

BAY OF CONNECTIONS Regional Growth Programme Summary Update #7 - Period ending April 2017

Toi Moana BOP Economic Action Plan Summary

In 2014 an independent study on the Bay of Plenty's economic opportunities was commissioned by MBIE and MPI, in partnership with the Bay of Connections.

The Toi Moana Bay of Plenty Regional Growth Study (RGS) identifies a range of short to mid-term opportunities (0-10 years) that could assist in increasing investment, employment, and incomes across the regions.

The RGS was launched by Ministers in May 2015 and an Economic Action Plan created in partnership with regional stakeholders, to identify how key opportunities can be realised, who is responsible and by when.

There are nine key areas for development, with individual action plans developed for each.

FORESTRY & WOOD PRODUCTS

PROGRESS HIGHLIGHTS On Target

- The bid to FIF for funding of the afforestation project has been submitted under a new company set up for the purpose. BOC did not provide a letter of support because the bid went to the fresh water fund and was "therefore not an economic development issue"
- FEA visit with MBIE looking at EWP processing opportunities

KEY PRIORITIES

- Co-funding sources must be found for the other 50% of funding required.

OPPORTUNITIES & ISSUES

- Sustainable farming fund is being explored with MPI and farming and Iwi are being canvassed.
- There is a large momentum building in national political circles for more trees to combat GHG emissions

MĀORI LAND UTILISATION

PROGRESS HIGHLIGHTS On Target

- Awaiting funding decision for 7 priority project proposals
- Discussion group started with 25 Māori dairy farmers following HMO supported Māori Dairy Forum held by DairyNZ (Oct 2016).
- Hort cluster is helping participants through collaboration including governance training and are considering involvement in blueberries
- Assisted entities to apply to central government funding

KEY PRIORITIES

- Finalise action stream refresh and integrate with other Action Streams
- Appoint new representative to replace Tiaki
- Progress cluster projects
- Initiate Stage 3 of Youth project
- Final draft of investment table
- Adopt MaoriCom strategy to better connect with Maori communities

OPPORTUNITIES & ISSUES

- Limited understanding & connection within & across the wider region. Developing relationships would result in greater collaboration between Govt agencies & sector leads
- Programme level funds criteria not clearly aligned with RGS Action Plans

AGRIBUSINESS

PROGRESS HIGHLIGHTS On Target

- Manaku Action Group (MAG) meeting held 4 May. Strong support for manuka trials in Rotorua, initiatives for skills development and mapping potential planting areas. MAG newsletter released following.
- Review of Agri-business actions undertaken.
- Further work undertaken to develop a business case for and land use support service.

KEY PRIORITIES

- Training provider meeting to explore BOP apiculture training programme.
- Further meeting with BOPRC on bee-keeper boundary rider bylaw.
- Facilitate industry support for the manuka trial in Rotorua.
- Project plan to map best BOP areas suited to manuka planting.
- Complete bus. case for the Land Use Support Service (LUS) proposal.

OPPORTUNITIES & ISSUES

- Test if the proposed LUS trail can increase productivity.
- Best practice leaders in key land use options identified - provide a valuable adjunct to the LUS.
- Support industry to develop apiculture skills training programme - removes a significant barrier to development of the manuka honey industry.

GEO THERMAL

PROGRESS HIGHLIGHTS On Target

- Industry delegation met with senior members of NZTE investment team to pitch value proposition of direct use geothermal.
- Subsequent meeting was held with NZTE reps to produce draft paper on how they can assist in identification and assessment of largest commercial opportunities for direct use in region. Paper outlines potential workstreams, responsibilities etc. and has been forwarded to the direct use industry group (DUG) for review and comment. A meeting will be held in June to provide feedback and agree a way forward.
- Start to Steam Workshop delivered at Ohinemutu Marae 23rd May.

KEY PRIORITIES

- Invited to present at the NZ Geothermal Association Seminar 27th June, Taupo. Andy Blair will present.
- Focus on opportunities with NZ Geothermal Workshop and Japan/NZ Geothermal (JOGMEC/GNS) to be held 20-24th November in Rotorua.

OPPORTUNITIES & ISSUES

- Invited to speak at Chilean Direct Use workshop in September.
- Resourcing remains a key issue.

VISITOR ECONOMY

PROGRESS HIGHLIGHTS On Target

- TRC Tourism are in the final stages of developing the Visitor Economy Strategy.

KEY PRIORITIES

- Release communications of outcome of work and potential next steps.
- Recommendations are framed around core pillars (Access, Amenity (includes Accommodation), Attractions and Awareness).

OPPORTUNITIES & ISSUES

- Present the key findings of the Visitor Economy Strategy

AQUACULTURE

PROGRESS HIGHLIGHTS On Target

- Harbour tenders closed on 17 March, followed by detailed evaluation process including reviews by expert advisers
- Development of Detailed Business Case for harbour on track
- WMOL continued to install additional lines, bringing total to 208

KEY PRIORITIES

- Recommendation of harbour tender outcomes to be considered
- Detailed Business Case preparation

OPPORTUNITIES & ISSUES

- Expansion of Opotiki developments are key to achieving regional aspiration of a \$250M industry by 2025
- Finfish activity parked until 2017 elections are held

EDUCATION & SKILLS

PROGRESS HIGHLIGHTS On Target

- Action plan refresh completed.
- Quarterly newsletter distributed to stakeholders.
- BOP regional labour market literature review/evidence base commissioned.

KEY PRIORITIES

- Workshop with BOP Tertiary Intentions Leadership Group and HMO/MLU regarding Maori education, training and employment planned for June 9th.
- Meeting with Economic Development Minister, Simon Bridges on 19th May.

HORTICULTURE

PROGRESS HIGHLIGHTS On Target

- Action plan refresh completed
- Te Tumu Paeroa/Quayside investment of \$30m to develop 90ha of Maori owned land in BOP/Gisborne announced.

KEY PRIORITIES

- Business case for Horticultural research institute to be finalised by end May for submission to MBIE Regional Research Institute initiative.



WATER

PROGRESS HIGHLIGHTS On Target

- Water Opportunities / Barriers : Application submitted to MPI(IAF) for funding, decision expected early June 2017.
- Rangitāiki Irrigation : Meeting held with Galatea Irrigation Society / MPI(IAF) on 22 June

KEY PRIORITIES

- Water Bottling : Engagement with Water Bottlers who are seeking expansion

OPPORTUNITIES & ISSUES

- Water Bottling (Issue) : Some potential water bottlers looking to expand and plan to submit a consent application soon, could gain some media attention
- Water Opportunities / Barriers (Opportunity) : If this progresses in June following IAF approval, good link between this work and NPSFM limit setting - synergies

UPCOMING EVENTS & MILESTONES

- Biosecurity workshop hosted by the Regional Aquaculture Organisation - 13 June
- 2017 annual Bay of Connections and Regional Growth Study Forum - 14 July

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Overall progress is self-assessed by Action Leads as being: On Target, Achieved, At Risk or Not Achieved.