

Report 17.202  
Date 30 May 2017  
File CCAB-8-1166

Committee Council  
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## **Report on the Wellington Regional Strategy Committee meeting of 30 May 2017**

### **1. Purpose**

To inform Council of the Wellington Regional Strategy Committee meeting of 30 May 2017.

### **2. Reports**

#### **2.1 Wellington Regional Economic Development Agency third quarter report**

David Perks, General Manager Venues and Project Development, WREDA, presented a review of the Wellington Regional Economic Development Agency third quarter report to the Committee.

The following highlights of the report were discussed:

- Economic development - commercialisation of innovation, investment mechanisms for growth, attracting business and talent to the region, and education and workforce development were discussed.
- Tourism and marketing – visitor numbers and commercial guest nights were impacted by the November earthquake, a poor summer and a trend across New Zealand of lower domestic visitation. However, visitor numbers are now showing signs of improvement.
- Major events - a strong event program for the quarter attracted large audiences with high percentages of out of region visitation with an estimated contribution to the Wellington economy of \$21.5 million.
- Outlook - major events planned for the fourth quarter include the Lions tour, Hurricanes' games, the Lux Light Festival and the Jazz Festival. Winter tourist marketing programme for Wellington is commencing.

## **2.2 Wellington Regional Economic Development Agency final Statement of Intent**

The Committee received the final Statement of Intent for the Wellington Regional Economic Development Agency. David Perks, General Manager Venues and Project Development, WREDA, updated the Committee on the final Statement of Intent.

The Committee considered WREDA's draft Statement of Intent at its meeting on 30 March. As a result of that meeting the Committee sent a letter to WREDA outlining the matters they wanted addressed in the final Statement of Intent.

The key matters were:

- Increasing job attraction targets
- Further development of Major Events
- International Student Programme going forward
- Expansion of Creative HQs activities
- Specific actions in a number of areas.

The comments raised in the Committee's letter have largely been responded to in the final Statement of Intent. In particular:

- Targets and performance measures have been made more ambitious
- Creative HQ's activities have been expanded and their performance metrics are now more meaningful
- More specific actions have been outline in the areas targeted
- Additional information as requested is provided.

## **2.3 Projects update**

Samantha Seath, updated the Committee on two projects undertaken by the Wellington Regional Strategy Office; the Creative and Digital Sector and Tech Week '17.

Workshops will be held in early June with the creative sector, government and academia to discuss understanding the creative industries in Wellington; what is happening now to bring together organisations in Wellington; building a fusion infrastructure; and positioning and promotion with the creative sector.

Techweek is an annual week of curated events that aims to build New Zealand's reputation as an innovation hub. It was held on 6 - 14 May with over 50 events in Wellington involving local and international investors, business and technology leaders, and enthusiasts.

## **2.4 Items not on the agenda for discussion**

The Committee discussed two items that were not on the agenda for the meeting, and agreed to:

- instruct WREDA as the lead agency in consultation with the WRS Office to investigate options for a regional indoor arena and report back to the Committee in August 2017.
- hold a workshop in August 2017, led by the Wellington Regional Strategy Office and external speakers, to discuss key regional pressures and opportunities.

## **3. Consideration of climate change**

The matters addressed in this report are of a procedural nature, and there is no need to conduct a climate change assessment.

## **4. The decision-making process and significance**

No decision is being sought in this report.

### **4.1 Engagement**

Engagement on this matter is unnecessary.

## **5. Recommendations**

*That the Council:*

1. *Receives the report.*
2. *Notes the content of the report.*

Report prepared by:

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