

COLLABORATION BAY OF PLENTY (CoBoP)

Update and Greetings from the Steering Group

April 2011

Nga mihi nui!

This newsletter is designed to provide readers with an update date on the year to date. CoBoP as a network is very active and this was certainly evident in the reports and presentations that we received at the Plenary session at the end of March. You can read more about what is happening below.

We have all been touched in some way by the earthquake in Christchurch. Many of the organisations have had staff working there since February. Other members of CoBoP have been providing services to evacuees to the Bay of Plenty. There is no doubt our work programmes will continue to be affected by the need to divert financial and other resources to support the recovery process in Canterbury. This event together with the current economic conditions will provide challenges for our region in the months ahead. Our advantage is our CoBoP network and the potential that it provides by working together to be able to deliver quality services to our region no matter what the constraints might be.

1. CoBoP Plenary Meeting March 2011

An Emerging Focus on “Place”

At the March CoBoP Plenary meeting, Bill Bayfield (CE, Bay of Plenty Regional Council) reflected that “the need for collaboration has never been greater, and CoBoP enables conversations among unique regional groupings of important players”. In particular Bill was speaking about the drive for spatial planning in Auckland as a response to the need to “ground” all policy, planning and funding streams in “place”.

The opportunity for Bay of Plenty to think strategically about this as a region is patently clear. We know that a siloed approach to solving complex issues is both ineffective and inefficient. We are seeing an increasing number of policy initiatives which channel us towards more alignment. The key is, how does this drive connect to “place”- and to the people who live, work and play in local and regional communities.

The Bay of Plenty’s regional economic development strategy and arrangements, Bay of Connections (www.bayofconnections.com) is an outstanding example of our regional capability to work together across multiple sectors and players. Aspirational targets and priority areas for collaborative work, with clear processes and action plans have all enabled significant progress. The CoBoP Network is strongly focussed on how local and central government in the region can add value to Bay of Connections, particularly through the Economic Cluster and the Demonstration Project around aquaculture potential centred on Opotiki. The Network will take a keen interest in the current review and refresh of the Bay of Connections strategic plan.

An aligned regional approach to Biodiversity in the region was also a topic of interest at the Plenary meeting. A series of cross agency discussions have resulted in a strategic concept plan for the region, proposing more alignment and joint priority setting. The aspiration is for a regionally aligned approach to protecting and enhancing precious indigenous natural life, with negotiated priorities. This approach could replace the current agency-by-agency system which is the consequence of a fragmented and siloed centralised approach at a national level. It will be progressed through the CoBoP Environmental Cluster. Regional Managers and Chief Executives

recognised the potential for similar thinking to be applied to other dimensions of wellbeing in the Bay of Plenty.

Presentations on two new social initiatives, Whanau Ora and the Community Response Model, outlined how policy drivers and funding streams are to be more aligned at local community level, respectively around Whanau, and around community by community social needs. At the regional level there are two Whanau Ora leadership panels, and one Community Response Model Forum. Te Puni Kokiri and MSD Family and Community Services are respectively “rolling out” and supporting these new strategies. These new directions create opportunities for more “sense-making” around what works efficiently and effectively with Whanau and Hapu and in local communities.

2. Welcome to new CoBoP signatory representatives

Three recently appointed Regional Managers were welcomed to the Plenary Meeting:

- Superintendent Glenn Dunbier – District Commander BoP Police
- Greg Versalko – Regional Manager Child Youth and Family Services
- Makoha Gardiner – Regional Manager Ministry of Education

And from local government

- A welcome to Acting Chief Executive of Tauranga City Council, Christine Jones.
- And a farewell and acknowledgement of Bill Bayfield, Chief Executive BoP Regional Council who will be leaving to take up his new position as Chief Executive Environment Canterbury in June 2011.

3. CoBoP Cluster Updates

Social Wellbeing Cluster

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

The Cluster have developed five strategic themes around which business is organised:

- Knowing the context for social wellbeing in the BoP (cluster familiarity with trends, current and emerging issues, policy changes, research)
- Working with other Clusters (familiarity of focus areas of other Clusters and initiating cross-cluster work – eg attention to the social-economic interface, healthy homes with Cultural Cluster)
- Supporting community-led planning and development (seeking and sharing information about locally led place based initiatives around complex issues and fostering local and central government involvement and support)
- 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 eleven central government agencies and two local government agencies regularly participating in meetings.

Excellent progress with:

- Supporting Bay of Connections
- Playing a linking role between Maori Economic Development and wider regional economic development strategy and thinking
- Facilitation of a joined-up tertiary education network in the BoP
- Linking with Business Development networks and sharing information
 - CONNECT BOP
 - The Regional Partnership

And of course adding value to Rugby World Cup planning by leveraging Bay of Connections strategies and relationships and linking locally, regionally and nationally where this creates opportunities. Lionel presented these statistics – based on known travel plans and bookings.

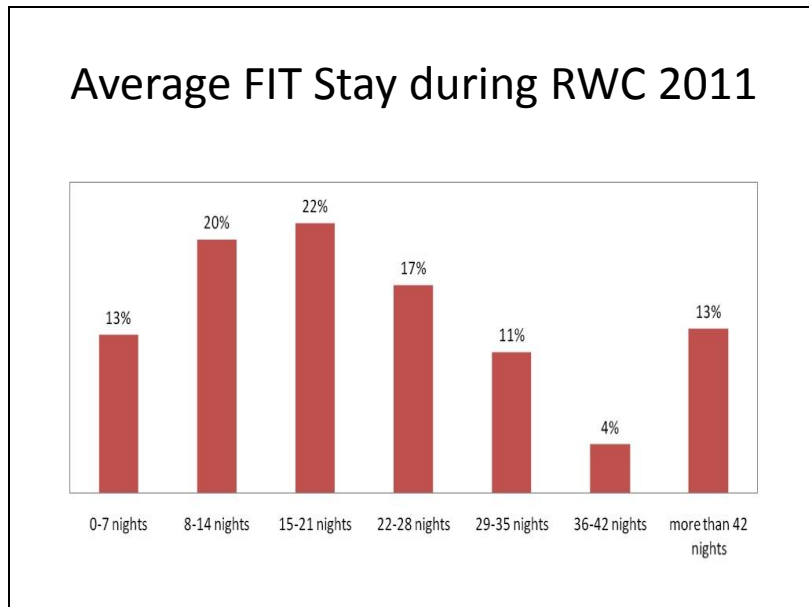
So why should we be paying attention to Rugby World Cup 2011?

Anticipated Impact

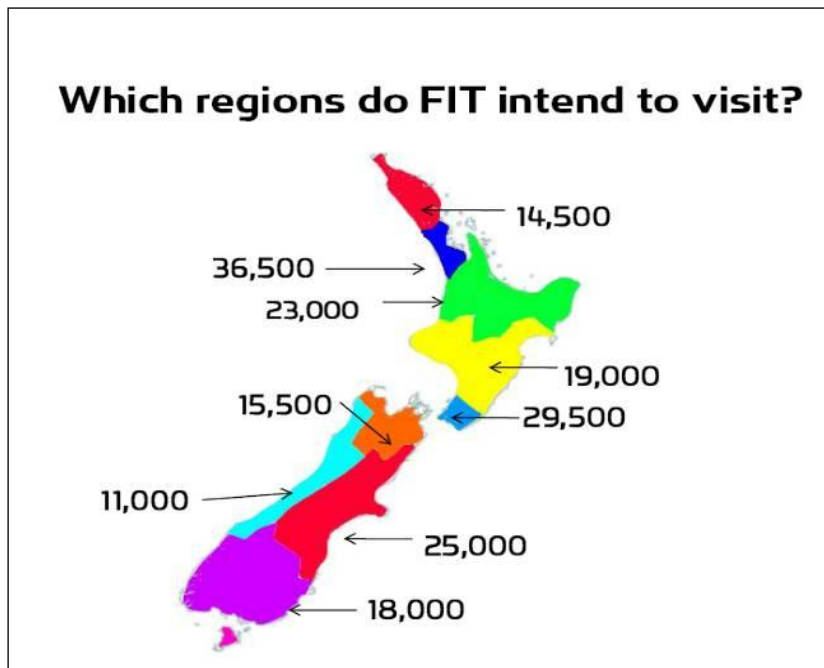


What? Why? How do you figure that out?

**Because – once you’ve come all this way you are likely to stay about awhile!
It’s not so easy to pop across the border! Based on existing sales and travel plans:**



And how might the BoP benefit? Based on pre February earthquake information:



Local and central government agencies are planning forward for a range of anticipated impacts.

Economic Cluster participation includes representation from six central and three local government agencies, and the regional council.

Cultural Wellbeing Cluster Chair Wally Tangohau, Regional Manager TPK

- Healthy Homes - advocating Whānau, Hapu, Iwi support to wellness
- Community Response Model - encouraging Māori participation and contributing to community engagement
- Whānau Ora - promoting whānau ora and advocating agency participation
- Social Cluster - advocating on behalf of Maori
- Iwi strategic plans - identifying opportunities for CoBoP agency support
- Marae Expo – joined up way to support investment in marae development
- Rugby World Cup – linking to Maori networks
- Economic Cluster - advocating on behalf of Maori

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

Community Outcomes Processes Cluster Chair Anne O'Malley, Manager Business Solutions, Tauranga City Council

The Cluster has met to discuss how councils are approaching implementing changes to community outcomes definition and requirements under the amended Local Government Act. Until councils have worked through the initial preparation stages for their 2012-22 Long Term Plans, a decision about the future role for the Cluster would be premature. It is also noted that the opportunity provided by the CoBoP Cluster framework for council staff responsible for planning and monitoring to meet is highly valued. The Cluster is preparing a report and recommendations on next steps for the May Steering Group meeting.

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

4. Added Value of CoBoP – examples shared at Plenary meeting

Two presentations at CoBoP illustrated the difference having established and active networks among central and local government managers in the Bay of Plenty is making to strategic thinking and projects.

Cathy Cooney (CE Lakes District Health Board) shared reflections which Judge Andrew Becroft had made regarding the ease with which the new Youth Justice Facility Te Maioha o Parekarangi could be planned and built. He had talked with Cathy both at the inception of the project two years ago, and recently.

This is what he said: *“From the outset I am aware that all the relevant government departments and community groups worked together to ensure a continuum of services for young offenders in a way that I hope is an exemplar for the future.”*

...and in a conversation more recently he asked Cathy to pass this message on:

“Congratulations on your pioneering work. What you have achieved with such ease in a few years, took so much longer in other areas.”

Quote: Judge A Becroft, Chairperson, Youth Justice Independent Advisory Group

Cathy and managers from other services recognised that it was the relationships developed through CoBoP that created the conditions for innovation and a joined-up approach to this significant project.

Miles McConway (Group Manager Technology and Economic Development BoP RC) shared a value-add example from the economic development sphere. He brought to the CoBoP Economic Cluster table current thinking by the Regional Council about its role in economic development, and asked for feedback.

Among other thoughts, Cluster members pointed Miles to a network called CONNECT which brings together a wide range of agencies supporting business in the Bay of Plenty. Further discussion at CONNECT resulted in a significant proposal about business capability building as an aspect of future strategic investment.

The Cluster also talked about the importance (as part of the review of Bay of Connections) of finding a pathway to stronger connections with Maori Economic Development work including the Waiariki Maori Asset base study and associated planning. The result of further discussion is the invitation for more iwi involvement at the governance level of Bay of Connections.

These are very good examples of how CoBoP values and processes bring collective knowledge and wisdom together to:

- foster relationships
- create a culture of joined up problem solving and creative thinking

And how that adds value to wider networks, strategies and projects in Bay of Plenty communities.

Collaborative Leadership: ‘If you bring the appropriate people together in constructive ways with credible information, they will create authentic visions and strategies for addressing the shared concerns of the organisation or community.’

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5. 2011-2014 Forward Planning for CoBoP

The Steering Group is working with information gathered from recent Plenary meetings to develop a plan for a sustainable CoBoP. This plan will have a three to five year focus.

“If we want to be able to get these complex systems to work better, we need to abandon our reliance on the leader-as-hero and invite in the leader-as-host. We need to support those leaders who know that problems are complex, who know that in order to understand the full complexity of any issue, all parts of the system need to be invited in to participate and contribute....”

Margaret J. Wheatley - Leadership in the Age of Complexity – From Hero to Host, 2010

And finally – a reminder to visit – www.cobop.govt.nz