



**WHANGANUI
DISTRICT COUNCIL**
Te Kaunihera a Rohe o Whanganui

26 April 2019

MEMORANDUM FOR:

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Whanganui Rural Community Board

SUPPLEMENTARY AGENDA

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that there will be a meeting of the Whanganui Rural Community Board at:

3.30pm on Wednesday, 1 May 2019

in the Function Room, Heritage House, 136 St Hill Street, Whanganui.

10. Rural Enterprise Project Update

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Kym Fell
Chief Executive

Whanganui Rural Community Board – Terms of Reference

The Whanganui Rural Community Board is a body established by statute. Its responsibilities and powers are as delegated by the Whanganui District Council.

Purpose:

The role of the Whanganui Rural Community Board is to:

- Represent and act as an advocate for the interest of its community.
- Consider and report on all matters referred to it by the Whanganui District Council, or any matter of interest or concern to the Whanganui Rural Community Board.
- Maintain an overview of services provided by the Whanganui District Council within the community.
- Prepare an annual submission to the Whanganui District Council for expenditure and levels of service within the community.
- Prepare an annual submission to Horizons Regional Council for expenditure and levels of service within the District.
- Prepare submissions on Central Government legislation where there are implications for the rural community.
- Communicate with community organisations and special interest groups within the community.
- Undertake any other responsibilities that are delegated to it by the Whanganui District Council.

Whanganui Rural Community Board Membership

Mr David Matthews (Chairman), Messrs Grant Skilton (Deputy Chairman), Bill Ashworth, Michael Dick, Alistair Duff, David Wells, Ms Sandra Falkner, Cr Josh Chandulal-Mackay, and Cr Murray Cleveland.
Youth Councillor Representatives – Haris Khan and Sophie Archie.

10. Rural Enterprise Project Update

Significance of decision – In terms of the Significance and Engagement Policy 2018, the recommended decision is not significant.

Recommendation to Board

Proposed by Cr Chandulal-Mackay, seconded by David Wells:

- 10.1 THAT the update on the Whanganui/Rangitikei Land Use Optimisation project is received.

Mark Ward, Chief Executive, Whanganui & Partners, reports:

Executive Summary

The Whanganui/Rangitikei Land Use Optimisation Provincial Growth Fund (PGF) Express Application, submitted to PGF/ MBIE October 2018, was approved for funding with an intended start date of 1 November 2018, and a completion date of 28 February 2019. The project was late in commencement due to unseen circumstances.

The PGF Express Fund is intended to optimise land use in the Whanganui/Rangitikei Districts building on previous work to scope and socialise the advancement of floriculture and medicinal plants, which are intended to then progress to full PGF funding application for pilot studies.

The Express Funding is co-funded by Whanganui and Partners, Whanganui District Council, and the Rangitikei District Council.

Key Information

The Land Optimisation Project Management Plan (PMP) has been developed. The document is a complete overview of the project and is used to provide details on how the project is managed. It defines and store all key aspects and details about the project, including how and what will be delivered.

Key project control documentation includes the Control Log, which is being maintained. This is a dynamic document that maintains links to other documentation supporting the project, but primarily captures and manages risks, actions, and decisions that may or have the potential to hinder the processes of the project. A File Review has been completed that updates the current working group on previous scientific studies and reports provided to past working groups. The file review history identifies options that can be updated and those that can now be dismissed and has contributed to the Document Register, to sit

alongside the Control Log to enable the business group quick access to previous work, research, and development.

The development of a Project Outline provides a brief synopsis of the PMP above, providing a different lens for stakeholders, and other interested parties. It briefly discusses the purpose and issues, but primarily focuses on objectives, scope, and the deliverables.

Third Bearing was contacted in February 2019, to provide project management business services. Third Bearing has developed a Scoping and Socialisation Plan March, which focused on determining key stakeholders who are required to evaluate the commercial viability of optimising rural land use through higher horticulture in the Whanganui and Rangitikei districts. The goals identified were:

- 1) Determine potential pilot crops and locations.
- 2) Gain landowner and key stakeholder agreement and commitment
- 3) Build the necessary content and components to scope a pilot study.

The outcome of the scoping plan is to enable a full Provincial Growth Fund application to be submitted that will facilitate pilot studies and process through the business feasibility work.

An Initial Working Group has been formed and met on 29 March 2019. The purpose of this meeting was to bring the current Working Group up to date on the project, and determine the future direction of work required to meet the expected deliverables during the next eight to nine week period. The expected outcomes of the project were identified in three key areas:

- 1) The collation of data.
- 2) The development of a short-list from within the floriculture and medicinal lists.
- 3) Detailed scoping briefs for each dedicated area. With the aim of leading to full application funding for pilot studies.

The outcome of the meeting identified the following considerations:

- 1) Research transport logistics for export of crops.
- 2) Determine duration of trial for pilot crops to allow for annual climate changes.
- 3) The requirement for 'planting windows' to reflect their timeline is factored into funding applications.

Strategy Alignment

The Whanganui and Partners Land Optimisation Project aligns with the Vision and Mission Statements within the Statement of Intent by being a key project that will have a significant impact on the growth of the district by continuing to develop the overarching Rural Enterprise Project by identifying opportunities for new horticulture offerings plus value-add opportunities for existing producers.

The economic development created by the Land Use Optimisation project focuses on potential growth and prosperity for the Whanganui district, and addresses Te Pae Tawhiti, the strategy for Maori Economic Development across the region, contributing to the given goals of the strategy, and the priority of Ahuwhenua – land utilisation.