
Trading suburbia for an urban lifestyle: understanding the relationship between urban amenities and Auckland's more compact future

Natalie Allen 1

Professor Errol Haarhoff 2

Dr Lee Beattie 3

1. University of Auckland
2. University of Auckland
3. University of Auckland

In line with many Pacific Rim cities in Australia and North America, Auckland has enacted an urban growth management strategy premised on two concepts: 'liveability' and a 'quality compact city'. The effective implementation of this strategy will, in part, require higher density housing typologies to be developed within existing and emergent town and neighbourhood centres. This raises a fundamental question: will these higher density neighbourhoods meet the aspirations and needs of future residents?

The urban amenities in a neighbourhood play an important role in providing a sense of liveability for residents. This paper examines these issues by evaluating and reporting on the outcomes of 60 qualitative interviews with residents who currently live in medium density housing in four Auckland suburbs.

Findings consider the trade-offs residents make when choosing to live in medium density housing typologies, how they value the urban amenities in their neighbourhood and the role they think these amenities play in their location satisfaction. Conclusions are drawn around how the resident-derived information may inform the market on the supply side of housing, and comment is made about how these preferences may, or may not, respond to the objectives of the underlying urban management strategies involved.

Natalie Allen – natalie.allen@auckland.ac.nz

Word count 197