

# Bay of Plenty Mayoral Forum Agenda

NOTICE IS GIVEN that the next meeting of the Bay of Plenty Mayoral Forum will be held in Council Chambers, Regional House, 1 Elizabeth Street, Tauranga on:

Friday 2 February 2024  
COMMENCING AT 1:00pm

**This meeting will be recorded.**

The Public section of this meeting will be recorded and uploaded to Bay of Plenty Regional Council's website. Further details on this can be found after the Terms of Reference within the Agenda.

Fiona McTavish, Chief Executive  
Bay of Plenty Regional Council Toi Moana  
24 January 2024



# Bay of Plenty Mayoral Forum

## Membership

<b>Chairperson</b>	Mayor Tania Tapsell
<b>Deputy Chairperson</b>	Mayor Victor Luca
<b>Members</b>	
Bay of Plenty Regional Council	Chairman Doug Leeder Chief Executive Fiona McTavish
Kawerau District Council	Mayor Faylene Tunui Interim Chief Executive Chris Marjoribanks until 30 January 2024, then Morgan Godfery
Ōpōtiki District Council	Mayor David Moore Chief Executive Stace Lewer
Rotorua Lakes Council	Mayor Tania Tapsell (Chair) Acting Chief Executive Gina Rangi
Taupō District Council	Mayor David Trewavas Chief Executive Julie Gardyne
Tauranga City Council	Commission Chair Anne Tolley Chief Executive Marty Grenfell
Western Bay of Plenty District Council	Mayor James Denyer Chief Executive John Holyoake
Whakatāne District Council	Mayor Victor Luca (Deputy Chair) Chief Executive Stephanie O'Sullivan
<b>Quorum</b>	N/A
<b>Frequency</b>	4-monthly

## Triennial Agreement 2022 – 2025

The Bay of Plenty Mayoral Forum is guided by the Triennial Agreement, which is entered into after each local government election as a requirement under Section 15 of the Local Government Act 2002.

The Triennial Agreement 2022-2025 was signed to by each partner council on 27 February 2023.

## Recording of Meetings

Please note the Public section of this meeting is being recorded and will be uploaded Bay of Plenty Regional Council's web site in accordance with Council's Live Streaming and Recording of Meetings Protocols which can be viewed on Council's website. The recording will be archived and made publicly available on Council's website within two working days after the meeting on [www.boprc.govt.nz](http://www.boprc.govt.nz) for a period of three years (or as otherwise agreed to by Council).

All care is taken to maintain your privacy; however, as a visitor in the public gallery or as a participant at the meeting, your presence may be recorded. By remaining in the public gallery, it is understood your consent is given if your image is inadvertently broadcast.

Opinions expressed or statements made by individual persons during a meeting are not the opinions or statements of the Bay of Plenty Regional Council. Council accepts no liability for any opinions or statements made during a meeting.

Recommendations in reports are not to be construed as Council policy until adopted by Council.

# Agenda

## Opening Karakia

1. Apologies
2. Acceptance of Late Items
3. Public Excluded Business to be Transferred into the Open
4. Minutes

### Minutes to be Confirmed

- 4.1 Bay of Plenty Mayoral Forum Minutes - 24 November 2023 6

## 5. Reports

### Decisions Required

- 5.1 Letter to Hon Min Simeon Brown for Approval 15

Attachment 1 - Bay of Plenty Mayoral Forum Minister Invitation Letter - Hon Min Simeon Brown

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## 6. Public Excluded Section

### Resolution to exclude the public

Excludes the public from the following parts of the proceedings of this meeting as set out below:

The general subject of each matter to be considered while the public is excluded, the reason for passing this resolution in relation to each matter, and the specific grounds under section 48(1) of the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987 for the passing of this resolution are as follows:

Item No.	Subject of each matter to be considered	Reason for passing this resolution in relation to each matter	Grounds under Section 48(1) for the passing of this resolution	When the item can be released into the public
6.1	Workshop: Water Infrastructure/3 Waters Business Case Update	Withholding the information is necessary to maintain the effective conduct of public affairs through the free and frank	48(1)(a)(i) Section 7 (2)(f)(i).	To remain in public excluded.

Item No.	Subject of each matter to be considered	Reason for passing this resolution in relation to each matter	Grounds under Section 48(1) for the passing of this resolution	When the item can be released into the public
		expression of opinions by or between or to members or officers or employees of any local authority, or any persons to whom section 2(5) applies, in the course of their duty..		

### Workshop Session

#### 6.1 Workshop: Water Infrastructure/3 Waters Business Case Update

Information in support of this workshop will be distributed separately.

7. Public Excluded Business to be Transferred into the Open
8. Readmit the Public
9. Consideration of Late Items

# Bay of Plenty Mayoral Forum

## Open Minutes

- Commencing:** Friday 24 November 2023, 1.00 pm
- Venue:** Rotorua Lakes Council, 1061 Haupapa Street, Rotorua
- Chairperson:** Chairperson Tania Tapsell – Rotorua Lakes Council (RLC)
- Deputy Chairperson:** Deputy Chairperson Victor Luca – Whakatāne District Council (WDC)
- Members:** Chairman Doug Leeder – Bay of Plenty Regional Council (BOPRC)  
Commission Chair Anne Tolley – Tauranga City Council (TCC)  
Mayor Faylene Tunui – Kawerau District Council (KDC)  
Mayor David Moore – Ōpōtiki District Council (ODC)  
Mayor James Denyer – Western Bay of Plenty District Council (WBOPDC)
- In Attendance:** Staff: Gina Rangi - Acting Chief Executive (RLC); Fiona McTavish - Chief Executive (BOPRC); Namouta Poutasi - General Manager Strategy & Science (BOPRC); Marty Grenfell - Chief Executive (TCC); Peter Bridgwater - Group Manager Finance and Corporate Services (ODC); Antoine Coffin - Manager Spatial Planning (BOPRC); Megan Wilson (WBOPDC) – via Zoom; Steve Groom – Governance Manager (BOPRC); Tone Nerdrum Smith – Senior Advisor, Governance (BOPRC)
- Presenters: Endine Dixon-Harris and Teeina Kaiaruna (both via Zoom) – Te Whatu Ora; Hayden Smith and Jamie Reid – Sea Cleaners
- Apologies:** Mayor Trewavas, Julie Gardyne, Stephanie O’Sullivan, John Holyoake, Stace Lewer and Chris Marjoribanks

Noted that the meeting was being recorded and that the recording would be uploaded to the BOPRC website following the meeting [Mayoral Forum Zoom Video Recording - 24 November 2023 \(youtube.com\)](#)

### 1. Opening Karakia

A karakia was provided by Mayor Tania Tapsell.

### 2. Apologies

#### Resolved

**That the Bay of Plenty Mayoral Forum:**

- 1 Accepts the apology from Mayor David Trewavas, Julie Gardyne, Stephanie O'Sullivan, John Holyoake, Stace Lewer and Chris Marjoribanks for absence tendered at the meeting.

Tolley/Moore  
CARRIED

### 3. Items not on the Agenda

#### Resolved

That the Bay of Plenty Mayoral Forum:

1. Accepts the item "Seeking feedback on the Pyrolysis of Tyres" as a new item to the agenda;
2. Notes that the item was not available when the agenda was issued and that feedback is sought before the end of 2023.

Luca/Leeder  
CARRIED

### 4. Declaration of Conflicts of Interest

None declared.

### 5. Minutes

#### Minutes to be Confirmed

#### 5.1 Bay of Plenty Mayoral Forum Minutes - 21 April 2023

#### Resolved

That the Bay of Plenty Mayoral Forum:

- 1 Confirms the Bay of Plenty Mayoral Forum Minutes - 21 April 2023 as a true and correct record.

Tolley/Denyer  
CARRIED

#### 5.2 Bay of Plenty Mayoral Forum Minutes - 11 August 2023

#### Resolved

That the Bay of Plenty Mayoral Forum:

- 1 Confirms the Bay of Plenty Mayoral Forum Minutes - 11 August 2023 as a true and correct record;

- 2 **Confirm the public excluded Bay of Plenty Mayoral Forum Minutes – 11 August 2023 as a true and correct record (as there was no discussion regarding these minutes, they were confirmed as part of the public minutes).**

Tolley/Denyer  
CARRIED

## 6. Presentations

### 6.1 Te Whatu Ora: Localities and Locality Boundary Determination

*Presentation: Te Whatu Ora Localities Presentation: Objective ID A4569531*

Presented by: Teeina Kaiaruna - Principal Advisor, National Locality Design Team  
And General Manager Iwi Relationships, Te Aka Whai Ora, and  
Endine Dixon-Harris, Senior Advisor, National Locality Design Team,  
Te Whatu Ora – both via Zoom.

#### **Key Points - Presentation:**

- Whakapapa of localities
- Pae Ora (Healthy Futures) Act
- Health Systems Reforms
- Determining locality boundaries
- Boundary determination steps
- Commissioning cycle
- What is a locality
- The Whatu Ora and Te Aka Whai Ora support
- The First Localities
- Key learnings
- Regional Integration Teams (RIT).

#### **Key Points:**

- Noted that a copy of the presentations had been included in the agenda.

#### **In response to questions:**

- Acknowledged the significant inequity within the current health system
- Aim was to place the community/people at the centre of the service provided



- Recognised the finite nature of health funding and the challenge of deciding how the available funding could be best applied, which included opportunities for partnership agreements to extend/increase funding
- The locality map would be amended to reflect the correct boundaries for the Eastern Bay of Plenty
- Was currently awaiting confirmation regarding the localities of a number of areas, including Tauranga and Kawerau
- Clarified the two co-leads for Te Manawa Taki
- Recognised that the current direction of Toi Te Ora and this project could be changed following the change in Central Government
- Noted that an element of co-funding would be required for this stream of work, as it could not all be covered within allocated health budgets.

**Key Points - Members:**

- Noted the split between private vs public health provision in New Zealand and queried the ability of Toi Te Ora to deliver under the current model/funding
- Sought further information regarding progress made
- Noted the reference to the 'local government budget' and queried what - if any - financial commitments were expected was as the region's councils were currently progressing/developing their 2024-2034 Long Term Plans (LTPs)
- Cautioned against 'overpromise and under delivery' due to the significant commitments and pressure on the current health system.

## 6.2 Sea Cleaners - Looking After Our Environment

Presented by: Hayden Smith and Jamie Reid – Sea Cleaners

**Key Points:**

- Presented using their website: [Sea Cleaners | We remove rubbish from the Sea, Harbours and Oceans](#)
- Noted that a copy of the August 2023 quarterly report had been included in the agenda
- Noted that Trustees Paula Bennet and Sir Bob Harvey had been unable to attend
- Sea Cleaners was a nationwide, volunteer based service, and relied on donations, grants and funding to operate
- Five vessels were currently in operation, with five more prepared to launch
- Each vessel/team currently collected approximately 2m<sup>3</sup> of rubbish per day

- Currently received support from a number of councils and organisations, including the Port of Tauranga
- The service was not limited to the ocean, but also included rivers and lakes
- Recognised the various waste streams that contributed to water pollution, and had practices in place to best address this in its service
- The vessels were well maintained to optimise performance and minimise emissions
- Had applied for funding three times from the governmental Waste Minimisation Fund, however remained unsuccessful to date
- Total funding sought towards the Bay of Plenty service was \$300,000
- Support in principle from the Mayoral Forum would carry weight when applying for funding from various streams.

**Key Points – Members:**

- Recognised the value of the service and the significant efforts of the volunteers involved
- Noted that the councils were all currently preparing their LTP 2024-2024, and encouraged Sea Cleaners to make submissions for funding/support as part of the consultation process.

**Items for Staff Follow Up:**

- Chief Executives to apply a co-ordinated approach in ensuring submissions were lodged with each Council, recognising the support of the service provided by Sea Cleaners.

## **7. Reports**

### **Decisions Required**

#### **7.1 Bay of Plenty Climate Risk Assessment Update**

Megan Wilson – WBOPDC attended the meeting for this item (via Zoom).

**Key Points:**

- Noted that the report, although prepared by TCC staff, had not been overseen/authorised by Chair Tolley as such
- Sought discussion on how the Mayoral Forum could progress this initiative with the new central government.

#### **7.2 Briefing for Incoming Ministers**

*Presentation: Manawa Initiative: Objective ID A4570932*

Presented by: Antoine Coffin – Manager Spatial Planning (BOPRC) and Namouta Poutasi - General Manager Strategy & Science (BOPRC)

**Key Points:**

- Noted the ‘first draft’ nature of the Briefing for Incoming Ministers (BIM) paper.

**Key Points - Members:**

- Noted the current development of a ‘city deal’ between TCC and WBOPDC, and considered the preparation of a regional BIM could confuse and distract, rather than inform
- Agreed that a BIM should be high level and strategic
- Considered that the BIM as presented was relatively BOPRC focussed, and that it may not reflect the issues as addressed in the city deal, i.e. there was a risk of potential conflict in the messaging between the two documents
- TCC would not be supportive of the BIM in its current/traditional form
- Queried the value/accessibility of traditional BIMs, considering the workload of the Ministers given the ministerial portfolio division
- BIMs needed to be solution focussed, rather than covering issues/challenges only, yet also emphasize what the Bay of Plenty region aspired to achieve
- Recognised the significant differences across the region and three distinct subregions, both in respect of issues and suggested solutions
- Recognised the three distinct subregions in the Bay of Plenty
- Suggested a direct approach/letter and a ‘sit down’ between Ministers and the Mayoral Forum might be more efficient/achieve results
- The letter to the Minister for Local Government should identify issues and potential solution across the region and cover what we want to discuss
- Noted that economic growth was a key topic for the new coalition government and agreed that, as a growth area, the Bay of Plenty could make significant contribution to this discussion.

**Action for Staff Follow-Up:**

- The Chief Executives to work together on the letter to the Minister of Local Government [refer resolution 3].

**Resolved**

**That the Bay of Plenty Mayoral Forum:**

**1 Receives the report, Briefing for Incoming Ministers;**

- 2 **Invites the new Minister of Local Government to the next meeting of the Mayoral Forum;**
- 3 **Prepare a letter to the Minister of Local Government, covering the following:**
  - **Direct approach/letter rather than a traditional BIM, identifying issues and potential solutions across the region;**
  - **Recognise the Bay of Plenty as a growth region and identify opportunities to work with central government to address and resolve the unique challenges this presents.**

**Tolley/Tunui  
CARRIED**

## **8. Verbal Update**

### **8.1 Focus on Efficiency and Effectiveness - Verbal Update**

Presented by: Chief Executive McTavish and Chairman Leeder.

#### **Key Points:**

- Sought increased efficiencies across the region through shared services, e.g. in areas such as management of reserves, building consent applications etc. and that this could be pursued through expanded responsibilities for BOPLASS
- Noted that the current efficiencies and savings of BOPLASS in procurement services were significant
- Considered that there needed to be an appetite for and support of increased types of shared services, beyond procurement. An example was BOPRC's support of Gisborne District Council in its Cyclone Gabrielle recovery.

#### **Key Points - Members:**

- Noted the cross regional benefit by procurement via BOPLASS, and considered there was significant scope for further enhancement/expansion
- Queried where the responsibility would sit if e.g. consenting was provided at a regional basis and something failed, and that such possible implications needed to be clearly identified and resolved
- Any expansion of shared serviced required region-wide support to be implemented and provide improved efficiencies
- Due to the different nature/requirements of each Council, there might be services that could not successfully be shared, rather needed to be provided/retained separately
- Important to recognise and explore the potential benefit to the ratepayer/consumers.

**Action for Staff Follow-Up:**

- Further reporting to be provided at the next meeting of the Mayoral Forum by the ODC Chief Executive, who was leading this initiative.

**9. Consideration of Items not on the Agenda****9.1 Late Item: Pyrolysis of Tyres**

Presented By: Mayor Victor Luca (WDC)

**Key Points:**

- Recognised that waste was a continuing and increasing issue for the region
- A quote provided by an international, well established operator totalled \$30m and would process all tyres nationwide, rather than for the Bay of Plenty region only
- Sought direction for the Mayoral Forum if there was an appetite to explore this further as a regional waste initiative.

**Key Points - Members:**

- Noted that there was work currently taking place between councils at a staff level on how to deal with waste across the region and supported that such discussions should include how to manage end of life tyres.

**Action for Staff Follow-Up:**

- Additional material prepared by Mayor Luca regarding this initiative to be circulated after the meeting
- The business case for the Te Maunga Transfer Station redevelopment was scheduled to be presented to TCC in February 2024 and would then be shared with the Mayoral Forum
- Supported pursuing this initiative as part of the regional waste management strategy, currently underway, and that this be relayed to the relevant TCC staff.

**10. Public Excluded Section**

Item No.	Subject of each matter to be considered	Reason for passing this resolution in relation to each matter	Grounds under Section 48(1) for the passing of this resolution	When the item can be released into the public
10.1	Public Excluded Bay of Plenty	As noted in the relevant Minutes.	As noted in the relevant Minutes.	To remain in public excluded.

	Mayoral Forum Minutes - 11 August 2023			
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*Minute note: As the Public Excluded minutes from 11 August 2023 were confirmed as part of the public minutes, there was no requirement to move the meeting into public excluded.*

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## 11. Closing Karakia

A karakia was provided by Mayor Tania Tapsell.

**3.26 pm – the meeting closed.**

**CONFIRMED**

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Mayor Tania Tapsell  
Chairperson, Bay of Plenty Mayoral Forum



**Report To:** Bay of Plenty Mayoral Forum

**Meeting Date:** 2 February 2024

**Report Writer:** Tone Nerdrum Smith, Senior Advisor, Governance

**Report Authoriser:** Fiona McTavish, Chief Executive

**Purpose:** Seeking the Mayoral Forum's approval of the attached letter to Hon Min Simeon Brown

## Letter to Hon Min Simeon Brown for Approval

### Executive Summary

For the Mayoral Forum to consider for approval the attached letter prepared for the Hon Simeon Brown, Minister of Local Government.

## Recommendations

**That the Bay of Plenty Mayoral Forum:**

- 1 Receives the report, Letter to Hon Min Simeon Brown for Approval.**
- 2 Approves the letter as attached, inviting Hon Simeon Brown, Minister of Local Government to the Mayoral Forum meeting on 3 May 2024, with the following amendments (if any):**
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  -

### 1. Introduction and Background

Following the General Election in October 2023, the Mayoral Forum – at its meeting on 24 November 2023, agreed to prepare a letter to the incoming Minister of Local Government. The letter would be prepared jointly by the Chief Executives of the Bay of Plenty Region and would include an invitation to the Minister to the next meeting of the Forum.

An invitation was extended to the Hon Min Simeon Brown by Mayor Tania Tapsell for today's meeting; however the Minister was unable to attend and declined.

The draft letter as prepared by the Chief Executives now invites the Minister to the next meeting on Friday 3 May 2024. The letter is prepared in accordance with the resolutions passed at the 24 November 2023 Mayoral Forum meeting:

**3 Prepare a letter to the Minister of Local Government, covering the following:**

- **Direct approach/letter rather than a traditional BIM, identifying issues and potential solutions across the region;**
- **Recognise the Bay of Plenty as a growth region and identify opportunities to work with central government to address and resolve the unique challenges this presents.**

The Mayoral Forum is asked to consider the attached letter for approval to be sent to Hon Min Simeon Brown.

## 1.1 Climate Change

The letter refers to the significant challenges ahead to ensure communities are climate change and natural hazard resilient and able to adapt when needed. To improve resilience, careful infrastructure planning continues, along with the identification of key transport network areas of susceptibility - to be addressed through the Regional Land Transport Plan.

Attention is also being given to our evolving needs for new biosecurity measures, and a focus on a resilient and strong regional economy

## 2. Next Steps

Once approved, the letter will be sent to the Hon Simeon Brown, Minister of Local Government.

## Attachments

Attachment 1 - Bay of Plenty Mayoral Forum Minister Invitation Letter - Hon Min Simeon Brown [↓](#)



11 December 2023

Minister Bishop, Minister Jones, and Minister Brown

Parliament Office  
Private Bag 18888  
Parliament Buildings  
Wellington 6160

And by email: [chris.bishop@parliament.govt.nz](mailto:chris.bishop@parliament.govt.nz); [shane.jones@parliament.govt.nz](mailto:shane.jones@parliament.govt.nz);  
[Simeon.brown@parliament.govt.nz](mailto:Simeon.brown@parliament.govt.nz)

Kei te rangatira, tēnā koutou

### Bay of Plenty Mayoral Forum Invitation

We are writing to invite you to attend an upcoming Bay of Plenty Mayoral Forum meeting on 3 May 2024. This meeting is a critical one as it aims to discuss strategic issues and solutions that are vital for the future of our region.

The Bay of Plenty Mayoral Forum is made up of the following local authorities (Whakatāne District Council, Western Bay of Plenty District Council, Tauranga City Council, Rotorua Lakes Council, Ōpōtiki District Council, Kawerau District Council, Bay of Plenty Regional Council and part of Taupō District Council). We are working in partnership to deliver on urban and spatial strategy priorities which will determine how the region will grow and change over time.

### Our region

The Bay of Plenty:

- Is a vibrant region supported by multiple industries - agriculture, horticulture, forestry, aquiculture and geothermal.
- Has a favourable climate and an enviable lifestyle.
- Is an economic powerhouse with \$21.6B GDP (6% of NZ's GDP) in 2022 (StatsNZ).
- Is strategically placed with the Port of Tauranga offering unrivalled sea connections to key export markets.
- Is a region covering approx 22,000 km<sup>2</sup> with an abundance of natural resources - coastal plains, mountains, forest, lakes, eight major rivers, significant geothermal areas and an extensive coastal marine area (9,500 km<sup>2</sup>).
- Has a diverse population - approximately 324,000 people, 25% identifying as Māori.
- Has a rich cultural heritage – with over 39 iwi, 260 hapū, 200 marae.

However, like any region, we face our own unique set of challenges and opportunities.



## Regional opportunities and challenges

**Growth pressures:** There are extremely high growth pressures in the western Bay of Plenty due to limited land availability, the cost of intensification and land being subject to natural hazards (flooding, liquefaction, coastal erosion and coastal inundation). Both Tauranga City Council and Western Bay of Plenty District Council don't meet housing supply requirements of the National Policy Statement for Urban Development, and in Tauranga, the business land requirements. This is leading to:

- An acute housing shortage.
- Significant infrastructure constraints, which need to be unlocked.

A range of solutions are proposed as part of a separate City Deal which enables housing development, improved transport networks and increased urban and industrial development. It provides a future ready public transport network, social infrastructure improvements (hospital, tertiary and marine) and includes a range of specific initiatives.

**Delivering homes for our growing population:** Housing demand remains one of our key challenges in our urban areas. There are further opportunities to improve housing, including affordable housing in both rural and urban areas.

**Productivity in our regional economy:** We have a strong economic base in food (agriculture, horticulture and aquaculture), forestry, tourism and geothermal energy. There are significant opportunities to improve productivity across the region through:

- Strategic infrastructure (air, sea, including Ōpōtiki Harbour, road, rail transport).
- Research and Development support for key sectors (especially forestry, food, geothermal).
- Effective positioning and support for New Zealand's international tourism profile.
- Agriculture and aquaculture opportunities.
- Improved transport connections especially freight logistics and access to the port.

**A climate resilient Bay of Plenty:** There are significant challenges ahead to ensure communities are climate change and natural hazard resilient and able to adapt when needed. To improve resilience, careful infrastructure planning continues, along with the identification of key transport network areas of susceptibility - to be addressed through the Regional Land Transport Plan. Attention is also being given to our evolving needs for new biosecurity measures, and a focus on a resilient and strong regional economy.

**Safe, supported and empowered Bay of Plenty residents:** Social issues such as homelessness, crime, lack of police, intergenerational poverty continue to be of concern across the Bay.

**Unlocking infrastructure to support growth:** Like all councils, the cost of 3 Waters infrastructure for councils in the Bay is immense and cannot be addressed without Government assistance re: funding/policy settings.

These challenges require strategic thinking, innovative solutions, and most importantly, collaborative efforts.

**Next steps**

The Mayoral Forum provides an excellent platform for us to come together, share our insights, and work towards common goals for the benefit of the Bay of Plenty community. Your presence at the meeting would not only lend weight to the discussions but also provide invaluable insights given your experience and understanding of the complexities of governance.

We understand that you have a busy schedule, but we sincerely hope that you will be able to make time for this important event. Your contribution can make a significant difference in shaping the future of the Bay of Plenty.

We look forward to your positive response and hope to see you at the Mayoral Forum meeting.

Ngā mihi nui

**Mayoral Forum Chair**  
Mayor Tapsell

**Attachment 1: Additional context****Eastern Bay**

Key priorities include:

- Additional resilience, security and connectivity across the Eastern Bay enabled through key roads and rail, particularly crossings over key rivers.
- This includes development of a southern freight route to connect the Eastern Bay with Hawke's Bay, security of alternative routes to the existing state highway network (especially SH 35 and SH 2), road improvements to unlock housing opportunities and consideration and investigation of the extension of Tauranga Eastern Link.
- Eastern Bay spatial plan 'Our Places' development to establish a strong plan for managing growth and enabling investment into the sub-region (Whakatāne, Kawerau and Ōpōtiki).
- Enhanced Whakatāne airport facilities as a sub-regional transport hub.
- Aquiculture opportunities and marine industry development in Ōpōtiki and Whakatāne.
- Ōpōtiki Harbour.
- Agriculture opportunities.
- Critical infrastructure investment to support housing development in Whakatāne, Ōpōtiki, Kawerau and other Eastern Bay rural settlements.
- Iwi settlements.
- Opportunities to unlock Māori-led housing opportunities, including reduction of impediments for housing on Māori land (mainly policy changes).
- Redevelopment of the Whakatāne Rex Morpeth Park facilities to serve as a much-needed, sports, cultural and recreational hub.

**Rotorua future growth**

Rotorua Lakes Council and the Bay of Plenty Regional Council recently adopted its Future Development Strategy which includes a response to change, growth and demand for housing and business space. Strategic outcomes are:

- Connection – Thriving City Centre Supported by Local Centres
- Access – A compact City
- Prosperity – A Strong Economy
- Choice – Housing Choices meet Diverse Needs
- Culture – Te Arwa Reo, Tikanga and Values
- Environment – Protection and Enhancement
- Resilient – Effects of Climate Change and Natural Hazards
- Investment – Smart, Safe and Reliable Infrastructure
- Residential and Business Capacity

**Western Bay of Plenty**

SmartGrowth Strategy, Urban Form Transport initiative and the Transport System Plan are the agreed strategic direction that has been approved, endorsed by partners, Councils, New Zealand Transport Agency (Waka Kotahi) and tangata whenua. The vision for the Western Bay is a great place to live, learn, work and play. Key transformational shifts and areas for greatest improvement are:

- Homes for everyone.
- Marae as centres and opportunities for whenua Māori.
- Emissions reduction through connected centres.
- Strong economic corridors linking the east and west to the city and the port.
- Restore and enhance eco-systems for the future generations.
- Radical change to the delivery, funding and financing model for growth.