

Supporting Growth and Liveable Urban Communities

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To what extent do current zoning provisions allow growth? Could maximum build-out support a self-sufficient future? How could policy change enable the best outcome?

This presentation introduces a contemporary planning methodology, where evidence-based research and cutting-edge analysis broadens growth horizons, with recommendations focussing on locally achievable and implementable outcomes. Discussion will utilise examples from a 2016 case study that adopted the methodology to support successful planning policy amendments.

Designed to inform an integrated policy environment, the process ensures economic zones are resilient; sustainable economic and residential growth is planned; and governments can adapt to evolving external influences, emerging trends and market demands. It supports the prospect of local policy encouraging mixed uses, facilitating the renewal of aging commercial sites and stimulating local growth without compromising local character and liveability. It incorporates global examples and best-practice design opportunities toward resilient urban environments.

Higher density urban environs offer an increased demand for local goods and services by supplying local businesses and facilities with enough demand to ensure viability. Certain zones lend themselves to higher density and mixed use development, given their transit and activity supportive nature. As hubs of current and potential future activity, enabling growth around these zones is pivotal to viability and curbing sprawl.

The challenge lies not only in achieving 'goldilocks' growth, appropriating density and integrating land use with transport, but also understanding demographic composition and social trends that could support local growth and development. The contemporary diversity of lifestyles and working conditions warrants consideration within this context, as well as an equally varied selection of dwellings and opportunities to cater to a continually diversifying demographic.