

\$3.29 million broadband funding boost for Hamilton

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For Immediate Release

Hamilton has secured \$3.29 million of government funding towards a major broadband initiative for the city.

The funding is from the Ministry of Economic Development as part of the government's digital strategy. Hamilton is one of a handful of centres to be granted substantial funding.

The Hamilton urban fibre network is a collaborative project that has been led by Hamilton City Council with strong support from Wintec, Environment Waikato, the University of Waikato, Waikato DHB, and private partner Lite Up Ltd.

General Manager of Hamilton City Council's Corporate Group, Mike Garrett, says while there are a number of conditions attached to the funding, they are all components of the project already identified and included in the business plan. He says there is every confidence the conditions can be met.

"The funding will be used to develop a publicly owned broadband infrastructure available to any party within the network coverage area and to provide important linkages between the key partners involved with the project," he says.

The fibre network in Hamilton on which this project has been built, began development more than ten years ago as a network for the crime prevention cameras in the city. Council has contributed funding to the network over this period, but it has also received considerable support from business and individuals in the city. Significant recent contributions from Wintec and other partners have combined to create a larger network.

The urban fibre broadband project offers significant economic development and promotional opportunities for Hamilton as an open access resource for the city. The final structure of the network organisation and the participants will be finalised over the coming months.

"There is no question that this is great news for Hamilton and it means as a city we can be at the forefront of community led broadband accessibility. As well as being

an important enabler for the city, the success in securing the funding tells a tremendous story about how the city can work together,” says Mr Garrett.

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