
Section 2: City View Objectives

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2. CITY VIEW OBJECTIVES

2.1 Introduction

The intention of this section is to identify the resource management issues, objectives and environmental outcomes which apply to the City as a total entity rather than focusing on specific activity areas as does much of the rest of this Plan. This is an approach which assumes that both the City's urban and rural parts form a coherent whole which in turn is made up of a series of inter-related elements, that is the activity areas, e.g. the rural, business, residential and industrial areas.

This section of the Plan also reflects the many roles and functions that the City has and its very multi-faceted character. Within this part of the Plan there are no policies as these are regarded as too specific and it is better suited to the particular activity areas that policies are better suited.

Equally this is the only part of the plan which has a goal, as this represents the end state which we hope that this Plan will achieve.

2.2 The Resource Management Issues for the City

Through the process of consultation the following were identified as the overall resource management issues which face the City of Palmerston North.

- The effect of urban growth and how that growth should be managed, and to ensure the urban infrastructure is efficiently and sustainably utilised.
- The need to increase urban density through infill to avoid the unsustainable use of rural land and how the perceived adverse amenity effects associated with this should be managed.
- The role of economic development in the retention and enhancement of the City's vibrant economy through appropriate management of the City's natural and built resources.
- The effects of rural residential development on the rural land resource and how these effects can be remedied or mitigated through controls on development.
- Promotion of a clean, environmentally aware City with good amenity qualities in all areas and managed in a sustainable manner.
- Sustaining the potential of the productive rural land resource particularly with regard to its role in agricultural production.
- The desire to maintain, recognise and protect the heritage character of the City.
- Maintenance of sustainable urban form. In particular the maintenance of a compact CBD, in terms of its contribution to avoiding the adverse effects of commercial dispersion particularly with regard to efficiency of urban form.
- The role and nature of industrial development, particularly the potential for environmental degradation associated with such activities and hazardous substances.
- Appropriate subdivisional standards in all areas.

- The existence of natural hazards and the need to manage the development of land affected by such hazards to avoid adverse effects.
- The need for clear direction for the overall establishment and maintenance of amenity standards.
- The variety of demands for recreational activities within the community.
- Noise and its effect on amenity values.
- The sustainable management of the transport infrastructure.
- The particular concerns of tangata whenua with regard to the management of resources.
- The protection and enhancement of the Manawatu River and its margins.
- The need to recognise the important contribution that education and research institutions make to the city and to facilitate their sustainable use and development.

Explanation

The various issues detailed above indicate the issues that the City must address, as a whole, as it attempts to promote the sustainable management of the City. They largely reflect the diversity of issues which are faced when the environment includes a substantial urban area which is a major user of natural and physical resources. Some of the issues also reflect the desire on the part of the community to ensure that environmental issues are dealt with more positively in the future within the context of a City which can still grow and which remains a vibrant economic entity.

Finally, the resource management issues which were identified clearly reflect the complexity of the City which arises from its multi-faceted nature and the many roles that it plays. These issues therefore create an overall framework within which the particular issues associated with each activity area, should be viewed.

2.3 The Goal

The sustainable management of the City's natural and physical resources.

Explanation

As indicated in the Introductory section of this Plan, the term 'goal' means "a state which one day we hope to achieve and of which the Plan forms part of the process of achievement". The goal is drawn directly from the Act, the purpose of which is to promote the sustainable management of natural and physical resources. It has been developed in recognition of the fact that the City consists of natural and physical resources which must be managed sustainably if the purpose of the Act is to be achieved.

2.4 The Objectives

Introduction

In formulating these objectives, an attempt has been made to reflect the many facets of this City's environment and the activities which occur within it. The City as a whole is a very complex ecosystem which consists of a number of parts, many of which reflect the particular roles the City plays. Taken together however, these roles represent the City as a total entity and one which this Plan must try to ensure is managed in a sustainable and environmentally sensitive manner.

To reflect this approach the City View, or overall objectives, have been developed and arranged under headings which represent some facet of the City and how it functions.

The Convenient Community

- To sustain a compact and orderly urban form which avoids the adverse environmental effects of uncontained urban expansion.
- To facilitate easy, energy efficient provision of, and access to, network utilities, services and facilities for all residents.
- To ensure the efficient and sustainable provision of infrastructure in urban areas.

The Healthy Community

- To promote a clean, healthy and safe environment.
- To avoid remedy or mitigate the impacts of activities using hazardous substances.
- To avoid, remedy or mitigate the adverse effects of natural hazards.

The Learning Community

- To promote a wide range of education and research opportunities in the City.

The Working Community

- To provide the conditions to ensure the physical resources of the City are managed and developed while avoiding, remedying, or mitigating adverse environmental effects.
- To promote a range of business and economic activity which lead to the efficient use and development of natural and physical resources.

The Leisure Community

- To encourage a broad range of leisure opportunities in the City.

The Heritage Community

- To identify and preserve the cultural heritage fabric of the City.
- To preserve and enhance the natural heritage features of the City, including lake and river margins, significant areas of indigenous vegetation and habitats, and important natural features and landscapes.

The Attractive Community

- To maintain and enhance the visual appeal of the City.
- To recognise the distinctive rural and urban character of the City.
- To manage the adverse effects of activities on the environment.

The Mobile Community

- To ensure the transport infrastructure can operate in a safe and efficient manner, and that the effects of activities which could impact on the safe and efficient operation of this infrastructure are avoided, remedied or mitigated.

Explanation

The City as an urban area represents a modified environment which now contains a range of natural resources such as rural land, rivers and open space and a range of physical resources including buildings, manufacturing enterprises and service infrastructures. The resource management issues identified in Section 2.2 reflect the community's concerns as to how those resources should be best managed to avoid, remedy or mitigate adverse environmental effects and to promote the sustainable management of the City's share of the country's natural and physical resources.

The objectives detailed above largely reflect those resource management issues and set them within the context of the City as an operating entity. The Convenient Community objectives reflect the need to closely manage, and to some extent limit the expansion of the urban part of the City to ensure that the finite land resource is used efficiently, and that expensive commuting journeys to work places and services are avoided. In the case of the Healthy Community objectives, the focus is largely on the concerns of Section 5(2)(a) and Section 7, in ensuring that long term adverse effects on, and damage to, the environment is avoided, and to secure an environmentally safe community which is able to sustain itself in the very long term.

The Working and Leisure Community objectives are very much centred on the realistic expectation that economic activity in the City will continue and the need to ensure that it does continue. Should it cease, the Plan would have failed to meet the requirement of Section 5(2) "to manage the use, development, and protection of natural and physical resources (to) enable people and communities to provide for their social, economic and cultural well being and for their health and safety". Equally it would be very poor management of natural and physical resources in terms of Section 5(2)(b), as these include buildings, equipment devices and other facilities made by people.

The Heritage and Attractive Community objectives are derived from community concerns and clearly reflect the concerns of Section 7(c) and 7(e), and matters of national importance, such as the protection of the margins of lakes and rivers, areas of significant vegetation and habitats and outstanding natural features and landscapes, contained in Section 6(a) to 6(c). Finally the Mobile Community objectives reflect the importance of the transport infrastructure in developing and sustaining an energy efficient urban area.