

# COMMUNITY OUTCOMES BAY OF PLENTY (COBoP) UPDATE FROM THE STEERING GROUP: September 2010

Ngā mihi nui ki a koutou katoa. Welcome to our September update.

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## 1. Thoughts from Stephen Town, departing COBoP Chairperson

Two years ago when I took on the role of Chair, we had as a Network reviewed our focus and reshaped our way of working together. On reflection this was excellent preparation for subsequent developments. As a result we are on the brink of some exciting possibilities for multi-sectoral work in the region, as well as being more closely connected with Wellington.

Central Government wants the public service to “do better” and these expectations exist equally for local government. In these circumstances it’s tempting to hunker down and potentially narrow your focus. “Doing better” in a constrained environment means collaborating smartly and drawing on the resources of the Network through being connected and having strong enduring relationships.

During the past year COBoP has made excellent progress in advancing the economic and social transformation opportunities in the Bay of Plenty. This has been achieved through the efforts of an enthusiastic Economic Wellbeing Cluster leadership and membership, as well as through regular visits to Wellington by the Chair and Strategic Broker.

The Network enables faster response and less churn in sorting out who needs to be at the table to advance big ideas and projects in a collaborative way within the Region.

The Bay of Plenty has nurtured some significant opportunities (see section 4 below) over the last twelve months.

I wish Diane Turner, new COBoP Chair, every success in this new leadership role. The future for our network looks very exciting.

## 2. Date Reminder for COBoP Signatories - Plenary Meeting

### FRIDAY 8<sup>th</sup> OCTOBER

Venue: Rotorua District Council

- Plenary Group meeting – 9:30 am to 1:00pm
- Lunch - 1:00 - 1:30pm
- **Economic Wellbeing Cluster meeting** – 1:30 to 3:30pm

### 3. COBoP CLUSTER ACTIVITY and upcoming dates

COBoP Cluster participation is open to staff of COBoP signatory agencies as approved by their own Chief Executive or Regional Manager. Agency representatives are given log-in access to the member-only section of the COBoP website, where Plenary and Cluster meeting agendas, minutes and papers are stored. It is expected that representatives to all COBoP meetings are also actively networking information within their own agencies.

**The Cultural Wellbeing Cluster** is now active and met again in August. Chaired by Wally Tangohau (Te Puni Kokiri), the Cluster includes representation from two Councils and eight government agencies.

At this meeting progress included:

- Updates on Whanau Ora implementation in the region, and progress on Community Response Model planning
- An update on progress on Treaty Settlements across the Bay of Plenty
- Distribution of available statistical information about Maori in both Waiariki and Te Moana a Toi rohe
- Discussion about how the Cluster can help encourage rural Maori interest in and access to home insulation subsidies. Urban uptake has been reasonable, but rural communities are harder to connect with.
- Iwi Strategic Planning and impacts on local and central government planning and funding policies – eg of strategic planning and timetabling for marae development
- Rugby World Cup and BoP Iwi – update on planning
- Discussed relevance of “principles of collaborative action learning” (Tamarack) and added these to terms of reference for the Cluster

For further information contact [Wally.Tangohau@tpk.govt.nz](mailto:Wally.Tangohau@tpk.govt.nz)

The Cluster administrator is Kahu McClutchie – [mcclck@tpk.govt.nz](mailto:mcclck@tpk.govt.nz)

Next meeting: Tuesday 5 October, 10.00-12.30, at Te Puni Kokiri House, Rotorua

**The Economic Wellbeing Cluster** last met in July, and is due to meet again shortly. Chaired by Lionel Crawley (NZTE) the Cluster includes representations from three territorial authorities, the regional council and seven central government agencies.

This Cluster focuses on adding value to and leveraging the Bay of Connections Regional Economic Development Strategy. Significant recent events Cluster members have been involved in are:

- The launch of the Regional Aquaculture Organisation
- Participation in a trade delegation from the Bay of Plenty to China
- Welcoming and hosting a delegation from Tauranga’s Sister City, Yantai and Shandong Oriental Ocean Limited including the formalisation of trade and investment intentions in the Bay of Plenty.
- Continuing to foster dialogue among tertiary education providers in the BoP around learning and skill needs to advance the regional economic development strategy.

For further information contact [Lionel.Crawley@nzte.govt.nz](mailto:Lionel.Crawley@nzte.govt.nz)

Next meeting: Friday October 8, 1.30-3.30pm, Rotorua District Council



**The Social Wellbeing Cluster** has met once, and also held a strategic planning session since our last Update. The Cluster is chaired by Mike Bryant (MSD) and includes representatives from four local government agencies and twelve central government agencies.

The July meeting of the Cluster was held at the new Youth Facility, and included a guided tour of the premises, and an introduction to key features. Outcomes and next steps following strategic planning are due to be discussed at the upcoming Cluster meeting.

For further information contact [Mike.Bryant001@msd.govt.nz](mailto:Mike.Bryant001@msd.govt.nz)

The Cluster Administrator is [Susan.Jolley003@msd.govt.nz](mailto:Susan.Jolley003@msd.govt.nz)

Next meeting: Wednesday 29 September, 1.30-3.30pm, MSD, 1207 Pukuatua St, Rotorua.

**The Environmental Wellbeing Cluster** is not currently meeting.

For information contact Henry Weston [hweston@doc.govt.nz](mailto:hweston@doc.govt.nz)

**The Community Outcomes Processes Cluster** awaits the outcome of the Local Government 2002 Amendment Bill and subsequent impacts on community outcomes processes.

For information contact [Anne.O'Malley@tauranga.govt.nz](mailto:Anne.O'Malley@tauranga.govt.nz)

#### 4. COBoP CONNECTING WITH WELLINGTON

Since late 2008, when COBoP identified Maori and Economic Development as priorities, supported by infrastructure and a “joined up” public service approach in the region, we have sought and followed many opportunities to connect with Wellington, particularly with officials. Stephen Town, in his role as Chair, and Barbara MacLennan as Strategic Broker, have taken leadership roles here, sometimes accompanied by others. One strong push has been on seeking interest and support to enable the Opotiki Harbour development as a “Highway” for Eastern Bay of Plenty aquaculture and regional development. Other COBoP signatories have also helped create opportunities and invitations.

Earlier this month, these networks came to fruition when COBoP was able to assist an Opotiki delegation to arrange meetings with a wide range of Ministers, MPs and officials. The purpose was for Opotiki leadership including the Council and Te Whakatohea, to themselves put the case for central government support to their aquaculture and harbour development ventures.

The delegation included Opotiki Mayor John Forbes and Chief Executive, Aileen Lawrie; Whakatohea Maori Trust Board Chair Robert Edwards and General Manager, Dickie Farrar; and Barbara MacLennan. Meetings were held with:

- Ministers Phil Heatley, Anne Tolley, and officials
- Minister of Social Development and Employment Paula Bennett and officials
- MP Te Ururoa Flavell
- MPs David Cunliffe, Steve Chadwick, Shane Jones, Parekura Horomia
- MPs David Clendon, Catherine Delahunty and officials
- Chief Executive of Ministry of Fisheries and Director of the new Aquaculture Unit
- Officials of the Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet
- Officials of the Ministry for Economic Development
- Officials of Te Puni Kokiri
- Officials of the Minister of Finance

The delegation provided verbal and written briefings on two linked projects – the Opotiki harbour entrance project, led by Council, and the Whakatohea Maori Trust Boards aquaculture projects.



Together these projects have the potential to generate community development in the Eastern Bay of Plenty – through job and wealth generation, and improved social wellbeing. Principally the delegation was asking officials and ministers to be prepared for a future funding request, and for guidance about key questions, issues and processes.

The delegation was well received, and the joined up approach at the local and regional levels attracted positive affirmation. As experienced previously, no pathway exists for progressing this initiative – which does not easily fit any existing delegation or funding stream. However, all meetings were encouraging, and there was not a single “no”.

Follow up correspondence is under preparation, and the upcoming COBoP Plenary meeting will take a focus on regional aquaculture and the sure progress which Opotiki is making.

## 5. OUR FOCUS ON LEARNING

### Central and Local Government - increasing our respective understanding

The COBoP network has placed value on learning how to improve our practices for working together. Other sectors are also recognizing the value and importance of doing this – it is a global phenomenon in the face of rapid change and increasingly complex issues. Understanding each other’s culture, processes and practices is an important aspect of relationship building.

Local Government New Zealand works to increase knowledge about their sector and has recently published a document responding to twenty commonly held perceptions or views about local government. Called “Mythbusters”, it is an informative document for those wanting to improve their understanding of the local government sector.

Here’s a summary response to one common perception:

**Myth:** Council spending is out of control.

**Answer:** In 1985 council expenditure was 5.5% of GDP, today it is 3.2% of GDP.

For a good read, follow this link!

<http://www.cobop.govt.nz/useful-documents-and-links.aspx>

## 6. COBOP STEERING GROUP MEMBERS

As per the email to all signatories earlier this month, Diane Turner has accepted the role of COBoP Chair going forward, and Rob Williams replaces Stephen Town on the Steering Group.

Diane Turner (Whakatane District Council) - Chair  
Rob Williams (Taupo District Council)  
Miles McConway (BOP Regional Council)  
Lionel Crawley (NZTE)  
Wally Tangohau (TPK)  
Mike Bryant (MSD)  
Henry Weston (DOC)  
Barbara MacLennan (Strategic Broker, COBoP)

Bill Bayfield, Chief Executive, BOP Regional Council, will assist Diane in fostering COBoP’s Wellington connections.

For further information about COBoP or the content of this Update, contact [Barbara.MacLennan@cobop.govt.nz](mailto:Barbara.MacLennan@cobop.govt.nz), Strategic Broker, COBoP

