



Report 06.521  
Date 18 September 2006  
File X/16/7/1

Committee Ara Tahī  
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## Wellington Regional Strategy Update

### Purpose

To update members on the Wellington Regional Strategy process including its launch for public consultation on 29<sup>th</sup> September 2006.

### 1. Significance of the decision

The matters for decision in this report do not trigger the significance policy of the Council and section 76(3)(b) of the Local Government Act 2002.

Legislative implications are specifically addressed via the Local Government Act 2002 'statement of proposal' process and special consultative procedure compliant process to be used for the WRS and associated matters.

### 2. Background

#### 2.1 Wellington Regional Strategy (WRS)

The Wellington Regional Strategy Project was initiated in 2004 as a voluntary collaborative exercise on behalf of all of local government in the Wellington region.

Membership of the WRS governance body, the joint standing committee known as the WRS Forum, has comprised the Mayors of the region and the Greater Wellington Chairman, plus an alternate for each member. Ara Tahī has official observer status to the Forum and has directly contributed to the workshop and meeting process.

Funding for the WRS project was provided via a funding allocation model agreed as part of the WRS Project Plan. In addition to local government funding contributions, support was obtained via New Zealand Trade & Enterprise contributions.

The WRS goal is a sustainable economic development and spatial management strategy for the region. The WRS seeks to make Wellington an internationally competitive region.

The strategy has a long term (50 year) outlook, with actions identified and prioritised for 10-20 years.

The strategy identifies three overarching areas of focus:

- Effective leadership and partnerships
- Investment in growing our economy – especially exports
- Investment in good regional form

Measurement of how successful we are as a region is to be through use of an approach known as ‘Genuine Progress Indicators’. This involves a holistic view of prosperity and quality of life.

A key success factor is to achieve engagement with, ownership by, and action across all stakeholder groups in the region (private sector, public sector and voluntary / non-government organisations).

Strategy development has been through the Wellington Regional Strategy Forum (WRSF), with advice provided by the Chief Executives Group (CEG).

The advice was underpinned by an extensive array of technical advice from external experts and local government officers.

A Strategic Partners Forum of over 50 of the larger businesses and institutions in the region has also been involved with the development of the WRS. This has enabled testing of concepts and ideas as thinking has progressed.

In addition, a range of stakeholder organisations have directly facilitated or contributed to specific aspects of the strategy development process and thinking. For example, the Ministry of Social Development and Department of Labour have facilitated a regional labour market strategy process involving some 69 organisations and agencies, working in conjunction with the WRS. The Wellington Regional Chamber of Commerce has convened a range of sector specific workshops addressing matters relevant to the WRS such as feedback from freight forwarders reinforcing proposals for supporting long haul initiatives.

Ara Tahi have also made direct contributions through its involvement in the research of Dr Bev James on the Maori economy in the Wellington region.

Feedback was sought in August 2005 on the initial WRS concepts via a public consultation document and surveys. Responses to these processes (a combined total of 1997) were used to shape the detail of the WRS document that is to be consulted on over October 2006.

## 2.2 Key Features Of WRS Proposals

Essential features of the statement of proposal are that a Greater Wellington WRS Committee (the 'keeper committee') is proposed to have directional oversight of the WRS. A regional rate is to be collected to support WRS initiatives.

An interim WRS Committee has been established by GW to oversee the WRS finalisation process and public consultation. This arose from a request by the WRS Forum for GW to take on this responsibility on behalf of the region.

Following public consultation the interim WRS Committee will make a recommendation to GW in December 2006 as to whether the proposed WRS approach is to be adopted or some other decision taken.

The interim WRS Committee and its proposed successor have 12 members. There are 7 local government members (a council representative from each council in the region, with the 3 Wairarapa councils represented by one representative). In addition there are 5 non-local government appointees who have been chosen on the basis of having significant standing, broad networks, and the ability to add value towards achieving the WRS objectives. Summary information on these persons is attached at Appendix 1.

A more regionalised approach to economic development agency activity is proposed, including seeking to shift towards there being one EDA body to deliver regional economic development initiatives.

Currently in the region there are three principal agencies carrying out economic development work. These include:

- Positively Wellington Business (PWB)
- Enterprise Coast (an agency of Kapiti and Horowhenua District Councils) and
- Go Wairarapa (the economic development agency of the three Wairarapa Councils)

Regional Tourism Organisation activities are proposed to continue largely unchanged.

While it is envisaged most of the quality regional forms and systems work will be carried out directly by the region's Councils, the WRS Committee itself will be responsible for the direction-setting and a number of decisions and work programmes. A key role is envisaged for the Regional Policy Statement in promoting alignment and integration of spatial / land use planning in the region.

### **3. WRS: Next Steps**

#### **3.1 WRS And SOP**

The draft WRS consultation document has been finalised and is to be released for public consultation on 30<sup>th</sup> September 2006.

All Ara Tahi members are invited to the launch function taking place on Friday 29<sup>th</sup> September at 4pm at Westpac Stadium (invitations circulated separately).

The WRS document itself will be accompanied by a 'Statement of Proposal' meeting legal requirements of the Local Government Act 2002.

Following launch of public consultation on the WRS and SOP the focus of the last quarter of 2006 is to test through public consultation the WRS direction and action plans with the region's communities.

The timing of this work is important for the annual plan processes that will be underway early in 2007. This applies not only to Greater Wellington's annual plan process, but also to the territorial authorities that currently fund economic development.

Governance, institutional and funding arrangements required to oversee and implement the WRS forms an important part of this consultation. Statutory requirements for these aspects have to be dealt with through the 'statement of proposal' process of the Local Government Act 2002.

The consultation to be undertaken by the WRS Committee has two dimensions.

The first is a process under the special consultative provisions of the LGA 2002 for the WRS document strategy elements. Comment is sought on the WRS concepts and actions proposed.

The second aspect is addressed via section 16 LGA 2002 in relation to Greater Wellington undertaking a significant new activity involving the governance, implementation and funding of the WRS. Associated with this is section 56 LGA 2002 addressing Greater Wellington establishing an economic development agency Council Controlled Organisation (CCO).

#### **3.2 Public Consultation Process**

The WRS consultation process has several aspects and includes:

- Key messages provided through an 'Elements' like summary document sent to each household and business in the region. This sets out high level statements and information on:
  - Leadership for regional action
  - Essential need for regionally aligned and co-ordinated action,
  - Likely benefits to the region,

- 'Headline' strategy package actions

In addition to the mail out document there will be:

- Public meetings held in all parts of the region.
- Media resources (opinion pieces, newspaper double page spreads, articles, editorials, direct mail out to all residents), web materials, and an 0800 phone number.
- WRS displays (Wellington airport and other high volume locations)
- Self – selected and statistically valid surveys and questionnaires
- Working with 'opinion leaders' and project champions
- Web based information and resources.

### **3.3 Hearing of Submissions**

The WRS Committee is to hear submissions in November 2006 (via a subcommittee if necessary) and make a recommendation to the GW Council following the consultation process in December 2006.

The hearing process will be supplemented with a region-wide statistically valid survey to gauge business and public opinion on the proposals.

Hearing of the submission is scheduled from Monday 13<sup>th</sup> November 2006 to run for three days (13<sup>th</sup>, 14<sup>th</sup>, 15<sup>th</sup> November). The Hearings Committee report is scheduled for completion in the week following the hearings.

## **4. Communication**

Press statements have been prepared in relation to the WRS process steps being undertaken. Some have already been released and others will occur leading up to and for the 29<sup>th</sup> September launch.

## **5. Recommendations**

*That the Committee:*

1. *Receives the report.*
2. *Notes the content of the report.*

Report prepared by:

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**Attachment 1: Interim WRS Committee Of Greater Wellington Regional Council**

## **GW Interim WRS Committee Non-Local Government Appointees**

- **Sir John Anderson.** Consultant and Company Director. Recently retired as Managing Director of ANZ National Band. Is currently Chair, TVNZ; Chair of NZ Cricket and an advisor to The Girls Friendly Society ( a charitable society for young women in need). Previously he Chaired the NZ Schools Consultative Group (1992 – 1994), Chaired Parliaments Employment Taskforce in 1994. NZ Chair and International Board Member of World Wide Fund for Nature and was a member of the Prime Minister’s Enterprise Council from 1990 to 1999. In 2005 he was the inaugural winner of the Sir Peter Blake Medal.
- **Professor Paul Callaghan.** Educator and pre-eminent world class researcher. Is currently Professor of Physical Sciences and Director of the McDiarmid Institute for Advanced Materials and Nanotechnology at Victoria University.
- **Diana Crossan.** Is currently the Retirement Commissioner, Board member of the New Zealand Institute of Research on Ageing, Chair of Orangi Kaupapa Trust, a Board Member of Relationship Services and Women’s Health Research and Information Trust and a Director of NZ Post. Has previously held Senior Executive roles in AMP, Contact Energy, Ministry of Education, State Services Commission and Department of Labour. In addition she has been a Member of the Victoria University Council, Chair of KP Solutions and a Trustee of the JR McKenzie Trust.
- **Professor Ngatata Love.** Educator and Maori Leader. Ngatata is currently Professor of Business Development at Victoria University, Director of NZ Post, a Member of the Massey University Council, a Law Commissioner and is Chair of the Wellington Tenth Trust. Was previously CEO of Te Puni Kokiri and has held a range of Education positions at Massey University.
- **Catherine Savage.** Managing Director of AMP Capital Investments – a role she has held since 2001. Catherine is also a member of the Asset Management Board of NZ Stock Exchange.