

## WHO WE ARE

We have two key jobs. The first is to promote the well-being of Wellington and its people. The second is to facilitate democratic local decision-making.

The Wellington City Council is made up of 15 elected representatives – the mayor and 14 councillors. It's their job to make bylaws, set the city's overall strategic direction, and approve budgets, policies and plans aimed at achieving that direction. Part of their role is to listen and take the pulse of the community before making decisions.

The elected representatives are supported by the Council's chief executive and 1500+ staff, who provide advice, implement Council decisions, and look after the city's day to day operations.

## OUR DIRECTION

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

In 2006, we adopted a new 10-year strategic direction, based on 13 goals or 'outcomes' for the city. These goals are: to make Wellington more liveable, more compact, more eventful, more inclusive, more actively engaged, better connected, more sustainable, safer, healthier, more prosperous, more competitive, more entrepreneurial and innovative, and to help the city develop a stronger sense of place.

These outcomes were developed after engagement with Wellingtonians during 2005 and 2006 about their aspirations for the city. They support our overall vision of creating global competitive advantage by positioning the city as Creative Wellington – Innovation Capital.

The detail of what our outcomes mean, and what we plan to achieve, is contained in our 2006–16 strategies for urban development, transport, economy, environment, cultural wellbeing, social and recreation, and engagement/governance.

These strategies provide coherence in our work and ensure we retain a clear sense of what we want to achieve. They also show how all areas of our work are interlinked – how, for example, town planning rules influence demand for transport and how people do business and interact with each other.

We're facing challenges associated with factors such as population growth, rising public expectations, and cost and environmental pressures. The strategies guide our response to those challenges.

## MEASURING OUR PERFORMANCE

We keep track of our performance during the year so we can measure how effective we have been in delivering on our plans for the city.

We keep track of the state of the city and the impact of our work by asking residents' views, gathering information from official sources such as Statistics New Zealand, and gathering data internally about the work we do and the impact it has. This monitoring helps to guide our work – by, for example, helping us to determine priorities, allocate resources and decide whether and how we should provide a service.

The vast majority of residents are satisfied with their quality of life and believe Wellington is a great place to live. In national surveys, we consistently have the highest quality of life ratings of any New Zealand city. In some areas – in particular, our work to protect and enhance the city's environment – performance for the year has generally exceeded expectations. In others, performance fell below expectations or residents were less satisfied than previously. These included safety on roads and cycleways, frequency and reliability of public transport, and views about the quality of the urban environment.

As you'll see throughout this report, we're working to address the areas where performance is declining or has fallen short of the standards we expect.

# *our role and* *direction*



PHOTO: JEFF MEWEN

## EXPLAINING OUR WORK

We aim to keep you informed and make ourselves accountable.

In July 2006, we published our 2006–16 long-term plan explaining the services we planned to deliver, the costs, how we expected to pay for those services, and how we'd measure our performance. This annual report explains how we've delivered on the first year of that plan.

This annual report is a little shorter than past Wellington City Council reports. That's because we've been able to integrate elements of work within our seven strategies. We've grouped some information together so you can more easily see our work in its proper context. For example, we describe all of our work relating to the transport network (footpaths, signage, roads etc) in one place rather than separating these out. Though the report is shorter, it still contains considerable detail about our work programme and our financial and service performance.

In the Governance and Management section, which provides a 'real world' explanation of how we go about making decisions, we've provided more precise information about the powers retained by the elected Council, the governance principles that guide decisions, and the resource consent hearing process.

We're also providing greater levels of disclosure than previously by including capex carry forward budgets at the activity level, for projects that are not complete and where the budget will be carried over to next year.

We have a strong track record of providing clear, accessible, high quality annual reports. This document builds on that tradition.

“IN JULY 2006, WE PUBLISHED OUR 2006–16 LONG-TERM PLAN EXPLAINING THE SERVICES WE PLANNED TO DELIVER, THE COSTS, HOW WE EXPECTED TO PAY FOR THOSE SERVICES, AND HOW WE'D MEASURE OUR PERFORMANCE. THIS ANNUAL REPORT EXPLAINS HOW WE'VE DELIVERED ON THE FIRST YEAR OF THAT PLAN.”



## SNAPSHOT OF A GROWING CITY

	WELLINGTON CITY NOW	WELLINGTON CITY THEN	DID YOU KNOW?
<b>People</b>	Wellington city had a population of 179,466 on census day 2006. Wellington city makes up 40.0% 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>Urban form</b>	Wellington has an estimated 620.9 people per square kilometre.	In 2001, our city had an estimated 576.5 people per square kilometre.	Wellington city residents have access to 35.5 square kilometres of Town Belt, park and reserve land, and over 300km of maintained tracks and walkways.
<b>Diversity</b>	According to the census 2006, 70.1% of people identified themselves as European, 13.2% as Asian, 7.7% as Maori, 5.2% as Pacific People, 2.1% as either Middle Eastern, Latin American or African and 10.6% as 'other'.	In 2001, 81.7%* of people identified themselves as European, 10.8% as Asian, 7.6% as Maori, 5.3% as Pacific Peoples and 1.7% as 'other'.	Wellington is a city of diversity, and this is reflected in a substantial calendar of festivals and events such as Matariki, Diwali Festival of Lights, Chinese New Year celebrations and the Cuba Carnival.
<b>Recreation</b>	Most Wellington residents (85%) spend more than 2 ½ hours a week in physical activity.	In 2002, only 80% of residents were spending more than 2 ½ hours a week in physical activity.	Wellington City Council swimming pool and recreation centre facilities received over 1.5 million visitors during the year.
<b>Knowledge</b>	In 2006, 32.9% of Wellingtonians over the age of 15 had a degree level qualification.	In 2001, 26.7% of Wellingtonians over the age of 15 had a degree level qualification.	Wellington city has the highest percentage of people with a degree level qualification of New Zealand's major cities.
<b>Workforce</b>	Employment continues to grow, with 132,780 people being employed in Wellington city in 2006.	In 2001, 108,910 people were employed in Wellington city.	The property and business services industry employs more Wellingtonians than any other industry (20%).
<b>Income</b>	Wellington city employees earn an average of \$28.33 per hour (March quarter 2007).	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</b>	34% of Wellingtonians who travel into central Wellington on a weekday use public transport, 45% use a car and 10% walk.	In 2001, 30% of people used public transport, 52% drove and 14% walked.	Wellington city has the largest proportion of residents who use public transport of all major cities in New Zealand.
<b>Water</b>	Each Wellington resident uses the equivalent of almost 174,000 litres of water per year. That's 476 litres per person per day.	In 2001, each resident used 179,600 litres of water per year.	Daily water use rises every summer, by as much as 50 percent.
<b>Waste</b>	The amount of waste sent to the landfill continues to decline with a total of 388 kilograms per person.	In 2004, a total of 496 kilograms of waste per person went to the landfill.	The vast majority of Wellington residents (86%) use WCC kerbside recycling on a weekly basis.

\*The change is likely the result of the increased number of people identifying themselves as New Zealander – which is categorised as an 'other' response.