



Regional Economic Development Weekly Report

Week ending:	16 February 2018	Priority:	Medium
Security classification:	In Confidence	Tracking number:	2079 17-18

Recipient	Action sought
Hon Shane Jones Minister for Regional Economic Development	Note the contents of this Weekly Report
Fletcher Tabuteau Parliamentary Under-Secretary to the Minister for Regional Development	Note the contents of this Weekly Report

Stephanie Weller
RED Implementation Manager
Labour, Science and Enterprise

16/02/2018

Hon Shane Jones
Minister for Regional Economic Development

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Minister's comments:

Regional Economic Development Weekly Report

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Updates

Southern Waikato Economic Action Plan

Waikato Means Business is the Waikato region's economic development strategy which was launched in 2014. The Strategy's goal is to improve standards of living in the Waikato region, where all people, communities and business reach their potential.

Waikato has been working with central government since July 2016 on their regional economic development priorities. In the development of the Waikato Mean Business programme, there has been awareness that the current suite of actions will not fully support the potential of the distinctive sub-regional geographies of the Waikato region, specifically South Waikato. This sub-region has a declining population, high unemployment rates and low household incomes.

MBIE is contributing \$60,000 to develop a Southern Waikato Economic Action Plan. Both Regional Council and Southern Waikato District Council are contributing to the costs of the Action Plan development. The Request for Proposals for the Southern Waikato Economic Action Plan closed on 7 February 2018. Seven proposals were received. Evaluation meetings will occur on 19th and 26th February, after which a preferred supplier will be selected. We will notify you once a contractor has been appointed and the project is underway.

Contact Person:

Neasa Carroll

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Milford Opportunities Project

The Milford Opportunities Project is included in the Southland Regional Development Strategy – Action Plan, under the Tourism activity stream. The project was set up to manage growing visitor numbers in Milford, aiming to maintain a quality experience for visitors whilst protecting the natural asset.

It will look at the broader Milford experience (i.e. not just the activities in Milford Sound) and will provide an opportunity to create leveraging opportunities for Te Anau, Southland, and New Zealand Inc.

Understanding key issues such as the way people travel, how they determine their itineraries, what experience they are looking for, and visitor flows in and out of Milford will enable the project to maximise opportunities for tourism and economic growth for the region.

Work will include assessment of infrastructure needs, development of estimates for parking and accommodation projects, and preparation of an investor prospectus.

The project has a dedicated Governance Group including Southland Mayor Gary Tong, Queenstown Mayor Jim Boulton, Geoff Thomson, Richard Lauder, Aimee Kaio (Ngāi Tahu), Iain Cossar (MBIE), Bruce Parkes (Department of Conservation), Jim Harland (New Zealand Transport Agency) and Keith Turner as Independent Chair.

The Governance Group is visiting Milford via Queenstown and Te Anau on 15-16 February. The purpose of this trip is to undertake the Milford and wider experience in peak season to understand what the issues and opportunities are and hear first-hand from the group operators.

The Minister of Tourism recently met with Southland Mayor Gary Tong, the Mayor invited the Minister to accompany the Governance Group on this trip, but unfortunately was unavailable.

Officials will keep you updated on this project.

Contact Person:
Abby Cheeseman

Privacy of

Successful Kōkiri accelerator launch

The first Māori Accelerator programme Kōkiri began with an official pōwhiri at the Mangakotukutuku Te Wānanga o Aotearoa campus in Kirikiriroa (Hamilton) on 12 February 2018.

Ten Māori-led companies began a four month programme to help rapidly grow their business. The ten founder business owners, teams, whānau, sponsors, programme partners, regional business partners, mentors, MBIE and Callaghan Innovation representatives were welcomed by Te Wānanga o Aotearoa CEO Jim Mather and the Kōkiri programme delivery team.

Orator Paraone Gloyne, from Te Wānanga o Aotearoa, described how Māori have always been entrepreneurs and challenged the participating businesses to bring those characteristics out that their ancestors and Māori have always had.

The first two weeks of the programme are in residence for the participants at the Mangakōtutukutuku campus. The early focus is on the businesses establishing goals and expectations for their participation, and setting plans to meet them. The programme began immediately after the pōwhiri on Monday afternoon. As a first for an accelerator, participants will return to their rohe for most of each month, to enable them to maintain whānau and community ties.

The programme concludes on 14 June with a Demonstration Day where the ten businesses will pitch their businesses to investors and the business community. Ministers will be invited to attend.

Contact Person:
Hinemaua Rikirangi

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Media and Communications Schedule

Timing	Events and Announcements	Proposed activity
23 Feb 18	Launch of Provincial Growth Fund	Your office will be provided with communications material
19 Mar 18 – TBC	Opotiki Harbour Development project announcement	Your office will be provided with communications material
5 or 6 April 2018 - TBC	Taranaki Economic Action Plan launch	Your office will be provided with communications material
June 18 - TBC	Waikato Regional Economic Development Action Plan launch	Your office will be provided with communications material

Upcoming Regional Visits

Timing	Region	Proposed activity
23 February	Gisborne	PGF Launch
February	West Coast	TBC
MArch	Canterbury	TBC
April	Taranaki	Launch of the Economic Action Plan

Upcoming Briefings

Due Ministers Office	Title	Sign Out Manager
15 Feb 18	1984 17- 18 Taranaki Economic Actions Plan – Proposals for consideration	Stephanie Weller
15 Feb 18	2046 17-18 Meeting with Oceanagold Chair James Askew and CEO Michael Wilkes on Monday 19 February 2018	Stephanie Weller
16 Feb 18	Meeting with Chris Roberts from TIA	Stephanie Weller
20 Feb 18	Event Briefing on Gisborne PGF Launch	Stephanie Weller
20 Feb 18	Event Briefing for cocktail function hosted by Minister Jones (22 Feb)	Stephanie Weller
21 Feb 18	Ministerial Consultation - Budget 2018	Iain Southall

Ministerial Correspondence

Requestor's Name	Tracking number and Request	Due to Minister	Sign Out Manager
Privacy of [REDACTED]	SJ476	15 Feb 18	Stephanie Weller
Privacy of [REDACTED]	SJ419	16 Feb 18	Stephanie Weller
Privacy of natural [REDACTED]	SJ567	16 Feb 18	Stephanie Weller

Ministerial Official Information Act Requests

Requestor's Name	Tracking number and Request	Due to Minister	Due to Requestor	Status	Sign Out Manager
Privacy of [redacted] t l	SJ-OIA23 Information regarding list of papers received since 26 Oct 17	16 Feb 18		Response being formed	John Doorbar
Privacy of [redacted] t l	SJ OIA13 Request for copies of briefings, reports, memos, aide memoires	16 Feb 18		Response being formed	Iain Southall
Privacy of [redacted] f	SJ-OIA24 List of appointments made in your capacity as Minister for Regional Economic Development since 26 October 2017	21 Feb 18		Response being formed	John Doorbar

PROACTIVELY RELEASED