

Zone 3 Report – Stratford War Memorial Centre

Stratford named after Stratford on Avon, all streets named after Shakespeare. National Park now called Te Papatūānui-o-Taranaki

Venture Taranaki: current regional issues.

Front of mind is the energy sector. Following a political decision, this is winding down, leaving more scrap steel than Glenfield produces in years. The challenge is to transition the capacity into other industry, replace \$1.8m in GDP and replace 5500 skilled jobs.

Together with dairy production, the region delivers the highest GDP/capita in NZ. Their Philanthropy sector underpins many services. They identify their rainfall, soil, sunshine and deepwater port as their natural assets.

Kapuni was identified in the 1950s, and took 11 + years to deliver. For any project of this size, a similar timeframe would still apply. In today's terms, such project still cost \$8bn to establish production and a similar amount to run annually, which is similar to wind generation.

Kapuni electricity production peaked a 250 pJ, is now half that, and plummeting. 1 pJ services about 35,00 homes: NZ has 2.1 million homes. This does not include industrial usage.

The challenge is to transition away from gas (contributing at \$300m annually), possibly to renewable sources including solar and off shore wind. This impacts not only Taranaki but NZ energy needs and also food security.

This is not a surprise: multiple reports and studies document this, and the conclusions haven't materially changed in 10 years. The challenge for the next 6 months is: excuses or progress?

Venture Taranaki facilitated a Taranaki Alliance between heavy industry and advanced manufacturing. A coordinated co-competition process funded by industry has resulted in international projects of \$50-100M increase but are maintenance rather than capital projects. However, this could lead to projects in mining, defence, and various licences into the Auckland market.

Alternatives floated

Biogas: could produce 1.5 pJ, although production cost is \$35/gJ contrasting with \$25 for gas. It is most suited to production of electricity, high heat users, and urea for Balance/Methanex.

Food and fibre:

1. Hemp for construction which is experiencing growth in production and sales. It has no waste as all of the plant is utilised.
2. Functional botanicals
3. Kumara
4. Utilising the GIS land portal (capability of which is expanding) which includes climate and land use overlays to analyse crop and plant opportunities.

Powering the Future : Stratford's Renewable Energy Transformation on Solar Farming

by Rob Nicol, Shane Roberts & Amber Archer from Contact Energy and Sam Lawrie from Lightsources BP

A thought provoking presentation highlighting a huge solar farm adjacent to Christchurch Airport powering 76,000 homes with Stratford proposed farm sufficient to power 42,000 homes.¹

Visits to Stratford Bike Park, Kings Theatre, Percy Thomson Gallery and Wai o Rua Stratford Aquatic Centre.

There is an active and very financial regional charitable trust.

Of particular interest was the Aquatic centre build cost was \$22M with annual running costs of \$3.3m and an income of only \$660,000!

Around the regions

The theme that came through very strongly was LOCALISM. All regions stressed that Government changes were too much and too fast. Most Councils were against Amalgamation.

Gisborne Mayor Rehette Stoltz commented that following a helicopter ride over the district following Cyclone Gabrielle explaining challenges presented by roading (and its failures) for access to healthcare and life in general... for the PM to arrive back in Gisborne and state they are committed to population based funding: he left the district and locked the door behind him!! Gisborne is 50% Maori and working together is crucial, also very different from other regions especially concerning weather.

¹ If 120pJ is produced by Kapuni currently, 1pJ powers 35,000 homes, and 450 Ha will generate power for 42,000 homes in Stratford, then 450Ha potentially produces 1.2pJ and 4500Ha would be needed to replace Kapuni electricity generation alone. This does not account for Kapuni urea production for agriculture. Diana Baird back-of-the-envelope calculations.

Other common themes, included the need to:

- Identify how to include localism in any amalgamation process: participation not prescription
- Engage and consult with Regional Councils rather than getting rid of them (stressed greater clarity and direction required; poor understanding of iwi interactions)
- Affirm our longterm, intergenerational context: we don't live in soundbites
- Give greater recognition of rail, IWI relationships
- Identify rural sector concerns are different to urban needs
- Somehow hold central government to account/shine a light on for their performance/promises and interactions with local government
- Provide more clarity on Rates Capping, as individual councils had different cost drivers.
- Deliver power to:
 - Manage derelict buildings (e.g, the Chateau)
 - Fund infrastructure to and through non-rateable land e.g. Taranaki maunga road
 - Access tourism funds (e.g. via levies), especially where infrastructure is delivered from a small, low income ratepayer base.
 - Enable direct funding of low use roads and bridges by landowners
 - Manage dangerous/aggressive dogs
 - Manage crown imposed costs: one council cited their audit as .66% and LTP 1.32% and rates remission as another .49% of rates; GST

Thank you for the opportunity and support to participate in this meeting.