

PUCM Objective 4 Tertiary Newsletter

Issue 1: 10 December 2004



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INTRODUCING THE *PUCM Objective 4 Tertiary Newsletter*

PUCM (Planning Under Co-operative Mandates) is an ongoing research programme funded by FRST. It is based in the International Global Change Institute (IGCI) at the University of Waikato. The four objectives of PUCM focus on:

1. planning under the Resource Management Act (RMA) (led by Jan Crawford);
2. planning under the Local Government Act (LGA) (led by Ali Memon);
3. Māori interests (led by Richard Jefferies); and
4. a Practice Development Programme aimed at providing end-users with concepts, methods, tools and related research findings (led by Tom Fookes).

This Newsletter is in support of Objective 4 – the Practice Development Programme.

The aim of this Newsletter is to maintain contact between the Objective 4 *Tertiary Corresponding Members* (TCM) and the PUCM Research Team. It will be an occasional publication as and when there is something to pass on. One of the regular items will be a report from the *Tertiary Peer Review Working Group* (PRWG, a sub-group of TCM), which is in direct contact through workshops with the PUCM Research Team.

WHO IS A CORRESPONDING MEMBER?

Tertiary Corresponding Members (TCM) formed as a group through responses to the initial enquiry about people's interest in PUCM Objective 4 (Practice Development Programme) and with respect to tertiary institutions. The plan was to

maintain an email dialogue between staff in the ongoing PUCM Research Programme and tertiary institutions. An aim was to consider prospects for incorporating PUCM's methods and findings, including lessons about the RMA and LGA, into tertiary courses.

The initial letter went to what were thought to be appropriate faculties and departments in all New Zealand Universities and Unitec. Further approaches are being made with the mailing of this Newsletter to enable people who may have missed out earlier to consider joining the *TCM*. Within the *TCM* group is another group who have indicated an interest in more "hands-on" involvement through the *Tertiary Peer Review Working Group* (PRWG). Additional members for this group are also welcome.

WHY DO WE HAVE A PRWG?

There are two reasons why we wish to have a Tertiary peer review component to the PUCM research programme (Objective 4). First, to enable scrutiny by others in the tertiary education field of:

- (a) our thinking about concepts and methods, and content for capability-building to better respond to governance and planning under the RMA and LGA; and
- (b) the results of our work.

The valuable feedback from such scrutiny will ensure our work has added credibility and acceptability by end-users.

The second reason is to establish an effective line of communication with tertiary teaching colleagues who may usefully include concepts, methods, and results from the PUCM research programme in their own courses, and/or pass this on to others for their application. This is taking the notion of "technology transfer" a step further than before, when the act of publishing results was intended to disseminate the knowledge from research. Now we can see the benefits from talking to educators about suitable teaching outlines and materials, so that they feel more inclined to introduce new content in their courses.

WHAT IS THE COURSE CONTENT LIKELY TO BE?

Some of the topics relevant to course content include:

- evaluating links between policies and methods in plans and resource consents;
- monitoring links between anticipated environmental results (or AERs) in plans and environmental outcomes;
- organizational factors influencing planning and governance in local authorities;
- Māori interests in planning and resource management;
- role of central government in planning and resource management;
- policy development tools for decision-making;
- plan-making techniques; and
- plan implementation techniques.

PRWG INAUGURAL MEETING REPORT

The first meeting of the Tertiary *Peer Review Working Group* (PRWG) was organized by Tom Fookes and held in the Department of Planning at The University of Auckland on Monday, 6 December 2004. With eight participants there was a pleasing representation from the tertiary sector, with attendance from Auckland, Unitec, Waikato, Massey, Lincoln and Otago. The fields of study attending were Planning, Development Studies, Resource Management, Resource Economics, Environmental Planning, Landscape Architecture, and Surveying. There was also a visitor from Planning at the University of Groningen, The Netherlands.

The main business of the meeting was a briefing on course development activities by PUCM to date. This included recent courses prepared and trialled as part of courses in the Planning Department at The University of Auckland through Jan Crawford, leader of Objective 1.

The presentations made were:

1. Teaching opportunities from PUCM Guideline #1 “*A Guide to Plan-making in New Zealand: the Next Generation.*” Attention was drawn to the importance of understanding the nature of coercive and cooperative mandates, and the role of governance in promoting plan quality.
2. Plan evaluation: an exercise in assessing the

internal consistency of the policy cascade (from issues to rules). The strength of the links between each item in the cascade are scored and inter-coder reliability scores are computed.

3. Plan effectiveness monitoring: presentation of a trial as part of Studio 2 (2nd year BTP) at the University of Auckland. Students prepared ‘policy maps’ of plan issues, defined AERs & indicators, and then attempted to find data measuring those indicators as a means of assessing plan effectiveness.

Feedback received from the PRWG members was overall positive. In particular there was strong appreciation expressed for the initiative to bring a diverse range of academics together to focus on the RMA and LGA. The presentations made were well received, and the group agreed they should meet again – perhaps regularly at least once a year.

An obstacle to be addressed by the PUCM research programme is the need for supporting funds to enable participation. Not all departments can fund attendance at meetings like this one.

The PUCM team has received post-meeting feedback that suggests at least one participant is already working on course materials that build on the experience from this meeting. As we all know “From small acorns large oak trees grow!”

NEXT ISSUE

There is enough material to hand to produce a January 2005 issue. This will include:

- Summaries of course ideas from the 6 December meeting
- An Abstract of a paper on Capability Building

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Where can I find more on PUCM?

www.waikato.ac.nz/pucm