

Rod Oram summary of the EDS's
Reform in Paradise Conference
Auckland, June 8th-9th, 2009

Reform in Paradise

No Place to Hide

Agenda

- Drivers
- Issues

- Outcomes
- Revolution

Drivers

- Environmental management
 - Lots of knowledge, experience; good & bad behaviour, performance
- ...with frustrations too
 - Give us the resources and central policy
 - ...and we can improve quality
 - ...no need to radically change framework
- The world's three interlinked crises
 - Financial, economic, environmental
 - What's our biggest, best response?
- Politics
 - Change afoot...
 - ...determined, unpredictable...outcome unknown
 - We have to help shape it

Responses

- New epoch in environmental management
- Daniel Fiorino...
- Dynamic strategies...more complex, fluid...help change behaviour
 - Command >>>>> Collaboration
 - Compliance >>>>> Performance
 - Hierarchy >>>>> Network
 - Zero sum >>>>> Synergy
 - Piecemeal >>>>> Integrated
- Ralph Chapman...European innovation
- Guy Salmon...New Zealand innovation
 - Weak RMA now...strong EPA soon
- Bryan Jenkins...innovation underway
- “The regulator of the 21st century has to take risks”
 - Terry A’Hearn

Some issues

- “Lots of agendas running here”...Gerard Willis
- Local government performance is at best variable...Jeff McNeil
- Focus on resource efficiency not on targets, goals
 - Fix it mentality...Hugh Logan
- Reduce myopia, manage externalities
 - Can't afford Lake Brunner becoming next Taupo...Guy Salmon
- Sustainability...needs local engagement, power, responsibility
 - Local decision-making...centralised services
- Change of culture across the process
 - ...particularly role of Maori...Linda Te Aho
- Science...need strong centre...Eric Pyle
- Auckland: Lots of issues e.g.unitary authority, intensification, urban design
 - Need to think, act deeply...Peter Salmon
- Environmental spending only 1/3 of regional council budgets; 2/3 other
 - ...future split?

Outcomes

- Managing impacts >>>> Protecting the environment
 - Ad hoc >>>> Long-term
 - Litigious >>>> Collaborative
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- Willingness for constructive engagement, sharing ideas, debate...
 - ...eagerness for change
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- Phase 1 of environmental legislation will likely see some compromise
 - ...e.g. access to court?
 - Phase 2 for bigger, more consultative process...10 workstreams
 - The process for water has begun...commitment to forum
 - ...Nick Smith's speech: challenge, co-operation, leadership, precision, Maori
 - Collaboration on water is brave
 - Long, long way yet from collective governance
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- NZ Coastal Commission
 - Needed to bring threads together...operationalise national policy

EPA

- Embryonic...alive and growing on a miniscule budget
 - Recommendations on call-ins, plan changes etc
 - Policy role? Relationship with MfE?
 - Implementation role?
- Range of models overseas
- Strengths: Science, skills, monitoring, impact etc
- Weaknesses: diffuse discharges; cumulative impacts; catchment planning; land use; potential intra-governmental conflict etc
- Challenge of adapting to NZ
- Critical issue:
 - Enhance the current system?
 - Replace it?
- Danger: EPA Lite...starved of resources...same old mistake
- What's the real agenda?
 - Better performance? Less governance? Less protection?





Our opportunity

- 1 litre of milk = 940 gm of CO₂ equivalent

16,000,000,000 litres = 15,040,000,000 kg of CO₂ eq

- 15.04m tonnes of CO₂ eq per year is not a waste product, a liability

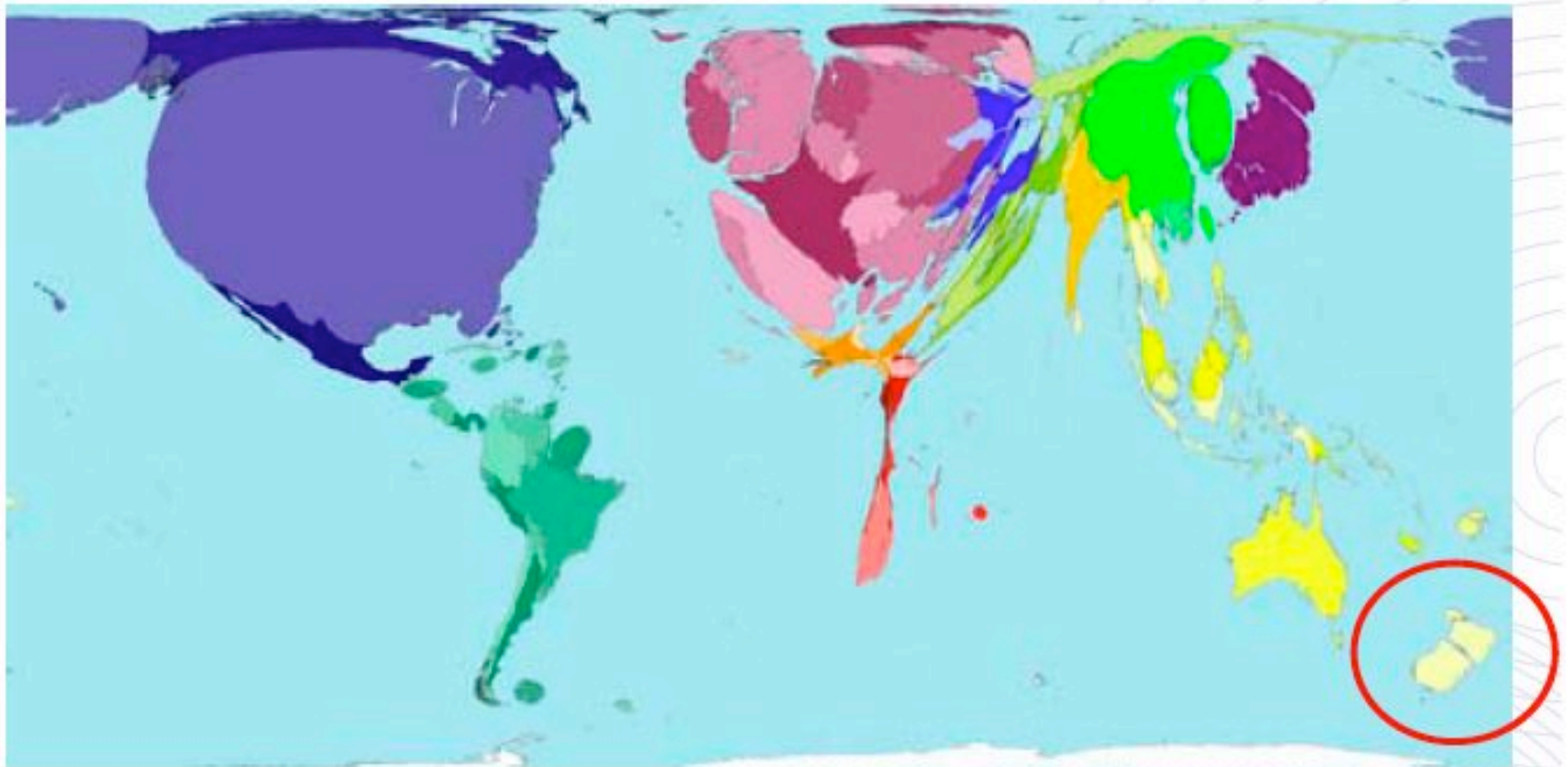
It is a brilliant business opportunity...

..healthier cows and soil

...more food

Our wingprint

- NZ: 7th in the world by departures per 1,000 people per year



Source: Worldmapper. 2006 SASI Group (University of Sheffield) and Mark Newman (University of Michigan)

Our opportunity

- 1 person, 1 return flight London to Auckland = 5.5 tonnes of CO₂*

2.4m tourists = 13.2m tonnes of CO₂*

- 13.2m tonnes of CO₂ per year is not a waste product, a liability

It is a brilliant business opportunity...

...healthier people

...healthier planet

** (Only approx 30% of our tourists travel so far...so this is purely illustrative. The carbon footprint of the entire tourism sector will be a very complex calculation...one we need to make as soon as possible)*

2008 Conference communiqué

- ...announcing the creation of the Rural Land Forum
- ...which has developed into the Land and Water Forum
- ...and given the role of achieving collaboration on water

- *The communiqué is even more appropriate today:*

- “There is clear recognition that we are very dependent for our economic welfare on rural New Zealand”

- “It’s clear that our export sectors, particularly farming and tourism, are reliant on maintaining the integrity of New Zealand’s clean, green brand at a time when people are becoming more discerning and aware of environmental performance.”

- “We need to lift our game and focus on what sustainable land use practice really means and what combination of policy, regulation, voluntarism and incentives might drive the necessary improvement.”

...we can start a revolution

- Previous one - Economic reform
- 1984 -1994
- Triggered by sudden collapse
- Theory clear - markets rule
- Practice less clear
- *Outcomes*
- Economy more efficient
- But we didn't change our model
 - Same commodity exports
 - Low value, low pay
 - Became *less* engaged with world
- Next one - Sustainability reform
- 2007- 2037 (?)
- Triggered by gradual awareness
- Theory very unclear - big new areas
- Practice even less clear
- *Outcomes*
- Radical change in economy
- Radical change in our model
 - Shift from commodities
 - High value, higher pay
 - Become *more* engaged with world



Our next revolution...

...will be harder, deeper, longer

...more beneficial, more rewarding

...reinventing Paradise

Designing an NZ EPA

- Three options:
- Minimalist
 - Process major consents; no decision-making, enforcement
- National environmental manager
 - Regional council dies-established
- Focused science-based
 - Small, independent, out of Wellington, science, capacity, beef up monitoring and auditing; help with NPSs and NESs; approve RPSs; EEZ;
- Tailor to NZ
- Make a difference...without major reform
- Supporters...protection vs ease...strange bedfellows...
- Risks of re-centralising, loss of integration, overly bureaucratic? exacerbation of conflict? Gerard Willis