago, Dunedin. email: rkm@geography.otago.ac.nz

Conference Programme Outline

(Details will be available on the NZAIA website as finalised)

Assessing the Impacts of Growth on our Urban Areas

	Thursday 29 Nov		Friday 30 Nov
9.00	Coffee, registration	9.00	4. Social and cultural impacts of growth – <i>The impacts of new settlers, and impacts of urban growth on social services, recreation and conservation resources</i>
9.20	Mihi and opening		
9.30	Keynote - <i>Planning for and managing impacts of urban growth – a strategic approach</i>		
10.30	<i>break</i>	10.30	<i>break</i>
11.00	1. Impacts of urban growth: regional perspectives - <i>Managing growth in Auckland and Christchurch in a long-term sustainability framework, including cultural impacts of urban growth on coastal and inland waters</i>	11.00	5. Consultation, Iwi and Community Partnerships - <i>Community impacts of urban intensification, community involvement in monitoring and building community partnerships</i>
12.30	<i>lunch</i>	12.30	<i>lunch</i>
1.30	2. Impact assessment and urban transport – <i>The impacts of traffic congestion, new motorways and public transport</i>	1.30	6. Monitoring and evaluating low-impact urban futures - <i>the eco-city approach, monitoring urban change and the future of Australasian cities</i>
3.00	<i>break</i>	3.00	<i>Break</i>
3.30	3. Assessing impacts of growth on health, housing and employment – <i>The HIA framework, impacts of major housing developments and employment issues</i>	3.30	Indaba (Open space discussion: topics identified by participants as the conference proceeds)
5.00	Posters: open session for case studies, techniques, research (all aspects of IA). Section for student posters with prize.	5.00	Close
5.30	NZAIA AGM		
7.00	Conference dinner		