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From: Greater Christchurch Urban Development Strategy
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Urban Development Strategy “the model for the nation”

Speaking to a packed room of about 140 guests, Transit New Zealand's acting chair, Bryan Jackson, said the Greater Urban Development Strategy (UDS) should be held up as “the model for the nation”.

Mr Jackson was one of the representatives of the five UDS partners: Christchurch City Council, Selwyn and Waimakariri District Councils, Environment Canterbury and Transit New Zealand, who attended the much-awaited launch of the Greater Christchurch Urban Development Strategy at Our City O-Tautahi in Christchurch today, at noon.

Attended by Prime Minister, the Honourable Helen Clark, the event marked a major milestone for the five partners. They have adopted a Strategy, which states how they will plan together for growth in the next 35 years and what their priorities are for implementation.

Mr Jackson said this was the first time that Transit New Zealand had been included as a central government partner in a sub-regional long-term planning strategy.

Former Chairman of the UDS Forum, Bob Parker, said the UDS was imperative because community issues don't recognise political boundaries.

Environment Canterbury chairman, Sir Kerry Burke, said the region was fully supportive of the Strategy, which had been developed through a voluntary, collaborative process. He paid tribute to his counterparts saying their meetings had proved very effective. In particular was one meeting where their joking attracted the attention of a visiting Minister of Parliament, who later commented that he wished mayors in other regions could work so collaboratively.

Mayor of Waimakariri, Jim Gerard, said the partners had done a lot of work to draft the Strategy – providing a solid foundation to just get on with implementing it. Central Government had to do its share in helping fund the process.

Mayor of Selwyn, Michael McEvedy, supported his colleagues' comments but thanked all the partners' staff, saying their hard work had finally provided the partners with something they could all be proud of because it would pay dividends for generations to come.

Christchurch Mayor, Garry Moore, said Christchurch was a regional city and the Strategy continues to support that status. It would create good, strong, communities with their own identities around a regional city.

The Prime Minister wrapped up the launch by congratulating the UDS partners for working together. Local bodies working together collaboratively in one direction made it easier for Government rather than conflicting voices. The Strategy launch was a huge milestone that the communities of Greater Christchurch would benefit from for many years to come, she said.

The Launch was attended by the virtual Who's Who of the Canterbury region, with Ministers: Clayton Cosgrove, Tim Barnett, Nicky Wagner, Lianne Dalziel, Panzy Wong, and Gerry Brownlee in attendance, along with many of the local body elected members.

Further information:

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