

From the Mayor

Wellington is in great shape – but it's important to think long term.

The future, and how we balance our activities in the present, is very much top of mind for us. This report reflects that.

Protection of the environment and the well-being of Wellington residents has always been part of the Council's work. Our focus on sustainability has stepped up during the past year.

We have established a Climate Change Office to reduce Council greenhouse gas emissions and provide leadership for the city. We have contributed to a new regional framework to support sustainable economic growth.

We have made progress towards more sustainable transport and land use, with plans to focus growth – of residential development, business and services – in areas of greatest benefit and least harm.

Our plans for Adelaide Road, our more focused approach to infill housing and major retail development, and our transport plans for the Ngauranga to Airport corridor are all part of this process.

At the same time, the city has continued to offer residents a very high quality of life.

We continue to be the nation's arts and culture capital, with fantastic events – the International Sevens, World of WearableArt, the Homegrown Music Festival, Matariki, Diwali, the NZ International Arts Festival to name but a few.

While we can't always rely on the weather, residents continue to enjoy high quality outdoor environment and recreation facilities. And Wellingtonians are rightly known for their strong sense of community.

In short, we may have some areas of challenge, but there's still plenty to celebrate.

'Sustainability' to me means ensuring that we retain the qualities that make Wellington a great place to live.

One of the most important contributions we can all make to sustainability is simply to use resources wisely – something that makes sense in both environmental and financial terms.

As you probably know, the Council has made a long-term commitment to reducing greenhouse gas emissions for the city.

This, of course, is a significant challenge. But it's one that's worthwhile. Like everything we do, it's about providing Wellingtonians with the best possible quality of life – and sustaining that for generations to come.



KERRY PRENDERGAST MAYOR

95% of Wellingtonians think the city offers a high quality of life, and 95% see it as a great place to live.