

Sustaining Sustainability; NZ Experiences under the RMA in a Post Earth Summit World

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- **People**
- **Passion**
- **Power**
- **Wealth**
- **Design**
- **Sustainability**



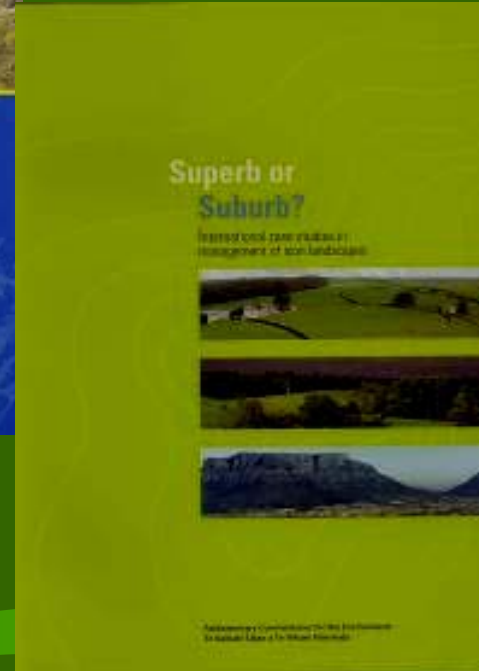
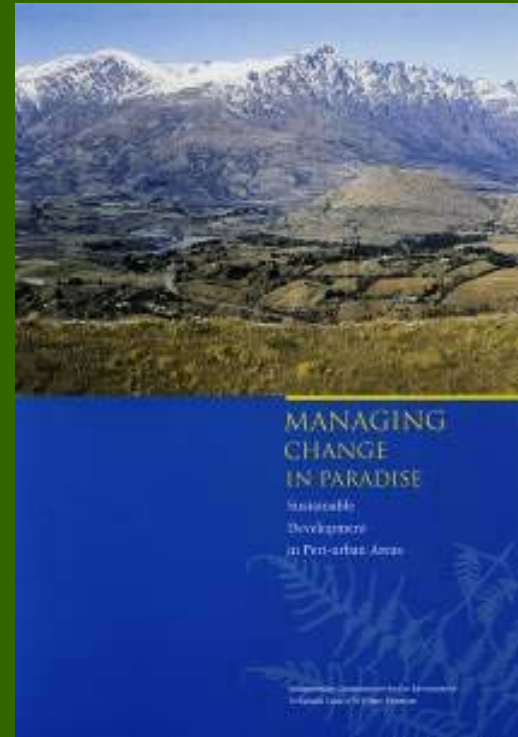
Where am I going?



- Two studies of environmental sustainability efforts
- Landscape management & the NZ journey from Rio to Joburg
- Big drivers; the things that are shaping our directions
- Ways forward.

People land & landscapes...

- PCE studies; 6 areas in NZ & 3 overseas
- Studies focused on how well desired values are being maintained in rural landscapes
- Many 'capacity' issues in NZ, values being lost; death by 1000 cuts.
- An international study. In the 3 areas the focus is on what is to be sustained with limits on activities that have proven difficult to mitigate



Landscape & seascape attractions increasing land prices globally

Current planning controls do not provide certainty

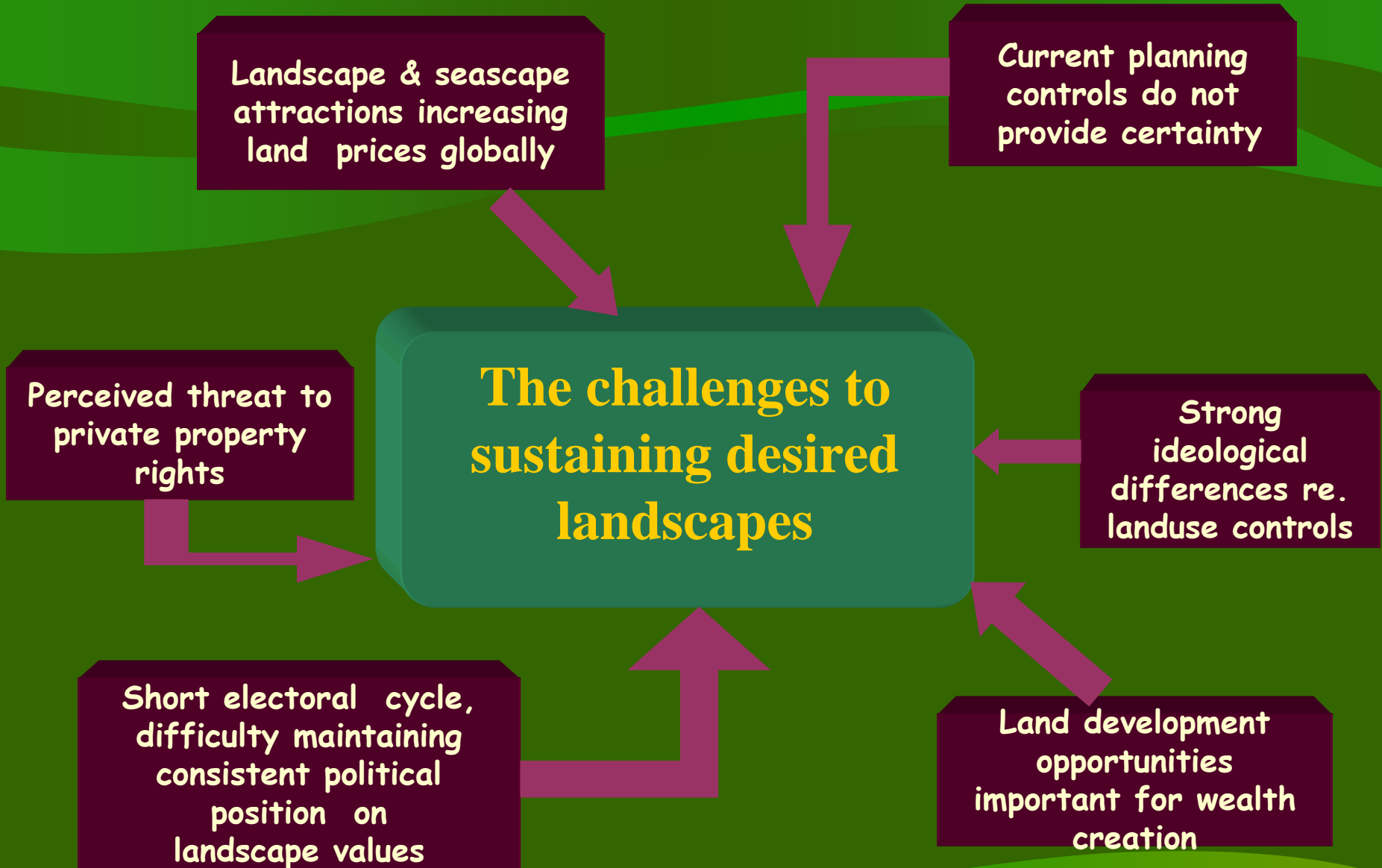
Perceived threat to private property rights

The challenges to sustaining desired landscapes

Strong ideological differences re. landuse controls

Short electoral cycle, difficulty maintaining consistent political position on landscape values

Land development opportunities important for wealth creation





Pegs in the ground...

- Are we losing desired landscape qualities? YES
- Does NZ want to dramatically slow this loss? YES
- Does our current legislation and policies, as used/implemented, sustain the landscape qualities many people cherish? NO
- Are we clear about the major drivers of landuse changes & thus loss of the landscape attributes many NZer's value? NO

Unique Development Opportunity





Land; where NZers believe real wealth resides

- We look for wealth from gains in land value
- We value, and hence price in the market, land according to expectations of use potentials or perceived or real scarcity value
- We seek wealth in land as a super fund
- We are not constrained by a capital gains tax

Managing Change in Paradise

- context

- Origins - the concerns
- Study areas:
 - Waitakere Ranges
 - Waikeke island
 - Long Bay, Okura
 - Pauatahanui Inlet and catchment
 - Banks Peninsula
 - Wakatipu basin



- Study focus; how well desired values are being maintained in cherished landscapes

What did we conclude?

A series of questions



1. Are the planning processes effective?
 - protection and significance
 - property rights
 - input from Regional Councils
 - capability of territorial auths.
 - knowledge base
 - cumulative effects
 - integrated management

Questions cont.

A series of questions

2. Is the planning system adequate?
 - is the RMA sufficient?
 - packages of tools
 - are there enough checks and balances

A series of questions



3. A role for communities?

- strategic planning
- sustaining visions
- partnerships

Questions cont.

A series of questions



4. Where to from here?

- forums for dialogue
- international approaches
- the next generation of plans



Our recommendation...

- To the Minister for the Environment:
 - “ To undertake a substantive review of experience to date in preparing the first generation of plans produced under the RMA”.
- Aim - to learn from & change approaches as needed.
- Suggestions made as to what the review should address.
- And the Ministers response; under action per proposed changes to RMA (subtext - need actions not more study).

Our follow-up; an international study

- A desk top study of the management of icon landscapes in 3 places with different cultures, legislation, etc
 - Peaks District, England
 - Oak Ridges Moraine, Ont., Canada
 - Cape Peninsular, Sth Africa

Sustaining desired values; what works, what's needed...



- The inability of more permissive planning regimes to reliably sustain ecological values, aesthetic features, open space, cultural heritage and continued public access in valued landscapes.
- The need for a long term strategic vision for the area; one that is community owned.
- A prescriptive and directive graduated protection system bases on zoning of key areas.



Sustaining desired values cont...

- Widespread involvement of all sectors of society, use of innovative management models; all embraced by extensive public learning
- A process for reviewing planning that protects from political whims but allows for evolving societal values
- Recognition that good planning needs to be information rich and requires input from central governments - particularly where smaller territorial authorities are involved.

Creating Our Future Sustainable Development for New Zealand



The why and how

- A review of N Z's sustainability actions and evolution since Rio in 1992
- Based on PCE studies, interviews and a review of some of the literature
- A looking back and a looking forward
- An assessment against a set of criteria/expectations

SD - origins?

"We are prosperous now, but we must not forget that our descendants should be prosperous in their turn. Each generation is entitled to the interest on the natural capital, but the principal should be handed on unimpaired"



CREATING THE NEXT INDUSTRIAL REVOLUTION

Natural Capitalism

PAUL HAWKEN | AMORY LOVINS | L. HUNTER LOVINS

Canadian Commission of
Conservation 1915

The conceptual challenges for SD



- What does Sustainable Development look like; how do we reach agreement on key indicators?
- The role of education; but who's story - what information shapes our needs and wants in life?
- The tyranny of a silo world; joined up thinking and action is hard to achieve

The conceptual challenges contd.



THE CITIES AND THEIR PEOPLE
New Zealand's urban environment

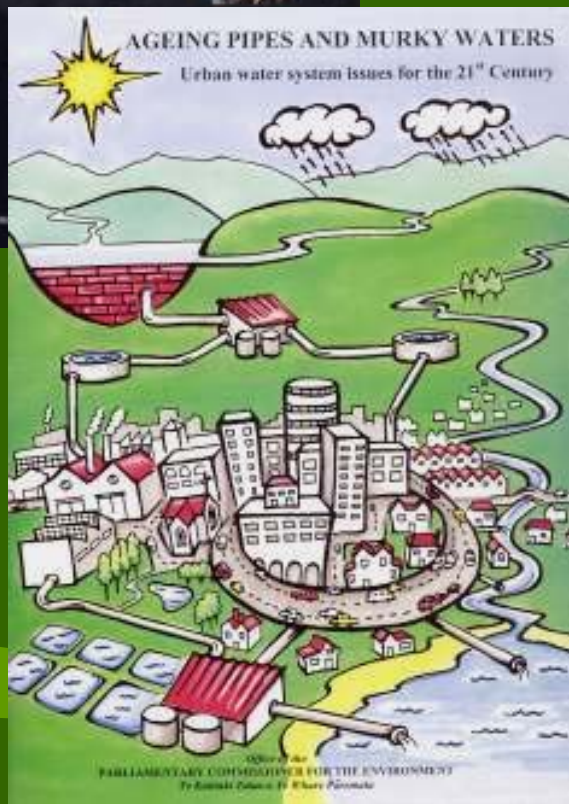
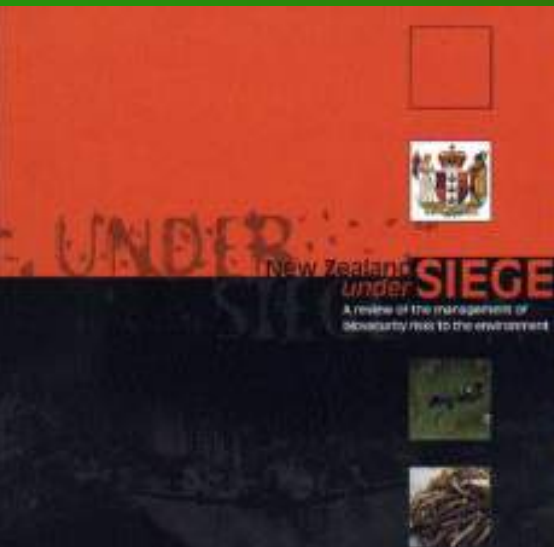


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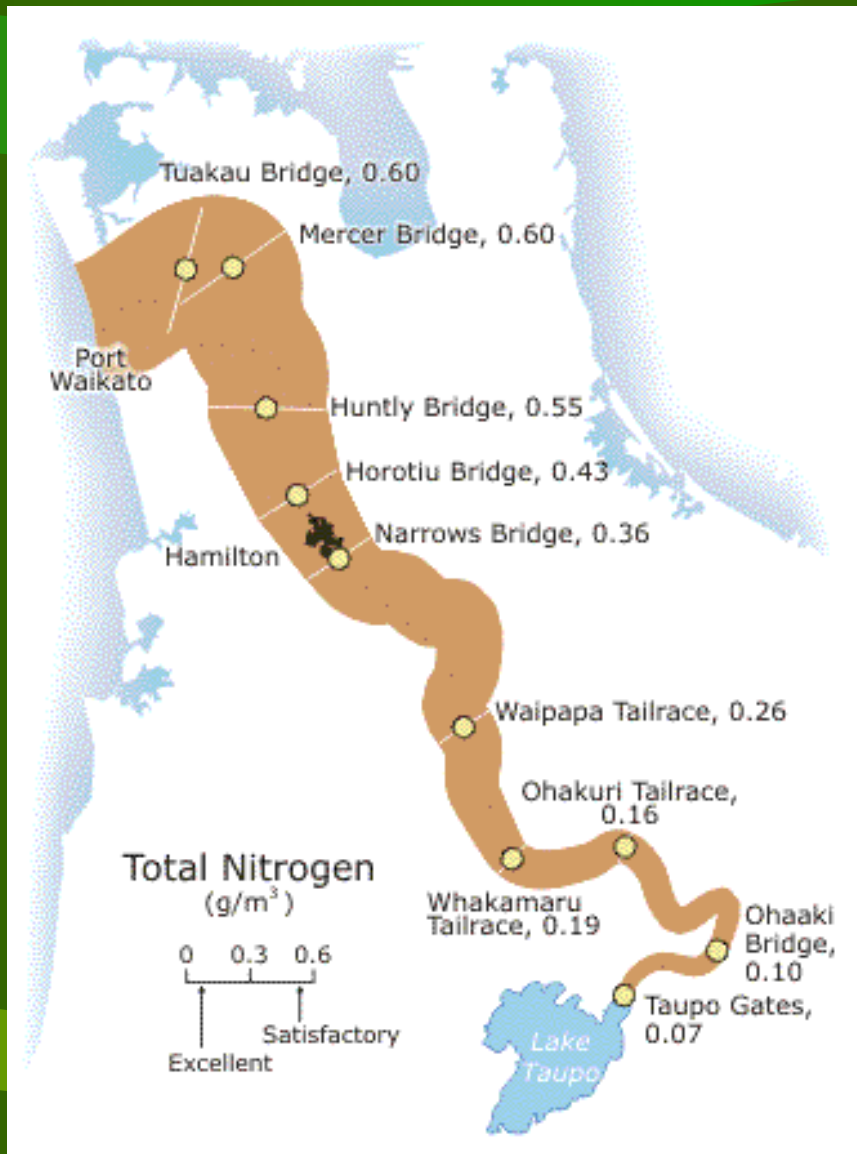
- Knowledge to know; major gaps in capacity to design and build more sustainable systems for delivering societies' desired qualities of life
- Sustainable development for a global trader; little fish in a big pond - many hands on the tiller to our future

Some resource pressures

- Increasing urbanisation & intensification of ag.
- Growing demands on our waters
- Increasing energy consumption; mostly non renewable
- Increasing waste - but improving resource recovery
- Declining biodiversity
- Increasing biosecurity threats



Sustaining water quality – is getting hard!



The good and not so good since Rio

SD Progress

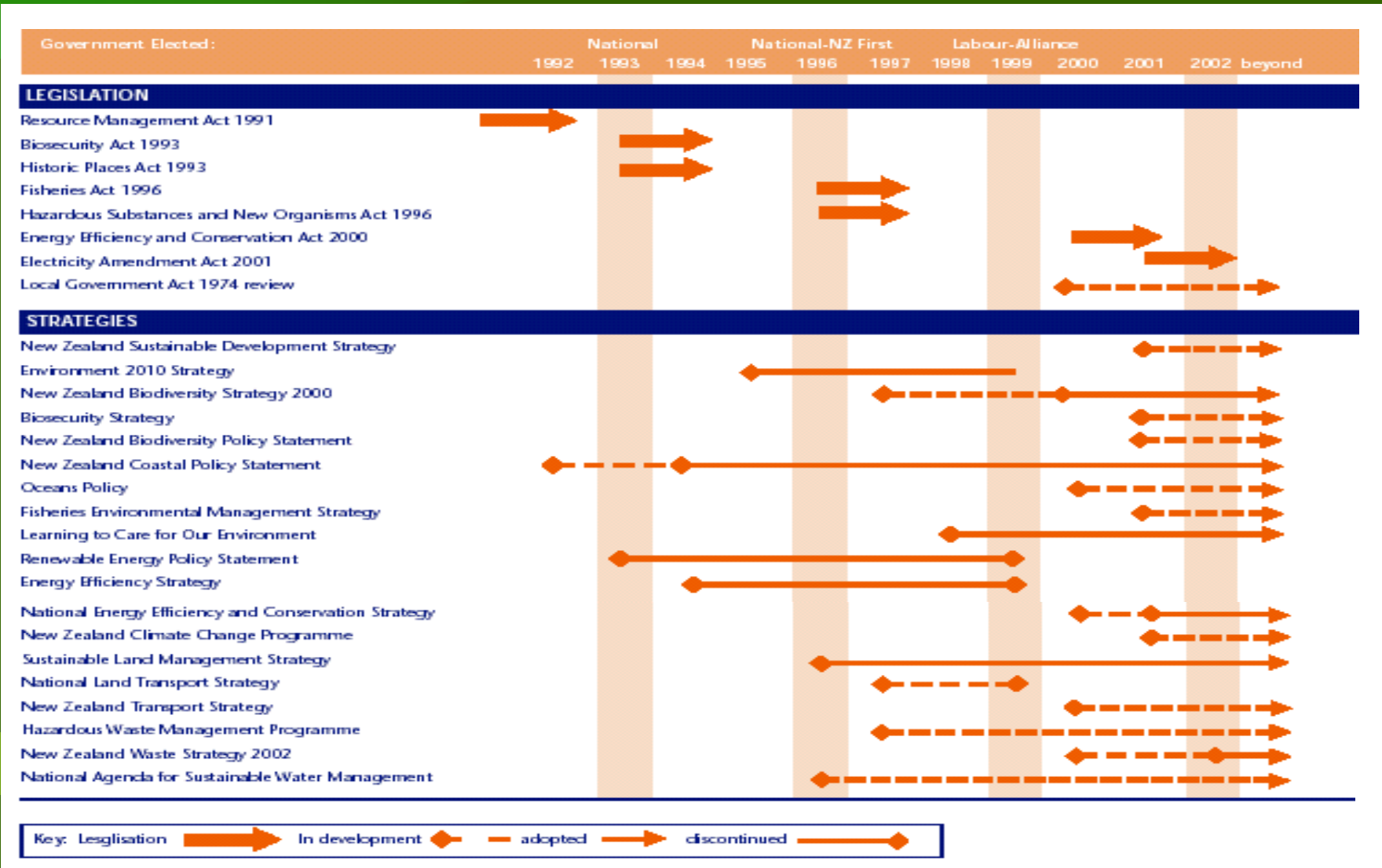
- In communities
 - Zero Waste
 - Agenda 21 Forum Christchurch
- By Councils
 - Waitakere City Council Eco Hospital
 - The Big Cleanup ARC
 - Agenda 21 efforts
- By iwi
 - Ngai Tahu; mountains to the sea
- By business
 - Macpac and The Natural Step
 - Redesigning Resources Companies
 - NZBCSD
- The RMA
"foundation"
 - Sustainable management but SD?

The good and not so good since Rio contd.

Little Progress

- Central Government facilitation of Agenda 21
- National Policy Statements and Environmental targets under RMA (air, fuel, emissions etc)
- Few Sustainable Development or other relevant strategies until recently
- To enhance resource use efficiencies
- No operational Sustainable Development indicators

Environmental management legislation & strategies 1990-02



Summary of expectations against findings...

Expectations	Findings
National Strategy on SD	Under development?
SD in legislation	Only in some legislation, but to a limited extent
Adoption of SD approaches	Lack of Government commitment until recently Support by some LA's, NGO's & business
SD indicators	Under development
Barriers to SD dealt with	Remains to be seen
SD influences policy-making	Little evidence yet
Public awareness of SD	Much more to be done

Recommendations...

- **To the Prime Minister:**
 - develop a SD strategy with vision statement, objectives, targets and timelines
 - establish an advisory body to oversee and co-ordinate the SD strategy
- **To the Minister of LG and to LGNZ:**
 - develop (together) community plan guidelines consistent with Agenda 21 principles
- **To the Minister of State Services, Minister of LG & LGNZ:**
 - skills, capacity & capability to implement SD

Beyond WSSD & the next 10 yrs

- Opportunity to craft a robust SD strategy for NZ using the insights of all who attended WSSD
- It must be developed using best practice visioning techniques and the engagement of many NZ'ers
- Major processes need to be established to inter-link the many SD building blocks and identify barriers to advancing this new development model (think beyond the RMA – of opportunities in the new LG Act etc)
- A “keeper” of the SD strategy (the long view) should be developed given NZ's short electoral cycles

Sum up... 13 yrs down the sustainability road with the RMA—where are we?

A quote:

"Would you tell me, please, which way I ought to walk from here?"

"That depends a good deal on where you want to get to," said the Cat.

"I don't much care where"..... said Alice.

"Then it doesn't matter much which way you walk," said the Cat. ".....so long as I get somewhere," Alice added as an explanation

"Oh, you're sure to do that," said the Cat "if only you walk long enough"

Sum up...

- The RMA - innovative but implementation flawed
- Its full potential thwarted by political ideologies
- Innovative legislation devolved to local Govs needs Central Gov. investment in policy, enviro. standards & capacity building.
- It is an approach that has to be knowledge rich
- An effects based approach is ultimately a limited basis fo advancing sustainability
- Efforts to improve the 'model' continue; new legislation & community processes emerging

Parting quotes

*"No generation has a
freehold on the earth,
all we have is a life
tenancy with a full
repairing lease.*

*No generation has
paid its share of
planetary repair"*

Margaret Thatcher 1988



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http://www.pce.govt.nz/reports/allreports/1_877274_03_8.shtml
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http://www.pce.govt.nz/reports/allreports/1_877274_00_3.shtml

The background of the slide is a blue-tinted photograph of a calm lake. In the foreground, concentric ripples spread out from a point on the water's surface. The lake is bordered by dark, silhouetted mountains under a pale blue sky.

THE END

www.pce.govt.nz