

9.5 Growth & Infrastructure Committee Report

Report To:	Council
Meeting Date:	Wednesday, 24 September 2025
Author:	Bill Machen
Author Title:	Cr
Authorised by:	Executive Manager Delivery

Purpose

End of Term Presentation to the Council for the Growth and Infrastructure Committee.

Recommendation

That the Council:

- a. Receives and notes the report from the Chair of the Growth & Infrastructure Committee (Resolve#2025-136).

Executive Summary

The Chair's end of term report covers the following key matters:

- Terms of Reference
- Membership
- Meeting held
- Key Insights;
 - Positive Outcomes
 - Areas for Future Focus

Context

Terms of Reference, Membership, Meetings held

Growth and Infrastructure Committee

Purpose

The purpose of the Growth and Infrastructure Committee is to assist the Council and business community to develop and grow the South Waikato District.

Role

- To provide direction on strategic priorities for core infrastructure aligned to the district's development, and oversight of strategic projects.
- Review and recommend to Council positions on regional economic development.
- Consider any issues delegated by Council that have a regional, environmental, social or economic focus.

- Provide advice to the Council on priorities for the Council's land and social infrastructure expenditure.
- Liaise with the Local Services Committee to make recommendations to Council on strategic infrastructure investments.
- Recommend to Council submissions on legislation, policy, regulations, standards, plans and other instruments prepared by Central Government, Local Government and other organisations around growth and infrastructure.
- Identify, monitor and evaluate necessary actions by the organisation and other relevant organisations under co-governance arrangements as they relate to local services.
- Monitor and review regional spatial and land use strategies.
- Monitor key performance measures relating to district and regional growth.

Power to Act

The Committee has no power to act on behalf of the Council.

The Committee may be a conduit for hearing of public submissions.

The Committee may also appoint sub-committees to enquire into specific matters.

Power to Recommend

The Growth and Infrastructure is authorised to:

- Review and develop strategic policy and strategy.
- Recommend to Council submissions on legislation, policy, regulations, standards, plans and other instruments prepared by Central Government, Local Government and other organisations.
- Identify, monitor and evaluate necessary actions by the organisation and other relevant organisations under co-governance arrangements as they relate to growth and infrastructure.

Review

The committee's operation, terms of reference and membership will be reviewed after 12 months.

Membership

2023 Members	March & April 2023	2		
Mayor Petley	Feb, May, Aug & Nov 2024	4		
Cr Farrell	Feb, May & Aug 2025	3		
Cr Machen				
Cr Nelis				
Cr Te Kanawa				
Cr Wallace				
2024 & 2025 Members				
Mayor Petley				
Cr Lee				

Cr Machen (Chair)			
Cr Nelis			
Cr Te Kanawa			
Cr Wallace			
Cr Purdy (member added Nov 2024)			9

Discussion

Key Insights

- Positive Outcomes
 - A new three-year partnership with the Waikato Chamber of Commerce has strengthened local business support, networking, and advocacy in the South Waikato
 - Key Council projects, including the Tokoroa Pool Upgrade, Maraetai Road Intermodal Business Park, and Three Waters renewal and growth upgrades, have progressed successfully
 - Earthworks begun on the Strathmore Park Development, providing the district's largest housing boost since the 1970s, including up to 31 affordable homes in the initial stage
 - Key industry investments and partnerships with existing and new businesses, including OFI, have contributed to economic growth and local employment opportunities
- Areas for Future Focus
 - Continue strengthening business connectivity and resilience by expanding support, networking opportunities, and advocacy for local businesses across the district
 - Ensure long-term alignment of infrastructure investments with growth, climate resilience, and urban/rural development needs
 - Continue planning and investing in parks, recreation, cultural, and civic facilities to meet future demand and enhance livability
 - Leverage partnerships, grants, and central government funding to optimise investment outcomes and regional infrastructure alignment