



Sustainability Assessment - NZ Comparison

SAS2010



Introduction

- ▶ NZ context: recent sustainable development history
- ▶ Local Government Act (2002)
- ▶ The Act in practice: Kaitiaki Coast District Council
- ▶ Conclusions

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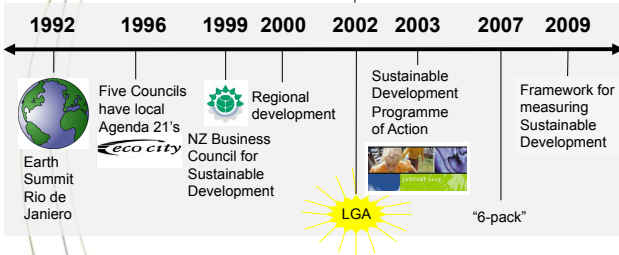
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NZ context: recent sustainable development history



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Local Government Act 2002

Purpose of the Act

The purpose of this Act is to provide for democratic and effective local government that recognises the diversity of New Zealand communities; and, to that end, this Act:

... (d) provides for local authorities to play a broad role in promoting the social, economic, environmental, and cultural well-being of their communities, taking a sustainable development approach.

Purpose of Local Government

The purpose of local government is:

- (a) to enable democratic local decision-making and action by, and on behalf of, communities; and
- (b) to promote the social, economic, environmental, and cultural well-being of communities, in the present and for the future.

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Local Government Act 2002

Principles

(a) a local authority should:

- conduct its business in an open, transparent, and democratically accountable manner; and
- give effect to its identified priorities and desired outcomes in an efficient and effective manner

(b) a local authority should make itself aware of, and should have regard to, the views of all of its communities

(c) when making a decision, a local authority should take account of:

- the diversity of the community, and the community's interests, within its district or region;
- the interests of future as well as current communities; and
- the likely impact of any decision on each aspect of well-being referred to in [(the purpose)]

(d) a local authority should provide opportunities for Māori to contribute to its decision-making processes

(e) a local authority should collaborate and co-operate with other local authorities and bodies as it considers appropriate to promote or achieve its priorities and desired outcomes, and make efficient use of resources

(f) a local authority should undertake any commercial transactions in accordance with sound business practices

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Local Government Act 2002

Principles contd

- (g) a local authority should ensure prudent stewardship and the efficient and effective use of its resources in the interests of its district or region
- (h) in taking a sustainable development approach, a local authority should take into account:
 - the social, economic, and cultural well-being of people and communities; and
 - the need to maintain and enhance the quality of the environment; and
 - the reasonably foreseeable needs of future generations.

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Local Government Act 2002

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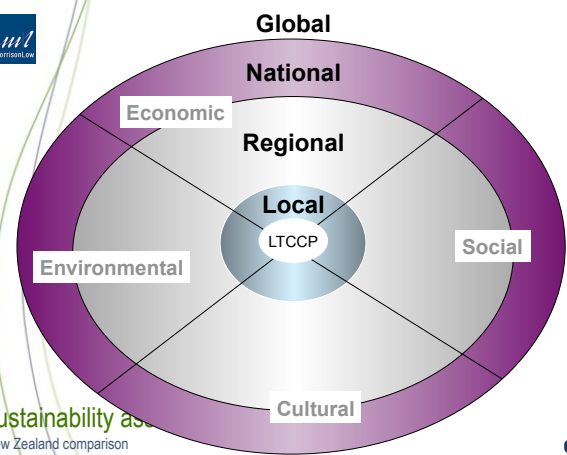
The Long Term Council Community Plan (LTCCP) is the key vehicle for integrated planning within a sustainable development approach.

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The Act in practice: Kapiti Coast District Council

- ▶ A beach community of 45,000 about 45 minutes by train or car to the north of Wellington, NZ
- ▶ Older than the average population of NZ (25% over 65 years)
- ▶ 12% Maori (indigenous NZers)
- ▶ Higher than average income, greater than average assets - but also high deprivation
- ▶ More educated than average (higher % of university degrees)



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The Act in practice: Kapiti Coast District Council

- ▶ An "edge" community made up of a number of diverse small towns adjacent to the capital city
- ▶ By and large conventional suburban development imposed on a dramatic seaside environment
- ▶ Heavily car-dependent
- ▶ The local economy is reliant on residential construction and services for people e.g. rest homes
- ▶ Horticulture and tourism are seen as economic opportunities



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The Act in practice: Kapiti Coast District Council

- ▶ In response to the Act, Kapiti Coast District Council:
 - changed philosophical approach
 - no longer saw itself as a service provider of last resort
 - saw its role as pivotal in leading the District in shaping the future
 - committed itself to extensive community participation
 - adopted processes that reflected this

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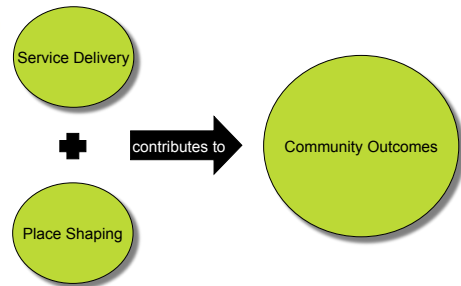
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The Act in practice: Kapiti Coast District Council



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The Act in practice: Kapiti Coast District Council

1 Community Outcomes
(process facilitated by Council)



2 Long Term Council Community Plan (LTCCP)
Council + Other Agencies

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The Act in practice: Kapiti Coast District Council



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The Act in practice: Kapiti Coast District Council

| Stage 1 | Stage 2 | Stage 3 | Stage 4 |
|---|--|---|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Initial visioning workshops – place-based • Councillors and staff encouraged people to put forward ideas • 4,500 adults and about 1000 young people participated – many who normally wouldn't | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Developed draft outcome statements – used mind mapping software • Checked back with community | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Matched actions to vision with community • Developed SD principles and tested outcomes and actions • Engaged with other agencies • Prepared draft Plan | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Statutory community consultation period • Final Plan adopted |



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The Act in practice: Kapiti Coast District Council

- ▶ The seven Community Outcomes
 - Healthy natural systems
 - Local character within cohesive District
 - Population growth appropriate to community goals
 - District's resources are used wisely
 - Increased choice to work locally
 - District is a place that works for young people
 - A strong healthy and involved community



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The Act in practice: Kapiti Coast District Council

- ▶ Sustainable development principles:
 - Achieving long term balance
 - Ability for all to participate in community
 - Positive partnerships
 - Interests of future communities are taken into account
 - Prudent stewardship of natural resources
 - Human capital is maintained, nurtured and increased
 - Interconnectedness is taken account of
 - Actions should increase the resilience and adaptability of the community to handle shocks
 - Local economy should avoid environmental harm
 - Decisions should take account of the impact on the well-being of individuals
 - People should have access to tools, systems and technologies to enable them to act sustainably
 - Account to be taken of changing context
 - Speed of change to fit capacity of the community to respond

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The Act in practice: Kapiti Coast District Council

- ▶ The new approach generated:
 - community support for action
 - new approach to overall development of the District (new District Plan, local plans, growth management)
 - shift of resources to reflect new priorities (eg improved coastal management)
 - fundamental shift in relationship with Iwi (eg moves towards co-management of natural resources)
 - gold mine of information to inform other processes
 - changes in culture of the Council organisation
 - process improvements
 - structural changes
 - electoral support – overwhelming endorsement of Councillors standing for the LTCCP

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Conclusions

- ▶ Legislation followed sustainability practice in leading councils
- ▶ The legislative framework made a big difference:
 - councils could stop debating whether they had a role in sustainable development and focus on what and how
 - all councils doing it together, so able to share and learn from each other
 - some support from the centre (know-how guides, principles etc)
 - effective pressure on government agencies to meaningfully engage
- ▶ Raised the bar for all councils, although a spectrum of performance

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local government
 procurement
 alliance partnering
 long term financial plan
 asset management
 waste management
 governance
 financial/feasibility modeling
 economic development
 sustainability