

September 2015

COMMITTED TO GROWING OUR REGION



Welcome to the second edition of Growing our Region. Since the announcement of Growth Study findings at the end of July, we've been working to set the structure that will drive development forward.

Last week the final four members of the Lead Team were appointed. This team exists to provide strategic oversight of development and implementation of the Regional Growth Study Action Plan. It's made up of two local/regional government leaders, Horizons Regional Council Chairman Bruce Gordon and Palmerston North City Mayor Grant Smith; two iwi appointees, Sir Mason Durie and Kemp Dryden; one senior government official, Di Grennell of Te Puni Kokiri; four private sector representatives, Tim Myers, Malcolm Inglis, Michael Eden and Mavis Mullens; and myself as the non-voting facilitator. This team will meet every four weeks in different locations around the Region and expects to appoint the Programme Director within the next week.

There are two stages to realising the potential of Growth Study findings. The first is action planning. Once the Programme Director has been confirmed, project teams will be appointed to map out how each opportunity should be unlocked in our Region. These opportunity-specific action plans will feed into the overarching Regional Growth Action Plan (RGAP), providing a clear pathway for implementation. It's likely some of the actions identified will get

underway before the full RGAP is complete. Others will take a bit more time. Having a clear and detailed plan in place will enable us to look at how implementation can be resourced and what the priorities are for phase two.

We've already seen some positive progress in the Region, with Minister Guy visiting the Feilding Saleyards to launch a programme for boosting sheep and beef productivity. As part of this, an initial regional working group has started to develop a draft programme structure, looking at how farmers could be better supported to reach their goals and overcome any barriers in the way. We'll be keeping you posted as the remaining project teams get underway. In the meantime, read on to find out more about other activities underway to complement growth in the Region.

Michael McCartney
Lead Team Facilitator

ONE REGION ONE TEAM

The final members of the Lead Team have been appointed and the Programme Director is soon to be confirmed. The below diagram helps explain the structure set to drive implementation of Growth Study Findings in our Region. Click the diagram to view it online. Over the next few editions we'll be introducing Lead Team members and the Programme Director in greater detail so make sure you watch this space.



Below are just a few highlights from the past month across the Region. While not necessarily driven by the Regional Growth Study, they are examples of great work underway in the economic space. Do you have an example to share in the next edition? Email regionalgrowth@horizons.govt.nz with a short blurb and a photo so we can share it with our readers.



The CentrePort rail container terminal in Whanganui was officially opened by Transport Minister Simon Bridges on 3 September. It's an asset that will improve Whanganui's connectivity to the world

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[JetStar](#) announced North Palmerston as one of its four new regional destinations. It's great news for the city with [Air New Zealand](#) and [Origin Air](#) also continuing to offer regional flights.

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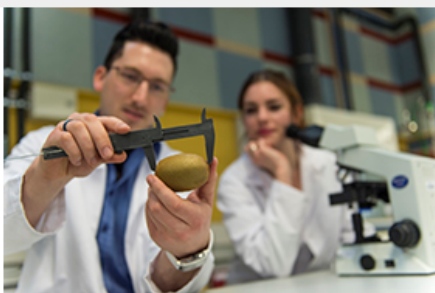


Primary Industries Minister Nathan Guy visited the Feilding Saleyards on 28 August to launch the Sheep and Beef Land Productivity Programme.

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More than 40 Chinese civic and business leaders are in the Region this week to discuss opportunities, visit key agribusiness sites and develop relationships with regional leaders.

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MBIE's Regional Research Institutes (RRI) initiative was held in Palmerston North on 14 September. Those interested in participating in further discussions or proposals for new Regional Research Institutes are encouraged to contact Vision Manawatu info@visionmanawatu.org.nz or 06 350 1830.

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HORIZONS REGIONAL COUNCIL

11-15 Victoria Avenue 4442 **T** 0508 800 800
Private Bag 11025 **F** 06 952 2929
Manawatu Mail Centre **W** www.horizons.govt.nz
Palmerston North 4442 **E** info@horizons.govt.nz

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