

The Urban Development Act

The Urban Development Act is intended to facilitate urban development that contributes to sustainable, inclusive and thriving communities. This kind of Urban Development promotes environmental, social, cultural and economic wellbeing.

To achieve this, the Act provides a bespoke approach to complex and transformational urban development. The Act establishes a new streamlined process that brings together a toolkit of development powers and puts Māori, councils, developers and diverse communities at the heart of developments.

A mixture of housing that meets the needs of the community



Different people have different housing needs. A thriving community needs housing of all sizes, tenures, and price points that has easy access to shops, employment opportunities, and transport.

The Act permits the modification of Resource Management Act plans and allows planning across a project area. This ensures that land is used for the right purposes and right types of buildings, including a mixture of public, affordable and market housing.



This diagram is illustrative of the kinds of benefits possible. For more information please visit the Ministry of Housing and Urban Development website.

A thriving town centre with the shops, community facilities, infrastructure and social services that the community wants and needs



It is important that communities are shaped by the vision of those living in them.

The new streamlined process involves communities in the development of a project's objectives and in the project's development plan. This will provide opportunities for the community to enhance what they love and get what they need.

Access to green space that provides recreational opportunities and enriches the community experience



Communities need more than just housing. Having access to parks, reserves, rivers and other green spaces to play in and enjoy is important to communities.

The Act allows reserves to be changed and created to provide for this, alongside the community spaces, infrastructure and facilities that are needed.

Access to better transport choices



People need to get to school, work and play and want options that fit their needs.

The Act allows for the consideration of what transport connections are needed, including modes and routes for different people and purposes.

Improved water and transport infrastructure



Thriving communities need infrastructure in the right places, that meets the needs of the community now and into the future.

The Act allows for the creation and improvement of infrastructure and provides a range of tools to fund infrastructure and development activities.