

Urban Development Capacity in the New Plymouth district

Some urban areas in New Zealand are growing quickly and over several years concerns have been expressed that development capacity was not keeping up with demand. The 2015 Productivity Commission inquiry into 'Using land for housing' recommended that Government prepare a national policy statement to help address constraints on development capacity in urban areas.

The National Policy Statement for Urban Development Capacity (NPS-UDC) was gazetted on 3 November 2016 and came into force 28 days later (1 December 2016). It requires local authorities to monitor and plan for housing and business development capacity in urban environments, to maximise wellbeing now and in the future. Under the Resource Management Act 1991 (the RMA), regional policy statements and plans must give effect to any national policy statement.

The NPS-UDC contains provisions for areas defined as medium and high-growth. Initially identified as a medium-growth urban area, New Plymouth district was later classified as high growth¹. The change of classification requires high-growth "local authorities" (i.e. New Plymouth District Council and Taranaki Regional Council) to undertake planning and monitoring actions to implement the NPS-UDC.

The New Plymouth district covers an area of 2,205 square metres. New Plymouth District Council and Taranaki Regional Council are working together on the development of four planning and monitoring projects required under the NPS-UDC:

- [Quarterly Reports on Urban Development Indicators](#);
- Housing and Business Development Capacity Assessment Reports;
- Minimum targets for housing development capacity; and
- Future Development Strategy.

NPDC has developed the first quarterly report: *Urban Development Indicators Quarterly Monitoring Report (No. 1)*, December 2017 and we are happy to present it here for users of our website.

¹ Which is defined as any urban area that has over 30,000 people, **or** at any point in the year has a combined resident and visitor population of over 30,000, **and** where the projected population growth is more than 10% between 2013-2023 (based on Statistics NZ stats)