

Attachment 1: SUMMARY REVIEW - WAIKATO LOCAL AUTHORITY SHARED SERVICES LIMITED [WLASS]

Key Activities set out in the draft SOI 2018 -21

Objectives of WLASS

- enable the Waikato councils to collectively be more effective as a region on the national stage
- contribute to building central government's confidence in the Waikato region, and to encourage central government investment
- achieve effectiveness and efficiency gains
- reduce duplication of effort and eliminate waste through repetition
- make it easier for customers to engage with councils in the Waikato region
- promote and contribute to the development of best practice
- promote business transformation to improve customers' experiences.

Nature and Scope of Current Activities

There are currently 12 major initiatives operating under the WLASS umbrella, plus a support role for the collaborative work streams of the Waikato Mayoral Forum.

1. **Shared Valuation Data Service (SVDS).** This service provides timely and accurate valuation data to the 10 member Councils (Waikato Regional, Hamilton City, Hauraki, Matamata Piako, Rotorua, South Waikato, Thames Coromandel, Waikato, Waipa and Waitomo District Councils). The SVDS has become the accepted valuation database for the region. Data sales significantly reduce costs to the participating councils.
2. **Road Asset Technical Accord (RATA).** RATA was initially established as a centre of excellence for road asset planning in 2014, as a work stream under the Mayoral Forum. The activity transferred to WLASS on 1 July 2016. The aim of RATA is to achieve best practice in road asset management by improving capability, capacity and outcomes through effective collaboration. By leading asset management best practice, RATA delivers better decision making through the effective collection and use of good quality data, and the implementation of good practice processes and systems for data collection, analysis and management. Waipa District Council currently acts as the host council for RATA, providing accommodation and overheads (which are fully recovered from the participating councils), and managing the employment agreements/relationships with the three staff members. This activity is fully funded by the nine participating councils (Hamilton City, Hauraki, Matamata Piako, Otorohanga, South Waikato, Thames Coromandel, Waikato, Waipa and Waitomo District Councils, supported by the NZ Transport Agency) and operates as a separate cost centre.
3. **Waikato Regional Transportation Model (WRTM).** This model became fully operational in February 2010. It provides accurate information to Councils and to external users (for a charge) for their transport modelling requirements. The WRTM is the only recognised strategic transport modelling resource in the Waikato Region, and is jointly funded by the NZ Transport Agency. WRTM is making a significant contribution to strategic planning of land use and infrastructure within the region, and has been involved in regionally and nationally significant investigations including: the Waikato Expressway Network Plan; the Waikato Regional Land Transport Strategy and Regional Policy Statement; and transport impact assessments in relation to the development of Ruakura. The activity is fully funded by the seven participating councils (Waikato Regional, Hamilton City, Matamata Piako, Taupo, Thames Coromandel, Waikato, and Waipa District Councils, supported by the NZ Transport Agency), and operates as a separate cost centre. The WRTM has been managed by RATA since 1 July 2016.
4. **Waikato Building Consent Group (WBCG).** The WBCG was initially set up by five Waikato local authorities in 2004 to foster co-operation, collaboration and consistency in building functions, legislative interpretation and process documentation across the partnering councils. The Group now comprises eight councils (Hamilton City, Hauraki, Matamata Piako, Otorohanga, Thames Coromandel, Waikato, Waipa and Waitomo Districts). The WBCG has developed a common quality assurance system with associated supporting documentation

and media that meet the legislative requirements of the Building Act 2004 and the Building (Accreditation of Building Consent Authorities) Regulations 2006. These regulations cover all aspects of the operational management and compliance of a Building Consent Authority (BCA).

Waikato District Council currently acts as the host council for the WBCG, providing accommodation and overheads (which are fully recovered from the WBCG members), and managing the employment agreements/relationships with the two staff members and any contractors. The activity is fully funded by the participating councils, and operates as a separate cost centre. The activity transferred to WLASS on 1 July 2016.

5. **Future Proof.** This is a collaborative partnership between Hamilton City, Waikato and Waipa Districts, Waikato Regional Council and Tāngata whenua, with assistance from the New Zealand Transport Agency. The partners have jointly developed the Future Proof Growth Strategy and Implementation Plan – a 50-year vision and implementation plan specific to the Hamilton, Waipa and Waikato sub-region (Future Proof sub-region), which was adopted by the partners on 30 June 2009. The accommodation, overhead and employment arrangements of the Future Proof Planner are managed by Hamilton City Council. The activity is fully funded by the participating councils, and operates as a separate cost centre. Future Proof transferred to WLASS on 1 July 2016.
6. **Energy Management.** WLASS entered into a Collaboration Agreement with the Energy Efficiency Conservation Authority (EECA) in February 2016. This arrangement is estimated to bring in up to \$210,000 in revenue from EECA over three years, subject to meeting specific energy saving targets. The activity is fully funded by the 11 participating councils (Matamata Piako was not eligible, as it has previously received EECA funding), and operates as a separate cost centre.
7. **Joint Procurement Initiatives.** WLASS is a party to numerous joint procurement contracts between the company, shareholding Councils and suppliers. Some contracts (e.g. insurance brokerage services; various collective insurance policies; courier and postal services; historic aerial photography) involve all of the shareholding councils. Other joint procurement contracts have been negotiated, but only some of the shareholding councils have chosen to participate (e.g. the Professional Services Panel; computer-generated print, mail house and e-services; IT Professional Services Panel; Internal Audit Services). A part-time procurement specialist was engaged in February 2018 for a period of one year, to:
 - Assist all councils to utilise the existing WLASS contracts, AoG contracts and syndicated contracts that are appropriate for each council, to ensure that opportunities for savings are being maximised
 - Develop standard regional procurement policies, templates and procedures and provide training in each council
 - Manage the existing WLASS contracts to improve relationship management and ensure that their value is being maximised.

The contractor is working directly with staff in each council to ensure that contract savings are being maximised and that good procurement systems and processes are in place.

8. **Historic Aerial Photos.** In May 2015, WLASS entered into a Memorandum of Understanding with LINZ to scan the Waikato Historic Aerial Photos archive. The LINZ Crown archive contains over 500,000 historic aerial photo negatives captured by surveys flown over New Zealand between 1936 and 2005. All of the shareholding councils are participating in this 4-year project, which includes a subsidy of \$56,000 from LINZ. The project is running ahead of schedule and is now expected to be completed by the end of 2018. The information is now freely available to the public on a website (<http://www.retrolens.nz/map/>), which acknowledges the participation of WLASS.
9. **Waikato Regional Aerial Photography Service (WRAPS).** WRAPS was set up in the 1990s for the supply of colour, digital, ortho-rectified, aerial photography for the Waikato Region. So far, there have been five WRAPS contracts – 2002, 2007, 2012, and 2016. The current WRAPS contract is scheduled for completion by June 2018. Consideration 6 is currently being given to changing the frequency of coverage to 4-yearly. WRAPS became a WLASS project in December 2014 and is fully funded by the 12 participating councils.
10. **Aligned Resource Consent Planning.** The toolkit developed last financial year to provide regional consistency and best practice processes in the administration of resource consenting has now been implemented, and is being used by 10 councils (Taupo and Otorohanga are

not participating). WLASS controls the documentation on the WLASS website, and a Steering Group manages the process for making updates and amendments to the templates and documents in the toolkit.

11. **Regional Infrastructure Technical Specifications (RITS).** The RITS document sets out how to design and construct transportation, water supply, wastewater, stormwater and landscaping infrastructure in the eight participating councils' areas (Hamilton City, Hauraki, Waikato, Waipa, Matamata-Piako, Otorohanga, Waitomo, and South Waikato District Councils). Prior to developing RITS, each council had its own Infrastructure Technical Specifications, which resulted in different standards having to be met across the Waikato region. The purpose of RITS is to provide a single regional guide and specifications for building public infrastructure. The RITS is published on the WLASS website (<http://www.waikatolass.co.nz/>), and ongoing maintenance of the document is the responsibility of a Project Co-ordinator, managed by WLASS.
12. **Local Government Contractor Health & Safety Pre-qualification Scheme.** The contract with SHE Assure to manage the Local Government Health & Safety Contractor Pre-qualification Scheme, which was developed by WLASS, continues to operate well. Twenty councils and one CCO are now using the scheme and over 1,500 contractors have registered, which enables them to be pre-qualified to work for any of the participating councils.

Suggested shareholder feedback on the draft SOI

	Council Feedback
Nature and Scope	Council is satisfied
Performance Measurement	Council is satisfied
Disclosures – Concerns Sch 8 Clause 9 LG Act 2002	Council is satisfied
Timeliness of forwarding draft	Council is satisfied - Received 28 February 2017

Recommendations

Council is satisfied with the content of the SOI and no feedback on its content is required.