

FAQs - Bay of Plenty Tertiary Intentions Strategy

What is the Tertiary Intentions Strategy about?

The Bay of Plenty Tertiary Intentions Strategy (TIS) has been established to define a collective vision, strategy and desired actions for tertiary education delivery in the region. It will identify the priorities for education and research provision within the region based on the current and future skill needs of industry, our unique regional characteristics and identified community needs.

It will propose how the region's tertiary providers, along with government agencies, economic development agencies, iwi, industry and community groups can work in partnership to ensure the region's research and education priorities are met.

Why do we need it?

There are a number of challenges facing the wider Bay of Plenty, for example changing demographics, lower than average incomes, unmet skills in key industries, identified opportunities for innovation etc, all of which are more easily addressed in a collaborative manner between central government, local agencies, tertiary providers and the community.

It also contributes to the government's National Tertiary Education Strategy, and has been designed to bring the national strategy to life and make it relevant to the Bay of Plenty region.

A collaborative effort is needed in order for the growth and development of the Bay of Plenty region to be successful. Broadening tertiary and regional collaboration will also have a significant community benefit.

Why is it focusing on education?

Developing a highly educated and skilled workforce aligned to regional needs, as well as providing for development and innovation within industry, are significant ways we can help grow the region.

Being able to encourage people to stay and study in the Bay of Plenty, and attracting those from outside the region to move and study here is one aspect; making sure there are jobs available for them once they are finished is the other critical factor and why a collaborative approach between the community, industry and education providers is essential.

What are the plan's objectives?

Key objectives include increasing tertiary education participation and attainment in the region, particularly for Māori; developing a highly educated and skilled workforce that is aligned to regional needs, and; facilitating research for sector development and innovation to help support overall economic growth and community development.

What is tertiary education?

Tertiary education refers to all post-secondary school education and training services including those offered by Universities, Polytechnics, Wānanga, Private Training Enterprises, and trades and industry training.

Who's behind the plan/who's running it?

It is a regional strategy led by local industry and local Government (Bay of Plenty Regional Council, SmartGrowth, Priority One, Grow Rotorua, Toi EDA and Taupo District Council), supported by the Bay of Plenty Tertiary Education Partnership (which includes Te Whare Wānanga o Awanuiārangi, Bay of Plenty Polytechnic, University of Waikato and Waiariki Institute of Technology).

The TIS is overseen by a reference group consisting of representatives from each sub-region and the relevant economic development agencies, the Tertiary Partnership, iwi and BayTrust; it is supported by a Project Team consisting of Greg Simmonds (Priority One), Shane Stuart (University of Waikato) and Neil Barns (independent education consultant).

Who can have a say?

Everyone is encouraged to contribute to the development of the TIS. The team developing the plan are seeking input from a broad cross-section of agencies, sectors and communities within the wider Bay of Plenty region, which will help inform the development of a draft plan, build on current strengths and ensure that the region's tertiary education and research offerings are aligned to the region's economic sectors and needs.

As well as an extensive stakeholder consultation process, there will be an opportunity for the wider community to comment on initial findings during July and August 2014.

What area does the plan cover?

The TIS incorporates the regions of Eastern and Western Bay of Plenty, Rotorua and Taupo, in order to ensure it encompasses the catchments of the Tertiary Education Partnership institutions, the economic development and spatial plan strategies of the sub-regions, and the regional economic development strategy, Bay of Connections.

What will the benefits be?

The collaborative approach taken will have a significant positive impact on local communities and key industry sectors within the region. Ensuring tertiary education and research provisions meet local needs is part of that collaborative strategy and the more people who contribute to the development of the TIS, the more successful it is likely to be.

How will the plan actually make a difference? What does it mean for the community?

Developing a highly educated and skilled workforce aligned to regional needs, as well as providing for development and innovation within industry, are significant ways we can help grow the region and its people.

Being able to offer education opportunities to people within the Bay of Plenty that cannot for some reason move away from the region, as well as attracting people to the region in order to study adds social and economic value. The other side of that is then being able to retain skilled people in the region after they have finished studying, which is why aligning education offerings with gaps and opportunities within the workforce and industry is essential.

When will all this happen? Timeline?

It is expected that a draft TIS will be developed by mid-July with public feedback sought during July/August. It is expected the TIS will be finalised in October/November 2014.