

MEASURING NEIGHBOURHOOD SUSTAINABILITY – A NEW ZEALAND EXAMPLE.

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Hobsonville Point is New Zealand's largest urban development. Located in Auckland, it includes 3000 new homes, two new schools, shops, community facilities, parks and walkways, a waterfront precinct and a new ferry into downtown Auckland. 20% of homes are sold at a more affordable price point and the development is a public private partnership project.

Founded on a strong sustainability vision the development is underpinned by a sustainable development framework, with performance indicators, developed in 2007.

Six years on, and the first stage of development is complete with the first residents moved in. To begin to assess the performance of this first neighbourhood, the developer, Hobsonville Land Company, teamed up with independent researchers, Beacon Pathway, to undertake a comprehensive sustainability assessment. This assessment used the Neighbourhood Sustainability Framework and associated tools developed by Beacon Pathway. The approach combines an observational assessment of the built environment with a resident survey that explores how residents experience their neighbourhood. In addition data on energy and water consumption were sourced.

Very positive results were recorded, with particular strengths in walking access to available every day facilities, protection and enhancement of the natural environment, dwelling sustainability, quality of space and the design of the street network. 98.5% agreed that Hobsonville Point is a great place to live and indicators of neighbourliness, perceptions of safety and the sense of community are higher than those in wider Auckland. As well, water use and electricity use are significantly lower than the Auckland average making Hobsonville Point houses around 25% cheaper to run.

Areas for improvement were also identified and these focus on transport and local facilities related opportunities.

Our paper discusses the assessment methodology, the features of Hobsonville Point that have contributed to the positive results and how these results are now being used by the Hobsonville Land Company.

Bijoux, D. 2013 ***Error! Use the Home tab to apply Title to the text that you want to appear here.***

http://beaconpathway.co.nz/neighbourhoods/article/neighbourhood_case_study_hobsonville_point

Bijoux, D. 2012. *A Neighbourhood Sustainability Framework for New Zealand: Beacon's research and tools.*

[http://www.beaconpathway.co.nz/images/uploads/Report_NH2012\(3\)_A_Neighbourhood_Sustainability_Framework_for_New_Zealand.pdf](http://www.beaconpathway.co.nz/images/uploads/Report_NH2012(3)_A_Neighbourhood_Sustainability_Framework_for_New_Zealand.pdf)

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