National Advisory Group for Integrative Planning (NAGIP)

Notes from Meeting #2, 19 August 2011

Present: Ana Krpo (AC), Andrew Schollum (MfE), Beat Huser (Waikato Regional Council), Celina Garcia (MfE), Clare Sims (MfE), Clare Wooding (Local Government NZ), David Clelland (Auckland Council – *from 12.00*), Eva McLaren (AC), Fiona Ryan (Ministry of Economic Development), Grant Barnes (AC), Ian Smith (AC), Judy Lawrence (Victoria University), Manu King (NZTA), Marjan van den Belt (EERNZ), Melanie Thornton (Greater Wellington RC), Richard Murcott (Land Information NZ), Suzie Greenhalgh (LCR), Urlwyn Trebilco (Waikato Regional Council).

Apologies: Campbell Jensen (Ministry for the Environment), Gerald Rys (Ministry Agriculture and Forestry), Mike Reid (Local Government NZ), Stephen Oakley (Statistics NZ), Martin Butler (Bay of Plenty RC), Adam Cooper (LINZ), Peter Salter (Ministry of Social Development), Julia Forsyth (Wellington City Council), Jacques Poot (University of Waikato), Robert Brodnax (NZTA), Jane Davis (Greater Wellington RC)

Chair: Beat Huser

Presentations from this meeting are available from:
www.sp2.org.nz/about-the-project/advisory-group/.

Purpose of Meeting

To discuss

- Sharing data and information for integrated spatial planning
- The Auckland Plan – lessons learnt so far

Introduction

Beat Huser (WRC) introduced the meeting by giving a brief summary of the last meeting re-iterating some key points from the Terms of Reference (ToR), including:

- Purpose of NAGIP is to provide direction (good practice) and coordination for development and application of systems to support integrated planning; whereby:
  - Systems: data management, GIS/models, DSS, open data/data catalogues, standards/protocols, interoperability etc
  - Integration: spatial (e.g. land/water); within and between organisations; central/local government; legislations (e.g. RMA/LGA/LTMA); environment/economy/people (well-beings).
- Membership: senior staff from Central and Local government, plus reps from research providers (CRIs/universities).
- Member's role:
  - Be a point of contact
  - Communicate meeting outcomes to representing organisation and networks
  - Seek input and feedback from representing organisation
  - Attend and participate in meetings

Sustainable Pathway (SP2) – refer to ppt

Marjan van den Belt (EERNZ/Massey University) gave an update of the MSI-funded 'Sustainable Pathways' (SP2) project, see www.sp2.org.nz.

- Mediated modelling (MM) underway in Wellington, and starting in Auckland (8 Sept). MM is a stakeholder process to discuss what is important – and why (causal diagrams), including linking to systems models for immediate/live debate.
- Disseminating and testing pilot spatial decision support systems for Wellington and Auckland coming up soon.
- Promoting an adaptive dynamic management framework for decision making.
- People needed to review reports. Part of action research to document progress (before/after) and solicit feedback from stakeholders not directly involved.

If you are interested in reviewing and providing feedback on SP2 project outputs please contact Marjan (vandenbeltm@landcareresearch.co.nz).

Spatial Information – refer to ppt

Richard Murcott (LINZ/NZGO) talked about challenges and opportunities for enhanced integration, coordination and collaboration of geospatial datasets, focusing on four areas:

1. Information Policy (recent Cabinet papers- refer to http://ict/govt.nz), covering:
    - Declaration on Open and Transparent Government
    - NZ Data and Information Management Principles
    - Directive to government departments to actively release high-value public data
    - State services agencies (e.g. CRIs, DHBs) encouraged to do the same
    - State sector agencies (e.g. SoEs, Universities) invited to do the same
    - Minister of Local Govt invited to write to local authorities and Local Govt NZ encouraging them, where appropriate, to take a similar approach.
    - Collaboration is the key for successful implementation of above (e.g. NAGIP).
    - Reports have identified the very significant value of geospatial data, both directly and through lost opportunities, resulting in industry/business sectors becoming interested (latest Cabinet paper from the Minister of Finance).
2. Geospatial Strategy
    - A strategic approach to (geo)spatial data management has a long tradition in the US and Europe, but is relatively new in NZ.
    - LINZ is the lead agency to build a spatial data infrastructure (SDI) in NZ (i.e. formally organising data/information sharing).
    - LINZ has just released a resource tool (www.geospatial.govt.nz/sdi-cookbook-home) to provide guidance on the implementation of a national SDI.
3. Finding data/information
    - Finding the data is a critical first step in using it to produce information.
    - Data catalogues using metadata standards are a useful tool where computers do the searching for us. For example www.geodata.govt.
4. Viewing data/information
    - LINZ has worked closely with Auckland Council to assist viewing geospatial data from different sources using mapping and other visualisation tools.

Discussion

- Stakeholders, politicians and the public increasingly expect flash presentation of information. There is a risk that 'style/look' comes before 'content/quality'.
- The use of standards and metadata provides no assurance of actual quality of the data. A separate quality control, certification/auditing process is required, in particular for environmental data. It was suggested that SNZ should take on this role (current focus on socio-economic data).
- MfE reported that they (and Treasury) use an internal, independent quality control process for policy development that evaluates data, identifies deficiencies and highlights uncertainties (caveats).
- The disciplined and successful implementation and ongoing maintenance of a Spatial Data Infrastructure requires enhanced capability, more technical support, training and resources, and most of all a cultural change.

The Auckland Plan – refer to ppt

Grant Barns (Auckland Council) talked about the process of providing the evidence base for producing the Auckland Plan, and some of the associated challenges. The process included the following steps:

1. Collecting data: legislation provides direction (beyond land use planning); vast datasets inherited (refer to spider diagram on slide 2). All datasets have been documented using consistent metadata. Gaps identified.
2. Analysing data: timeframe very tight (8 months), no time to fill gaps and undertaking new work. Scenarios around population growth projections were explored.
3. Learning from others: international comparisons and benchmarking.
4. Looking forward: Auckland Strategic Plan Model and Transport Model were key tools used for forecasting and scenario development. There are a multitude of statutory and non-statutory strategies and plans that need to be aligned and put together coherently.

David Clelland (AC) provided some insights about the development of the Auckland Plan (Draft due 20 Sept).

- The DRAFT Auckland Plan will be released on 20 Sept. 2011 for consultation.
- Eight key areas, maps shown in 4, 7, 10, 20 years time to visualise change.
- Significant growth predicted (total pop 2mill): about 75% of additional dwellings in 2040 within current urban area, 25% outside. Environmental constraints identified, but more work to be done (details in Unitary Plan).
- Auckland Plan, Unitary Plan, Long Term Plan (and others) all done in parallel. Ideally a hierarchical process, but not possible due to legislative timeframes.
- Exiting future for Auckland pictured: enhanced amenities, more open space and new, attractive housing.

Next meeting date: 10 February 2011, Ministry for the Environment, Wellington (tbc)

Appendix Updates Received

1) Ministry for the Environment (MfE) – Andrew Schollum (MfE)

- The second phase of resource management reform (RMII) comprises a number of different workstreams on different reporting tracks and deadlines.
- Cabinet has made significant decisions on aquaculture and the EPA, and these elements of RMII are progressing well.
- Work on water and on the interface between DoC concessions and the RMA and between the Building Act and RMA are also progressing well (notably, the LAWF is continuing its work under the 'Fresh Start for Freshwater' programme).
- It was originally anticipated that work on urban and infrastructure matters (including work on spatial planning in Auckland and for the rest of the country) would lead to a first round of policy decisions in March 2011. The Canterbury earthquakes have, however, diverted the resources of the Ministry and the attention of Cabinet and we are currently working towards a reporting deadline of March 2012 for these elements of the package.
- I was also noted that the economic and political context could change between now and March 2012 (general elections).

2) Waikato Regional Council (WRC) – Urlwyn Trebilco

- WRC has undertaken to work more strategically, as reflected in Council's Strategic Directions 2010-2013' (www.waikatoregion.govt.nz/About-us/WRC-strategy/). This document states that a spatial plan for the region will be developed, although its purpose and scope still has to be defined. The WRC Policy Group has recently restructured to include a new programme 'Regional Planning & Integration' with a strategic focus.
- WRC has been encouraging the Waikato Triennial Agreement Forum to work more collaboratively on strategic matters. Work has been commissioned to develop ideas, in consultation with Mayors and Chief Executives. This will include discussion about the potential for a 'strategic spatial plan' for the region.
- WRC staff are continuing to talk to neighbouring regions and other stakeholders to develop our ideas about strategic spatial planning. This will include through discussions at the new Upper North Island Strategic Alliance (UNISA), comprising of Northland, Auckland, Waikato and Bay of Plenty councils.

3) MSI Project (Envirolink funding) – Marjan van den Belt & Beat Huser

- Work on the "*Development of a web-based directory of spatial models and other decision support systems (DSS)*" has commenced. The project will produce a searchable web-based directory of existing spatial models and other decision support systems for policy and resource management.
- The directory will provide easy access to up-to-date spatial models and other DSS and facilitate up-take and use of current knowledge and available research outputs for environmental policy and resource management.
- **Key outputs:**
  a. A web-based inventory hosted on the Envirolink website (tbc).
  b. Examples/case studies illustrating successful applications for each model/DSS.
  c. Report documenting the process and methodology used.
  d. Recommendations for the ongoing maintenance and regular up-date of the directory.