

8 February 2012
Paul Mersi
Chairperson
Grow Wellington
PO Box 10-347
Wellington 6143

Dear Paul

Grow Wellington's Statement of Intent 2012/13

The Wellington Regional Strategy Committee, in its role of overseeing the focus and delivery of all aspects of the Wellington Regional Strategy, wishes to outline to Grow Wellington some key points for its delivery of the Strategy in 2012/13.

As the Grow Wellington's Board is aware, the Wellington Regional Strategy activity has recently been reviewed and a process of refreshing the Strategy has started. It is intended that a new Strategy will be adopted in June 2012. The timing of the refresh process means that, in the 2012/13 year, a transition will be required of the company. It is expected that Grow Wellington will review its existing activities in the light of the new Strategy, and the opportunity will exist for an amended Statement of Intent to be presented in the first half of the financial year as a result of this.

In Greater Wellington's Long Term Plan, which will be released for consultation in March of this year, funding for the WRS for the 2012-2022 period is proposed at \$4.6 million per year. While this is the same as the level of funding in 2011/12, the proposed allocation of funding to Grow Wellington is to be reduced to \$4 million. Grow Wellington's review of its activities and the SOI will need to take this into account.

The Committee has confirmed six focus areas that will be reflected in the refreshed Strategy. The Committee expects the company to assist in the delivery of these focus areas, which are:

- Commercialisation of innovation
- Investment mechanisms for growth
- Building world class economic infrastructure (Grow Wellington to have a supporting role)
- Attracting business, investment and talent to the region
- Education and workforce development to service regional economy needs
- Open for business (Grow Wellington to have a supporting role).

The Committee will not instruct the company on how to deliver the outcomes it is seeking, but in carrying out its activities the Committee expects the following.

Value for investment

- That Grow Wellington will undertake projects and activities that will get the best return for the investment of ratepayer funds.
- That Grow Wellington will identify effective outcome performance measures that will assist in demonstrating the value for the investment.
- To avoid duplication and ensure applications are fully robust and are able to maximise the chances of success, Grow Wellington will communicate with councils on proposals for funding from Ministry of Science and Innovation and New Zealand Trade and Enterprise.

Collaboration and communication

The Committee expects there to be a “no surprises” approach by the company in its relationship with the Committee and the region’s councils. This will mean effective communication from the company.

In advancing economic development projects we encourage Grow Wellington to work collaboratively with:

- The region’s councils
- Relevant council controlled organisations (including tourism agencies to promote the region nationally and internally)
- Central government
- Chambers of commerce
- Other organisations as necessary to advance the WRS outcomes.

Grow Wellington is will also be expected to communicate effectively with its stakeholders

The Committee also expects the Grow Wellington Board to bring to it any issues that might arise over time, and anticipates joint sessions through the year with the Board to enable issues and opportunities to be raised and addressed. The Committee also expects to work closely with the Board during the refresh of the Strategy.

Yours sincerely

Sir John Anderson

Chair, Wellington Regional Strategy Committee