



Councillor Felicity Foy

Date: 16/05/2023

Meetings Attended

Meeting Topic
NZ Planning Conference



THE PLANNING REFORM STORM

For many years the Resource Management Act (RMA) has done its job, but many say that it is too complicated and results in drawn out and expensive consenting and Plan making processes.

It is my view that due to the focus on “managing effects” the RMA also has resulted in a bias towards the status quo, and that this has resulted in restrictions to housing and infrastructure consenting and delivery, which is needed in order to respond to population growth. It has been previously highlighted the RMA also does not manage cumulative effects well.

As you may know, I am a qualified town planner and I take a keen interest in town planning. I am very supportive of the new Spatial Planning Act. I am also supportive for central government to help resource our local iwi to have more resourcing in the resource management space. A lot of time and resource is taken to provide information about planning processes to the public and to iwi/hapu by Council. However, I’m many other areas of NZ, Iwi and hapu have their own planning and resource management units. It would a significant opportunity for the Ministry for the Environment to help assist our community and Iwi/hapu to be better resourced in this space, instead of all of the financial and human resourcing pressures being placed on local councils to provide this resource.

The new FNDC proposed district plan will be eventually superseded by the new planning acts. It is just a matter of time before all planning processes are undertaken by a regional planning committee with limited involvement of councils at all (1 council rep in the whole regional

planning panel). These panels will be for all of northland, including Kaipara, Whangarei, and the regional Council, and will not be run council by council as it is currently operated.

At the NZ planning institute conference that I attend at the end of April, there was extensive information and details about why the RMA is being reformed and also what the opportunities are with the new planning reforms. I was the only elected member that attended the conference from Northland.

I am the "reforms" portfolio holder, along with Councillor Hilda Harawira. Since the NZ Planning Institute conference, I have tabled with all Northland Councils to lobby the Ministry for the Environment to be one of the first tranche 1 regions to implement the new Spatial planning act, and the new Natural and Built Environments Act (NBE).

The opportunity to volunteer in "tranche 1" of the implementation of these new Acts is that the Ministry for the Environment (MfE) will help resource the transition for both Council and Iwi/Hapu, and also provide technical support within Council and with Iwi/Hapu with this transition.

The new NBE has a change in that the new statement will "give effect" to te Tiriti o Waitangi, and therefore has much more focus on Iwi/Hapu and enabling their aspirations to be given effect to through this legislation.

Given our large number of iwi/hapu and our small rate payer base, plus our very small number of technical planning and spatial planning experts within both Council and Iwi/Hapu organisations, it would a huge opportunity to collaborate with the Ministry for the Environment to increase our Capacity and also to support the increase in technical capacity within Iwi/Hapu organisations.

In my opinion the new spatial planning act is very sensible and will be appreciated by both the public and professional planners alike.

The new spatial plan it act will have the most benefits, by putting master planning of townships as a key outcome, and also to integrate social services planning and infrastructure planning from central government as part of these regional spatial masterplans. It is also noted that central government will have a representative as part of new regional planning committee's to be able to integrate regional planning with central government planning and investment. It is also noted that urban design and architecture will be a huge part of design of town centres and mix use use integration into town centres.

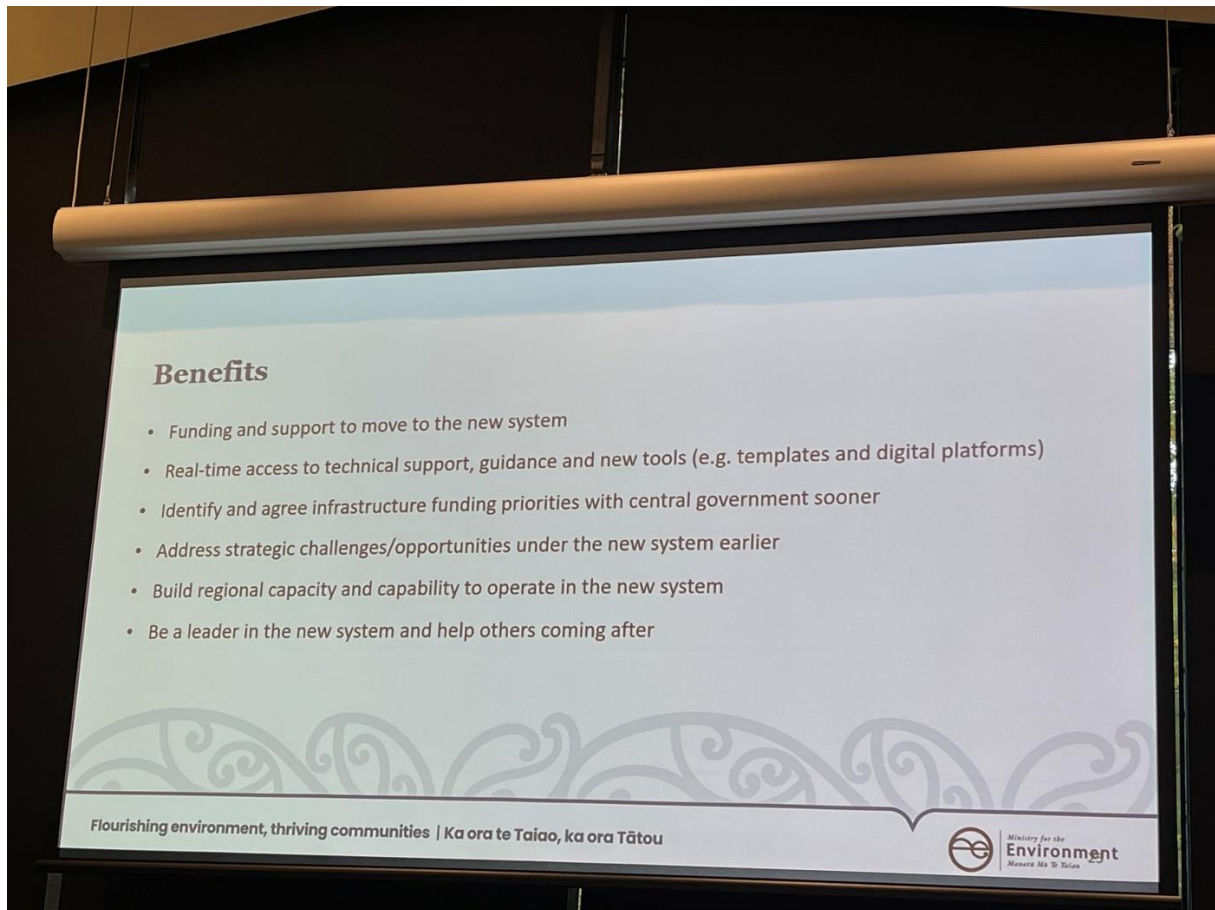
It is with hope that NZ also implements a National spatial plan that plans in advance all the central govt planning of infrastructure and also the planning of infrastructure by requiring authorities such as top energy/solar farms and cell tower/fibre servicing, relative to natural hazards.

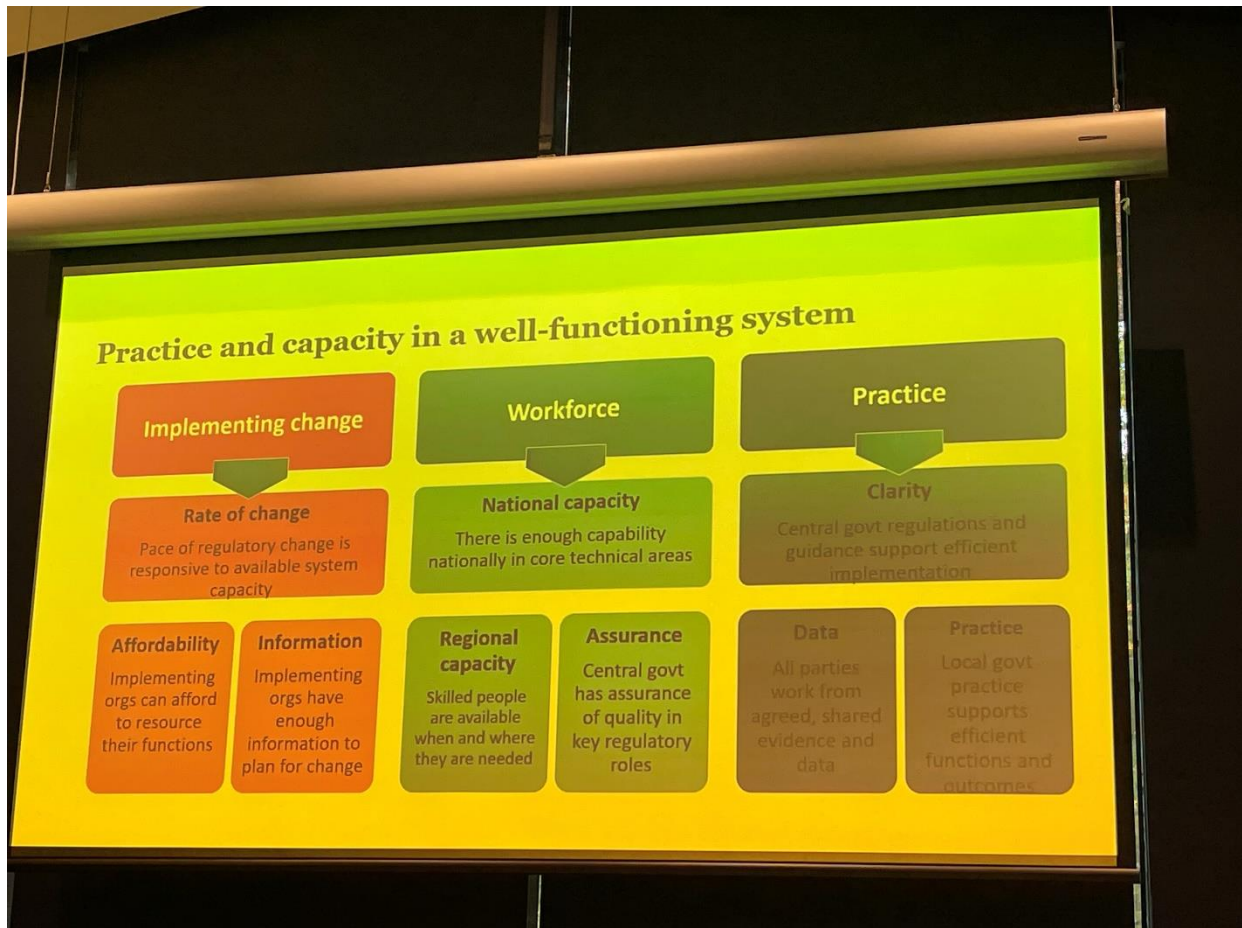
I have tabled for northland to be a "tranche 1" region as part of the implementation of the new spatial planning act, and therefore to implement the spatial planning and spatial Master planning of Northland asap. It is with hope that the Ministry for the Environment will be selected northland to be a tranche 1 region, and therefore resource Northland to implement

spatial planning and also the new Natural and Built Environments Act ASAP.


Part of the conference was also tech opportunities. I have tabled these with the mayor and also attached excerpts reflecting examples of tech and artificial intelligence opportunities for Northland.







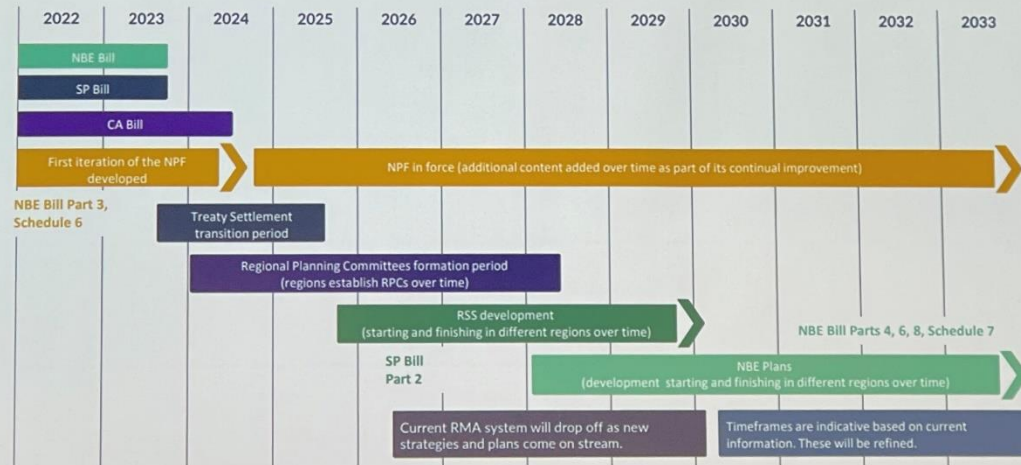
RM Reform Objectives

 Ministry for the Environment
Pūwhiri o Te Taiao

- **Protect and where necessary restore the natural environment**, including its capacity to provide for the well-being of present and future generations.
- **Better enable development within environmental biophysical limits** including a significant improvement in housing supply, affordability and choice, and timely provision of appropriate infrastructure, including social infrastructure.
- **Give effect to the principles of Te Tiriti o Waitangi** and provide greater recognition of te ao Māori, including mātauranga Māori.
- **Better prepare for adapting to climate change** and risks from natural hazards, and better mitigate emissions contributing to climate change.
- **Improve system efficiency and effectiveness**, and reduce complexity, while retaining appropriate local democratic input.

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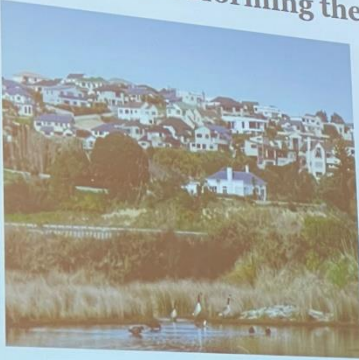
Transition and Implementation



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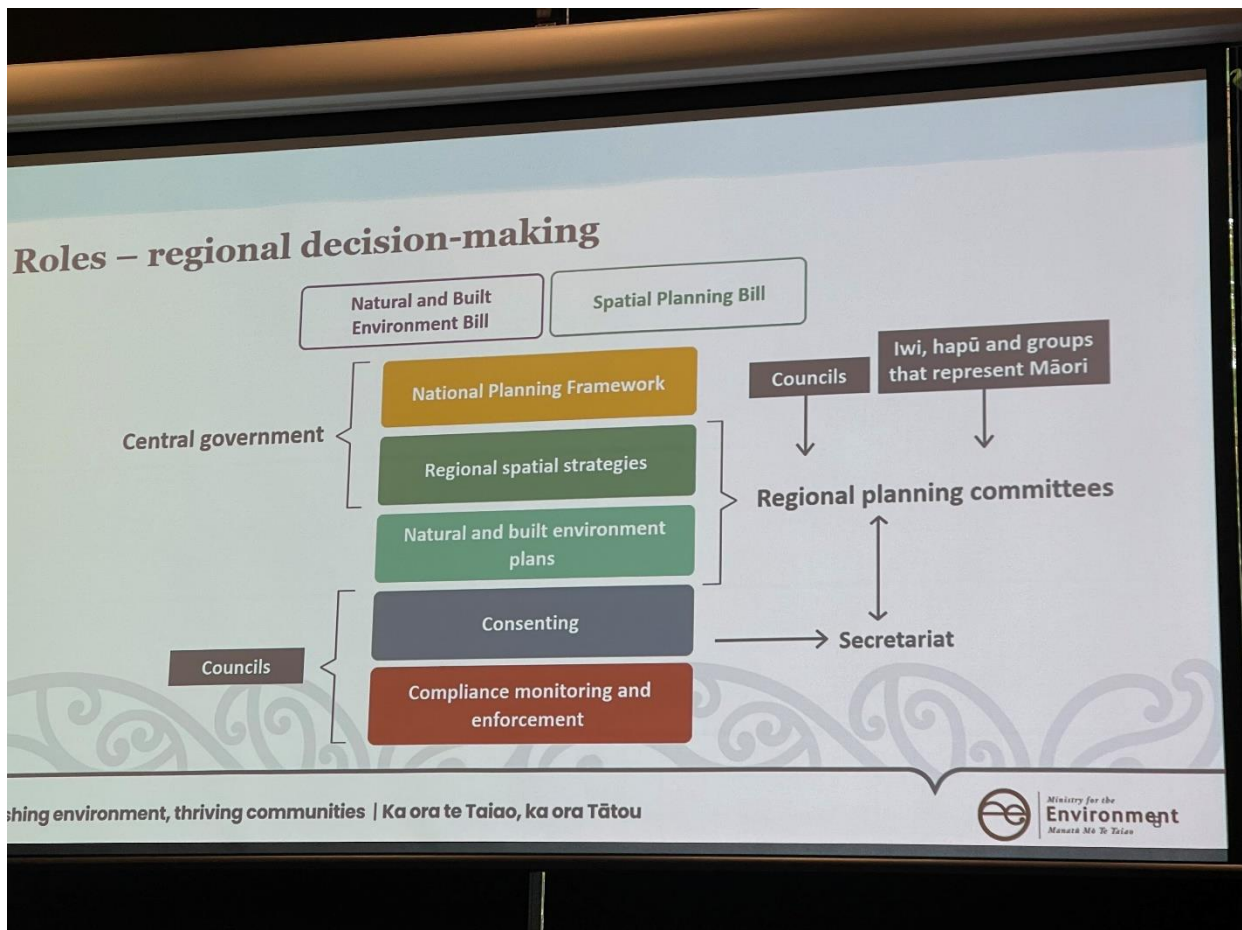
Why are we reforming the resource management system?



- RMA does not adequately protect the environment nor enable housing or development where needed
- Cumulative environmental effects are not well-managed
- RM plans restrict housing and infrastructure that is needed to respond to population growth
- Lack of system integration has resulted in inefficiencies and delays
- Te Tiriti is not sufficiently recognised and there is a lack of support for Māori participation in the system
- Processes take too long, cost too much and do not address the many new challenges facing our environment and our communities.

Flourishing environment, thriving communities | Ka ora te Taiao, ka ora Tātou

Ministry for the Environment
Manatū Mō Te Taiao




Proposed content in the first National Planning Framework

- National Planning Framework overarching layer
- Te Oranga o te Taiao and direction on resolving conflicts
- Redrafting of all existing RMA national direction
- New direction on system outcomes:
 - Infrastructure
 - Cultural heritage
 - Relationship of iwi and hapū and their taonga
 - Protected customary rights
 - Outstanding natural features and landscapes
 - Natural hazards and climate change mitigation
- Environmental limits and targets



Flourishing environment, thriving communities | Ka ora te Taiao, ka ora Tātou

 Ministry for the Environment
Mānāwha Me Te Taiao

2. | Build Capabilities and Relationships

The Challenge
There is a general lack of understanding and connection between those that are monitoring and caring for the environment and those that are, or could be, developing AI solutions to help the environment. This creates issues of communication and lost opportunities.

The Goal
Strong, balanced, reciprocal relationships between those developing AI systems, using AI systems and the kaitiaki of the environment.





Photo Credit: Chris Williams

Recommendations:

- Invest in increasing the institutional understanding of AI in businesses and Government.
- Increase the exposure of AI specialists to environmental challenges and environmental scientists to AI.
- Increase collaboration within the AI for the environment ecosystem.

 ai forum
NEW ZEALAND

