

Report 14.254
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Committee Council
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Report on the Wellington Regional Strategy Committee meeting 13 May 2014

1. Purpose

To inform the Council about the meeting of the Wellington Regional Strategy Committee that took place on 13 May 2014.

2. Report

2.1 Grow Wellington's Draft Statement of Intent 2014/15

The Committee received Grow Wellington's Draft Statement of Intent (SOI) for the 2014/2015 financial year. Grow Wellington's three main focus areas for the draft SOI are:

- Growing businesses and strengthening sectors by connecting them with expertise and funding to help them innovate and export.
- Attracting business and talent by promoting the region as a great place to do business, work and invest.
- Boosting innovation and developing the workforce by connecting industry with researchers and trainers to develop the workforce to meet future needs.

The Committee noted that the activities that Grow Wellington performs should have measurable results for the economy. The Committee also noted the significant improvement in the performance of Grow Wellington over the last two years, and that it is now delivering to the Committees expectations.

2.2 Wellington Regional Economic Development Agency (WREDA) proposal

The Committee discussed the WREDA proposal which would bring together the funding, staff and delivery activities of Wellington City Council Events, Positively Wellington Tourism, Wellington Venues and Grow Wellington.

WREDA would be a Council Controlled Organisation jointly owned by Wellington City Council and Greater Wellington Regional Council.

The WREDA proposal is currently before territorial authorities who will be invited to agree to the proposal in principle. Greater Wellington Regional Council and Wellington City Council, as the shareholders of the existing affected Council Controlled Organisations, will also formally consider the proposal before undertaking community and stakeholder consultation.

2.3 Wairarapa Water Use Project update

Officers from the Wairarapa Water Use Project (WWUP) gave a presentation to the Committee. The Committee noted that WWUP is part of a broader context of integrated catchment management.

The Wellington Regional Strategy and WWUP are closely linked as a significant portion of the stored water will be used for farm irrigation. It is seen as a key economic development catalyst for the whole Wellington region as increased productive capacity will flow in to other aspects of the economy including investment and workforce growth.

WWUP is currently in the prefeasibility phase of investigations which is expected to take until June 2015 to complete.

2.4 Business Friendly Region Assessment

The Committee discussed the Business Friendly Councils Guidelines (the Guidelines) released in February 2014 by Local Government New Zealand. The Guidelines provide high level principles and a process to follow to assess council performance, as opposed to best practice guidelines to developing a business friendly culture.

An assessment of how the region measures up against the Guidelines will be included in the Wellington Regional Strategy Evaluation project currently underway.

3. Communication

No external communication is required.

4. The decision-making process and significance

No decision is being sought in this report.

5. Recommendations

That the Council:

- 1. Receives the report.*
- 2. Notes the content of the report.*

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Report approved by:

Fran Wilde
Chair