



# MASTERTON DISTRICT COUNCIL

*SERVING THE COMMUNITY*

---

64 Chapel Street  
P O Box 444  
MASTERTON 5840  
DX PA 89022  
Tel: (06) 370-6300  
Fax: (06) 378-8400  
[www.mstn.govt.nz](http://www.mstn.govt.nz)

## **PRODUCTIVITY COMMISSION – DRAFT REPORT ON BETTER URBAN PLANNING**

Thank you for the opportunity to submit on the Productivity Commission Inquiry: Better Urban Planning.

Masterton District Council has read the submission by Local Government New Zealand and concurs with their comments.

It is very important that whatever changes are proposed provide for local communities to be involved in the decision making processes.

We feel that it is important to point out that the territorial authorities in the Wairarapa made provision for better urban planning, at the time they implemented the Wairarapa Combined District Plan. In fact this plan was in effect a Spatial Plan for the Wairarapa as it incorporated future development and infrastructure across the region.

Regional plans are now being used to navigate both managing natural resources and planning urban areas, and whilst it is important to achieve integrated management this should be focused on providing local communities (district and city councils) with RMA guidance on how planning can promote good urban systems and outcomes.

Local Government legislation is complicated and fragmented and in many cases, the terminology is not aligned. A more integrated legislative framework for planning would allow for more timely decision making.

There will always be differing views where decisions are being made that affect the wellbeing of a community, and acceptable outcomes can only be reached by good community involvement.

We look forward to reading the conclusions that you draw from the submissions you receive.



Susan Southey  
**Manager Planning & Building**  
**Masterton District Council.**

30 September 2016