



\$20 MILLION INVESTMENT IN CBD UPGRADES

TAUPŌ'S CENTRAL BUSINESS District is set to be transformed thanks to a \$20 million investment from the Government's Infrastructure Reference Group.

The transformation of the Taupō Town Centre was one of 16 projects the council applied for funding for as part of the Crown Infrastructure Partners call for 'shovel ready' projects.

Mayor David Trewavas said the announcement was fantastic news for the district as it would provide the equivalent of 92 full time jobs, and an economic boost, as it gave effect to the implementation of the council's Commercial Industrial Structure Plan.

"The plan was developed in 2011 but essentially it has sat in the bottom drawer due to a lack of funding. This new funding means we can finally give effect to connecting the CBD to the lake, Tongariro Domain and the boat harbour, so it really will be a game changer," he said.

"This funding is the result of a lot of hard work put in by the team, and associated lobbying, to ensure our district was at the forefront of people's minds in Wellington and those involved should be congratulated."

Chief executive Gareth Green said the multi-year CBD project would mean a reorientation of the street network to shift local through-traffic from Lake Terrace and

Tongariro St to Titiraupenga St and Spa Rd.

"This will require upgrades along Spa Rd, Paora Hapi St, and Titiraupenga St including five intersections and associated works to allow for the flow of traffic while encouraging pedestrian and cyclists to access the town centre.

"The project also provides for the revitalisation of the existing intersections along Ruapehu St with the focus on addressing pedestrian and driver safety issues to complete and enhance the sense of place unique to Taupō CBD," he said.

The reorganisation of traffic flows would allow Tuwharetoa St to be turned into an "eat street" destination to attract people and provide alfresco dining opportunities that are safe, inviting and commercially viable.

"It will also create an opportunity for public/private investment and cooperation and provide places where people meet to do business and enjoy the social atmosphere," said Mr Green.

"Turning them into quality places is a critical part of attracting people to spend time in the town centre with the associated social and economic benefits. Once the street network is transformed the other parts of council's strategic planning can fall into place. It will also deliver on the community's aspirations for an attractive town centre with shared streets focused on the needs of pedestrians and cyclists."

Work on the project is expected to start in the next month.



BUILDING CONSENT NUMBERS ENCOURAGING

FROM JANUARY 1 TO JUNE 30, we received 156 building consent applications for new dwellings, which Council development engineer Roger Stokes said was comfortably the busiest 6 months he's seen in the 15 years he's been collecting this data.

"So far, we are seeing no signs of this tapering off, with council receiving the majority of these consents from late March onwards," he said.

Along with this, over the last 12 months, 242 subdivision lots have been created.

"There were construction delays due to lockdown, but the subdivision contractors are back on their work sites and I'm sure the tail of 2020 will be a busy one across the district."

With building consents remaining high, the building team is working as quickly as possible to meet your timeframes for building inspections. Due to current workloads we are experiencing higher than normal days to book an inspection and so encourage builders to book in advance upcoming inspections.

Thank you for your patience as we work to meet your building and resource consent requirements.



LOCAL ARCHITECTS CHOSEN FOR AIRPORT DEVELOPMENT

LOCAL ARCHITECTURAL FIRM Stephenson and Turner have been chosen to design Taupō's new airport terminal building.

The new terminal will be built as part of an airport redevelopment made possible with \$5 million in funding from the Provincial Growth Fund and \$870,000 from the New Zealand Upgrade Programme. The redevelopment will include a new car park and the expansion of the airside apron to allow larger aircraft to operate safely, as well as the new terminal facility.

Paul Raven of Stephenson and Turner said the firm had

extensive experience in aviation architecture having worked on Auckland Airport's international and domestic terminals and the team were excited to be working on something much closer to home.

"We are delighted to be selected for this project and are looking forward to working with Taupō District Council, the key stakeholders and local businesses to deliver Taupō's new airport terminal facility," he said.

"This is an opportunity make something unique to the district and it's an exciting project to be engaged with as it will not just be a gateway to the Taupō District but the whole of the central plateau."

Chief executive Gareth Green said geotechnical and topographical surveys of the site had already begun and once the designs had been finalised, tenders would be sought for construction.

"This project will create jobs and give a welcome boost to our local economy, and we hope to see local contractors and subcontractors across the district playing a big part in it. As part of this, we've increased the weighting that we give to local businesses to 15 per cent in our procurement process," he said.

"The redevelopment has great short and long term economic benefits and is a huge step forward for the growth and prosperity of our whole district."

Left to right: Architect Paul Raven of Stephenson and Turner, project manager Phil King of Taupō District Council, Airport operations manager Kim Gard, and Airport general manager Rhys Frearson.

