



Heard of SmartGrowth but are not sure what it is about?

SmartGrowth was set up in 2000 to plan for the next **50 years** for a rapidly increasing population to figure out where they will live, work and play. As part of a very successful partnership, the three councils (Bay of Plenty Regional Council, Tauranga City Council and Western Bay of Plenty District Council) work closely with tangata whenua, government agencies and the community to make sure that planning and implementation of growth management are carried out in an integrated way.

Every week that goes by in the western Bay of Plenty ...

- **135** people arrive from other places
- **66** people leave the area
- **30** new houses are built
- **60** more vehicles go on the road
- **51** new jobs are created

The SmartGrowth sub-region

The SmartGrowth sub-region includes all the area covered by TCC and WBOPDC stretching from Waihi Beach in the northwest to the eastern end of Pukehina Beach. Inland the top of the catchments draining into the harbour and sea provide the western boundaries.

SmartGrowth's vision

By the year 2050 the western Bay of Plenty will be a unique sub-region that has:

- Maintained and improved its natural and cultural environment
- Enhanced the lifestyles of its communities and provided for the social needs of the people
- Created a thriving sustainable economy
- Provided an efficient and affordable infrastructure
- Implemented an efficient and integrated planning process for growth management

Sub-regional growth issues

- Predicted population growth from 130,000 in 2001 to 198,000 in 2012 and 286,000 in 2051
- Economic and employment challenges to raise incomes and job opportunities
- Planned settlement patterns based on setting urban limits and growth corridors aiming for 15 dwellings per hectare to ensure best use of resources
- Ensuring continuing rural production in times when pressure for land for housing is high
- Providing adequate land for business and employment
- Creating vibrant city, town and neighbourhood centres
- Ensuring efficient social infrastructure for such things as hospitals and education venues
- Providing high quality open space, arts and leisure opportunities
- Protecting important landscapes and ecologic resources such as Tauranga Harbour
- Recognising the needs of tangata whenua particularly protecting natural and cultural heritage sites
- Implementing an integrated land transport system
- Funding growth fairly

Some of the SmartGrowth achievements so far

SmartGrowth has already achieved a lot for the western Bay of Plenty – here are some of the pluses where SmartGrowth has played an important role:

- ✓ Education partnership between the University of Waikato and the Bay of Plenty Polytech bringing greater tertiary education and research provision
- ✓ Intercoast partnership between the University of Waikato and Bremen University in Germany which will produce greater understanding of our coastal waters
- ✓ Ongoing government engagement to assist with implementation eg transportation funding and development
- ✓ Integrated planning, infrastructure provision and working together between the three councils
- ✓ Tangata whenua engagement and involvement in decision making
- ✓ Community engagement in providing valuable input into strategy implementation
- ✓ Papakainga housing toolkit making it easier to build houses on Maori land
- ✓ Clinical education school bringing enhanced health service training and upskilling
- ✓ Protection of versatile soils so that we can continue to grow the great produce on the best lands
- ✓ Omokoroa development in a carefully planned way to ensure that people there continue to enjoy their great place to live
- ✓ Coordinated planning for an aging population because we know that the number of older people is going to increase rapidly
- ✓ Housing planning so that everyone can find something that suits them at reasonable prices
- ✓ Tauranga Eastern Link starting in the eastern part of the district near Paengaroa, bypasses Te Puke and links up in Papamoa with completion by 2016.

SmartGrowth organisation

- The SmartGrowth Implementation Committee meets every two months to provide strategic direction, monitoring and overview and is made up of 3 councillors from each of the three councils and tangata whenua representatives and is chaired independently
- The CEOs of the 3 councils and Regional Director of NZ Transport Agency meet bi-monthly with the independent chair and implementation advisor to provide overall direction for strategy implementation
- Senior staff from the councils, NZ Transport Agency and a tangata whenua representative meet monthly to ensure integrated implementation occurs
- A combined Tangata Whenua Forum meets bi-monthly to provide input and feedback on implementation
- Various community groups meet as strategic partners each two months acting as a community audit on SmartGrowth actions and a knowledge pool

For further information:

- Visit the SmartGrowth website www.smartgrowthbop.org.nz
- SmartGrowth newsletters are produced 6 times a year and are available on the website or by joining the mailing list through the website
- Email your enquiry to info@smartgrowthbop.org.nz