MEDIA RELEASE
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Hosting applications received for RWC 2011 Quarter Finals and Bronze Final

Regional groups representing the Auckland, Christchurch, Hamilton and Wellington regions have each lodged proposals to host either Quarter Final or the Bronze Final matches for Rugby World Cup (RWC) 2011.

Auckland, Christchurch and Wellington have all applied to host Quarter Final matches and both Auckland and Hamilton have lodged proposals to host the Bronze Final. The Bronze Final is the match for third place featuring the two losing semi-finalists which was played on the eve of the Final at RWC 2007. Auckland has proposed either Eden Park or North Harbour Stadium as a venue for the Bronze Final.

The redeveloped Eden Park has previously been selected to host the Final and both Semi Finals.

RNZ 2011 Ltd CEO Martin Snedden said regions were putting forward passionate cases for their hosting of these prime matches.

“We are delighted with the enthusiasm and effort within the regional coordination groups which are behind these proposals. We will now go through each application in detail and undertake further visits to these four regions over the coming weeks, to make sure that all loose ends are resolved before the allocation decisions are made,” he said.

The RNZ 2011 Board will review the applications at its 12 August board meeting and will then put forward a recommendation for consideration by Rugby World Cup Limited (RWCL). The RWCL board will meet on 3 September to make these allocation decisions, with an announcement expected shortly afterwards.

RWCL’s stated preference is to host the Quarter Finals in two cities. While that preference is understood, Mr Snedden said RNZ 2011 had an open mind about hosting the Quarter Finals in three venues as was the case at RWC 2007.

”We would prefer to wait to see what is in the regional hosting proposals before we form a view about whether our preference would be to use two or three cities,” he said. “If we then take a position that three cities is our preference, we will then have to work with RWCL to resolve the matter.”

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Possible Quarter Final and Bronze Final Hosting options

The following table outlines the various hosting options based on the applications.

Quarter Final Option	Auckland (Eden Park)	Wellington	Christchurch
Option A	2	2	
Option B	2		2
Option C		2	2
Option D	2	1	1
Option E	1	2	1
Option F	1	1	2

Bronze Final Option	Auckland (Eden Park)	Auckland (North Harbour)	Hamilton
Option A	1		
Option B		1	
Option C			1

Evaluation Criteria

When evaluating the various proposals and the venue allocation option combinations, RNZ 2011 Management will assess these using a set of criteria aligned to RNZ 2011's four key strategic goals, these being:

1. Delivering an operationally excellent tournament
2. Achieving capacity crowds and achieving the budgeted financial result or better
3. Inspiring a nationwide Rugby World Cup festival
4. Creating enduring benefits.

Mr Snedden said: "There are tensions between those strategic goals and, as a result, there is a delicate balancing exercise to be undertaken when we are assessing the various proposals and venue allocation options."

Bidding regions enthusiastic

The Mayor of Wellington, Kerry Prendergast said: "Wellington, as a region, is really enthusiastic and passionate about our bid for the Quarter Finals games. We're committed to delivering amazing facilities, the very best support and of course an unbeatable atmosphere. We have plenty of experience running major – successful – events of this nature. We are confident everyone will step up and embrace this event in a way that will be second to none."

Auckland regional spokesman Michael Barnett said: "Auckland is working together to respond to the great opportunity Rugby World Cup 2011 provides. I believe we have put up a proposal that will make a significant contribution to New Zealand's success in

hosting the tournament while maximising the benefits for Auckland and its ratepayers. These remaining knock-out matches are another chance to leave visitors with a lasting impression that Auckland is a world-class city that is building a reputation as a desirable major events destination."

Christchurch Mayor Bob Parker said: "We warmly welcome the opportunity to help Rugby New Zealand 2011 Limited deliver its promise of a world-class event for players, officials, spectators and fans. Beamed to a world-wide cumulative audience of over 4 billion, this is our chance to showcase Christchurch and Canterbury to the world as New Zealand delivers the best-ever Rugby World Cup in 2011."

Hamilton Mayor Bob Simcock said: "Hamilton and the region are delighted to be involved in the bid process for Rugby World Cup 'knock-out' games. We believe our proposal to RNZ 2011 is compelling. The region has a strong commitment to both rugby and major events and we are confident the crowds will turn out in force for Hamilton matches. Our proven major events experience shows us this is true. Our community is right there with RNZ 2011 as it strives to deliver an outstanding world event for New Zealand."

Pool and team allocations

Mr Snedden said while there would be a lot of interest and expectation around this phase of venue allocations, it was important to recognise that there was still the pool match and team base allocations to come.

Submissions for pool matches and to host teams will be required by October 31 with decisions on pool venues scheduled to be announced in March or April 2009 and team bases in late 2009.

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- **About Rugby New Zealand 2011 Ltd:** Rugby New Zealand (RNZ) 2011 Ltd was established in June 2006 and is the organisation responsible for the planning and delivery of Rugby World Cup (RWC) 2011 in New Zealand on behalf of its shareholders, the New Zealand Rugby Union and the New Zealand Government. RNZ 2011 Ltd is governed by a Board of Directors which is chaired by current NZRU Chairman Jock Hobbs. The New Zealand Rugby Union was selected as the Host Union for RWC 2011 by the International Rugby Board Council in November 2005.

- **About IRB Rugby World Cup:** The IRB Rugby World Cup is the third largest sports event in the world. The inaugural tournament took place in 1987 and it is held every four years. In 2007 the sixth tournament was held in France and enjoyed a cumulative worldwide broadcast audience of more than 4 billion. For the latest on RWC 2007 visit www.rugbyworldcup.com

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