

13 October 2010

CHAMBER INVITES NEW COUNCIL TO TAKE KAPITI FORWARD

The Kapiti Coast Chamber of Commerce warmly congratulates Jenny Rowan, in being returned as the Kapiti Coast's Mayor. The Chamber also congratulates the new and returning Councillors. We look forward to working with them over the next three years to help take Kapiti forward. And to those who are not returning or who did not get elected this time – thank you for your service.

There is a simple 'big picture' of what we need to achieve over the next few years – As a part of Kapiti being a great place to live, Kapiti needs to be a good place to do business.

Good businesses create local employment options, job security and prosperity.

If Kapiti is not a good place to do business, then business will not thrive here, our economy will suffer, and we won't be able to offer good local jobs to people who want work here. While on the other hand, if it is a good place, then we will have a far better chance of being able to nurture, retain and attract businesses in the medium to long term. Specifically, we need to be a better place to do business than other areas, or we will continue to lose jobs to those areas.

Achieving this requires wide buy-in, an overall strategy, and the efforts of many different people and organisations together. However, without the basic decision that 'yes, we are going to make Kapiti a better place to do business', there is a risk as a District that our efforts are piecemeal and lack the coordination needed to really make a difference.

Clearly, a lot of the impetus for this will come from our very recently elected local body representatives. Council cannot do everything on its own (and we should not expect them to), but it is a key player and especially it can both show leadership in this area and make economic development a higher priority than it has been in the past. The Kapiti Chamber of Commerce is now calling on the new Council to do this, and stands ready to provide advice and assistance about business matters.

ENDS

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