

Waikato Innovation Park

TO	Economic Development Committee
FROM	Craig Purcell - Business Growth Manager, Waikato Innovation Park
DATE	19 August 2016
SUBJECT	Waikato Innovation Park

1 Purpose of Report

This report is to provide the Economic Development Committee with background information on the work of the Waikato Innovation Park, and the range of programmes which they offer on behalf of the Callaghan Institute.

2 Background

The Waikato Innovation Park (WIP) offers the following business growth support and advice, and is interested in setting up advisory services in Thames on a part-time basis. The business growth courses, which are provided free to participants, cover topics such as:

- Assessment - WIP visit a business to gain a good understanding of the operation, and assess opportunities for and barriers to growth.
- Action plans - WIP will suggest plans to support a growth strategy.
- Connections - WIP will connect the business to the experts and resources needed to expand the business - regionally, nationally and internationally.
- Access to funding - WIP will determine eligibility for funding support through a variety of programmes.

3 Discussion

Waikato Innovation Park can deliver funding opportunities for eligible businesses throughout the Waikato. Both New Zealand Trade & Enterprise (NZTE) and Callaghan Innovation offer funding for innovative businesses that want to grow. Waikato Innovation Park is contracted to deliver these programmes for regional businesses. Specifically, WIP delivers funding for

- Management training across a wide range of business skills
- Commercial research and development activity.

New Zealand Trade & Enterprise (NZTE), Callaghan Innovation and Business Mentors New Zealand have jointly contracted Regional Business Partners to boost business capabilities and R&D investment across New Zealand. Waikato Innovation Park is the Regional Business Partner (RBP) for Waikato.

WIP is also one of the four key hubs in the NZ Food Innovation Network. They deliver infrastructure access through the FoodWaikato spray dryer, and can leverage the national pool of product and business development experts specialising in food and beverage. The Park's business development manager services the Central North Island region.

Craig Purcell, the Park's Business Growth Manager, will provide a Powerpoint presentation to highlight aspects of the Waikato Innovation Park's work.

4 Suggested Resolution

That the Economic Development Committee receives the 'Waikato Innovation Park' report dated 19 August 2016.