



WAIKATO MAYORAL FORUM

Summary of key matters from 13 June 2017 Waikato Mayoral Forum proceedings:

1. MPs briefing



The forum provided a briefing to Local Government Minister Anne Tolley and Statistics Minister Scott Simpson, the MP for Coromandel (pictured above with forum chair Alan Livingston at right). Other local parliamentarians in attendance were Labour's Nanaia Mahuta from Hauraki-Waikato and list MP Sue Moroney.

The forum chair provided a general overview of various regional collaboration efforts, with more detailed comment being provided by other speakers on the Waikato Plan (Ken Tremaine), Waikato Means Business (Harvey Brookes), the Waikato Medical School proposal (Nigel Murray), Waikato waters (Peter Winder) and regional transport infrastructure (Allan Sanson). A summary sheet on each subject was made available to the ministers and MPs.

Minister Tolley clearly appreciated the briefing and, in particular, congratulated the region on the development of the Waikato Plan.

2. Strategic review workshop

Following interviews with mayors, the regional council chair and chief executives, consultant Peter Winder did a presentation on opportunities going forward to build on the collaborative work already undertaken regionally through the forum and other mechanisms.

In introductory remarks, the forum chair noted how the region was diverse with further potential opportunities for co-ordinated sub-regional initiatives generally, as well as joined up work at a higher regional level, and also highlighted the ongoing need to speak with one voice as a region, particularly in dealings with central Government.

Various points raised during the presentation and discussion included:

- How strong political leadership would help drive initiatives
- The need to prioritise what should be done next
- What 'speaking with one voice' entails at a practical level

It was agreed that council CEOs would work with Ken Tremaine and Peter Winder to look at options for further collaborative actions that could be taken fairly promptly and also a list of ideas that would require more detailed forum discussion.

It is heartening to see that council leaders and CEOs are continuing to take a very forward-looking yet practical approach to enhancing regional prosperity through local collaboration and by working closely with others, such as central Government, iwi, business and others.

Alan Livingston

Chair

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