



Report 09.772
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Committee Council
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Report on the Wellington Regional Strategy Committee meeting held on 3 December 2009

1. Purpose

To inform Council about the meeting of the Wellington Regional Strategy Committee that took place on 3 December 2009.

2. Significance of the decision

The matters for decision in this report **do not** trigger the significance policy of the Council or otherwise trigger section 76(3)(b) of the Local Government Act 2002.

3. Report

3.1 Health Education and Research Collaborative Centre (HERCC)

Laurence Greig, General Manager Centres of Excellence, Grow Wellington outlined the HERCC project to the committee. The HERCC is the first initiative under the “Centres of Excellence” programme to get underway. The Centres of Excellence programme is a primary instrument of the regional growth strategy, leveraging regional strengths to assist in the growth of our exports.

Laurence told the committee the HERCC is aimed at Delivering excellence in health through:

- simulation-based education and training,
- research and clinical trials, and
- commercialisation and collaboration using proven Grow Wellington incubation models.

A Deloitte assessment of the project estimates the HERCC will realise \$741m net commercialisation revenues over 10 years, assuming \$7.2 capital investment over the next 2 years.

The HERCC project has been facilitated by Grow Wellington, with active support and involvement of the Capital & Coast and Hutt Valley District Health Boards. The HERCC has a number of private sector partners. Two of the HERCC partners spoke to the committee.

Jeff Todd, of Im-Able and Trinity Bioactives, talked about the medical devices his companies are developing. He said the value of the HERCC for him is the interface it offers between clinicians and scientists, enabling trials to validate innovations. This will support the ultimate commercialisation of his companies' work.

Professor Richard Beasley, of Capital and Coast District Health Board, Victoria University and the Medical Research Institute, talked to the committee about the research and education aspects of the HERCC.

Laurence concluded his presentation by telling the committee that the HERCC project had progressed more quickly than anticipated and that they were very optimistic it would deliver major benefits for the region.

3.2 WRS Office update

Melanie Thornton, WRS Project Leader, updated the committee on the various WRS projects currently underway. Projects highlighted included the broadband work, the genuine progress index reporting and the WRS Summit which was held at the end of October.

The report sparked a debate amongst committee members about the work of the committee itself and whether it was operating as effectively as it could be. The committee agreed to revisit this issue in early 2010.

3.3 Industrial Land Project update

Melanie Thornton updated the committee on the work underway to assess industrial land needs in the region.

A stocktake of existing industrial land has been completed. Work will now focus on determining future needs and the planning controls that might be needed to preserve industrial land to support future demands.

3.4 Retirement of Catherine Savage from WRS Committee

Ms Catherine Savage is one of 5 non-local government appointees to the committee. She is due to retire from the committee in January 2010 and this was her final meeting. She was first appointed to the Interim WRS Committee at its inception in 2006 and then reappointed to the Committee when it was confirmed as a permanent Greater Wellington committee in January 2008.

The committee thanked Catherine for her contribution to the committee. They agreed on a process to replace her, with the Chair noting that consideration should be given to gender in this process (the other 4 non-local government appointees are men).

4. Recommendations

That the Council:

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

Report prepared by:

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Chair, Greater Wellington

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Attachment 1: Unconfirmed Public Minutes