



THE UNIVERSITY OF
WAIKATO
Te Whare Wānanga o Waikato



Urban development and Well-being



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‘Well-being’

- Term prominent in international & NZ policy agendas
- Contested & context-dependent term in NZ planning & resource debates
- Used extensively in NZ legislation & policy, but with limited definition
 - Pliable term of wide breadth – embraces concepts of happiness, health, wellness, welfare, safety, prosperity & optimal human functioning, and in conjunction with words such as safety (Wallace & Holman 2020, pending publication)
- Commonly viewed as a multi dimensional concept (Hanc et al 2019)
 - Dimensions include physical, social, emotional/psychological, intellectual or spiritual (Meiselman)

'Well-being'



- Use of 'well-being' in NZ legislation & policy differs according to context, purpose, subject, obligation & entity (Wallace & Holman 2020)
- Lack of definition of 'well-being' can result in critical factors being overlooked
 - eg environmental drivers often excluded from human well-being accounts (Smith et al 2013)
- 'Well-being' at times conflated with development (Wallace & Holman 2020)
 - The two are not necessarily the same thing

LGA 2002 & well being



- Provision for “local authorities to play a broad role in promoting the social, economic, environmental & cultural well-being of their communities, taking a sustainable development approach” reinstated in the Purpose of LGA
- The purpose, principles and decision making sections, for example, create specific well-being obligations
 - The well-being obligation falls on *local authorities*
 - The subject of these obligations are *communities*
 - Obligations require both *promotion of well-being* and that a local authority *should take account of* the likely impact of any decision on each aspect of well-being



- Flagship ecological restoration project
 - HCC, in partnership with Waikato Tainui, Waikato University, Wintec, Waikato Regional Council, Tui 2000
 - 1000s of hours of volunteer effort & study
- ‘local authorities to play a broad role in promoting the social, economic, environmental & cultural well-being of their communities, taking a sustainable development approach’ - LGA
- Vision: Te Kahu Ao Tuuroa o Rangitara - to create a world class ecological island in an urban environment
- Established 2004, 65.5ha park aims to reconstruct self-sustaining natural forest, wetland & lake ecosystem representing pre-1840s Hamilton
 - restoring mauri, re-creating part of kahikatea-pukatea forest “Te Raukaakaa”; protecting puna (springs) & puna paru (black iron-rich muds); planting flora (eg flax); predator control encouraging native fauna
 - focus for wider restoration & education opportunities



KEY

- Predator Proof Fence
 - Proposed Public Open Space
 - Pathway Network
 - Footbridge
 - Pou
 - Seating and Amenities
 - Te Raukikiko (Kahikatea Forest)
 - Toilet Facilities
 - Viewing Platforms
 - Way-finding Signage
 - Agricultural Heritage Remnants
- Planting Zones**
- Ridgetop Zone
 - Hilltop Zone
 - Semi-swamp Zone
 - Welland/Swamp Zone
 - Lake Zone

- The University of Waikato
- Wintec Rotokauri Campus

Source: Hamilton City Council at:
<https://www.hamilton.govt.nz/>

RMA 1991 and 'well-being'



Term 'well-being' is used in RMA - differences in the nature & direction of obligations under RMA

- Under RMA, **people & communities are enabled to provide for their own well-being**
 - under RMA (compared to LGA), activity is:
 - frequently generated by private sector
 - applies to private property
 - influenced by market-based approach
 - influenced by RMA mandate, functions & methods
 - Unlike LGA, RMA makes no explicit reference to enabling people & communities to provide for their 'environmental well-being'
 - LGA requires explicit consideration of likely impacts of any decision on each aspect of well-being
 - RMA focuses on adverse effects of activities on env't, env'l bottom lines & needs of future generations
 - The subject of well-being in LGA is *communities*
 - RMA enables well-being of both *people & communities*

Urban development



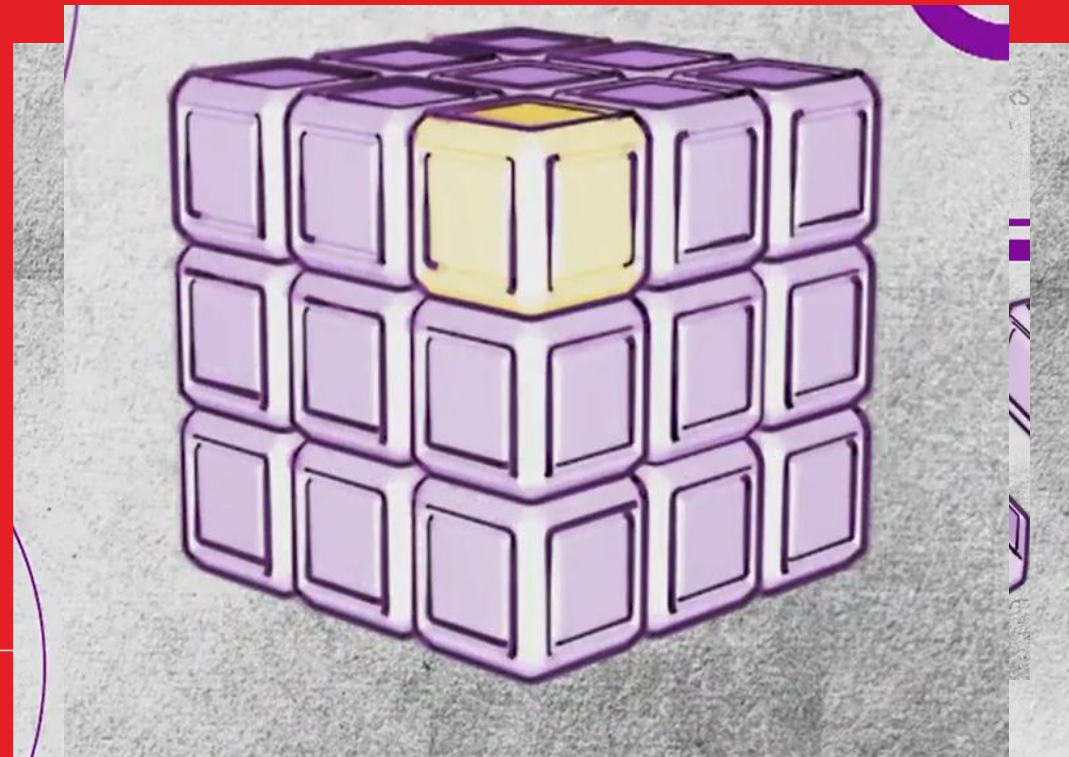
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- Government proposing a raft of initiatives to expedite major urban development projects, aiming to deliver more dynamic & successful cities that better meet housing, employment and amenity needs
 - Eg comprehensive review of RMA
 - Eg proposed NPS on Urban Development
 - Eg proposed NPS for Highly Productive Land
 - Eg housing infrastructure fund
 - Eg established Kāinga Ora–Homes and Communities as a new Crown agency

Seeing the wood and the trees



- A key objective is improving housing affordability and supply
 - important for thriving, resilient communities
- Need to ensure in pursuit of well-being we don't make common error identified by Smith et al (2013)
 - environmental drivers often excluded from human well-being accounts (Smith et al 2013)
- Good understanding needed of what 'quality urban environment' is
 - Further work required in this area (for NPS-UD)

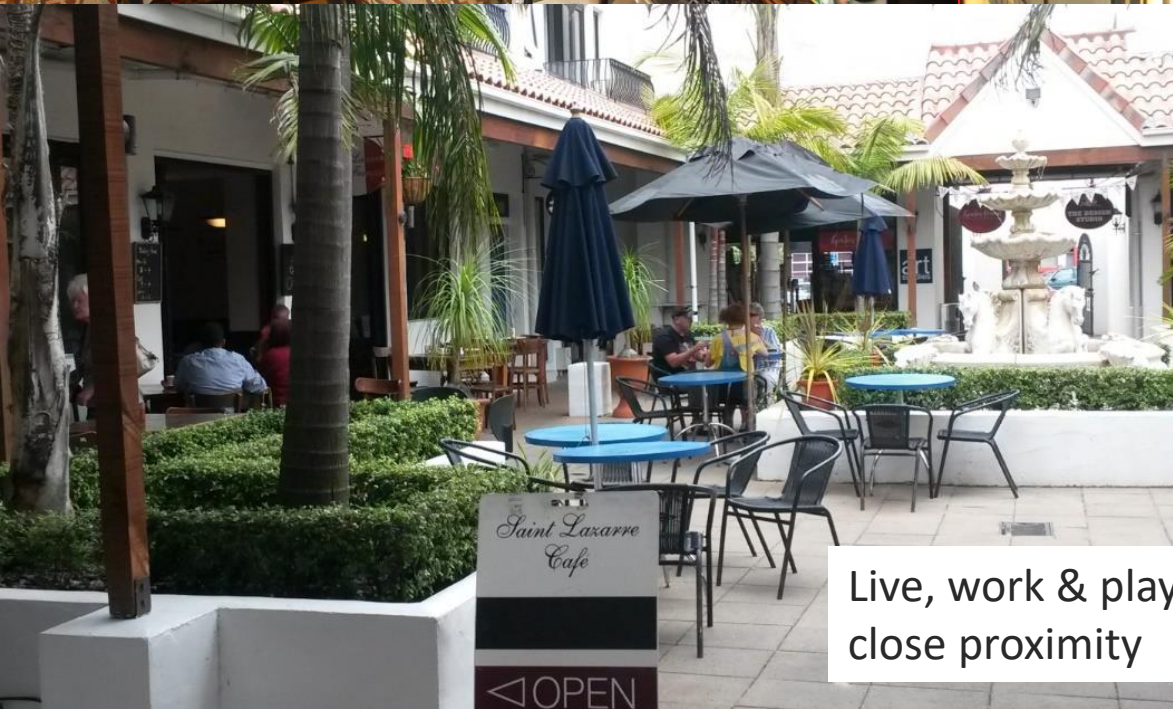




Images source: K Mackness



Large variety of accessible facilities, goods and services, employment opportunities



Live, work & play in close proximity



Images source: K Mackness

High quality public realm
eg pedestrianised areas,
heritage features, parks
landscaping, walkways, etc





24/7 city and economy,
vibrant and inclusive





Enjoy

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Coke

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TRADE I

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can't wait!

Claude
Neon

Darlinghurst Rd

GNC

FLIGHT CENTRE

coles

kings cross centre

coles

Burgerlicious

Images courtesy of K. Mackness



Concluding comments

- Lack of integration and varying approaches to well-being exist, including under LGA and RMA
- ‘Well-being’ and ‘development’ are not necessarily the same thing
 - though urban (& other) development can contribute to well-being
- Creating great urban environments contribute to well-being, with multiple perspectives & dimensions requiring consideration



Questions??



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