

[Date]

Mr Mark Binns
Chair
Crown Infrastructure Partners
Address etc

Dear Mark

We the undersigned, representing some of the most significant businesses in the Western Bay of Plenty (WBOP) region, are writing to express our unequivocal support for the package of investment proposals being submitted to Crown Infrastructure Partners by Tauranga City Council, and the Urban Growth Transformation package submitted to MHUD through the SmartGrowth regional partnership.

We understand that the SmartGrowth package also has the support of Tauranga City Council, the Western Bay of Plenty District Council and the Bay of Plenty Regional Council.

Our proposed approach draws on thinking developed jointly with central Government, led by the New Zealand Transport Agency, through the Urban Form and Transport Initiative (UFTI), which seeks to guide our region towards a more multi-modal transport system and intensified urban design.

The projects contained in our proposal will provide enormous stimulus to the economy of the Bay of Plenty region and beyond. Most are either shovel ready now or in the immediate future.

The counterfactual impact on investment in our region is very serious. Modelling done by Tauranga City Council indicates a revenue loss in 2021 resulting from the recession of \$53-77m effectively halving the city's capital works programme due to impacts on borrowing limits as well as direct revenue sources, with an estimated direct impact of up to \$200 million in 2020/21 alone, excluding multipliers.

By addressing critical constraints in transport, port access, three waters and other network infrastructure, our programmes will release additional value and create multiplier effects that will be even more important as the economy moves through recession and into recovery. Examples include:

- The Eastern Corridor, including interchanges off the Tauranga Eastern Link, Te Tumu infrastructure and Te Puke development. This helps unlock industrial and residential land to the east.
- The Hewletts / Totara / Hull corridor, which would see major improvement to transport capacity in this area supporting future growth of the Port of Tauranga, which handles 43% of New Zealand's exports, and surrounding businesses and exporters.
- The Western Corridor, with reorganisation of roading to unlock residential and industrial land vital to accommodate Tauranga's rapid population growth, and to provide better links to the strategic Upper North Island transport nexus.
- Intensification of the Te Papa peninsular to provide better housing and transport outcomes, better enabling affordability and access to work / key services.

Infrastructure investment in these areas would have the following benefits for businesses and the economy:

- Allowing commercial / industrial land to be opened along key strategic corridors. This is needed to accommodate growth in the eastern sectors of greater Tauranga, to support the

forecast expansion in horticulture and to leverage the Government's strategic investment in the Upper North island "golden triangle".

- Improving business productivity through expanding the flow of freight to / from the Port of Tauranga, creating a multiplier effect.
- Enabling new residential development to accommodate a massive housing shortfall and spiralling unaffordability. Affordable housing is our key future constraint for talent. As you may be aware, future housing developments are being carefully managed to link to upgrades in public and multi-modal transport.
- Encouraging additional investment from the private sector (please note the accompanying letter from developers).
- The inclusion of community facility projects related to key growth sectors and development of education / skills in our community is thoroughly endorsed and noted to be important in delivering strong economic outcomes.

In summary, our local government leaders are focused on the eastern and western corridors together with intensification of existing areas, that will unlock thousands of houses and jobs and enable the Western Bay of Plenty to flourish over the next several decades. That will require investment in three waters infrastructure, transport networks and community facilities, as well as the state highway and rail routes to the port, which will be critical to New Zealand's recovery.

Mark, we know that Crown Infrastructure Partners will have a range of proposals before it from all regions of the country. This Western Bay of Plenty package has the advantage of drawing upon extensive planning work already in motion, so it is:

- At scale
- Shovel ready
- Well researched and documented
- Economically and strategically significant.

This package provides confidence to businesses and households, which is key to mitigating secondary effects of the immediate Covid-19 crisis.

By addressing key pre-existing infrastructure bottlenecks, it will better fit one of New Zealand's highest potential regions for a more productive future.

As business leaders in the Western Bay of Plenty region, we want you to be clear that these Tauranga City Council and SmartGrowth proposals have our full support.

Thank you for your consideration of this letter. We eagerly await your deliberations.

Yours sincerely

Signed on behalf of
Port of Tauranga



Signed on behalf of
Zespri International Ltd

Signed on behalf of
Trustpower Ltd



Signed on behalf of
Ballance Agri-Nutrients Ltd



Signed on behalf of
Winstone Wallboards Ltd



Signed on behalf of
The University of Waikato



Signed on behalf of
Toi Ohomai Institute of Technology

