Minutes of Open Meeting No. SG25/04 of the SmartGrowth Leadership Group held on 4 April 2025 at Bay of Plenty Regional Council, 1 Elizabeth Street, Tauranga

<u>Present</u>

Chairperson	Mayor James Denyer
Bay of Plenty Regional Council	Cr. Jane Nees Cr. Stuart Crosby Cr. Ron Scott Cr. Kat MacMillan (alternate)
Tauranga City Council	Mayor Mahé Drysdale Deputy Mayor Jen Scoular Cr. Marten Rozeboom Cr. Glen Crowther (alternate)
Western Bay of Plenty District Council	Cr. John Scrimgeour Cr. Don Thwaites
Tāngata Whenua Representatives	Matire Duncan Riki Nelson Matemoana McDonald (alternate)
Minister for Housing	Brad Ward (alternate)
Waka Kotahi	Andrew Corkill (Non-voting) Cole O'Keefe (alternate)
Priority One	Nigel Tutt (Non-voting)
Quorum	11
Meeting Frequency	Quarterly

THESE MINUTES ARE YET TO BE CONFIRMED

To be confirmed by the SmartGrowth Leadership Group on 23 June 2025

In Attendance

SmartGrowth
Craig Batchelar – SmartGrowth Strategic Advisor
Nichola Lennard – SmartGrowth Technical Advisor
Te Pio Kawe – SmartGrowth Pou Ārahi Advisor
Elisha Rolleston – SmartGrowth Kai Ārahi Advisor
Juanita Assink – SmartGrowth Coordinator

Bay of Plenty Regional Council
Namouta Poutasi – General Manager: Strategy & Science
Adam Fort – Principal Advisor: Strategic Planning

Tauranga City Council
Christine Jones – General Manager: Strategy, Growth & Governance
Andrew Mead – Manager: City Growth & Planning

Western Bay of Plenty District Council
Miriam Taris – Chief Executive (Acting)
Tracey Miller - Strategic Advisor Resource Management
Emily Watton – Strategic Policy & Planning Programme Director

Ministry of Housing and Urban Development
Rebecca Maplesden – Director: Western Bay of Plenty

SG25/04.01 **KARAKIA TĪMATANGA**

Elisha Rolleston opened the meeting with a Karakia.

SG25/04.02 **APOLOGIES**

Apologies for absence received from Caroline Dumas, Pauline McGrath.

Moved: Cr. Ron Scott / Seconded: Cr. Jane Nees

That it be Resolved

That the apologies be accepted.

CARRIED

SG25/04.03 **DECLARATION OF CONFLICTS OF INTEREST**

No conflicts of interest were declared.

SG25/04.04 **PUBLIC FORUM**

There were no public forum items.

SG25/04.05 **CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES – SMARTGROWTH LEADERSHIP GROUP**

The Committee considered the minutes of:

- SmartGrowth Leadership Group (SG24/12) dated 16 December 2024

  circulated with the agenda.

Moved: Mayor Mahé Drysdale / Seconded: Cr. Marten Rozeboom

That it be Resolved

That the minutes of:

- SmartGrowth Leadership Group (SG24/12) dated 16 December 2024

be confirmed as a true and correct record.

CARRIED

The Chair formally acknowledged Andrew Turner for his leadership as the SmartGrowth Independent Chair. Recognition was given for his role in chairing SmartGrowth and leading the Future Development Strategy (FDS) process, leaving a strong platform for SmartGrowth to continue its work.

The Chair also acknowledged Darren Toy who has left Kainga Ora who has been a contributor to SmartGrowth.

SG25/04.06 SMARTGROWTH QUARTERLY REPORT (PAPER B)

Craig Batchelar spoke to the SmartGrowth Quarterly Report (Paper B) which was taken as read.

- The programme for the next quarter is currently under development, with a revision and update scheduled for the SLG meeting in June 2025.
- There has been a change in personnel for TSP due to rescaling, with Tom McEntyre of TCC, now assuming the role of Programme Manager.
- The Development Sector Group (DSG) convened in March 2025, where a response was made to the TCC growth challenges review as outlined in Penny Pirrit's report. A notable point was raised regarding the Regional Deal proposal, highlighting the potential opportunity for DSG involvement in supporting this process.
- DSG - P18 – 7 May noted as next meeting date, should be 28 June.
- Correction P39-40 – a repeat of another part of the report earlier up.
- It was noted the Appendix on Operating Environment is really good, however was completed prior to RMA updates. Are we looking to accept subject to updating or leave for a further quarter until we are aware of National direction. It was confirmed the Operating Environment Statement is regularly updated in response to policy announcements. Will provide rolling updates, however when review the I&FP, will publish an updated version at that point. June SLG will look to confirm and update of the I&FP which will include complete update of the OES.
- Page 29 – Section on road pricing & tolls. For attention of SLG members as result resolution from Regional Transport Committee correspondence was forwarded to Hon. Minister Chris Bishop expressing concerns around implementation of the TNL tolling.
  Outline:
  - thanking for recommendation of exemption not tolling drivers using Takitimu and TNL within the same trip.
  - ongoing concerns around TNL tolling scheme, i.e. consistency across tolling regions (Tauranga x4) whereas major roads in other regions are not being tolled.
  - sought explanation from MoT on rationale around tolling and amount within Tauranga.
  - seeking transparency on decision of setting of tolls.
  - consideration of retrospective tolling for significant online roading infrastructure nationwide to support an equitable approach.
  - MoT indicated PT would have to pay toll on Toll Road – requested NZTA & MoT for reconsideration of this as working to encourage people to utilise PT which adds to overheads.
  - Seeking transparency over use of tolling revenue to ensure clear communication from Government of tolls being taken in, what it will be spent on, with annual reporting on revenue collection for each toll.

Christine Jones made a presentation on the RMA Reform Phase 3 – Key Outcomes (Summary)

In 2024, an Expert Advisory Group (EAG) was appointed to create a blueprint for a faster, simpler, and more effective Resource Management Framework Act (RFMA), replacing the existing RMA.
Over a 12-week programme, the EAG — made up of experienced practitioners — identified universal agreement on the RMA's complexity, high costs, and lack of national coordination.

Key reforms proposed:
- **Two new Acts**: a Planning Act (land use) and an Environment Act (natural environment management).
- **Spatial Plans** to replace Regional Policy Statements (RPS), with statutory weight and an integrated national e-portal system.
- Stronger **central government leadership**, but with consultation remaining at the local authority level.
- Creation of a **national compliance and enforcement agency** to monitor implementation, especially permitted activities.
- Establishment of a **Planning Tribunal** to streamline dispute resolution processes.

Further discussions included:
- Managing **transition** of 600+ consents due for expiry in 2026.
- Ensuring **Te Tiriti o Waitangi** principles are upheld.
- Exploring **sub-regional planning approaches** where appropriate (e.g., Western Bay, Eastern Bay).
- Recognising political support across parties, with common ground on key mechanisms like standardised zones and compliance frameworks.

Next steps for SmartGrowth:
- Initiate preparatory thinking on strategic alignment with the new framework.
- Coordinate with Chief Executives on the status of current workstreams ahead of the next SLG meeting.
- Clarification needed on which workstreams should continue or be placed on hold.

That it be Resolved

That the **SmartGrowth Leadership Group:**

1. **Receives** the Quarterly report March 2025.

CARRIED

Moved: Mayor Mahé Drysdale / Seconded: Cr. Stuart Crosby

SG25/04.07 | **TU PAKARI UPDATE (PAPER C)**

Te Pio Kawe spoke to the Tū Pakari Update (Paper C) which was taken as read:

- Combined Tangata Whenua Forum will look to take direction on how reforms (Planning & Environmental) are critical aspects in achieving the CTWF outcomes that have been integrated into the Strategy, and how we collectively move forward.
- Key component to come out of the CTWF hui held in February is the establishment of Te Rōpū Arotahi.
- Te Rōpū Arotahi is the opportunity to progress the CTWF outcomes between the quarterly hui. Is not just for the Tu Pakari team make this direction, advice and support of direction of forum members is required. Members identified give us this mandate to move forward on the key outcomes, technical support and advice as well as effectiveness and efficiency of the forum.
- Te Taiao, environmental key to tangata whenua involvement is empowering māori housing, which is a key action within the IFP. How this translates, and how do we monitor moving forward is development of KPI's which measure numbers within a database. A good example raised in December with SmartGrwoth trends report is monitoring how effective our policies are, i.e. consents issued on māori land – around 7-9 homes being built on māori land over last 10-15 years. Empowering māori housing looks to move this forward to 45 homes per year, with aim between 400-450 over next 10 years.
- BoPRC expressed their support of Te Rōpū Arotahi with the questions raised being:
  - Is it a SmartGrowth entity which requires funding from SmartGrowth? Yes is a SmartGrowth committee which works under the CTWF.
  - If so, what would be the funding requirements, will it be entered into the SmartGrowth budget, does it have a ToR?
    Yes, will be supported as members who attend CTWF by way of meeting attendance fees – 5 members x $297 per meeting per member which is currently within the budget.
    ToR to be presented to CTWF on 6 May 2025 in terms of establishment and will be tabled at SLG on 23 June 2025.

Moved: Matire Duncan / Seconded: Cr. John Scrimgeour

<u>That it be Resolved</u>

That the **SmartGrowth Leadership Group:**

1. **Receives** the report for discussion.
2. **Supports** the establishment of the CTWF Te Rōpū Arotahi to progress key CTWF priority outcomes and monitoring measures that align with the SmartGrowth Strategy plans and IFP key actions and report back to SmartGrowth Leadership Group on 23 June 2025 with a report.
3. **Notes** Te Rōpū Arotahi are supported by Tū Pakari and Te Kāhui Kaunihera teams at TCC. WBOPDC and Toi Moana.

<u>CARRIED</u>

SG25/04.08 **ADVANCING INFRASTRUCTURE INVESTMENT REPORT (PAPER D)**

Nichola Lennard spoke to the Advancing Infrastructure Investment Report (Paper D) which was taken as read:

- High level analysis of investment needs to support growth has been completed, focusing on critical infrastructure.
- Shows $4.9B of investment requirement, over 10-year period with some of the infrastructure identified would support growth beyond that period.
- Gap sits mostly within transport.
- Data provided by NZTA trying to show scale of investment in RoNS within the next decade, against what previous investment has been within the region on strategic transport.
- Is a product of projects which have been delayed over time, with roads like the Northern Link having been done to address issues of urbanisation in the North.
- It was confirmed the data hasn't been inflated, is real term costs.
- Next step is to monitor the gap through the PDA tracker to ensure making progress. To also develop a sub-regional paper on new and emerging funding tools and what the sub region feels will have the most impact.
- Caution will be required on the graph as once commence further work, it will change. Drop off in long term spending is usually a product of limited information rather than actual drop off.

Moved: Cr. John Scrimgeour / Seconded: Cr. Ron Scott

<u>That it be Resolved</u>

That the **SmartGrowth Leadership Group**:

1. **Receives** the infrastructure investment analysis report, "Advancing Infrastructure Investment".
2. **Agree** that infrastructure investment progress be monitored and reported on a quarterly basis alongside the Priority Development Areas reporting.

<u>CARRIED</u>

SG25/04.09 PUBLIC EXCLUDED SESSION

The SmartGrowth Leadership Group:

1. **Agree** that the public be excluded from the following parts of this meeting:

   a) Approval of Closed Minutes – 16 December 2024
   b) Leading for Delivery Subcommittee
   c) Priority Development Area Tracker

2. **Note** that this resolution is made in reliance on section 48(1)(a) of the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987 and that the report are to be considered in public excluded in accordance with s7(2)(i) - enables any local authority holding information to carry on, without prejudice or disadvantage, negotiations (including commercial and industrial negotiations).

3. **Noted** that at the end of the closed session the meeting will move back into open.

Moved: Mayor Mahé Drysdale / Seconded: Deputy Mayor Jen Scoular

<u>That it be Resolved</u>

The meeting adjourned for morning tea at 9:50am.

The meeting returned to Open at 10:13am

The meeting moved into Closed at 10:15am

The meeting resumed in Open at 11:14am

<u>CARRIED</u>

SG25/04.10 OTHER BUSINESS

There was no other business.

SG25/04.11 KARAKIA WHAKAMUTUNGA

Te Pio Kawe formally closed the proceedings.

The meeting concluded at 11:15am

Confirmed as a true and correct record.

Mayor James Denyer
Chairperson
Date: 29/09/2025