

04 September 2000

“Growing and *Sustaining*
a **Prosperous** Economy
in the Wellington Region”

Howard Stone
Chief Executive
Wellington Regional Council
PO Box 11646
WELLINGTON

Dear Howard

RE: START UP GROUP REPORT

Thank you for your attendance at the report back function on Tuesday night. I trust that you were happy with the way everything went. It is clear that there is significant private sector support for this initiative.

Attached is a copy of the final report, along with the brochure which was distributed on the night. I would ask that this report be placed before your Council for consideration of its commitment to regional economic development, and its funding support. If you would like representation from the Start Up Group at the meeting at which this item is considered, please contact either myself on 021-525-524, or Clare Hadley on 570-6920.

The establishment budget for the regional agency is set out on page 35 of the report. This assumes that Upper Hutt will participate, and they will be invited so to do. Whilst the Regional Council is unable to directly fund economic development activities, I would ask that your Council consider its position. Previously you have indicated that your council is able to fund research, and there will be considerable research to be done by this agency, both pre- and post- projects. As well as confirming funding support, your council should also consider your representative for the trust, as set out on page 32.

I have asked Clare to follow up with your office to confirm when your council will discuss this item. I am hopeful that all councils will have confirmed their involvement by end October, so that we can push on. Any delay will only prejudice the support of the many parties whose support we will need, as well as cost us opportunities with central government.

If there is any way in which we can assist you in progressing this with your councillors, please do not hesitate to contact us. I have enjoyed the project thus far and trust we can make this vision of a regional economic development agency a reality.

Yours sincerely

Francis Small