



SmartGrowth Newsletter #20, May 2007

Welcome to the 20th newsletter.

Our Implementation Committee meeting of 18 April 2007 marked a very important milestone. Members have been working with senior staff from our partner councils and the SmartGrowth team to review the Strategy launched in May 2004. We needed to do this work to update some actions and better align actions with other developments that have occurred and add new actions as appropriate.

We consulted with the public in November 2006 and received 52 submissions. We held hearings in February this year and have recently completed deliberations on those submissions. Members of SmartGrowth Implementation Committee have confirmed all the changes and have now recommended to our three partner councils that they adopt the revised 50 Year Strategy and Implementation Plan. Key changes made to the Strategy are outlined in this newsletter and you can see the revised strategy on our website www.smartgrowthbop.org.nz

We thank people who made submissions and hope that you will see that we've listened carefully and made many changes as a result of that input. We will be launching the revised Strategy at a function at Western Bay of Plenty District Council on 30 May 2007.

Bill Wasley – Independent Chairman

Key Strategy Changes

These recommended changes include:

- Updated population data.
- Energy actions aligned to the SmartEconomy Strategy and changes to do further investigation in this area.
- Investigating opportunities to protect view shafts to Mauao.
- Support for the City Centre Project.
- Actions reflecting the government's tertiary reforms and direction.
- Investigating SmartGrowth's role in addressing social infrastructure and community development.
- Better overall alignment with the SmartEconomy Strategy.
- Amended timing of Te Tumu growth area.

Te Tumu Considerations

The May 2004 Strategy proposed that development of Te Tumu would begin between 2011 and 2016, subject to an assessment of timing issues. Following that assessment, the November 2006 review amended this to 2021. Three submitters proposed that development of land at Te Tumu be brought forward from the review date of 2021 to 2011-2016. Tauranga City Council undertook a detailed analysis of the financial implications of bringing that development forward. Its conclusion, supported by our Implementation Committee, was that bringing the development of that land forward would considerably increase the level of debt that Tauranga City Council would be exposed to and increase the financial implications of that debt.

We do not recommend that the reviewed strategy be further amended in terms of bringing the development forward from 2021.

Recent Project Activities

- Approval of Rangiuru Business Park plan change.
- Tauriko plan change confirmed in part.
- First round of public discussion on the SmartLiving Places Draft Strategy.
- Adoption of the Bay of Plenty Regional Land Transport Strategy 2007.

Tangata Whenua Funding

Te Puni Kokiri has provided a grant of \$50,000 for helping implement SmartGrowth actions and to provide advice on implementation of SmartGrowth Tangata Whenua actions to the SmartGrowth management and governance teams.

Retail and Commercial Strategy

The recent Western Bay of Plenty: Retail and Commercial Strategy notes that consideration should be given to developing a centres-based strategy based on the primacy of the central business district as the business and cultural heart of the sub-region. However, it also notes that recent development patterns show that strategy implementation and the district plan have not been effective in establishing viable and vibrant retail and office centres.

We now need to consider the findings of this work.

Communications Plan Update

Communicating with a wide range of audiences, particularly in the western Bay of Plenty but also more widely across New Zealand, is important to us.

We've revised our communications plan and will continue to strive to ensure SmartGrowth concepts and branding will become part of everyday living, working and playing in the western Bay of Plenty.



**Antoine Coffin - Tu Pakari
Advisor Technical**

Responsible for providing technical advice and support to Combined Tangata Whenua Forum and Implementation Management Group. Personal interest in cultural heritage management, bi-cultural governance arrangements and strategic planning.



**Te Pio Kawe – Chairman
Combined Tangata
Whenua Forum and
support to SmartGrowth
Implementation Committee.**



SmartGrowth

Building blocks to a better future

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