

Newsletter No 8, *May 2004*

Welcome to the eighth newsletter from SmartGrowth, the Growth Management Strategy jointly funded by Environment Bay of Plenty, Western Bay of Plenty District Council and Tauranga City Council with support from tangata whenua and community groups.

We recently met a critical milestone with the formal adoption of the final Strategy by the three partner councils at a joint meeting on Monday, 3 May 2004.

SmartGrowth began in October 2000 with an historic joint council meeting to consider outcomes of a Sub-Regional Growth Strategy and to agree governance and management structures. Since then it has been through an Inception Report, public launch, research stage, growth management alternatives development, public discussion and consultation on a draft.

Now that the Strategy has been adopted it is time for the various organisations to get on with implementation of the actions identified throughout the Strategy.

In April 2004, SmartGrowth representatives briefed key government Ministers on the project, the strategies and associated actions. The primary purpose was to discuss future government engagement and put linkages in place to work with key officials on the various growth issues and pressures facing the western Bay of

Plenty. I wish to acknowledge the efforts of the Hon Margaret Wilson in co-ordinating the briefing.

Many hundreds of people have contributed to the development of the Strategy and I wish to acknowledge the input of these people, including those who made submissions. In particular I would like to pay tribute to members of the Joint Committee (comprising elected members and tangata whenua representatives), our Project Manager, Ken Tremaine, the Technical Director, Craig Batchelar, our Tangata Whenua Advisor, Te Pio Kawe, Kelvin Eglinton Technical Advisor, the senior staff of the partner councils and the councillors of those partner councils.

The formal adoption and subsequent launch by the Prime Minister on 14 May will signal the completion of the current project. The partner Councils and other agencies will then move into implementation mode.

There are 50 key actions to be achieved during the next 3 years.

Thank you for your interest in the project.

Bill Wasley
Independent Chairman

The Need for SmartGrowth

Management of urban and rural development in a sustainable manner is one

of the most fundamental challenges facing the western Bay of Plenty subregion.

The area is growing at an extraordinary rate. Every week.

- 100 people arrive from other places
- 52 people leave the area
- 32 new houses are built
- 54 more vehicles go on the road
- 45 new jobs are created

Not only is the population predicted to double by 2051, but household structures are changing. While traditional families are likely to double in number, single and two-person households will treble and our population is ageing.

SmartGrowth Vision

By 2051 the western Bay of Plenty will be a unique area which has:

- Maintained and improved its natural and cultural environment
- Enhanced the lifestyles of its communities and provided for the social needs of residents
- Created a thriving sustainable economy
- Provided an efficient and affordable infrastructure

- Implemented an efficient and integrated planning process for growth management

Key Points from the Strategy

1 Protecting the environment

- Protection and enhancement of the natural and cultural environment is a cornerstone of sustainable development
- Priority on protecting highly versatile land for productive use
- Preservation of the natural character of Tauranga Harbour
- Protection of cultural heritage sites, areas, values, relationships and resources of significance to tangata whenua

2 Live, work and play

This is a key concept in SmartGrowth emphasising the need for balance in the management of growth.

- At the subregional level it includes the provision of land and services for housing, business, community activities and recreation
- At the local level it means providing opportunities for people to meet most of their daily needs within their community
- At the site level it includes careful, respectful design

3 Respecting values

Future growth and development in the western Bay of Plenty must recognise and provide for the relationship of Maori and in particularly tangata whenua and their culture and traditions with the ancestral lands, waters, sites, waahi tapu and other taonga.

4 Strategies and actions

- Residential development will be based on:
 - consolidation of development within existing urban areas of Waihi Beach, Katikati, Omokoroa, Tauranga and Te Puke
 - redevelopment through mixed use intensification nodes at business and community centres and other preferred locations
 - greenfield development at increased densities and residential growth areas at Waihi Beach, Omokoroa, Bethlehem, Pyes Pa, Papamoa, Papamoa East and Te Puke
 - papakainga, providing sustainable accommodation on multiple owned Maori land for whanau and hapu
 - other small settlements throughout the subregion limited to a scale and character that does not detract from rural amenity
- Economic development

A thriving economy is an important component of sustainable development as it enables people to meet their

needs through employment and the availability of services. Additional land would be based on employment nodes at Katikati, Omokoroa, Tauriko, Papamoa East, Rangiuru and Te Puke.

5 Transport

- Development of the strategic roading network serves as a base assumption because of few alternative corridors available
- Public transport, walking and cycling are promoted
- Inter-regional road networks are improved
- Relocation of the Tauranga Airport is desirable to free up land in the Port area

6 Open Space and Leisure

Included in the provision of high quality open space and arts and leisure opportunities would be:

- Facilities such as the new aquatic centre, indoor exhibition space and indoor sport facilities
- Protection of reserves with cultural significance and development of the Tauranga Museum
- Protection of quality of life within the marine environment
- Protection of and access to a broad range of parks, reserves and open spaces

- Development of the strategic roading network serves as a base assumption because of few alternative corridors available

7 Implementation

Where are we now and where do we want to be? The actions section of the Implementation Strategy responds to the question of how do we get there. Detailed information is provided in the Implementation Plan for each action including an explanation, timeframes, agencies and costs.

Key actions over the next few years include:

- A SmartGrowth Implementation Committee comprising representatives of the three partner Councils and tangata whenua.
- A sub-regional settlement pattern
- Intensification management areas
- Iwi and hapu management plans
- Greenfield development
- Business land
- Strategic roading network
- Public and active transportation

- Wastewater disposal
- Economic development
- Active communities
- Consideration and implementation of funding alternatives for infrastructure including open space.

The SmartGrowth Strategy and Implementation Plan provides councils, the community and investors with a wealth of information for informed decision making. In the years to come their decisions and actions will largely determine the quality of life for those who call the western Bay of Plenty home.

SmartGrowth contact details

For more information on SmartGrowth or for a free CD containing the full 50 Year Strategy and Implementation Plan, background and research papers, maps and other supporting documents contact:

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