

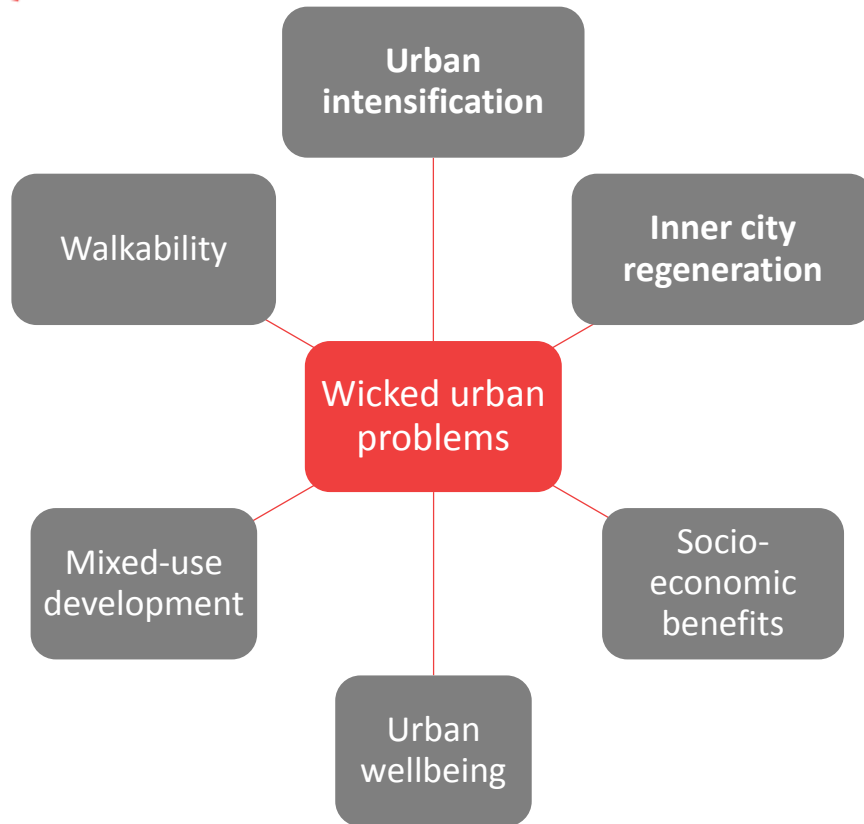
Local context matters

Challenges of spatial planning tools in New Zealand

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Wicked problems in NZ's urban planning

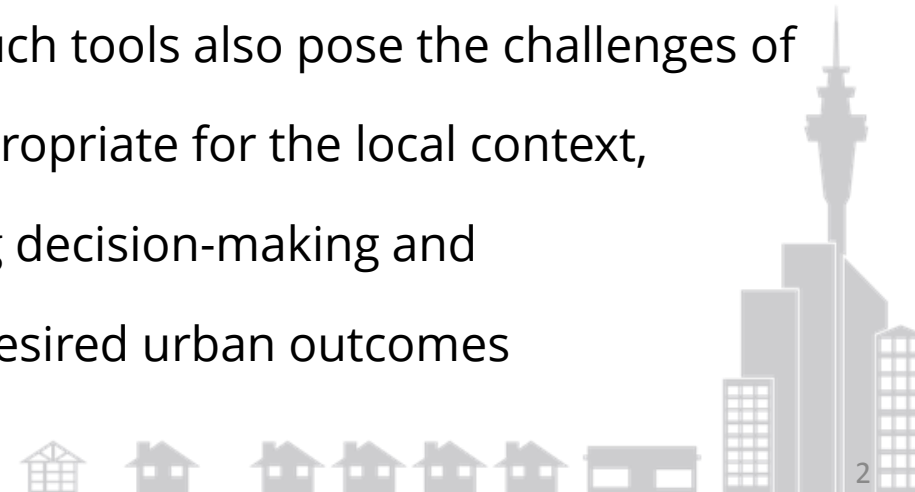


→ complex decisions required regarding the functioning of cities

→ Increased use of sophisticated spatial decision-support tools

However such tools also pose the challenges of

- being appropriate for the local context,
- improving decision-making and
- yielding desired urban outcomes



Research gap

In New Zealand's planning community, limited knowledge about

- whether / which urban planning tools are being used
- why tools are used
- how they are chosen
- what their implications are for urban planning



Research questions

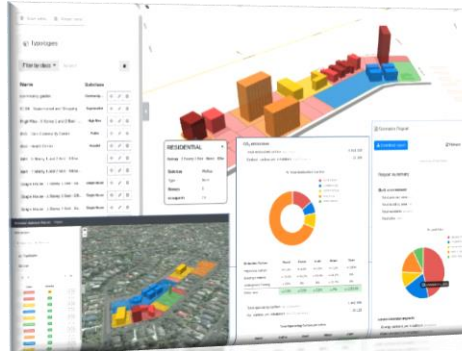
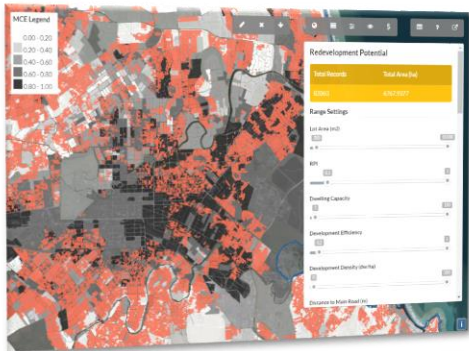
- 1) How may tools affect decision-making in New Zealand's urban planning?
- 2) What are the key challenges for the appropriate adoption of the tools in planning?
- 3) How may procedural, technological or data issues promote or hinder the adoption of the tools in planning?



Methodology

Socio-technical perspective

- Stakeholder engagement on NSC11 spatial tools
 - Where to regenerate? – ENVISON
 - How to regenerate? - ESP
- Online survey among urban planning stakeholders (June/July 2018)



Survey respondents

(so far)

- **Local councils (9), council-owned organisations (1), consultancies (1), private companies (1)**
- **Urban planners, analysts, strategic decision-makers, advisors**

Example urban planning tools:



Current urban planning

(stakeholder view)

OPPORTUNITIES

Community involvement

‘Big Data’

Sustainable use of resources

More efficient use of existing developed areas
based on more efficient transport

Increase demographic mix for developing
neighbourhoods, not subdivisions

‘Place making’

Good understanding of the ‘what’ & ‘why’

CHALLENGES

‘NIMBYism’

Access to high quality data & use of it

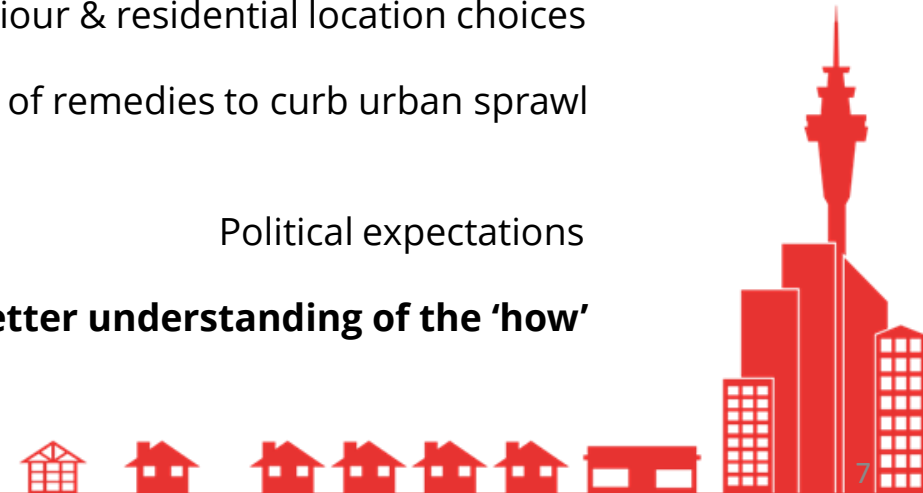
Alignment & use of RMA

Awareness of costs resulting from travel
behaviour & residential location choices

Lack of remedies to curb urban sprawl

Political expectations

Better understanding of the ‘how’



New Zealand's tool landscape

Current key uses

- Provision of evidence
- Exploratory analysis, testing of new ideas
- Scenario modelling
- Increasing transparency
- 'Storytelling'

Long-term objectives

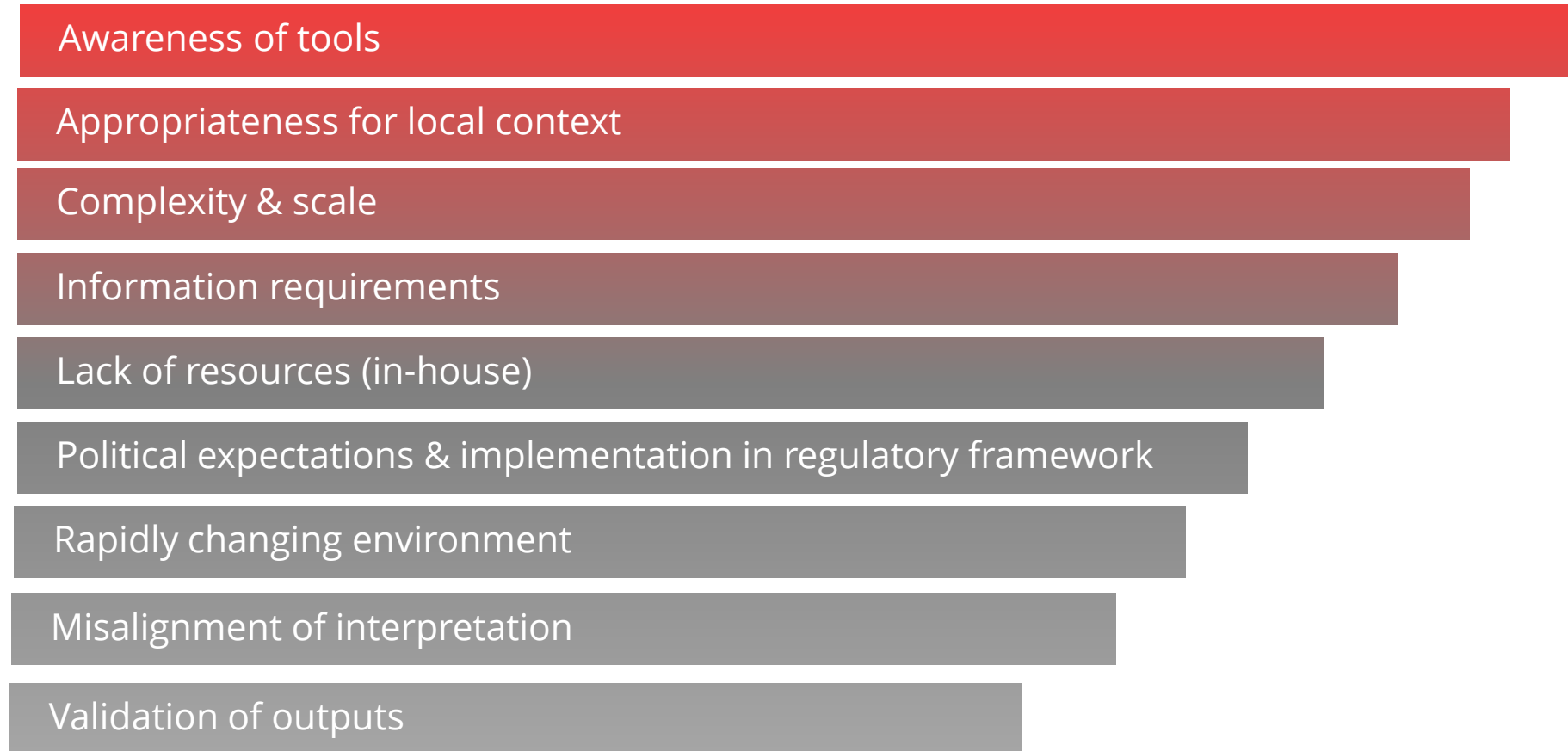
- Exploration of alternatives to BAU
- Review of trends and targets
- Facilitation of collaboration
- Effective communication

Local specifics

- Recognition of local context
- Engagement and trust
- Market-driven perspective
- Revenue through data and tools

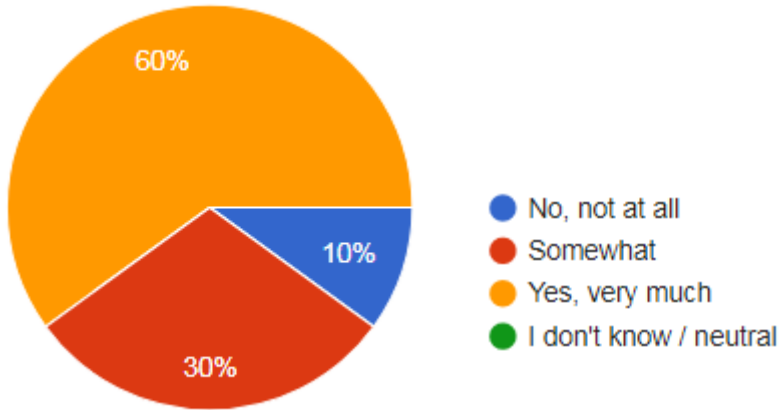


Challenges for the adoption of tools



Data issues

6. Does information availability or quality pose limitations to your work in urban planning?

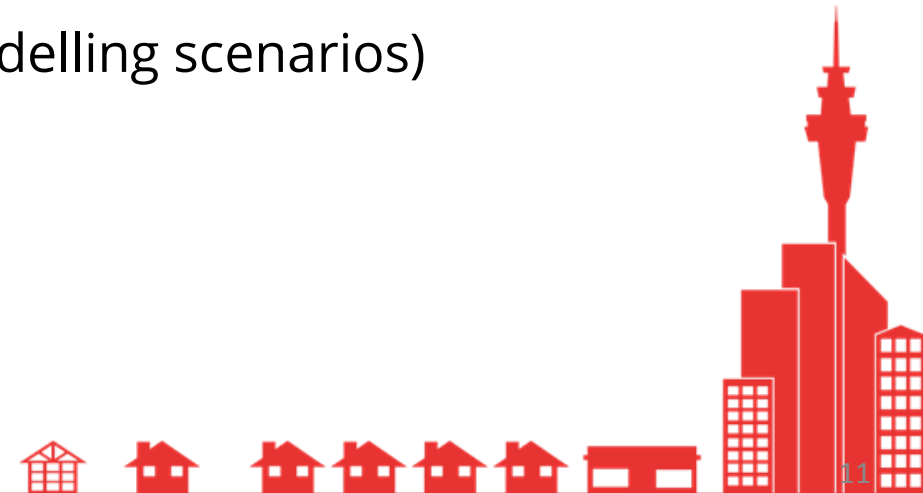


7. Why?



Procedural & technological issues

- Choice of tool to advocate for **desired outcome**
- Alignment with urban planning **regulatory framework**
- Strong dependence on **outsourcing & proprietary solutions**
- **Dependency** between developers, planners, researchers, decision-makers
- **Translation of planning strategies** into tools (e.g. modelling scenarios)



Conclusion & outlook

- Opportunities for new **ideas/alternatives** and **collaboration** through tools
- **Recognition of local variation** in tools
- Focus on **flexible** rather than tech savvy tools
- **Engagement and trust** in a networked community

Outlook: More survey responses & continuation of conversations



Thank you for your attention!

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Survey - Urban planning tools

This survey is part of the research project "Next Generation Information" within the National Science Challenge 11 "Building Better Homes, Towns and Cities".

The objective is to better understand needs and challenges of stakeholders (i.e. local authorities and others within the urban planning community), around spatial planning tools for New Zealand's cities.

Your answers to the questions are important to us and will help to shape the landscape of data and tools in the urban planning community. Based on survey responses, our research team will prepare a scientific article investigating how geospatial tools may affect decision-making in New Zealand's urban planning, identifying key challenges for the appropriate adoption of the tools in planning, and examining how technological and data issues may promote or hinder the adoption of the tools in planning, which we will be happy to share with you once available.

Thank you for taking the time to answer this small survey. It takes 10-15 minutes and is anonymous.

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National
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NEXT

Want to share your thoughts?

bit.ly/survey_tools