

# LESSONS FROM THE GOOD SOLUTIONS GUIDE FOR APARTMENTS

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The importance of coherent and sustainable urban growth has become clearer in recent years. Significant issues to be addressed are urban sprawl, creating sustainable communities, efficient use of infrastructure and efficient management of waste. Increasing urban density can contribute towards addressing these issues, and apartment developments can help achieve greater densities. Apartment living must become a viable option for long-term housing for a greater number of people (including more families) in our urban areas.

The New Zealand Urban Design Protocol points out that:

"Although there is strong evidence about some of the benefits inherent in high urban density, it is clear that density alone does not deliver benefits unless other important design issues are addressed too. Successful intensification and higher density in cities requires good design that also meets other needs – for instance, adequate open space and pedestrian friendly streets."

One tool for achieving better design is the Design Guide. These publications can target developers and their designers and architects, as well as council officers and councillors and even, sometimes, the general public.

This presentation will discuss the process involved in producing the Good Solutions Guide For Apartments, a document recently published by the North Shore City Council with the backing of all the Auckland councils, the Auckland Regional Council, Ministry for the Environment, New Zealand Institute of Architects and the Property Council of New Zealand. The paper will outline the goals of the project, the intended audience and methods used to communicate with specific sections of that audience. There will also be discussion around the effectiveness of this form of publication and how to measure its success.

## **References:**