



News release

13 March, 2007

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Wellington's first regional economic development agency established

Three key appointments were made to Wellington's first regional economic development agency launched today.

John Lumsden, Murray McCaw and James Ogden were formally appointed to the board of the agency by Greater Wellington Regional Councillors following recommendations from the Wellington Regional Strategy Committee.

The Wellington Regional Strategy Committee is made up of representatives of all the Councils within the region, as well as five independent "eminent" Wellingtonians, including Sir John Anderson who chairs the committee.

All three were appointed to the agency for an interim period until seven permanent members are appointed later this year.

In addition, the council confirmed that regional rates would be used to fund the \$4.5m necessary for the agency to carry out the economic development initiatives of the Wellington Regional Strategy and that territorial authority rates would reduce by up to \$3.9m.

The move completes another mile-stone in a two-and-a-half-year project to turn Wellington's Regional Strategy into positive benefits for local communities by boosting economic growth and attracting and retaining quality jobs and a skilled workforce.

Mr Lumsden is currently president of the Wellington Regional Chamber of Commerce Board. From 1992 to 2007 he was chief executive of MetService a company providing weather forecasting services.

Mr McCaw, a director of a range of companies, including, Infinity Group, Mitsubishi Motors, Sports Section Limited, is also chairman of the Wellington Regional Strategy Forum and has been heavily involved in developing the strategy since its inception two years' ago.

James Ogden, currently managing director of Ogden Consulting Limited, is a director of a number of companies including New Zealand Post, Kiwibank, AgriQuality, Vehicle Testing

Group as well as being a Council Member of Victoria University. He has worked in investment banking and the dairy industry.

Councillors also acknowledged confirmation of Upper Hutt City Council's formal objection to Greater Wellington's role as "keeper" of the Wellington Regional Strategy and the establishment and funding of the regional economic development agency. The matter is now subject to a mediation process.

Notes for editors

For more information go to: www.gw.govt.nz and click on the Greater Wellington Strategy link.

Or contact Matt Radley, Greater Wellington Council, (04) 803 0380 or 021 202 6013