



WAIKATO MAYORAL FORUM

Summary of Waikato Mayoral Forum meeting 11 December 2017

Welcome to Jamie Strange MP

The forum met with Jamie Strange, Labour list MP, and we look forward to building a strong relationship, having good communications and collaborating on key projects for the region.

He is keen to be an advocate for the region and aims to link government funding to regional projects, in particular those related to arts, affordable housing, transport and job creation.

Civil Defence and Emergency Management (CDEM) – new requirements

Langley Cavers, Hauraki District Council's chief executive and chair of the Waikato Civil Defence Coordinating Executive Group, provided an update on the upcoming requirements around CDEM, which will become effective on 1 June 2018.

By that date, an approved Group Plan must record the strategic actions to support recovery preparedness, priorities for action, timeline for implementation, how progress will be monitored and evaluated.

It's important to engage with local communities, make sure they understand the risks and what their tolerance to these risks is, and what their vision for recovery is.

Waikato Regional Emergency Services Fund Review

Waikato Regional Council is exploring the option to include LandSAR as a beneficiary of the Regional Emergency Services Fund (RSF) and reassess the quantum of funding for surf life saving services.

This sparked a discussion on how this funding, in particular that for the surf life saving services, is being allocated.

Waikato District Council Mayor Allan Sanson said there is an issue between his council and the Raglan Coastguard regarding the lease agreement of a commercial premise, and who is paying for that lease. According to the original agreement that formed the base for RSF, none of the beneficiaries or communities would be worse off, and Allan is not sure if that's the case in Raglan.

Waikato Regional Council chief executive Vaughan Payne explained that while the current RSF does not provide for the disputed lease arrangement between Waikato District Council and the Raglan Coastguard, the Coastguard has informed Waikato Regional Council that they are financially better off than prior to the RSF being established.

The forum agrees this issue needs to be assessed, addressed and resolved before Waikato Regional Council proceeds with the RSF review. The regional council will continue this dialogue and a recommendation will be included as part of the long term plan proposal.

Creative Infrastructure Plan

A presentation was made by Sarah Nathan, chief executive of Creative Waikato. The forum heard how Creative Waikato is setting up the Arts Navigator, a tool to help guide local councils in their decision making when it comes to an art strategy.

Creative Waikato will work with council teams to help develop plans for creative prosperity, experiences, wellbeing and excellence in their areas, based on the council's strengths, goals and aspirations.

Sarah also gave an update on Toi Waikato and how Māori art and artist across the Waikato can best be supported to help traditional knowledge thrive and contemporary practice grow. Creative Waikato will be collaborating with iwi, aims to create Toi hubs in local communities and develop a Toi Māori flagship project in the Waikato (like the Pacifica Festival in Auckland).

Regional Sport Plan and Moving Waikato 2025

Sport Waikato's chief executive Matthew Cooper and general manager regional leadership Michelle Hollands provided an update to the forum on the Waikato Regional Sport Plan, Moving Waikato 2025 and the Regional Aquatics Plan.

Great progress on the Regional Sport Plan has been made, with 3 out of 11 priority projects already being funded/completed since the adoption of the plan. Four more projects are being investigated and the remaining four have been prioritised.

Chair Livingston complimented Sport Waikato's focus on operational delivery and praised the success of the recently launched "This is ME" campaign that aims to encourage, support and celebrate women and girls of all ages to get out there and be active.

Waikato involvement in the Graeme Dingle Foundation

Stu Davidson, general manager of the Graeme Dingle Foundation, gave an update on its programmes in the Waikato. These include Kiwi Can (a programme aimed at 5-12 year olds to help build positive relationships, resilience and trust), the STARS programme (which mentors year 9 students to support the transition to a secondary school environment) and the Career Navigator programme (helping kids develop soft skills and self-awareness, and providing vocational mentoring).

According to Stu, the foundation has a good footprint in the Waikato, but is keen to grow and collaborate with councils to achieve that. Forum members welcomed this collaboration and supported the foundation's ambition to become more community centric, and do more work around the middle school environment.

Mayors Shattock and Sanson endorsed the work of the Foundation within communities in their respective districts.

Hamilton City Council update

Hamilton City Council Mayor Andrew King provided a brief update on a proposal being developed by the council to start running the Hamilton i-SITE privately and let it function as the hub for Hamilton & Waikato tourism.

He also reported that the council was considering a 10 cent (+GST) increase in petrol prices to reinvest in the city's growing transport demands. However, the forum agreed that this needed

further discussion to ensure surrounding councils were on board, and allow them time to explore opportunities. See the attached proposal for background.

Waikato Regional Theatre update

The current proposal for the Waikato Regional Theatre, as presented by Blair Bowcott from Hamilton City Council, is based on a sub-regional funding model. It currently depends on gaining contributions from the Waipa, Waikato and Matamata-Piako district councils to pass the resolution.

The forum decided the proposal should be reconsidered. It challenged Momentum to look at the Waikato Regional Theatre as a regional asset and put forward a more compelling case for a region wide funding model.

Forum members agreed that not everyone in the region would benefit from the theatre in equal measure, and a tiered funding model should be considered.

Healthy Rivers/Wai Ora

Waikato Regional Council provided an update on Healthy Rivers/Wai Ora: Proposed Plan Change 1. Regional council's consultation with Hauraki iwi has progressed, with River Iwi and council staff presently working through the process to make a joint recommendation to the Healthy Rivers Wai Ora Committee and then for that recommendation to be forwarded to the council. It is hoped that notification of the withdrawn portion of the plan will occur in early 2018.

Waikato Plan

Ken Tremaine, project manager for the Waikato Plan, presented his report. The launch of the Waikato Plan has been rescheduled to February, with a date to be confirmed. The launch will be followed by engagement in March and April.

Alan Livingston

Chair

Waikato Mayoral Forum

14 December 2017