



MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND ECONOMIC MANAGEMENT

MEDIA RELEASE

Cook Islands Economic Development Conference – Release of Conference Report

The Cook Islands Government hosted the *Economic Development Conference 2019: Working together to build quality growth* on 15th November 2019 at the National Auditorium. The Conference was held to inform the development of the Economic Development Strategy 2030 (the Strategy). This follows consultation with the Pa Enua and Rarotonga communities and a broad cross-section of business, industry and community stakeholders.

The Conference gathered more than 160 delegates, a cross-section of leading Cook Islands business, community and government representatives to discuss their vision of a future Cook Islands economy, and the key economic development constraints to be addressed, and opportunities to be pursued, along the way.

The Ministry of Finance and Economic Management (MFEM) has published a report on the contributions made by delegates at the Conference. Financial Secretary Garth Henderson said “Delegates demonstrated a high level of engagement throughout the conference and there was robust discussion about the opportunities for the Cook Islands in the next decade. The ideas generated, and perspectives heard during the conference will be invaluable in the development of an effective and meaningful Strategy.”

The Conference report is available on the MFEM website at <http://www.mfem.gov.ck/economic-planning/economic-development-strategy>.

The Conference outcomes, along with other consultation, will inform a draft Strategy that is expected to be released for public consultation in February 2020. The Strategy expected to be finalised in July 2020.

Queries regarding the Strategy can be directed to the Economic Planning Division at mfem.economics@cookislands.gov.ck.

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