

Town Belt Guiding Principles

1. *The Wellington Town Belt will be protected and enhanced by the Council for future generations*

This reflects the Council's commitment to ensuring that the Town Belt will be protected for Wellingtonians to enjoy.

The physical size and continuity of the Town Belt will be retained and enhanced.

2. *The Town Belt will continue to be governed in trust by the Council, under the 1873 Deed and subsequent legislation on behalf of the citizens of Wellington.*

3. *The Council will work in partnership with mana whenua to manage the Town Belt*

This recognises that mana whenua will have an ongoing role in the management of the Town Belt-consistent with our current relationship.

4. *The Town Belt's landscape character will be protected and enhanced*

The landscape character of the Town Belt has changed and been modified since humans first interacted with it. The Council will protect and enhance the key features of this landscape character (acknowledging that vegetation change will occur over time), which are:

- The continuous "horse-shoe" shape of hills between the central business district and surrounding suburbs
- The vegetated slopes interspersed with areas of open ground
- Undeveloped skylines (i.e. Te Ahumairangi and Mt Victoria/Te Ranga a Hiwi etc.)
- The contrast between the patchwork of native and exotic vegetation and the densely developed central business district.

5. *The Town Belt will support healthy populations of indigenous biodiversity*

The Town Belt already has an important role in bringing nature to the city and has the potential to expand that role by acting as a hub for indigenous biodiversity and improving the city's ecological resilience.

Key factors for supporting health populations of indigenous biodiversity include:

- The connectivity of the indigenous vegetation to facilitate movement both within and through the Town Belt.
- Sufficient natural habitat (including streams and bush) to maintain native animal populations
- Ensuring pest species do not threaten indigenous biodiversity

APPENDIX 3

6. *The Town Belt is for all to enjoy*

This concerns equity of access and use of the Town Belt. The Council believes that the Town Belt should be available for all Wellingtonians to enjoy.

7. *The Town Belt will be used for a wide range of recreation activities*

The Town Belt should cater for a wide range of sporting and recreation activities managed in a way to minimise conflict between different users. Co-location at, and intensification of, sports facilities within existing hubs and buildings is supported where appropriate

8. *The Council will encourage and support community participation in the management of the Town Belt*

This recognises that Wellingtonians will have an ongoing role in the management of the Town Belt. The Council values community input and acknowledges the work of individuals and groups to protect, enhance and use the Town Belt. The Council will support and encourage community participation, which underpins long term sustainability.

9. *Management of the Town Belt will acknowledge historical and cultural links to the land*

The Town Belt has a rich and diverse history and the Council recognises that the historical link of mana whenua to the land has not been well acknowledged in the past. The Council intends to take significant historical and cultural values into account when making decisions about the Town Belt.