



Cabinet Economic Development Committee

Minute of Decision

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Urban Growth Agenda: Revised Programme

Portfolio **Housing**

On 27 October 2021, the Cabinet Economic Development Committee:

- 1 **noted** that in May 2018, Cabinet agreed to set up the Urban Growth Agenda as a cross-agency work programme aimed at improving urban outcomes in response to the challenges facing New Zealand's urban areas [CAB-18-MIN-0244];
- 2 **noted** that a number of initiatives have been delivered through the Urban Growth Agenda, including the notification in the *New Zealand Gazette* of the National Policy Statement on Urban Development, the delivery of the Infrastructure Funding and Financing Act 2020, and the establishment of growth partnerships and spatial plans with several tier one cities;
- 3 **noted** that the Urban Growth Agenda has confirmed the enduring importance of having strong Ministerial champions across urban-related portfolios with a shared view of the challenges, opportunities, and priorities;
- 4 **noted** that the Minister for Building and Construction has joined the Urban Growth Agenda Ministerial Group to ensure connections with the building system;
- 5 **confirmed** the shift in objectives to reflect an increased focus on climate change impacts and responses, as follows:
 - 5.1 *affordable housing*: giving people more and better options for housing locations and types, to improve housing affordability in urban areas;
 - 5.2 *emissions reductions*: encouraging, enabling, and incentivising lower emission urban form and construction;
 - 5.3 *liveable and resilient cities*: making urban areas more accessible and inclusive, and increasing resilience to natural hazards and climate change impacts;
- 6 **confirmed** the revised pillar focus and work programme, as follows:
 - 6.1 the Infrastructure Funding and Financing pillar to be renamed *Infrastructure Funding, Financing and Delivery pillar*, to reflect the forward work programme supporting a more stable and certain infrastructure funding system, identifying and addressing infrastructure constraints within the system while continuing to implement the Infrastructure Funding and Financing Act;

- 6.2 the Urban Planning pillar to continue its focus, allowing cities to make room for growth (both up and out) by addressing planning rules methods and practices that can restrict development, enable strategic integrated planning, and understand and measure the wider cost and benefits of growth;
 - 6.3 the Spatial Planning pillar to be renamed *Urban Growth Partnerships* to more accurately reflect the forward work programme, focusing on partnerships between central government, local authorities, and Māori and iwi in key urban areas;
 - 6.4 the Transport Pricing pillar to be renamed the *Leveraging and Integrating Transport* to reflect the forward work programme focus to leverage and integrate transport investment and land use across the pillars to avoid carbon emissions and ensure that all development is well-connected by public and active transport;
 - 6.5 the Legislative Reform pillar to be renamed *System Coherence* to reflect the forward work programme focus on ensuring the government's urban work programme is integrated and mutually reinforcing, and that an urban development perspective is provided into significant wider government reforms;
- 7 **invited** Urban Growth Agenda Ministers to report back to Cabinet in mid-2022, following the delivery of the emissions reduction plan, on any necessary changes to the Urban Growth Agenda work programme.

Janine Harvey
Committee Secretary

Present:

Hon Grant Robertson (Chair)
Hon Dr Megan Woods
Hon David Parker
Hon Poto Williams
Hon Stuart Nash
Hon Kris Faafoi
Hon Willie Jackson
Hon Michael Wood
Hon Kiri Allan
Hon Dr David Clark
Hon Meka Whaitiri
Hon Phil Twyford
Rino Tirikatene MP
Dr Deborah Russell MP

Officials present from:

Office of the Prime Minister
Officials Committee for DEV