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12 May 2017

Timaru District Council
Draft GMS
PO Box 522
Timaru, 7940

Dear Sir/Madam

Ministry of Education: Submission on Timaru Draft Growth Management Strategy

On behalf of the Ministry of Education (the Ministry) the following submission is made in respect of the Timaru Draft Growth Management Strategy 2045 (the Strategy).

The Ministry of Education's Role

The Ministry of Education is the Government's lead advisor on the New Zealand education system, shaping direction for education agencies and providers and contributing to the Government's goals for education. The Ministry has responsibility for all education property owned by the Crown. This involves managing the existing property portfolio, upgrading and improving the portfolio, purchasing and constructing new property to meet increased demand, identifying and disposing of surplus State school sector property and managing teacher and caretaker housing. The Ministry is therefore a considerable stakeholder in terms of educational facilities and assets in the Timaru District.

The Draft Timaru Growth Management Strategy 2045

The Ministry understands that the Strategy has been developed for the purpose of identifying growth pressures resulting from a changing population in Timaru District. The Strategy focuses on the next 30 years and is intended to guide growth within the district and allow for infrastructure development to compliment projected growth. The Strategy covers housing, funding, economics, town centres, green spaces, culture and identity and social and cultural.

The Strategy began as an issues and options report prior to developing into the Growth Management Strategy as a result of public consultation and feedback. The Strategy identifies four main growth areas - Timaru, Pleasant Point, Temuka and Geraldine. These areas are identified as having suitable land and infrastructure to accommodate future growth needs of the district with the projected growth shown on Figures 1-5 in the Summary document.

The projected growth over a 30 year period for each identified centre is:

- Timaru – 380 additional dwellings
- Temuka – 148 additional dwellings
- Geraldine – 143 additional dwellings
- Pleasant Point – 240 additional dwellings

The Strategy envisages the additional growth will be accommodated by utilising existing but undeveloped residential zones, increased residential densities within the four towns and an additional zoned area at Geraldine.

In addition, the existing policy of enabling rural residential development throughout the district is to be replaced by focused rural residential zones adjoining the four townships identified above.



The Strategy will be implemented using a multi-faceted approach including the district plan review process, activity management plans, long term plan funding and community planning and partnership agreements.

The Draft strategy also identifies a number of strategic directions. The following are of particular interest to the Ministry.

Strategic Direction 3 Settlement Patterns and Urban Form

To accommodate future growth and capacity for commercial, industrial, community and residential activities primarily within the existing settlements of Timaru, Temuka, Geraldine, and Pleasant Point to strengthen compact patterns of development and integration with infrastructure.

Strategic Direction 7 Transport

To promote an effective, efficient and safe transport system that integrates with land use and growth, and promotes community prosperity through improving connectivity and accessibility.

Strategic Direction 8 Infrastructure

To promote highly liveable communities and land use with efficiently and effectively integrated infrastructure by:

- (i) Recognising and protecting, including from reverse sensitivity effects, the role, function and development of strategic infrastructure; and*
- (ii) Ensuring that infrastructure and land use patterns are aligned to achieve sustainability, efficiency and livability by:
 - a. Investing in community – through advocating, promoting and requiring necessary infrastructure solutions;*
 - b. Promoting integrated communities – through successful planning and provision of necessary and critical infrastructure;*
 - c. Supporting areas of economic strength – through long term planning and supply of appropriate infrastructure and capacity to meet required commercial and industrial needs.*
 - d. Ensure critical infrastructure meets future needs – through the provision of resilient infrastructure and the necessary renewal of existing infrastructure.**

Strategic Direction 11 Community and Open Space

To create opportunities for community services (schools, hospitals, community halls, cemeteries, parks and reserves) and open spaces in appropriate locations to cater for infill development and new areas of growth.

Strategic Direction 12 Leadership & Partnership

To maintain and further develop collaborative working relationships with key stake holders, including Te Rūnanga o Arowhenua, Government agencies, and the development community to promote investment certainty and clarity in the growth management of Timaru District.

The Ministry's submission on the Proposed Timaru Growth Management Strategy

Given the role of the Ministry identified above, including the operation of a number of education facilities including primary and secondary schools across the district, the following submission is made in response to the issues highlighted in the Strategy.

The Ministry suggests

- Council continue to consult and work with the Ministry in respect of identifying the need for new or extended education facilities in the township areas of identified growth resulting from new housing and intensification. Conversely the implications of restricting rural residential growth throughout the district are considered in respect of existing education facilities.
- Council considers measures to mitigate increased traffic impacts on existing schools including access to the schools and traffic in and around schools in the township areas of identified growth. Potential mitigation measures may include identifying strategic routes, lowering speed limits and provision of pedestrian crossings.
- That implementation of sustainable and safe walking and cycling connections are considered by Council between the areas of identified growth/intensification areas and existing schools.
- Council to consider how it will manage new activities in the vicinity of existing schools so that the efficient operation of the schools is not affected.
- Council and the Ministry discuss the potential for co-sharing facilities including open space and community facilities.

The Ministry looks forward to further involvement in the Growth Strategy process.

Yours faithfully



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