

Canterbury Regional Economic Development Strategy 2017–19

Workshop with the CREDS reference group

24 August 2017

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CREDS 2017–19

- Launched with Ministers Bridges and Guy on 23 June 2017
- Ministers announced central government funding (\$2.185m) for 11 ‘accelerator projects’ to kick-start CREDS implementation in this local government term
- Seven of these projects are funded from MBIE’s Multi-Year Appropriation for Regional Initiatives – we are currently completing economic business cases for these projects, so MBIE can release the funds
- This update focuses on priority actions for each work programme, and progress to date

Integrated regional transport planning

Priority actions 2017–19

- Work with sector partners to turn data into information to support transport planning and investment
- Work with MoT, NZTA and the sector steering group to develop resilient, multi-modal transport solutions for Canterbury and the South Island, including secondary roads and coast shipping
- Encourage the RTC with its expanded mandate to develop a detailed work plan for multi-modal transport planning and investment, including a statutory review (2017) of the Regional Land Transport Plan
- With the South Island Regional Transport Committee Chairs Group, advocate for a strong central government focus on multi-modal transport strategy in the 2018 and 2021 Government Policy Statements on Land Transport

Progress to date

- Funding secured (**accelerator project 1**) for policy analysis and advice (1.0 FTE, 12 months) to progress priority actions and work with NZTA to co-ordinate a stocktake of the resilience of the roading network in Canterbury – candidate interviews conducted week ending 25 August 2017
- Scoping of a transport resilience stocktake scheduled for Oct-Dec 2017
- High-level literature review completed and scoping underway of research on mode shift and freight flows in the South Island
- Mayoral Forum advocated July 2017 (via RTC and South Island Chairs Group) for better alignment of the timing of land transport planning with preparation of local authorities' long-term plans
- Submitted on the Government Policy Statement on Land Transport 2018 and on NZTA's Long-Term Strategic view
- Agreed and prioritised a detailed multi-modal work programme
- Review of the Regional Land Transport Plan is progressing according to timeframes and new investment priorities have been agreed by the RTC
- Canterbury is represented on the steering group for NZTA's Freight Indicators Research Project; regional transport scorecard measures have been drafted

Priority actions 2017–19

- Support Enable Networks Ltd and electricity lines companies if they choose to form a Canterbury consortium to extend fibre backhaul and improve high bandwidth connectivity, whether through the Rural Broadband Initiative 2 or by other means
- Complete detailed GIS mapping of remaining gaps in mobile and broadband coverage, to inform analysis and advocacy for solutions
- Promote stories of uptake of digital access that is making a difference to economic and social development in Canterbury

Progress to date

- Consultant engaged and report provided to Enable and the four electricity lines companies in Canterbury February 2017
- Business cases prepared, with project plans, to deliver on **accelerator projects 2–3**:
 - work with Crown Fibre Holdings and telcos to identify and GIS-map remaining gaps in mobile and broadband coverage in Canterbury
 - analyse gaps for economic and social significance
 - support Mayoral Forum advocacy with the telecommunications sector to address priority gaps
 - encourage uptake and use – work with retail service providers, farmers, irrigation companies and industry to identify and share stories about how people are using digital technology to improve productivity in rural Canterbury

Freshwater management and irrigation infrastructure

Priority actions 2017–19

- **Infrastructure:** keep working closely with existing irrigation schemes on water use efficiency projects and with emerging infrastructure operators to maximise their contribution to CWMS targets
- **Environmental infrastructure:** keep working with communities to test and develop Managed Aquifer Recharge and Targeted Stream Augmentation environmental infrastructure projects
- **Planning and Policy:** continue programme to agree sub-regional plans and establish catchment load limits and water quality objectives
- **Implementation:** keep driving commitment to Good Management Practice through Farm Environment Plans and audited self management across all zones
- **Zone delivery:** all zone committees have agreed work programmes and report progress
- **Biodiversity:** keep working with zone committees and land owners on Immediate Steps projects and Regional Flagship projects (Whakaora Te Waihora and Wainono)
- **Partnerships:** keep building a strong partnership and collaborative approach to delivering on CWMS targets with Ngāi Tahu, primary industries, councils and NGO partners and stakeholders
- **Communicate:** tell the story and share information to develop and maintain a social licence to operate

Progress to date

- Funding secured from the Freshwater Improvement Fund:
 - Whakaora Te Ahuriri – restoration of Ahuriri catchment, Te Waihora (\$1,257,996 over 3 years)
 - Waikirikiri/Selwyn River Near River Recharge (\$1,140,000 over 2 years)
 - Water and Wildlife Habitat Trust – Snake Creek Restoration Project, Selwyn River catchment (\$295,590 over 3 years)
- Selwyn seminar series – 7 seminars June–September
- Current campaign with farmers on Good Management Practice and Farm Environment Plans and consents required in some zones
- New CWMS website to support public information and engagement: <http://canterburywater.org.nz/>
- Sunday Star Times feature article 20 August 2017: [Collaboration key in Canterbury freshwater](#)

Education and training for a skilled workforce

Priority actions 2017–19

- Complete an ‘educational blueprint’ and options for new/modified joint courses in agricultural engineering and water management
- Continue to advocate for and support getting the Lincoln Hub established and up and running
- Increase the number of international students attending Canterbury education organisations, and broaden the focus beyond current source markets
- Support youth transition to the workplace through strengthening partnerships between education organisations and business, and reduce the NEET rate across the region
- Identify opportunities to support businesses with language and cultural competence to expand or enter into trade with Asia
- Capitalise on opportunities presented by the Christchurch Health Precinct to drive economic development and improve community health through collaborative research, innovative models of professional learning and education, and innovation in use of IT
- Work with SIGNAL (the new South Island IT graduate school) to link IT talent to opportunities for innovation and value-added production

Progress to date

- Continued Mayoral Forum advocacy with central government and Canterbury TEOs for the Lincoln Hub
- Business cases prepared, with project plans, to deliver on **accelerator projects 4–5**:
 - work with MSD to expand (and evaluate) programmes piloted by Aoraki Development in Timaru to support youth transitions to further education, training and employment
 - expand Christchurch Educated’s Job Ready Programme to Timaru – to leverage global talent and language/cultural competencies of international students trained in NZ to meet immediate and future labour shortages in export-facing businesses
- Dr Ian Town (Chair, Health Precinct Advisory Council) invited to join CREDS reference group
- The Mayoral Forum has begun exploring a high-level, region-to-region relationship with Nagano Prefecture, Japan, initially focusing on international education, then broadening into employment / training exchanges and opportunities in tourism and primary industries

Newcomer and migrant settlement

Priority actions 2017–19	Progress to date
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Participate as one of five pilot areas in NZ in Immigration NZ's Welcoming Communities initiative and leverage government support and resources• Encourage councils to welcome newcomers and migrants to their districts; e.g. through Start with a Smile, Meet the Street events• Continue to advocate to government on policies affecting migrants and the availability of skilled workers for Canterbury employers• Share success and best practice on welcoming newcomers and achieving good settlement outcomes• Use central government research and resources to inform local and regional settlement activities	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Community consultation on draft Welcoming Communities standard held in Ashburton (4 July 2017); feedback provided to Immigration NZ• Funding agreement signed between Immigration NZ (MBIE) and Ashburton District Council on 13 July 2017 for \$100,000 for the Welcoming Communities pilot for 2017-19• Immigration NZ released the draft Welcoming Communities standard for public consultation on 17 August, closing 22 September 2017• Community Development Advisor appointed by Ashburton District Council to lead Welcoming Communities project, commencing 11 September 2017• Government backed down (23 July 2017) on some proposed immigration policy changes – partly attributed to advocacy by the Canterbury Mayoral Forum

Value-added production

Priority actions 2017–19

- Work with the industry reference group to review impediments, concerns and opportunities – and identify where local government can play a role to support industry to do more with what we grow and produce
- Stocktake regional innovation assets and facilitate joined-up thinking and collaboration to increase Domestic Value Add and Canterbury’s participation in global value networks
- Encourage connections between SIGNAL (the new South-Island ICT graduate school) and agri-business, and link education and training to value-added production

Progress to date

- Business cases prepared, with project plans, to deliver on **accelerator projects 6–7**:
 - investigate new, value-add market opportunities that our region is well placed to take advantage of, to improve productivity and create higher living standards (*demand side*)
 - part-fund a co-ordination position based at UC to work across the Canterbury Tertiary Alliance and with the Lincoln Hub, Lincoln Agritech Ltd, Callaghan Innovation and NZTE to connect industry needs to research and accelerate knowledge translation to high-value production and manufacturing for export (*supply side*)
 - consult/engage with South Island economic development agencies on creating a virtual economic policy unit/function, to support economic development strategy and implementation across the South Island
- The Asia New Zealand Foundation has made contact – about encouraging and supporting South Island engagement with Asia

Regional visitor strategy

Priority actions 2017–19

- Support Kaikōura and Hurunui districts to recover and build visitor numbers following the November 2016 earthquakes
- Advocate with government for further investment in cycle trails
- Continue to advocate for government funding of essential infrastructure to support sustainable tourism, and use government initiatives, resources and research to inform and support our work
- Find ways to fund, manage and use the Christchurch and Canterbury stories to attract visitors and keep them here longer
- Initiate conversations about the co-ordination, development and funding of South Island tourism information and promotion, including an integrated events programme
- Work with KiwiRail to advocate for Scenic Journeys and passenger rail services
- Facilitate engagement between the tourism sector and the agri-business sector to identify additional opportunities for product development and diversification of farm income
- Engage communities and share information to develop and maintain a social licence to operate

Progress to date

- Business cases prepared, with project plans, to deliver on **accelerator projects 8 and 11**:
 - work with KiwiRail on a robust assessment of the business case for reintroducing rail passenger services south of Christchurch and to help disperse tourists
 - further develop the ‘Canterbury story’ to provide a toolkit of marketing assets that businesses, councils, educational organisations and other stakeholders can use to attract business, capital, skilled workers, students and visitors to Canterbury
- DoC has signalled a willingness to work with the Mayoral Forum to improve its tourism and recreation work across the region, including cycle trails
- The South Island Regional Transport Committee Chairs Group has proposed a South Island workshop on transport and tourism in December 2017
- The Chief Executives Forum has identified a need for additional resourcing to support implementation of the visitor strategy – for discussion by the Mayoral Forum on 25 August 2017

Other actions taken

- Funding has been approved from the Regional Growth Programme for:
 - a CREDS Project Manager (1.0 FTE, 15 months) to provide contract management across all work programmes and support lead Mayors with implementation of priority actions – interviews completed 24 August 2017 (**accelerator project 9**)
 - re-design of the CREDS indicators monitoring report and further development of outcome indicators (**accelerator project 10**).