

# Adoption of the Waikato Regional Economic Development Strategy

1. Development started 2024/25 with stakeholder support and input for a “locally-led, regionally connected” strategy.
2. Resulting strategy delivers to a long-term vision with a flexible and responsive implementation approach
3. WRC’s role - facilitation of the strategy, integration of activities, key elements of the strategy and implementation plan (eg digital portal).

# About the Waikato Regional Economic Development Strategy: highlights

Vision

Enable and promote a productive region that delivers shared prosperity and security

Economic outcomes

Increase household incomes

Increase productivity

Increase employment

Strategic levers

Information and insights

Coordination of partners and activities

Initiatives to deliver outcomes

Strength-based priorities

Leverage location advantages

Boost bioeconomy productivity

Increase electricity supply

Export and advanced manufacturing hub

Thriving and connected metro area and towns

Partner with Waikato regional Māori

national service provision, add value to goods, grow value of tourism, education, leverage sports & creativity

emerging & future platforms, resource efficiency, greater use of technology

untapped/emerging generation potential, biomass and bioenergy, industrial hubs

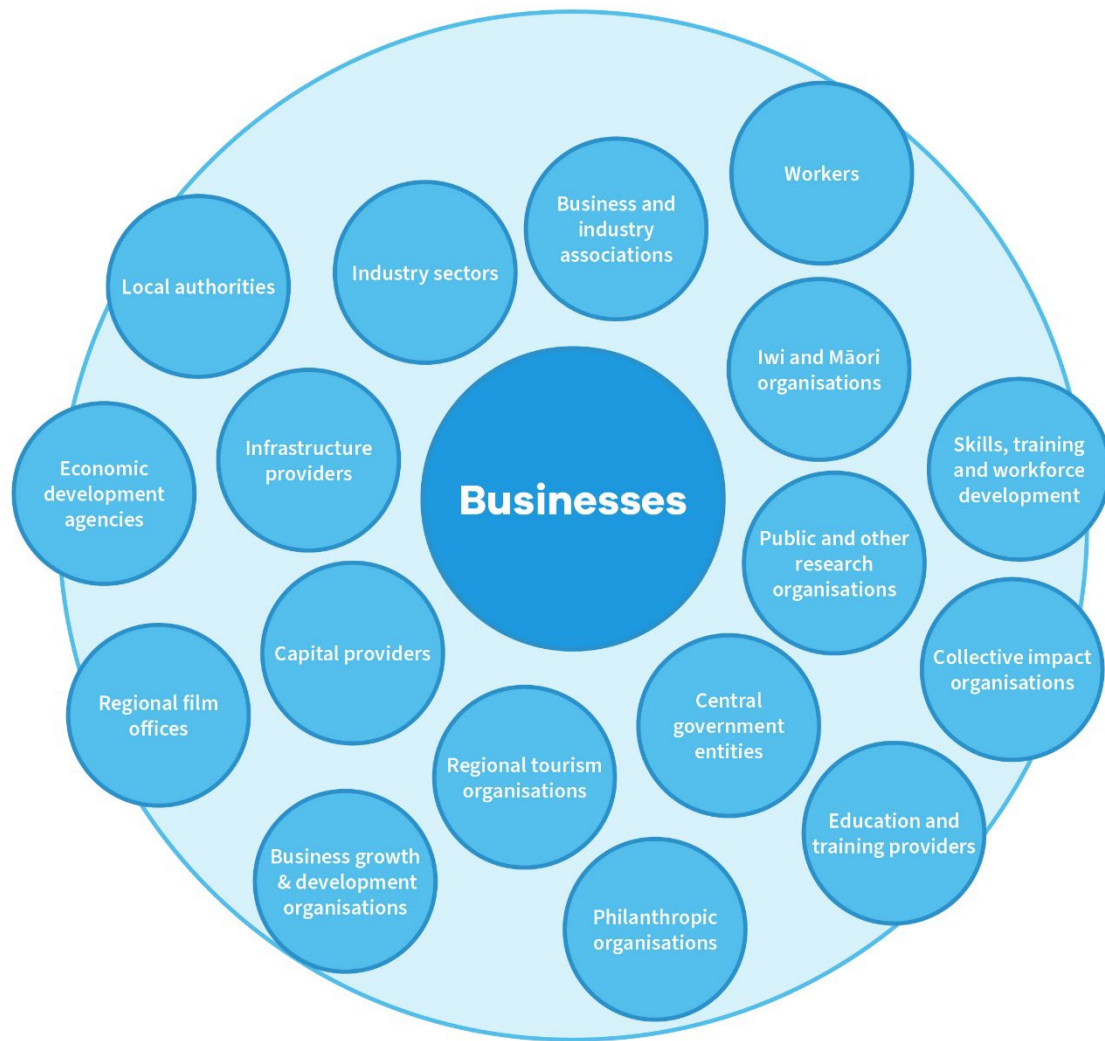
higher value ingredients, nutrition, consumer premium products, diversify markets

high growth, cluster economic activity, optimise towns and improve connections

add value to assets, e.g. collectively-owned. Youth growing part of workforce

Enablers

# Waikato Regional Council contribution to Economic Development Strategy



Facilitation of  
the regional  
economic  
development  
strategy

# Waikato Regional Council contribution to Economic Development Strategy implementation



## Regional promotion and investment attraction

- online portal
- relationships with businesses to understand barriers (e.g. regulatory)
- focus on high-value specialisations
- innovation, technology and AI



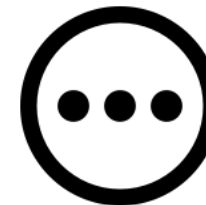
## Support decision-making

- analyse and communicate economic development information and insights
- local, sub-regional, regional



## Economic data and information

- monitoring and compiling
- useful format
- regional, national, international



## Other contributions to economic development

- efficient delivery, procurement, planning, regulatory, land transport, biosecurity, catchments

## Next steps

1. A designed version will be published online.
2. Steering group terms of reference and composition to be workshopped and agreed.
3. Draft 2026/27 implementation plan to be presented for endorsement by the end of September 2026.