



Planning and Accountability Working Party Newsletter July 2016

SOLGM's Planning and Accountability Working Party met on 1 July and covered a variety of topical issues for the sector. In this edition you will find:

- National Policy Statement – Urban Development
- Better Local Services Legislation
- Long Term Plan Guidance and Community Plan Forum
- Road to 2018 LTPs

National Policy Statement (NPS) – Urban Development

The working party supports the draft submission prepared by LGNZ. There were concerns raised by the working party regarding the implications of the NPS on the sector. We would like to highlight a few issues that may be useful for local authorities considering a submission:

- Provisions within the NPS have relevance to **all local authorities**
- Cost vs. benefit burden of the NPS needs to be fully considered (particularly on low growth councils)
- Monitoring and information gathering requirements should be considered as a consequence of the NPS

Please note submissions on the NPS close on **15 July**. We encourage all local authorities to consider submitting.

A webinar on the NPS was held on 29 June with MBIE. For councils registered you can access the recording here http://www.solgm.org.nz/Category?Action=View&Category_id=1091. Please contact webinars@solgm.org.nz if your council did not register and you would like to purchase a copy of the recording.

Better Local Services Legislation

The Local Government Act 2002 Amendment Act (aka the Better Local Services Bill) has been referred to the Local Government and Environment Select Committee. The Committee has called for submissions and these will be due on **28 July**.

The Bill essentially gives effect to the Government's Better Local Services reforms – the proposals to provide more flexibility to establish CCOs, transfer functions between councils and the like. This Bill also widens the powers the Minister has to regulate what financial and non-financial performance information is disclosed in our LGA planning and reporting.

For those who haven't seen it yet, you can expect to find the Bill at:

<http://www.legislation.govt.nz/bill/government/2016/0144/latest/096be8ed81346fbd.pdf>

We have prepared an exposure draft of our proposed submission to the Local Government Act Amendment Bill (2), aka the Better Local Services Bill. It is provided as the basis for discussion and debate within the local government sector.

The draft can be accessed [here](#) by local government staff only, who will need their council's LGSectorGoodToolkit password to access it - if you do not know the log-in details please contact info@solgm.org.nz for assistance. Please note that the positions taken in this document are not, and may never be, SOLGM policy.

Those who are time-challenged are referred to the list of recommendations at the front of the submission as a good, quick way of getting the gist of what the draft says.

We acknowledge Mike Reid at LGNZ and Phil Fisher and Richard Toovey at PwC for their assistance with this draft.

Comments should be emailed to: Raymond Horan, Manager, Sector Improvement at raymond.horan@solgm.org.nz no later than **5.00pm Monday 18 July**. As we are on a very tight time frame after this date we will not be able to accept late comments.

Long Term Plan Guidance

The working party has begun looking at how long term plan guidance will be shaped to support the sector during the development of the 2018-2028 long term plans. SOLGM is currently reviewing its performance management, More Dollars and Sense and Jigsaw guides. We will be putting out guidance over the next few months in the lead up to the Road to 2018 LTP Seminars and the Community Plan Forum.

You can register for Community Plan being held 15 – 16 August in Auckland here http://www.solgm.org.nz/Event?Action=View&Event_id=374

Road to 2018 LTPs Seminars

SOLGM is looking to hold a series of seminars in November covering best practice and long term plan guidance.

The integration of the long term plan process between departments, councils and other organisations is an essential element of development and will be a hot topic for these seminars.

There will be several topical issues covered. Service delivery reviews have been a core component of council work over the last several years, and affects choices in activities. Policy issues have emerged since the last round of long term plans, including climate change, managing retreat, risk management and creating a resilient community.

The long term plan is a change for councils to look ahead and address these arising issues, along with many others. These seminars will ultimately allow councils to consider how best to approach the long term plan and provide practical examples.

The seminars will be held across the country. Please see dates and locations below. Registrations are now open.

- 1 November, Queenstown, http://www.solgm.org.nz/Event?Action=View&Event_id=383
- 3 November, Christchurch, http://www.solgm.org.nz/Event?Action=View&Event_id=384
- 16 November, Palmerston North
http://www.solgm.org.nz/Event?Action=View&Event_id=385
- 17 November, Auckland, http://www.solgm.org.nz/Event?Action=View&Event_id=386

Christine Jones

Acting Chair, Planning and Accountability Working Party

Monday, 4 July 2016