

Strategy

Outlining key SmartGrowth strategies going forward



Studies / Research

Summaries of key growth management research



News / Community

News and updates concerning your community



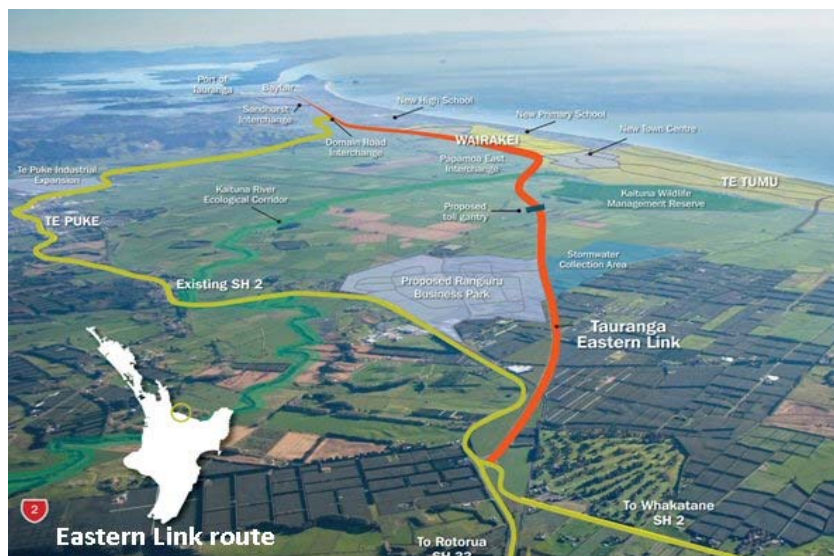
www.smartgrowthbop.org.nz >>

Hi and welcome to the September 2010 issue of the SmartGrowth newsletter. In this issue you can read about:

- Developments with the Tauranga Eastern Link
- Tauranga Harbour Sediment Study
- Tsunami mapping
- The Coast Papamoa housing development
- Broadband initiatives
- The energy strategy

And, with the local body elections looming, we provide some basic information on SmartGrowth, how it works and what it has achieved in its ten years.

Tauranga Eastern Link gets the go-ahead



The NZ Transport Agency (NZTA) has the go-ahead to build the Tauranga Eastern Link, after nearly 10 years of planning and preparation.

The Government has agreed tolling can help fund the project, which means construction will start up to 10 years earlier than without tolling. Consultation last year found that 92 percent of respondents supported advancing the project through tolling, either conditionally or unconditionally.

Tauranga Eastern Link is designed to support managed growth for the area, improve efficiency and contribute to economic development by cutting travel times, provide a more direct route to the Port of Tauranga and improve safety on the Tauranga to Paengaroa route.

Two groups of companies have tendered to design and construct the 23km project. Tenders closed in July and have a rigorous two-month evaluation period before the successful tender is announced in October.

Tauranga Eastern Link will be built in two stages, and work has already started on stage one. The preliminary or enabling work will be completed by the time stage two construction starts in 2011.

The enabling work includes seven small projects to relocate water mains, improve a pump station and

extend Truman Lane and Kaituna Road.

Stage two involves constructing the 23km Eastern Link under a design and construction contract, similar to Tauranga's Harbour Link. This project's innovations saved around \$50 million and three months' construction time.

The Tauranga Eastern Link project will move three million cubic metres of earth, and includes seven bridges.

For more information go to www.nzta.govt.nz

Preventing sediment runoff into the harbour vital

Preventing sediment runoff in the Tauranga harbour catchment is preferable to dealing with it in the harbour by removing mangroves and dredging, a recent study has found.

Tauranga Harbour is recognised in the SmartGrowth strategy as an outstanding natural and cultural resource that requires special attention. One of the strategy actions was to scope and prepare a sedimentation study

SmartGrowth partner, the Bay of Plenty Regional Council contracted NIWA in 2007 to conduct a Tauranga Harbour Sediment Study to manage current and future growth and development. The knowledge gained will help in adapting and prioritising management rules and practises for the catchment and harbour. The study helps understand the effects of sediment from changes in land use and effects of climate change until 2051.



The three-year study covered the southern harbour from Matahui Point to Rangataua Bay. It looked at contributions of various sediment sources in the catchment and where these sediments settled.

The study also looked at which catchments were more important in reducing sedimentation, effects of existing and future urban development on the harbour, how local authorities could address sedimentation issues and were there reversal methods available to manage it.

It found that most of the sediment – 45.6 percent - entered from the Wairoa River, and existing and planned controls on urban earthworks were predicted to reduce the sediment yield markedly. By 2051, future climate change was predicted to increase the sediment load by 42.8 percent.

Key opportunities for mitigating this increase included retiring steeper pasture areas or establishing pine plantations, enhanced flood plain deposition in the Waitao and Waimapu sub catchments, riparian planting in pasture areas and some improved forestry controls. More controls on earthworks would give little extra benefit, the study found.

For more information go to www.envbop.govt.nz

Coast to have new planned community

What was once a large tract of bare land on the boundary between Mount Maunganui and Papamoa is being transformed into a carefully designed and planned community - the Coast Papamoa Beach development.

The development covers 24.2ha of prime coastal land on the boundary between Mount Maunganui and Papamoa and will cater for a range of homes, including single and double story dwellings, townhouses, low-rise apartments and luxurious beachside apartments.

The development will, over time, include 682 dwellings in mixed use medium density, combining the SmartGrowth vision into a community.

A new public road, Coast Boulevard, now extends inland from Papamoa Beach Road, with new road connections to adjoining neighbourhoods. Direct beach access is provided from Papamoa Beach Road across Coast's oceanfront precinct, with a winding pedestrian boardwalk connecting Coast's residents to the ocean.

Architectural and landscape designs have been planned to blend in with the natural surroundings, with many homes clad in natural stones and timbers.

The sales pavilion in the centre of the subdivision will eventually become a retail shopping centre with a local café. The pavilion currently has a full-scale model of what the community will look like once completed.

Sales Manager Vicky Pilbrow says the developers believe the development fits perfectly within the Western Bay of Plenty's SmartGrowth plan.

"Coast Papamoa Beach has been described by Tauranga's Mayor Stuart Crosby as the first project of its

kind to have struck the right balance between intensification and quality design. A considerable amount of care and attention to detail has gone into both the layout of the site and the design of the homes currently constructed.”

Coast Papamoa Beach is the first New Zealand development undertaken by global company Frasers Property. The company has extensive projects in Australia, Asia and England.

“Coast Papamoa Beach recognises that regions have a key role to play in boosting the quality of the local business environment for their own growth and that of the local/national economy. Coast Papamoa Beach is looking to support the many exciting initiatives that lie ahead and working alongside economic growth partners to grow a stronger community.”

For more information go to www.coastpapamoabeach.co.nz

Hairini Link update



The NZ Transport Agency (NZTA) recently awarded the contract to build Stage two of the Hairini Link upgrade on State Highway 2A to Downer NZ Ltd.

The project, known as Hairini Link Advanced Works, will improve safety for all road users and give immediate relief at the busy intersection. It involves adding extra lanes at the Fraser Street, 15th Avenue intersection, adding two new pedestrian crossings on 15th Avenue and improving cycling and walking routes in the area.

Rod James, NZTA's Bay of Plenty State Highway Manager, says construction of the \$4 million improvements will get underway in mid September and is expected to take six months.

“The large volume of traffic using the route means the build will be quite complicated. The first stage will be relatively straightforward with minimal disruption to road users. It includes shifting existing services (water main, stormwater and gas lines, electricity and telecommunications cables), constructing the extra road width around the intersection, pouring the new curb line and installing new traffic poles. The site will then close down for three weeks over Christmas.

“The tricky part of the construction will take place after Christmas. In order to give the contractor a clear run at completing the build as quickly as possible, thereby minimising disruption to road users, we are planning to close Fraser St between 14th Avenue and 16th Avenue for approximately nine days during mid January.

“During the closure, the contractor will be working up to 16 hours a day reconstructing the existing road pavement, remarking the road and testing the new traffic lights,” says Mr James.

Open day

A public open day to get feedback on options identified by the NZTA's investigation into the long-term solution for the Hairini Link corridor will be held on Wednesday, September 22 at Tauranga Boys' College Gym 2, between 4pm and 8pm.

The investigation covers stages three and four of the four-stage project to future-proof State Highway 2A. The first stage was installing traffic signals on the Maungatapu and Hairini roundabouts. Stage two is the Advanced Works as described above and Stage three involves four-laning the route from the Cameron Road

intersection to the Maungatapu roundabout, including building a new bridge. Improving access from the cross-city corridor to Welcome Bay is addressed in Stage four.

People attending the open day will be able to view plans and speak to the project team about the options designed to improve safety and maintain travel times as traffic volumes grow along the 15th Avenue/Turret Road/Hairini corridor.

Funding approved for energy strategy

NZ Trade and Enterprise have approved funding for an energy strategy for the Bay of Plenty in full.

The funding includes \$40,000 to complete work started last year on an energy strategy. The aim is to bring a wide perspective to energy sources and use in the Bay of Plenty, and how they can be applied to create wealth opportunities.

The strategy will look at a wide range of aspects, including conservation, renewable sources, security of supply, export opportunities, new and emerging technologies and employment opportunities.

A reference group of industry, consumers and specialists will be formed to help develop the strategy, which will also identify what barriers exist for wealth creation opportunities.

Work on the strategy will commence in the next few months and will be coordinated with work being done on a forestry strategy for the Bay, which has also received NZTE funding.

The strategy is expected to be released for comment to an energy forum planned for early next year. It is linked to the recently released National Energy Strategy, which sets the strategic direction of the energy sector and the role energy will play in New Zealand's economy. The Government is currently consulting on the **draft New Zealand Energy Strategy**.

Map shows Bay's tsunami zones

A new map showing tsunami inundation zones for the Bay of Plenty coastline has been released by the Bay of Plenty Civil Defence Emergency Management Group (CDEMG) to help coastal residents improve their tsunami preparedness planning.

The map is an online resource, which shows the distance a tsunami surge would travel inland, based on worst-case scenario planning of tsunami surge heights for the western and eastern Bay of Plenty. It can be downloaded from the Bay of Plenty Civil Defence Emergency Management Group website **www.bopcivildefence.govt.nz**.

CDEMG Coordinating Executive Group Chair Diane Turner said the map was developed as a tool to help both emergency management staff and the community develop response plans before an event occurred.

"We live on a coastline which is exposed to regional and distant tsunami sources. This means tsunami are likely to be a 'when', not an 'if' scenario, so we all have a responsibility to be prepared."

New broadband guide for communities



Bay of Plenty councils have developed a guide for communities, organisations and businesses to get better broadband. The new guide identifies the technologies available and suggests ways to work with telecommunication providers to get better broadband services to their businesses, schools and communities.

Bay of Plenty councils have been advocating for better broadband for some time. Four years ago they developed a strategy aimed at developing more capacity and better reach at a more competitive

and affordable rate.

Tauranga City Council Chief Executive Stephen Town, deputy chair of the combined councils' shared services company BoPLASS Ltd, said government change had also changed national policy towards broadband investment but the councils collectively had achieved a lot in the past four years.

The councils have supported direct investment in alternative fibre linking the three main centres in the Bay of Plenty. BoPLASS, the parent company of BayBroadband Ltd, signed up to purchase a gigabit link that now links six of the nine participating councils.

Pricing in telecommunication wholesale rates has fallen, opening the door to more investment from existing telecommunication providers, as well as new entrants.

"Councils throughout the Bay have also seen the necessity to coordinate road opening and street and footpath upgrades with the laying of ducting to house fibre.

"They have also indicated a willingness to consider the use of alternative deployment technologies for fibre, such as micro trenching and piggybacking on other utilities such as sewer and stormwater pipes," Mr Town said.

The guide is on Bay of Plenty Regional Council's website **www.envbop.govt.nz**.

Contract to investigate improvements to State Highway 29, Tauriko awarded

The NZ Transport Agency (NZTA) has awarded the contract to investigate improvements on State Highway 29 near Tauriko to Opus International Consultants Ltd.

The \$1.2 million contract aims to develop a way to improve safety and efficiency for all road users.

Earlier studies of the route identified options varying from realignments to a complete bypass of Tauriko. This investigation will review possible options, consider their social and environmental effects, select the most appropriate solution after public consultation, undertake geotechnical studies and develop a preliminary design for the preferred route.

This access into Tauranga is surrounded by development and a growing number of local road users have to contend with the high proportion of heavy vehicles on this key freight route heading between the Waikato and the Port of Tauranga.

The investigation will get underway in September and will take approximately a year to complete. The NZTA expects to have potential options for the public's consideration later this year.

Boost for regional projects

Forestry, aquaculture, energy and supply chain industries in the Bay of Plenty region have received a \$390,000 boost from central government to carry out a range of projects.

Through the Bay of Connections Regional Governance Group the funds will add to the \$360,000 grant received in 2008 from New Zealand Trade and Enterprise, taking the total to \$750,000.

The projects agreed on by the Regional Governance Group and the economic development agencies cover:

- **Aquaculture** – to establish a Regional aquaculture Organisation and operating procedures, develop a region-wide profile of the emerging aquaculture industry, future infrastructure needs and industry directory, develop a preliminary business case for the Opotiki Harbour development and a communications plan.
- **Energy** – to establish an Energy Advisory Group and to complete the Strategy and Action Plan, hold a regional energy forum.
- **Forestry and Wood Processing** – to develop a Strategy and Action Plan and work with land and forestry owners to get additional value from forestry.
- **Supply Chain and Logistics** – to investigate regional logistics and supply chain to ensure a world-class, cost effective, efficient freight movement system to, from and around the Bay of Plenty.
- **Review Bay of Connections** and update the Action Plan, carrying out an in-depth analysis into a number of sectors.

Advisory groups for these projects will be established with strong commercial representation.

Councils join forces on water

Tauranga City Council and Western Bay of Plenty District Council have been granted a joint resource consent to take up to 60,000 cubic metres of water a day from the Waiari Stream so that they can meet their community's water needs over the next 50 or more years.

The consent clears the way for Tauranga City to build a water treatment plant in No 1 Road, Te Puke. While the resource consent allows for 60,000 cubic metres a day, it is expected that initially only 12,000 cubic metres a day will be taken when the scheme comes on line in 2017.

A separate project has recently started to determine the optimal alignment of the water trunk mains that will link the Waiari Water Treatment Plant to the Papamoa water reticulation. A public information day is planned in mid-September 2010 in Te Puke to further explain the project.

What's SmartGrowth?

SmartGrowth was set up in 2000 to plan for the following 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 Tauranga City Council and Western Bay of Plenty District Council 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 such as 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 three councillors from each of the three councils and tangata whenua representatives, and is chaired independently.
- The CEOs of the three councils and Regional Director of the 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 six 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
- To unsubscribe email info@smartgrowthbop.org.nz with 'unsubscribe' in the subject line.

