New conference and concert facilities will help keep Wellington on the international stage.

Late last year, Wellington City Council announced a growth agenda aimed at boosting the city’s and region’s economy. It includes a series of ideas that will encourage business growth and investment in the Wellington area.

One of the ideas focuses on the construction of bigger conference and concert facilities in the central city. Wellington already has some great conference and concert facilities – but now large enough to compete for the largest conventions or the biggest entertainment acts.

A big conference centre and a bigger concert venue are needed if Wellington is to continue to thrive and foot it on the international stage.

Larger conference facilities help to draw corporate and business events, attracting higher-value visitors who stay longer and spend more.

Conventions bring visitors from across New Zealand and all over the world to Wellington to learn, discuss ideas and make connections. Larger conference facilities help to draw the corporate and business events and special interest travel sectors and attract higher-value visitors – visitors who stay longer and spend more. By being able to host large-scale conferences, Wellington can reap the economic benefits of business growth and more jobs.

A bigger indoor concert venue would put Wellington back on the international touring map for headline acts and attract more visitors to the city. Wellingtonians would no longer have to fly to Auckland or Sydney to see their favourite acts, and those from surrounding regions of New Zealand would come to Wellington. A bigger concert venue will add to the vibrancy of an already buzzing Capital City.

Provision of larger conference and concert facilities aligns with Tourism New Zealand’s priority of attracting high-value visitors to New Zealand and will complement our existing suite of fantastic venues throughout the city. More visitors – whether they are conference delegates or concert-goers – will have a positive impact for the accommodation, hospitality and retail sectors and result in growth for the wider Wellington economy.

The turbines are on the move

Meridian Energy will soon be transporting wind turbine components to the Mill Creek wind farm site in Ohau Valley.

Beginning next week, several large transport vehicles will travel from Wellington’s CentrePort between 10.30am and 6.30am from Sunday through to Thursday night each week. These dates are dependent upon the shipments arriving at CentrePort and the weather.

The transport vehicles will travel from the port along Waterloo Quay, Whitmore Street, Lambton Quay, Wellington Bus Terminal, Thornton Quay, Hunt Road to SH 1; then SH 1 to Porirua off-ramp, Titahi Bay Road, Kenepuru Drive, Rhula Street, Broken Hill Road, Portmas Landfill, Spence Forest, Ohau Valley Road, and Broom Rock Road to the site. Deliveries on Ohau Valley Road will not start until 7am and will not go on after 7pm.

During these times there may be short delays on Porirua’s Manganui Bridge as the trucks cross over with their large loads. Smaller loads of internal turbine components will be transported by conventional road transport trucks and can travel during normal daylight hours Monday to Friday. This work is expected to take about 13 weeks to complete (mid-June 2014). Again these dates are dependent upon the shipments arriving at CentrePort and the weather.

Meridian is committed to minimising disruption. To help you plan your trips during this period, please phone the Mill Creek hotline 0800 645 525.

What are the 8 Big Ideas?

Wellington City Council recognises that in order to prosper we need to invest in the things that grow our economy.

The 8 Big Ideas, although in their formative stages, aim to set out a priority agenda for the next three years to provide investment opportunities and confidence in the city’s growth.

While each idea is at a different stage of development, collectively they have the ability to significantly transform the city.

For more on the 8 Big Ideas, please visit our website.