



SOLGM
NEW ZEALAND SOCIETY OF
LOCAL GOVERNMENT MANAGERS

At the end of the day.....

Don Mackay
SOLGM



There is a lot to know ...

- But the most important things to know are:
 - What you don't know
 - Where to go to find out who does
- We (DIA, LGNZ and SOLGM) are available as a starting point
 - Happy to be contacted
 - We won't always have the answer but we can generally find you someone who does



The DIA Quick Guide

- In your packs ... please use it
- Key messages
 - We are (should be) on the same side
 - Central and local government do have different roles and perspectives
 - Can be
 - a source of tension and conflict if poorly managed or
 - a source of information and insight if they are managed well



The Quick Guide

- The benefits of engagement with local government will generally outweigh the risks
- The earlier in the process the engagement comes the greater the potential value add
 - *“We think we have a problem, help us develop an understanding of it”* works better than *“here is the solution tell us how to make it work, or why it won’t work”*
 - But either is better than nothing or *“here it is, tell your story to the Select Committee”*



LTCCP Implications

- A revolution in planning, management and information systems
- Better able to tell about:
 - What will work or not work on the ground
 - What will cost how much
- But also
 - Chickens can come home to roost in LTCCP amendment or next LTCCP or at a Select Committee
 - *“This will/has cost our community \$x million!!”*

It takes 2 points of view to see in 3 dimensions

- You are
 - experts about your subject area, or sector, or some related specialty
- Local authorities are
 - experts about their districts and communities
- The characteristics of those communities are key influences on whether or not your problem definition holds water or your policy proposal will work



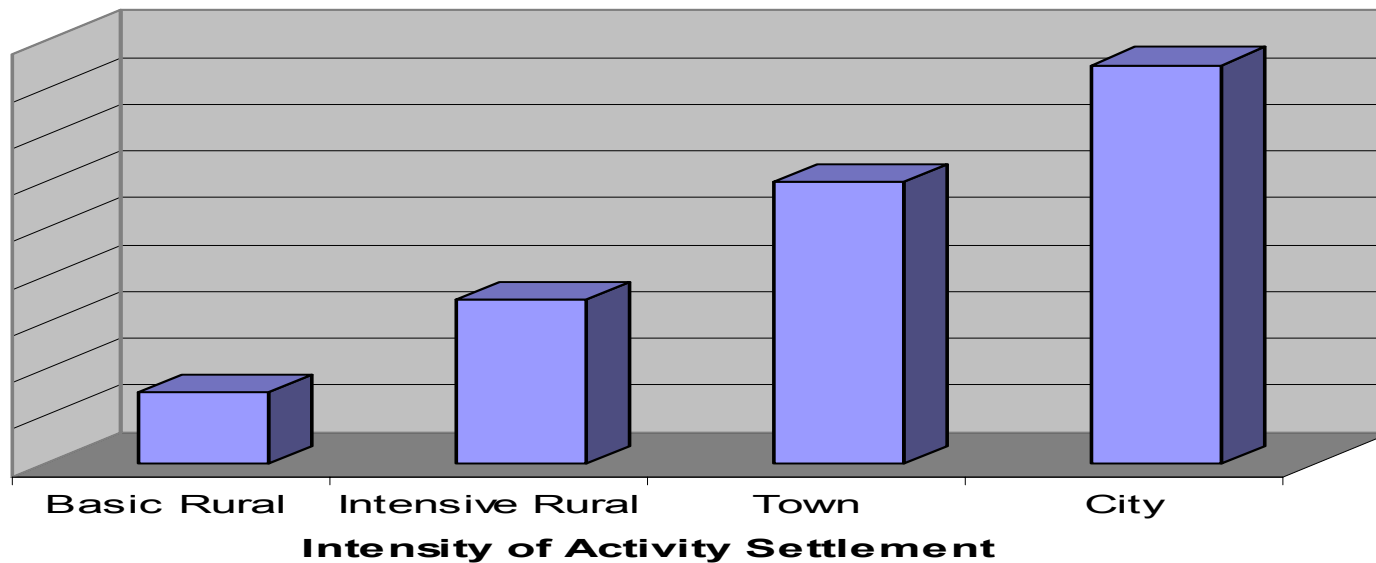
Geography matters

- Issues generally have a geography
 - They arise “somewhere”, but often not “everywhere”
 - Do we rush to uniform national policy responses to issues that are not really national or uniform?
 - Do our policy responses sometimes rest on mental models which are based on one type of community and are not truly transferable to others?
 - Should “the geography” be part of the analysis?
 - The context “in place” may suggest more effective and cost effective “targeted” responses



Where is the actual problem??

The Gradient



- Does the proposed solution really work everywhere?



Select the right club for the shot

- Does our system default too quickly to the big interventions?
- Often “the issue” may be better addressed by more targeted interventions
 - Improving practice
 - Addressing specific resource capacity or capability deficits etc
- The issue of compliance costs
 - Sometimes about excessive intervention
 - Often really about the cost of constant unnecessary changes to things that were not really broken in the first place



The Most Important Things of All

- You have chosen to be public servants for a reason
 - Positive contribution to the lives of NZers
- Keep the faith, and remember that the people you are dealing across both central and local government are there for the same reason
- The institutions and processes we work in can divide us, but they need not
- Extend good will to those on other sides of “the divides”, and deal with them openly and honestly.
- They will rarely let you down



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**Thank You For
Coming !!**