

To: Environment Committee  
From: Cr T McDavitt

5 sep 2001

**Strategic Urban Planning Conference: 3-4 September 2001**

Dr Wayne Hastie and I attended this 2-day IIR Conference at the Duxton Hotel, Wakefield St, Wellington. Conference papers addressed strategic (urban) planning, urban design, urban infrastructure and RMA issues, with speakers drawn from central and local government, academic and private professional ranks (lawyers, architects). Attendees represented a similar range, with local government prominent. WCC, PCC and WRC were represented and Cr Sue Piper of WCC chaired the Conference.

The themes that originally attracted our interest were the role (and limits) of RMA in urban planning, and regional urban growth strategies. The most pertinent papers for these themes were:

- Craig Mallett, MfE, on Government initiatives relevant to Urban Planning;
- Morgan Williams, PCE, on Urban Water System Issues;
- Paddy Gresham, MfE, on Urban Waste Management;
- David Snashall, ERM (Australia), on Corporate Social Responsibility;
- Phil Warren, ARC, on Auckland's Regional Growth Strategy;
- Robert Tromop, EECA, on Draft EECA Strategy;
- Helen Atkins and Chris Mitchell, Phillips Fox, on RMA Case Law and Urban Planning.

A copy of these papers has been deposited with Environment Division and Councillors interested in perusing them could ask Dr Hastie. Most cover known material; Councillors unfamiliar with the Auckland RUGS will appreciate Phil Warren's accessible description; for new material I recommend the Mallett, Snashall, and Atkins/Mitchell. Of these the Snashall paper is particularly relevant to Environment Division/WRC's current direction re sustainable development (suggesting for example that "better practice" models of corporate responsibility are very thin in New Zealand but reasonably developed in Australia).

The Conference followed a talking heads format with little opportunity for questions or interactive discussion. A case-study/walking tour of Te Aro provided one

An MfE aside I thought worth recording:

“By sustainable we mean:

Ecologically sound  
**AND**  
Socially acceptable  
**AND**  
Economically viable.”

Inference: if a policy is only one of these and not the other(s) it is not sustainable?

Certainly: if a policy is only one of these and not the others it is not practical.

### **Conclusion**

Conference papers inform themes the next WRC needs to assess in respect of Strategic Planning in this region.

*Ihat the report be received*

**Terry McDavitt**  
Councillor