

Talofa Lava, Fakaalofa lahi atu, Kia orana, Bula Vinaka, Malo e lelei, Taloha ni, Talofa, Kam na mauri, Tena koutou katoa,

I am Falenaoti Mokalagi Tamapeau. I am of Samoan and Niuean descent and I have lived for over 40 years in Wellington New Zealand. My three children were born in Wellington and I have a sibling still resident here, nieces, nephews and many of our extended aiga. We continue to live intermittently in the home our parents purchased over 30 years ago now in Wilson Street, Newtown, that acts also as the family marae during family events or visits to Wellington. It will always be home for us and many members of our extended fanau.

I give this submission today on behalf of Vahine Orama, Newtown Branch of Pacifica and also for Wellington Central Branch of Pacifica. Pacifica is a national women's organisation that grew from Pacific women recognising and responding to a need for Pacific people to transition as smoothly as possible into their new life in Aotearoa. Pacifica also served as a training group for Pacific women early settlers to take up roles of leadership outside of traditional leadership roles.

One of these early pioneers in Pacifica was Tala Cleverly the first Pacific woman and person to become a Wellington City Councillor, and she is still the only Pacific person who has made it to City Councillor status.

## **Historical Context**

Pacific migration was encouraged during labour shortages in New Zealand from the 1950's to the early 1970's, and consequently Wellingtons diversity grew through this engagement. There had also been a hurricane in Tokelau that

had caused Tokelau people to leave their islands and seek refuge in New Zealand. To this day Tokelau is the only Pacific specific ethnic group that has the majority of its people living in a centre outside of Auckland.

Pacific Peoples have been strong contributors to the growth of Wellington and the Wellington region.

We have been the cleaners in the Government and council work places, we have kept the streets of wellington swept, and the rubbish collected.

We have been a part of building many of the churches that still stand today in Wellington inner city and in particular Newtown, that in our early time of migration served as hubs of belonging for our people , early workers, families, and students at the university of Victoria. Though some of us have moved into the areas such as Porirua and Hutt City many of our families continue to make the trek into Wellington to take part in the Church services and activities at St Anne's, EFKS and PIC to name a few. We also continue to have relationships with family members across these regional boundaries and support one another's community events.

Many of our talented musicians, visual artists, actors, writers, directors have been renowned locally, nationally and internationally and have brought pride and glamour to Wellington.

To add to the cleaners in Wellington Hospital we have Pacific Drs, managers, nurses who have made their mark in the world, along with brilliant public servants and academics alike. We are also growing the numbers of teachers engaging in the education of our children at all levels in Wellington. We contribute to sports at all levels and on and off the field Pacific

Peoples continue to make a significant and valuable contribution to Wellington and the Wellington region.

We are a demographic that is growing rapidly and will continue to do so, we have a higher than average percentage of young people, high rates of fertility, our children are more ethnically diverse, and the number of NZ born Pacific makes up over half of the Pacific population. We are projected to continue to impact on the cultural landscape of Wellington, and Aotearoa for the next 50 years.

We are set to become the carers, educators, income generators going forward. Therefore, it is responsible planning that Pacific Peoples should be included in the long term planning of Wellington City Council.

We have pride of place in the National NZ Museum Te Papa Tongarewa, but unfortunately we do not have a pride of place within the long term planning of this Council.

When the word Pacific is typed into word find in the summary document it appears once.

This does not indicate that the Council considers the evidence of a growing population and the contribution of Pacific peoples to be of any value and significance in how it views Wellington or Aotearoa going forward.

There is no plan or strategy within your draft long term plan to accommodate Pacific peoples who have had a very long history and relationship with Wellington and this country. There is no visible vision from you as leaders or any cognisance taken of Pacific issues in any shape or form.

I quote directly from our Vahine Orama members

The WCC Long Term Plan lacks an internal and external Pasifika Strategy which would act as a framework to measure, direct and provide a VISION on how WCC addresses issues related to its Pasifika communities. This includes increasing and maintaining cultural competency, diversity among WCC employees and ensuring that funding allocated to Pasifika communities and events (such as Pasifika Festival, and Wellington Polyfest) which benefit all of Wellington keep up with the rate of inflation.

With the Wellington focus on culture and art it is important to have enabling funding processes with a thought to different selection criteria to assist communities as they have such a valuable contribution to make.

- The WCC Long Term Plan fails to acknowledge Wellington, and New Zealand/Aotearoa's unique relationship to the Pacific and its peoples e.g. the document only mentions the word "Pacific" once. The Rugby World Cup and Wellington Sevens are only two examples of how Pasifika peoples contribute to the vibrance of Wellington City. A Pasifika strategy will help guide the WCC on events that are truly people-focused and safeguard our minority communities from tourism-focused discourse which may be detrimental to WCC grassroots initiatives.

- Of concern is the WCC Long Term Plan's vagueness, or absolute absence of comment on Pasifika events and the Pacific Advisory Group. The WCC needs to make its intention for the future of these democratic functions clearer to the community, particularly as there are no Pasifika councillors represented at the moment.
- The Pacific community has been requesting a Pasifika Fale or centre for years through the Pacific Advisory Group and the bi-annual Pacific Forums with her Worship, Mayor Celia Wade-Brown. The WCC's decision to reject this request needs to be officially noted and made available to the community as other rejected proposals are noted in the Long Term Plan.
- As an aside, the presence of tangata whenua in the WCC Long Term Plan also lacks prevalence.
- Acknowledging WCC's relationship with its Pasifika communities strategically, with pride and vision will only enhance Wellington's image as a diverse, creative and welcoming city and will be a lot cheaper than paying for the one-day premiere of The Hobbit (\$1.1m).

On behalf of Vahine Orama, Newtown and Wellington Central Branches I want to thank you for this opportunity to make a contribution to a city and place we call home.

We hope it will be useful to WCC in its planning going forward, and the peoples of Wellington.

Soifua ma ia manuia le sailiga o se tatou taeao fou.

Go well in your endeavours to seek a new dawn.