

# COLLABORATION BAY OF PLENTY (CoBoP)

## Update and Greetings from the Steering Group

### July 2011

#### Nga mihi mahana

Welcome to our mid-year Update. CoBoP activity continues to grow in the face of the economic environment and continued restructuring. The value of strong relationships, networks and information flows across and between central and local government in the Bay of Plenty is clearly evident. You can read more about what is happening below.

Last Update we mentioned the impact of the earthquakes in Christchurch, particularly on people there, but also on many of our organisations which sent staff to help, or who assisted evacuees. Continuing earthquakes there and throughout the country, along with an upward trend of challenging weather events bring sharp focus to the uncertain context within which we work and plan. The continuing recession, and its impacts on the drivers of crime, poor health and increasing inequalities, are being sharply felt across the region.

The strength and resilience of local and regional infrastructure both for the present and in the future is a vital focus CoBoP. Strong social and physical capital and infrastructure provide a steady platform for local and regional development, and a valuable safety net in unstable times. A well-connected public service with high levels of capability and willingness to collaborate is one cornerstone of the region's potential.

## 1. Developments in the local and central government “landscape”

### New Local Government Act and Ten Year Plans

Councils have stepped through their first Annual Plan round under new legislation. Councils' duties with respect to “community outcomes” no longer require responsibility to facilitate other contributions, but focus only on Council's contributions to priorities indicated by local communities.

All Councils in the region are preparing draft Ten Year Plans which will be out for consultation early next year. These Plans set the framework for activity for the coming decade, and the focus of expenditure for the first three years of that period.

### Developments in the central government landscape

"We are in an environment where Government and public expectations about the quality of service delivery is rising and the medium to long term financial forecast is one of restraint." IAIN RENNIE, State Services Commissioner

The role of the State Services Commission is to provide leadership to the State Services so that government works better for New Zealanders. The impact of its role is measured against three key objectives – ensuring the State Services are well led and trusted by the public and that the public management system delivers results at a lower cost. Read more in the SSC Statement of Intentions 2011-2014- <http://www.ssc.govt.nz/soi2011>

Recent announcements about restructures and further redundancies in many central government agencies will continue to have flow-on effects at a regional level. Collaboration and regionalised

approaches within the context of “doing more for less” are being actively pursued by some sectors. Examples of this in the region’s health sector will be profiled at the upcoming Social Wellbeing Cluster meeting.

## CoBoP Signatories – comings and goings

Welcome to Ken Paterson who has commenced as Tauranga City Council Chief Executive, and a warm acknowledgement to Christine Jones who has been acting CE since last September

A warm welcome also to Mary-Anne MacLeod, new Chief Executive, Bay of Plenty Regional Council (and noting our support to Bill Bayfield who commenced his new role as Chief Executive Environment Canterbury – literally amid earthquakes- in mid June.)

## 2. CoBoP Cluster Updates

### Social Wellbeing Cluster

Chair Mike Bryant, MSD Regional Commissioner  
Co-Chair Cathy Cooney – CE Lakes DHB

The Cluster is actively using five themes to guide its business and discussion, and interest and activity are escalating:

- Knowing the context for social wellbeing in the BoP including Cluster familiarity with trends, current and emerging issues, policy changes, research
- Working with other Clusters, including knowledge of focus areas of other Clusters, and initiating cross-cluster work. A cross-cluster focus exploring potential synergies between environmental and social issues is under planning.
- Supporting community-led planning and development - focuses on seeking and sharing information about locally led place based initiatives around complex issues and fostering local and central government involvement and support. Western Bay of Plenty District Council is leading a Project inviting CoBoP signatory agency interest around Maketu’s Community Plan. <http://www.westernbay.govt.nz/Council/Community-Boards/Subpage11/A-20-Year-Plan/>
- Promoting and celebrating good practice collaboration - sharing good practice and learning new approaches to working together – better and faster.
- Seeding, or adding value to Cluster initiated projects - identifying gaps or opportunities and progressing action through appropriate agencies and leadership

*Cluster participation is strong, with representatives from fourteen central government agencies and six local government agencies regularly participating in meetings.*

### Economic Wellbeing Cluster

Chair Lionel Crawley, Regional Manager NZTE

Leveraging the Bay of Connections Regional Economic Development Strategy (<http://www.bayofconnections.com/>) continues as the primary focus for this Cluster. Progress includes:

- Facilitation of discussion/thinking leading to the creation of two Iwi focussed business representatives on the Bay of Connections Governance Group (see the CoBoP Cameo below)
- Delight that all major Tertiary Education organisations active in the Bay of Plenty are now meeting together, through a mechanism initiated through the Cluster. These meetings are leading to “joined up” thinking and projects, including the potential to trial a multi-agency summer intern programme, with a focus on some Bay of Connections strategic priorities.

- Continual updating of CoBoP agencies on progress of Forestry, Aquaculture, Energy and Supply Chain and Logistics strategies, which enables forward thinking eg around implications for agencies – eg implications for workforce planning
- Information and innovation around BoP RWC 2011 opportunities

*The Cluster involves representatives from Bay of Connections, four councils and seven central government agencies.*

**“Cameo” from the Economic Cluster – CoBoP helping to ‘join the dots’**

CoBoP’s focus on Maori and economic development has helped create dedicated positions focussed on Iwi development at the governance level of Bay of Connections (BOC). The Cluster had taken a keen interest in the Waiariki Maori Asset Base work supported by Te Puni Kokiri and undertaken by BERL.

As Miles McConway, Group Manager Technology and Economic Development, BoP Regional Council explains

*At the CoBoP table it was clear that the BERL report demonstrated an enormous Maori asset and business base with huge potential for further development. At the same time, but unconnected, was a strong commitment to Maori economic development in the regional BOC strategy.*

*Through discussion at the CoBoP Economic Cluster we initiated some new thinking about the approach Bay of Connections could take, and the potential acceleration of impact by ‘joining the dots’. We facilitated wider discussion around this possibility and it has resulted in two additional positions being established at the governance level of Bay of Connections for business representatives that have significant connections with Iwi in the Bay of Plenty and a good knowledge of the Māori asset and business base.*

**Cultural Wellbeing Cluster**

Chair Wally Tangohau, Regional Manager TPK

This Cluster continues to attract growing interest.

Recent meetings have focussed on

- Healthy Homes – a presentation by Energy Options about the impact on lifestyles, work and education outcomes of warm and healthy living environments; and the opportunity for Cluster members to help encourage funding to leverage subsidy money available to the region, eg through Iwi and Land Trusts. To date the subsidy approach has depended on people “putting their hand up”, so home insulation subsidy coverage in the Bay of Plenty is very “patchy”.
- Department of Corrections – new policies and drive around reducing reoffending, and in particular the new emphasis on rehabilitation and reintegration of people who have served time in prisons. This depends on preparing both the prisoners, eg for emerging work opportunities, and the whanau and communities they will be released into.
- Presentations have also been made on Whanau Ora and Community Response Model approaches.

*Cultural Cluster participation includes representation from nine central and six local government agencies.*

**Community Outcomes Processes Cluster** Chair Jason Pilkington, Bay of Plenty Regional Council

Following changes to the Local Government Act, the purposes of this Cluster have been reviewed and it has been agreed that COP Cluster continues for the foreseeable future primarily as an information sharing forum during planning for the upcoming 2012-2022 Long Term Plan processes, with local government likely to be more involved than central government representatives in the earlier stages of these processes.

Anne O'Malley, who had held the role of Chairing the Cluster on behalf of local government CEs in the region, has stepped aside from the role due to a new work focus, and has been warmly acknowledged by the Steering Group for her years of leadership within this Cluster.

*C O Processes Cluster participation includes representation from all councils and from several central government agencies, with others on an as-required basis.*

### 3. Keeping connected with others in the region

CoBoP Chair Diane Turner recently briefed the Triennial BoP meeting about CoBoP activity and progress. We'll also have another discussion with BayTrust about common interests and agendas this year.

### 4. 2011-2014 Strategic Planning

The Steering Group has almost completed drafting a new Strategic Plan drawing on Signatory input over the past year, and looking forward three years.

### 5. Some useful insights to approaching the complex issues we are working with:

This approach emphasises the value of identifying the critical trigger points that are worth focussing on to created systemic change.

[http://www.ted.com/talks/eric\\_berlow\\_how\\_complexity\\_leads\\_to\\_simplicity.html](http://www.ted.com/talks/eric_berlow_how_complexity_leads_to_simplicity.html)

### CoBoP Steering Group

Diane Turner, CE Whakatane District Council (Chair)

Rob Williams, CE Taupo District Council

Miles McConway, Director Technology and Economic Development, BoP Regional Council

Henry Weston, DOC Regional Conservator

Lionel Crawley, Regional manager New Zealand Trade and Enterprise

Mike Bryant, Regional Commissioner Ministry of Social Development

Wally Tangohau, Regional Manager Te Puni Kokiri

Barbara MacLennan, Strategic Broker

[www.cobop.govt.nz](http://www.cobop.govt.nz)

