

Papakura Local Board feedback on the draft Waikato 2070 Growth and Economic Development Strategy

Background

On 13 November 2019 Waikato District Council published its draft growth and economic development strategy, *Waikato 2070*.

Submissions on the draft strategy close on 17 January 2020.

The draft strategy takes an integrated approach to planning for future growth in the Waikato district by addressing economic and community development focus areas together with future land use and infrastructure planning.

The draft strategy will help deliver on Waikato district's contribution to the region's Future Proof growth strategy and spatial plans developed through the Hamilton to Auckland Corridor Plan.

The strategy includes a development plan for each settlement in the district outlining the location of future growth areas and the indicative uses. The strategy also looks at development timeframes for each future growth area.

The Franklin and Papakura Local Boards have been invited to provide feedback on the proposed Plan.

Papakura Local Board feedback

The Papakura Local Board provides the following feedback on the draft growth and economic development strategy, *Waikato 2070*:

- a) Provision of transport infrastructure that links to the wider Auckland and Waikato networks is critical as growth occurs in Pokeno and Tuakau.
- b) Public transport links to the rail network needs to keep pace with growth, particularly in the Pokeno area. The motorway network is already significantly congested. Potentially there will be a need for dedicated bus lanes to link in with the Auckland commuter rail network and in the longer term train stations developed in the outlying townships. Cycling links should also be part of this network.
- c) In the longer term, the provision of an additional rail line may be required if rail freight volumes increase.
- d) Future open space and recreation infrastructure, including community facilities, must be planned for to benefit the communities of Pokeno and Tuakau.
- e) Planning for adequate water and waste water infrastructure also needs to be in place to support growth.
- f) The protection of high-class soils should be treasured.
- g) Planning for public transport needs to provide connectivity to main transport hubs.

- h) To avoid Pokeno and Tuakau becoming sleeper suburbs of Auckland, the strategy should speak to opportunities for social procurement to increase capabilities and employment opportunities for local people, in particular, the younger demographic.

For example, any large contract that the council has decision making power over would require the contractor to take on a certain number of young local people in roles, either as apprentices or with a view to a future leadership role, while paying living wage, with a view to long-term employment. That is, investing in growing people's capability to keep them in the region.



Brent Catchpole
Chairperson
Papakura Local Board



Jan Robinson
Deputy Chairperson
Papakura Local Board

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