

# Planning Tomorrow with Yesterday's World

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# Why Futures Thinking Matters



**Auckland Council has a role in:**

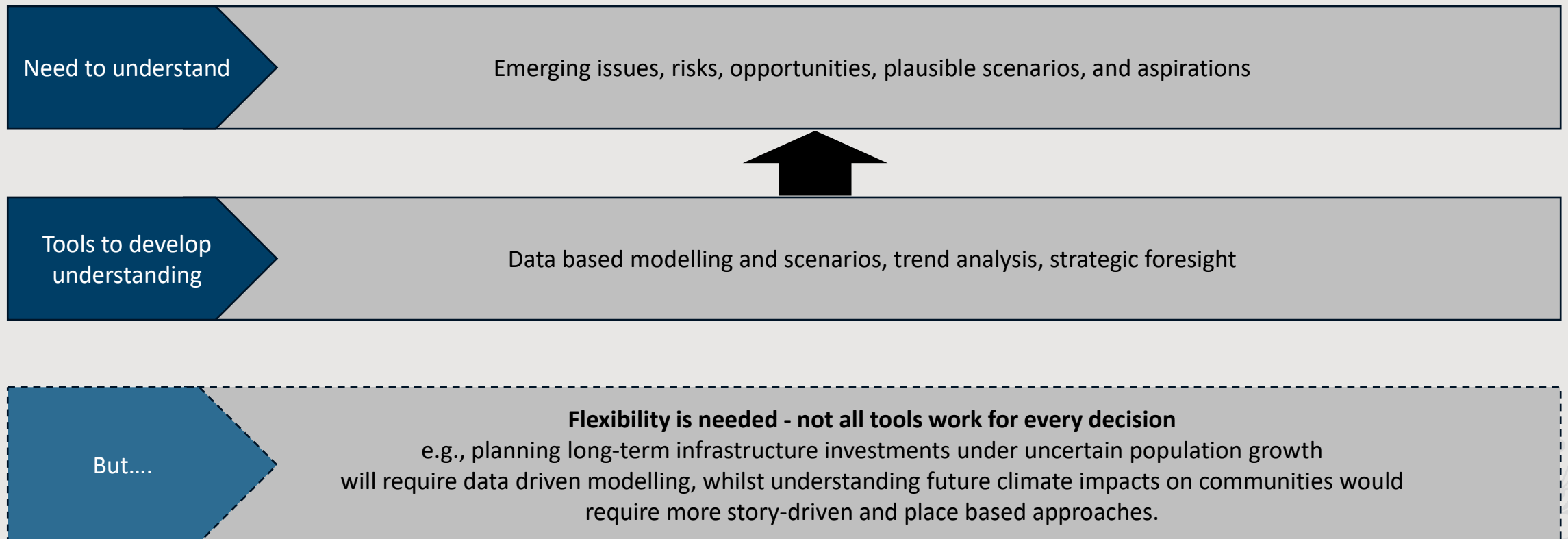
- Enabling people to live and thrive
- Making decisions informed by peoples lived experiences and environmental limits
- Planning for both the immediate and long term – from next week to the next 50 years, or more

*Futures thinking is essential to how Auckland Council supports the wellbeing of Tāmaki Makaurau Auckland - both now and for generations to come.*



# How We Plan for the Future

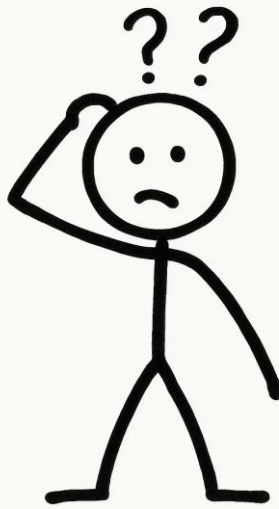
Long-term plans, spatial planning, strategies	Policies and Regulations	Core Services
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Where to spend money and prioritise</li><li>Where and when to grow (housing, roads, businesses)</li></ul>	Set directions and ensure fairness	The needs of daily life – water, waste, transport, libraries, regulations



# Tensions

## Past and Current

- Meeting statutory requirements requires council to follow defined processes and timelines
- Plan for decades but work on three-year political cycles
- Evidence-based decision making, documentable and auditable processes are important
- Need to respond to the daily needs of our communities



## Current and Future

- Growing complexity from climate change, biodiversity loss, rapid technological change, and changing needs of our communities
- Futures thinking is therefore dynamic, exploratory and uncertain in nature

Strategic foresight bridges this gap and is increasingly important



# Provocation

There are growing calls to embed nature-based solutions in local government planning – to reduce emissions, and build social and economic resilience to the impacts of climate change

**So, what if** our planning aligned with the life spans and concerns of plants, animals, wetlands, and soils? How might this reshape how local government does strategic foresight?

