

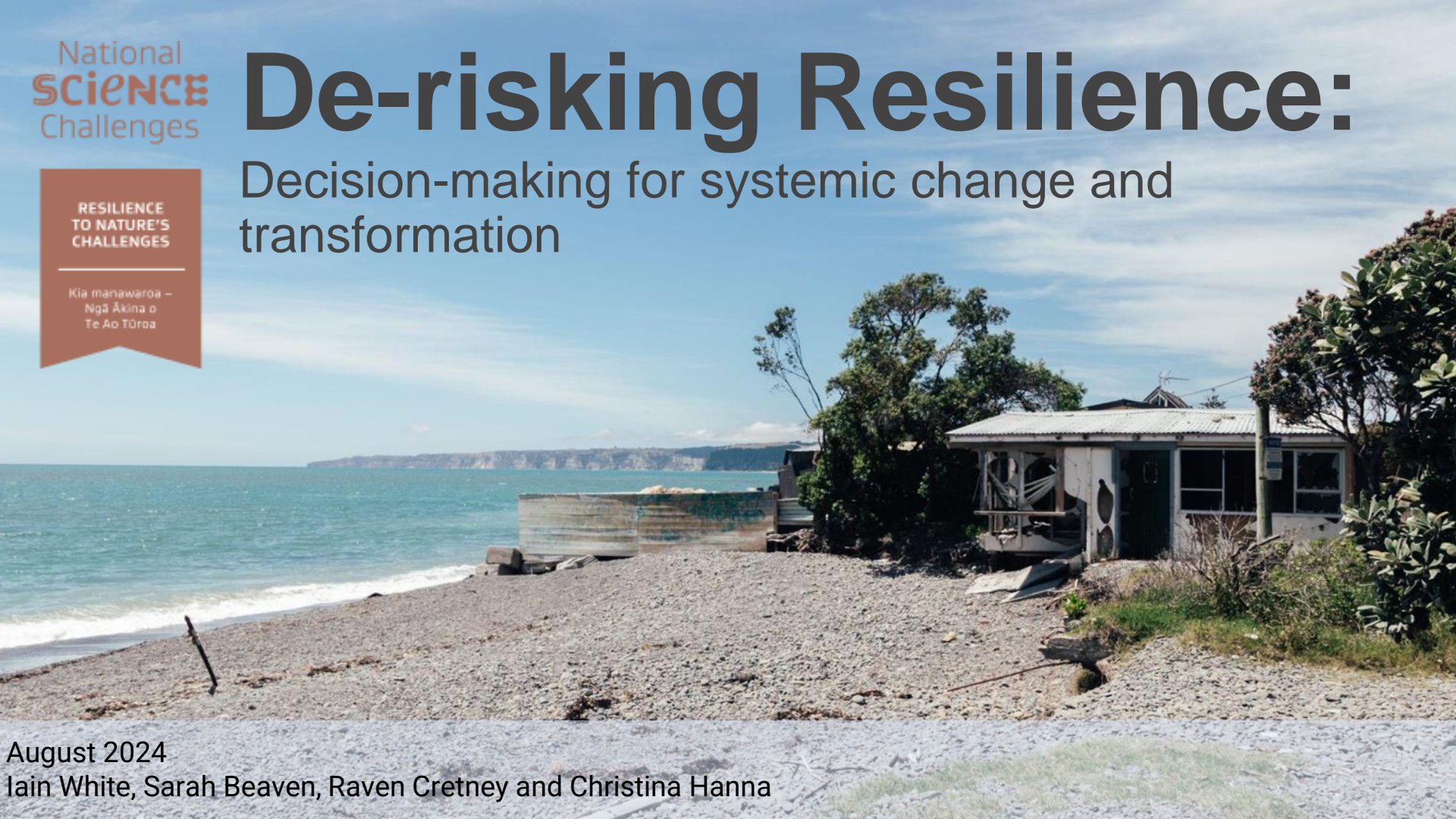
De-risking Resilience:

Decision-making for systemic change and transformation

RESILIENCE
TO NATURE'S
CHALLENGES

Kia manawaroa –
Nga Ākina o
Te Ao Tōroa

August 2024
Iain White, Sarah Beaven, Raven Cretney and Christina Hanna



WHITI ORA

Kimihia te pō
Rangahaua te ao
Kia lo Rangi, kia lo Whenua
Kei ngā Mata o Te Ariki
Kei mata nuku, kei mata rangi
kei reira koe e Tāne Te Waiora!
Ko ngā maunga Rū, ko ngā awa Parawhenua
here uta ki tai ki a Tangaroa e!
Koe koe ko au ko tāua nei.
Whiti ao! Whiti whiti ora!
Ara mai te toki!
Haumi ē! Hui ē! Tāiki e!

*Explore the unknown
Investigate the known
Search heaven and earth
Physical and metaphysical. Celestial and terrestrial.
From the turbulent realm of unknown potential
gaining enlightenment, emerging life!
The roar of mountains and overflowing rivers
bind land to sea. An intrinsic connection,
binds you and I together.
We re-emerge resilient, with continuing influence
We call to action!
In this we are united, collected and agreed.*

Research team



Iain White

University of Waikato



Sarah Beaven

University of Canterbury



Christina Hanna

University of Waikato

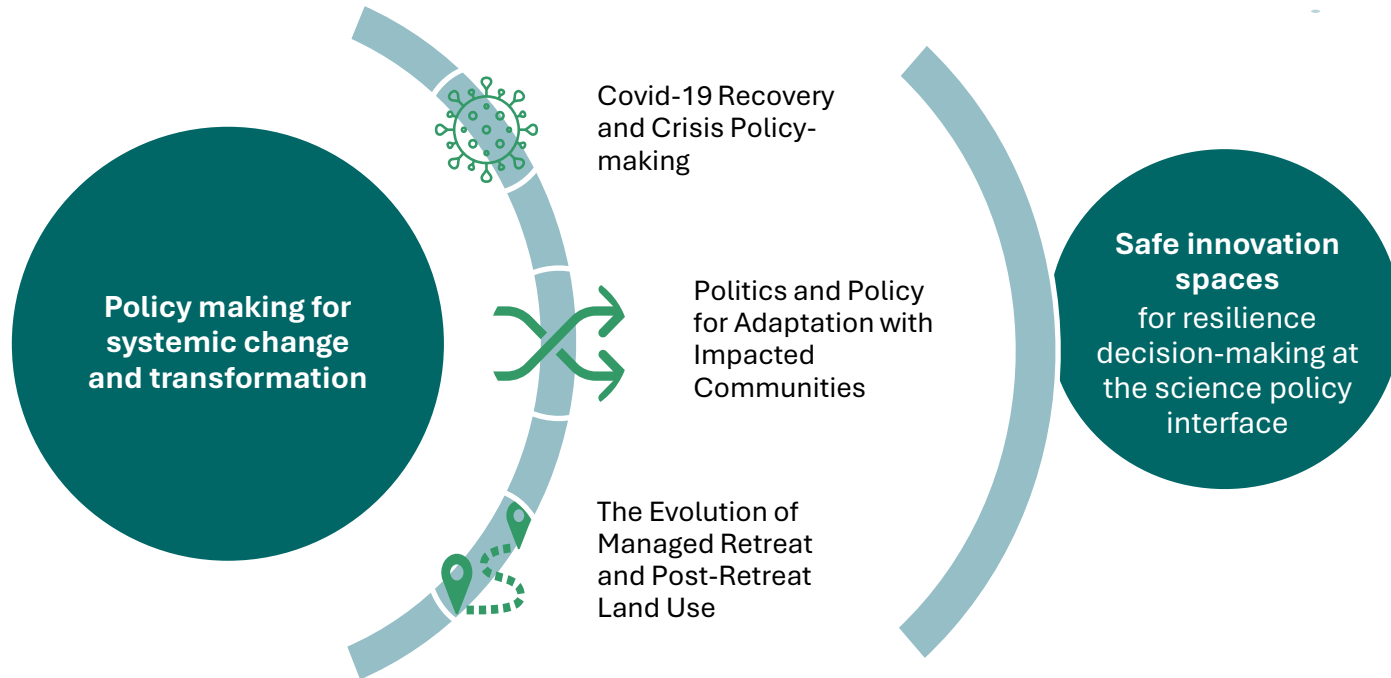


Raven Cretney

University of Waikato

De-risking Resilience

The aim of this research programme was to acknowledge the real-world decision-making difficulties and scope and test strategies that are able to 'de-risk' the translation of resilience science into practice and outcomes.



Policy Making for Systematic Change: Covid-19 Recovery and Crisis Policy-making

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From hope to disappointment? Following the 'Taking Place' and 'Organisation' of hope in 'Building Back Better' from COVID-19²

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ARTICLE INFO

Keywords:
COVID-19
Hope
Infrastructure
Economic stimulus
Crisis
Decision making

ABSTRACT

Rapid economic stimulus in response to COVID-19, typically based on 'shovel-ready' infrastructure, has opened up new political spaces of hope to 'Build Back Better' and transform economies. This research seeks to link the public 'taking place' of hope, representing the aspirations of various groups for investment or change stimulated by this fund, with the less visible ways governments 'organise' hope, the expert, technical processes and rationales that help determine which hopes become realised and why. Using the Aotearoa New Zealand 'shovel-ready' fund as a case study, and drawing upon press releases, media, Official Information requests, and Cabinet documents, we first provide a discourse analysis of the various government and non-government hopes that became attached to this stimulus. We then trace how these became translated into project proposals, before unpacking and analysing the urgent processes developed to assist political decision makers. While crises and hope can be positioned as having significant disruptive potential, we reveal how this was stifled by the technical processes and practices of the professional world enacted at the national scale, which was given significant power. Further, although public discourses reflected a plurality of multi-scalar and temporal hopes for investment, in practice the less visible organisations privileged a much more business-as-usual approach. Consequently, any government aspirations for transformation were rendered less likely due to the processes they themselves established. Overall, we emphasise the need for those committed to reform to bring technical processes and rational practices to greater prominence in order to reveal and challenge their power.

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Volume 40, Issue 7, November 2022, Pages 1570–1588
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Article

Infrastructure in times of exception: Unravelling the discourses, governance reforms and politics in 'Building Back Better' from COVID-19

Iain White¹, Crystal Legacy², and Graham Haughton³

Abstract

In seeking to counter adverse economic impacts resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic, many governments quickly announced major infrastructure stimulus packages alongside a series of governance reforms to speed delivery. Despite significant differences between political, institutional and policy contexts of countries, clear trends emerged, most notably discourses of promise promoting the possibilities of state-led infrastructure allied to reforms to expedite delivery. Using case studies of Australia, Aotearoa-New Zealand and the UK, we draw upon theories of postpolitics and states of exception to explain how these approaches comprise a form of infrastructuralism that both elevates the criticality of infrastructure at the same time as depoliticising infrastructure planning. We argue that the promises of Building Back Better did not constitute the radical rupture from earlier practices initially promised and that in future crises we need to resist the closure of political space that typically accompanies emergency measures and ask 'what infrastructure, for whom and where?'

URBAN PLANNING AND RESEARCH
2023, VOL. 41, NO. 1, 38–54
<https://doi.org/10.1080/08111146.2022.2103669>



Green or Grey Pandemic Recovery? Revealing the Blue–Green Infrastructure Influences in Aotearoa-New Zealand's "Shovel Ready" Covid-19 Response

Christina Hanna¹, Iain White², Xinyu Fu, Kiri Crossland and Silvia Serrao-Neumann

¹Environmental Planning Programme, University of Waikato, Hamilton, New Zealand

ABSTRACT

This paper analyses Aotearoa-New Zealand's 'shovel-ready fund' to assess if, and how, blue–green infrastructure systems were present in bids from its largest city regions. Findings indicate a greater prevalence in areas with existing spatial plans, and while there was some consideration of climate resilience, there was no real acknowledgement of the pandemic or human health. More positively, there was some evidence of unique indigenous influences that have potential to develop more inclusive and holistic blue–green infrastructure initiatives. The overall response, however, demonstrates a disjointed approach to blue–green infrastructure-related projects, and a missed opportunity for a more transformative response to the climate crisis and human health emergencies.

ARTICLE HISTORY

Received 24 May 2021
Accepted 16 July 2022

KEYWORDS

Spatial planning; climate change; cities; resilience; adaptation; water; greenspaces

Hope & transformation in the shovel-ready programme

- The fund was seen as a way to transform society as well as provide stimulus and generated a lot of hope.
- Drawing upon press releases, media, Official Information requests, and Cabinet docs, we pieced together who hoped for what, including government ministers, and then followed the process to see how it constrained some hopes and privileged others.
- Technical process saw 1924 initial projects reduced to 177 presented to cabinet. Of these 150 were funded. Overall, we found that even if the Government wanted transformation and 'retained power' this was stunted by the processes they themselves set up, which privileged BAU.
- We need a long-term vision that engages with diverse communities to drive transformative change rather than rely on expert crisis response.



Key message: don't rely on crises to transform...

The pandemic was a missed opportunity for transformation. Crisis response is more suited to recovery and restoration of normality than transformation.



It's a mistake to rely on future crises to help us. If we want to transform we need to do it in our everyday politics, spatial plans, and investment strategies, and we need to take the communities with us.

URBAN POLICY AND RESEARCH
2023, VOL. 41, NO. 1, 38–54
<https://doi.org/10.1080/08111146.2022.2103669>

 **Routledge**
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Article



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Abstract

In seeking to counter adverse economic impacts resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic, many governments quickly announced major infrastructure stimulus packages alongside a series of governance reforms to speed delivery. Despite significant differences between political, institutional and policy contexts of countries, clear trends emerged, most notably discourses of promise promoting the possibilities of state-led infrastructure allied to reforms to expedite delivery. Using case studies of Australia, Aotearoa–New Zealand and the UK, we draw upon theories of postpolitics and states of exception to explain how these approaches comprise a form of infrastructuralism that both elevates the criticality of infrastructure at the same time as depoliticising infrastructure planning. We argue that the promises of Building Back Better did not constitute the radical rupture from earlier practices initially promised and that in future crises we need to resist the closure of political space that typically accompanies emergency measures and ask ‘what infrastructure, for whom and where?’

National
SCIENCE
Challenges

**RESILIENCE
TO NATURE'S
CHALLENGES**

Kia manawarua –
Ngā Ākina o
Te Ao Tūroa

Policy Making for Systematic Change:

Politics and Policy for Adaptation with Impacted Communities

National
SCIENCE
Challenges

RESILIENCE
TO NATURE'S
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Kia manawaroa –
Ngā Ākina o
Te Ao Tūroa



Dr Raven Cretney

Imagineries of the future constrain or enable possibilities for societal and political transformation.

Analysis of submissions demonstrates the breadth of imagined adaptive futures and importantly, how different coalitions of stakeholders coalesce around certain visions.



Kōtuitui: New Zealand Journal of Social Sciences Online



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Navigating adaptive futures: analysing the scope of political possibilities for climate adaptation

Raven Cretney, Iain White & Christina Hanna

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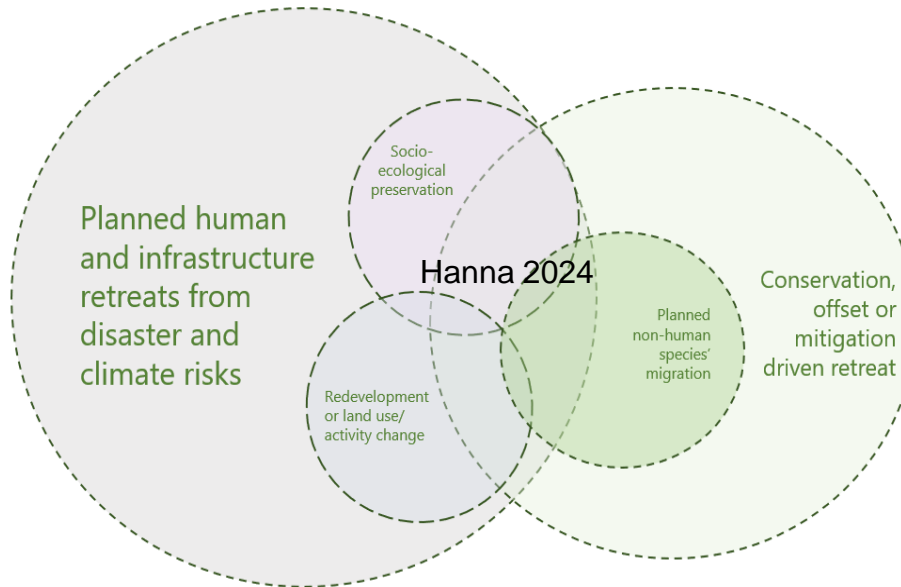
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Policy Making for Systematic Change:

The Evolution of Planned Retreat and Post-retreat Land Use



Broad remit

Strategically withdrawing people, assets, activities, and taonga, where appropriate, from risky locations.

Multiple adaptation functions:

Non-anthropogenic - ecosystem migration

Adaptive capacity building – BGI

Land/seascape change across time and space, from residential, commercial or recreational activities to farming and forestry land uses and seascapes, among others.

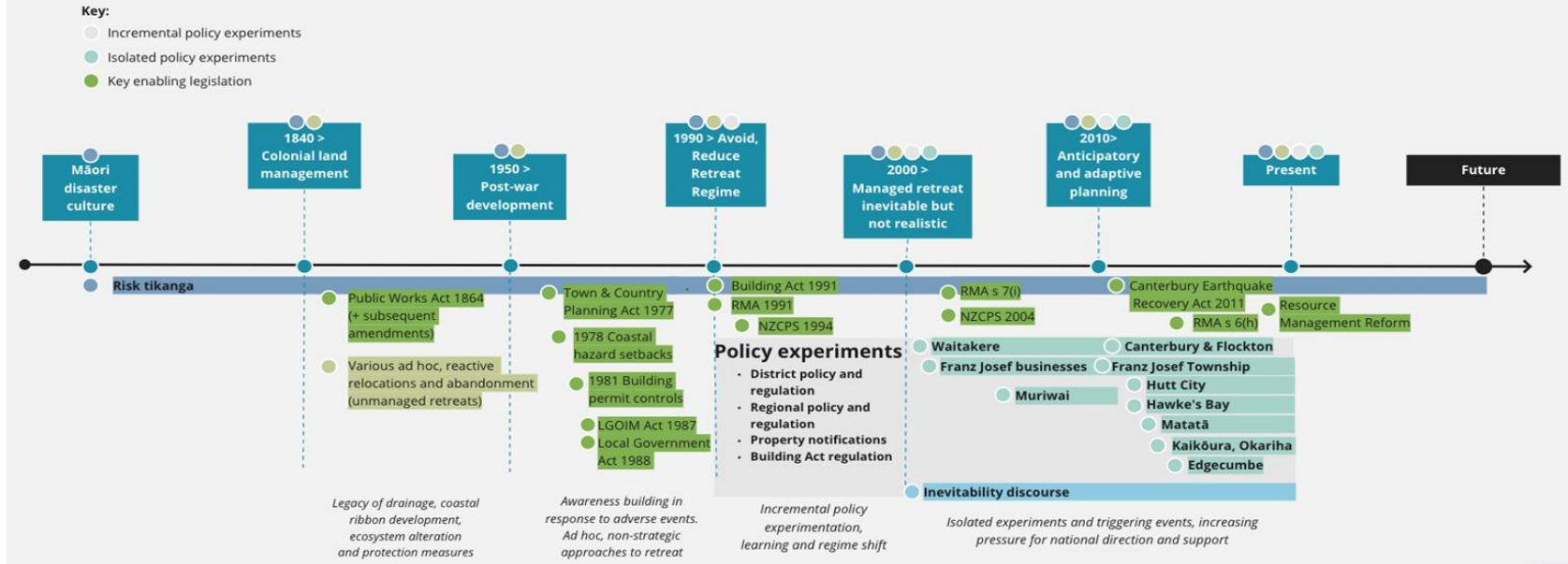
Strategic adaptation planning

Important to recognise wider possibilities –

While the term “retreat” may be associated with “defeat”, we frame it as the remaking of space, to remedy unsustainable land use patterns and activities (Hanna, White and Cretney, 2022).

Policy Making for Systematic Change: The Evolution of Planned Retreat and Post-retreat Land Use

The evolution of managed retreats in Aotearoa



Policy Making for Systematic Change: The Evolution of Planned Retreat and Post-retreat Land Use

National
SCIENCE
Challenges

RESILIENCE
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CHALLENGES

Kia manawaroa –
Nga Akiara o
Te Ao Tiroa




GOAL:

**Moving from single-use
policy to strategic
adaptation**

PLANNING THEORY & PRACTICE
2022, VOL. 23, NO. 5, 681–702
<https://doi.org/10.1080/14649357.2022.2141845>



Re-Imagining Relationships with Space, Place, and Property: The Story of Mainstreaming Managed Retreats in Aotearoa-New Zealand

Christina Hanna , Raven Cretney  and Iain White 

Department of Environmental Planning, University of Waikato, Aotearoa, New Zealand

ABSTRACT

As a nation rapidly progressing managed retreat legislation, we take a historical perspective to identify how the imaginary of retreat evolved in Aotearoa-New Zealand to become mainstream. Tracing the history along a layered reactive-passive-proactive timeline, we reveal how policy experiments and technical advocacy coalitions have advanced different imaginaries of retreat, creating new political spaces for change. We identify the importance of understanding retreat as less of a “policy” and more an attempt to unmake and remake space that has implications for justice and the permanence of land-use and property in an era of dynamic risks.

ARTICLE HISTORY

Received 18 January 2022
Accepted 17 October 2022

KEYWORDS

Managed retreat; planned relocation; imaginaries; climate change adaptation; land use planning

Safe innovation spaces for resilience decision-making at the science policy interface

Invited to partner with policy team early in policy development – unusual opportunity / access
Agreement: research project to test 'safe space' approach, bringing scientists & policy advisers together to share specialist knowledge at a very early stage in policy development

Series of workshops

- Co-designed & jointly implemented by (RNC) researchers & policy team members (online, pandemic-influenced)
- Follow up interviews with practitioner and researcher participants

Today – briefly share

- Visualisations used to focus workshop discussions
- A few high-level findings & implications

Visualisation: understanding workshop roles

3 'lens' conceptual policy model (NZIER)

Evidence-based policy produced through interaction of 3 lenses:

- **Political judgment**
- **Professional practice**
- **Scientific research/evidence**

Government institutional structures designed to:

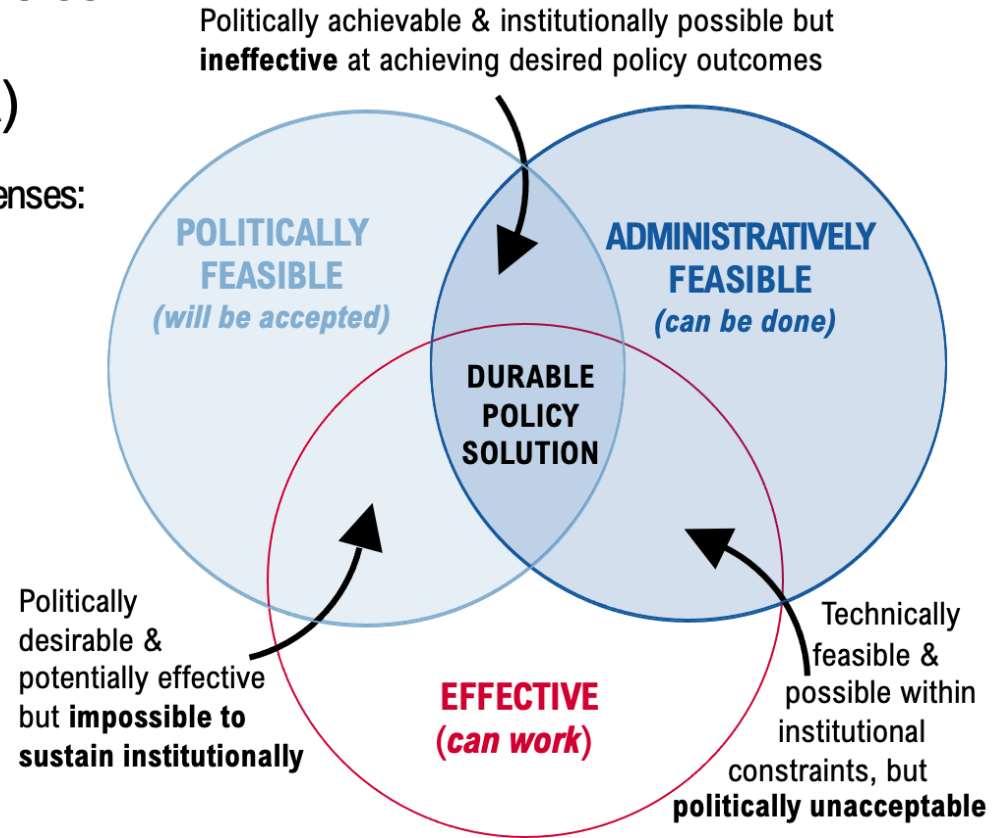
- bring **politicians & practitioners** together
- facilitate policy that is **acceptable & can be done**

Not designed to routinely involve **scientists**

RNC 'risky decisions' workshops:

testing science-based approach, bringing practitioners & researchers together early in policy development

→ aim to contribute to developing **durable policy**



Secondary risks associated with hazard risk reduction decisions

Policy-making – scoping policy problem & solutions

- **GOAL:** developing a policy framework that sets out criteria, responsibilities & processes to enable decision-making that slows rising rates of vulnerability & exposure in high hazard locations (green cycle)

Secondary risks undermine policy goal

- Need for reflexive focus on the secondary risks associated with decision-making
- Can policy development also account for and mitigate **SECONDARY POLITICAL RISK** across levels & actors (red cycle)



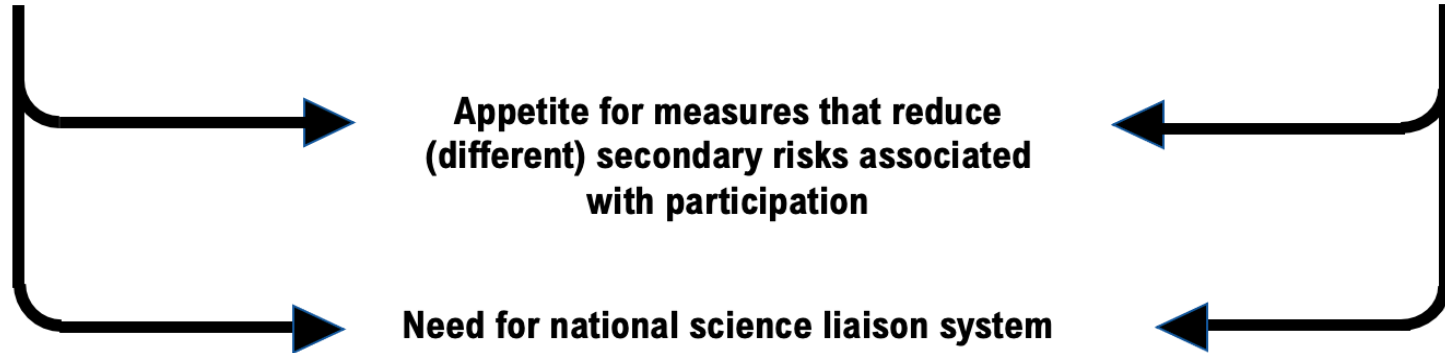
High level findings are indicative of

Institutional misalignment between science & policy arenas (consistent with international findings)

AND IN AOTEAROA / NZ context

Pressure on practitioners due to increasing pace of policy change ('fast policy') & need for evidence
(indicated by appreciation of 'safe' access to specialists)

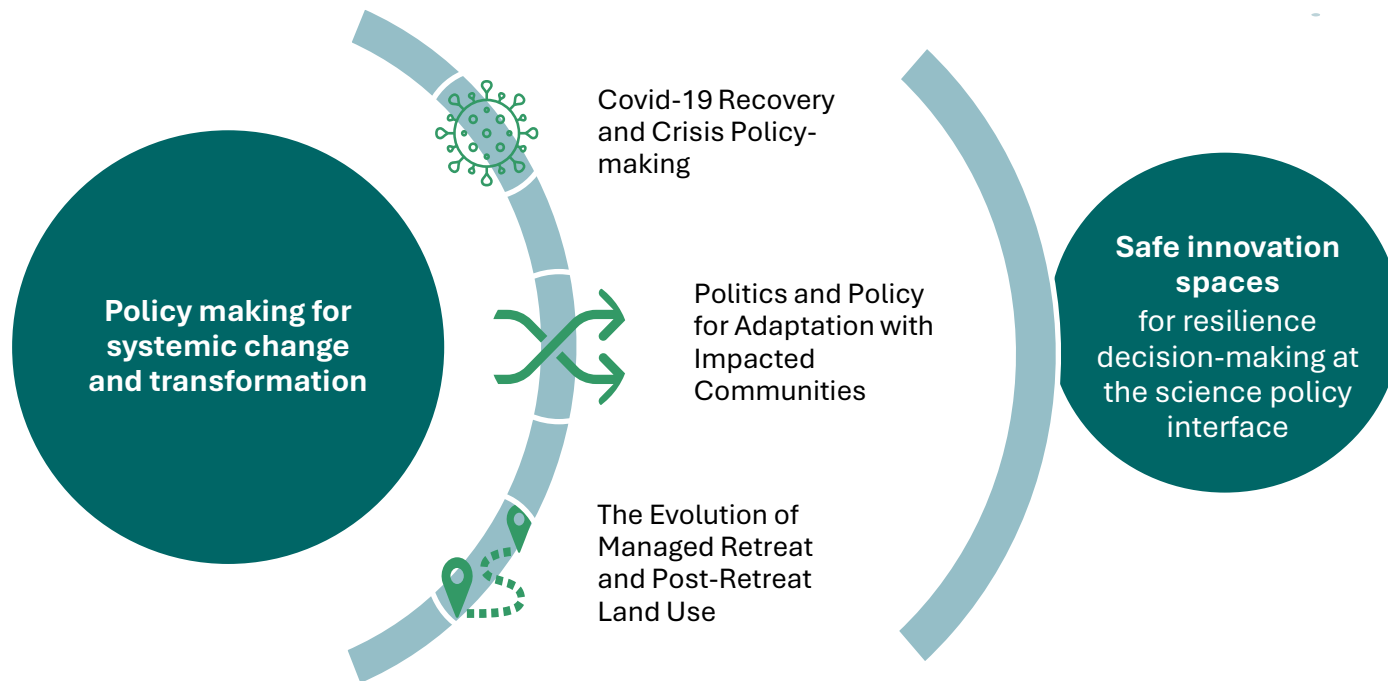
Highly competitive national research environment - longstanding NZ issue (indicated by attitudes to NDA & inclusive selection criteria)



Institutional provision of specialist knowledge in agencies – networked across government as 'virtual' research center – potential to enhance evidence-based policy and reduce secondary risks in both policy & science arenas

('what needs to change and how do we do it')

Questions?



Further References

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