

12 December 2019

Tracey Bridges
Chair
Wellington Regional Economic Development Agency Ltd
Level 1, 175 Victoria Street
Te Aro
WELLINGTON

By email only: tracey@portchester.co.nz

Dear Tracey

This letter sets out the shareholder's statement of expectations for Wellington Regional Economic Development Agency Ltd and its subsidiary, Creative HQ (WREDA) regarding their Statement of Intent (SOI) for 2020-23. Usually, this letter is considered by the Wellington Regional Strategy Committee. However, with the Committee not meeting until February 2020 this letter has been prepared by the shareholders and circulated to the members of the committee.

The new triennium brings a number of transformational projects for the region, including Let's Get Wellington Moving. The resources and financing for this significant project need to be considered at a time when there are a number of other demands on Council budgets including the impact of the Kaikoura earthquake. This will require careful consideration of our future priorities, particularly any increased funding.

To a large degree, the expectations are enduring and WREDA is expected to ensure on-going alignment to the Wellington Regional Strategy and the shareholders annual and long term plans. This letter serves to reiterate or emphasise some of these while also alerting WREDA to new initiatives or programmes.

There are a range of relatively new and significant strategies and policies which have been adopted over the past year that are drawn to your attention. These include:-

- Wellington Regional Investment Plan;
- Te Reo Maori;
- Low-carbon economy;
- Accessible Wellington, The Accessible Journey Action Plan 2019;
- The vision for Wellington as a creative city; and
- The Wellington Region Waste Management and Minimisation Plan 2017-2023.

WREDA is expected to be familiar with these (and include them where appropriate) along with the WRS and the other significant policies and strategies which provide a clear direction for setting its future goals.

The Committee acknowledges that WREDA has made significant progress across a range of key initiatives but have identified the following areas as requiring a particular focus in the SOI;

1. To achieve the result of a low carbon economy WREDA will need to focus on the impacts of major climate change policy decisions on industries and the region. Most Councils in the region have announced a climate change emergency and/or have or are developing low carbon-based strategies and plans. WREDA will need to work with the Councils to understand and develop a framework to support businesses to transition.
2. A key component of enabling the development of a high enterprise economy is to ensure the right skilled workforce is available. WREDA has taken the first step in the development of a plan for the region, now we expect to see the delivery of actions in this plan over the next three year period along with a joined up approach with central government.
3. There is currently significant work ongoing in the development of a Wellington Region Growth Framework (spatial plan) and a Māori Economic Development strategy and the expectation is that WREDA will be involved in the development of both of these and should plan for future delivery outcomes.
4. It is expected that the venues strategic review will consider the future demands on our venues, their fit and any gaps or investment requirements. We expect that this should transverse the areas of community accessibility and affordability.
5. The Company has implemented the payment of the Living Wage across its business and Council expects that the Company now maintains this.

The core funding provided by the Councils is seed funding and WREDA is expected to utilise this funding to partner in delivering activities, the SOI should demonstrate an emphasis on partnerships and partner funding to deliver programmes.

With respect to all of these points and the SOI in general we expect clear actions, expected outcomes with clear and measurable KPIs. Wherever possible there should be a clear line of sight between WREDA's actions and the outcomes being measured.

Yours sincerely

Andy Foster
Mayor, Wellington City Council

Daran Ponter
Chair, Greater Wellington Regional Council

cc: Lance Walker, Chief Executive
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