

MEDIA RELEASE

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For immediate release

Who's
putting local
issues on
the national
agenda?

**We are.
LGNZ.**

LGNZ mobilising the regions for economic growth

Local Government New Zealand (LGNZ) has kicked off a new study to investigate the economic benefits of regional transport links to ensure regional development and growth across all of New Zealand.

Transport infrastructure is a critical component of regional economic success and LGNZ is advocating for transport decision-making that underpins regional economic growth objectives.

LGNZ is working to address critical questions including which regional transport links are most vulnerable and how a better alignment between central and local government might yield improved results for regional development.

LGNZ President Lawrence Yule says the timing is right to pursue a "thought leadership" paper to support LGNZ's advocacy for growth across all of New Zealand's regions, particularly following recent changes to regional air services.

"The report will provide the foundation for a better understanding of the regional transport network and its impact on regional economic development," Mr Yule says.

"Greater analysis will be made of the policy and investment decision-making structures that facilitate and block growth for continued regional economic development. An all of New Zealand approach is needed to strengthen economic potential nationwide."

LGNZ intends to complete and release its research mid year.

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For more information, please contact LGNZ's Director of Advocacy, Helen Mexted on 029 924 1221 or email helen.mexted@lgnz.co.nz

About LGNZ and local government in New Zealand

Local Government New Zealand (LGNZ) is the peak body representing New Zealand's 78 local, regional and unitary authorities. LGNZ advocates for local democracy, develops local government policy, and promotes best practice and excellence in leadership, governance and service delivery. Through its work strengthening sector capability, LGNZ contributes to the economic success and vibrancy of communities and the nation.

The local government sector plays an important role. In addition to giving citizens a say in how their communities are run, councils own a broad range of community assets worth more than \$120 billion. These include 90 per cent of New Zealand's road network, the bulk of the country's water and waste water networks, and libraries, recreation and community facilities. Council expenditure is approximately \$8.5 billion dollars, representing approximately 4 per cent of Gross Domestic Product and 11 per cent of all public expenditure.

For more information visit www.lgnz.co.nz.