

8. SOUTHERN RIM GATEWAY CITIES TO THE ANTARCTIC - STATEMENT OF INTENT

General Manager responsible:	General Manager Public Affairs, DDI: 941-8982
Officer responsible:	Civic and International Relations Manager
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PURPOSE OF REPORT

1. The purpose of this report is to provide the Mayor of Christchurch with the authority to sign the Statement of Intent (**Attachment 1**) between Antarctic Rim Gateway Cities to the Antarctic: Ushuaia, Punta Arenas, Christchurch, Hobart and Cape Town.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

2. The Antarctic Industry contributes \$88 million direct expenditure annually to the Christchurch economy. Christchurch is becoming a lead international player, as a Gateway to the Antarctic, having secured the COMNAP (Council of Managers of National Antarctic Programmes) office from Hobart, and continuing to host both the largest Antarctic programme, USA, the Italian programme and in future, potentially the Korean programme. We are also developing stronger Antarctic links with China, with their icebreaker visiting and securing supplies in October 2009.
3. The recent establishment of CABIN (Canterbury Antarctic business interest network) in Christchurch, provides further growth opportunities in the Antarctic logistics and supply areas.
4. The sharing of best practise in the Antarctic logistics area is a key component of this proposed Statement of Intent.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

Do the Recommendations of this Report Align with 2006-16 LTCCP budgets?

5. The signing of the Statement of Intent is part of the Season Opening for the Antarctic Summer season. The Season Opening is budgeted for within the LTCCP, through Events budgets. Support for maintaining and developing international partnerships for the Christchurch Antarctic programme is within the International Relations activity management plan.

LEGAL CONSIDERATIONS

6. The Statement of Intent is not a legally binding document, but rather an expression of intent to conduct collaborative activity. The Statement of Intent has a time frame duration of 18 months, at which stage consideration will be given to moving forward to a more formal, legal agreement.

ALIGNMENT WITH LTCCP AND ACTIVITY MANAGEMENT PLANS

Do the recommendations of this report support a level of service or project in the 2006-16 LTCCP?

7. The maintenance and development of relationships with international partners in the Christchurch Antarctic programme' is a service level in the International Relations Activity Management plan under economic development.

Do the recommendations align with the Council's strategies?

8. Developing International partnerships in the Christchurch Antarctic programme funding aligns with the following Community outcomes:
 - A prosperous city
 - A city of inclusive and diverse communities.

CONSULTATION FULFILMENT

9. Consultation has been facilitated with MFAT, Canterbury Antarctic partners, Antarctica NZ and with the Embassies of the signing partners.

STAFF RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that the Council delegate authority to the Mayor to sign this Statement of Intent.

BACKGROUND

10. Over 50 years of direct association with Antarctica has seen the development of specialist cold climate expertise in Christchurch. The Antarctic Industry now contributes \$88 million direct expenditure annually to the Christchurch economy. Christchurch is becoming a lead player, as a Gateway to the Antarctic- having secured the COMNAP office from Hobart, and continuing to host both the largest Antarctic programme, USA, the Italian programme and in future, potentially the Korean programme. We are also developing stronger Antarctic links with China-with their icebreaker visiting and securing supplies in October 2009.
11. The Antarctic connections attract external guests in the areas of science and technology, business and logistics and tourism. The city's Antarctic heritage is also an opportunity to showcase talented New Zealand people as well as showcasing our long-standing commitment to Antarctic protection. The Antarctic connections reinforce the city's clean/green image and is in strong alignment with the country's environmental sustainability agenda.
12. The recent establishment of CABIN (Canterbury Antarctic Business Interest Network) in Christchurch city is providing further growth opportunities in the Antarctic logistics and supply areas- with local businesses realising that gains can be made through collaborative bidding and supply processes. The sharing of best practice, with businesses in other gateway cities, will assist these businesses to increase capability.