

MEASURING THE WIDER COSTS AND BENEFITS OF URBAN GROWTH

The Methodology - A Simple Guide

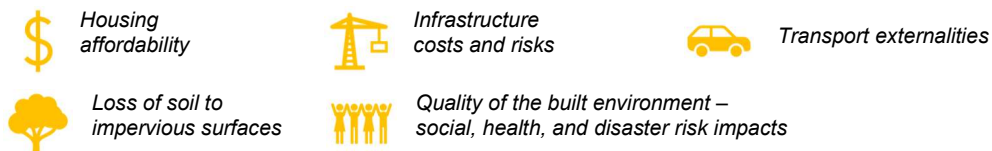


WHAT IS THE METHODOLOGY?

This methodology is a multi-criteria analysis to understand the spatial differences between options for **where and how** urban growth takes place in a city.

The goal of this methodology is not to determine how to grow, but instead it examines the key **economic, social, and environmental impacts** of options and their relationships to each other.

It does not give a monetised value, rather it summarises the resulting costs and benefits of growth across **five impact categories**. These are:



This methodology provides an evidence base for developing better urban growth choices, supporting the goals of the **Urban Growth Agenda**.

80% of New Zealanders now live in towns and cities. As urban growth continues, the country faces the challenge of managing the costs and maximising the benefits of this growth.



WHEN SHOULD IT BE USED?

This methodology **supports** decision making for strategic issues across spatial and urban planning.

It should be used to inform existing processes and deliver a richer evidence base that brings together a range of data and economic theory.

It is **not meant to replace** well-established strategic planning processes, or to produce final answers for where and how urban growth takes place.



WHO SHOULD USE IT?

This methodology is for councils to assess the strategic implications of urban growth and to understand their wider costs and benefits.

Users will therefore be **urban and spatial planning practitioners, local decision makers** and **stakeholders** they advise to support strategic decision making.

In order to implement the methodology, the data required has been designed to reflect what is readily available to local authorities.



WHERE SHOULD IT BE USED?

This methodology is designed to be accessible enough to be applied in **any major city in New Zealand**.

It is flexible enough to accommodate more accurate data and sophisticated analysis methods when possible.

Users are encouraged to substitute or update the metric inputs with more appropriate local assumptions where possible. The outputs of the methodology will only be as good as the inputs used locally.



HOW TO USE IT?

The methodology consists of **five phases**:

Selection of options for urban growth (i.e. potential options to increase development capacity, including urban expansion, intensification, or both) whether using the 'Planning Tool' (see *below*) or other local planning process.

Metric-level appraisal to assess costs and benefits across the five impact categories, to be completed by technical staff or analysts using the calculation steps and data sources described in the methodology report.

Multi-criteria analysis scoring of the different options to highlight the strongest option in each of the five impact categories and relative ranking of other options against this.

Weighted comparison and strategic-level appraisal, to be undertaken collaboratively with a wider group of decision-makers to compare relative magnitude of impacts against strategic long-term priorities.

Sensitivity testing and decision or iteration depending on the insights gained. Either making changes in earlier parts of the method to examine different assumptions or locations, or progress to final decisions on long-term plans for growth.

Step-by-step instructions for these five phases are detailed in the Final Methodology Report. These phases may be blended, rearranged, or repeated as and when required.

THE PLANNING TOOL



If potential locations for intensification or development are not already evident, the Planning Tool can assist in this process.

It is an optional tool using many of the same metrics in the methodology and is based on the relationship between land market dynamics and access to opportunity and amenity.

The tool uses *quality of capacity vs access* and *agglomeration* metrics to conduct a city-wide spatial assessment identifying locations where urban growth is likely to maximise net benefits.

This process may be used to select any number of locations, which can then be assessed alongside other options.