



Submission on Hutt City Council Proposed Long Term Plan 2015-2025

Prepared by Hutt Valley Chamber of Commerce & Industry Incorporated

Introduction

The Hutt Valley Chamber of Commerce & Industry Incorporated welcomes this opportunity to submit on the Hutt City Council Proposed Long Term Plan 2015 – 2025.

Established in 1943, the Hutt Valley Chamber of Commerce & Industry Incorporated (HVCC) has long been an important part of the business community in the Hutt Valley region. Our organisation works with the other Chambers across the Wellington Region, and we are also accredited through the New Zealand Chamber of Commerce network with links to a 20,000 strong worldwide Chamber of Commerce network. Through advocacy work, the HVCC aims to create a positive, dynamic environment in which business can flourish. The HVCC also provides expert business advice, guidance and training, as well as operating an active, business-generating, network-building programme in the Hutt Region.

The HVCC membership consists of the following membership demographic Wellington City 14%, Lower Hutt 68%, Wairarapa/Kapiti/Porirua 6%, Upper Hutt 11%, and National 1%. Our membership is more than 90% made up of small and medium sized businesses, who employ less than 20 people. We are the predominant voice for the small to medium enterprise (SME) sector across the region and the regions fastest growing Chamber.

The Hutt Valley Chamber of Commerce & Industry a key partner

The Hutt Valley Chamber of Commerce wishes to acknowledge the support it has received from Council and we are pleased that the Chamber continues to exceed value for money through a wide range of services and activities that encourage business growth. We are a service provider in that we provide services to our members and, in turn, work with the Council in encouraging new initiatives that will have long term benefits for the community.

We need a step change in Hutt City, both to show that we can run a business-like City and that we are getting in front of our growth challenges and aspirations. We see ourselves as a key partner with Hutt City Council in shaping the future of the city.

Our views

The Hutt Valley Chamber of Commerce is an active supporter of growth and development plans included in the Proposed Long Term Plan for 2015-2025. (Shaping Our City Document)

We believe the ongoing commitment shown to business and residential communities by Council projects give rise to potential increases of investment in Hutt City aiding the creation a vibrant and prosperous community. Plans that have been on the drawing board for some time will now start to come into play though 2015 to 2025 should proposals in the plan be agreed.

When taken together with the key strategies of Urban Growth, Leisure and Wellbeing, Environmental Sustainability, Infrastructure and the re-development of the Civic precinct in addition to the community and sporting hubs for the city, there is a strong signal that the city is on the move.

Recognition should be given to Council in the fact that it's not been shy in recognizing its aspirations, leading the future proofing of its city and resources is seen by business to be the encouraging backbone for growth. The expansion of community facilities and infrastructure is vital for families of high value staff needed for business growth and new development initiatives. Our members are generally more confident about their future here in Lower Hutt and that is supported by the steady improvement in the local business climate.

The Hutt Valley Chamber of Commerce believes the evolution as proposed under the Long Term Plan is a positive step. We see a growing preference for staff and business owners to stay local for lifestyle and community activities. The existence, retention and attraction of locally-based facilities are the key to fulfilling those expectations.

We believe a key role for Hutt City Council is driving projects that benefit the city in the long term and the Proposed Long Term Plan 2015 - 2025 is critical to its success. We would like to see included and supported the four (4) major infrastructure projects, Cross Valley Link, CBD River Bank Car Park, Melling Bridge Alternatives and Climate Change in Council's plans. Our support also extends to all the smaller projects not included in the debt target totaling \$14.9 million with completion dates between 2015 and 2022 these projects are outlined on page 3 of Councils consultation document.

The Hutt Valley Chamber of Commerce has long been an advocate for such infrastructure developments to encourage people growth, businesses stimulation and ease of navigation within and around the city and its amenities, but we believe a tougher stance needs to be taken with the Regional Council and NZTA in their respective contributions around timing and delivery. A soft approach could mean Lower Hutt misses the mark in terms of making things happen, in particular when it comes to flood protection and transport links which are dominant features of our natural environment and gaining the monies required from key partners and agencies to make this happen in time frames not exceeding the next ten (10) years in delivery.

Conclusion

The Hutt Valley Chamber of Commerce is pleased to support the projects and overall proposals of the Hutt City Council 2015-2025 Proposed Long Term Plan consultation document and acknowledge the significant support for education, amenity, business and residential growth in the city.

The injection of capital by a central local government agency like the Hutt City Council into major infrastructure, amenity & business projects is an investment that is building confidence in the city creating resilience and a sustainable future. Already there are a number of major private developments contributing more than \$400 million to the local economy and more are in the pipeline.

Hutt City Council has already done the hard work in putting in place its strategies which are designed to ensure families and workers are attracted to the amenities available in the area and provided with jobs, it's time to stay the course and get on with it. The aggregation of people is a key contributor to the growth of businesses seeking to enhance the growth potential of Hutt City and all its opportunity.

How well Hutt City does economically ultimately underpins everything in the plan. The core delivery role of the Proposed Long Term Plan is to create a city that is easy to do business in, navigate around with fantastic amenity value and reflects a Council that is wanting to be easy to business with, creating opportunities.

We are seeking to work with you on an action plan that we can join with Council to champion and promote, and look forward to your resourcing and delivery over the next ten (10) years in order to make Hutt City an even more attractive place to locate a business, live, work and play as we believe this will lay a bold and solid foundation for future growth of the city and its generations to come!.

The Hutt Valley Chamber of Commerce & Industry wishes to be heard in support of our submission

Yours Sincerely



Mark Futter
Chief Executive