



## SUMMARY OF WAIKATO MAYORAL FORUM MEETING MONDAY 10 JUNE 2019

### UNISA update

The Upper North Island Strategic Alliance (UNISA) is an alliance between Northland, Waikato and Bay of Plenty regional councils, Auckland Council, Whangarei District Council, and Hamilton and Tauranga city councils.

UNISA has focused on advocacy for four strategic issues affecting the upper North Island, the forum heard during its June meeting.

It is also continuing to explore opportunities to collaborate on climate change adaptation.

#### **Auckland fuel supply disruption**

In September 2017 the 170km buried pipeline from the Marsden Point refinery to a bulk oil storage terminal in Wiri was shutdown for 10 days after being struck by a digger.

The Department of Internal Affairs (DIA) is investigating the incident, looking at the cause, contributory factors and impact of the shutdown.

UNISA has provided feedback on the collective impact of the outage to the upper North Island. While it was not outwardly visible, it did affect the operation of the Hamilton Airport, the forum heard. Fuel supplies had to be managed, which limited the use of Hamilton for the diversion of flights.

The forum heard that UNISA is supportive of measures that would increase fuel resilience for Auckland, as well as for robust and practical recommendations for the upper North Island.

#### **Supply chain strategy**

An independent working group has been appointed by central government to carry out an upper North Island logistics and freight review. This work includes a feasibility study to explore moving the location of the Ports of Auckland, with serious consideration being given to Northport.

UNISA has long had an interest in the supply chain network, the forum heard. It has had ongoing involvement with the study and continues to monitor its progress. Cabinet is expected to receive a preliminary report this month, with a final expected in September.

The forum also had an update on the Productivity Commission **inquiry into local government funding and financing**, as well as on consultation on **interregional marine pest management**.

### Hamilton-Auckland corridor update

The Hamilton-Auckland Corridor Plan has achieved a milestone at Cabinet, which formally received a report which ratified Government's participation.

With that decision, central government agencies will join Future Proof, bringing power of strength to the collaboration table. The first meeting of this new Future Proof collaboration is in August.

The forum heard there are a number of initiatives throughout the corridor which, among other things, include a spatial plan for Pokeno and Tuakau, as well as a separate one for Huntly, and a metro spatial plan picking up communities from Ngāruawāhia to Morrinsville and Cambridge to Te Awamutu.

## Waikato Plan refresh

The Waikato Plan will be refreshed – a process expected to begin over the coming months to take account of new and changing priorities.

That was the latest from Bev Gatenby, co-chair of the Waikato Plan committee, during an update to the forum on the Waikato Plan work underway.

There was support from the forum around considering reviewing the voting rights of the leadership committee to include some of the central government agencies that are crucial to the Waikato Plan work being carried out. The forum heard that these agencies are now committing resources to work occurring.

Ms Gatenby added that a one hour workshop was going to be added to the front end of future leadership committee meetings to enable strategic work and thinking.

## Regional economic development in the region

The Provincial Development Unit is assessing the Southern Waikato Economic Action Plan applications for the four investment-ready projects submitted to the Provincial Growth Fund.

Te Waka chief executive Michael Barrett Foss said the unit had recognised that some individual projects in the package could receive alternative funding.

The forum heard from South Waikato Mayor Jenny Shattock that they were “awaiting the results and feedback with some anticipation”.

With regard to iwi representation on the Te Waka Board, Mr Barrett Foss said progress had been made. A role profile with the skills they would see valuable had been provided to iwi and the process of appointing a representative was now in their hands.

Mr Barrett Foss also provided the forum with information on a Waikato Economic Development Forum it proposes convening in early July.

The forum, for council economic development officers, would enable Te Waka to provide an update on its activities and to solicit guidance and feedback about aspects of its work. It would also enable the sharing of information between councils, as well as with Te Waka.

## Moving Waikato

Moving Waikato 2025 is a unified strategy to grow participation in sport, recreation and physical activity, the forum heard from Sport Waikato chief executive, Matthew Cooper.

The strategy has three pillars:

- Our People – targeting populations to increase participation.
- Building communities – growing the quality of experiences available for sport and recreation.
- Regional leadership – working together to delivery more.

He said Sport Waikato wanted to ensure robust data was available on the activity preferences of the region's people. Surveys had been carried out in each district of 500 adults and 580 young people, he said. Mr Cooper said Sport Waikato would "work through that data with each of the councils".

Meantime, work underway includes a regional cycling education plan to improve cycle safety, build cycling confidence and create a partnered approach to the provision of bikes in schools and cycling education.

As the same time, a water safety strategy is being developed, with Water Safety New Zealand. Its priorities are improved water survival education, educational safety signage and more effective partnerships.

During his presentation, Mr Cooper said Sport Waikato's Facilities Plan has provided strong guidance on decision making across the region, with principles that include sustainability, collaboration and inclusivity.

He said the region can continue to celebrate successes, such as the four-court indoor facility in Rototuna, the Cambridge pool development underway and events centre in Te Aroha.

"Everything we're trying to do is about removing duplication," he said.

The plan is now up to its second iteration and only has a two year window to align with council 10 year plans, he told the forum.

## Essential Freshwater programme

Four advisory groups, one being the regional sector, have been providing advice to the Government's 'Essential Freshwater' review. This has included helping central government agencies better understand the business of regional councils and territorial authorities, as well as issues around affordability, capacity and capability.

This is "critically important", the forum heard from Waikato Regional Council science and strategy director Tracey May, because much of the National Policy Statement for Freshwater Management (NPS-FWM) does require compliance.

A new NPS-FWM is expected to be released at the end of June. Environment Minister David Parker has said he wants regional plans operative in 2025, Ms May told the forum. She said it was anticipated that an independent panel would be appointed once submissions closed, with a view to having a decision by the end of the year and the new policy operative by April 2020.

## Three waters review

The regulatory framework has been the focus of the three waters review being led by the Department of Internal Affairs (DIA), said Waitomo Mayor Brian Hanna.

During a meeting with the DIA at the start of the month, Mayor Hanna said the paper going to Cabinet was shared and "it had no real surprises". There was a strong focus on wastewater, he said

The regulatory framework would provide consistency across New Zealand around potable water. However, trying to address wastewater issues in a consistent way could be problematic, not least because every receiving environment has its own characteristics, the forum heard.

## Waikato regional heritage forum update

A Waikato Regional Heritage Forum, established in 2017, has agreed to focus on developing the framework for the management of historic and cultural heritage, while recognising that local authorities know their own heritage best and what measures should be taken for its preservation..

This will provide a consistent approach for the identification and management of heritage resources, and a common understanding of their current state.

The forum is also working towards establishing and managing a regional heritage inventory.

The forum was established in 2017 to coordinate the implementation of methods for heritage management by local authorities, iwi partners and stakeholders across the region, particularly under the Resource Management Act.

## Triennial Agreement

At its August meeting, the Waikato Mayoral Forum will consider the key strategic drivers facing the region and the priorities for the next triennium of local government.

The Triennial Agreement represents the shared desire of local government in the Waikato region to work collaboratively, to maximise efficiency and to promote sustainable development in their respective communities.

It is also intended to align our efforts to attract central government funding, to interact with neighbouring regions in a coherent manner and to foster projects of a strategic nature within the region.

It incorporates the work and activities of the Waikato Mayoral Forum.

## Elections cost

The Waikato Mayoral Forum agreed that chair Alan Livingston write to Health Minister David Clark calling for a continuation of the DHB's budget allocation for their year's triennial elections.

The letter points out that the Waikato District Health Board (DHB) would have budgeted for the 2019 elections and that this money should still be provided to share the financial burden with councils.

The cost to conduct local elections is usually split three-ways between the territorial authority (around 50 per cent), the regional council (about 20 per cent) and the DHB (about 30 per cent).

While this apportionment has been agreed by all parties, the minister's decision to sack the board and appoint commissioners means that there will be no DHB election required and thus no cost.