



EASTERN BAY OF PLENTY JOINT COMMITTEE

NOTICE IS GIVEN

that the next meeting of the **Eastern Bay of Plenty Joint Committee** will be held in the **Opotiki District Council Chambers, 108 St John Street, Opotiki** on

Wednesday, 2 December 2020, commencing at 1.00pm

Aileen Lawrie
Chief Executive Officer
Opotiki District Council

Membership

Chairperson:	Mayor Lyn Riesterer (Ōpōtiki District Council)
Deputy Chairperson:	Mayor Malcolm Campbell (Kawerau District Council)
Appointees:	Mayor Judy Turner, Deputy Mayor Andrew Iles (Whakatāne District Council); Mayor Malcolm Campbell, Deputy Mayor Faylene Tunui (Kawerau District Council); Mayor Lyn Riesterer, Councillor Steve Nelson (Ōpōtiki District Council); Councillor Bill Clark, Councillor Toi Kai Rakau Iti, Councillor Norm Bruning – Alternate (Bay of Plenty Regional Council)
Committee Advisor:	Gae Finlay (Ōpōtiki District Council)

AGENDA

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ITEM 03	UPDATES FROM WAKA KOTAHI (Cole O’Keefe, Lead Strategic Planner Waka Kotahi)	Papers to be tabled
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EASTERN BAY OF PLENTY JOINT COMMITTEE TERMS OF REERENCE

Membership

Chairperson Elected by the Joint Committee at its first meeting each Triennium	Mayor Lyn Riesterer
Deputy Chairperson	Mayor Malcolm Campbell
Members Two representatives from each: Bay of Plenty Regional Council Kawerau District Council Ōpōtiki District Council Whakatāne District Council	Cr Bill Clark Cr Toi Kai Rākau Iti Cr Norm Bruning (Alternate) Mayor Malcolm Campbell Deputy Mayor Faylene Tunui Mayor Lyn Riesterer Cr Steve Nelson Mayor Judy Turner Deputy Mayor Andrew Iles
Quorum	Four members, being half the number of members
Meeting frequency	Quarterly

Purpose

To form, explore and make recommendations for strategic collaborative initiatives between the partner councils of Bay of Plenty Regional Council (BOPRC), Kawerau District Council (KDC), Ōpōtiki District Council (ODC) and Whakatāne District Council (WDC) for responding to and managing a range of Eastern Bay of Plenty issues.

For the purposes of the Joint Committee, “Eastern Bay of Plenty” is defined as the Territorial Authority areas of Kawerau District Council, Ōpōtiki District Council and Whakatāne District Council.

Role

The Eastern Bay of Plenty Joint Committee is guided by the Terms of Reference and the Eastern Bay of Plenty Joint Committee Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) as agreed by the partner councils.

To make recommendations on the following:

Opportunities for joint collaboration on initiatives that support the needs of Eastern Bay of Plenty communities;

Coordination of and encouragement of beneficial interrelationships and connections between activities/services across the Eastern Bay of Plenty;

Mitigation of adverse cross boundary effects of decisions, planning and activities on other regions, cities and districts;

Resolution of differences and conflicts, and ensuring no surprises, where activities in one district may affect another;

Sharing of information, expertise, databases and research where there is a mutual interest and benefit;

Encouraging integration and consistency of planning across the Eastern Bay of Plenty;

Developing agreed positions as appropriate on matters of importance and major Government initiatives and, through each respective council, communicate these positions to Central Government and relevant national organisations;

Investigating opportunities for achieving cost efficiencies by sharing responsibilities and services;

Where appropriate and applicable, recommendations must be supported by cost-benefit analyses.

Joint Committee Procedures

Eastern Bay of Plenty Joint Committee is established under the Local Government Act 2002 (LGA) and is therefore obligated to the requirements of the LGA and the requirements of the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987 (LGOIMA).

A meeting is duly constituted if a quorum is present, whether or not all of the members are voting or entitled to vote.

Business may not be transacted at any meeting unless at least a quorum of members is present during the whole of the time at which the business is transacted.

The quorum at a meeting of EBOPJC is half of the members if the number of members (including vacancies) is even, or a majority of members if the number of members (including vacancies) is odd.

The members of the joint committee will engage with their respective councils on strategic issues under discussion and all councils will maintain their own operational inter-council relationships as normal.

The Chief Executive, or the Chief Executive's representative, of each partner Council shall attend meetings and will act as advisors to the Joint Committee.

Meetings will be coordinated and recorded by staff from the partner Council as scheduled by the Joint Committee.

Meetings may be attended by further staff support as considered appropriate by their Chief Executive.

External speakers and participants, including mayors from territorial authorities who are not parties to EBOPJC, with specific interests in the items under discussion, may be invited to attend meetings.

Meetings will be held at times and in places set out in an agreed schedule.

Any formal public communications from meetings will be approved by the Joint Committee prior to release.

The Chairperson and Deputy Chairperson shall be determined, on an annual basis, by the process as set out at clause 25 of Schedule 7 of the Local Government Act 2002.

Each Chairperson will have a term of one year.

A member cannot be appointed as the Chairperson, if either of the previous two Chairpersons were representatives of that member's constituent Council.

Decisions on recommendations of the Committee shall be made in accordance with Clause 24 of Schedule 7 of the Local Government Act 2002 – by vote of majority of members that are present and voting.

The Chairperson will have a deliberative vote.

In the case of equality of votes, the Chairperson does not have a casting vote and the status quo is preserved.

A Deputy Chair shall be determined by the process as set out at clause 25 of Schedule 7 of the Local Government Act 2002.

The Deputy Chair shall act in the absence of the Chairperson.

If a Chairperson resigns from their position before the end of their term, the Deputy Chair shall take their place and will serve out the remainder of the term as Chairperson.

If a Chairperson resigns and the Deputy Chair becomes Chairperson, cl 25 Schedule 7, LGA 2002 does not apply.

Nothing in this Terms of Reference precludes the Joint Committee from appointing an independent Chairperson.

If an independent Chairperson is appointed, they will also be appointed as a member and will continue to be a member until the end of their term.

Power to Act

To make all decisions necessary to fulfil the role of the Joint Committee subject to the limitations imposed.

Each Council participating in a joint initiative will fund its own proportion of that joint initiative as determined by the Joint Committee.

Power to Recommend

Eastern Bay of Plenty Joint Committee is a joint committee of councils that make recommendations to the constituent councils.

PUBLIC FORUM

Public Forums are a defined period of time, usually at the start of a meeting, which, at the discretion of a meeting, is put aside for the purpose of public input. Public Forums are designed to enable members of the public to bring matters, not necessarily on the meeting's agenda, to the attention of the local authority.

Time Limits

A period of up to 30 minutes, or such longer time as the meeting may determine, will be available for the Public Forum at each scheduled meeting. Requests must be made to the Chief Executive (or their delegate) at least one clear day before the meeting; however this requirement may be waived by the Chairperson. Requests should also outline the matters that will be addressed by the speaker(s).

Speakers can speak for up to 5 minutes. No more than two speakers can speak on behalf of an organisation during a Public Forum. Where the number of speakers presenting in the Public Forum exceeds six in total, the Chairperson has discretion to restrict the speaking time permitted for all presenters.

Restrictions

The Chairperson has the discretion to decline to hear a speaker or to terminate a presentation at any time where:

- A speaker is repeating views presented by an earlier speaker at the same Public Forum;
- The speaker is criticising elected members and/or staff;
- The speaker is being repetitious, disrespectful or offensive;
- The speaker has previously spoken on the same issue;
- The matter is subject to legal proceedings; and
- The matter is subject to a hearing, including the hearing of submissions where the local authority or committee sits in a quasi-judicial capacity.

Questions at Public Forums

At the conclusion of the presentation, with the permission of the Chairperson, elected members may ask questions of speakers. Questions are to be confined to obtaining information or clarification on matters raised by a speaker.

No Resolutions

Following the Public Forum no debate or decisions will be made at the meeting on issues raised during the forum unless related to items already on the agenda.

Minutes - Eastern Bay of Plenty Joint Committee Tuesday, 22 September 2020

 <p>BAY OF PLENTY REGIONAL COUNCIL TOI MOANA</p> <p>KAWERAU TREASURE OF THE LAND DISTRICT COUNCIL</p> <p>Opotiki District Council STRONG COMMUNITY STRONG FUTURE</p> <p>WHAKATANE District Council Kia Whakatane au i ahau</p>	Details of Meeting:	EASTERN BAY OF PLENTY JOINT COMMITTEE MEETING HELD IN THE ŌPŌTIKI DISTRICT COUNCIL CHAMBERS, COMMENCING AT 1.00PM
	Present:	Mayor Lyn Riesterer – Chairperson and Councillor Steve Nelson (Ōpōtiki District Council), Mayor Malcolm Campbell – Deputy Chair and Deputy Mayor Faylene Tunui (Kawerau District Council, Deputy Mayor Andrew Iles (Whakatāne District Council, Councillors Bill Clark and Toi Kai Rakau Iti (Bay of Plenty Regional Council)
	In Attendance:	<u>Ōpōtiki District Council</u> – Aileen Lawrie, CEO; Gerard McCormack, Planning and Regulatory Manager; Councillors Barry Howe and David Moore; Gae Finlay, Executive Assistant & Governance Support Officer <u>Kawerau District Council</u> – Russell George, CEO <u>Whakatāne District Council</u> – David Bewley, General Manager Planning and Infrastructure <u>Bay of Plenty Regional Council</u> – Fiona McTavish, CEO; Jane Nees, Deputy Chair; Councillor Stacey Rose (all via Zoom)
	Visitors:	Ian Morton and Karl Gradon (General Managers, Toi-EDA); Simon Appleton (Eastern Bridge Ltd); Cole O’Keefe (Lead Strategic Planner, Waka Kotahi) via Zoom
	Media:	Charlotte Jones (Local Democracy Reporter, Whakatāne Beacon)
	Apology:	Mayor Judy Turner (Whakatāne District Council)

The Chairperson welcomed everyone to the meeting.

APOLOGY

Mayor Judy Turner

RESOLVED:

THAT the apology of: Mayor Judy Turner be accepted.

Iles/Clark

CARRIED

PUBLIC FORUM

Nil.

1 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES – EASTERN BAY OF PLENTY JOINT COMMITTEE MEETING 17 MARCH 2020

Refer to pages 8-17 of the agenda.

RESOLVED

That the Eastern Bay of Plenty Joint Committee:

- 1. Receives the minutes of the Eastern Bay of Plenty Joint Committee meeting held on 17 March 2020.**

Clark/Iles

CARRIED

2 URBAN FORM & TRANSPORT INITIATIVE AND WAKA KOTAHI UPDATE

Refer to pages 9-25 of the agenda.

A Safe Network Programme Update was tabled.

Cole O’Keefe joined the meeting via Zoom.

Mayor Campbell acknowledged Councillor Bill Clark’s tireless engagement with the Kawerau community, adding that it is essential that route security is maintained – road safety is paramount.

Due to technical difficulties experienced with the presentation from Cole O’Keefe via Zoom, it was agreed that he will attend the next Joint Committee meeting in person.

Barbara MacLennan entered the meeting at 1.30pm

3 ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT UPDATE – EASTERN BAY OF PLENTY

Refer to pages 26-31 of the agenda.

Copies of the September 2020 Toi-EDA Panui were tabled.

Workforce

Barbara MacLennan advised that rangitahi and those under the age of 30 in the Eastern Bay are the most affected by unemployment and Covid displacement.

Work has commenced with the schools – meeting with principals, briefing staff and then meeting with students. This approach is widening principals’ and students’ eyes around the opportunities which exist.

Barbara MacLennan expressed her enthusiasm for the idea of Local Government and educators engaging around jobs, careers and workforce going forward.

Karl Gradon and Ian Morton spoke to the report, and with the aid of a powerpoint presentation, noted the following:

- Ongoing conversations with the Ministry of Social Development (MSD)
- When projects come to an end in mid-November, 70 people will go back on to MSD’s books
- Sector Update – boat building; forestry; civil construction; primary production; dairy
- Communications – engaging more via the Toi-EDA Panui; setting up a Facebook page; targeted the Bay Business News; talking to Council comms staff and time releases in sync; and reaching out to a number of Toi’s economic development peers
- Housing
- Digital connectivity
- Whakatāne Airport – struggling at present; important that as leaders in the community that we support the Airport.
- Partnerships with other organisations.

The Chairperson stated that some interim information, especially around housing and connectivity would be useful, as it is a long time between Joint Committee meetings.

Mayor Campbell stated that Toi-EDA has gone ahead in leaps and bounds in the last two to three years and can work with all of the Councils.

Deputy Mayor Andrew Iles endorsed Mayor Campbell’s comments regarding Toi-EDA and commended the work done by Ian Morton and Karl Gradon.

RESOLVED

THAT the Eastern Bay of Plenty Joint Committee:

- 1. Receives the report Economic Development Update – Eastern Bay of Plenty.**

Campbell/Iles

CARRIED

Councillor Barry Howe left the meeting at 2.10pm.

Councillor David Moore left the meeting at 2.14pm

Aileen Lawrie left the meeting at 2.17pm.

Deputy Mayor Andrew Iles left the meeting at 2.21pm and returned at 2.25pm.

Russell George left the meeting at 2.25pm and returned at 2.27pm.

Barbara MacLennan left the meeting at 2.30pm.

4 JIANGXI UPDATE AND MANAGEMENT

Refer to pages 32-36 of the agenda.

The Chairperson noted that it is Chinese Language Week. She made mention of a set of children's books which have been written by a local author and, as well as English text, the books have the text in Māori and Chinese. The Chairperson suggested that it might be a nice idea to send the books to Jiangxi District and the Eastern Bay Centre in Nanchang City.

Simon Appleton spoke to the report, noting that China is in recovery mode from Covid-19, with isolated outbreaks occurring. The Chinese Central, Provincial and Local Governments have established a very large stimulus fund, similar to our PGF funding, and Jiangxi will benefit from this fund. The Chinese national holidays commence today and Jiangxi, being a large tourist destination, will also benefit due to there currently being no overseas travel.

Updates highlighted by Simon Appleton were:

- Severe flooding in Jiangxi in July
- A major upgrade to the Jiangxi Airport to accommodate international flights
- The Jiangxi Eco-Industrial Park Project – Jiangxi is positioning itself as a conduit between two major economic areas
- The Bay of Plenty Centre which will not be particularly active until out of Covid.

In response to a query from the Chair, Simon Appleton said art works, photos etc., which depict the Eastern Bay area could be sent to Jiangxi. Pictures can be sent digitally and produced in Jiangxi.

Eastern Bay Jiangxi Centre

The proposed Jiangxi Centre in the Eastern Bay would be a reciprocal facility, and stand alone. Some of the things they would like to include are high end accommodation, a restaurant, a tea house, kilns to learn about porcelain, and a small training centre. The proposed budget is in the tens of millions of dollars.

Overseas Experience Programme

In relation to the Overseas Experience Programme, the Jiangxi Government would provide the funding and applicants would like in Jiangxi with a stipend. In exchange, they would go into public schools and assist the local English language teachers. This programme will not come to fruition until post Covid.

Bay of Plenty Foreign Language Portal

Simon Appleton advised that a new version of the Hongi information portal is now available in English, Chinese, Japanese, Korean, Vietnamese and Russian. Local Government New Zealand will be promoting the portal from November this year.

Mayoral Zoom Meetings

Simon Appleton extended thanks to the Mayors for the Zoom meetings and the video greetings.

Simon Appleton suggested that it would be advantageous to connect the Economic Development staff in each Council with their Jiangxi counterparts.

Jiangxi Scholarship

Jiangxi will fund 100 students to come to New Zealand post Covid.

Solar Farm Project

Simon Appleton advised that there is a huge disconnect between reality on the ground in China and in New Zealand.

Jiangxi TV and Film Bay of Plenty

Jiangxi will fund 60% of a television production with Film Bay of Plenty

Invitation to Next Meeting

Professor Paul Clark, Director of the Centre of Asia-Pacific Excellence (CAPE), will be invited to present to the next meeting of the Joint Committee.

The Chairperson suggested that a joint letter be issued to confirm that Simon Appleton is working on behalf of the Joint Committee. She asked the Bay of Plenty Regional Councillors to have a discussion with their Chair and CE around whether the Regional Council is in the Joint Committee.

Councillor Iti noted that the Joint Committee is in alignment with all of the Regional Council’s Economic Development strategies.

Following some technical issues, Fiona McTavish was back on the screen and confirmed that the Bay of Plenty Regional Council is in the Joint Committee.

Simon Appleton gave an overview of the recommendations in the report, with some explanation as to why he was requesting clarity around Eastern Bridge’s role and authority. With regard to a title for his role, Simon Appleton asked that this be Director of International Relations to align with his Chinese counterpart’s title.

RESOLVED

THAT the Eastern Bay of Plenty Joint Committee:

- 1. Receives the report Jiangxi Update and Management.**
- 2. Eastern Bridge CEO, Simon Appleton, be provided with an official job title for his role when managing the Eastern Bay of Plenty – Jiangxi relationship.**
- 3. The Joint Committee consider Simon’s request to engage in other revenue-generating activities which support the development of the Eastern Bay of Plenty – Jiangxi relationship.**
- 4. Eastern Bridge is sent media releases, Council updates and public notices which can be re-published bilingually on the Hongi information portal.**
- 5. One Mayoral level Zoom meeting takes place with Jiangxi counterparts during the next three months.**
- 6. Eastern Bridge is invited back to provide another update in three months’ time.**

Campbell/Iti

CARRIED

THE MEETING FINISHED AT 3.21PM

Confirmed this _____ day of _____ 2020.
Mayor Lyn Riesterer CHAIRPERSON



Subject: **EASTERN BAY OF PLENTY – JIANGXI UPDATE REPORT**

To: **EASTERN BAY OF PLENTY JOINT COMMITTEE**

Meeting Date: **2 DECEMBER 2020**

Written by: **SIMON APPLETON, INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS MANAGER**

File Reference:

1 PURPOSE OF THIS REPORT

The purpose of this report is to provide an update on the Eastern Bay of Plenty – Jiangxi provincial relationship.

2 BACKGROUND

The Eastern Bay of Plenty-Jiangxi provincial relationship was established in 2019 to promote economic and community co-operation between the two areas.

The scope and direction are outlined by the Eastern Bay of Plenty International Relations Strategy and the MOU agreement signed by both parties. Eastern Bridge manages the relationship.

3 RELEVANCE TO EASTERN BAY OF PLENTY

The Eastern Bay of Plenty-Jiangxi relationship is an enabler for local economic and community development.

Initiatives under development as part of the relationship include:

- Hongi Information Portal to introduce the region to Jiangxi partners
- A high school summer holiday programme for Jiangxi students to visit the Eastern Bay of Plenty
- A reciprocal high school student scholarship programme
- An internship programme
- The Bay of Plenty Centre located in Nanchang
- A feasibility study into a Jiangxi Centre located in the Eastern Bay of Plenty

- A Jiangxi experience programme for high school graduates.

Other developments which have been discussed are:

- A solar farm for the East Cape
- A co-television production between Film Bay of Plenty and Jiangxi TV
- Business delegation for local exporters
- An investor delegation to the Eastern Bay of Plenty.

Sadly, due to Covid-19 almost all initiatives have been suspended until February 2021.

4 DISCUSSION

News from Jiangxi Province (Sep-Nov 2020)

- Jiujiang commenced operations of the provinces largest container port. The 'smart port' uses 5G plus AR technologies to improve efficiency.
- Vice-Premier Han visited Nanchang on an inspection tour and to encourage innovation and green development. Jiangxi is becoming a leader in Virtual Reality (VR) technology and has attracted major VR companies into multiple specialist industrial parks across the province.
- China's first domestically developed regional jet was manufactured in Jiangxi. The province is positioning its self to be the country's leading manufacturer of planes. The company which manufactured the plan already produces smaller aircraft but is aiming for an international market with the newest regional jets
- Last month the Jiangxi government launched the International Ceramic Fair. For the first time, the annual event took place both on and offline – with virtual demonstrations and presentations hosted by Alibaba.
- During 'Singles Day', China's equivalent to 'Black Friday', Jiangxi cities including Yingtan saw the highest per capita consumption rate, 2.5 times that of Shanghai and Beijing. The rapid increase in purchasing is an indicator of the provinces economic development over the past year. Last year the Provincial government announced that it had ended poverty in the province.
- Yingtan is about to start construction of a \$636m USA inland port. The port will have 19 cargo berths linking to the coast via domestic waterways and inland via rail links. The port will also benefit the cities timber industry, which it is aiming to move up the value chain from log and timber processing to encouraging more manufacturing of high-value wood products.
- Beijing University, regarded as the leading university in China, will establish a campus in Fuzhou city, Jiangxi. The campus will focus on humanities.

- Fuzhou's British sister city, Stratford-upon-Avon will establish a town within Fuzhou. The town, which is due for completion in 2022, will recreate the aesthetic of Shakespeare's home. The town will incorporate residential, commercial and cultural precincts.
- Unofficially the province has been struggling to control outbreaks of Covid-19. Cities and districts across the province have been going in and out of localised lockdowns.

Eastern Bridge Update

The past three months have been slow. We have maintained ongoing communication with the Jiangxi Government and the cities of Yingtan, Fuzhou and Xinyu via the Bay of Plenty Centre in Nanchang City.

The Government is still eager to progress the projects identified in the Jiangxi-Bay of Plenty work-plan; however, have said it is unlikely there will be much progress until after the Chinese New Year (February 2021).

Jiangxi Normal University has asked for assistance in recruiting foreign teachers to start work in March 2021. We are unsure if border restrictions will have eased by then.

Hongi Update

Eastern Bridge has been working on the Hongi information portal. The Eastern Bay of Plenty section is now live. We have worked with many stakeholders to understand their needs. A demonstration of the portal will be provided at the Joint Committee meeting.

Any business, school or organisation can have a free listing within the portal. Premium paid options, including mini-sites, are available.

North Asia CAPE (Centre of Asia Pacific Excellence)

Paul Clark, director of the CAPE will introduce his organisation and how the EBOP can work with them to add value to the EBOP - Jiangxi relationship.

5 OPTIONS

Eastern Bridge welcomes feedback on the Hongi portal. Feedback can be provided in this meeting or via email: simon@easternbridge.co.nz

6 CONCLUSION

While Covid-19 has slowed progress in developing EBOP-Jiangxi projects, work is still ongoing preparing for 2021.

7 RECOMMENDATION

1. **THAT** the Eastern Bay of Plenty – Jiangxi Update Report be received.

Report Authorisation

Report writer:	Simon Appleton	International Relations Manager
Final Approval:	Aileen Lawrie	CEO, ODC



Subject: **ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT UPDATE – EASTERN BAY OF PLENTY**

To: **EASTERN BAY OF PLENTY JOINT COMMITTEE**

Meeting Date: **WEDNESDAY, 2 DECEMBER 2020**

Written by: **IAN MORTON & KARL GRADON, TOI-EDA GENERAL MANAGERS**

File Reference: **A222125**

1 PURPOSE OF THIS REPORT

The purpose of this document is to provide an update on key Economic Development activities in the Eastern Bay of Plenty (EBOP).

2 BACKGROUND

Over 2019 / 2020 over \$241m of Provincial Growth Funding (PGF) has been awarded for the Eastern Bay of Plenty. In addition to this Government funding there is a significant amount of private investment to enable these opportunities to proceed. This will result in up to 2327 direct jobs and 1466 indirect jobs by 2030.

Since Covid-19 level 4 lockdown, the EBOP population has increased with whanau coming home and also people looking to move out of the cities. This is great news for the economy, however it will put pressure on some of those identified constraints such as housing, transport and some of the wider infrastructure in our region (e.g. 3 waters etc).

There was a significant amount of concern raised, with economic forecasts for the EBOP showing significant job losses, however as a region we have been extremely lucky with our primary industries performing well, coupled with a strong domestic tourism market.

Covid-19 funding was provided to both Ōpōtiki District Council and Whakatāne District Council, this resulted in securing over 300 jobs over a 6 month period (May – Nov 2020) which has really helped the civil construction sector, tree service industry (e.g. Arborists), amongst others. This has resulted in

some significant local improvements to roads / pathways and removal of pest plants, however this has put local councils under pressure to deliver this on top of an already stretched workforce.

Over the last two years, under the mandate of the Mayors, iwi chairs and local politicians Toi-EDA have been working alongside councils and other partners on how best to deliver this growth across the EBOP. This has resulted in strong partnership which saw us support each other during PGF, Whakaari and Covid-19.

Toi-EDA refreshed its own strategy in September 2019, and this remains the core focus, the strategy focuses on three key pillars:

1. Winning brand for EBOP.
2. Economic Development.
3. Thriving communities.

3 RELEVANCE TO EASTERN BAY OF PLENTY

This Economic Development report is purely focussed on the EBOP, although we will explain how we are engaging with the wider BOP.

4 DISCUSSION

Since our last presentation to the EBOP JC in September 2020, we would like to provide an update on each of our three key pillars, with specific updates around three priority projects (1) Housing, (2) Workforce, and our Driver & Operator Training Centre, (3) Digital connectivity.

4.1 Winning Brand

The objective of this strategy is to change the existing narrative about the EBOP to a more genuine and positive story about our region. Despite the many positive things happening in our region, the Brand image and reputation for the EBOP is still not appropriately strong to create hope and to attract and retain talent, investment and other resources. An update on the actions carried out since we last met is captured below:

In September 2020 we sent out our second Toi-EDA Panui. This was sent out to 930 stakeholders / businesses across the EBOP. This was opened 353 times, approx. 40% of recipients – which is a great result. We will send this out regularly, with the next one due out in December 2020. We are also

undertaking a “brand survey” in November that will measure the perception of Toi EDA and how we are tracking against last year’s results.

Several press releases, radio interviews and media statements have been made, all with the intent to create a sense of hope and confidence in the region. The highlighting of the strong consumer spending, the success of the Discover Our Local campaign, the resilience of the primary sectors, and the reality of the challenges and opportunities facing the forestry and pulp and paper sectors. This is an important part of the Winning Brand strategy so people see this as an attractive place to live and invest.

In October 2020, the Toi EDA approved the annual audited accounts for 2019/20 and also the draft annual report 2019/20. Hard copies of this document will be provided to all key partners and we will leverage this information to support our refreshed Toi-EDA website. Hardcopies of this Annual Report will be provided to the EBOP Joint Committee members at the meeting.

4.2 Sustainable Economic Development

Please find below an update on how some of our key sectors are managing during this uncertain economic period:

- Civil Construction: A further civil construction meeting was held on 22 October. Toi-EDA facilitated this session, which was very well attended and the feedback was positive! The work volume was seen as really good up until May 2021 – there are some concerns beyond this with lack of visibility of a work pipeline. It was noted over the last 2-3 months this sector has recruited approximately 35-40 people, leveraging the Covid-19 funding and some using the Government apprenticeship schemes – this is great news for this sector!
- Forestry: Feedback from forestry operators in October 20 was that things are back on track for the lumber export sector – which is great. However, the long term prospects of some of the downstream processing infrastructure is under pressure due to multiple market dynamics, such as the continued reduction in demand for newsprint – as seen with the recent strategic review announcement by Norske Skogg. Toi-EDA is actively looking into the possibly ramifications of this, and other, announcements and has provided a briefing to the incoming ministers on the topic. Toi-EDA see this as a significant risk to the economy as all three large pulp mills are largely interdependent.
- Retail Sector: Marketview data has been received for both Whakatāne and Ōpōtiki. This is showing strong spend in the sub-regions, with it being approx. 7% ahead of last year’s spend. This is great to see and shows the impact of the buying local campaign, domestic tourism market impact of our region and people spending money on home improvements. Toi-EDA and the Chamber hosted the Infometrics team in Whakatāne and this was well attended.

- Primary production: Another strong result from both the kiwifruit and dairy sectors, with an increase in dairy pay-out announced at the start of October. Kiwifruit remains very buoyant with strong demand in the face of Covid-19. The competitive tension between dairy and kiwifruit land use options is seeing significant conversion to kiwifruit despite the high dairy payout.
- Boat building: The market appears to have begun its recovery, with one boat builder claiming to have a full order book and now constrained by staff once again. The Marine Training School has been formalised and will begin operations out of the Extreme Boats yard while the purpose built facility is under construction on the new Boat Harbour.
- Tourism: Accommodation and hospitality spend in the region remains strong, and anecdotally the accommodation providers are at high capacity versus previous years as the PGF projects and domestic tourism has kept up the demand post-COVID.

We **continue to seek funding through ministries for Toi-EDA to prepare the pipeline of projects** that are happening in the EBOP, this is to enable workforce decisions to be made, and also to provide certainty to our business communities. Generally all ministries we talk to are supportive, however we have not been able to secure funding to date.

The **Regional Growth Leadership Group (RGLG)** was originally set up to prepare a cohesive EBOP picture, so that we could target funding for the Provincial Growth Fund (PGF) for the EBOP. Currently we have secured \$242M of Government funding from the PGF.

A strategic refresh proposal has been submitted by David Cunliffe to examine “what’s next” for the region. This scope is currently being finalised and will identify where the next economic development activities across the region should take place given the current PGF projects and their implications. The new Government policy will also be considered as part of this.

4.3 Thriving Communities - Workforce

The **LinkUp Programme** (funded through Todd Foundation and the Bay of Plenty Education Trust) is ending the year with four active YEP Licence to Work sites, and graduate certificates are being ordered weekly. The programme is hugely adaptable, and has been integrated into cadetship training at SLH Contracting in Kawerau, Rangiatea Teen parent Unit and Trident High School in Whakatāne, and into the initial programme for Manawa Tu Kia Whai Oranga - Ngāti Manawa’s new Work for Life Centre.

As reported last meeting our guidance to the orientation of Trades Academy Programmes has impacted on new well targeted programmes for industry. Andrew reports below on the first “cab off the rank” happening right now, and we look forward to hearing about take-up for the 2021 offerings including Class 1 Driver Licencing, alloy boat building, additional construction and infrastructure, and Primary Industries programmes.

We have also launched some new resources for school and industry-led pilots to pilot new initiatives in work exposure and work exploration, and share learning. It’s imperative that Eastern Bay rangatahi learn much more about the world of work, and local and regional job and career opportunities open to them, while still at school.

We’ve been active in the **Workforce Information** space to make sure Councils and workforce stakeholders keep abreast of respective local Job Seeker numbers, especially paying attention to highly affected groupings such as rangatahi, who always fare worst in recessions – and the impacts are longstanding. And our August trades and training funding information sessions and subsequent follow-ups have resulted in Eastern Bay businesses accessing newly released resources, taking on more locals into apprenticeships and development roles, and growing Māori businesses.

Our **Class 1 Driver Licencing** investments now include support to schools and kura in Kawerau and particularly Ōpōtiki Districts due to the persistently poor road safety stats. 2021 will see some new locally-led pilots and additions to existing programmes.

The Ōpōtiki Community Driver Mentoring Programme, about to enter its fifth year, has enabled nearly 200 Learner Drivers to achieve their Restricted Licence, and now supports people to their Full Licence. Bay of Plenty Regional Council’s contribution of ex fleet vehicles has been pivotal in this partnership success which to date has included contributions from ODC, Toi-EDA (Todd Foundation funding), the Eastern Bay Road Safety Committee and the original funder, NZTA. Eastbay REAP is contracted to deliver the programme.

4.4 Thriving Communities – Workforce – Driver & Operator Training Centre

At the Driver and Operator Training Centre, the two long courses being run by Axiom (NZ Certificate in Commercial Transport, Heavy Vehicle Operations) have completed their classroom and practical work. Students are now in the work placement component of the course. One of the students has already secured a permanent role as a Class 5 Driver with Pedersen Group. The Operations Manager from Pedersens approached DOTC to see whether we had any suitable graduates as he had previously hired an Axiom graduate who had performed really well for them. Three names were put forward for the role to compete with applications from their wider advertising campaign. The successful student has

completed three courses with DOTC and has diligently followed the pathway from Distribution, through Commercial Transport, and then on to Heavy Vehicle Operations.

Toi Ohomai has another four weeks left on the current Distribution course and students will be encouraged to find work or enrol on further training.

Recruitment is underway for Semester 1/2021 courses.

We have been working with several community groups and have seen ten rangatahi from Ōpōtiki complete four industry certifications, and work experience. Currently, 12 students from Trident, being led by Axiom are studying toward their Class 1 licence and are using DOTC as their base. A community Class 2 course has been arranged with Axiom and will run from DOTC in early December.

Vertical Horizonz are working closely with MSD and Corrections and have scheduled several forklift courses for these clients across October / November.

It is great to see that after 15 months of operation, the centre is getting recognised in the community and we are being approached from businesses for both training and employment opportunities.

4.5 Thriving Communities - Housing

We facilitated the first sub-regional hui in August 2020, with iwi, councils, Kāinga Ora, MSD and other stakeholders. From this we agreed four key workstreams:

1. Long term master plan based on supply / demand and community needs.
2. Immediate supply of housing to meet the crisis.
3. Immediate quality of housing resolution.
4. Long term financing strategy for Maori land owners.

The second hui brought the Kāinga Ora team back to the region and they will be deploying resources locally in the Bay. The BNZ presented on their Māori land financing initiatives, and Kāinga Maha presented on the process that they used to develop the Stockyards in Ōpōtiki into social housing. Kainga Ora have committed funding to support this mahi & we are working closely to come up with a set of deliverables for this year.

4.6 Thriving Communities – Digital Connectivity

Following Covid19 we pulled together a group of representatives from local iwi, DHB, social service providers, police, industry, and education. Three workstreams were agreed:

1. Connectivity (having access to reliable internet) – Led by Toi-EDA
2. Affordability (to pay for internet access) – Led by Te Aka Toitu, and
3. Devices and Training – Led by REAP.

We now have a plan to address connectivity in the EBOP, leveraging existing fibre networks into schools. A report is being finalised, which can be used to seek central Government funding for the rollout of this funding, this will be available in December 2020 / January 2021.

5 FUNDING

In 2020/21 Toi-EDA received the following funding from councils:

- Whakatāne District Council \$211,000 (includes an additional \$90,000 for 2020/21)
- Ōpōtiki District Council \$46,000 (includes \$15,000 as in-kind admin support)
- Kawerau District council \$25,000
- Bay of Plenty District Council \$20,000 (includes an additional \$10,000 for 2020/21)

Toi-EDA also receives in kind support from Councils as follows:

- Kawerau District Council provides their CFO to prepare all the financial reports (estimated to be approx. \$20,000)
- Bay of Plenty Regional Council provides offices (estimated to be approx. \$15,000).

It should be noted that Toi-EDA receive philanthropy funding, this enables us to look at systems level reform such as driver licencing, and fund a significant part of our workforce strategy, however we cannot use this funding for individual project support.

Also Toi-EDA has funding from MBIE to run a Driver Operator Training Centre, this focusses on upskilling of NEETS (and others) to provide them with qualifications, allowing them to fully participate in the workforce.

Further work on potential funding models for Toi EDA is underway currently

6 CONCLUSION

There is a significant amount of work required to support delivery of existing investment in economic development in the EBOP, alongside identified constraints. This can only be achieved leveraging strong partnerships and appropriate funding.

7 RECOMMENDATION

1. THAT the **Economic Development Update – Eastern Bay of Plenty** report be received.

Report Authorisation

Report writer:	Ian Morton & Karl Gradon	GMs – Toi-EDA
Final Approval:	Aileen Lawrie	CEO - ODC

ITEM 07

CHAIRPERSON AND DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON FOR 2021

A new Chairperson is appointed each year to the Committee. The Deputy Chairperson usually takes on this role and a new Deputy Chairperson is appointed from a different Council on a rotational basis.

RECOMMENDATION:

THAT Mayor Malcolm Campbell be appointed as Chairperson of the Eastern Bay of Plenty Joint Committee for 2021 and Mayor Judy Turner be appointed as Deputy Chairperson.