Integrated Assessment: evolving sustainability pillars

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Better Urban Planning, More Resilient Communities
NZ’s largest natural disaster

- 3rd largest insurance claim in the world
- 170,000 building claims – 19% over $100,000 cap
- 7,187 properties ‘red zoned’ = 636ha of land
- Rebuild around $45 billion (roughly 20% NZ GDP)
  - Tohoku, Japan earthquake – roughly 4.6% GDP
  - Queensland floods – roughly 1% GDP
- First major earthquake to hit an urban centre in NZ since Napier 1931
- Plans, strategies and programmes urgently needed to expedite recovery
What is Integrated Assessment?

- A formal approach used to predict the potential effects of a policy, with particular attention paid to impacts on health and wellbeing; in addition to social, economic, cultural and environmental matters

- Designed to inform development of plans and policies through early iterations

- A collaborative multi-agency and cross disciplinary approach
What’s in a name?

• Impact Assessment; Integrated Assessment; Sustainability Assessment; Strategic Environmental Appraisal; Regulatory Impact Statement; Section 32 Analysis; Health in all policies approach...?

• Sustainability Appraisal recognised as having clear ‘four pillar’ approach as the foundation

• Integrated Assessment used as generic label
The framework approach

• Developed for New Zealand application by Barry Sadler and Martin Ward.
• Sustainability Appraisal involves baseline tests relating to four pillars
  • social
  • economic
  • environmental
  • cultural
• A sustainability test is undertaken against both:
  • a top line of objectives/targets/norms to aim for, and
  • a bottom line of key thresholds (base minima) or warning signs to avoid.
Integrated Assessment – basic steps

1. Establish assessment frame, what are we assessing for?
2. Develop assessment criteria
3. Workshop criteria, plus top & bottom lines
4. Testing’ early iterations of the plan using criteria
5. Re-apply assessment criteria if useful to later draft(s)
Integrated Assessment roll call:

1. Sustainability Appraisal of the Canterbury Water Management Strategy (CWMS), 2009
   *Canterbury Regional Council*

2. Wellbeing Assessment of the Castle Plaza Development Plan Amendment, 2011
   *City of Marion (Adelaide) and South Australia Department of Health*

   *CERA, Christchurch City Council & CDHB*

   *Canterbury Regional Council & CDHB*

   *Canterbury Regional Council, Port of Lyttelton & CDHB*

   *CERA, Waimakariri District Council & CDHB*

7. Integrated Assessment of the Otakaro/Avon River Corridor Plan, 2018
   *Regenerate Christchurch, CDHB & others*
Developing assessment criteria

• Provisional work by a small specialist assessment team to:
  • Identify capital assets under four pillars
  • Develop assessment criteria to be used (from existing planning & policy framework)
  • Agree scale (e.g. -1 to +3)
  • Compose preliminary descriptors
Workshops

• Agree capital asset sets and criteria elements
• Amend/confirm assessment criteria and scale descriptors
• Set top and bottom lines
• ‘Score’ the plan/project options
• One, two or three workshops have been used
## Example ‘scoring’ of the draft plan

Red circle = bottom line; Blue box = top line
Green cross is where the participants ‘scored’ the draft plan

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Guiding Principles</th>
<th>Criterion</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Small negative impact</th>
<th>Neutral impact</th>
<th>Small Positive impact</th>
<th>Moderate positive impact</th>
<th>Strong positive impact</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Support a balance between walking, cycling, public transport and driving</td>
<td>12 Public transport modes future-proofed</td>
<td>PT corridors able to cater for light rail or future transport systems</td>
<td>-1</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>+1</td>
<td>+2</td>
<td>+3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>The plan takes light rail or future transport systems off the planning horizon</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Light rail or future transport system proposed</td>
<td>Light rail or future transport system proposed and funding sources identified</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Greater Christchurch Land Use Recovery Plan - summary of recommendations

Table 1 - Summary of recommendations from all parts of the assessment

Part One
- Maintain public, active, and active transport plans for all development and crime
- Ensure all urban and rural areas remain pedestrian and cycling safe
- Allocate high-density housing to areas of low population density
- Project works in line with future public transport

Consultative sessions with various community members
- Engage with the community to ensure implementation
- Ensure that people’s ideas are heard across
- Incorporate community decisions and designs

Guideline document making in appropriate steps

Social and Environmental
- Establish the right time for an overview of natural resources including planted remnant
- Knowledgeable change and maintaining
- Monitor and control the environment, maintaining natural resources
- Implement with the Natural Environment Recovery Program (NERP)
- Establish private rights, ongoing management
- Control of public land, water management and stormwater
- Acknowledge people’s concern for the water quality
- Maintain the natural environment and sustainable lifestyles

Highly rated by the existing community for natural resources.

RESILIENCE AND COMMUNITY
- Health development in existing communities and areas not previously influenced
- Adequate provision for existing services and new developments
- Participate with the community from a baseline service
- Local utilization in new situations
- Integration of the use of social services
- Health and services to meet needs as per new communities
- Knowledge of the new environment to maintain interactions with existing areas.

ENHANCEMENT OF COMMUNITIES
- Organizations need to improve engagement services and interests
- Create a sense of belonging and identity across areas
- Ensure for the community to blend
- Provide opportunities for communities to grow

LOCATIONS AND QUALITY OF DEVELOPMENT AND BUILDINGS
- Design for public health and meeting the needs of people and goods within a city design
- Designing buildings to improve more concentrated development of existing areas.
- Integrating the use of public spaces
- Development of the public space

Ensure the buildings and their design approach to building design and performance.
- Implementing in-line with the local and regional other aspects such as actions, local
- Designing in line with the local and regional aspects
- Planning for the immediate future, the local and regional other aspects

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Table 2
- Maintenance of plan and regulatory frameworks
- Implementation
- Development of the local development plans

Table 3
- Integrating the plan into new development and local policy
- Framework for the implementation
- Implementation of the local development plans
- Implementation of the local development plans
- Implementation of the local development plans

Table 4
- Implementation of the local development plans
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Table 5
- Implementation of the local development plans
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Solutions

Description of Table:
Table 1 shows the list of recommendations for improvements to the Plan at each stage: Parts One, Two, and Three.

Part One resulted in a list of suggestions for improvements to the early draft of the Plan. The number of recommendations reduced significantly by Part Two (Intermediate Draft) and even further by Part Three.

While Table 1 does not show the extent to which each recommendation was incorporated into the Plan (for example some assessment participants may prefer the Plan to go further still), and some recommendations were not taken up that the reasons why were visible in the Plan), it does show that to a large extent, the draft and the Recovery Plan has addressed the concerns identified through the integrated assessment process.
IA was a success because:

• Early in the process
• Involved plan writers and those advising decision makers early (so not defending the plan, but open to ideas)
• Used pre-established criteria
• Efficient for testing early ideas (time, resourcing, budgets)
• Useful for defending challenges (legal, political, community)
Lessons

- Allow lead in time
- Good facilitator is essential
- Need a ‘champion’ to promote/explain IA
- Collaboration/consensus building requires good relationships (trust & time/effort)
- Planning is inherently political
Appropriate participation

- Compositional bias will introduce a content and outcome bias
- The most helpful participants are likely to be busy and will show participant fatigue
- Need to understand equity issues (and the social determinants of health and wellbeing)
- And ‘speak’ for future generations
- Need an understanding of resource (capital) asset management and the notion of capital substitution
- Mana whenua must be involved
Legacy

- A positive participative approach to plan making
- More robust and transparent ‘testing’ of plan development
- Saves time/money/resources (esp. post disaster)
- Collaborative multi-agency planning processes
- Mana whenua involvement now the norm
- Contributes to better plans for health and wellbeing of community
- Better urban planning, more resilient communities
Where next for Integrated Assessment?

• Refine base methodology with interested practitioners
• Finalise a ‘how to’ guide
• Further promotion and capacity building for:
  • IA practitioners and potential exponents
  • Urban planners and allied professions
  • Management/commissioning decision makers
• Potential use in Australia and further afield
Thank you

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