

Confirmed Public minutes of the Wellington Regional Strategy Committee meeting on 8 September 2020

All members participating by Zoom at 1.00pm.

Members Present

Mayor Foster (Chair)	Wellington City Council
Mayor Barry (Deputy Chair)	Hutt City Council
Mayor Baker	Porirua City Council
Councillor Calvert (until 1.55pm)	Wellington City Council
Councillor Condie (until 2pm)	Wellington City Council
Deputy Mayor Free	Wellington City Council
Mayor Guppy	Upper Hutt City Council
Mayor Gurunathan (until 2.07pm)	Kāpiti Coast District Council
Mayor Lang	Wairarapa Councils
Councillor Lee	Greater Wellington Regional Council

Public Business

1 Apologies

Moved: Mayor Foster / Mayor Baker

That the Committee accepts the apology for absence from Mayor Patterson.

The motion was **carried**.

2 Declarations of conflicts of interest

There were no declarations of conflict of interest.

3 Public participation

There was no public participation.

4 Confirmation of the Public minutes of the Wellington Regional Strategy Committee meeting on 9 June 2020

Moved: Mayor Barry / Mayor Gurunathan

That the Committee confirms the Public minutes of the Wellington Regional Strategy Committee meeting on 9 June 2020 – Report 20.200.

The motion was **carried**.

5 COVID-19 economic impact (Oral Item)

Jake Gilmer, Senior Strategic Advisor, spoke to the Committee on the effects of COVID-19 regarding the economic impact on New Zealand and the Wellington region.

Population in the Wellington Region is expected to grow almost 9% in the next 10 years, with growth rates higher in some places than others, and it is likely there will be increasingly diverse range in age demographics.

Migration estimates for New Zealand during March 2020 compared with March 2019 was a net gain of migrants; however, many visitors to New Zealand, travelling on a range of visa types, have been unable to depart.

In the March 2020 quarter, New Zealand economy was down by 1.6 percent, service industries down 1.1 percent, primary industries down 1.0 percent, goods-producing industries down 2.7 percent, GDP per capita down 2.2 percent, real gross disposable national income down 1.6 percent. The annual GDP growth in the year to March 2020 was up by 1.5 percent.

Overall, it is expected the economy will experience a severe hit from the COVID-19 pandemic. Once several government supports are removed from September onwards, including the wage subsidy extension and the mortgage repayment holiday, it is expected that a more sobering picture of economic activity will emerge as businesses are left to stand on their own. The consequences are likely to be many challenges ahead for all communities and people throughout New Zealand and the Wellington region.

In every crisis, including COVID-19 there are new opportunities, from shared recovery thinking to new ways of working. It is already known that new opportunities are emerging from skilled New Zealanders' returning to New Zealand's primary product export demand growth.


6 Wellington Regional Economic Development Agency (WREDA) – Oral Report

The Committee was informed of the impact of COVID-19 related to the Wellington Region economy. The report focussed on a number of resident based activities, including consumer spends throughout the region, comparative cell phone connections within Wellington Central Business District between August 2019 and August 2020, tourism visitor spend and hotel occupancy. It also addressed jobs available on SEEK as at September 2020, comparative jobs filled June 2019 and June 2020, and job seekers in March 2020 and August 2020. Businesses were supported and funded across the Wellington Region through the COVID-19 alert levels from March to June 2020 and since July 2020 were itemised for each geographical area and included highlights of creative assistance workshops, achievements and major upcoming events. Three key areas that will benefit from Ministry of Business Innovation and Employment funding for tourism

and visitors are 'Delivery of a Destination Management Plan, Tourism operator capability building and Domestic marketing'. The tourism sector has seen a mix of domestic leisure visitors, especially at weekends over the winter.

Councillor Calvert left the meeting at 1.55pm, Councillor Condie at 2pm, and Mayor Gurnathan at 2.07pm, during the above item and did not return to the meeting.

The public part of the meeting closed at 2.15pm



Mayor Foster
Chair

24 Nov 2020

Date:

