

## Upcoming Forum

### **Resourcing and sustainability for Auckland's High Density Housing**

- Date:** Thursday 28 November 2013
- Time:** 9am – noon
- Where:** Beca Auditorium, 21 Pitt St, Auckland Central

*Thanks to Beca for their support of the venue for this event*

- What:** Featuring presentations from:  
Anthony Flannery, Architect, Urban Designer and Director of Reimagine,  
Uche Isichei, Principal Design Advisor at Housing New Zealand, and  
Joel Belsham, Researcher, University of Auckland
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There is currently a lot of political posturing about how to keep up with Auckland's ever increasing housing needs. This is an issue, falling behind transportation only, as highest in the minds of the Auckland voting public and looming at a national level as one of the biggest issues for the next general election.

So how do we address this need in a way that provides a high quality, sustainable outcome for New Zealand's largest city?

Auckland City Council has recently notified the new Unitary Plan intended to provide an enabling framework for housing in the region. One aim of the plan is to provide 12,000 new dwellings per year through densification and rural building. The central government in response have, through their housing accords, directed the city council to enable the construction of 30,000 new homes over the next 3 years via a variety of models.

The major portion of new housing is to be achieved through densification of the existing built fabric of the city with areas well serviced by public and private transport infrastructure already identified for higher levels of future housing development. Add to this picture is the intention to advance mixed-use solutions in these and other areas of the city.

There are many challenges to overcome including;

- Infrastructure upgrade work; some of which is underway and some of which is being planned to coincide with housing activity
- Training the workforce; resourcing this activity will be a big challenge in parallel with the Christchurch rebuild work
- Engaging with the communities to get the best results; improvements to the wider community needs to be one of the motivations
- Offering incentives to producing high quality work; a level of quality is essential to ensuring a sustainable outcome
- Collaboration and knowledge sharing; across all groups at all levels to provide innovative and future-oriented outcomes

So how can Aucklanders engage with this programme of housing densification and how can it be led and monitored to get the best results possible to contribute to the goal to be the world's most liveable city?

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## The Presenters

**Anthony Flannery** is a UK Registered Architect, Urban Designer and Strategic Planner. He is the Founding Director of re-Imagine Ltd, a Total Design Company specialising in architecture, urban design, strategic planning and transformation design. Anthony holds a number of advisory positions including Chairman of the Hamilton Urban Design Panel, leader of Hamilton's CityScope Strategy and national urban design adviser to New Zealand Housing. He has taught architecture and urban design in the UK universities of Manchester and Liverpool as well as Unitec and is a regular presenter at national and international conferences including Europe, Australasia, Asia and the USA.

*Anthony will address five key strategic drivers essential to the creation of world-class, healthy and sustainable communities in the light of Auckland's Unitary Plan and the vision of becoming 'the world's most liveable city'.*

**Uche Isichei** is a registered architect working with Housing New Zealand Corporation as the Principal Advisor for Design. Housing New Zealand Corporation manage a \$15billion portfolio, providing homes to tenants whose circumstances preclude other forms of tenure. Housing New Zealand are currently involved in an ambitious redevelopment programme to re-align its portfolio to meet the changing demand for state rentals and encourage mixed tenure developments to reduce social housing concentration.

*Uche will talk about sustainability design challenges and opportunities created by this new exciting development strategy.*

**Joel Belsham** is a researcher within the Faculty of Engineering at the University of Auckland. After studying Urban Metabolism, the opportunity arose to carry out further work supported by Auckland Council that investigated '*The implications of land-use and resource management strategies for Auckland's metabolism*'. A key result of this research was that spatial variation in the development of housing demonstrated far-reaching and lingering effects on the way resources are consumed in that region.

*Joel will discuss this research in the forum and look at the impact of pursuing the perceived 'kiwi dream' in terms of resource and land consumption.*

## Forum Series

This is the second in a Forum Series being hosted by The Sustainability Society in partnership with the University of Auckland Engineering Faculty.

This series will bring together leaders to offer insights from both research and practice within several key areas – transport, housing and water. Our aim is to offer a unique multi-disciplinary contribution to these debates which are of critical importance to New Zealand's future.

For more information go to [www.thesustainabilitysociety.org.nz](http://www.thesustainabilitysociety.org.nz) and for more information on the Engineering Faculty's research agenda go to <http://www.engineering.auckland.ac.nz/uoahome/about/our-research>