**Projections for the Waikato Region**

**Meeting Notes**

## Tuesday 10th December 2016, 10.00 – 12.00

## Waikato Regional Council, Waikato Room

**Objectives**

1. Comparison NIDEA/SNZ projections and understand differences
2. Discuss list of issues and improvements identified at last meeting (10 November)

**Attendants**

Beat Huser (WRC- Chair), Jo Gread (Waitomo DC), Greg Carstens (HCC), Nathan Dalgety (HCC), Gary Knighton (Waipa DC), Niall Baker (MPDC), Derek Phyn (WRC), Janet Amery (WRC), Craig Briggs (WRC), Tony Fenton (Alchemists Ltd), Michael Cameron (NIDEA).

**Apologies**

Donna Tracey (Waikato DC), Anton Marais (Waikato DC), Vishal Ramduny (Waikato DC), Nick Carroll (TDC), Tanya Wood (SWDC), Hadley Tattle (TDC), Sue Mavor (Taupo DC), Scott Summerfield (TCDC), Michelle Staines-Hawthorne (MPDC), Charan Mischewski (HDC), Jenni Vernon (Waikato DC), Michael Spurr (HCC), Greg Morton (WRC), Cathy O’Callaghan (WRC), Susan Henderson (HCC), Michelle White (HCC/FP), Jo Stone (NZTA).

**Background**

The following documents were circulated prior to meeting (available from shared site, see at end):

1. List of identified issues and improvements (expanded from our last meeting)
2. Comparison of NIDEA population projections with recent StatsNZ data (Dec 2016)
3. Notes from last meeting (10 Nov)

**Comparison NIDEA and latest** [**SNZ TA Projections**](http://www.stats.govt.nz/browse_for_stats/population/estimates_and_projections/ta-pop-projections-2013-43-update.aspx)

Need some key messages on why these differ ((to minimise continual churn when discussing these). -What are the different assumptions and drivers behind each projection approach:

* The UoW 2014 report contains some key messages that could form part of these messages
* The spike in 2013-2018 SNZ figures is a result of changes in net migration figures by SNZ for the next 5 years (due to current high national in-migration rates)
* SNZ reviewed their past performance for population projections ([report Sept 2016](http://www.stats.govt.nz/browse_for_stats/population/estimates_and_projections/how-accurate-pop-estimates-projns-1996-2013.aspx)).
* Would be useful to add graphics to key messages to show population changes over time and overlay previous projections (both UoW and SNZ).

***Action:*** *Beat/Tony to work with Michael (NIDEA) to develop and circulate a max 2-pager to include some pertinent key facts and messages to assist consistent communication with Councillors and Executive staff.*

**Discuss of identified issues and improvements**

For numbering and details refer to previously circulated document (also in shared folder, see below).

1. **Households and Dwellings**
* Dwellings and households are different: households represent the demand and dwellings supply. The difference between households and dwellings is generally vacant dwellings.
* Census data provides an indication of ‘proportion of vacant dwellings’.
* The language in NPS is dwellings (supply).
* It would be feasible and preferred to include a households model into WISE (Michael C)
* With this approach the household model should drive the land use model – Population Model -> Household Model -> Land use change model

***Action:*** *Tony, Michael (NIDEA) and Hedwig (RIKS) to explore incorporating households into WISE (as demand drivers).*

1. **Improve ability to model infill vs greenfields**
* Current option to improve is addition of more residential land use types.
* If adding land use classes could also consider differentiating lifestyle into two ‘densities’.

***Action:*** *Tony/Hedwig (RIKS) to explore further options for potential inclusion in next WISE update.*

1. **Absentee ratepayers**
* How best to identify? – a current option using out of district mailing addresses is not robust as many of these can be rentals/landlords.
* Could explore options such as service delivery – electricity/water meters/rubbish.
* If we could create good estimates of households and dwellings then by inference Dwellings – Households = vacant dwellings (i.e. ‘absentee ratepayers’)?
* Need to clarify what need/purpose there is for identifying absentee rate payer information to further refine this (i.e. for peak service provision or base load, for emergencies).

***Action:*** *Tony to contact Sharon Fitzpatrick (Senior Data Management Analyst, WRC).*

1. **Rating unit**
* Could use dwellings as a good indication of rating units.
* If assume ratio of commercial to dwellings stays constant then could try and project these forward based on projected dwellings.
* Requirement for LTPs.

***Action:*** *Tony to contact Sharon F (WRC).*

1. **Projection of floor space (non-residential)**
* HCC doing some work with Market Economics (for Development Contribution).
* Limited relevance to other councils.
1. **TAs only partly in Waikato Region**
* Relevant to Waitomo, Taupo and Rotorua (uses Bay of Plenty projections, also done by NIDEA)
* Relatively small issue for Waitomo (1(?) CAU missing) and Taupo (2-3 CAUs).
1. **Improved Migration Modelling**
* The peer review for the Waikato Population Projections proposed enhanced methodology using directional net migration/gravity modelling.
* NIDEA is doing this already (part of current MBIE funding).
1. **Update WISE Economic Model for TAs**
* Market Economics Ltd working on this, to be included as part of new dynamic economic model scheduled for incorporation into WISE in 2018/19.
1. **Processing projections at other spatial groupings**
* NIDEA population projections: doable for aggregations of mesh block areas. Any projections for aggregation of mesh block and sub/part mesh block units almost impossible to project meaningfully.
* NIDEA household projections: anything outside the Census Area Unit level or aggregations of these would be almost impossible to project.
* Each different spatial grouping required would need a separate model setup to run projections – requiring additional cost.
* WISE land use projections could be calculated at any spatial grouping using GIS post-processing. Once the process is set up for a specified spatial grouping it is relatively easy to rerun for new projections or scenarios.
* ***Action:*** *Tony/Michael (NIDEA) to further explore specific options.*

**12) Duplication of Economic Information (Infometrics and Market Economics Ltd)**

* No duplication but complimentary: Infometrics does not provide Projections, but useful and visually attractive current/past data and trends.
* WRC and five TAs are currently subscribed: HCC, WaikDC, HDC, MPDC, SWDC (discount 24%).

**Next Steps**

1. Beat and Tony to further progress list of identified issues and improvements, as per actions.
2. Focus on short term needs (for LTPs).
3. Next meeting scheduled for March 2017.

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| **Access to Shared ftp folders** – Projection data and documents1. Land Use projection Oct 2016 (data, maps, animations and report) – TAs and CAU
2. Powerpoints of Workshop – 10 Nov 2016
3. Population, Household and Labour force projections Oct 2016 (data and report) – TAs

(CAU level data not yet completed). **Access Instructions**: 1. Select **(DO NOT CLICK)** the following link, right click and select “Copy”ftp://Projections:CRiZSjCR@pubftp.waikatoregion.govt.nz 2. Right-click on the Start menu on the Taskbar and select "Open Windows Explorer"3. Delete any address already in the Address Bar at the top of the window.   Click in the Address Bar, right click and select “Paste” and then “Enter”.4. The FTP folder will open.5. **TO OPEN A FILE YOU NEED TO TRANSFER IT TO YOUR DESKTOP OR A SYSTEM DRIVE**. If you can't open the folder please contact your Service Desk as FTP sites may be blocked. |