

Agenda for a meeting of the Waikato District Council to be held in the Council Chambers, District Office, 15 Galileo Street, Ngaruawahia on **TUESDAY 20 SEPTEMBER 2016** commencing at **8.45am**.

Information and recommendations are included in the reports to assist the Board in the decision making process and may not constitute Council's decision or policy until considered by the Board.

1. APOLOGIES AND LEAVE OF ABSENCE

2. CONFIRMATION OF STATUS OF AGENDA

3. DISCLOSURES OF INTEREST

4. COMMITTEE AND DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS

4.1 Mid-sized Tourism Facilities Grant Fund

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Open Meeting

To	Waikato District Council
From	TG Whittaker General Manager Strategy & Support
Date	16 September 2016
Prepared by	Clive Morgan Economic Development Manager
Chief Executive Approved	Y
DWS Document Set #	1607150
Report Title	Mid-sized Tourism Facilities Grant Fund

I. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

A new Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment Regional Mid-sized Tourism Facilities Grant Fund (“the Fund”) of \$12 million over four years was established at Budget 2016 for small infrastructure projects that deliver facilities utilised by visitors, enhance the visitor experience and help communities maximise their tourism growth potential.

Council has made an application to the Fund for visitor related projects in Raglan that Council would not otherwise be able to deliver.

A requirement of the Fund includes Council making a financial contribution to the maximum extent possible. Council’s contribution is unbudgeted. However, the opportunity to leverage Council’s contribution with the Fund provides an opportunity to bring forward projects that meet the Fund’s criteria and will enhance Raglan’s visitor experience and benefit the local community.

Total cost of the applied for projects is \$420,000.

2. RECOMMENDATION

THAT the report from the **General Manager Strategy & Support** be received;

AND THAT Council approve making an application to **Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment Regional Mid-sized Tourism Facilities Grant Fund**;

AND FURTHER THAT Council approves a contribution of up to **\$120,000** towards the capital works to deliver the facilities applied for under the **Regional Mid-sized Tourism Facilities Grant Fund**, to be funded from the **General Accounting Reserve Fund**.

AND FURTHER THAT if the Mid-sized Tourism Facilities Grant Fund application is unsuccessful, Councils contribution be returned to the General Accounting Reserve Fund.

3. BACKGROUND

A new Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment Regional Mid-sized Tourism Facilities Grant Fund (“the Fund”) of \$12 million over four years was established at Budget 2016 for small infrastructure projects that deliver facilities utilised by visitors, enhance the visitor experience and help communities maximise their tourism growth potential.

The Fund reflects the reality that some districts have a limited ability to respond to the pressure caused by visitor growth, because of funding constraints such as low ratepayer bases.

The Fund will provide the support needed so communities can afford to fund visitor-related facilities such as toilets, carparks, waste disposal and minor water management projects.

Council submitted an application on the closing date of 15 September 2016.

This funding is contestable and focuses on the following:

- Mid-sized infrastructure projects to deliver facilities utilised by visitors and locals, contributing to a positive impact for the local community and region;
- Districts with low ratepayer bases and funding constraints, that are experiencing high or increasing levels of visitor numbers; and
- Enhancing visitor experience, by delivering facilities that are useful and relevant to visitor needs.

A decision is expected prior to the end of October 2016.

4. DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS OF OPTIONS

Staff considered a number of possible projects to apply for funding. Based on the Fund criteria the following projects in Raglan are considered most suited the Fund’s intended purpose and most likely to successfully attract funding:

- Raglan Tourist Enhancements (Improved accessibility to town centre, and mountain bike trails and coastal beaches).
 - Sub-project 1: Upgrade Wainui Rd. walkway/cycleway beside road, through high speed area to turn-off to mountain bike trails/coastal beach.
 - Sub-project 2: Improve pedestrian linkage between Raglan Sports Reserve carpark and coastal-road route to town centre and install wayfinding signage.

The total cost of these projects is \$420,000.

These projects are unbudgeted. However, the Fund provides Council with an opportunity to deliver an improved level of service to the Raglan community and leverage co-funding offered by the Fund.

It is recommended Council make a contribution of \$120,000 which would require the Fund to contribution \$300,000 to deliver these projects.

Project 1 will deliver improved connectivity between Raglan's CBD and Wainui Reserve for both pedestrians and cyclists through a high speed road section that currently links the town centre and the peninsular campground/airfield to the visitor attractions on the coast (i.e. mountain bike trails, reserve land and beaches).

Project 2 will provide a direct pathway to Puriri Street from the Sports Reserve carpark as well as improved wayfinding signage between the CBD and the Sports Reserve carpark.

5. CONSIDERATION

5.1 FINANCIAL

The total cost of these projects is \$420,000.

Councils contribution of \$120,000 to be funded from the General Accounting Reserve Fund.

If application for funding is unsuccessful, there will be no expenditure and Councils contribution will be returned to the General Accounting Reserve Fund.

5.2 LEGAL

The amended purpose of local government provides for councils to meet the current and future needs of communities for good quality local infrastructure, local public services and performance functions in a way that is most cost-effective for households and businesses.

Councils application to the Fund is compliant.

5.3 STRATEGY, PLANS, POLICY AND PARTNERSHIP ALIGNMENT

Projects are consistent with Council's Trails Strategy (2016) which identifies indicative locations for potential new trails and links to be developed in the district in the long-term future.

They also align with Raglan Naturally and Hamilton & Waikato Tourism Opportunities Plan which Council supports.

5.4 ASSESSMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE AND ENGAGEMENT POLICY AND OF EXTERNAL STAKEHOLDERS

(Ascertain if the Significance & Engagement Policy is triggered or not and specify the level/s of engagement that will be required as per the table below (refer to the Policy for more detail and an explanation of each level of engagement):

Highest levels of engagement	Inform	Consult	Involve	Collaborate	Empower
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<i>Tick the appropriate box/boxes and specify what it involves by providing a brief explanation of the tools which will be used to engage (refer to the project engagement plan if applicable).</i>	Raglan Community Board.				

State below which external stakeholders have been or will be engaged with:

Planned	In Progress	Complete	
		✓	Internal
		✓	Community Boards/Community Committees
			Waikato-Tainui/Local iwi
			Households
			Business
			Other Please Specify

Due to these projects being an enhancement of existing infrastructure, and alignment with the Trails Strategy, no further consultation is required.

6. CONCLUSION

Council has the opportunity to improve the levels of service to the Raglan community and visitors to Raglan sooner by making an application to the Fund. Not making an application will defer these projects by an unspecified period and potential cost of delivering these projects will be significantly more for Council.

7. ATTACHMENTS

Mid-sized Tourism Facilities Grant Fund Application