

Hi and welcome to the July 2010 SmartGrowth newsletter. SmartGrowth is a western Bay of Plenty partnership between the three councils (Western Bay of Plenty District Council, Tauranga City Council and the Bay of Plenty Regional Council) working with tangata whenua, community groups and a variety of government agencies such as NZ Transport Agency.

In this issue you can read about what's been happening in growth management in the western Bay of Plenty making it a great place to live, work and play:

- ✓ Te Puke Fast Forward – the group with their town at heart
- ✓ Omokoroa's community plan
- ✓ Recent developments in tertiary education
- ✓ The world of economic development
- ✓ Plans for the Kaituna River and Ongatoro / Maketu estuary
- ✓ Fast progress on developing the TECT All Terrain Park
- ✓ Planned improvements to Tauranga's Fraser St / 15th Ave intersection
- ✓ Progress on the southern pipeline
- ✓ Katikati's town centre plan developments
- ✓ How migrants settle in here
- ✓ Development of wastewater schemes for Maketu and Little Waihi
- ✓ PR recognition for great community consultation over Harbour Link
- ✓ Outcomes from the recent SmartGrowth form and function review

Advocates for a growing Te Puke

Paul Hickson's small team has big ideas for Te Puke.

They're Te Puke Fast Forward, and they are advocates for how their area will grow over the next 20 years. Te Puke Fast Forward's agenda is to monitor the implementation of the area's 20-year development plan, initiate projects, advocate for the region and be a reference group for various authorities.

They know their town and its environs well, and they all have a vested interest in ensuring it grows comfortably, with infrastructure in line with needs.

This core group of about a dozen business people work with SmartGrowth and SmartEconomy, and in task groups working on specific projects such as roading, land use planning or power supply. They have representation on a variety of forums, including Priority One, Western Bay of Plenty District Council and Environment Bay of Plenty, and network on a wide spread of interests – agriculture, education, rural women, fruit growers and town centre issues.



For Paul Hickson, it's a labour of love. His family have lived in the area for over 100 years and TPF got underway in 2004 to ensure that what was in the 20-year plan for the area did occur.

"We're not so much about the town itself. There's a large service area surrounding Te Puke. We're less of a formal group than a group that finds enthusiastic people and provides practical advice."

Most of the members are self employed, entrepreneurial and passionate about their region. They meet once a month, with any interested people coming along to participate.

“We are fairly unique in this area. It started as a strong dairying area but the kiwifruit industry has grown so much and now 40 percent of the production and most of the post harvest is in this area. We need the infrastructure to support that.”

Improving the power supply was their initial issue and the next big thing is roading. They are practical in their approach, providing local advice and traffic counts to the NZ Transport Agency.

“The capacity of roads constrains development, and we expect that by the time the Eastern Link is built the traffic counts will have increased. Traffic here is a lot heavier than on roads in the western Bay. Eastern Link will take the heavy traffic off initially but it won’t solve all the problems.”

The group has so far made submissions on a range of planning documents and met with various bodies on the issues that concern them.

“A lot of economic growth in agriculture is coming this way and there’s a mismatch of commercial activity and residential growth. We may not have the answers but we are raising the issues for the experts to think about them. Because we are not constrained by being part of a formal council we can say what we think.”

Tertiary education action plan released

The region’s first tertiary education plan has just been released, advancing SmartGrowth’s support for educational collaboration between the Bay of Plenty Polytech and the University of Waikato.

The strategy highlights greater tertiary educational opportunities for young people so they didn’t have to move away for university or polytech education.

The action plan was developed in response to the government’s Tertiary Education Strategy, following a needs study by Priority One and the two educational institutes.

Western Bay of Plenty District Council Mayor Ross Paterson said “SmartGrowth is about maximising the value of a collaborative approach to deliver tangible results for everyone in the western Bay. The tertiary education plan is fundamental to this as it helps build and retain a pool of talent that can help the sub-region meet the challenges and opportunities associated with ongoing population growth.”

Tauranga Mayor Stuart Crosby said “World class tertiary education and research capability are fundamental to a prosperous New Zealand (and the Bay of Plenty). As we gather support for this Action Plan we need regional funders to pool their resources and help ensure this Action Plan can be achieved.”

Regional council chairman John Cronin said “The University of Waikato and the Bay of Plenty Polytechnic are to be commended on taking this initiative, which will undoubtedly benefit the Bay of Plenty region by providing greater tertiary education and employment opportunities.”

The action plan is aiming for high quality, regionally relevant tertiary education and research, which underpin the economic and social development of the Bay of Plenty region. Its three goals are to increase participation in tertiary education, increase research and commercialisation capability in areas where the region has a competitive advantage and ensure that tertiary education and interventions help optimise regional productivity and economic performance.

The action plan has three clear and very achievable areas to work on.

These include greater collaboration and resource sharing, linking tertiary education with innovation and economic productivity and increasing opportunities for people to gain world-class skills and knowledge.

Submissions now in on Ōmokoroa Plan

Western Bay of Plenty District Council has had 29 submissions on the draft Omokoroa Community Development Plan.

Submissions closed on 16 June 2010 and a special meeting of the Policy and Planning Committee on 5 July is to hear submissions. The committee will meet again on 12 July to make decisions about the draft plan and adopt it.



The draft plan captures current and future initiatives for the peninsula. Council staff have met with community groups and schools to envisage what they want their community to look like as it grows and develops, and to think about how this could be done over the next 20 years.

The Community Development Plan will feed into the Council's Long Term Plan, Annual Plan and budget, as well as the beach development and commercial centre plans currently being developed. All form part of the settlement patterns identified in the SmartGrowth plan for the subregion

Regional Council to continue lead in economic development

Economic development is a key plank in the SmartGrowth plan. "A thriving economy is an important component of sustainable development since it enables people to meet their needs through employment and the availability of services."

Environment Bay of Plenty is to continue leading and facilitating "unstoppable and exciting" economic development across the region.

The council has been leading progress through a Regional Governance Group following a change in Central Government's regional development policy in 2007. Through the strategy, Bay of Connections, over the last 12 months the group has achieved:

- A regional Food Strategy.
- A regional Aquaculture Strategy – a New Zealand first. Foundations and relationships are now in place to start developing the 3,800 ha site 8 km off Opotiki.
- Technical feasibility and business case for the proposed Marine Precinct in Tauranga.
- A draft regional Energy Strategy
- Initial support from the Regional Governance Group for an emerging titanium industry in the Bay of Plenty.
- Website development of www.bayofconnections.com

Environment Bay of Plenty Chairman John Cronin said there was growing momentum across the region to work together using the SmartGrowth collaborative model, with strong links with CONNECT, Community Outcomes Bay of Plenty, Smart Economy Action Group, good business links and interest from a range of central government agencies.

Good progress on estuary strategy



The SmartGrowth position on the natural and cultural environment is clear: “The protection and enhancement of the natural and cultural environment is a cornerstone of sustainable development.” The eastern part of the sub region is a good example of where this is happening through a coordinated approach.

One year on from the adoption of the Kaituna River and Ongātoto/Maketū Estuary Strategy strong progress has been made towards achieving the outcomes of the Strategy.

Environment Bay of Plenty is coordinating implementation of the community-wide Strategy.

An artist’s impression of what the area could look like in the future has been created to emphasise the Strategy’s wide scope and paint a picture of how the different aspects of the project fit together with other SmartGrowth-related projects also happening in the area.

A poster impression is a scenario of what might happen if the current intentions of the Strategy and SmartGrowth are implemented. The community is still to be consulted on the detail of these concepts, and the poster will be used as a communications tool when consulting with stakeholder groups.

While the current focus is on the ‘big picture’ items, such as investigating the 100 ha of new wetlands and re-diverting the Kaituna River, the on-going operational work of community groups, schools, landowners and the agencies continues.

A report detailing the progress made up till 30 June will be made available in August. The report will be a snapshot covering the artistic impression, what progress has been made to each of the four outcomes in the Strategy and some of the next steps.

TECT All Terrain Park getting ready to open

One of SmartGrowth’s principles is that “western Bay of Plenty communities will have a diversity of open spaces and leisure opportunities.” While some people enjoy the tranquility of bush walks, others prefer more vigorous and sometimes noisier pastimes. Into this latter category comes the TECT All Terrain Park which is expected to officially open by end of this year.

The Western Bay of Plenty District Council and Tauranga City Council purchased about 1255 hectares of land, mostly in forest and native bush, between Tauranga and Rotorua with the



Workers clear a track at the TECT Park

support of sponsor Tauranga Energy Consumer Trust in 2004. The councils brought another 383 hectares of land in 2006.

The park will be developed in stages over the next two decades, allowing different areas of the park to be developed to cater for a range of active and passive recreational activities including mountain biking, rallying, motocross, firearm sports, 4x4, equestrian, tramping and orienteering.

The development of the park is fundamental to SmartGrowth's goal of developing significant active and passive recreational areas in the sub-region. These parks include the now-completed Papamoa Hills cultural heritage park and the Huharua Harbour Park at Plummers Point which opened on 18 June 2010.

Building of an arrival centre within the TECT park's central hub is likely to be completed by August. The centre will provide a resource for user groups, the community and school groups wanting to hold meetings, education sessions and workshops. The centre will include a classroom-sized community space, a wood burner and public toilets, with paved and landscaped surroundings and a deck opening out over a forest glade.

A feature mantelpiece above the fireplace is being made from native tawa harvested from a windfall tree in the park. A helipad has been completed within the central hub area and car park areas also in place.

Development of a mountain bike area is progressing well, with the first trail – designed for families and children - already built. Horse riding enthusiasts are also starting on trail building, and user groups are holding weekend working bees. Motorsport Bay of Plenty has already used the central car park as a base for a rally sprint and members are planning roading upgrades for next summer.

Intersection upgrade out to tender

An efficient transport system is key to the infrastructural needs of the western Bay of Plenty.

As an integral part of the SmartGrowth approach, The NZ Transport Agency (NZTA) has put out to tender the contract to upgrade the Tauranga's Fraser Street/15th Avenue intersection.

Rod James, NZTA's Bay of Plenty State Highway Manager says the project, known as Hairini Link advanced works, will improve safety for all road users and give immediate relief at the busy intersection.

The advanced works are the second of a four-stage project to future-proof State Highway 2A through the 15th Avenue, Turret Road corridor. The first stage was putting traffic signals on the Maungatapu and Hairini roundabouts. The investigation into stages three and four of the upgrade covering the long-term solution for the rest of the route is currently underway.

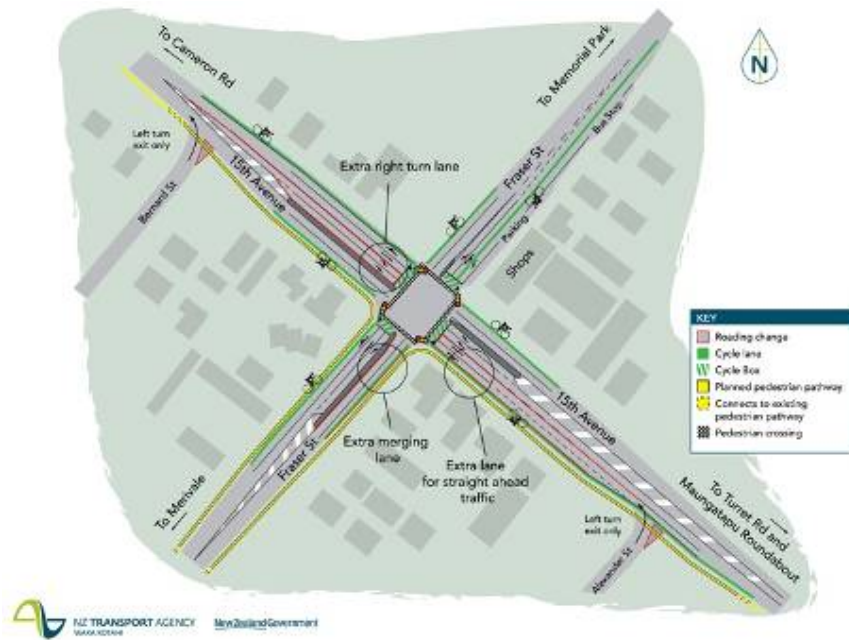
"Extra lanes on 15th Avenue near Fraser Street will increase the stacking capacity at the intersection so more vehicles will get through the traffic signals on each phase. Safe waiting places for cyclists, designed to put them in front of the traffic at the signals and give them a head start at light changes, will also be added.

Other improvements to cycling and walking routes include clearing and better defining the track along Waimapu Estuary and linking it to Mayfair Street. A new, shared pathway will be built along Mayfair Street linking Turret Road and 15th Avenue.

A shared cycle/footpath will be laid over the track worn beneath the totara trees on 15th Avenue to protect the trees' roots and provide a more comfortable surface for cyclists and pedestrians.

Utilities including a water main, stormwater and gas lines, electricity and telecommunications cables will be relocated as part of the project.

Construction will begin soon after the successful contractor is appointed in August. The works are due to be completed by March 2011.



Progress on Southern Pipeline

The first section of the southern pipeline, between Maleme Street and Memorial Park, has been put out to tender, with construction expected to start in the third quarter of 2010.

Meanwhile work is continuing on the new 1,300m³ wastewater storage tank and pump station site at Maleme Street, on track for completion by July. This extra storage will buy the wastewater system more time while the rest of the pipeline is being constructed.

Investigation work is also continuing for an emergency management option for the Judea wastewater link.

Open days for Katikati town centre development



Katikati residents came along to open days during June to discuss the two draft planning and development documents for Katikati's town centre.

Future development in the town centre is being planned under the Draft Town Centre Plan, which focuses on both private and public development. A town centre plan and Katikati Town Centre Design Guidelines were last developed for

Katikati in 1992 / 93, and since this time Talisman Drive has been developed, opening up other opportunities.

The main objectives of the new Plan are to:

- Capture the community's vision for the town centre.
- Encourage private investment that supports the community's vision.

- Guide both private and public investment to ensure that the town centre, community and developer gain from development.
- Ensure the character of the town centre can be strengthened and take advantage of development opportunities.

The existing town centre has spread out in segments along Main Road. The buildings along the Uretara Stream do not face the stream and there are limited connections between the town centre and the residential area across the stream at Highfields. The quality of the town centre is affected by the more than 10,000 vehicles pass through each day.

The main objective of the Katikati Town Centre Plan is to guide public and private development that will ensure optimal use of land, create private investment opportunities and ensure private development includes the bigger town centre development vision and medium and long-term goals into their design.

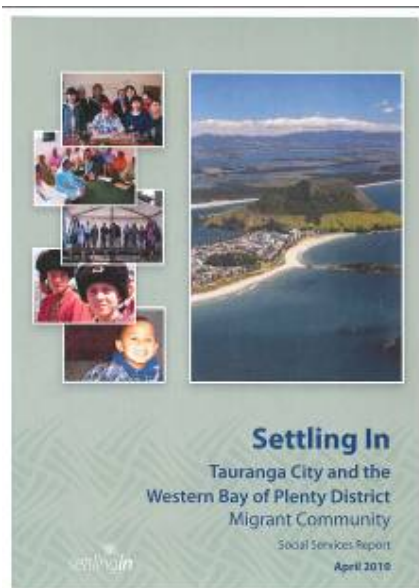
The Plan also indicates how and where public money will be invested in the town centre to ensure the objectives can be fulfilled.

The plan is to turn Talisman Drive into the 'heart' of Katikati, co-ordinating development and provide more certainty to landowners and developers on future development. The proposed plan also recommends relocating the library and Council offices to a property between Talisman Dr and Main Road to become a social hub with facilities such as a small movie theatre, archives, art gallery, café and children's play area.

The development of a by-pass is regarded as essential and the council will continue to work proactively with NZ Transport Agency to progress the development of a by-pass.

Getting migrants settled in the Bay

Tauranga City Council and Western Bay of Plenty District Council have just released a report into how the area's migrant community are settling into the district.



Entitled 'Settling In', the social services report has come up with some key issues for migrants, such as access to services, outlines what is working well and suggests further actions.

The most significant issues were based around accessing information, and how to connect newcomers with more translated resources and support. Language barriers had a huge impact, with insufficient ESOL provision and language development opportunities.

Older migrants – a significant part of the population – suffered loneliness and social isolation, with many not engaging with local services. There was also a need to targeted support for migrant parents and their children suffering intergenerational tension, and concerns about safety and security.

Since the inception of the Settling In project a significant amount had already been achieved, including holding 31 focus groups. A new Bay of Plenty Chinese Culture Society was officially launched in January.

Police are actively working with both Settlement Support NZ and the Tauranga Regional Multicultural Council to improve communications, engagement and service provision for migrant communities. A very successful English language programme for older Punjabi

women in Te Puke was developed and a new English class for Korean mothers has been run successfully throughout 2009.

In Tauranga City in 2006, 17 percent of residents were born overseas, almost one-third of overseas-born residents were aged 60+, most newcomers were from the UK or Ireland, with increasing numbers from Asia. Almost half of the overseas-born residents had been here less than 10 years.

For Western Bay of Plenty, 15 percent of residents were born overseas, 28 percent were aged 60+ and 42 percent of the overseas-born residents had been here less than 10 years.

Wastewater for small communities

Cleaning up the estuaries and waterways of Maketu and Little Waihi is essential for the health of the community and long term sustainability of kaimoana. SmartGrowth recognises that population growth places increasing demands on systems for the treatment and disposal of wastewater and that sufficient forward planning and investment in reticulated sewerage systems is needed to support the intensified growth option.

The Western Bay of District Council, in association with Environment Bay of Plenty, is committed to working with the communities of Maketu and Little Waihi to progress the development of a \$15.2m wastewater scheme.

The new wastewater scheme is fundamental to addressing contamination issues directly linked to seepage from existing septic tanks, many of which are old and no longer up to standard, particularly those in lower lying areas that overflow after heavy rainfall.

Central government is contributing \$10.5m toward the scheme and Environment Bay of Plenty is funding a further \$2.1m. The balance of \$2.6m will be loan funded by the Western Bay of Plenty District Council.

Construction of the scheme is expected to be completed by November 2011.

Community support shows dividends for Harbour Link



The project team responsible for delivering Tauranga's Harbour Link has been awarded the supreme Public Relations Institute of New Zealand (PRINZ) award for 2010.

Building Harbour Link was a long, complex process involving the expertise of a wide range of professionals. Keeping the community and local businesses informed about the process and what to expect next played an important part in the project's success.

The award recognised that the local community was kept fully informed as the project progressed over three years, including the disruption of driving through a construction zone while Harbour Link was built.

National President of PRINZ Graeme Purches says the level of community support and cooperation Harbour Link received made it stand-out from the other 50 entrants for this year's awards.

"The project team worked together extremely well to deliver a first-class programme where businesses and the entire community felt part of the project with a stake in the outcome."

There were twelve categories in the 2010 PRiNZ awards. Harbour Link won the Government or Quasi Government category top honour, then went on to take the supreme award. Winning entries reflect sound public relations and communication objectives, demonstrate high standards of performance, production and presentation and represent the pinnacle of communications practice in New Zealand.

Photo: Project manager Kevin Reid with the PRiNZ trophies.

Reviewing SmartGrowth's structures

SmartGrowth recently commissioned an independent review of its own form and function to ensure that the structures were fit for purpose and supporting the plan's goals effectively.

Independent contractor Rob van Voorthuysen reviewed the literature and interviewed 30 political and management personnel involved in ensuring the smooth operation of the growth management project. His key findings were that:

- SmartGrowth has a clear and widely supported purpose and that the agreed urban growth strategy is well supported by the partner organisations.
- The collaborative working relationships are well recognised and lead to greater government support.
- There are opportunities now to refine and reduce the administrative structures.

The report makes 51 recommendations, which were discussed by the Implementation committee at its June meeting. They decided to:

- Undertake further discussion with tangata whenua and various community groups
- Give chief executives the go-ahead to begin implementing structural changes at a management level. These include creating an in-house SmartGrowth office at Environment Bay of Plenty, disestablishing SmartTransport but discussing the need for a transport forum and decoupling the Intermediate Housing working party from SmartGrowth.

In brief...

Regional Policy Statement

The regional council is hoping to approve in August the proposed RPS for public consultation in November. The council has been working with stakeholders on the draft version and working through the comments received.

Bay out performs NZ average

Strong economic growth in the Bay of Plenty has propelled annual economic growth ahead of the national benchmark, according to the latest National Bank Regional Trends Survey. The Bay recorded rises across a range of economic indicators - a 1% rise in the sale of lifestyle blocks, contrasting with a 21% fall nationally and accommodation guest nights up 3.3%, rising faster than the national average.

Harbour Central Marine Precinct

About 150 people have downloaded the joint Priority One/Tauranga City Council Request for Expressions of Interest for developing a new multi million-dollar marine precinct in Tauranga. Selected respondents will be invited to submit more comprehensive plans before a preferred developer is selected. Harbour Central will see a state-of-the-art marine business park developed on Council-owned land beside the Tauranga harbour bridge. An economic

impact study has forecast up to 520 new jobs and over \$100 million of revenue into the economy each year.

Bay businesses get first pick of returning kiwi expats

A new website was launched in May to link returning Kiwi expats with Bay of Plenty employers – before they've even set foot on home shores. Developed by Priority One, Back in the Bay enables local businesses to develop relationships with Kiwi expats to ensure they are first in line for their sought-after skills when they decide to return home. The site gives local employers and service providers a vehicle by which they can make contact and build relationships with Kiwi expats. The film clip promoting the Bay is at <http://www.backinthebay.co.nz/connect-withopportunities/video.html>.

Building a strong city centre

Priority One has been contracted by Tauranga City Council to lead the implementation of the City Centre Strategy. The strategy has been developed to ensure Tauranga grows into a vibrant, sustainable, contemporary city – attracting business and talent, creating high value employment and stimulating economic growth. The group is working together to maximise opportunities on The Strand to create a unique destination for food and entertainment that is recognised for its quality environment and experience.

Food leaders plan for growth

Bay of Plenty food industry leaders plan to set up a new research and tertiary education facility and a new business incubator to help their sector flourish over the next decade. The plan emerged from the inaugural Food Bay of Plenty Strategic Leaders' Forum, attended by 20 CEOs involved in the region's food sector. Food Bay of Plenty chair Liz Muller says the developments will help the industry better understand consumers, particularly those from Asia, and enable it to deliver the products they want.

Record surplus for Polytechnic

The Bay of Plenty Polytechnic has put in one of the best performances of any tertiary education institute in NZ with a record operating surplus of \$2.5m for the last financial year. The Polytechnic had 12,268 students last year, up from 9,689 in 2008. Earlier this year it established new engineering workshops, including specialised operations for the Applied Powder Metallurgy Centre, run by the Titanium Industry Development Association. It is also looking at establishing centres of expertise in sport and wellness, aquaculture, transport and logistics and tourism and hospitality management.

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