



Could the NSW approach to apartment design quality work in Wellington?

Since 2002, the NSW government has set standards and guidelines for the design of quality apartments. Eight aspects of design must be complied with by local government (eg, councils) through their development control plans (similar to our District Plans). These eight areas are mandated through the [NSW State Environmental Planning Policy No 65: Design Quality of Residential Flat Development](#) (June 2015). The details of the objectives, design criteria and design guidance for each aspect is set out in the [Apartment Design Guide](#).

The eight areas:

- visual privacy
- solar and daylight access
- common circulation and spaces
- apartment size and layout
- ceiling heights
- private open space and balconies
- natural ventilation
- storage.

The Design Guide applies for all multi-level, multi-household developments, not just in the inner-city areas. For Wellington, an important addition is the need to provide space for the emergency water storage that is now recommended - 200 litres per person for 7 days. This must be allowed for in the planning if we are to be a resilient city.

ICW believes a similar approach of guidance and mandating basic quality requirements is necessary in Wellington if the development of apartments in the future are going to achieve the goals of a liveable city with diverse communities of singles, couples, young families, older families and retirees who wish to make their home in the inner city.