

Independent Auditor's Report

To the readers of Waikato Innovation Growth Limited and Group's financial statements and performance information for the year ended 30 June 2021

The Auditor-General is the auditor of Waikato Innovation Growth Limited (the Company) and Group. The Auditor-General has appointed me, Clarence Susan, using the staff and resources of Audit New Zealand, to carry out the audit of the financial statements and the performance information of the Company and Group, on his behalf.

We have audited:

- the financial statements of the Company and Group on pages 5 to 32, that comprise the statement of financial position as at 30 June 2021, the statement of comprehensive income, statement of changes in equity and statement of cash flows for the year ended on that date and the notes to the financial statements that include accounting policies and other explanatory information; and
- the performance information of the Company and Group on pages 33.

Opinion

Qualified opinion on the financial statements

In our opinion, except for the possible effects of the matter described in the *Basis for our opinion* section of our report, the financial statements of the Company and Group on pages 5 to 32:

- present fairly, in all material respects:
 - their financial position as at 30 June 2021; and
 - their financial performance and cash flows for the year then ended; and
- comply with generally accepted accounting practice in New Zealand in accordance with the New Zealand equivalents to International Financial Reporting Standards - Reduced Disclosure Regime.

Unmodified opinion on the performance information

In our opinion, the performance information of the Company and Group on page 33 presents fairly, in all material respects, the Company and Group's actual performance compared against the performance targets and other measures by which performance was judged in relation to the Company and Group's objectives for the year ended 30 June 2021.

Our audit was completed late

Our audit was completed on 10 June 2022. This is the date at which our opinion is expressed. We acknowledge that our audit was completed later than required by section 67(5) of the Local Government Act 2002. This was due to an auditor shortage in New Zealand and the consequential effects of Covid-19, including lockdowns.

The basis for our opinion is explained below. In addition, we outline the responsibilities of the Board of Directors and our responsibilities relating to the financial statements and the performance information, we comment on other information, and we explain our independence.

Basis for our opinion

Financial statements: Our work was limited over the carrying value of the Group's plant and equipment assets

As stated in the statement of accounting policies in note 3(k), the Group recognises its plant and equipment class of asset at fair value. NZ IAS 16 *Property, Plant and Equipment* requires entities that recognise assets at fair value to carry out revaluations with sufficient regularity to ensure that revalued assets are not included at a value that is materially different to fair value. Based on an analysis of movements in relevant cost indices since the last revaluation, there is evidence that there could be a material change in the value of plant and equipment. As the Group has not carried out a revaluation as at 30 June 2021, it is impracticable for us to determine the amount of any adjustment required.

We carried out our audit in accordance with the Auditor-General's Auditing Standards, which incorporate the Professional and Ethical Standards and the International Standards on Auditing (New Zealand) issued by the New Zealand Auditing and Assurance Standards Board. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Responsibilities of the auditor section of our report.

We have fulfilled our responsibilities in accordance with the Auditor-General's Auditing Standards.

We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

Responsibilities of the Board of Directors for the financial statements and the performance information

The Board of Directors is responsible on behalf of the Company and Group for preparing financial statements that are fairly presented and that comply with generally accepted accounting practice in New Zealand. The Board of Directors is also responsible for preparing the performance information for the Company and Group.

The Board of Directors is responsible for such internal control as it determines is necessary to enable it to prepare financial statements and performance information that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements and the performance information, the Board of Directors is responsible on behalf of the Company and Group for assessing the Company and Group's ability to continue as a going concern. The Board of Directors is also responsible for disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting, unless the Board of Directors intends to liquidate the Company and Group or to cease operations, or has no realistic alternative but to do so.

The Board of Directors' responsibilities arise from the Local Government Act 2002.

Responsibilities of the auditor for the audit of the financial statements and the performance information

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements and the performance information, as a whole, are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion.

Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit carried out in accordance with the Auditor-General's Auditing Standards will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements are differences or omissions of amounts or disclosures, and can arise from fraud or error. Misstatements are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the decisions of readers, taken on the basis of these financial statements and the performance information.

For the budget information reported in the performance information, our procedures were limited to checking that the information agreed to the Company and Group's statement of corporate intent.

We did not evaluate the security and controls over the electronic publication of the financial statements and the performance information.

As part of an audit in accordance with the Auditor-General's Auditing Standards, we exercise professional judgement and maintain professional scepticism throughout the audit. Also:

- We identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements and the performance information, whether due to fraud or error, design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, and obtain audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control.
- We obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the Company and Group's internal control.
- We evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures made by the Board of Directors.

- We evaluate the appropriateness of the reported performance information within the Company and Group's framework for reporting its performance.
- We conclude on the appropriateness of the use of the going concern basis of accounting by the Board of Directors and, based on the audit evidence obtained, whether a material uncertainty exists related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the Company and Group's ability to continue as a going concern. If we conclude that a material uncertainty exists, we are required to draw attention in our auditor's report to the related disclosures in the financial statements and the performance information or, if such disclosures are inadequate, to modify our opinion. Our conclusions are based on the audit evidence obtained up to the date of our auditor's report. However, future events or conditions may cause the Company and Group to cease to continue as a going concern.
- We evaluate the overall presentation, structure and content of the financial statements and the performance information, including the disclosures, and whether the financial statements and the performance information represent the underlying transactions and events in a manner that achieves fair presentation.
- We obtain sufficient appropriate audit evidence regarding the financial statements and the performance information of the entities or business activities within the Company and Group to express an opinion on the consolidated financial statements and the consolidated performance information. We are responsible solely for the direction, supervision, and performance of the Company and Group audit. We remain solely responsible for our audit opinion.

We communicate with the Board of Directors regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and significant audit findings, including any significant deficiencies in internal control that we identify in our audit.

Our responsibilities arise from the Public Audit Act 2001.

Other information

The Board of Directors is responsible for the other information. The other information comprises the information included on pages 1 to 4, but does not include the financial statements and the performance information, and our auditor's report thereon.

Our opinion on the financial statements and the performance information does not cover the other information and we do not express any form of audit opinion or assurance conclusion thereon.

In connection with our audit of the financial statements and the performance information, our responsibility is to read the other information. In doing so, we consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements and the performance information or our knowledge obtained in the audit, or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If, based on our work, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report the fact. We have nothing to report in this regard.

Independence

We are independent of the Company and Group in accordance with the independence requirements of the Auditor-General's Auditing Standards, which incorporate the independence requirements of Professional and Ethical Standard 1: International Code of Ethics for Assurance Practitioners, issued by New Zealand Auditing and Assurance Standards Board.

Other than the audit, we have no relationship with, or interests in, the Company and Group.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Clarence Susan', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Clarence Susan
Audit New Zealand
On behalf of the Auditor-General
Tauranga, New Zealand