

SmartGrowth Leadership Group
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Rotorua Lakes Council
Private Bag 3029
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Dear Sir/Madam

SmartGrowth Submission on Rotorua Spatial Plan Discussion Document

This is a submission by the SmartGrowth Leadership Group (“SLG”) on the Rotorua Spatial Plan Discussion Document. We commend the Rotorua Lakes Council on this initiative and we appreciate the opportunity to provide input.

The SLG is the implementation arm of the SmartGrowth Strategy – the spatial and implementation plan for the western Bay of Plenty sub-region. The SGIC includes representatives from Tauranga City Council, the Western Bay of Plenty District Council, the Bay of Plenty Regional Council and tāngata whenua.

The SLG supports the Rotorua Spatial Plan initiative. The SmartGrowth Strategy identifies the need for better linkages between neighbouring districts and regions, collaborating on key cross boundary issues and working together with our neighbours including using shared services to improve efficiency and effectiveness. The Strategy also acknowledges the importance of creating strong linkages to neighbouring sub-regions and regions.

General Comments

SLG supports the principles outlined in the discussion document.

SLG is of the view that some thought should be given in the 'focus on freight, tourism and industry' section as to how the linkages between Rotorua and the western Bay of Plenty could be enhanced from a transport and industrial perspective.

The SmartGrowth Strategy has a strong emphasis on spatial corridors. This corridor pattern links the western Bay of Plenty sub-region with its neighbours, in particular Rotorua. The SmartGrowth Strategy takes this wider spatial view in order to better integrate land use and infrastructure and to promote wider Bay of Plenty economic development outcomes through better intra-regional linkages.

The two corridors of significance to linking the western Bay of Plenty and Rotorua are as follows:

Eastern Corridor:

- State highway links to eastern Bay of Plenty and Rotorua and Gisborne.
- Links to Rotorua Airport
- Tertiary education linkages to eastern Bay of Plenty and Rotorua
- Tourism link - Goodness Highway

Southern Corridor:

- State Highway links to western side of Rotorua (Ngongotaha) and beyond to Taupo

It is SmartGrowth's view that the western Bay of Plenty and Rotorua should continue to work together to further develop these corridors which are important from a social (eg travel, education, health) and economic (freight and industry links) perspective. SmartGrowth would like to see the Rotorua Spatial Plan make reference to these linkages.

Specific Feedback Areas

What do you think we need to protect?

SmartGrowth supports the focus on protecting and enhancing water quality in the document. We also support the importance of protecting key rural areas.

Where should housing development go? How much?

What about commercial and industrial development? How much and where?

Given the recent National Policy Statement on Urban Development Capacity, it would be good for the western Bay of Plenty sub-region and Rotorua Lakes Council to collaborate on various requirements

such as ensuring sufficient development capacity, infrastructure and coordinated and aligned planning decisions across local authority boundaries¹.

SmartGrowth believes it is important for the western Bay of Plenty and Rotorua to work together where possible on spatial planning approaches. The two areas have unique linkages due to the strong transport connections that exist as well as economic and social ties. There are a number of advantages to working together on mutually beneficial approaches, including joint advocacy on important issues and achieving greater efficiencies through a more joined up approach.

SmartGrowth would be happy to discuss any of the points raised in this submission or any other matters that would benefit the Rotorua Spatial Plan project with the Rotorua Lakes Council.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Bill Wasley', with a stylized initial 'W'.

Bill Wasley
SmartGrowth Independent Chair

¹Objective OD2, *National Policy Statement on Urban Development Capacity*, 2016