



**August  
2022**



# Proposed Plan Change 80 Information Sheet

# Plan Change 80 – Changes to the Regional Policy Statement

**In August and September 2022, Auckland Council is inviting submissions on changes to the Auckland Unitary Plan (AUP) – our city’s planning rulebook – to allow for greater building heights and densities in urban Auckland. This is known as Proposed Plan Change 78 - Intensification.**

**This information sheet explains Proposed Plan Change 80 to the AUP, which seeks amendments to the AUP’s Regional Policy Statement to support Proposed Plan Change 78 - Intensification.**

**Submissions are now invited on the proposed plan change. The period for submissions closes on 29 September 2022.**

## **The government’s approach to well-functioning urban environments**

The government’s National Policy Statement on Urban Development (NPS-UD) came into force in August 2020. To deliver the NPS-UD the council is required to publicly notify changes to the AUP by 20 August 2022.

The NPS-UD directs Auckland Council to, among other things, make decisions that contribute to well-functioning urban environments.

The concept of a well-functioning urban environment as set out in Policy 1 of the NPS-UD and covers:

- enabling a variety of homes
- enabling sites for business

- ensuring good access to facilities and services by active modes and public transport
- supporting the operation of land and development markets
- reducing greenhouse gas emissions
- being resilient to effects of climate change.

The NPS-UD also introduces the concept of qualifying matters, and these are also addressed in detail in Proposed Plan Change 78 information sheet #7 and #8.

## Regional Policy Statement

We reviewed the Regional Policy Statement (RPS) in the AUP to see how well it contributed to a ‘well-functioning urban environment’ and concluded that it did cover most of the necessary things.

The exception is the part about greenhouse gas emissions. However, we cannot address this at the moment because the council can’t consider greenhouse gas emissions in the AUP until after December 2022.

The RPS does deal with the effects of climate change but not in a comprehensive and consistent way resulting in some gaps, specifically about being resilient to the effects of climate change.

In the RPS, ‘qualifying matters’ as a term is not specifically used but many of the values that are required to be protected by the Resource Management Act 1991 (RMA) are matters addressed in the AUP. This is from the RPS level through to overlays and zone rules, but some qualifying matters do not have policy guidance from the RPS.

## Our proposed changes

While the RPS addresses many of the elements that contribute to a well-functioning urban environment, we considered that it was good practice to add reference to it in appropriate places in the RPS. This would be helpful as it sets out how urban areas should be developed and would help guide future plan changes to the AUP to allow the development of new areas.

We have added reference to well-functioning urban environment to policies in Chapter B2 Urban Growth of the AUP, including those relating to:

- compact urban form
- quality built environment
- residential growth and intensification
- commercial and industrial growth.

We have also made some changes and additions to the RPS to ensure we are more resilient to the effects of climate change when new development occurs. The additions include to the chapters in the AUP on:

- Urban growth and form
- Natural resources
- Coastal environment
- Environmental risk, natural hazards and climate change.

While qualifying matters are addressed in the Proposed Plan Change 78, it is also best practice to integrate the concept into the RPS and provide regional policy guidance for the district plan provisions. Therefore, policies are included within the RPS relating to qualifying matters including to the sections on:

- Residential growth
- Residential intensification
- Commercial and industrial growth.

## Further information

- To learn more about how Auckland Council is planning for growth and development, visit [ourauckland.nz/growingtogether](https://ourauckland.nz/growingtogether)
- For detailed information about the National Policy Statement on Urban Development 2020 (NPS-UD) visit the [Ministry for the Environment website](#).
- For more information on the RMA and the amendments made to it in 2021 including the MDRS requirements [visit the Ministry of Housing and Urban Development website](#).

### **Please note:**

**This information sheet is a summary document to assist with understanding Proposed Plan Change 80 – Regional Policy Statement.**

The proposed plan change to the Auckland Unitary Plan was publicly notified by Auckland Council on 18 August 2022.

All information provided in this information sheet should be considered as being illustrative and indicative only. Users should take specific advice from qualified professional people before undertaking any action as a result of information obtained from this information sheet. The user waives and releases Auckland Council from any claims arising from use of the information provided in this information sheet.