

Heritage Region – Summary feedback from Stakeholder meetings

TO	Thames-Coromandel District Council
FROM	Ben Day - Deputy CE
DATE	10-06-2016
SUBJECT	Heritage Region - Summary feedback from Stakeholder meetings

1 Purpose of Report

To update the Council on the feedback gathered during the preliminary stakeholder meetings exploring a Heritage Region vision for the Coromandel Peninsula.

2 Background

At its meeting in February 2016, the Council approved the project mandate for the Heritage Region (Stage One), which involved organising stakeholder meetings to explore a shared future vision for the Coromandel and a broad proposal to establish a Coromandel Heritage Region (CHR).

The stakeholder meetings took place in May and June 2016, marking the end of stage one and the need to report back to Council on the feedback gathered from these informal meetings.

3 Issue

Now that Stage One of the project has been delivered, Council needs to consider the feedback from stakeholders and to make a decision on whether to continue with the project in some form or whether to stop the project at this stage.

4 Discussion

A summary of the feedback recorded at each stakeholder meeting can be found in Attachment A.

In general, the stakeholders that participated in the discussions agreed on the need to explore ways in which to enhance the values of the Coromandel and that sustainability of the Coromandel's natural, cultural, economic and social resources was an important issue.

It was clearly noted at the start of the meetings that:

- CHR was a working title only
- Any collaborative mechanism - whether it be termed an accord, collaboration or partnership - would be voluntary with a focus on enhancing future sustainability
- The Miles Marketing Destinations report was a draft discussion document released solely for the purposes of encouraging discussion
- There is no intention to introduce another level of bureaucracy

- The aspect of the proposal to possibly seek an International Union of Conservation in Nature (IUCN) designation has been dropped

It was noted that some of the major employers from primary industry were very keen to explore voluntary accords with the Council and the community to improve, over time, the sustainability of their operations on the Coromandel.

Next steps

Council has successfully facilitated a number of community led strategies such as the Arts Strategy, Youth Strategy and Positive Ageing Strategy, which has demonstrated the effectiveness of this approach to bring people and stakeholder groups together to develop strategic plans for the betterment of the Coromandel.

Perhaps a Sustainability Strategy, facilitated by Council and led by the community, could be a useful place to start a journey towards a more sustainable Coromandel.

Other Council's in New Zealand have produced and are implementing Sustainability Strategies and Policies such as Whakatane District Council (2010), Hamilton City (2012) and Hutt City Council (2015) to name but a few.

Council itself has a leadership role to play in improving its own sustainability practices and had started work on a Sustainability Policy in 2011. The policy was never completed or implemented; this project could be resurrected.

If the new Council wish to consider initiating a Coromandel Sustainability Strategy, then staff could produce a fresh Project Mandate for consideration by the new Council in Quarter Two 2016/17.

The 2016/17 Annual Plan has budgeted \$15,000 for this work programme if the new Council wish to progress the project.

5 Suggested Resolution(s)

That the Thames-Coromandel District Council:

1. Receives the report.
2. Instructs staff to write a draft project mandate for a Coromandel Sustainability Strategy for consideration by the Council in Quarter Two of the 2016/17 Financial Year.

References-Tabled/Agenda Attachments

Attachment A *Coromandel Heritage Region EDC Report and Meeting Summary*

Attachment A

[Attachment A - Coromandel Heritage Region meeting summary report](#)

Attachment B

<<Insert DW Link or place Attachment here>>