

# Waikato Mayoral Forum and Councils Collaboration Projects: Progress Report #9: November 2014

## Introduction

This report provides an update on five of the six work streams being carried out under the auspices of the Waikato Mayoral Forum, which consists of the region's mayors and the chairperson of the Regional Council. There is no update on the Governance work stream this month.

## *Workstream: Roading*

### Governance

Mayors: Allan Sanson, Brian Hanna, John Tregidga.  
Executive Officer: Don McLeod.

### Purpose

This report provides an update to the Mayoral Forum on the progress of implementing the Centre of Excellence for Roading Asset Management in the Waikato (Road Asset Technical Accord – RATA).

### Progress

#### Multi-Parting Funding and Services Agreement

The Multi-Parting Funding and Services Agreement (MPFA) has now been signed by all participants, which includes all Councils in the region, with the exception of Taupo District. The MPFA is the document which commits each participant to financially supporting the establishment costs for RATA for years one and two. Following that commitment, each participant can then decide which projects to be involved in. The first significant project is for Regional Data Collection.

#### Regional Data Collection

Road condition data is used as an input to support efficient and effective road network asset management decisions. It is also one of the primary indicators used in network level maintenance programming, monitoring of network performance, management of term maintenance contracts, benchmarking among Road Controlling Authority (RCA) networks, and undertaking research or fatal crash investigations. Therefore, it is essential that the condition data is of a high standard.

Regional procurement of data collection services has been undertaken to achieve efficiencies in the collection of this data, including a consistent specification to enable meaningful benchmarking. Three contract areas have been tendered:

RATA 001 – Waikato District and Hamilton City

RATA 002 – Matamata Piako, Hauraki, Thames Coromandel and South Waikato Districts  
RATA 003 – Waipa, Otorohanga and Waitomo Districts.

Four tenders were received for each parcel of work. The tenders have been evaluated and the contracts are in the process of being awarded.

### Forward Works Programme

During July and August, RATA facilitated regional Forward Works Programme tours, to provide an opportunity for roading staff in the region to visit other local authority areas. Topics discussed included the decision-making processes used to develop forward works programmes, treatments used successfully (or unsuccessfully) in rehabilitation or resurfacing work, maintenance interventions, and the impact of the upcoming One Network Road Classification on each of the networks, which has the goal of improving consistency of delivery of levels of service to road users.

Further opportunities for efficiencies and learnings from the various best practice approaches currently in use were identified. One example is the different use of traffic services devices (such as road markings and edge marker posts) on roads which are generally of the same classification currently contributes to the perception of inconsistent levels of service on our networks.

An example of an opportunity worthy of further investigation is the practice of upgrading drainage facilities on a road section the year before a rehabilitation treatment is due which, in some instances, is delaying the need for the rehabilitation treatment. Local authorities with higher levels of investment in their drainage maintenance also appear to be achieving good outcomes on their network. A report on the tour will be prepared in November for distribution. A video of some of the road sections inspected during the tour was prepared, and this will be made available to all of the participants.

## *Workstream: Economic Development*

### **Governance**

Mayors/Chairperson: Paula Southgate, Julie Hardaker, David Trewavas, John Tregidga.  
Executive Officer: Langley Cavers.

### **Purpose**

To provide an update on a project to develop an implementation plan to give effect to the Waikato Economic Development Strategy (known as “Waikato Means Business”).

### **Background**

The Waikato Economic Strategy Governance Group received an update report in lieu of a meeting in September. Although the information available at that time was sufficient to complete a good proportion of the draft implementation plan, project plans for the actions were at different levels of completeness and were not detailed enough at that time to present to the Governance Group for adoption.

A brief assessment by Martin Jenkins of the status of project planning on the key actions associated with the strategic priorities considered that it would take those involved some additional work to complete all of the project plans for the Governance Group to consider at its next meeting.

At the Mayoral Forum meeting on 15 September 2014, the impact of a lack of internal capacity to complete this project was highlighted. The Regional Economic Strategy Executive Group has investigated what additional resource would be required to fill the internal capacity gap, to ensure that development of the Implementation Plan is completed in a timely manner.

The initial budget of \$23,000 was based on the assumption that council staff and business partners (e.g. Waikato Tourism) would develop the various draft actions plans for the five key Strategic Priorities. As this was not forthcoming, additional funding of \$15,000 has been approved to extend the contract with Martin Jenkins to complete this project.

### **Progress on Key Milestones**

The project plan information now available is largely sufficient to complete the draft Economic Development Strategy implementation plan. Although not necessary for the implementation plan, greater clarity about the resource (person and financial) implications would be desirable for some priorities in order to determine whether additional resources will be required and how those might be obtained.

Now that project planning is nearing completion, the economic strategy implementation plan can be drafted.

## Next Steps

Table 1 sets out the indicative tasks and timelines.

**Table 1. Indicative tasks and timelines**

<b>Task</b>	<b>Timeline</b>
Draft implementation plan	By mid November
Governance Group meeting to discuss draft implementation plan	By end November
Final implementation plan	Mid December
Governance Group to sign off by round robin	

## *Workstream: Regulatory Bylaws and Policies*

### **Governance**

Mayors/Chairperson: Allan Sanson, Neil Sinclair, Jan Barnes

Executive Officer: Craig Hobbs.

### **Purpose**

The purpose of the Regulatory Bylaws and Policy's work stream is to achieve greater consistency and quality in regulatory instruments across the Waikato and to create efficiencies by Councils working collaboratively to produce these documents.

### **Progress on Key Milestones**

#### *Regional Infrastructure Technical Specifications*

A proposal to proceed with scoping the work required to develop a Regional Infrastructure Technical Specification (RITS), with a budget of \$20,000 + GST, has been agreed to by the LASS Board. The objective of the RITS project is to develop a single regional guide and specifications for building public infrastructure. The scoping study will investigate the amount of resource required (staff time, cost, etc.) to deliver a RITS, by sampling aspects of a number of council's existing Infrastructure Technical Specifications to ascertain the amount of work required to develop a regional document.

#### *Consolidation of Policy Documents*

A proposal to consolidate councils' policy documents to reduce the number of policies and eliminate unused and out-of-date policies has also been approved. This Policy Consolidation process (which is in tandem with, but separate to, the RITS work) will be undertaken with a budget of \$26,000 + GST. It will ensure a consistent assessment across all TA's. It will also identify and assess common policies and bylaws and determine where the differences are and need to be. The goal will be to merge these policies into regionally-consistent base documents, with TA specific amendments as appropriate. (Note that this second phase of work is not included in Stage 1 of this project.)

## Workstream: Waters

### Governance

Mayors/Chairperson: Jim Mylchreest, Allan Sanson, Paula Southgate.  
Executive Officer: David Hall.

### Purpose

This workstream is progressing investigations into the benefits and challenges arising from a co-operative approach to the provision of water and wastewater utility activities. The current focus is on considering a business case which will analyse the merits of a regional centre of excellence for water activities and a structural alliance between Hamilton City, Waikato District and Waipa District Councils. This study will be funded by the three Councils.

### Progress

At the time of writing, each of the three councils that are considering moving to the next phase of this project (Hamilton, Waikato and Waipa) is considering reports and recommendations to progress to the next stage. If approved by all three councils, Stage 3 will involve investigating three options: boosting the existing shared service arrangements between all three councils; retaining the status quo, with each council running its own operations; or considering a ratepayer-owned and council-controlled water management company (CCO). If approved, a governance group involving elected councillors from each council would overview the study.

In total, \$650,000 has been budgeted for the study, with Waipa and Waikato District Councils contributing \$162,500 each and, if approved, Hamilton City Council paying the remaining \$325,000.

The work will be undertaken by an independent advisory firm, following a competitive process which attracted six bids. Results of the study will not be available until mid-2015.

The balance of the funds remaining in LASS (\$12,919) from the Stage 2 study will be distributed back to the contributing Councils as follows:

COUNCIL	REFUND (\$)
Hamilton	4,920
Hauraki	653
Matamata Piako	807
Otorohanga	173
South Waikato	596
Taupo	1,733
Thames Coromandel	1,670
Waikato	945
Waipa	1,247
Waitomo	173
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>12,919</b>

# *Workstream: Waikato Spatial Plan*

## **Governance**

Mayors/Chairperson: Paula Southgate, Julie Hardaker, Neil Sinclair, Jan Barnes.  
Executive Officer: Garry Dyet, Gavin Ion.

## **Purpose**

The Waikato Spatial Plan aims to be the collective voice for the Waikato Region on high priority issues, challenges and opportunities that affect the regional community. The Spatial Plan will:

- Set a strategic direction for the Waikato and its communities.
- Outline a high level development strategy that identifies settlement, infrastructure and service needs.
- Provide an evidential basis to support policy and investment decision making within the Waikato.
- Enable coherent and co-ordinated decision making by the local authorities, central Government and other parties to determine the future location and timing of critical infrastructure, services, and investment within the Waikato.
- Provide a basis for aligning the implementation plans, regulatory plans and funding programmes of local government and strategic partner agencies.

## **Progress**

This item is the subject of a separate report from the Project Manager.