



# Beca

# Urban Scrawl

## Editorial



Amelia Linzey – Editor

We are facing an era of change in the management and governance of our communities. The Auckland Super City 'pilot' suggests a model of local governance with a much greater emphasis on centralisation. Alongside this, some are calling for a rationalisation of the role of local government in delivery of services. At the same time, there is a growing expectation on the levels and scope of services provided by Councils to their communities. Such changes to our local governance will affect people and communities, and how they provide for their future well-being, in particular their social needs.

The contributions to this edition of Urban Scrawl have a focus on planning in the social environment and showcase recent examples of Beca's approach to considering the social consequences of growth and land use change. As planners and urban designers we facilitate change for the future of our environment. Through social assessment we seek to understand and explain how such change will impact on our social, economic and physical environment.

Social assessment provides a valuable lens through which we can explore the positive and negative impacts of change on our social structures: the people, organisational arrangements, social networks and community resources.

At Beca Planning we are working on a wide range of projects which require the consideration of the social consequences of growth and land use change. This edition of Urban Scrawl provides a snapshot of some of these recent projects, with an emphasis on the social assessments we are undertaking for our clients.

The featured projects relate to policy development (such as Planning for Health in Christchurch City), large scale infrastructure projects (Transpower's Pakuranga to Penrose Underground Cable) and site specific community development (New Schools in Hobsonville).

We hope that you find this review of interest and we welcome the opportunity to discuss any of these items with you.

Lastly, we would like to wish you all a safe and happy Christmas from all of us at Beca Planning.

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Compiled By *Jamie Swan*



## How to identify and address health issues



## Planning for Health and Social Wellbeing

The Christchurch South West (SW) Social and Health Assessment was undertaken to identify existing and potential social and health issues for the area, to accommodate further urban growth over the next 35 years; and to provide recommendations to aid the Christchurch City Council (CCC) in improving social and health outcomes through the SW Area Plan (SWAP). Beca was engaged by CCC to prepare the assessment in conjunction with Collaborations@ and Quigley and Watts, which included the following CCC research questions:

- Who are the community now and in the future?
- What are the key social and health issues now and in the future?
- What is CCC's role in improving social and health outcomes? (as identified in the Long Term Council Community Plan - LTCCP)
- What key principles, methods and monitoring requirements should be provided in the plan?

The report identified a range of development challenges for the SW area from a health and social wellbeing perspective. It also identified mitigating solutions that relate to the provision of services for the area's physical and social development. A suite of recommendations were made from the review of CCC policies, strategies, consultation, social planning and health models, for both long term planning and 'short term wins'.

Short term wins included the development of:

- A Community Facilities Strategy,
- A Communications Plan with developers and landowners in the area,
- 'Partnerships' programme and regular coordination with stakeholders, and
- A Landscaping programme.

Long term planning recommendations included:

- Implementation of Community Infrastructure Plans for each community.
- Review of the District Plan and relevant CCC strategies/policies reflecting health and wellbeing.
- Preparation of a development contributions regime for developers.
- Iwi/Ōngai Tahu education, involvement and awareness.

This report was recently added to the Ministry of Health's website to demonstrate a completed New Zealand example of a Health Impact Assessment.

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## An investment in Social Capital for the region

## Regional Sporting Facility for Hawke's Bay a Step Closer

The Hawke's Bay Regional Sports Park in Hastings is designed to be a leading edge, regionally and nationally significant sports and recreation park. Within the 30-hectare park a high quality All Weather Athletics Track has been completed and a covered 2,500 seat grandstand is currently under construction. In time the park will also feature a covered velodrome, an indoor sports facility, netball and tennis courts and football fields.

A key aim of the facility is to assist Hastings District Council and its stakeholders to promote and encourage the people of Hawke's Bay to lead healthy lives, through sport, education, health and passive recreation.

The facility will be an investment in "social capital" for the region with programmes and opportunities designed to build mind, body and character for all sectors of the community.

Beca Planning (along with other Beca disciplines) supported Hastings District Council through the early master planning phase, an associated plan change process (designed to enable the sports park) and most recently at the Environment Court, successfully defending appeals on the decision by Independent Commissioners to approve the plan change.

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## New lights widen scope for events

# Counties Light Up Air NZ Cup

The Counties Manukau “Steelers” rugby team played their first ever home game under lights on September 4th following the installation of four new 42m high lighting towers at “Growers Stadium” in Pukekohe.

The towers, consented by Beca Planning, will widen the scope of events possible at the stadium.

Senior Planner Jamie Swan notes that “a robust assessment and innovative lighting design (also undertaken by Beca) were submitted to Franklin District Council who confirmed the proposal was compliant with their District Plan and that a resource consent was not required. This reduced the consenting timeframes by an estimated 12 months whilst still achieving a sound environmental outcome”.

Just 7 months after lodging the statutory documentation the lights were in place. In a recent press release Mayor Mark Ball said “[the project] will encourage more people into the District for games and help boost the local economy, welcome news in the current economic climate”.

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## Regional and national benefits of a secure power supply

# The Social Benefits of Nationally Significant Infrastructure

The Social Impact Assessment process involves the analysis, monitoring and management of the social consequences (both positive and negative) of development or policy changes including impacts on peoples’ way of life, health and safety, property rights, culture, community engagement and the environment.

## Benefits of an SIA

Transpower are proposing to reinforce the existing transmission infrastructure to provide for greater development of renewable generation within the area to help facilitate the New Zealand Energy Strategy objectives.

A number of options were proposed for the upgrade. As part of the wider options assessment Beca undertook a preliminary SIA to identify the communities and issues of interest to inform the option assessment.

The benefits of carrying out a SIA on these projects and others include:

- Strengthening the supporting planning documentation;
- Placing temporary local social impacts in the context of regional or national benefits of a project – especially where projects traverse district boundaries; and
- Recommending practical measures to minimise social impacts from construction and operation.

The findings of the SIAs on these projects will add robustness to the statutory documentation for these complex regionally and nationally significant infrastructure projects.

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Beca Planning has prepared Social Impact Assessments (SIAs) to support both option analysis and the respective assessment of environmental effects (AEE) for two recent Transpower Projects.

## Pakuranga to Penrose Underground Cable Project

As part of the North Auckland and Northland grid upgrade project, Transpower are proposing to construct a 220kV underground cable circuit (and dismantle the existing 110kV overhead transmission line and towers) between Pakuranga and Penrose substations. The new cable will help reinforce power supply into and across Auckland City and provide for increasing electricity demand.

Transpower are currently consulting with the community to assist in selecting a preferred cable route and to obtain feedback on the proposal. The consultation outcomes will feed into the SIA Beca have prepared. The SIA will assist in selecting a preferred option and support the AEE, associated with a Notice of Requirement.

## Wairakei Ring Reinforcement Project

The Wairakei Ring is an important part of Transpower’s core network, transferring power north and south, and supplying the Bay of Plenty and Hawke’s Bay Regions. It links the Whakamaru, Atiamuri, Wairakei and Pohipi substations.



## Reducing the Impact of Disasters

The human suffering of earthquakes, landslips and other natural disasters is immense. The ability to adapt to and recover from such disasters will depend on the resilience of the community and the speed with which important infrastructure such as roads, water, power and homes can be rebuilt. Of increasing importance is the extent to which communities reduce their vulnerability ahead of time and are prepared to respond and recover when tragedy does strike.

For many years now Beca has been working with clients in reducing risk in the built environment through undertaking hazard and risk assessments, developing seismic building codes, retrofitting structures, developing coastal hazard zone management strategies and hazard contingency plans.

There is a social component to this work and community-based approaches are becoming increasingly important. Approaches which involve the community in prioritizing action plans, determining levels of acceptable risk, and which incorporate local and traditional knowledge increase the resilience of the community. Beca staff have seen first hand the benefits of this approach while working with communities in the Pacific as well as New Zealand and further afield.

In Samoa, Beca Planning has worked with coastal villages to develop plans to move the villages to higher ground and develop coastal road links. Tauranga based planner Keith Frentz was part of the team which encouraged implementing coastal fords rather than bridges. He was in Samoa at the time of the recent earthquake and was pleased to see that the fords had survived the tsunami. He noted "The coast road has been undermined in many places, but it is still passable which means diggers have been able to get in, as well as rescue personnel and food and water."

Beca continues to strengthen its hazard management policy and planning team. A number of people are involved in developing and understanding policy for natural hazard management and integrating risk reduction policy tools available under the Resource Management, Building, Local Government and Civil Defence Emergency Management Acts.

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### Disaster Risk Management

Community based approaches are becoming increasingly important



## Strategic Site Selection for New Schools

Schools are key pieces of community infrastructure and can act as the focal point for a local area. Schools also have wider community benefits such as for public meetings, night classes and as a recreational area.

In new urban areas the early establishment of educational facilities can help to attract people to an area. The location of a school (and form and connectivity to the wider area) is also important for establishing sustainable modes of travel.

Beca Planning has been working with the Ministry of Education to select sites, and to designate land, for two new schools within 167ha of former Hobsonville Airbase land in Waitakere City. This area is being transformed into a new community for up to 8,000 people by the Hobsonville Land Company with a focus on quality urban design.

The sites selected for the new primary and secondary schools are strategically located within an area identified for future residential development and in close proximity to proposed new town centres. This will provide consequential social benefits such as enabling a large catchment of pupils to travel to school by walking or cycling. It is also likely to have positive effects for both student health, the perceived safety of the local area and potentially reduce the number of vehicles travelling to the school in peak periods.

Senior Planner Jamie Swan notes that "Given the detailed Master Plan established for the wider Peninsula the designation conditions needed to balance Council's desire for certainty about the form of future development with the need for flexibility in establishing quality learning environments".

The new schools will provide adequate capacity to meet future demand, and relieve pressure on the existing school network from future population growth within existing urban areas.

Construction of the new schools is anticipated between 2012 and 2014.

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### Community Infrastructure

Educational facilities are focal points for communities



## Revised tunnel design

# Waterview Connection Update

The Waterview Connection will complete Auckland's Western Ring Route motorway, providing a link between SH20 Mt Roskill and the Northwestern Motorway. The project is expected to yield significant economic benefits as a result of the improved accessibility and reduced travel times between key destinations. Beca is continuing to work with the NZTA to investigate and report on the social impacts of a revised tunnelling design. A Combined Surface Tunnel was confirmed as the NZTA's preferred option for the project in September 2009.

The Waterview Connection is a major construction and operation project which traverses an established urban area and directly affects a number of residential properties. Beca is assessing the complex social elements of the project, including:

- Identifying key social impacts (benefits and disbenefits) associated with the project, for both the local community and the region;
- Identifying and recommending specific measures to assist in the management and reduction of these impacts; and
- Preparing reporting information sufficient to support the requirements associated with Call-in of the project, under the RMA.

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## Recent Promotions

### Congratulations to our new Technical Directors and Associates:

#### Technical Directors

Ainsley Mcleod (Christchurch)

Rupert Hodson (Auckland)

Keith Frenz (Tauranga)

#### Associates

Lesley Hopkins (Wellington)

Richard Douch (Hamilton)

Fiona Blight (Auckland)



Ainsley Mcleod



Rupert Hodson



Keith Frenz



Lesley Hopkins



Richard Douch



Fiona Blight

## New Senior Staffers in the Planning Team



Nathan Baker



Anna Lewis

### Nathan Baker

Nathan Baker joined the Wellington team in July this year as a Senior Planner. Nathan is a Full Member of the New Zealand Planning Institute and has 10 years of planning experience gained in New Zealand and the UK. He has particular strengths in consenting projects, urban planning, social housing, land development and planning policy. He is an experienced expert planning witness, regularly giving evidence at Council hearings, and also has given evidence at Select Committee and the Environment Court.

### Anna Lewis

Anna Lewis joined Beca in May this year as a Senior Planner in the Auckland Planning team. She has over 6 years planning experience having worked on projects throughout New Zealand and the United Kingdom.

Anna has wide and varied experience in environmental planning issues, project management, consultation and statutory planning. She specialises in large infrastructure projects and environmental planning. Her previous work experience includes regeneration infrastructure projects (UK) and Auckland's rail double-tracking projects - including the Newmarket and New Lynn Train Stations. She has recently swapped her train hat to work on the Waterview Combined Surface Tunnel Project for NZTA (SH20).

Beca's Urban Design Team Continues to Grow



Carl Lucca



Sarah Oliver

### Carl Lucca

Carl Lucca is a qualified urban designer and planner with eight years professional experience in New Zealand, Australia, and Ireland. Following his interest in design, Carl studied landscape architecture and urbanism at the Swiss Federal Institute of Technology in Zurich in 2005/2006, before moving to Ireland to work as an urban designer with Murray O'Laoire Architects. Carl joined Beca's urban design team in June this year and is based in Auckland. He is using his multi-disciplinary background to assist in leading design projects on a day to day basis including the CBD Rail Link project.

### Sarah Oliver

Sarah Oliver has also joined the Auckland Urban Design team, starting in September this year. Sarah has recently completed her Masters of Urban Design at the University of Melbourne prior to which she worked in the Beca Tauranga planning team for two years. Sarah is currently working on Town Concept Plans for Waipa District Council, an urban design framework for Kumeu and Huapai (in Rodney District) and is also involved in the Victoria Park Tunnel project in Auckland City.

Growing our Disaster Risk Management Business



Michele Daly

### Introducing Michele Daly

Michele Daly has recently joined Beca as Team Leader, Disaster Risk Management. She has over 17 years experience in natural hazard mitigation, risk reduction strategy development and emergency management. From a background in earth sciences and environmental management, Michele developed an interest in natural hazards early on in her career with the Auckland Regional Council, becoming the Council's first Natural Hazards Scientist and subsequently Manager, Natural Hazards Management and Civil Defence Emergency Management.

Michele is interested in establishing disaster risk management frameworks in developing countries. Other professional interests include defining and developing resilient communities, performance assessment methodologies for emergency management and the effective use of legislative tools such as the Resource Management Act to improve risk reduction outcomes.

She is looking forward to the challenge of leading the coordination of Beca's diverse and complimentary skills in disaster risk management which range from structural mitigation, hazard and risk assessments to planning, community development and relief and reconstruction activities.

Staff Movements



Belinda van Eyndhoven

### Belinda van Eyndhoven

Belinda van Eyndhoven (Senior Planner) from the Tauranga office has recently relocated to the Wellington office. After three years in Tauranga she decided she could not stand any more warm and sunny weather and so decided to move to a place with 'real weather'. Belinda is looking to work more closely on environmental and sustainability issues with Wellington clients and is continuing to lead Beca's internal sustainability programme.

#### New Zealand

- Auckland
- Wellington
- New Plymouth
- Christchurch
- Tauranga
- Hamilton
- Dunedin

#### Australia

- Brisbane
- Melbourne
- Sydney
- Wollongong

#### Indonesia

- Jakarta
- Sorowako Site office

#### China

- Beijing
- Shanghai

#### Myanmar

- Yangon

#### New Caledonia

- Noumea

#### Singapore

#### Middle East

- Dubai
- Oman

#### United Kingdom

- London
- Stafford



Send your feedback and suggestions for future issues to [becaplanning@beca.com](mailto:becaplanning@beca.com)

