

# Resilient Wellington - a strategy

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Fifty years ago, Wellington looked completely different to the way it looks today. It's unlikely that Wellingtonians of the 1960s could have dreamed of how connected their children and grandchildren would be to each other and the rest of the world - virtually, through massive advances in technology and telecommunications, and physically, through a bustling international airport.

They probably wouldn't have thought that our population would be 13 percent Māori, 8 percent Pasifika and 8 percent Asian, with more than 80 ethnic groups and dozens of languages spoken on the streets. Nor would they have thought that Wellington could be transformed from a government town into "the coolest little capital in the world".

While they might have expected earthquakes to be an ongoing worry, they would not have foreseen traffic congestion, people living rough in the central city, or that the climate would have changed to the point that we need to adapt our city to rising sea levels, and to more intense and frequent flash floods and high winds.

In another few decades, people will reflect on our time and wonder at the change that will have occurred between 2017 and 2050.

This strategy sets out a blueprint to enable Wellingtonians to better prepare for, respond to, and recover from disruptions. It is designed to maintain and build on the resilience momentum that has been generated to date. It outlines accountabilities and actions for change - its purpose is to make a positive difference. **It is our vision that as Wellington moves and changes, everyone here will survive and thrive.**

Three goals will support this vision: **that people are connected, empowered and feel part of a community; decision making is integrated and well informed; and our homes, natural and built environment are healthy and robust.** These goals will drive a series of strategic projects designed to shape our future city. Each of the projects signals a need to change from the status quo, such as preparing Wellington to adapt itself to the effects of sea level rise, and integrating recovery planning for the earthquake that we know will strike Wellington.

In developing this strategy, 200 people including infrastructure managers, researchers, community members, businesses and council staff from across the Wellington region imagined themselves in the shoes of their children and grandchildren in 35 years' time. What will be the shocks and stresses they are likely to encounter, and what can we do today so that their lives - and ours - can be improved? How can we be Resilient Wellington?

To help bring these likely experiences to life, we developed a 'resilience story' through a series of stakeholder workshops. The story follows a fictional family as they grapple with life in Wellington over the coming decades.

The story provided an inspiration and a test environment for a series of accelerated design workshops, where the actions that form this strategy have been developed, building on Wellington's strengths.

We developed the strategy using four principles: to co-design wherever possible, to accelerate design, to use a strengths based approach, and to use story telling to communicate the resilience agenda.



**Co-design** - To maximise involvement of the wide group of stakeholders and experts, covering all city resilience dimensions, the strategy content is primarily driven by the outputs of a series of design workshops.



**Strength based approach** - Specific focus to build on Wellington strengths has been applied during the appreciative enquiry workshops and led to development of our resilience graphic novel as well opportunities that were designed into resilience projects.

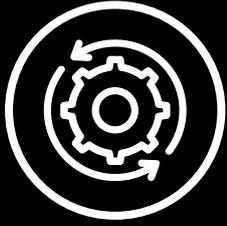


**Accelerated design** - Projects underpinning this strategy were developed at the Action Workshop modelled on a hackathon methodology and building on ideas generated through appreciative enquiry and story telling.



**Story telling** - This approach has been integrated into the strategy development from early stages to ensure that the strategy inspires and captures Wellingtonians' imagination. Story telling was a focus of the Story Workshop and led to the development of our graphic novel.





This strategy heralds change - change that will require broad collaboration, strong leadership and tenacity supported by compelling evidence.

Wellington isn't just Wellington City. The Wellington region features a complex series of systems and relationships covered by nine different council areas. Shocks and stresses don't respect the boundaries between these areas and nor does this strategy. While its primary focus is Wellington City, we have

looked at it in the context of the wider region, especially the urban areas of Porirua and Hutt Valley. We have indicated where projects have a regional scope. In the middle of all this, the Kaikoura earthquake on 14 November 2016 gave Wellingtonians a stark reminder of what an earthquake can do to a city.

