

Urban growth management under the Resource Management Act



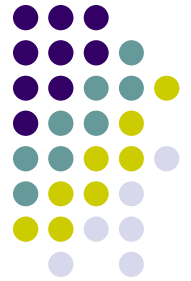
- What is urban growth management in a New Zealand context
- How has it evolved since the RMA
- How well does the RMA serve high quality urban growth management
- What are the implications for RMA reform

What is urban growth management



- Managing growth (active not passive)
 - Population, households and all the related paraphernalia
 - Business, employment, infrastructure
- Protecting resources and natural systems – air, water, coast, soil, flora and fauna, natural environments
- Protecting places – productive lands (rural areas), heritage areas,
- Making and remaking of places for living - drama, beauty, exchanges, opportunity, belonging, inspirational
- Framed by statute (LGA, RMA) policies and actions of Government, regional and local government, infrastructure providers
- Not just the planners
- Purposeful
- Integrated and comprehensive
- Managing the effects, managing the growth or stoking the growth

What is urban growth management



- As practised by planners
 - Largely under the LGA and the RMA
 - Growth strategies or urban development strategies
 - Regional growth strategy in Auckland
 - Smart Growth in Bay of Plenty
 - Regional growth strategy in Wellington
 - Urban growth strategy in Christchurch
 - Tomorrow's Queenstown
 - Future planning framework in Auckland City
 - Given statutory teeth through LTCCP (money and actions) and under RMA through regional policy statements and district plans

What is urban growth management

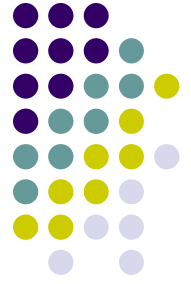


- Planners use many tools
 - Policy documents and plans
 - Identify town centres and transport corridors for intensification
 - Identify areas for greenfield development
 - Structure planning, staging, sequencing
 - Urban boundaries
 - Urban zones
 - Specialist urban renewal projects and agencies
 - Spatial plans, infrastructure plans, land transport plans
 - Protection of areas and resources is still hard to achieve



A historical context

- A community scale review of the environment and placing of human habitation in suitable areas to minimise risk, avoid hazard, enable practical settlement, and enhance comfort and amenity
 - Maori were keen readers of the environment
 - Early colonial settlers came well armed with surveyors and settlement companies – towns well chosen and laid out on an english model
- 1921 Town Planning, 1953 Town and Country Planning Act, 1978 Town and Country Planning Act, 1991 Resource Management Act
- Auckland metropolitan urban limits have been in place since the 1960's – NOT A NEW INVENTION



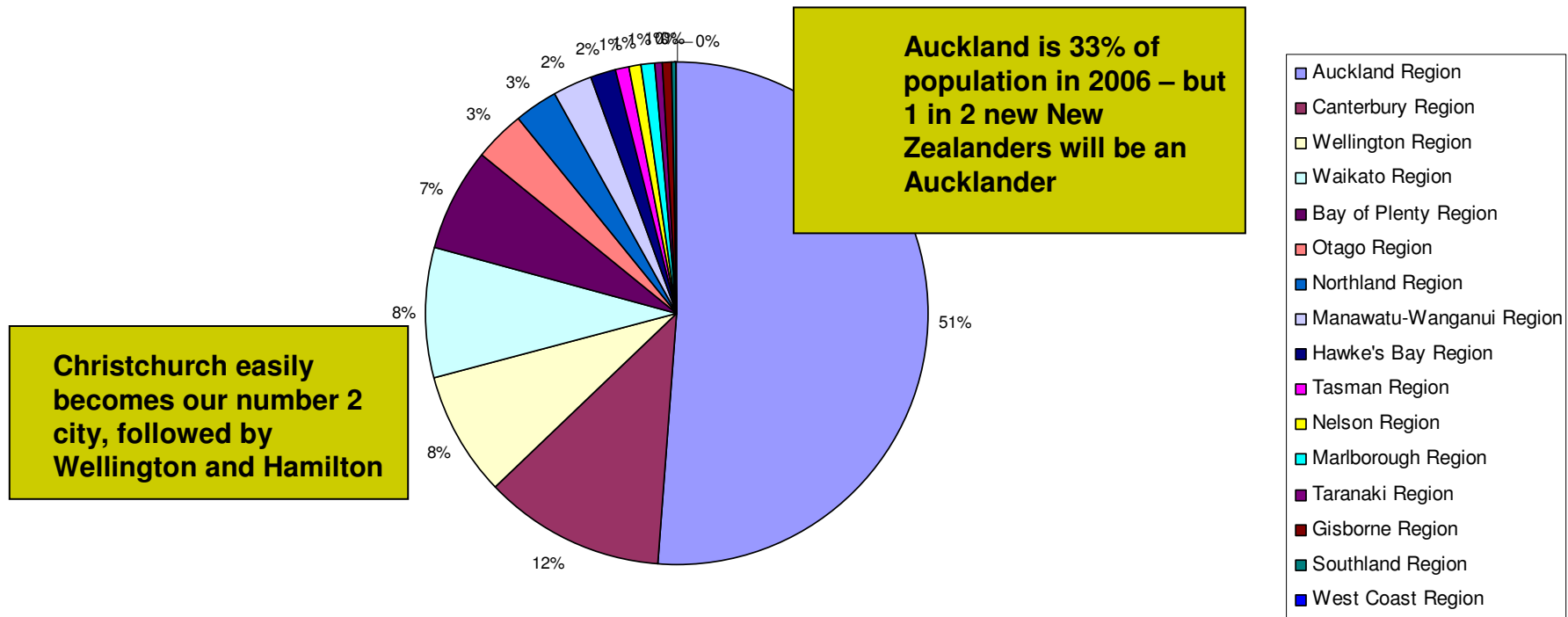
A strategic context

- You don't need urban growth management if there is little growth
- Most of New Zealand growth in the next 25 years will be in Auckland, Canterbury, Wellington and Waikato regions— and Auckland will have the giant share
- Not a New Zealand wide issue
- So we do not need urban limits everywhere

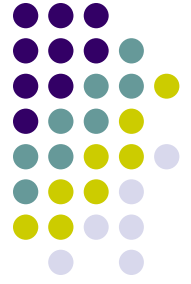
Who gets the growth – our biggest cities get bigger



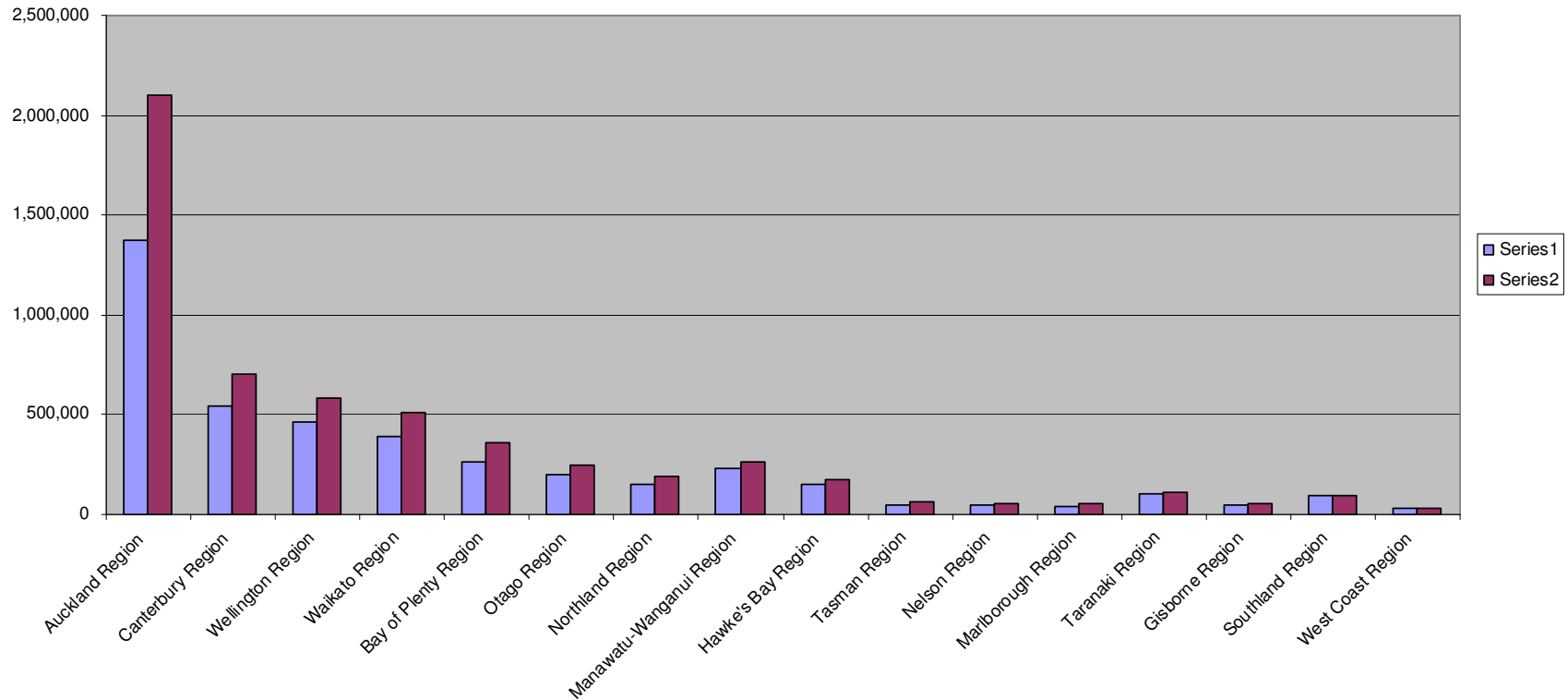
New Zealand's growth 2006-2031



But the SuperCity becomes even more SuperSized



Projected population 2006 and 2031



An Auckland issue first and foremost



- And limited to a few other regions
- At a micro level may affect a few towns and cities
- But it is the regional scale issue that needs a much more sophisticated response than a rural town or provincial city – when figuring out which paddock is easiest to subdivide next

How has growth management evolved under the RMA



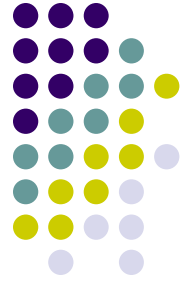
- RPS – only Auckland had a well developed urban growth management policy (1993) – a legacy from long standing regional planning – but fought by MfE to EC – RGS – ATSAP - RMA amendment - LGAAA – Change 6
 - Has resulted in strong urban growth footprint in district plans – intensification, urban fence, centres and corridors, land use and transport connection
- Of the regions Bay of Plenty and Canterbury are following at regional level – but not Waikato at this stage – and well Wellington being Wellington is focusing on growth not growth management
- Has reinforced the regional level as a directive instrument (district plans to give effect to – plus prioritization of regionally important infrastructure)

Does the RMA deliver high quality urban growth management



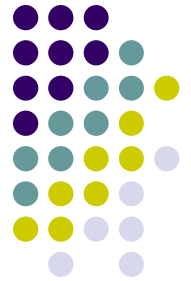
- It can - in its current cloak it enables urban growth management – and a good hierarchy of regional to district
- Urban design has flourished... slowly
- But
 - Inadequate integrated planning
 - Governance structures have led to perverse outcomes
 - We still think the recent past is our future
 - And allowed the tyranny of the conservative over analysis and vision
 - And the RPS has been used as a super-district plan
 - Some truly awful results on the ground have been born of the RMA era
- Good policy is essential, great delivery is critical

Implications for RMA reform



- It doesn't all have to be in the RMA
- RESOURCE management
- Very important to get it right in a few parts of the country – so focus on them not the RMA
- Look to the Royal Commission on Auckland
 - Governance
 - Spatial plan
- Redevelopment in urban areas is the most significant challenge
- And building greenfields of the future not the past
- Don't take away very important tools
 - Engage with the issues and solve the issues
 - Finesse not a sledgehammer
 - Smarts not rhetoric

Britomart



Train bus - for road and rail 1915

