

Sustainable Development, Quality of Life and Regional Coalitions

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Abstract. This paper explores the ambiguous meaning of sustainable development and quality of life in the context of planning and strategy making at the regional level. A case study design is then used to look at processes of regional coalition building in the Auckland Region, New Zealand, and to identify the different uses of these two concepts. Last, general implications for processes of regional strategy making and regional governance are outlined to successfully overcome deficiencies and deviating understandings.

Key Words: quality of life, regional coalitions, regional planning, sustainable development.

I. INTRODUCTION

The terms “sustainable development” and “quality of life” have emerged as key concepts around the globe and especially when looking at the regional level in metropolitan areas. This paper deals first with developing a sufficient theoretical background that allows for dealing with the question how these broad concepts have influenced spatial planning and especially regional coalition-building in the Auckland Region, the largest urban agglomeration in New Zealand with 1.4 million inhabitants. The country has seen one of the world’s most ambitious programmes of deregulation, privatisation and public sector reform since 1984. Long-term oriented strategic planning only re-emerged from the mid-1990s onwards to tackle an ineffective institutional landscape and growing concerns about pro-active regional growth management. In this environment, processes of institutional change, cooperative arrangements and new strategic orientation can be observed and analysed within limited timeframes.

A. Aim

This work’s aim is to analyse the relevance of the concepts of sustainable development and quality of life for regional planning and especially coalition-building at the regional level. The dynamic and diverse Auckland Region is seen as a spatial laboratory that allows identifying major processes and changes within graspable timeframes under a comparably low exogeneous regulation density. The goal is to identify coalitions of proponents of these concepts among the whole number of actors who are involved on this scale and to search for coalitions that have been formed around these concepts. The view is then laid on regional strategies and institutions established out of these coalitions.

Research follows a case study design and is based on intense analysis of planning documents and strategies between the mid-1990s and 2010, as well as on-site observation and personal interviews with planning experts in the region in

2007 and 2009. The work is based on theories about regional governance, regional strategy making, sustainable development, as well as the concept of urban regimes.

B. The Auckland Region

New Zealand has two main islands with the Auckland Region located in the upper part of the North Island. The region is home to more than 1.3 million people, which is more than 32% of New Zealand’s total population of 4.34 million people [1]. The number of inhabitants only within Auckland regional boundaries is expected to reach 1.94 million in 2031, then accounting for 38% of the country’s population [2]. This means the Auckland Region is of outstanding importance for the whole country and the national economy. Auckland Airport is also the country’s largest international airport and arrival point for tourists, as well as migrants. Though the Auckland Region is the country’s largest urban agglomeration, the capital city and seat of government is located in Wellington.

The region is ethnically very diverse with 53.6% European, 18.0% Asian, 13.7% Pacific Islanders and 10.5% indigenous Maori people [3]. The region comprises seven territorial authorities which means city and district councils. Regional councils legally also belong to the local level of government but do not exert territorial sovereignty. Latest and most fundamental changes have been enacted in autumn 2010 when the former seven local authorities were merged to build one new local authority for the whole region using the buzzword “super city”.

The high need for new residential developments to accommodate a fast growing population and for new business developments to offer employment opportunities poses enormous challenges to questions of sustainable development and quality of life.

C. Regional Planning in the Auckland Region

Statutory regional planning and strategy-making has largely been diminished by New Zealand’s radical neo-liberal reforms in the 1980s. The Auckland Regional Council (ARC) lost much of its former powers for regional planning, coordination and implementation in this process [4]. The 1990s then have shown that active regional coordination is crucial when Auckland suffered from major infrastructure failures and ever-increasing traffic congestions [5, 6]. Most important acts for spatial planning today are the Resource Management Act (RMA) adopted in 1991 and the Local Government Act (LGA) adopted in 2002. These two acts incorporate the concepts of sustainable management (RMA) and sustainable

development (LGA). New Zealand was the first country to introduce sustainability in law through the RMA 1991 [7].

Strategic regional planning got back on Auckland's agenda with establishment of a regional growth forum in 1996 and adoption of the first regional growth strategy in 1999. The LGA 2002 then gave local authorities much freedom and general competences on achieving community well-being following the concept of sustainable development. Additionally, this allowed local and regional councils to directly address community needs and established similar responsibilities for territorial authorities and regional councils [8]. Nevertheless, Auckland was seen as "having extraordinary trouble holding itself together, as an idea or identity, in its transport, and also administratively, economically and socially" [9].

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT AND QUALITY OF LIFE IN GENERAL

Before looking at the case of the Auckland Region and New Zealand, it is important to look at different meanings of sustainable development and quality of life expressed by various authors working on regional sciences and spatial planning. This will later allow for arranging insights from the Auckland Region.

D. Sustainable Development

Many authors separate between weak and strong sustainability in their definition. Weak sustainability is seen as linked to an environmental approach where "environmental sustainability, social justice and economic prosperity" are perceived as equally important [7]. This has emerged out of the most-cited Brundtland definition as published in 1987 [10]. In contrast, the strong sustainability approach sees ecological sustainability in its core and does not allow trade-offs favouring e.g. economic growth. Wackernagel et al. [11] define strong sustainability as a situation in which the ecological footprint is "smaller than the available biocapacity" which means securing the natural capital that is necessary for the well-being of all humans. Strong sustainability emerges out of a nature-centered worldview in which not more natural assets should be used than nature can regenerate, without relying on (potentially risky) technological solutions [7, 12]. That is said in contrast to the weak sustainability option where, at least in theory, total substitution of natural resources is possible and where the preservation of untouched nature, land or other resources is not central.

The term sustainability is today often understood as inheriting a large focus on ecological criteria, whereas sustainable development also includes intense engagement in reducing poverty on the local and global level and reaching a state in which no continent, nation, region, city or single person is exploited for the pure (economic) benefit of others. Sustainability, in this sense, means a status and quality in which these goals are reached. Klaus Bosselmann distinguishes between the idea of sustainability and the concepts of sustainable development and sustainable

management, seeing sustainability as overarching principle [7]. Sustainability is thus used as a broader term, whereas other terms are more narrowed down to a specific field or purpose (see also [13]).

Concerning spatial planning cities and urban regions are seen as important focus points for working towards global sustainability that have not been adequately addressed by the Brundtland report [14]. Sustainability is often seen as strongly connected to land and land use (see e.g. [15]) which leads to planning for compact city developments and attempts to reduce the need for developments on greenfields and former open space. Sustainability means, among other things, "compact urban form, reductions in automobile use, protection of ecosystems, and improved equity" [16]. These are very concrete applications of the idea of sustainability that also make it easier to assess the direction which urban development takes on the sustainable development path. On this way, constant economic growth and high employment rates are also seen as important dimensions [17]. But it is an important perception that planning for sustainability does not mean making constraints, but, on the contrary, can lead to a better quality of life [18].

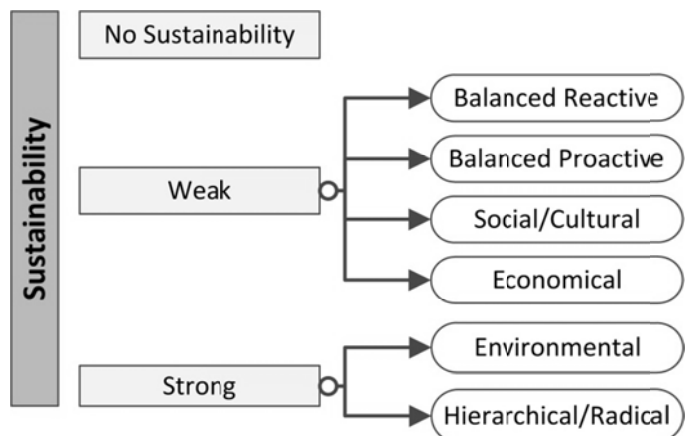


Fig. 1. Understandings of Sustainability. Source: made by author based on GIS data by Auckland Regional Council (ARC).

The most important different understandings of sustainability can be arranged in seven categories (see for detailed elaboration: [19]) as shown in Figure 1. These include a no sustainability category under which attempts to keep the status quo under the label of sustainability can be found. The next category is named balanced reactive. This means that the sustainability dimensions are seen as equally important but that sustainability thinking is only applied for changes and new developments. In contrast, the balanced proactive understanding means active engagement to achieve sustainability in the sense of equally important dimensions. The economical understanding centres on economic development, urban growth and economic aspects of sustainability and sees them as more important than others or as precondition for fulfilment of the other dimensions. The social/cultural understanding is based on the belief that all

human beings are equal and that social equality and equal opportunities of participation in society are the most important dimensions of sustainability that, then, allow for and lead to environmental protection and resilient economies. The environmental understanding of sustainability sees ecological aspects and environmental protection as core dimension, which are preconditions to everything else and every activity happening on earth. At last, the hierarchical/radical understanding has a strong cognition that environmental sustainability surrounds social aspects and that economic aspects are mainly reduced to being part of our societal system. This understanding also challenges whole governance structures and the fundamentals of society.

Sustainability has yet evolved as major idea and concept in planning theory and practice. In general, radical understandings of sustainability and sustainable development have not yet gained major acceptance in spatial planning [20]. The focus of sustainable development must be seen more in the process than in a (previously specified) end-product. It is “a process of positive socio-economic and biophysical change [...] without undermining the natural systems” [21]. Despite all difficulties about understanding and measuring sustainability, it includes a holistic and long-term approach and builds up an alternative vision and a new paradigm for planning, often also brought forward by bottom-up initiatives [7, 14, 22, 23].

E. Quality of Life

Early proponents of the importance of quality of life for managing urban regions see it as contra-part to capitalist tendencies of dissolving the relationship between space and society and to a loss of urban meaning [24]. In this period, two groups of people were recognised as centering on the politics of growth: those with vested economic interests and those with concerns on the quality of life and urban amenity [25, 26]. The quality of life concept has also emerged with respect to spatial planning in the 1980s following the move-away from holistic comprehensive planning approaches. Planners were seen as important for helping mitigate negative effects of growth as counterpart to the task of supporting economic development [27]. Planners were advised to take a look on residents' perceptions on quality of life and to view quality of life as composed of many factors, not being to able to aggregate this towards one single number. The concept of quality of life was identified as new unifying goal for planners to express leadership and apply their expert knowledge in a process of building “a new consensus about planning goals and decisions” [27]. Interestingly enough: in the same way as sustainability may, by some, be perceived as “planning's saving grace” today [28], it was quality of life in this view from the 1980s.

Quality of life as the core concept re-emerged in time with the new regionalism debate from the 1990s onwards, now showing more of a competitive city focus expressed in many rankings comparing cities and regions on the basis of different indicators (see e.g. [29, 30]). Main effort of these rankings is to attract international businesses and capital, which means following a narrow definition of quality of life leaving out

counterviews [30]. Rankings are often problematic and not completely unbiased or transparent in their indicators and results. Nevertheless, they shape the image of a city or region, inwards to its residents as well as outwards [31].

F. Role of Strategic Regional Planning and Regional Governance

The term governance has gained prominent attention in recent years in the field of spatial planning and characterises a moderate form of self-management that is primarily based on networks [32]. Accordingly, private sector actors and civil society are included, in addition to traditional governmental and political institutions [33]. In general, the term governance is used in spatial planning to name patterns of management and coordination on different spatial levels, e.g. urban governance and regional governance [34]. This includes new structures, informal instruments and decentralised responsibilities.

Strategic planning as a term connected to spatial planning emerged in the 1990s. According to Friedmann [35], it “calls for new institutions of governance, and [...] for a comprehensive, integrated approach”. Aspects that have to be integrated are social and economic ones, but also environmental sustainability and cultural identity. He states that what strategic spatial planning always characterises “is their ambition to take the long view and make this view matter in guiding operational plans” [35].

Thorsten Wiechmann [36] summarises that strategic planning today is understood as communicative political process, embedded in processes of governance and aiming at improving subsequent decisions. Planners therefore are actors in processes of governance, having strategic planning as their tool. Louis Albrechts [37] gives an intensive explanation about processes and demands for their design in strategic planning processes. Strategic planning must deal with power structures, obvious and subtle uncertainties and competing values. Ingredients are its focus on decisions, actions, results and implementation as well as incorporated mechanisms for monitoring and revision [37].

The theory of urban regimes is rooted at the end of the 1980s, though its predecessors reach back to the end of the 1970s. It is about analysing the creation and the maintenance of governing capacity and coalition-building [38–42], especially acknowledging the social production of power outside the electoral system and the existence of fluid preferences [40]. Regime theory is based on the U.S. American liberal traditions and thinking, as well as the local level, but can also be used as an analytical framework elsewhere [43, 44]. Central assumption is the division of labour between state and the private market [45]. Regime theory centres around the presupposition that some kind of collaboration between governmental and non-governmental actors is necessary for achieving any governance outputs (see i.a. [45]). Regimes are formed “as an informal basis for coordination [...] [and] operate without a formal hierarchy” [46]. The state can be perceived as the only authority with comprehensive authority and sovereignty across a whole

territory [47], but its scope of action is limited without additional resources mobilised in governing coalitions. Governing capacity is then understood as capacity to act and is produced through the process of coalition-building [39]. In short, governance in its current meaning is at its core, but with focus on the interaction between politics and the private sector, in particular local businesses. Coalitions involve both, informal networks and formal relationships [48]. For being practically effective, the following is needed for the formation of an urban regime: an agenda (i.e. the preferred plan), a governing coalition (i.e. a prevalent urban regime), sufficient resources brought into the coalition by their members and a scheme of cooperation [41]. Where all these come together, a plan, strategy or policy can be implemented in practice. One should bear in mind that governing coalitions can change and do not inevitably lead to the building of long-lasting coalitions and therefore urban regimes.

David Hamilton [49, 50] has yet brought together regional governance and regime theory underpinned by studies of the Chicago and Pittsburgh regions. He applies urban regime theory to new regionalism for regional governance in metropolitan regions and recognises the importance of private and public stakeholders, as well as the important role of the civic sector as a neutral party or a mediator between these two spheres. It is the informal arrangements and the coming together of public officeholders and private interests which are in the core of regime theory and also of urban and regional governance. Especially the so-called metropolitan regionalism is characterised by the struggle of different coalitions for problem-definitions and adequate institutional answers [51, 52]. The creation of new institutional forms on the regional scale can foster “market-guided forms of local economic development” but also holds the potential to mobilise democratic participation against negative impacts of profit-driven urban growth [52].

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT AND QUALITY OF LIFE IN THE NEW ZEALAND CONTEXT

In a historically scarcely populated country that defines its own image as “clean and green” and that sees itself as strongly connected to nature, New Zealand was on the forefront of implementing ideas of sustainable development even prior to the Rio 1992 summit in its legislation and planning system. The Parliamentary Commissioner for the Environment, an independent watchdog on environmental issues, therefore summarised in a report ten years after endorsement of the RMA 1991: “If New Zealand cannot function in a sustainable way, it leaves little hope that any developed nation can do so” [53].

G. Sustainable Development

The concept of sustainable development became more and more present in New Zealand at least since it has been legally required by the LGA in 2002. This was followed by the Auckland Sustainable Cities Programme from 2003 to 2006 [54]. In succession to the World Summit on Sustainable

Development in Johannesburg 2002, this pilot initiative involved several central government agencies, the ARC and the seven local authorities in the Auckland Region [55]. Subsequently, in 2006 and 2007 intensive work has been done on an overarching framework called Auckland Sustainability Framework to bridge emerging discrepancies in future aspirations for the region following a shared goal of sustainability. In both initiatives business representatives only played a minor part and both initiatives were not targeted towards addressing economic objectives.

Many actors and all governmental tiers in New Zealand see a strong connection between sustainable development and quality of life. For the national level, new ways of thinking about the quality of life is required by the concept of sustainable development applied throughout the country [53]. The focus is on the one hand laid mostly inwards oriented towards providing a good quality of life for New Zealand residents and preserving natural assets. On the other hand, private businesses recognise a focus of sustainable development on improving the quality of life and with this more on searching for solutions allowing for the integration of economic growth [56]. The emphasis hereby is laid more outwards oriented towards being internationally competitive and attracting businesses and skilled workers.

H. Quality of Life

The focus of regional planning and strategy-making in the Auckland Region has shifted towards a competitive city-focus in which quality of life takes a central position [18]. This follows a perception that growth management is not merely about spatially locate dwellings and care for a balanced distribution within regional boundaries but also of achieving a high quality of life for all inhabitants. This is seen as especially important when being in international economic competition with other large metropolitan areas in Australia and overseas. This differs from early perceptions of quality of life as being in contrast to economic aspirations with environmentalists focusing on preserving amenity (see above).

The focus on quality of life in New Zealand cities has been strengthened from 1999 onwards when the “Quality of Life Project” began regular surveys among the country’s largest cities. According to the latest survey, 92.1% of all New Zealanders rate their own quality of life as either good or extremely good [57]. But quality of life is seen as slightly better by people living outside the country’s twelve largest cities than by people living within these cities [57].

Today quality of life must be seen as inhering both an outwards and an inwards oriented understanding with looking at the own competitiveness, in comparison with others, as well as urban amenity for the own residents.

I. Regional Coalitions in the Auckland Region

The last 15 years have witnessed intense movements concerning strategy-making and coalition-building in the Auckland Region. Strategic planning on the regional level re-emerged in the mid-1990s with its strongest expression in the foundation of the Auckland Regional Growth Forum

composed of the seven local authorities and the regional council. This led to adoption of the first regional growth strategy in 1999 that raised high expectations but was then followed by slow implementation successes and overt opposition. As an example, the need of land for business developments was largely left out and increasing property prices due to tighter regional growth boundaries were expected especially by business representatives.

The following figure (Fig. 2) summarises forums and strategies on the regional level as it is legally defined and overseen by the regional council. These are the most obvious “results” concerning regional planning and strategy-making though important actors outside the regional council’s sphere cannot be integrated in detail here (for a detailed description and explanation see [19]).

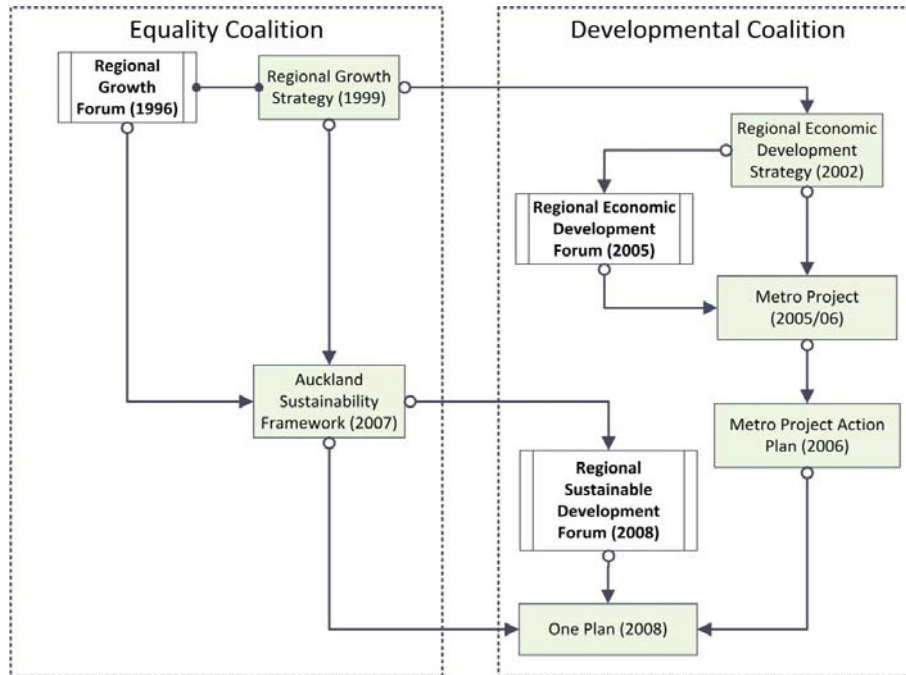


Fig. 2. Comprehensive regional strategies 1996-2010 and regional coalition. Source: made by author.

TABLE I
COALITIONS IN THE AUCKLAND REGION

	Equality Coalition	Developmental Coalition
Understanding of Sustainability	Social/Cultural	Economical
Understanding of Quality of Life	Inwards-oriented: urban amenity, living environment for residents	Outwards-oriented: attracting workers and global capital
Focus	Comprehensive / region-wide	Project-oriented
Initiative	Bottom-up	Top-down
Cooperation since	1996/99	2002/05
Timeframe	Long term	Short and medium term
Perceived Benefits	Preserving uniqueness, maintaining local and regional autonomy	Monetary returns, business opportunities, international recognition, political influence
Key Terms	Sustainability, sustainable development	Sustainable business, sustainable growth, sustainable development

Source: made by author.

In subsequent years the growth strategy was supplemented by additional strategies especially in the transport and economic development sector. Development of a regional economic development strategy in 2002 and foundation of a regional economic development forum in 2005 led to the so-called Metro Project and adoption of a related action plan in

2006 focusing on economic development issues. It took since 2007 for the first review of the original growth strategy to be published and to develop the Auckland Sustainability Framework as broader regional consensus for future regional aspirations. The growth forum was subsequently transformed to the Auckland Regional Sustainable Development Forum,

then including non-voting members of adjacent regional councils and New Zealand national government.

The most recent development has been the so-called “One Plan” as a strategic framework and an action plan on the way to a sustainable future [58]. But the first version largely focused on existing projects on which decisions have already been made or which are already in the phase of implementation. Many of these were focusing on infrastructure and economic development issues high on the agenda for the developmental coalition that proved to be very successful in maintaining cooperation and implementing its Metro Project Action Plan since 2006 [59–62].

Based on two separate policy trajectories from around 2000 onwards [63, 64], it is adequate to separate one stream of planning and regional governance centering on coordinated growth management and holistic sustainability planning, as well as one stream centering on economic development planning and international economic competitiveness (see table 1). The spatial focus of the equality coalition is comprehensive or region-wide, trying to take into account all relevant issues and not to override any particular interest or stakeholder. In contrast, the developmental coalition is project-oriented, building on infrastructure projects or projects like the waterfront redevelopment and the Rugby World Cup 2011. Its focus is also more implementation-oriented focusing on short and medium-term projects, e.g. with the Metro Project Action Plan as a detailed action program, in contrast to the growth strategy that showed wide consensus, but did not get into details about its implementation.

Concerning regional governance, the first is based on a territorial approach, trying to include everyone within the region and to proactively address many policy fields. On the contrary, the developmental coalition follows more a functional approach, focusing on perceived problems and deficiencies, but also opportunities, especially with regard to the governmental structure and the transport sector.

Both have sustainable development and quality of life in their core but with different understandings of practical implications. The first included different tiers of government and local communities but did not manage to include private sector and business representatives, whereas the second was largely promoted by businesses and high-ranking politicians within the region. On the basis of a theoretical background based on regime theory, it is feasible to attribute the term coalitions to these two streams. The latter coalition has a stable core of stakeholders and has increasingly gained momentum towards implementation. But to some degree both struggle to become the predominant governing coalition and to stand in this position for a longer time. And both have fuzzy edges with people different to put into one or the other coalition. In addition, the first one does not represent a coalition between the public and the business sector which most attribute as a crucial fact to be called regime. But these streams come close to regional coalitions as proposed by Christopher Leo [65]. These can be overlapping and are “each constituted to address a different set of policy concerns” [65].

For him, this is especially likely with regard to placing urban politics into a national and global context and with influences from different levels, allowing for coalitions solely of local members as well as for those including members of different levels [65].

The first stream comes closest to the social/cultural understanding of sustainability and to an equality regime in which high relevance is attributed to social and cultural aspects and in which the environment plays an important, but not pivotal, role. The second stream then has to be put into an economical understanding of sustainability and a developmental or pro-growth regime. Seen alone, both have a core of continuously engaged and involved actors, but none of them emerges as what one could doubtlessly call regime. As it is difficult to name these streams or coalitions regimes and to avoid any misinterpretation, these are better called developmental coalition and equality coalition.

To sum up, sustainable development and achieving a high quality of life have been central aspects and cornerstones for two different coalitions within the Auckland Region under decreasing spaces of overlap. On the contrary, there are increasing discrepancies between an inwards oriented view on urban amenity, ecological integrity and social equality for regional residents on the one side and an outwards oriented view focusing on economic objectives and international competitiveness on the other side. Even intensive work on the overarching sustainability framework with a 100-year timeframe between 2006 and 2007 was not able to bridge emerging deviations in future aspirations for the whole region.

As a result, sustainable development has the potential to hold a certain coalition of stakeholders together and quality of life is always present in the Auckland context. But while business representatives may like terms like sustainable growth or sustainable development, they are hard to engage for working on a broader understanding and use of sustainability. In the Auckland Region, even in the early years of coordinated growth management since 1996, businesses were mostly left out and later addressed with additional strategies. Both had little spaces of overlap and were not seen as working together. The perceived benefits for businesses to engage in a developmental coalition along economic growth objectives are much higher than to engage in a framework for a sustainable long-term future that is hard to translate into practical implications. The Auckland Region has certainly proven that central government plays a major role in establishing and maintaining urban regimes (see especially [66]).

Two different important work streams, i.e. sustainability/sustainable development and economic growth/competitiveness, allowed for two different coalitions to include central government or even to activate it for the own purposes. But while major competences for wider sustainability issues were delegated to the local level through the LGA 2002, economic objectives and especially large-scale infrastructure investments remained under central government’s responsibility that was therefore able to add

important monetary resources to the developmental coalition. Concerning wider sustainability issues and the equality coalition's aims, guidance by central government remained restricted and only little direct interventions were made or a limited number of guidelines set.

CONCLUSION AND IMPLICATIONS FOR REGIONAL STRATEGY-MAKING

Both terms, sustainable development and quality of life, are essential concepts for all those active in regional planning and strategy-making. But they can allow for different coalitions to evolve and stabilise over a certain time. When only backed by certain actors and when not addressing major issues of regional significance for local people, these terms can lead to a buy-in of many different people and groups but does not exert overt influence on regional cooperation and on existing regional coalitions. The term sustainability hereby seems more adequately used within a general (political) framework and consensus, reaching beyond solely regional planning and regional governance. This is at least valid for the Auckland Region but must at least to be transferable to every region in which public authorities are not strong enough to implement projects and strategies without strong support from outside their sphere. Building a temporary coalition around the overarching goal of sustainability is not a problem but maintaining a long-standing coalition or forming something one could call regime is unlikely and failed in case of the Auckland Region.

Susan Owens and Richard Cowell [20] conclude in general that "the concept of sustainable development has scarcely fulfilled its much vaunted reconciliatory potential". They grant the goal of sustainability the achievement of thinking about and challenging current modes of behaviour but do not recognise radical changes, especially concerning land-use planning.

This means hard work when dealing with these concepts and applying them to processes of regional planning and regional governance. In the same way the setting of measurable goals and indicators always includes a danger of being biased in one or the other direction. Therefore increased efforts are necessary to tackle drifting apart of understandings, aspirations and therefore the inclusion of regional stakeholders. At least obvious discrepancies have to be discussed openly and without prejudgements that are difficult to justify. It is only then that sustainable development and quality of life can be meaningful concepts leading to change in a mutually coordinated and planned direction.

Strategic frameworks and vision documents are helpful tools for achieving consensus, for building knowledge and for inspiring people to act but the implementation of these "depends on the politics and institutional setup of the region" [16]. When embedded in regional structures and working with all those holding major political and financial resources and when engaging with all regional stakeholders, a regional

sustainability framework can certainly be valuable and a good basis for future work over a longer period of time.

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Kristian Lamker. Ilgtspējīga attīstība, dzīves kvalitāte un reģionāla koalīcija.

Termins „ilgtspējīga attīstība” un „dzīves kvalitāte” tiek izmantotas kā pamatkonceptijas visā pasaulē it īpaši, skatoties uz reģionālo līmeni. Šis raksts paskaidro šīs plašās koncepcijas divdomīgo nozīmi plānošanas, koalīcijas veidošanas un stratēģijas izstrādāšanās kontekstā reģiona līmenī.

Dinamisks un atšķirīgi dažāds Oklendas reģions Jaunzēlandē tiek apskatīts kā telpiskā laboratorija, kas ļauj identificēt galvenos procesus un pārmaiņas saprotamā laikā rāmī zem salīdzinoši zema eksogēna reglamentēšanas blīvuma. Pētījuma mērķis ir identificēt koalīcijas, kas šo koncepciju atbalsta un ierosina, starp visiem dalībniekiem, kas iesaistīti šī līmeņa plānošanā, un atrast koalīcijas, kas izveidojas ap šīm koncepcijām. Stāvokļa pētījuma veikšana ir izmantota, lai apskatītu reģionālas koalīcijas veidošanu un identificēt iepriekš minēto koncepciju dažādu lietojumu. Pēc kārtas ieskicēta vispārēja līdzdalība reģionālas stratēģijas veidošanas un reģionālas pārvaldes procesos, lai veiksmīgi pārvarētu trūkumus un novirzošo izpratni.

Kā rezultāts tiek noteikts, ka ilgtspējīga attīstība, kā arī dzīves kvalitāte ir svarīgas koncepcijas visiem, kas darbojas reģionālā plānošanā un stratēģiju veidošanā. Tās ļauj dažādām koalīcijām izvērsties un stabili pastāvēt kādu konkrētu laika periodu. Savukārt, kad koncepcijas tiek atbalstītas tikai noteikta dalībnieku lokā un nepievēršas vietējo iedzīvotāju reģionālas nozīmes galvenajām problēmām, šādi nosacījumi var vest pie daudzu dažādu dalībnieku un grupu saglabāšanas, bet acīmredzami neietekmēs reģionālo sadarbību un esošās reģionālas koalīcijas. Tā nozīme nopietna darba ieguldīšanu darbojoties ar šīm koncepcijām un piemērojot tās reģionālas plānošanas procesiem. Kā arī skaitliski aprēķināmo mērķu un indikatoru noteikšana, tā arī šo koncepciju izpratne vienmēr satur draudus būt saprastai ar nobīdi uz vienu vai otru pusi. Līdz ar to ir nepieciešami daudz vairāk pūļu, lai risinātu problēmas saistītas ar izpratnes, centienu un ieinteresēto dalībnieku pievienošanu reģionālā līmenī attīlāšanās.

Кристиан Ламкер. Устойчивое развитие, качество жизни и региональная коалиция.

Термин «устойчивое развитие» и «качество жизни» появились как ключевые понятия на глобальном уровне и в особенности на региональном. Эта статья исследует неоднозначный смысл этих широких понятий в контексте планирования, создания коалиций и разработке стратегий на региональном уровне.

Динамичный и разнообразный регион Окленд в Новой Зеландии в данной работе рассматривается как пространственная лаборатория, которая позволяет выявить основные процессы и изменения в рамках понятных сроков при сравнительно низкой плотности экзогенного регулирования.

Цель работы заключается в поиске коалиции сторонников этих концепций среди целого ряда актеров на данном уровне планирования и в поиске коалиции, которые образованы вокруг этих понятий. Рассматриваются процессы создания региональных коалиций и определяются различные способы использования этих двух понятий. В последовательности изложены общие последствия для успешно преодоления недостатков и отклонений в понимании вопросов для процессов регионального принятия стратегий и управления.

В результате установлено, что устойчивое развитие, а также качество жизни являются основными понятиями для всех тех, кто принимает активное участие в региональном планировании и разработке стратегий. Они позволяют различным коалициям развиваться и стабилизироваться в течение определенного времени. Когда концепции поддерживаются только некоторыми участниками и не решаются важные вопросы, имеющее региональное значение для местного населения, эти условия могут привести к сохранению различных групп, но не оказывать сильного влияния на региональное сотрудничество и на существующие региональные коалиции. Это означает необходимость приложения определенного труда, работая с этими концепциями и применяя их в процессах регионального планирования. Как и установление поддающихся количественной оценке целей и показателей, так и понимание данных концепций всегда включает в себя опасности быть смещенными в одну или другую сторону. Следовательно, более активные усилия необходимы для решения проблем, отдаляющихся от понимания друг друга, стремлений и присоединения заинтересованных сторон на уровне региона.