

SmartGrowth Newsletter #29, April 2009

Let's get down to business

The Rangiuru business park between Te Puke and Paengaroa has been selected by SmartGrowth representatives as the major long-term solution to the lack of business land in Tauranga and the western Bay of Plenty.

The move follows a report that indicated there was a 300-hectare shortfall of industrial land in the western Bay of Plenty. As a result, SmartGrowth and Rotorua District Council commissioned Beca to complete a study to look at where that shortage was and the best sites for future development.

The study assessed 48 sites in the western Bay and Rotorua and then ranked them in terms of constraints like geography. It then looked at what sites were practical in terms of key infrastructure like roads and power.

For the western Bay of Plenty, the focus was on finding suitable sites of at least 300 hectares of land that could be developed by industry between 2021 and 2051.

The best six sites were chosen and the cost of adding infrastructure was calculated. These six sites included Rangiuru North (near Paengaroa), Te Puke North and Bluehaven (Papamoa).

The six sites were analysed and the report recommended adding 250 hectares to the already approved Rangiuru Business Park of 150 hectares as the best option to meet the projected shortfall of industrial land. However, that still leaves a 50ha shortfall.

The next step is to carry out further investigation and a feasibility study of the Rangiuru site in relation to transport issues and water supply.

Planning for the development of industrial land is important to SmartGrowth if we are to attract new business and industry to the region and take full advantage of having the Port of Tauranga located here.

The industrial land study helps SmartGrowth meet its goal of identifying future locations and demands for business land in the western Bay of Plenty.

The study is also an effective collaborative approach by both the SmartGrowth partnership and Rotorua District Council and supports SmartGrowth's "twin city initiative".

This is a challenging and exciting year for the western Bay and now more than ever we all need to work together to make this a successful, prosperous region now and in the future.

We are still a fast growing area in the country and we're even on the weather map on national TV these days. This means we have to continue to plan for the future in order to manage this growth, notwithstanding development has slowed. However this is a matter of timing. Tauranga has been named the fifth largest city in New Zealand with 3,000 new homes to be built in Pyes Pa and an extra 12,000 homes in Papamoa by 2020.

On the topic of growth, the Tauranga Eastern Motorway is a project sparked by the growth of population in Papamoa and the development of land for industry and business near Te Puke and Paengaroa. It is not a luxury motorway but something we really need if we are to keep traffic flowing around our region and in particular to the Port of Tauranga, New Zealand's largest export port and the economic lifeblood of so many businesses in the Bay of Plenty.

There has been some angst about funding for roads in the western Bay, particularly the Tauranga Eastern Motorway. There have been some concerns expressed at SmartGrowth meetings about getting a fair share of the national pot of money for transport in the Bay of Plenty, considering we are one of the fastest growing regions in NZ.

SmartGrowth and its partners are keen to work with the new Government to make sure we get the funding we need for roads and transport in Tauranga and the western Bay of Plenty. We are working with key ministers to have the western Bay's voice heard in Wellington. Read more about some of our recent transport wins in this issue of SmartGrowth news.

I look forward to working with you in 2009.

Bill Wasley
SmartGrowth Independent Chairman

Council signs new Tauranga contract for better bus services

New and improved bus services will be launched in Tauranga in June 2009 including later week day services and Sunday services.

The changes are a result of the new Tauranga bus contract which Environment Bay of Plenty awarded to Go Bus.

Council considered tenders for the contract at a meeting in December 2008 and decided to go for a new contractor offering the lowest-priced bid.

As a result of Council awarding the new contract, Tauranga passengers will get Sunday services, later week day buses and a service on all public holidays except Christmas Day. There will also be more accessible buses with the new operator running a full fleet of modern low-floor buses. This will be more comfortable for all passengers as well as improving accessibility for people with disabilities, parents with prams and people who may find it difficult to negotiate steps.

Go Bus will take over the Tauranga bus service in June 2009.

Go Bus Commercial Director Craig Worth said a set-up team from Go Bus had been working in Tauranga to ensure a smooth transition when the new contract started.

Environment Bay of Plenty Deputy Chairman Philip Sherry said the improved service would bring many benefits for people wanting to travel by bus in Tauranga.

"We are delighted to announce a new operator for the Tauranga bus service and we look forward to working with them. It's great that Council is able to provide more services and accessible buses, which is in line with SmartGrowth goals of providing sustainable transport options to the growing population of Tauranga," Councillor Sherry said.

Environment Bay of Plenty funds the region's bus services. In Tauranga, Environment Bay of Plenty funds bus services with the support of Tauranga City Council. The tender decision was made in line with New Zealand Transport Agency guidelines.

For more information on buses call 0800 4 BAY BUS or visit www.baybus.co.nz.

Fact Box

Tauranga bus service

Other benefits for Tauranga bus passengers include:

- Maintain the vast majority of existing links;
- Provide a new direct Papamoa – Bayfair – Mt Maunganui service;
- Provide a new direct Pyes Pa (The Lakes) – Greerton – City – Bayfair – Mt Maunganui service;
- Provide a new direct Greerton - City – Mt Maunganui service;
- Provide a new link from City to Tauranga City Airport;
- Provide a new link to the hospital in Cheyne Road;
- Provide an additional Maungatapu – City service;
- Potentially increase the number of buses along Cameron Road;
- Create three major 'corridors' for bus services – Mt Maunganui to City, Cameron Road, Papamoa/ Bayfair to city;
- Increase number of buses along Maunganui Road;
- Significantly reduce duplication of routes and departure times;
- Bigger buses;
- More accessible buses; and
- Simpler fare structure.

SmartGrowth goal – increase use of public transport



Have your say on the region's transport priorities

For the first time the Regional Transport Committee and its advisory group are developing a document called the Regional Land Transport Programme which prioritises the region's key transport projects.

The Programme lists in order what work could be completed during the next three years to make our region easier to move around and what these projects will cost.

Tauranga City and Western Bay District Council, as well as the New Zealand Transport Agency, have put forward a list of transport projects they would like to see completed in this area.

Key western Bay projects likely to be on the list include:

- Tauranga Eastern Motorway
- Harbour Link
- Public transport

The Regional Transport Committee, which is made up of representatives from Environment Bay of Plenty, district and city councils, New Zealand Transport Agency (NZTA) and other stakeholder groups, will then pull all these projects together and develop a draft priority list of transport projects.

Regional Transport Committee Chairperson Jane Nees said the Programme was about more than just funding for roads.

It will also set out how much money will be allocated to services, infrastructure and facilities including bus stops, footpaths, cycle lanes and walking school buses. It will also feature priority projects to make the region's roads safer for all users including road safety campaigns.

A draft copy of the Regional Land Transport Programme has been available since 30 March 2009. Western Bay residents can make submissions on the proposed priority list of projects from now until Thursday 30 April 2009. Hearings will be held in May 2009 and the final Regional Land Transport Programme will be adopted in June 2009.

SmartGrowth goal – Provide for increased business and employment opportunities.



Western Bay roads get a rev up

The Minister of Transport Steven Joyce announced money for road maintenance and renewal projects in the western Bay as part of the Government's Jobs and Growth Plan.

As part of the package, the \$4 million project to widen the bridges over the Mangorewa River, in the gorge on Pyes Pa Road on the Western Bay/Rotorua boundary, will get a \$500,000 boost.

Regional Transport Committee Chairwoman Jane Nees was pleased to hear that the Bay of Plenty had benefited from the plan.

"The Bay of Plenty is one of the fastest growing regions in New Zealand, with the country's fifth largest city, and this growth has led to increased pressure on our roads. It was therefore good to hear we will get some much needed funding towards our programme of roading projects," she said.

Councillor Nees also noted that prior to the election, National pledged \$100 million on improving the central corridor in Tauranga from 15th Avenue to the Maungatapu Roundabout.

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Tauranga Eastern Motorway

A government announcement backing Tauranga's planned Eastern Motorway is also good news for the region.

The route was named a top-seven national roading priority by Transport Minister Steven Joyce on a new "Roads of National Significance" list with the Minister saying the route from Te Maunga roundabout to Paengaroa was "one of the most essential routes in the country".

Mr Joyce said the motorway, which appears on the list as the "Tauranga Eastern Corridor", had been "singled out as crucial to supporting growth in the Bay of Plenty".

Councillor Nees said she was delighted the new government had recognised the importance of the project to the Bay of Plenty economy.

"Port of Tauranga is the largest port in New Zealand and this new motorway is critical to ensure the efficient flow of goods to the port from the rural hinterland," she said.

"The Tauranga Eastern Motorway will also enable the region to cope with expected major population growth and industrial development in the area it will serve."

The priority ranking for the motorway was a signal to road funding authority the New Zealand Transport Agency from the government that it should "substantially advance" the seven projects on the list.

Public consultation on the Tauranga Eastern Motorway is being carried out this month as part of Environment Bay of Plenty's Ten Year Plan process. Another round of consultation will be undertaken by the council before plans are finalised.

Ten Year Plans out for consultation

City, District and Regional council Ten Year Plans are now out for public consultation. Tauranga City Council's public submission period closes on 23 April with hearing dates scheduled from 11 to 14 May. Environment Bay of Plenty's submission period closes on 30 April and hearings are due to be held from 18 to 20 May. Western Bay of Plenty District Council's plan is open for submissions until 1 May. Tauranga City Council is also reviewing its District Plan, with the formal public submission period due to begin in August 2009.



SmartGrowth

Building blocks to a better future

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