

Gabriel Makhlouf

Secretary and CEO to The Treasury
The Terrace
WELLINGTON

Dear Mr Makhlouf

This is our submission to Treasury, on their new Living Standards Framework.

Agenda Waikato's purpose is to support and drive initiatives that strengthen the voice of the Waikato region.

Its mandate is to be business-led and independent while working collaboratively to identify issues and opportunities to help the Waikato sub-region. It's an action-based, outcomes-focused organisation and it wants to help solve problems through research and real-world business experience.

We have recently commissioned Professor Frank Scrimgeour of Waikato University to research the Waikato's sub-region living standards. See attached paper.

The sub region of the Waikato, with approximately 316,000 people, is a significant part of the New Zealand economy.

This research is based on the role of Hamilton, and the communities and sectors that are within a 45-minute drive to Hamilton. It's a true reflection of the wider Hamilton metro area.

There are more than 100 indicators that have been identified and 87 are contained within the research. These indicators have been created to align with the OECD Wellbeing criteria and the new Treasury capital classifications that are currently under development.

This is innovative and ground-breaking research.

We want to know just what makes up this region, and how people interact through living here, working here and recreating here.

Having research like this that aligns with the likes of the OECD and Treasury means that the research we undertake should lead to better policy making and decisions by business, local government and central government.

Knowing where we score highest on is important to learn, leverage and build on those attributes. Seeing where we are below New Zealand is important so that we can identify our weaknesses and build on that information.

This, the first of its kind of benchmarking in this region, will be incredibly useful as the Waikato and NZ Inc move to a more collaborative and engaged approach to make better decisions that will benefit the communities in the area.

And, if we are aspirational, this study can potentially be extended to other regions and cities within NZ to help NZ Inc understand regions outside of their main centres.

There is more work to do, there are more indicators to identify. However, as a start, we are proud to bring research to the policy making table.

And Agenda Waikato, would like to be part of the conversation as the new Wellbeing measures are created.

We trust that this research is helpful as you and your organisation work to create the indicators and implement respective policy proposals based on those indicators.

Yours sincerely

Chair

AGENDA WAIKATO