

## **Media Release**

### **Council begins Katikati urban growth area feasibility study**

An area of land west of the Katikati township, including Busby and Henry roads, could be the Western Bay of Plenty District's newest urban area as part of a Council project underway.

Council is carrying out a feasibility study for this urban growth area originally anticipated to take place after 2021. The study has been brought forward due to the latest information on population projections and the take up of land which shows this area will be required sooner than originally intended. Council intends to progress investigations into its suitability and any issues arising from the potential change in land use.

The work is a response to continuing pressure to ensure enough land is available to house the future population growth expected in the sub-region. Identifying land for future urban development is part of the SmartGrowth sub-regional growth strategy. This strategy was adopted by Western Bay of Plenty District Council, Tauranga City Council and the Bay of Plenty Regional Council in 2004 and updated in 2013.

If this investigation determines the area is feasible to develop, Council will progress a structure plan which will show how the growth area is planned to be laid out and what infrastructure goes where. The Resource Management Act procedures for changing the District Plan will then take place to give effect to the Urban Growth Area.

The feasibility study will establish which land is suitable for housing, estimate the number of houses that could be built, and the level and cost of providing the infrastructure required such as water supply, wastewater, storm water and roading. It will also determine whether the land is economical to develop. The feasibility study may also result in changes to the area's boundary. It's anticipated that this will be completed by the end of February 2017.

Residents and landowners whose properties are on or nearby this area have been sent letters and invited to ask more questions of Council staff. Site visits will be required for some properties, and those landowners will be contacted prior to any visit. No public open days are anticipated until the outcomes of the feasibility study are known and Council begins the structure plan process.

Information is available on Council's website at [www.westernbay.govt.nz/katikati-urban-growth](http://www.westernbay.govt.nz/katikati-urban-growth).