

New Zealand is a country rich in beautiful nature providing cities with excellent landscape settings and offering plenty of possibilities to explore the outdoors. A future challenge is to strengthen the urban scene, raise the level of quality of the cities and tame vehicular traffic in order to offer a diverse public life in cities. Wellington, in this context, is a city with a unique setting, an exciting city structure and a range of other potentials and advantages.

Wear and tear, conflicts between modes of transport and the absence of a strong quality of city strategy has over the years resulted in a number of shortcomings, but fortunately these problems can be remedied. All the basics are right in this fine city,

Future developments will disclose whether Wellington can further develop into a diverse and attractive city not only holding its position as the capital and one of the more interesting cities in Australasia, but also gaining recognition as a leading world city where good urban design practice has established high quality urban spaces and diverse functions as well as the improvements to city economy which accompanies these qualities.

The main challenge in Wellington today is to decide upon the level of through-traffic in the city. If major changes on the urban scene are to take place a firm policy is needed in order to shift present priorities. A large number of cities have started to follow this path and the examples are many and diverse - each city finding its own approach and its own way of strengthening the special character in that specific city.

Bogota is one of the most recent cities which in the midst of civil war and a low economy has managed to turn the city around, giving the people's issues a top priority. Portland in USA is another example of a city with a firm city policy carried through during a number of years, Curitiba in Brazil, Melbourne in Australia are other examples. These cities outside Europe and without a good bank account have made changes to their priorities - each at their own pace.

It is strongly recommended that Wellington finds inspiration to follow this direction, and thus maintain its undisputed position as the number one city in New Zealand as well as an internationally respected city.