

# TOWARDS AN EVEN BRIGHTER FUTURE



## WHO WE ARE

**Wellington City Council is a complex organisation providing hundreds of services to benefit the city.**

The Council is made up of 15 elected representatives – the Mayor and 14 councillors – who make bylaws, policies and set the city's overall strategic direction.

The chief executive and 1,450+ staff provide advice, implement Council decisions and look after the city's day-to-day operations.

It's our job to promote the wellbeing of Wellington and its residents. We do this by providing services in many areas.

We're responsible for protecting and enhancing the city's environment, urban planning, operating an efficient transport network, providing water supply, looking after parks and reserves, and for activities that make the city vibrant, strengthen communities, and benefit the economy.

## OUR DIRECTION

**We aim to help Wellington reach its potential as a truly world-class city.**

During 2005/06, we asked for the views of Wellington residents on the future of the city. The feedback we received helped us to set a new direction, which will guide our work over the next decade.

Under this direction, we're aiming to:

- deliver a high-quality urban environment
- provide a safe, efficient transport network
- encourage the development of an internationally-competitive regional economy

- protect and enhance the natural environment
- foster the city's unique identity
- build strong, safe, healthy communities, and
- deliver confidence in city decision-making.

These aspirations build on the *Creative Wellington – Innovation Capital* vision which has guided our work since 2003. You'll find detailed information about our future plans in our long-term plan, published in July 2006.

## EXPLAINING OUR WORK

**We make ourselves accountable to the people of Wellington.**

In July 2005, we published an Annual Plan explaining the services we planned to deliver for the year, the costs, how we expected to pay, and how we'd measure our performance. This Annual Report explains how we've delivered on that plan.

As always, we've gone to great lengths to make sure our work is fully and clearly explained. We're a large organisation and we have a responsibility to fully inform ratepayers about all of our work – so this is a large document. But we've structured it with the aim of making information easy to find.

Over the next few pages, we provide a snapshot of the year – for the city and the Council.

In the Key Achievement Areas section you'll find more detailed information about the services we provide and the contribution they make to the city. And in the Financial Information section you'll find information about the state of the city's and Council group's finances.



**This year, we've enhanced our reporting in several ways.**

This Annual Report reflects our performance for the past year. However, we're mindful of the fact that all of the work we did has implications for 2006/07 and future years. When we're setting our direction, we think many years ahead.

Throughout this report, you'll find references to the challenges likely to face the city over the next decade. That way, you can make an informed judgment about how our work during 2005/06 helped us to prepare for or address those challenges.

We've also introduced several other improvements in this report:

- The Governance and Management section has been restructured and enhanced to provide a clear, 'real world' explanation of how we go about setting the city's direction, listening to community views, and making decisions.
- We have introduced information about the direct impact of Council activities on the environment. This information reflects our commitment to sustainability and efficient use of resources in our own operations. It follows a review of our monitoring information.

We have a strong track record at providing informative, accessible annual reports. This document continues and builds on that tradition.

**SNAPSHOT OF A GROWING CITY**

	WELLINGTON CITY NOW	WELLINGTON CITY THEN	DID YOU KNOW?
<b>Population</b>	Wellington city has an estimated population of 183,500. Wellington city makes up 40.7% of the region's total population.	In 2001, our city had a population of 167,187. Wellington city made up 39.1% of the region's total population.	Our population is expected to increase to 201,100 people by 2021.
<b>Population density</b>	Wellington city has an estimated 632.8 people per square kilometre.	In 2001, our city had an estimated 576.5 people per square kilometre.	Wellington city residents have access to 34.7 square kilometres of Town Belt, park and reserve land.
<b>Employment</b>	Employment continues to grow, with 129,680 people being employed in Wellington city in 2005.	In 2001, 108,910 people were employed in Wellington city.	The property and business services industry employees more Wellingtonians than any other industry (approximately 21%).
<b>Average earnings</b>	Wellington city employees earn an average of \$26.87 per hour (March quarter 2006).	In 2004, the average employee earned \$24.97 per hour (March quarter 2004).	Wellington city employees have the highest average hourly earnings of all major cities in New Zealand.
<b>Travel to central Wellington</b>	39% of people who travel into central Wellington on a weekday use public transport, 29% use a car and 11% walk.	In 2001, 27% of people used public transport, 48% drove and 14% walked.	Wellington city has the largest proportion of residents who use public transport of all major cities in New Zealand.
<b>Average sale price for dwellings</b>	In Wellington, the average home now costs \$353,800 (March quarter 2006).	In 2004, the average home cost \$290,400 (March quarter 2004).	Wellington city average home prices are the second most expensive in New Zealand, behind Auckland.