



MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND ECONOMIC MANAGEMENT

MEDIA RELEASE

Public release of the draft *Cook Islands Economic Development Strategy 2030*

Following approval by Cabinet, the Financial Secretary announced today that the Ministry of Finance and Economic Management (MFEM) has released the draft *Cook Islands Economic Development Strategy 2030: Consultation Draft* (Strategy) for public comment.

The Strategy is designed to address cross-cutting economic issues, with the aim of creating an economic environment that supports sustainable economic development over the next 10 years, moving from 'quantity' to 'quality' growth.

'The Economic Development Strategy is a critical planning document that will guide our economic development path over the next 10 years, and help ensure that any economic scarring from the COVID-19 pandemic is minimised', said Financial Secretary Garth Henderson.

The draft Strategy has been informed by a comprehensive public consultation exercise across the Cook Islands, commencing with Pa Enea visits in September 2019 and culminating in a national Economic Development Conference in Rarotonga in November 2019. MFEM also consulted directly with many individual stakeholders representing agency, business, industry and community interests. Details of the public consultations and Conference outcomes are available on the MFEM website.

'I encourage all stakeholders with an interest in the Cook Islands economic future to continue to engage with us by providing comments on the draft Strategy, Mr Henderson said.

The draft Strategy, Overview and Action List are available for download on the MFEM website at: <http://www.mfem.gov.ck/economic-planning/economic-development-strategy#strategy>.

MFEM is seeking written submissions on the draft Strategy by **Friday, 11 December 2020**. Submissions can be sent to MFEM by post at PO Box 120, Avarua; via e-mail at MFEM.economics@cookislands.gov.ck, or lodged in person at Level 1, MFEM Building, Avarua.

For further information please contact the MFEM Economic Planning Division on 29511.

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