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## TELSTRACLEAR SHOWS KAPITI NEEDS TO LOOK AFTER ITS OWN ECONOMIC FUTURE

With reference to today's media on the future of 50 Telstraclear jobs in Kapiti.

We hope TelstraClear thinks this through carefully and has looked at alternatives such as keeping call centres in New Zealand and using this creatively to stand out from their competitors. But whatever results from the period of consultation, the Kapiti community should not blame TelstraClear; we should take ownership of our own economic future, improving both jobs and employment security.

This is one of the reasons why the Chamber of Commerce has been calling for an increased focus on the economic health and vitality of our district. Our economy is too susceptible to shocks, and we need to be working to identify the types of businesses that we want in Kapiti and then getting them to stay here, or come here, along with the jobs and security that they bring. Yes, this means being more proactive in the future to keep the likes of Telstraclear here in Kapiti. There is too much of an incentive for our younger people to move away from the district to find careers and employment. We were recently a series of small and fragmented townships and now we are a District with a population approaching that of Porirua. As a people enjoying the Kapiti Coast 'lifestyle', we also need to recognise that a balanced and healthy community has many facets – and its economy is one.

**ENDS**

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