OUR ROLE

Under the Local Government Act, we have two key roles. 1. To promote the well-being of Wellington and its people. 2. 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 decisions, set the city’s overall strategic direction, and approve budgets, policies and plans aimed at achieving that direction. A key part of their role is to listen and take the pulse of the community before making decisions. The mayor and councillors are supported in their work by the Tawa and Makara/Ohariu Community Boards.

The elected representatives are supported by the Council’s chief executive and 1,450+ staff, who provide advice, implement Council decisions, and look after the city’s day to day operations.

We aim to manage the city in line with community aspirations.

After public consultation during 2005 and 2006, we set 13 long-term goals (or “outcomes”) for Wellington – that the city will become more liveable, develop a stronger sense of place, and become more compact, eventful, inclusive, actively engaged, sustainable, safer, better connected, prosperous, competitive, entrepreneurial and innovative.

The projects we fund – both the new projects explained over the next few pages and our ongoing work programme explained in the Our activities in detail section of this report – aim to fulfil these community expectations.

This annual plan is part of a longer-term planning process. The Local Government Act requires us to plan in three-year cycles. Every three years, we publish a long-term plan setting out our intentions for the decade ahead – what we’ll do, how we’ll do it, how much we’ll spend, who will pay for it, and how well we’ll do it, and how well we’ll measure the quality and effectiveness of our work. Our last long-term plan was in 2006, our next will be in 2009.

In-between these long-term plans, we take a fresh look each year at our work programme and consider whether any changes are needed – such as revisions to our budgets or new projects to help deal with issues or challenges facing the city. After public consultation, we publish an annual plan (this document). We’ll make ourselves accountable by reporting on how we do for the year.

Every year, we publish an annual report. This sets out how well we performed against the long-term plan or annual plan for the year. Did we do all we said we’d do? Did we meet our budgets? Did we do as good a job as we should have? Did we contribute to improvements in the overall well-being of Wellington and its residents? The report is made available on our website and through libraries and service centres, and a summary is sent to all Wellington households.

SnAPSHot oF tHe city

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Our job is to look after Wellington, now and into the future.

SNAPSHOT OF THE CITY

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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<th>Wellington city then</th>
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<th>Did you know?</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Population</td>
<td>In 2001, Wellington city had a population of 167,187 – 39.1% of the region’s population.</td>
<td>Wellington city has an estimated population of 190,500 – 40.5% of the region’s population.</td>
<td>Wellington’s population is expected to grow to 231,700 by 2031.</td>
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<td>Employment</td>
<td>In 2001, 108,910 people were employed in Wellington.</td>
<td>137,260 people are employed in Wellington city.</td>
<td>Property and business services employs more Wellingtonians than any other industry.</td>
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<td>Earnings</td>
<td>In 2004, the average employee earned $25.93 per hour.</td>
<td>Wellington city employees earn an average of $29.40 per hour.</td>
<td>Wellington city employees have the highest average hourly earnings of all major cities in New Zealand.</td>
</tr>
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<td>Transport</td>
<td>In 2001, 30% of people used public transport, 52% drove and 14% walked.</td>
<td>34% of Wellingtonians who travel into central Wellington on a weekday use public transport, 45% use a car and 10% walk.</td>
<td>Wellington city has the largest proportion of residents who use public transport of all major cities in New Zealand.</td>
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<tr>
<td>House prices</td>
<td>In the March 2005 quarter, the average home cost $315,800.</td>
<td>In the December 2007 quarter, the average home cost $431,000.</td>
<td>Wellington city average home prices are the second most expensive in New Zealand, behind Auckland.</td>
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