
REPORT 7
(1215/12/IM)

**RATIFICATION OF SUBMISSION TO WELLINGTON CITY
COUNCIL 2012-2022 DRAFT LONG-TERM PLAN**

1. Purpose of Report

To enable Community Board members to approve the Boards submission to the Wellington City Council 2012-2022 Draft Long Term Plan.

2. Recommendations

It is recommended that the Tawa Community Board:

- 1. Receive the information.*
- 2. Approve the submission of the Tawa Community Board to the Wellington City Council 2012-2022 Draft Long-Term Plan attached as appendix 1.*

Tawa Community Board

Wellington City Council's 2012-22 Draft Long Term Plan

The Tawa Community Board (TCB) wishes to make the following submission to the Wellington City Council's 2012-22 Draft Long-Term Plan.

We believe that Wellington City Council (WCC) needs to gain considerably more mutual co-operation from other Councils within the Wellington area. More co-operation and better efficiencies should reduce the exposure to rates increases and ensure commonality of services and bylaws.

Although the forecasted costs in the Plan are likely to be good estimates at today's prices, the actual rates charged to householders assume an increasing population over the next 10 years. Considering the current world financial 'concerns', it is unlikely that the population will continue to grow with ratepayers having the ability to pay increasing rates.

PRIORITIES FOR THE NEXT THREE YEARS

We consider that Priority 3 – **A well-managed city** – ensures our services are efficient etc, and should have the highest priority. This in turn will lead to making Wellington an inclusive place where talent wants to live. It has been known for many years that Wellington is in an Earthquake Zone. Society and business will make the choice of whether they want to take the risk here. Building owners will need to improve their standards of buildings, if they want tenants or employees!

ARE THERE OTHER PRIORITIES FOR THE NEXT THREE YEARS THAT ARE MORE IMPORTANT (AND WHY)? WHAT ARE THEY?

There are a number of projects currently in hand which need to be completed, where delays could negate their usefulness, or cause loss of other partially committed funding, e.g. the Tawa Walking/cycleway, where funding from the NZTA could be lost.

GROWING OUR ECONOMY AND JOBS

What: create **Destination Wellington** – a programme of business investment and attraction activities run through a specialist agency.

Why: to create jobs and support economic growth.

When: ten year programme.

Cost: \$18.1 million.

- This should become a Wellington Region wide Project.

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What: bid to host **2015 FIFA under 20s World Championship** games.

Why: attract visitors and promote the city.

When: four year programme starting in 2012.

Cost: \$2.5 million.

- See below.

What: host **The Hobbit World premiere**.

Why: attracts international media coverage and promotes the local film and creative industry.

When: in November 2012.

Cost: \$1.1 million.

- In terms of attracting and financially supporting events, such as the FIFA Under 20 Men's World Championships 2015 and the Hobbit World Premier, the Council needs to be sure that the return from "raising Wellington's profile internationally" and "attracting visitors to the city" more than compensates the millions of dollars being outlaid on some of these events. A realistic assessment of benefits to the city needs to be calculated in preference to selling the concept based on optimistic expectations of visitors and increased profile.

What: provide a **replacement venue for Town Hall** whilst it is earthquake strengthened.

Why: continuity of service.

When: in 2012/13.

Cost: \$4 million.

- Usable **Conference Venues** are important to Central City businesses. The monies needed to refurbish alternative buildings should be targeted upon those who benefit, ie through the Downtown Levy and commercial ratepayers.

BUILDING RESILIENCE TO EARTHQUAKES AND NATURAL DISASTERS

What: **earthquake strengthen the water storage** network.

Why: ensure security of supply of water.

When: ten year programme.

Cost: \$4.5 million.

- This should proceed, subject to WCC analysis of condition.

APPENDIX 1

What: **earthquake strengthen Council buildings** – starting with the Town Hall and Council offices on Wakefield Street.

Why: To make sure Council buildings are safe for use.

When: ten year programme.

Cost: \$47.8 million + \$5 million to temporarily house staff and elected members while the work is completed.

- The TCB accepts that WCC has a duty to ensure that their own buildings are safe and meet the legislative requirements. It would be wrong for the WCC to require building owners to upgrade their building and not upgrade their own.

What: **Earthquake assessments**

Why: to better manage/coordinate earthquake strengthening work.

When: ten year programme.

Cost: additional \$6.3 million.

- We do not believe that Council should be spending rate payers' money to assist building owners in earthquake investigations.

What: **Help others strengthen their buildings against earthquakes**

Why: to ensure the city is as prepared as possible.

When: five year programme.

Cost: \$1.5 million.

- We have strong reservations that Council should be spending rate payers' money to assist building owners in earthquake investigations.

What: continue funding **heritage grants**

Why: to support heritage in the city.

When: three year programme.

Cost: \$329,000 per year.

- This is a nice idea when we have surplus funds. In times of fiscal restraint 'Trim the budget!'

What: **Energy efficiency** programme +building a climate adaptation strategy

Why: funding support for warmer and more efficient homes and to have a better understanding of impact of climate risks.

When: three year programme.

Cost: \$200,000 per year.

- We believe that this programme is covered by the Central Government's New Zealand Energy Efficiency and Conservation Strategy, providing

APPENDIX 1

loans and grants, and that is appropriate. Is WCC supporting a duplication?

What: construct a Water reservoir – **Prince of Wales Park**

Why: for Wellington Hospital's emergency needs + the city's growing inner city population.

When: two year programme starting in 2015/16.

Cost: \$9.75 million.

- As this is a shared facility the WCC should only proceed when funding from C&CDHB is available. The population growth projected may not eventuate given the current world financial concerns.

What: **Tasman Street** reticulation upgrade

Why: to provide a link from the proposed Prince of Wales Park reservoir to the central city.

When: in 2015/16.

Cost: \$562,672.

- See comment re Prince of Wales Park.

Resilience of the Water Network.

- This should proceed.

DEFERRED PROJECTS

- We believe there are benefits to be had from not delaying **sports field upgrades and walking improvements**.
- We believe there are benefits in delaying the **Safer Speeds** Project. Lowering the posted speed limit to 40 km/h on all urban roads is highly contentious, and when previously discussed in Tawa, resulted in many submissions to WCC against the proposal.

TRANSPORT

What: **Tunnels and bridges** improvements

Why: many are old and need strengthening to meet new building standards

When: ten year programme

Cost: \$12.7 million

- Agreed

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What: New retaining walls on the road corridors

Why: The city experiences between 500 and 700 slips each year, and many of these create risks to properties above or below roads or beside the sea.

When: ten year programme

Cost: \$21.6 million

- Agreed

What: Minor roading safety projects

Why: to improve road safety

When: ten year programme

Cost: \$8.5 million

- Agreed

What: Johnsonville roading improvements

Why: to meet the needs of increased population growth and development in the town centre

When: in 2016/17

Cost: \$7.1 million

- This should be aligned with the development of the Johnsonville Mall.

What: Cycle network safety improvements

Why: to improve safety for cyclists

When: ten year programme

Cost: \$300,000 per year.

- Tawa shared walk/cycleway – WCC should ensure this is completed without any delay. A delay may put the supporting funding from the NZTA at risk.

What: Cycle network extension

Why: to make it easier to cycle in and to the city

When: seven year programme from 2012/13

Cost: \$1 million per year

- It should be remembered and emphasised, that cyclists impinge on not only vehicles but also pedestrians! Pedestrian safety should be the major consideration!
- It is nice to have cycling and walking routes but until a safe route between Tawa and Johnsonville is found this will only be a sub-standard, incomplete, route.

MAINTAINING WELLINGTON AS AN INCLUSIVE PLACE WHERE PEOPLE CHOOSE TO LIVE

What: **Parliamentary precinct** public space improvements.

Why: leverage off the reopening of the National Library and new constitutional suite to showcase Wellington's capital city status.

When: over the next two years – to coincide with the anniversary of the capital status.

Cost: \$1.5 million to complete the project.

- This is a nice idea when we have surplus funds. In times of fiscal restraint 'Trim the budget'!

What: make improvements to **Opera House Lane** and **Eva Street**.

Why: improve pedestrian connections and regenerate activities in the surrounding areas

When: 2012-14 – work is timed to coincide with developments on adjacent sites

Cost: \$1.1 million to complete the project

- Unsafe areas need improvement for safety reasons – but with fiscal prudence.

What: public space enhancements to **Victoria Precinct**

Why: to stimulate the regeneration of a critical block in the central city

When: 2014-16

Cost: \$2.6 million to complete the project

- Fiscal prudence is needed.

What: construct a new **Inner city park**

Why: as the inner city population increases, we're keen to ensure that there are sufficient green spaces where people can congregate and relax.

When: 2015/16

Cost: \$3.3 million

- Green spaces are important to cities as they help to keep them and their populations healthy. However Wellington Central City has a number of sizable parks, and we do not see the need for another park in the current financial climate.

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What: inflation adjustment for **Grants funding**

Why: to ensure recipients can still carry out work they are contracted to deliver

When: ongoing

Cost: \$69,695 in 2012/13, rising to \$214,142 in 2014/15

- Consideration can be given, but should not be automatically granted.

What: construct more **artificial sports fields**

Why: to ensure sport and recreation is not unduly affected by bad weather

When: Alex Moore Park in 2013/14, Grenada North/Tawa in 2014/15, Western Suburbs (site to be confirmed) in 2016/17

Cost: \$5.2 million in total

- An artificial turf is urgently required in the northern suburbs and Council should further investigate joint sponsorship/ funding with local schools eg Tawa College and bring this forward to 2012 / 2013 year.

BALANCING OUR BUDGET

What: **Te Papa Funding**

- The board believes that a Regional funding model, based on population, should be introduced. Te Papa is important to the greater Wellington area, and consultation and co-operation should be developed to achieve a Win-Win situation.

What: **Our Wellington Page.**

- Agree WCC should reduce The Dominion Post advertising. We are surprised that this was not instigated much earlier as a saving in these times of fiscal restraint.

What: **City Safety Programme**

- Greater co-operation between the Police, Council, Volunteer groups, together with effective closed circuit cameras with feedback, coupled with reduced opening hours of central city establishments, would help to reduce the incidents of bad behaviour. We do not believe that Walkwise or Volunteers have sufficient training or authority to police the streets, and this needs to be considered.

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What: **Parking Charges**

- It is probable that an increase in parking fees will reduce the numbers of visitors to Wellington's retail centre and drive people to areas where free parking is available eg Hutt / Porirua.
- The parking meter systems need to be updated; - The ability to pay for parking with a credit card is frequently not operating, requiring people to pay cash! How many people now carry coins? The frustration and risk of a parking fine whilst going to the bank for cash is enough to drive people away from the City.

What: **Fees and Charges**

- **Rubbish Bags** -
 - It is disappointing that WCC do not see the increasing price of rubbish bags as part of the cause of declining use of WCC rubbish collection and the increase in the number using private collectors.
 - We see the removal of rubbish as a core service.

OTHER PROPOSALS

What: **Regional Amenities Funding.**

- This is a step in the right direction.

PLIMMER BEQUEST FORWARD PROGRAMME

What: **Grasslees Reserve in Tawa**

- We fully support the redevelopment of this area. The development "of a new picnic and horticultural area" as suggested is greatly favoured. The TCB would like to promote an area within this space suitable for a community garden in association with Tawa College and the local food banks.

What: **Housing**

- The provision of housing for low income earners should be a function of Central Government. It is unfortunate that WCC did not sell its housing stock to the Government at the same time as the Auckland City Council. While the income may equal the expenses, the return from investing the capital value of the assets would see a better rating outcome.

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What: **Water Meters**

- Prompt fixing of leaks, particularly when reported by the public, is a priority. If area water meters are a tool to help identification of leaks, then they make sense. However if the intention to introduce compulsory metering greater consultation is necessary.

YOUR RATES

- We are concerned that the proposed rate of increase over the next 10 years could be beyond the where withal of residents, especially in circumstances where their incomes are determined by the Government.

The Tawa Community Board would like the opportunity to talk to Council about our views.

Tawa Community Board

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