



Date: Thursday, April 1

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HPUDS COMMENCEMENT OF PUBLIC CONSULTATION PROCESS

Public Consultation on the Heretaunga Urban Plains Development Strategy (HPUDS) begins today and the councils collaborating on the project are keen to get as much input from the community as possible.

Napier City, Hastings District and Hawke's Bay Regional councils, which are jointly developing the strategy, put three options for the shape of future urban development around Napier and Hastings were to stakeholders earlier this year.

HPUDS joint committee chair, Barbara Arnott, says there was a clear preference for defined urban limits around the sister cities and limits on development on the fertile Heretaunga Plains, which are the economic backbone of the region.

"HPUDS is about making a strong and sustainable future for people and the environment. The strategy will become a guiding document and will be actioned through District Plans and Regional Policy Statement and Ten Year Plans of the three councils," Mayor Arnott says.

"A major driver of this strategy is the future economic health of the region, it's essential there are provisions for industrial and commercial land to support local business."

The draft proposal promotes compact urban development. Modeling shows there is likely to be an increase of 8000 houses between 2015 and 2045 and the proposal aims to accommodate 60% of that increase within the existing urban footprint.

This will mean increased density of housing within the existing urban footprints, with a focus on Napier, Hastings and Havelock North.

Another 35% will be accommodated in existing and new Greenfield (previously undeveloped) land on the fringes of existing urban areas, with the other 5% being allocated for rural sites.

The strategy allows for a transition period, with mechanisms to encourage compact development being phased in over time.

In drawing up the draft proposal the joint committee has considered a range of challenges faced by the region, including the value of water and soil, energy needs,

climate change, the aging population, the growing Maori population and housing affordability and choice.

Submissions close on May 14.

The full draft strategy, and supporting documentation, can be found at www.hpuds.co.nz or at your local council reception and library.

For more information:

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