

## **Forum No 1: Local Government – Incorporating sustainability principles into council planning and actions**

### **Overview**

The first NZSSES forum, held in June 2005 at Ecowater in Waitakere, was attended by 37 people, and developed an outline of gaps and barriers to the implementation of sustainability. Also presented were a number of information sources, and from this the NZSSES hope to develop further links between sustainability research and practitioners.

Speaking at the forum were Ann Magee, Chair, Local Government New Zealand Sustainable Development Project Team, and Tony Miguel, Group Manager, Asset Management, Ecowater. Ann gave a background to the Local Government Act and other legislation pertaining to sustainability issues, and both Ann and Tony outlined a number of current programmes that are exploring sustainability principles at the implementation level.

A facilitated discussion at the forum looked at the gaps and barriers to sustainability, and the possible solutions that could be explored to see the implementation of sustainability at the local Government Level.

This discussion was quite high-level, and it is expected that the NZSSES will continue on from this discussion to facilitate the provision of more in – depth information and practical examples in this area. Feedback received regarding the forum has been positive, and reinforced the fact that having a forum for information exchange in the sustainability area gives members a much broader understanding of the information available, and the challenges faced by others.

## Attendees

Attendee	Position	Organisation
Jane Puddephatt	Stormwater Scientist - Source Control	Auckland Regional Council
Robert Perry		Auckland Regional Council
Jo Mackay	Sustainable Development Project Leader, Strategic Development Group	Auckland Regional Council
Blair Keenan	Senior Policy Analyst, Local Government & Community Branch	Department of Internal Affairs
John Duder		Devonport Community Board
Russell Baillie		EECA
John la Roche	Committee Member	Engineers for Social Responsibility
Misty Skinner	Environmental Engineer	GHD
Dr Charles Eason	Regional Manager, Science Manger- Urban Env Mgmt	Landcare
Ann Magee	Chair	Local Govt NZ Project Dev Team
Tendekai Mapeza	Stormwater Engineer	Manukau City Council
David Kettle		Maunsell
Megan Wood	Environmental Engineer	Maunsell
Dietmar Londer	Project Planning Engineer	Metrowater
Katja King-Borrero	Senior Environmental Planner	Metrowater
Priya Kumar	ICS Contract Engineer	Metrowater
Mike Farrier		Mike Farrier Consulting Ltd
Antony Vallyon		North Shore City Council
Trish Kirkland-Smith	Environmental Programmes Coordinator	North Shore City Council
Christina Henderson		North Shore City Council
Christina Hunt		North Shore City Council
Jan Heijs	Infrastructure Planning Manager, Water Services	North Shore City Council
Rachel Miller		North Shore City Council
Richard Logan	Government Policy Advisor	North Shore City Council
Carol Boyle	Chair, NZSSES	Auckland University
Ron McDowall		Auckland University
Tricia Love	Director	Tricia Love Consultants Ltd
Tim Rimmer		Unitec
Achela Fernando		Unitec New Zealand
Jane Harman		Unitec New Zealand
Jonathan Leaver	Engineering Research Manager, School of the Built Environment	Unitec New Zealand
Carl Chenery	Graduate Mechanical Engineer	URS New Zealand
Helen Shaw	Associate Water Resources Engineer	URS New Zealand
Michelle Kaczor	Sustainability Consultant	URS New Zealand
Gary Peters		Waitakere City Council
Stephen Buskie	Senior Strategic Advisor, Strategy for Development	Waitakere City Council
Tony Miguel	Group Manager, Asset management	Waitakere City Council, Eco Water
Richard Donnelly	Regional Planner - Sustainability Research	Watercare Services Ltd
Thomas Haarhoff		Harrison Grierson
Alan Palmer	Massey University	Soil and Earth Sciences
John Speir	Water Services Manager	Tauranga City Council
Lee Jordan		Tauranga City Council

## Notes from the Discussion

A general discussion was held to identify gaps and barriers to Councils' uptake of sustainability practices. Potential solutions were also discussed. The table below outlines the items raised.

<b>Gaps</b>	<b>Barriers</b>	<b>Solutions</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Legislation               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➢ Enforcement</li> <li>➢ Cohesiveness</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Examples               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Demonstration projects</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Developer participation</li> <li>• Understanding of NZ vs. Overseas</li> <li>• Future vision</li> <li>• Measurement of success</li> <li>• Cost –benefit / whole of life cycle information</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Silos</li> <li>• RMA / Legislation</li> <li>• Technical Expert Differences</li> <li>• Responsibility               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➢ Developers</li> <li>➢ Government</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Ineffective Consultation</li> <li>• Time</li> <li>• Apathy</li> <li>• Existing built environment</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• RMA / LGA</li> <li>• Incentives</li> <li>• Risk Sharing</li> <li>• More Subjectiveness in Decisions</li> <li>• Demonstration projects</li> <li>• Strategic Environmental Assessment</li> <li>• Strategic planning using TBL information</li> <li>• Economists</li> <li>• Forward vision – NZ in the future</li> <li>• Education</li> <li>• Short and Long term Approach</li> </ul>

## Where to from here?

In terms of identifying a way forward, NZSSES have categorized the gaps / barriers and Solutions into key areas:

<b>Key Area</b>	<b>Gaps</b>	<b>Barriers</b>	<b>Potential Solutions</b>
Government / Legislation	Legislation Enforcement Cohesiveness	Legislation / RMA Silos	RMA / LGA Change in Rules / Legislation More subjectiveness in decisions
Future Vision / strategic thinking	Understanding of NZ compared with Overseas Future Vision Measurements of Success		Strategic Government Assessment
Working Examples	Lack of Example Projects	Technical expert differences  Existing Built Environment	Provide more information on current demonstration Projects; eg: Tusc Beacon
Participation	Developer Participation	Time Apathy Responsibility Developers Government Ineffective consultation	Incentives / Risk Sharing

## What next?

In terms of NZSSES' strategy and vision, we can facilitate the dissemination of information to our members the following ideas are proposed as a follow – on to the forum:

- Research into and provision of a showcase of current projects as examples - Provision of a booklet / email newsletter to all members containing information.
- A half or full-day workshops on current projects and tools; possibly including the following:
  - Consultation tools
  - Legislative tools
  - Practical tools (projects, design-aids)

## How you can help

If you know of any projects that might be useful as examples or case studies for our members, or would like to participate or present at a workshop, please contact Helen Shaw ([Helen\\_shaw@urscorp.com](mailto:Helen_shaw@urscorp.com), Tel (03) 374 8504).

## Useful Links:

[www.tusc.org.nz](http://www.tusc.org.nz)

[www.beaconpathway.co.nz](http://www.beaconpathway.co.nz)

[www.nowhome.co.nz](http://www.nowhome.co.nz)

Long Bay Practice Notes – [www.northshorecity.govt.nz](http://www.northshorecity.govt.nz)