

December 2015

COMMITTED TO GROWING OUR REGION



Welcome to the final edition of Growing our Region for 2015. While the year may be drawing to a close, work to unlock our Region's potential is ramping up and last week Whanganui hosted a visit from Minister Steven Joyce.

The Minister met with a few members of the [Accelerate25](#) (regional growth study implementation programme) Lead Team along with Mayor Annette Main and MP Chester Burrows on Wednesday 25 November. He toured a number of businesses and is pleased with the Region's on-going commitment to turning words into action. One thing he did highlight was the need to think beyond Action Plan development to opportunities around skills development that will enhance employment. The issue of equipping our workforce with the right skills to seize opportunities has been an emerging theme of early Lead Team meetings and industry discussions. Strong connections to our tertiary institutions, industry training organisations and schools will be vital and there are already some great initiatives underway. The Lead Team will be working with Accelerate25 Programme Directors around how this development could be reflected in the programme's enablers.

In other updates, Te Ranga Tupua have appointed Pahia Turia to replace Kemp Dryden on the Lead Team. We're looking forward to welcoming Pahia to future Lead Team meetings, with the next one fast approaching. Accelerate25 is also now active on Twitter with the username [Accelerate25](#). We'll be tweeting updates on these

the username [Accelerate_25](#). We'll be tweeting updates as these come to hand so be sure to follow along and share your thoughts with us.

You'll see a more detailed update from Accelerate25 Programme Directors below. We look forward to bringing you another Growing our Region update in the New Year. Until then, stay safe and enjoy the festive season and all that our Region has to offer this summer.

Michael McCartney

Independent Lead Team Facilitator

ONE REGION ONE TEAM

The programme is gaining momentum quickly, with many workshops and meetings taking place to identify key areas and stakeholders within each opportunity, with a view to appointing official Project Teams and Team Leaders. Below are a few key updates from our Programme Directors followed by highlights from the past month in the economic development space.

- 20 stakeholders convened in a workshop regarding Tourism and Visitor Services and identified key actions required to progress the opportunity.
- Seven sub-regional workshops will be held regarding the Sheep and Beef Farming and Processing opportunity in the New Year, again to identify key tasks and project teams.
- It is likely that a workshop regarding the opportunities for Mānuka Honey will be held in early 2016 following some further research in to the opportunities this month, and similarly with the Land Use Optimisation opportunity.
- There was a horticultural conference in Horowhenua in late-November and as part of the summit Accelerate25's Craig Nash addressed attendees and discussed the Accelerate25 programme and the Fresh Vegetables opportunity. Many stakeholders attended the summit and have expressed interest in the programme as a result.
- Potential team members for the Poultry Meat and Grain Growing/Processing opportunity have been identified as a prior step to approaching and officially appointing a team.
- Horowhenua District Council is due to host a stakeholder group session in mid-December regarding Affordable Care and Lifestyle for Older People.
- Likely Business Process Outsourcing and Food Innovation Outsourcing opportunity teams are currently being considered.

The three enablers – Growing Business, Productivity of Māori Land, and Distribution and Transport – will be developed alongside each of the opportunities. By early next year, we aim to officially appoint and announce team leaders and teams to engage with stakeholders and launch each opportunity into its next phase. Watch this space and follow us on [Twitter](#) for updates: @Accelerate_25.



Economic Development Minister Steven Joyce visited the Region last week where he toured a few Whanganui businesses, met with some members of the Lead Team and had lunch with the Chamber of Commerce.

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Central Districts Field Days will be here again before we know it. To coincide with this event, Fairfax Media, New Zealand Trade and Enterprise (NZTE), Spearhead, BCC and Destination Manawatu are working together to coordinate an inaugural Agri Investment Week that will run from 14–19 March

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FoodHQ has launched the FoodHQ Innovation Club with the support of AGMARDT and in conjunction with the ANZ Bank. The FoodHQ Innovation Club seeks to help food and beverage companies tackle the multiple challenges associated with innovating their products and businesses to meet consumer demands in New Zealand and overseas. Companies interested in joining are encouraged to email Food HQ Director Mark Ward.

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