

5. UPDATE ON FUTURE PATH CANTERBURY PROJECT

Officers responsible Director of Policy, Director of Information	Authors Mark Bachels, Urban Development Policy Leader, DDI 371-1579 Ivan Thomson, Team Leader Planning Policy, DDI 371-1813
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The purpose of this report is to update the Council on the progress of the Future Path Canterbury Project and to outline the next stage of the project.

CONTEXT OF REPORT

The Council, adjoining TLAs (Waimakariri, Selwyn, Banks Peninsula, Hurunui, and Ashburton) and ECAN have resolved to develop a 20-50 year vision and strategy for the mid-Canterbury area. This project, known as Future Path Canterbury covers the area between Ashburton and Kaikoura including the metropolitan area of Christchurch.

Members may recall a stakeholders group was convened at the beginning of this year comprising elected members, community and business leaders.

A scheduled series of seminars on key topics has now concluded, and the project is moving into the next phase of scenario development.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- The series of seminars on key issues facing mid-Canterbury for stakeholders (including elected members) and the public has concluded.
- The next stage in the project is constructing likely scenarios including: identification of shared values/goals; clarification of summary trends, factors and “drivers” of change; and a “preferred scenario” for public consultation.
- A series of stakeholder workshops for the development of likely scenarios will occur in May, June and July (exact times and dates are to be confirmed).
- The overall timeline is still on target with public consultation on likely scenarios planned for late winter/early spring and a “preferred” vision and associated scenario to be identified towards the end of the calendar year.

UPDATE ON THE PROJECT

Seminar Series

The seminar series for stakeholders (including elected members) and members of the public concluded on 23 April. The seminar series on key topics included:

1. *Cultural, Demographics and Community* – Dr Dick Bedford (Waikato University), Marilyn Waring (Massey Uni), Mary Richardson (CCC)
2. *Environment* – Dr Morgan Williams (Parliamentary Commissioner for Env't), Guy Salmon (EcoLogic)
3. *Economics* – Brian Easton (author), Sir Gill Simpson (Jade), Darryl Park (CCM)
4. *Planning and Infrastructure* – Dr Mike Mouritz (Wollongong City Council, NSW); Gwen Bull (Chairperson, Auckland Regional Council); Ivan Thomson (CCC)
5. *Energy and Transport* – Dr Ram SriRamaratnam (Ministry of Economic Development); Dr Mark Bachels (CCC); Grant Smith (Gabites Porter Consultants)
6. *“What Makes Canterbury Canterbury”* – A series of presentations by some well known community leaders

There is a final *Wrap Up Seminar Session* scheduled for 7 May, 4-6pm in the Green Room, Aurora Centre, Burnside High School. This session will provide an opportunity for stakeholders and elected members to discuss the key issues identified in the seminar series, and provide guidance in terms of how these key issues should be addressed as part of the scenario development stage of the project.

The seminar series raised some pertinent issues and identified significant trends and factors affecting Canterbury over the next 20-50 years. The afternoon stakeholder seminars were reasonably well attended with an average of 35 people; the evening public sessions varied in attendance from 40-150 people, and an average attendance for each of about 75 people.

A summary of the presentations made at the seminars is now available and will be circulated to all stakeholders (and elected members).

Next Stage – Development of Likely Scenarios

The next stage in the project is the development of likely scenarios for the 20-50 year forecast period and identifying a preferred scenario – that is what does our community want the area to “look like” in 20-50 years time? This will involve a series of workshops with the stakeholders identifying influential factors and trends affecting the Canterbury area. The scenario development will be done in 3-4 separate workshops with the stakeholder group during May, June and July. The dates for these workshops are still to be confirmed and will be provided as soon as available.

This next stage of the project will raise a number of issues for this Council:

- A larger amount of staff time will be devoted to developing and assessing trends, factors and likely scenarios (eg population forecasts, demand for infrastructure services, transport and traffic modelling, etc.). These staff will mostly be from the forward planning areas of the Council.
- The scenarios may highlight a greater need for integration of planning policies across territorial boundaries.
- There may be opportunities to use the future path project as an input into reviewing the Council’s own proposed urban development strategy.

Once the scenario development stage is complete the councils and respective nominated elected members on the Future Path Project will need to consider the process for approving public consultation on the scenarios (eg either via formal Council reporting or via the Future Path elected member group).

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

There are no financial implications arising from this report.

CONSULTATION

To date consultation on the project has focussed on gathering representation of our community via the stakeholders group (comprising about 70 people representing community, government and business).

Larger public consultation is planned for late winter and spring of 2002.

CONCLUSION

This report provides a summary update of the Future Path Canterbury project including notification of the seminar series on important issues facing the region and metropolitan area. A general outline of the next stage of the project is provided including scenario development workshops with the stakeholders (including elected members).

Recommendation: That the information be received.

Chairperson’s

- Recommendation:**
1. That an update report summarising the key trends, factors and issues of the seminar series be prepared for the Committee’s consideration.
 2. That the key trends, factors and issues identified be used in the preparation of the Urban Development Strategy.