

Summary of External Review August 2012

Purpose of Review

This phase of the Framing our Future process saw eight external reviewers from a broad range of fields undertake a review of the work done to date by the community to develop a sustainability strategy for Nelson. Their brief was to examine the views that have been expressed by the community so far and expand them into a set of options on how to move the community towards the vision for Nelson in 2060.

The focus of the review was to:

- Draw on expert knowledge in terms of the sustainability challenges and opportunities identified so far
- Identify the steps between the future vision and the current status quo in our region (e.g. policy options, structural changes, programmes, actions) based on knowledge and experience
- Suggest ways to monitor progress and identify significant information or research gaps.

Common Findings of the Review

Over the month of June 2012 the reviewers completed a desk top exercise to look at what the community had developed so far. Each reviewer provided feedback in their own way based on their areas of knowledge and experience. Some common findings included:

- Two areas that need more focus within the strategy include the dependency of Nelson in a wider (regional, national and international) context and the role of uncertainty and instability in determining the best strategies for a sustainable future
- The process so far has not sufficiently acknowledged the significant impacts of climate change
- There are a number of issues which have general relevance and are the main 'drivers' that Nelson will need to respond to. Actions and strategies need to be developed and prioritised with this in mind
- The ongoing process of discussion, collaboration, facilitation and building trust will be key to making the changes required. The strategy needs to address this and acknowledge the costs involved. Without this investment change will either not occur or will be too slow.

Summary of Reviewers Comments

<p>Bob Evans Professor of Environmental Planning University of Waikato</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Civic engagement, civil society dialogue, negotiation and education will need to be core elements of any strategy and must be resourced • Targets need to be achievable, realistic and negotiated. Slow, steady built-upon progress is better than ambitious schemes that do not deliver • A new vocabulary to frame this initiative which has a focus on the future needs of Nelson’s citizens without calling heavily on sustainability may be needed
<p>David Francis Sustainable Business Adviser Nelson Regional Economic Development Agency</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The efficiency / sustainability / energy / materials nexus is the opportunity of the century. A fantastic aim would be for Nelson to be the leader within NZ and on a world stage • Measures should be about the things we are trying to achieve (i.e. GHG emissions or fossil fuel energy use), not how we do it. That way the measure targets the problem but the solution is left organic and flexible • Biomass technologies for energy production have a significant role to play
<p>Philippa Howden-Chapman Professor of Public Health University of Otago, Wellington</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The role of Nelson in a wider geographical context, its potential contribution as a driver of sustainable innovation in NZ and key emerging economic drivers such as renewable energy need more strategic consideration • The process needs to sufficiently acknowledge and embed the significant impacts of climate change • Strategy should address the links between Nelson port and other ports in the region and links to extraction industries e.g. mining, forestry, fishing which have widespread detrimental effects but economic benefits
<p>Kerensa Johnston Lawyer with a background in Maori land law, the Treaty of Waitangi and local government law.</p>	<p>Iwi/Maori worldview can be better integrated throughout the strategy and process with the aims that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nga taonga tuku iho (taonga inherited from our ancestors, including the natural environment, language (Te Reo Maori) and culture (tikanga/values) are respected and enhanced by everyone in the community • Whanau, hapu and iwi are thriving, consisting of strong, healthy and productive individuals who are reaching their full potential • The Maori economy in Nelson region is an international success story

<p>Peter Lawless Director The Lawless Edge</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The overall framework lacks a clear logic structure. This leads to some of the components being well developed while others are at a very conceptual level, and not well integrated with the whole • The key limitation of the process is the under-emphasis on the dependency of Nelson in a wider context. This leads to insufficient recognition of the role of uncertainty and instability in determining the best strategies for a sustainable future • To be effective in creating a sustainable future it is important for Nelson to make efforts to loosen global connectivity and strengthen management and control of the regional boundary. The strategy needs to reflect this
<p>Dr Maggie Lawton Infrastructure Services Manager Queenstown Lakes District Council Future by Design and The Natural Step</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Changes are likely to accelerate in the rest of this decade. We need the energy of oil to put in place some of the infrastructure we would like to have post oil • Consolidating all the actions collected so far into key actions is the next step. Some actions will be more advantageous than others but to achieve any of them, key participants need to be involved in the discussion, otherwise the best prioritisation in the world is unlikely to work • Critical to making the changes embedded is ensuring understanding, holding robust discussions, achieving genuine collaborations, having skilled facilitation and engendering trust.
<p>Jason Leung-Wai Senior Economist BERL economics</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There needs to be a stronger linkage between the strategic approach and the vision/themes if they are to be realised. The actions can be grouped/prioritised more to deliver a more focused strategy. Any strategy needs to be Simple, Achievable, and Measurable. • There is a strong focus on environmental measures in the Cawthron report but little understanding of the local economy and its areas of activity and competitive advantage, or the social status and demography of the local population. A broader analysis of the Nelson economy within a regional, national and international context is needed to provide context and benchmarking • Education, energy, land use, natural resources, infrastructure will all incur additional cost or require additional investment. There is a transition phase as we move out of resource intensive industries (or learn how to deliver them more sustainably). This needs to be

	incorporated into the strategy
<p>Peter Olorenshaw Registered Architect specialising in eco architecture</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Climate change and greenhouse gas emissions need specific mention. As perhaps the defining sustainability issue of our time, a Sustainability Strategy that ignores emissions lacks credibility. The 2008 Communities for Climate Change Protection Action Plan (CCCPAP) has some good figures and goals • The measures are an important/critical part of the strategy. Issues such as climate change emissions and sea level rise need solid targets, monitoring and adjusting the rate at which strategies and actions are employed to ensure we are tracking to our targets • Resilience is not sufficiently embedded in the process so far. The more dependent Nelson is on things like food, fuel and electricity from outside Nelson, the less resilient we are. The more Nelsonian's rely on centralised services for all their water supply, all their sewerage systems, all their food supply, the less resilient Nelsonian's are