
ORDINARY MEETING

OF

ANNUAL PLAN/LONG-TERM PLAN COMMITTEE

ORAL HEARING

MINUTES

Time: 9:30am
Date: Wednesday, 10 June 2020
Venue: Virtual meeting

PRESENT

Mayor Foster (Deputy Chair) (via audiovisual link)
Councillor Condie (via audiovisual link)
Councillor Day (via audiovisual link)
Councillor Fitzsimons (via audiovisual link)
Councillor Foon (via audiovisual link)
Deputy Mayor Free (Chair) (via audiovisual link)
Councillor Matthews (via audiovisual link)
Councillor O'Neill (via audiovisual link)
Councillor Pannett (via audiovisual link)
Councillor Paul (via audiovisual link)
Councillor Rush (via audiovisual link)
Councillor Sparrow (via audiovisual link)
Councillor Woolf (via audiovisual link)
Councillor Young (via audiovisual link)

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1. Meeting Conduct

1.1 Karakia

The Chairperson declared the meeting open at 9:30am and read the following karakia to open the meeting.

(Mayor Foster, Councillor Condie and Councillor Rush entered the meeting at 9:31am.)

| | |
|--------------------------------------|--|
| Whakataka te hau ki te uru, | Cease oh winds of the west |
| Whakataka te hau ki te tonga. | and of the south |
| Kia mākinakina ki uta, | Let the bracing breezes flow, |
| Kia mātaratara ki tai. | over the land and the sea. |
| E hī ake ana te atākura. | Let the red-tipped dawn come |
| He tio, he huka, he hauhū. | with a sharpened edge, a touch of frost, |
| Tihei Mauri Ora! | a promise of a glorious day |

1.2 Apologies

Moved Deputy Mayor Free, seconded Councillor Young

Resolved

That the Annual Plan/Long-Term Plan Committee:

1. Accept the apologies received from Councillor Calvert.

Carried

Secretarial note: Councillor Calvert was absent on Council business.

1.3 Conflict of Interest Declarations

No conflicts of interest were declared.

1.4 Items not on the Agenda

There were no items not on the agenda.

1.5 Public Participation

As per standing order 31.2, the public participation procedure does not apply in respect of any hearing.

2. General Business

2.1 Annual Plan 2020/21 Oral Hearings

Moved Deputy Mayor Free, seconded Mayor Foster

Resolved

That the Annual Plan/Long-Term Plan Committee:

1. Receives the information.
2. Hear the oral submitters and thank them for speaking to their submissions.

Carried

Secretarial note: The following members of the public spoke to their written submissions:

| Name |
|--|
| Nick Ruane |
| Scott Russell |
| Jo Coughlan - Chinese Language Week Charitable Trust |
| Stephen King - Living Wage Wellington |
| Nick Hogan - Cricket Wellington |
| Tim Jones |
| Barbara Wheeler |
| Chris Parkin |
| Colin Stone - Sport NZ |
| Phil Gibbons - Sport Wellington |
| Dr Marion Leighton - Doctors for Active, Safe Travel |

The meeting adjourned at 10:52am and reconvened at 11:14am with the following members present: Mayor Foster, Councillor Condie, Councillor Day, Councillor Fitzsimons, Councillor Foon, Deputy Mayor Free (Chair), Councillor Matthews, Councillor O'Neill, Councillor Pannett, Councillor Paul, Councillor Rush, Councillor Sparrow, Councillor Woolf and Councillor Young.

Secretarial note: The following members of the public spoke to their written submissions:

| Name |
|--|
| Felicity Wong - Historic Places Wellington |
| Daniel Spector |
| Jill Ford |
| Payal Ramritu |
| Robert Wright |
| Christine Davies |

| |
|--|
| Josh Finagan - Forest & Bird Youth Wellington |
| Joshua Tan and John Milford - Wellington Chamber of Commerce |
| Duncan Campbell, Esther Fung and David Lee - Wellington Chinese Garden Committee |

Attachments

- 1 Tabled Written Submissions of Oral Submitters
- 2 Jill Ford

The Chairperson thanked all the submitters for their contribution and for speaking to their submissions.

The meeting concluded at 12:24pm with the reading of the following karakia:

| | |
|---|---|
| Unuhia, unuhia, unuhia ki te uru tapu nui | Draw on, draw on |
| Kia wātea, kia māmā, te ngākau, te tinana, te wairua | Draw on the supreme sacredness To clear, to free the heart, the body |
| I te ara takatū | and the spirit of mankind |
| Koia rā e Rongo, whakairia ake ki runga | Oh Rongo, above (symbol of peace) |
| Kia wātea, kia wātea | Let this all be done in unity |
| Āe rā, kua wātea! | |

Confirmed: _____
Chair

ORDINARY MEETING

OF

ANNUAL PLAN/LONG-TERM PLAN COMMITTEE

ORAL HEARING

MINUTE ITEM ATTACHMENTS

Time: 9:30am
Date: Wednesday, 10 June 2020
Venue: Virtual meeting

Business

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2.1 Annual Plan 2020/21 Oral Hearings

- | | |
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List of oral submitters

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| Phil Gibbons, Sport Wellington | 25 |
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Nick Ruane

How strongly do you agree or disagree with the overall approach to this Annual Plan?

| | |
|--|-------------------|
| I agree with the Council's overall approach to the Annual Plan | Somewhat disagree |
|--|-------------------|

Why did you indicate the level of support above?

Not answered

How strongly do you support or oppose this option of an average rates rise of 5.1%?

| | |
|--|-------------------|
| I agree or disagree that this should be the preferred option | Somewhat disagree |
|--|-------------------|

Why did you indicate the level of support above?

I'm not fully convinced that the Council didn't look at Debt financing in this low interest rate environment to finance long term infrastructure spending.

How strongly do you support this option of an average rates rise of 2.3%?

| | |
|--|----------------|
| I agree or disagree that this should be the preferred option | Somewhat agree |
|--|----------------|

Why did you indicate the level of support above?

The Govt is currently arguing that the current time is the cheapest time to borrow money to Debt finance, Why isn't this a Good time to Debt finance future infrastructure spending?

How much do you support these new initiatives? (Tipu Toa)

| | |
|---|------------------|
| I support or oppose the new funding for these initiatives | Somewhat support |
|---|------------------|

Why did you indicate the level of support above?

I am very dissapointed that WCC has for a long time failed to support, as many other Councils have supported building Accessible infrastructure such as Universal Design compliant Council Housing, improvements to roads and footpaths to make them accessible to people in wheelchairs and for parents with prams.

How much do you support or oppose our changes to fees and charges this year?

| | |
|--|--------------------|
| I support or oppose not increasing the majority of fees and charges for 2020/21 | Definitely oppose |
| I support or oppose increasing Southern Landfill fees to help fund 'polluter pays' and waste reduction initiatives | Definitely support |

Why did you indicate the level of support above?

I definitely support increasing charges at the Landfill as I think that the creators of waste should shoulder the cost of at least a partial solution to the storage of that waste. I'm not happy with the increase in user charges as they disproportionately impact those Wellingtonians who have the least ability to pay, namely those on low incomes, Disabled people, Maori, & Pacifica peoples.

Is there anything else we should know before making decisions?

I'm not happy with the way that WCC engages with communities when formulate policies such as the Annual Plan. The way that the Council has engaged with, for example disabled people, for years has left the community feeling talked to and at by Council staff and Councillors.

How do you or have you previously interacted with Wellington City Council? (select all that apply)

I have called the Council call centre before
I use Council rubbish bags
I use Council swimming pools

How did you hear about this consultation?

Through a Ward-inar
Word of mouth

Scott Russell

How strongly do you agree or disagree with the overall approach to this Annual Plan?

| | |
|--|----------------|
| I agree with the Council's overall approach to the Annual Plan | Somewhat agree |
|--|----------------|

Why did you indicate the level of support above?

I agree with the approach of maintaining a limited rate increase this year, to avoid placing unnecessary burden in the outyears. However there are several places where I think the council needs to give further consideration to delaying or reducing expenditure in the current fiscal year to offset some of the rates increase this year.

How strongly do you support or oppose this option of an average rates rise of 5.1%?

| | |
|--|----------------|
| I agree or disagree that this should be the preferred option | Somewhat agree |
|--|----------------|

Why did you indicate the level of support above?

The economic impact of COVID-19 should not interrupt the communities long-run development too significantly. However, the Council should maximise the utilisation of it's balance sheet over several years to reduce the need for immediate cost increases. It is unclear to me why the alternative proposal (with a significant rates rise in 2021/22) is the only way to structure borrowing / rates increases. The council also needs to consider it's ability to defer projects that are not a) already past the point of sensible deferrals (i.e. really significant sunk costs are incurred), or b) critical enablers of other strategically important projects.

How strongly do you support this option of an average rates rise of 2.3%?

| | |
|--|-------------------|
| I agree or disagree that this should be the preferred option | Somewhat disagree |
|--|-------------------|

Why did you indicate the level of support above?

See answer above to 5 (effectively I would like to understand whether there is a middle ground between the two alternatives).

How much do you support these new initiatives? (Tīpu Toa)

| | |
|---|--------------------|
| I support or oppose the new funding for these initiatives | Definitely support |
|---|--------------------|

Why did you indicate the level of support above?

Not answered

How much do you support or oppose our changes to fees and charges this year?

| | |
|---|--------------------|
| I support or oppose not increasing the majority of fees and charges for 2020/21 | Definitely support |
|---|--------------------|

| | |
|--|--------------------|
| I support or oppose increasing Southern Landfill fees to help fund 'polluter pays' and waste reduction initiatives | Definitely support |
|--|--------------------|

Why did you indicate the level of support above?

The polluter pays model of landfill fees increases could probably be even more significant, and staggered across the year to avoid massive price shock.

Is there anything else we should know before making decisions?

Not answered

How do you or have you previously interacted with Wellington City Council? (select all that apply)

- I have attended a Council event such as A Very Welly Christmas or Pasifika Festival
- I enjoy using Council maintained walking/biking tracks
- I play sport on Council fields or courts
- I use Council libraries
- I use Council rubbish bags
- I use Council recycling bags
- I use Council swimming pools

How did you hear about this consultation?

Online

Jane Budge, New Zealand Chinese Language Week Trust



Annual Plan Submission 2020/21

I am writing regarding an annual plan submission and budget bid for \$5,000 to assist with delivery of the New Zealand Chinese Language Week (NZCLW) being held across New Zealand 20-26th September 2020. We acknowledge this may be a late submission and appreciate your consideration of our request.

Background

The New Zealand Chinese Language Week Charitable Trust was established in 2015 to enhance New Zealanders' understanding of Chinese language and culture. Since then New Zealand Chinese Language Week has grown in reach and exposure year-on-year and had strong support from current and previous governments, as well as many Councils, schools and businesses.

Building linguistic and cultural skills of New Zealanders not only provides a crucial underpinning of our educational and social strength as a country and community, but will increasingly be a necessary foundation for New Zealand business, government and society to engage with China. Such skills will be needed to rebuild our tourism industry, to support local governments and their sister city initiatives, and to promote trade and investment.

As acknowledged already through Sister City relationships and the China New Zealand Mayoral Forum the relationship with China is an important one. Many local businesses have found the support of their council has helped them to do business in China. Supporting NZCLW is another practical way to get more local businesses and communities exposed to Chinese language and culture leading to more trade and exchanges. The week is growing in popularity and becoming an annual fixture on the calendar, however we require sponsorship and partnerships to deliver the initiative – hence we are asking for your financial support.

NZCLW 2020

This week NZCLW will build on its past successes engaging schools; government and local government; local communities and commercial enterprises. We do this through supporting the delivery of a range of fun and practical activities – exposing Kiwis to Chinese culture and encouraging Kiwis to “give Chinese a go”. Planned activities include:

- Events to promote Chinese learning in schools, including activities with schools in China
- Publishing a trilingual children's book for distribution to schools and libraries across NZ
- Community-based activities including National Dumpling Day

- Challenges to promote basic Chinese skills in business and the community, with supporting printed material
- High level promotion of the importance of building Chinese language capacity – from the Prime Minister, Mayors, Ministers and business leaders
- Media promotion
- Ongoing engagement and activities via social media

In terms of council involvement, previously many Mayors have taken up the #5Days 5 Phrases Challenge; libraries have held a range of activities including book readings in Mandarin, China themed displays and dances, calligraphy demonstrations and other events.

We believe supporting New Zealand Chinese Language Week is an investment in New Zealand's future and its prosperity. It is a means of acknowledging our multi-cultural character and the contribution made by New Zealanders of Chinese ethnicity to our business and society. As we emerge from Covid-19 having a society that has enhanced linguistic and cultural capability to engage with China will become ever more important. All parts of our community – government and business in particular – need to build knowledge and understanding of China and its language and culture.

For more information don't hesitate to visit the NZCLW website: www.nzclw.com

Thank-you for considering our Annual Plan 2020/21 late submission. If you have any further queries or information please do not hesitate to contact Jane Budge, NZCLW Project Manager, on email jane@silvereye.co.nz or phone (021) 393-112.

Warmest regards,



Jo Coughlan
Chair
New Zealand Chinese Language Week Trust



Marlon Drake, Living Wage Wellington



Annual Plan Submission 20/21



Some of our charming Living Wage Champions at last year's Wellington Local Election Forum!

Tēnā koutou Wellington City Council!

We would like to make an oral presentation.

We are writing to you on behalf of Living Wage Wellington. We are made up of many different community organisations around the city, all who support the vision of a Living Wage City.

We want to say a big 'thank you' for showing leadership by maintaining the Living Wage as the minimum for all council staff. By taking care of your workforce you are setting an example for the region and the nation.

The support the Living Wage provides for families can be vital. This is especially true for those households where one or more people may be losing their jobs or facing a pay cut. Now more than ever, continuity of the Living Wage is a real source of stability for people working at WCC. As well as this, your workers can get out there and support our fantastic local accredited Living Wage Employers!

Living Wage Movement Aotearoa New Zealand Incorporated

Building 2, Level 2, 646 Great South Road, Ellerslie, Auckland. Private Bag 92 645, Symonds Street, Auckland

✉ info@livingwage.org.nz 🌐 www.livingwage.org.nz 📱 Living Wage Aotearoa New Zealand



So where do we go from here?

Being an accredited Living Wage Employer is huge, but here is how WCC and the Living Wage Movement can work together and have an even bigger impact on the city.

1. Continue to pay staff the Living Wage, including workers employed by contractors and CCOs

By continuing to pay staff the Living Wage, WCC is looking after its staff and keeping its word. The Living Wage means stability for workers, and recognition for the work they do and the life they lead. It also means that WCC continues to be a role model for other local authorities.

2. Council projects

When WCC launches a project, all the people working on that project should be paid at least the Living Wage for their work, just as the directly employed and regular contracted staff at WCC do.

A good example of this in action would be the repair or reconstruction of the Wellington Central Library. Ensuring that every person who works on the Wellington Central Library project is paid the Living Wage is an excellent way to show how WCC cares about its constituents and workers, and will influence organisations and businesses in Wellington to step up and pay their staff a wage they can live on.

3. Living Wage Council events

Lately, due to restrictions on public gatherings, there has been an understandable and unfortunate absence of events for the public to participate in. Despite the disappointment, this does give us the opportunity to look at the next few years of planned council events, and ensure that accredited Living Wage Employers are prioritised to take part in these events, and any short term contracted staff are paid at least the Living Wage.

4. Procurement and services

This is the big one! By setting procurement guidelines which formally prioritise Living Wage businesses and organisations for *any* service council requires, WCC will be able to have a positive influence on the lives of low paid staff all over Wellington.

Living Wage Movement Aotearoa New Zealand Incorporated

Building 2, Level 2, 646 Great South Road, Ellerslie, Auckland. Private Bag 92 645, Symonds Street, Auckland

✉ info@livingwage.org.nz 🌐 www.livingwage.org.nz 📱 Living Wage Aotearoa New Zealand



This is not an overnight initiative, but now is the time to start identifying contracts where WCC is being provided a service by a business or organisation that pays some of its staff less than a wage they can live on. Once we know where improvements can be made, we can start working with current service providers to increase the wages of their lowest paid staff, or even look elsewhere for businesses and organisations that do pay all their staff a minimum of the Living Wage.

One example of this is legal advice. By working with accredited law firms, or law firms on their way to accreditation, WCC can have a large impact in the legal sector. Firms that pay their junior lawyers, cleaning staff, and professional staff (e.g. receptionists or executive assistants) a living wage as a minimum, are the kind of firms that WCC could be proud to work with.

Throughout this process, it is important that council works with the Living Wage Movement to identify and champion the living wage with different employers.

Last year at our Wellington local election forum, most of the current councillors, including the mayor, committed to making Wellington the first ever Living Wage City. In this submission there are four practical steps to get us there. As a movement we are so proud of what we have been able to achieve by working with WCC – let's keep a good thing going and make our capital New Zealand's first Living Wage City!

Ngā mihi nui,

Living Wage Wellington

Contact

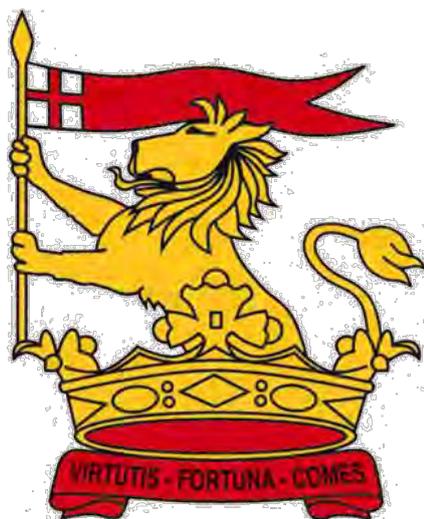
Marlon Drake (Living Wage Wellington Regional Organiser)
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Nick Hogan, Cricket Wellington



WELLINGTON
CITY COUNCIL
LONG TERM PLAN

Cricket Wellington Submission
MAY 2020

CRICKET WELLINGTON SUBMISSION:

Introduction

Cricket Wellington is the regional sports organisation (RSO) for cricket in the greater Wellington region. We create outstanding cricket experiences! Chaired by experienced sports administrator David Howman and lead by CEO, Cam Mitchell and General Manager, Liz Green, Cricket Wellington was the first RSO in Aotearoa to achieve the Sport New Zealand Governance Mark (the gold standard for governance in sport).

Cricket is New Zealand's summer game. From the beach to the backyard to the Basin and due to the success and profile of the Blackcaps and White Ferns, cricket continues to grow in popularity. It's been a golden period for Cricket Wellington; the Wellington Blaze went undefeated in the women's Super-Smash, winning the competition for the third year in a row. The Wellington Firebirds lifted the two most sought-after domestic trophies, the prestigious Plunkett Shield and the Super Smash.

In February 2021, New Zealand hosts the ICC Women's Cricket World Cup. This is a global event with an audience reach of over 100 million. Wellington will host six games from 13 February 2021 to 27 February 2021, including the game of the tournament, the White Ferns vs Australia on Saturday 13 February. Wellington is the only region that will host two White Ferns pool games. What an opportunity to create a legacy for women's sport, for participants and for fans.

To maximise the opportunities created from international and domestic success, Cricket Wellington and our member clubs are focussed on community cricket. We are driven to create a vibrant, integrated and participant focussed environment that inspires. During the 2019-20 season, we;

- delivered our school awareness, Yeah! Girls and School Yard Smash programmes to 19,673 Tamariki and Rangatahi across 128 schools.
- developed and supported 95% of junior and youth team coaches through our coach education programme
- increased the number of games covered by umpires by 10%
- grew male and female participation with the highlight statistic, an 11% growth in college cricket teams

As measured by our voice of participant survey (which we conduct annually at the end of each season), overall member satisfaction is improving. What was identified from the feedback, is that to enhance satisfaction our participants would like to see the quality of facilities that they play on improved.

Therefore, in our submission we seek continued support from Wellington City Council with investment into ensuring the recommendations from our facilities strategy are achieved. In this submission we also seek Wellington City Council's support to ensure that community cricket is not adversely affected by COVID-19.

Cricket Wellington Facilities Strategy

Cricket Wellington developed a Facilities Strategy in 2018 to identify our sports facility requirements now and into the future. The strategy that was developed in partnership with Visitor Solutions and set out a series of recommendations that would help support our desire to grow the game and create outstanding cricket experiences.

We thank the Wellington City Council for your support in mobilising Cricket Wellington's Facilities Strategy and we ask that there is continued investment and collaboration in improving these community assets as great things have been achieved to date such as extending of the artificial wicket

at Kilbirnie Park to full length, the relaying of the worn carpets at Ian Galloway Park and the start of a new clubroom facility at Alex Moore Park. However, the impact of Covid-19 will be felt for many months ahead, so we strongly urge the council to consider the following in their long-term planning process.

COVID-19 OPPORTUNITY:

Our communities, and sport, are facing uncertain times due to the fragile situation and effects of COVID-19 and we have an opportunity to partner together to encourage individuals back into sport; we have a significant role to play. The impact is going to be felt for some time and sport is going to play an integral part in helping individuals, families and communities re-establish some normality in the future. Therefore, for sport to be able to play its role in this rebuild, it needs to be accessible and affordable.

We cannot ignore the financial implications of COVID-19 and this will be felt severely by sport through the expected reduction of class 4 grant funding. It is highly likely that our cricket clubs will have limited access to class four grant funding for 2020-21 and therefore we need to collaborate to find solutions to reduce costs. Cricket Wellington wants to proactively find ways to subsidise costs related to participating in our game over the next 12 months and as we spend \$142,500 on ground fees in our region, of which \$64,500 is paid to Wellington City Council. Cricket Wellington acknowledges and thanks Wellington City Council for proposing no increases to fees for the 2020-2121 season and providing a 3-month rent holiday for clubs who have leases on Wellington City Council land.

The Wellington Regional Sport and Active Recreation Strategy highlights how important regular participation in sport and recreation is for the physical, mental and social wellbeing in the community. This is more critical than ever as the financial impact of COVID-19 will have varying effects on our communities and will see the accessibility of sport become increasingly more difficult. This highlights the need for spaces and places to play a critical role in the success of sustaining a community sport system which enables more people to participate in sport generally. Fundamentally, keeping costs to a minimum will allow sport to be accessible for all who have been impacted economically and socially in this unprecedented time.

SUMMARY:

We would like to sincerely thank the Council for all the improvements that have been made to Wellington city grounds over the past 12 months and getting the Alex Moore Sports hub project off the ground and into action.

We look forward to discussing this further and understanding the Wellington City Council's approach in safeguarding our communities and working together to protect the responsibility that sport will play in bringing people back together.

Sincerely,

Liz Green

Liz Green
General Manager
liz@cricketwellington.co.nz



Nick Hogan
Community Manager – Capability
nick@cricketwellington.co.nz

Tim Jones

How strongly do you agree or disagree with the overall approach to this Annual Plan?

I agree with the Council's overall approach to the Annual Plan

Definitely agree

Why did you indicate the level of support above?

Rather than taking a slash-and-burn approach in response to COVID-19 and the associated economic downturn, the Council has chosen to try to maintain its service levels and take steps to build back better. I think that's the right approach.

How strongly to you support or oppose this option of an average rates rise of 5.1%?

I agree or disagree that this should be the preferred option

Definitely agree

Why did you indicate the level of support above?

Wellington had a lot of issues to deal with even before COVID-19 came along, including its failing water and sewage systems, the Central Library, and the need to both prepare for the effects of climate change and sharply reduce emissions over the next 10 years. The proposed 5.1% rates increase will enable that work to go ahead without leading to even higher rates increases in future years.

How strongly to you support this option of an average rates rise of 2.3%?

I agree or disagree that this should be the preferred option

Definitely disagree

Why did you indicate the level of support above?

This rates increase option is inadequate to fund the necessary work and will lead to higher rates increases and a greater debt burden in future years.

How much do you support these new initiatives?

I support or oppose the new funding for these initiatives

Definitely support

Why did you indicate the level of support above?

I regard Tipu Toa - Build Back Better as very important early steps in moving Wellington City's economy away from the present unsustainable growth model and towards a circular economy, in which the city both provides better for all its people and lives with local environmental limits, and planetary ecological boundaries. I support these measures, and I congratulate Councillors for pulling these measures and the Annual Plan as a whole together in very difficult circumstances. I want to see more ambitious such measures in the forthcoming Long Term Plan. But it's also important to tell Council that much more is needed. We suggest you say that you want to see a lot more done in the areas listed above, that you want steps to improve representation of mana whenua and tangata whenua in Wellington's decision-making processes, and that you want to see Council make urgent steps to implement its Te Atakura - First to Zero greenhouse gas emissions reductions plan. This plan calls for most emissions reductions to be made between now and 2030, so we need to get cracking. Getting these larger changes in place will be a big focus of the Council's upcoming Long Term Plan, but it's good to remind them about it now.

How much do you support or oppose our changes to fees and charges this year?

| | |
|--|--------------------|
| I support or oppose not increasing the majority of fees and charges for 2020/21 | Definitely support |
| I support or oppose increasing Southern Landfill fees to help fund 'polluter pays' and waste reduction initiatives | Definitely support |

Is there anything else we should know before making decisions?

Tim Jones - The Tipu Toa - Build Back Better proposals in this Annual Plan are a good start, but only a start. In the Long Term Plan, I would like to see steps to improve representation of mana whenua and tangata whenua in Wellington's decision-making processes. It's crucial that Council makes urgent steps to implement its Te Atakura - First to Zero greenhouse gas emissions reductions plan in the Long Term Plan: when it comes to climate action and climate justice, action can't wait. This plan calls for most emissions reductions to be made between now and 2030, so we need to get cracking. Getting these larger changes in place will be a big focus of the Council's upcoming Long Term Plan, but it's good to remind them about it now.

How did you hear about this consultation?

Online
Social media
Email
Word of mouth

Chris Parkin

SUBMISSION ON COMMERCIAL RATES DEFERRAL.

My submission makes recommendations concerning commercial rates deferrals. My proposal has no cost to ratepayers generally. On the contrary it has a positive effect on Council's income. It, especially has a positive impact on Wellington's Economic Recovery. (My submission does not address the deferral of residential rates.)

Council's current policy is to allow qualified deferral of rate payment four from the 2020 year for six months, and the draft Plan considers deferring payments one and two from the 2021 year, for a yet to be determined period. Qualification for this deferral would be based on demonstrated hardship, or other inability to pay. No penalties for late payment would apply.

The proposed scheme is short sighted and does nothing to address the longer term problems of businesses affected by recent events. The scheme provides very temporary relief from financial pressure, and because it requires repayment so soon after allowing deferral it does nothing to assist Wellington's economic recovery. Such schemes need to be more substantial, and aim for a long term benefit to the city.

Proposal

I propose that WCC allows commercial ratepayers to **defer up to the entire amount** of their 2020/21 rates on request, subject only to:

1. Interest being levied on the funds outstanding at a rate of 1% more than the equivalent commercial lending rate at the time.
2. Repayment being by way of an **individually targeted rate** over a 5-10 year period.

Reason for proposal.

By undertaking this action, Council would make a significant contribution to Wellington's economic recovery. The deferral of rates is equivalent to a substantial cash injection into the immediate economy. Council would fund the immediate rates shortfall by borrowing. Council's borrowing and administration costs would be less than 1%, meaning the general rate payer would benefit by at least 3.5% of the amount deferred. This is not a gift, it is an enabler.

Who would qualify and why.

All commercial ratepayers would qualify, and they should be encouraged to take advantage of the scheme as its sole purpose is to inject funds into the local economy. Larger property owners, and those with firmer financial positions, will not take advantage of the scheme because at the interest rates I propose, they could borrow elsewhere for less. This scheme is designed and priced to help generally smaller commercial property owners who are under financial pressure. The first action those property owners will take to alleviate such pressures is to reduce repairs and maintenance expenditure. That is the last thing Wellington needs.

Repayment and Security.

The amount deferred by individual ratepayers, up to a maximum of one years rates, would be repaid over a long period, 5-10 years, by way of a targeted rate.

Because Council rates are a first charge against a property (ie they rank ahead of mortgages for example) there is no security risk. Council's funds are perfectly safe.

By requiring repayment in the form of an extra rate over a period, Council is sure of getting its money back, regardless of the financial health of the ratepayer. Even if the property changes hands the rates still apply as before.

Summary.

There are no negatives to this proposal. The Wellington economy stand to benefit as a result of funds remaining in the working economy. Ratepayers benefit from the extra funds generated by interest payments, and at the same time benefit from a more rapidly improving economy. Tenants stand to benefit from the greater flexibility of landlords to assist with rental difficulties.

This is a very simple scheme and should be able to be actioned almost immediately. In fact I could do it for you if you ask nicely.

I would like to present this proposal at the Annual Plan Hearing.

Barbara Wheeler

The annual plan/LTP estimates a fully connected cycling network by 2028. Why hasn't council used the level 4 lockdown to reclaim some road space for cyclists such as has happened in Auckland, Seattle and other cities with traffic congestion.

10 years is too long for this kind of action. The plan needs to be up front so it can be integrated into all public works business cases so no opportunity is overlooked to make the city more active and safe for vulnerable road users. The education required to make city roads safer is not adequate to even the goal if 2028.

When will an integrated approach be taken to active transport?

Colin Stone, Sport NZ (two letters)



07 May 2020

Tēnā koe

As a key stakeholder of ours, I wanted to update you on the impact of COVID-19 on the play, active recreation and sport sector, and to seek your ongoing support as we collectively focus on the significant task ahead – that of the social and economic recovery of our country.

The impact of COVID-19 on the play, active recreation and sport sector

It is clear that the economic impacts of COVID-19 will be severe. We know that traditional income sources for many individuals and organisations, will be under unprecedented pressure for some time.

For sport and recreation organisations, one of the biggest impacts has been the significant disruption to income from Class 4 gaming. Community sport and recreation benefits from about 50% of the approximate \$300 million annual funding from this source. Disruption to Class 4 funding has had an immediate and significant impact.

If these organisations have no option but to succumb to COVID-19, the impact on the sector and on physical activity levels in our communities will be catastrophic. As we know, deprived communities are often the most fragile and hard hit by such events, and they are the ones that can least afford to lose access to play, active recreation and sport.

With this in mind, we would like to acknowledge and thank you for the immediate steps your organisation has taken, to support the play, active recreation and sport sector in your community, who are heavily affected by COVID-19.

Sport New Zealand's response to the crisis

Sport NZ has implemented urgent measures in response to COVID-19 to give immediate relief to a sector in crisis:

- An initial financial commitment of over \$70m was committed until 30 June 2021, with the investment intended to help sustain organisations and their networks;
- A second tranche of financial support to the value of \$25m has also been announced this week into four funds, the largest of which (\$15m), is the Community Resilience Fund to support local and regional organisations in dire need;
- A significant number of value in kind measures - capability support, technical advice and free business management services - have been offered to the entire system.

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 New Zealand Government

In addition to immediate support, Sport NZ has been asked to help define a Recovery Package for the Minister of Sport and Recreation, for the play, active recreation and sport sector, as part of Budget 2020. We completed this process last week and are now awaiting the result.

The importance of rebuilding a sustainable sector

More so than ever we share a common and passionate interest, to ensure the wellbeing of all New Zealanders and using physical activity as a core building block of a healthy society, is sustained into the future.

The benefits of play, active recreation and sport on wellbeing domains, is well known and proven. Being physically active improves mental and physical health, quality of life and individual wellbeing. In contrast, disengagement and physical inactivity is associated with poor health, a rise in health costs, loss of productivity and associated costs, such as pain and unhappiness to individuals and families.

Play, active recreation and sport supports the social integration of whānau, friendship networks and communities. Whānau relationships and spiritual connections through whakapapa and tangata-whenua are particularly important for Māori and Pasifika. We know that healthier, happier individuals are more likely to do well in other areas of their lives, such as in social and professional situations. These social factors lead to robust community cohesion and resilience and contribute to social, cultural and economic development (WHO 2018).

Your critical role in the sustainability of a vibrant sector

Sport and recreation contributes \$4.9 billion or 2.3% to our annual GDP, with the sector employing more than 53,000 New Zealanders. However, the downstream benefits of sport and recreation on our society extend beyond the numbers, to explain who we are as a nation, our tenacity, our spirit and at times like this, our courage.

Like all local and central Government organisations, you will be redefining strategy, re-evaluating priorities and grappling with funding pressures. Given this is a crucial time when many impactful decisions will be made, I wanted to make sure you are aware of how critical you are, as a territorial authority, to the play, active recreation and sport system.

Without sustained or increased investment, our sector and communities will suffer, and that will create significant consequences for New Zealanders into the future, resulting in much wider issues for us all to manage.

We sincerely look forward to continuing to work with you in partnership, to ensure access to play, recreation and sport remains within the reach of all communities across Aotearoa New Zealand.

Ngā mihi nui



Peter Miskimmin
Chief Executive



3 June 2020

Submission to the draft Annual Plan of Wellington City Council by Sport New Zealand

Sport New Zealand and Local Government share a common interest to ensure the wellbeing of all New Zealanders using physical activity as a core building block. Together we need to collectively focus on the significant task ahead - that of the social and economic recovery of our country as a result of COVID-19.

The impact of COVID-19 on the play, active recreation and sport sector

The impact of the COVID-19 pandemic has hit the sport sector hard, with fears that COVID-19 could force numerous sport and active recreation organisations to collapse. Sport and active recreation rely on a fabric of clubs and associations, which play a key role in allowing so many New Zealanders to take part in and enjoy sport and active recreation. These organisations are the lifeblood for many communities.

By nature, and without much in reserves, the COVID-19 crisis will undoubtedly result in sports organisations facing financial black holes they may not be able to navigate their way out of. Consequently, many governing bodies and associations have had to stand down their grassroots-focused workforces, and some are facing further cost-cutting measures.

While social restrictions continue to ease, and play can now resume in many forms, organisations are likely to face ongoing issues reopening their doors and getting members back. For example, new hygiene and sanitation requirements add to the cost burden, while the capacity of individuals and families to cover registration fees may be reduced. There are issues ahead that haven't been addressed yet, which could have a number of long-lasting impacts on participation levels, the economy and society.

These are the main issues for the sport sector currently observed:

- **Lost revenue:** Inability to provide their services to their membership, especially at the time of year which marks the beginning of the season for winter codes and typically at a time when they organise tournaments, events and training. They have also lost a significant part of the income that comes from other sources i.e. Class 4 Gaming, social events, food and bar sales and different types of fees, e.g. membership, participation or

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New Zealand Government

subscriptions.

- **Cash flow difficulties:** organisations have fixed costs that they have to pay regardless of the loss of revenues.
- **Reduced capacity:** Sports organisations have lost a significant part of their workforce, i.e. layoffs of employees or volunteers who are restricted to their homes during the lockdown.
- **Membership:** Even when restrictions are relaxed, there is the possibility that people are gradually becoming comfortable in their COVID-19 adjusted leisure patterns and that they will not want to re-commit to club-based sport participation. Further, with the rise in unemployment caused by the pandemic, many individuals and families will not have the disposable income available to pay membership fees and other associated costs with sport participation. As we know, deprived communities are often the most fragile and hard hit by such events, and they are the ones that can least afford to lose access to play, active recreation and sport.

If sport and recreation organisations have no option but to succumb to COVID-19, the impact on the sector and on physical activity levels in our communities will be catastrophic

With this in mind, we would like to acknowledge and thank you for the immediate steps your Council has taken, to support the play, active recreation and sport sector in your community including:

- Council's provision of rent relief for 3 months to recreation and sports clubs who have facilities on council land
- Council's modified criteria for the Social and Recreation Fund to enable clubs to provide affordable and accessible opportunities for participation in play, active recreation, and sport following a period of lock-down from COVID-19.
- A no-charge use of sports fields, swim lanes and court space for sport and active recreation clubs up to 30th June.

We also appreciate that the Annual Plan recommends no increased charges for sports field and facilities hire in 2020/21 and that council is considering financial hardship situations of play, active recreation and sport organisations of an individual, case by case basis and thank you for your flexibility here.

Local Government is one of our most critical stakeholders and the major provider of facilities for the play, sport and recreation sector. Maintaining your investment is vital.

The importance of rebuilding a sustainable sector

The benefits of play, active recreation and sport on wellbeing are well known and proven. Being physically active improves mental and physical health, quality

of life and individual wellbeing. In contrast, disengagement and physical inactivity is associated with poor health, a rise in health costs, loss of productivity and associated costs, such as pain and unhappiness to individuals and families.

Play, active recreation and sport supports the social integration of whānau, friendship networks and communities. Whānau relationships and spiritual connections through whakapapa and tangata-whenua are particularly important for Māori and Pasifika. We know that healthier, happier individuals are more likely to do well in other areas of their lives, such as in social and professional situations. These social factors lead to robust community cohesion and resilience and contribute to social, cultural and economic development (WHO 2018).

Sport New Zealand's response to the crisis

Sport NZ is implementing a number of measures in response to COVID-19 including:

- An initial \$70m commitment was announced in April to help sustain our partner organisations, including RSTs, with baseline funding through until 30 June 2021;
- A \$15m **Community Resilience Fund** was made available in early May (from re-prioritisation of Sport NZ programmes and reserves) which is now delivering money to help regional and local organisations remain financially viable through the immediate period of disruption created by COVID-19. Clubs can apply for up to \$1000 in support. Regional recreation and sports organisations can apply for up to \$40,000. Our regional partner, Sport Wellington and the other RSTs are administering the fund on behalf of Sport NZ utilising their local sector knowledge and connections. To date \$491,166 has been paid out in the greater Wellington region with \$433,930 going to regional recreation and sport organisations and \$57,236 to clubs.
- A \$265m Recovery Package was announced as part of Budget 2020. This is the largest ever investment by Government into the Play, Active Recreation and Sport sector and it reflects the significant impact of COVID-19. The funding will be spread over four years and seek to achieve three outcomes:

1. Reset and Rebuild (30%)

This new funding will provide further support and relief to ensure organisations at all levels, local, regional and national, remain viable for their communities. It will help these bodies to make the changes required to operate successfully and thrive in a post COVID-19 environment. It will also seek to address current imbalances in the sector, including the underrepresentation of women and girls, Māori, people with disabilities and low socio-economic groups.

2. Strengthen and Adapt (40%)

COVID-19 has highlighted many areas in which sport and recreation organisations are vulnerable and ways to make them stronger. Opportunities

might include mergers and/or shared services models. How and where this future-focused funding is targeted is something Sport NZ will work through in collaboration with our partners and wider stakeholders.

3. Different and Better (30%)

Because this is a once in 50-years opportunity, we have to make the most of this chance to reimagine how the sector might look in the future and what will best enable it to meet the needs of all New Zealanders, including those who are currently underrepresented. Our sector won't maximise our future potential if we simply replay our current approach.

Your critical role in the sustainability of a vibrant sector

Sport and recreation contribute \$4.9 billion or 2.3% to our annual GDP, with the sector employing more than 53,000 New Zealanders. However, the downstream benefits of sport and recreation on our society extend beyond the numbers, to explain who we are as a nation, our tenacity, our spirit and at times like this, our courage.

Like all local and central Government organisations, we understand you will be redefining strategy, re-evaluating priorities and grappling with funding pressures. Given this is a crucial time when many impactful decisions will be made, you need to be aware of how critical territorial authorities are to the play, active recreation and sport system. Local Government is the major provider of facilities for the sector. Without these the sport and recreation organisations that Sport NZ funds would not be able to provide the participation opportunities that they do.

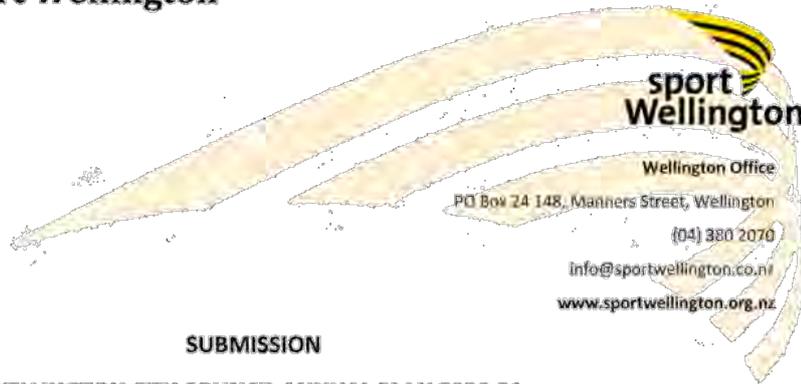
Without sustained investment from local government, our sector and communities will suffer, and that will create significant consequences for New Zealanders into the future, resulting in much wider issues for us all to manage.

We sincerely look forward to continuing to work with you in partnership, to ensure access to play, recreation and sport remains within the reach of all communities, across Aotearoa New Zealand.

Ngā mihi nui

Colin Stone
Regional Partnership Manager-Central
Sport New Zealand

Phil Gibbons, Sport Wellington



SUBMISSION

WELLINGTON CITY COUNCIL ANNUAL PLAN 2020-21

Phil Gibbons
Chief Executive
Sport Wellington
philg@sportwellington.org.nz

Thank you for the opportunity to submit against your Annual Plan 2020-2021.

Sport Wellington

Sport Wellington is the independent body for sport and recreation. We were established in 1990 with charitable status under the Charities Act. Our main funding partners are Sport NZ, New Zealand Community Trust, Eastern and Central Community Trust, Ministry of Health, and Wellington Community Trust. We are one of 14 Regional Sports Trusts (RST) operating throughout New Zealand.

We operate within a wide geographical area, spanning the region between Otaki in the west across to Masterton in the east and Wellington City in the south so have a regional focus. We have an office in Wairarapa where our dedicated team works across a wide range of areas.

We are currently finalising our new strategy which looks to 2032, however we will focus on three four-year blocks to provide us with the agility to adjust to changing needs and the strategic environment. The focus of our work is broad: physical activity (play, active recreation, active transport, and sport), health and wellbeing, and community development.

Sport Wellington plays both a lead and supporting role across the region in increasing physical activity and community wellbeing by working with and on the system that supports physical activity. We have a regional view while recognising community differences and developing our connections, partnering, and collaborating to ensure efficiency in delivery while agility to meet changing and developing needs.

Living Well – the Wellington Region Physical Activity Strategy

Sport Wellington led the development of *Living Well*, the regional physical activity strategy, in 2017. The current revised plan is built around a planning framework, adapted from the World Health Organisation’s Global Action Plan on Physical Activity, and seeks to build a robust system that can support all forms of physical activity.

Living Well is the outcome we want for people in the region. This means improving physical and mental wellbeing; personal development and achievement; and social and community cohesion and development; through regular physical activity – play, active recreation (including active transport), and sport.

The purpose of the Living Well Strategy is to achieve greater collective impact on wellbeing outcomes acquired through physical activity. By working better together we will be able to provide quality opportunities and support for people to be physically active. The Living Well framework is being used currently as the basis for the work of the Regional Response Group we have established to respond to the challenges faced by the sector because of Covid-19.

Covid-19 and the physical activity sector

The impact of Covid-19 on the play, active recreation, and sport sector is significant and likely to impact for some time to come. Some organisations may not survive the effects of Covid-19 which could have some implications for physical activity levels in your communities.

There is an immediate economic impact due largely to the significant change to Class 4 gaming from which the sector benefits annually to the tune of around \$150 million. And while we appreciate that councils are not immune to the effects of the pandemic, any steps taken to provide rent relief and fees waivers, or any other mechanisms that reduce costs for sector groups in your community would go a long way to helping them to cope and ultimately thrive. There are immediate and short-term needs, but their challenges will be ongoing.

We have seen the following impacts on community sport and recreation providers:

- **Lost revenue:** Inability to provide their services to their membership, especially at the time of year which marks the beginning of the season for winter codes and typically at a time when they organise tournaments, events and training. They have also lost a significant part of the income that comes from other sources i.e. Class 4 Gaming, social events, food and bar sales and different types of fees, e.g. membership, participation or subscriptions.
- **Cash flow difficulties:** organisations have fixed costs that they have to pay regardless of the loss of revenues.
- **Reduced capacity:** Sports organisations have lost a significant part of their workforce, i.e. layoffs of employees or volunteers.
- **Membership change:** Even when restrictions are relaxed, there is the possibility that people are gradually becoming comfortable in their COVID-19 adjusted leisure patterns and that they will not want to re-commit to club-based sport participation. Further, with the rise in unemployment caused by the pandemic, many individuals and families will not have the disposable income available to pay membership fees and other associated costs with sport participation. As we know, deprived communities are often the most fragile and hard hit by such events, and they are the ones that can least afford to lose access to play, active recreation and sport.

Longer-term the sector will continue to feel the effects of Covid-19. From our surveying and insights work we have determined several critical changes likely to occur. Some of these are:

- Increased unemployment and lower incomes suggest that cost will become a greater barrier to participation
- It is likely that current inequities will increase, and we know already that where there is high deprivation there is less physical activity
- There may be a drop in people's confidence to be in groups of people which will impact participation and volunteering. At the same time this could have implications for demand for activities that involve physical contact such as rugby and perhaps netball.
- Ongoing requirements for sanitation surveillance and contact tracing may become part of the new normal for provision
- The effects of changing work routines may lead to greater demand for flexibility in work/life balance management.

These will change what we have been used to in terms of physical activity, but we believe they also create opportunities for doing things differently and potentially better than pre-Covid. What will not change is the value to individuals and communities of more people being physically active. Physical activity, including play, community recreation and sport will be vital to the social and economic recovery of our country from the Covid-19 pandemic.

Their benefits on wellbeing domains, is well known and proven. Being physically active improves mental and physical health, quality of life and individual wellbeing. In contrast, disengagement and physical inactivity are associated with poor health, a rise in health costs, loss of productivity and associated costs, such as pain and unhappiness to individuals and families.

With this in mind, we would like to acknowledge and thank you for the immediate steps your Council has taken, to support the play, active recreation and sport sector in your community including:

- provision of rent relief for 3 months to recreation and sports clubs who have facilities on council land
- modified criteria for the Social and Recreation Fund to enable clubs to provide affordable and accessible opportunities for participation in play, active recreation, and sport following a period of lock-down from COVID-19.
- Removal of charges for the use of sports fields, swim lanes and court space for sport and active recreation clubs up to 30th June.

We also appreciate that the Annual Plan recommends no increased charges for sports field and facilities hire in 2020/21 and that council is considering financial hardship situations of play, active recreation and sport organisations of an individual, case by case basis and thank you for your flexibility here.

Specific feedback on proposed projects

Our feedback is focused on facilities for active recreation and sport and provision for physical activity and active transport.

The Regional Spaces and Places (Facilities) Plan (a Living Well project) provides a high-level strategic framework for future regional sports facility planning and optimisation of the current network. The plan emphasises a one-region approach to planning for international, national, regional, and sub-regional facilities and provides context for local planning and decision-making about local facilities.

The surveying carried out during the initial phases of the plan's development identified several challenges for our regional network. For the most part supply of facilities meets demand although the network is not well set up for expected population growth or demand changes resulting from demographic change. In addition, our wider network is ageing with potential resilience challenges.

Key to the successful implementation of this plan is the consistent application of the facility planning principles contained within it. These principles can be found in all regional facility plans in the country and are derived from work carried out by Sport NZ as part of their development of the national facilities framework.

It is against these principles that we support the programmes of work associated with:

- Alex Moore Park Sport and Community Hub Construction
- Wellington Regional Aquatic Centre renewals
- Basin Reserve Master Plan Redevelopment Programme

The scope of our new strategy 2020-2032 has broadened to include a variety of physical activity domains including active transport. While we are primarily interested in the physical activity value of active transport we recognise the additional benefits associated with environmental value, and the implications for city infrastructure including parking space provisions, roading, and urban development amongst others.

Given this we are supportive of a work programme to develop and implement the cycling masterplan. We believe that a connected network of cycleways and walkways will facilitate more physical activity and contribute meaningfully to the wellbeing of the community.

As a final thought, there have been numerous conversations about the opportunity that Covid-19 has created for effecting change within the system that supports physical activity. At Sport Wellington we believe a critical element in the successful rebuilding and re-positioning of the system lies in our ability to work better together and that through thinking about how we achieve collective impact on the wellbeing of our communities provides a great opportunity for our organisations to play to our respective strengths. We are keen to have a conversation about how we might do things differently, but better, to build a more sustainable and resilient system.

We are happy to discuss our submission further with you.

Marion Leighton, Doctors for Active, Safe Travel

How strongly do you agree or disagree with the overall approach to this Annual Plan?

| | |
|--|------------------|
| I agree with the Council's overall approach to the Annual Plan | Definitely agree |
|--|------------------|

Why did you indicate the level of support above?

I think it strikes a balance between the upheaval of covid and the need for some serious maintenance of our city along with keeping us moving forward and improving the city.

How strongly to you support or oppose this option of an average rates rise of 5.1%?

| | |
|--|------------------|
| I agree or disagree that this should be the preferred option | Definitely agree |
|--|------------------|

Why did you indicate the level of support above?

I think we need to take responsibility for the maintenance of our city and also all the services the council provides. previous councils have not increased rates to the level that this can be achieved so now we must pay the price. I do not want to see us push that cost into the future. I would prefer an even higher rise now to even out future rises.

How strongly to you support this option of an average rates rise of 2.3%?

| | |
|--|---------------------|
| I agree or disagree that this should be the preferred option | Definitely disagree |
|--|---------------------|

Why did you indicate the level of support above?

Pushes our responsibilities onto future residents and is irresponsible

How much do you support these new initiatives?

| | |
|---|--------------------|
| I support or oppose the new funding for these initiatives | Definitely support |
|---|--------------------|

Why did you indicate the level of support above?

We need to keep improving the city, especially with reference to the impending climate disaster and making our city a great place to bring up children and live in if poor, disabled or elderly.

How much do you support or oppose our changes to fees and charges this year?

| | |
|--|--------------------|
| I support or oppose not increasing the majority of fees and charges for 2020/21 | Somewhat support |
| I support or oppose increasing Southern Landfill fees to help fund 'polluter pays' and waste reduction initiatives | Definitely support |

Why did you indicate the level of support above?

Very important to have user pays systems for the landfill to disincentivise using it and it must cover the costs of preventing and repairing any environmental damage from the landfill. I support a slight increase in other payments as it always comes as a shock when payments are increased a lot after a long period of deferment.

How do you or have you previously interacted with Wellington City Council? (select all that apply)

- I use Council swimming pools
- I use Council rubbish bags
- I have called the Council call centre before
- I use Council recycling bags
- I have attended a Council event such as A Very Welly Christmas or Pasifika Festival
- I use the city's cycleways
- I use Council libraries
- I have applied for a resource or building consent
- I use Council recreation centres
- I have previously submitted on a Council consultation
- I enjoy using Council maintained walking/biking tracks
- Other (please specify) - I use all council facilities

How did you hear about this consultation?

- Through a Ward-inar
- Word of mouth

Felicity Wong, Historic Places Wellington

Submission on Draft 2020/21 Annual Plan

Restore Built Heritage Incentive Fund

Historic Places Wellington (“HPW”) calls for the Built Heritage Incentive Fund (“the Fund”) to be restored to its previous level of \$1million per year.

- The Fund is a critical infrastructure support fund which is carefully targeted to ensure maximum return for its relatively modest level of investment.
- The Fund is crucial to assisting with the costs of earthquake strengthening heritage buildings.
- Significant projects are underway with contributions for historic buildings such as the buildings at the corner of Tory St (Athenic, National Bank and Noosons), the Wesley and St John’s churches and the catholic basilica in Hill St.
- Excellent progress is being made by Council with major work on the Town Hall, St James Theatre, and the Basin Reserve cricket stand.
- Much still remains to be done to earthquake strengthen Wellington heritage buildings.
- The level of the Fund was reduced some years ago and must be increased.
- Include additional resource in the WCC Annual Plan for the Fund in order to meet the goals of “Tipu Toa, Build Back Better”.

Eco-City Heritage Buildings

2. The “greenest” buildings are those already existing, strengthened for restoration or re-purposing.

- The Fund assists with efforts to address the carbon emergency, and shift to an eco-city.
- Continue to support upgrades of the laneways which enhances pedestrian and cycle access to all city areas.

Extend Deadline for Strengthening

3. HPW calls on WCC to ask central government to extend the deadline under which Wellington buildings must be strengthened. Heritage property owners are under extraordinary post Covid-19 economic pressures and will need more time.

Strengthen the Central Library

4. Retain and strengthen the Central Library building in a cost effective project.

- The building forms an important element in the Civic Square heritage precinct but should be separately listed under the District Plan in its own right.
- The building was ahead of its time being designed for Wellingtonians to relax in a reflective “city living room”. The unique wave windows provide views toward the harbour and outdoor public space enjoyed during more than a million visits a year.

- The important heritage nature of the building should be recognised by HNZPT.
- Getting the building fixed and reopened is urgent for restoring the vibrant heritage precinct at the heart of the city.
- Urgently fund the expedited process to begin work on strengthening the existing library building.

Capital City Heritage Tourism

5. Support is needed for advocacy work to create a focus on capital city heritage. This would link with the compulsory teaching of Aotearoa/NZ history in schools. With international tourism uncertain, this work would focus on promoting capital city visits. A restored Turnbull House could complement visits to Parliament, National library, and the wooden old government building (law school).

Post Covid-19 Expenditure

6. HPW acknowledges the difficulties for many Wellingtonians at this time but supports Council leadership with fixing our city heritage buildings. It is not the precise level of rates which concerns us but the quality of the expenditure of that income in order to protect the built heritage fabric of our loved city.

Bernard O’Shaughnessy

How strongly do you agree or disagree with the overall approach to this Annual Plan?

| | |
|--|----------------|
| I agree with the Council's overall approach to the Annual Plan | Somewhat agree |
|--|----------------|

Why did you indicate the level of support above?

Option B is better: to suggest the high rates proffered is pure nonsense.

How strongly to you support or oppose this option of an average rates rise of 5.1%?

| | |
|--|---------------------|
| I agree or disagree that this should be the preferred option | Definitely disagree |
|--|---------------------|

Why did you indicate the level of support above?

I didn't - the organisation should be restructured

How strongly to you support this option of an average rates rise of 2.3%?

| | |
|--|------------------|
| I agree or disagree that this should be the preferred option | Definitely agree |
|--|------------------|

Why did you indicate the level of support above?

Because many people in our city are hurting even before Covid19 tragedy.

How much do you support these new initiatives?

| | |
|---|------------------|
| I support or oppose the new funding for these initiatives | Somewhat support |
|---|------------------|

Why did you indicate the level of support above?

Because that are small matters that must be addressed. The bigger issue is that Council Officers should advance the re build or new build of the CBD Library WITHIN 3 YEARS. Council went all out to fast track the build of the Sports Centre in Kilbirnie for \$50m to build it in time for the 'rugby world cup.' What nonsense then and now a white elephant.

How much do you support or oppose our changes to fees and charges this year?

| | |
|--|--------------------|
| I support or oppose not increasing the majority of fees and charges for 2020/21 | Definitely support |
| I support or oppose increasing Southern Landfill fees to help fund 'polluter pays' and waste reduction initiatives | Somewhat support |

Why did you indicate the level of support above?

Common sense

Is there anything else we should know before making decisions?

Councillors employ ONE person - The CEO. Previous CEOs simply build empires. I hope our new CEO downsizes the organisation and also get a better management team.

How do you or have you previously interacted with Wellington City Council? (select all that apply)

I use Council libraries

I use Council rubbish bags

I enjoy using Council maintained walking/biking tracks

I have previously submitted on a Council consultation

I have applied for a resource or building consent

I use Council recreation centres

I use the city's cycleways

I have called the Council call centre before

I use Council recycling bags

Other (please specify) - By being active in many sectors of the community that involves work with or against the Council, eg from the Newtown Residents Assoc, Community Centres, through my work with the Church & social groups etc

How did you hear about this consultation?

Online

Daniel Spector

How strongly do you agree or disagree with the overall approach to this Annual Plan?

| | |
|--|----------------------------|
| I agree with the Council's overall approach to the Annual Plan | Neither agree nor disagree |
|--|----------------------------|

Why did you indicate the level of support above?

Given the timing, I think capital spend should be re-opened for consideration

How strongly to you support or oppose this option of an average rates rise of 5.1%?

| | |
|--|---------------------|
| I agree or disagree that this should be the preferred option | Definitely disagree |
|--|---------------------|

Why did you indicate the level of support above?

9.2 was likely the right number

How strongly to you support this option of an average rates rise of 2.3%?

| | |
|--|---------------------|
| I agree or disagree that this should be the preferred option | Definitely disagree |
|--|---------------------|

Why did you indicate the level of support above?

9.2 was likely the right increase

How much do you support these new initiatives?

| | |
|---|---------------------------|
| I support or oppose the new funding for these initiatives | Neither support or oppose |
|---|---------------------------|

Why did you indicate the level of support above?

These initiative should be BETTER funded than .12%

How much do you support or oppose our changes to fees and charges this year?

| | |
|--|--------------------|
| I support or oppose not increasing the majority of fees and charges for 2020/21 | Somewhat oppose |
| I support or oppose increasing Southern Landfill fees to help fund 'polluter pays' and waste reduction initiatives | Definitely support |

Why did you indicate the level of support above?

Covid doesn't stop the need for funds

Is there anything else we should know before making decisions?

Wellington is still painfully neoliberal in attitudes in an era when even the UN has advised member nations it is a failed policy. Wellington is proud of it's approach to climate change, which is proud of putting a plaster on a shattered, bleeding limb. Climate must be brought in to every effort. THE way the recent parking survey was phrased was a debacle- the survey design was wildly biased to the needs of drivers and

purely inconsiderate of the disabled. Wellington should aggressively tax land banking and penalize landlords that keep properties empty via extortion pricing such that any property empty for more than 3 months pays penalties equivalent to the retail cost of renting said property.

How do you or have you previously interacted with Wellington City Council? (select all that apply)

- I use Council recycling bags
- I have previously submitted on a Council consultation
- I use Council libraries
- I use Council swimming pools
- I use Council rubbish bags
- I have called the Council call centre before
- I enjoy using Council maintained walking/biking tracks

How did you hear about this consultation?

Email

Jill Ford

How strongly do you agree or disagree with the overall approach to this Annual Plan?

| | |
|--|----------------------------|
| I agree with the Council's overall approach to the Annual Plan | Neither agree nor disagree |
|--|----------------------------|

Why did you indicate the level of support above?

I have real issues with amount spent on projects such as the Town Hall, do we really need a Music centre, the emphasis on arts and little on the outdoors, eg tracks or waste reduction, we need to have some user pays for things like the Art gallery, why is this free yet to go for a swim cost over \$5.

How strongly to you support or oppose this option of an average rates rise of 5.1%?

| | |
|--|----------------------------|
| I agree or disagree that this should be the preferred option | Neither agree nor disagree |
|--|----------------------------|

Why did you indicate the level of support above?

Because of the way the '5%' is calculated, eg if your house value goes up you end up with more than a 5% increase.

How strongly to you support this option of an average rates rise of 2.3%?

| | |
|--|-------------------|
| I agree or disagree that this should be the preferred option | Somewhat disagree |
|--|-------------------|

How much do you support these new initiatives?

| | |
|---|-----------------|
| I support or oppose the new funding for these initiatives | Somewhat oppose |
|---|-----------------|

Why did you indicate the level of support above?

Why always investment in the arts and not investment in our fantastic outdoors. We need an increase for track maintenance, during lock down thousands were out on the tracks, yet the funding is very low for the 350 km, consequently many are in poor state. The council relies heavily on volunteers to maintain many tracks, it has a golf course at berhampore that VERY few people play on but costs heaps to maintain, golfers arent expected to maintain it!

How much do you support or oppose our changes to fees and charges this year?

| | |
|--|--------------------|
| I support or oppose not increasing the majority of fees and charges for 2020/21 | Definitely support |
| I support or oppose increasing Southern Landfill fees to help fund 'polluter pays' and waste reduction initiatives | Definitely support |

Why did you indicate the level of support above?

The govt will be introducing an increase in landfill levy from \$10- \$60 yet this does not appear to be taken into account. The council needs to invest in improved recycling - the situation is pretty appalling, we have no kitchen composting - we shouldn't need to spend \$200,000 on a 'business case' when ChCH has been doing it for 11 years, New Plymouth and Hamilton now have. That's just delaying tactics. The council has to accept that in the short term there is a cost to organic recycling but given 30% of the waste in our landfill is

organic this could save \$20 million being 'wasted on enlarging the landfill. Marina fees - these should be completely cost recovery, why should rate payers subsidize people who can afford expensive boats to moor their boats .

Is there anything else we should know before making decisions?

1. Waste -Wgtn has a waste problem, we lag behind many councils in NZ in failing to deal with our organic waste. Organic waste makes up at least 30% of landfill and is the largest proportion of waste disposed of to landfill. Wgtn is proposing to spend \$20M on enlarging the landfill which would not be necessary if we were to give every household a green bin for organic waste.

Not only will it save money from extending the landfill it will save methane - organic waste dumped in landfill produces methane - if Wgtn wishes to achieve zero carbon then eliminating methane from landfill would be a big step. Organic composting has been done in Christchurch for over 11 years and they have significantly less waste per head in their landfill than Wellington. Timaru has had organic since 2006 - The cost to compost is about \$100/T +GST compared to landfill (2013) at \$192.50/T. The current cost of the 3 bin service to residents is \$318, or \$2 per bin/week. Waste to landfill from the kerbside collection reduced 63% after the new collection service started in 2006.

The Govt waste levy will soon increase from \$10 per tonne to \$60 per tonne so it 'pays WCC to invest in kitchen composting. There is no need to waste another year and spend \$200,000 on a business case, that is pure delaying tactics. Just send someone from your waste team to visit other centres where is already done - New Plymouth, Timaru, Hamilton, Auckland and then recommend the system that is best for Wgtn.

2. Recycling and recovery centres - lets aim for zero waste - Auckland has a goal of Zero waste by 2040. Wanaka and Alexandra have created an amazing resource recovery centre - Wastebusters aiming for zero waste through reduction, reuse, and recycling. Wastebusters is a large employer, with nearly 50 full and part-time staff working on the two sites.

Wastebusters goals are to:

- Reclaim resources and minimise waste
- Make communities resourceful, affordable, and fun places to live in
- Be an alternative to a disposable society
- Work for zero waste Wastebusters core services are business and events recycling, drop-off recycling, reuse shops, education for sustainability, advocacy, and support of waste minimisation in the community and in our country. They recently did a survey (something Wgtn could / should do) <https://www.wastebusters.co.nz/wp-content/uploads/2019/11/Summary-Resourceful-Communities-survey-results-201911.pdf> .

3. Waste communications by WCC - most people in Wgtn are confused, what can, what can't be recycled - relying on a sticker underneath the bin lid (many people bins are nowhere near their kitchen or where they actually sort their rubbish) and WCC e news plus Facebook isn't sufficient.

This was clearly shown when WCC announced no recycling when we went to Level 4, Newtown's collection was within the next 2 days - obviously, the message didn't get through because there were recycling bags all over the streets! We need clearer communications using different channels, eg an App, (ChCh has just released one) a fridge magnet, a sticker for the TOP of the bin. Whakatane recently improved its recycling communications with simpler messaging and in different formats, this greatly improved their recycling.

4. Street rubbish - we need more bins - we have very few and what we have need to be more clearly marked with IMAGES of what goes on each bin, having it in English and Maori isn't sufficient - people don't read. Z stations are good examples of making it clear what goes in which bin.
5. Funding for the being active - much funding is directed to - Wgtn being the cultural capital. We make it free to visit an Art gallery yet charge for swimming pools- yet we have an obesity crisis and need to be encouraging people to be active. We have 350km+ of tracks which the council relies heavily on

volunteers to maintain, eg Polhill, Tawatawa, Hawkins Hill, or concentrate on just one or two areas, eg Mt Vic, many of the remaining tracks receive little maintenance, –eg grass cut once a year and as a result some are getting very rugged. During lock down thousands of residents were out using the tracks and enjoying what truly makes Wgtn unique – the only capital city with native bush, tracks, and nature right on our doorstep. Our track network needs to be prioritised and given the funding and status it deserves.

6. Making the city more liveable – during lock down hundreds more people were out cycling because there was less traffic. Sadly, the first weekend of level 2 when I cycled round the Miramar peninsula I saw NOT one family out on the road cycling, instead lots of cars. Newtown is now at grid lock from 3.30 – 6pm, free parking almost everywhere means residential streets are no longer safe for children to play. WCC has been consulting for over 4 years and yet all we have are small sections of cycle lanes, that invariably drop people into busy roads. Let's see WCC doing some real experimental stuff test, trial, adapt and prioritise safe routes to school and safe commuting routes. Roads are for transport not storing private property. Parking on a street should be a privilege not a right, all parking should be charged as roads cost millions to maintain.

How do you or have you previously interacted with Wellington City Council? (select all that apply)

- I use Council swimming pools
- I enjoy using Council maintained walking/biking tracks
- I use the city's cycleways
- I use Council recycling bags
- I have previously submitted on a Council consultation
- I have called the Council call centre before
- I use Council libraries

How did you hear about this consultation?

- Through a Ward-inar
- Online

Payal Ramritu

How strongly do you agree or disagree with the overall approach to this Annual Plan?

| | |
|--|----------------|
| I agree with the Council's overall approach to the Annual Plan | Somewhat agree |
|--|----------------|

Why did you indicate the level of support above?
I agree with most of the annual plan

How strongly do you support or oppose this option of an average rates rise of 5.1%?

| | |
|--|------------------|
| I agree or disagree that this should be the preferred option | Definitely agree |
|--|------------------|

Why did you indicate the level of support above?
Our failing pipes worry me

How strongly do you support this option of an average rates rise of 2.3%?

| | |
|--|-------------------|
| I agree or disagree that this should be the preferred option | Somewhat disagree |
|--|-------------------|

Why did you indicate the level of support above?
We need to put money into infrastructure

How much do you support these new initiatives?

| | |
|---|--------------------|
| I support or oppose the new funding for these initiatives | Definitely support |
|---|--------------------|

Why did you indicate the level of support above?

Support most of the initiatives, especially resource recovery centre and home energy audits

How much do you support or oppose our changes to fees and charges this year?

| | |
|--|--------------------|
| I support or oppose not increasing the majority of fees and charges for 2020/21 | Somewhat oppose |
| I support or oppose increasing Southern Landfill fees to help fund 'polluter pays' and waste reduction initiatives | Definitely support |

Why did you indicate the level of support above?

We need a better plan to deal with waste!

How do you or have you previously interacted with Wellington City Council? (select all that apply)

I use Council recycling bags
I use Council swimming pools

How did you hear about this consultation?
Online

Robert Wright

How strongly do you agree or disagree with the overall approach to this Annual Plan?

| | |
|--|---------------------|
| I agree with the Council's overall approach to the Annual Plan | Definitely disagree |
|--|---------------------|

Why did you indicate the level of support above?

What is wrong with reducing service levels? How much would that save? What services do you refer to? What are the factors that affect "quality of life in our city"? How do the proposed rates increase improve this? Why do future rates rises need to be high? This council needs to start THINKING. They need to start LEADING. They need to get their hands out of the ratepayers pockets and work out a better way to fund their grand plans.

How strongly to you support or oppose this option of an average rates rise of 5.1%?

| | |
|--|---------------------|
| I agree or disagree that this should be the preferred option | Definitely disagree |
|--|---------------------|

Why did you indicate the level of support above?

The council needs to start thinking SMARTER. Covid-19 is going to last for years. Best you get your thinking sorted. Why not write debt off over longer periods? Reduce costs. Reduce spending. STOP being profligate with MY MONEY.

How strongly to you support this option of an average rates rise of 2.3%?

| | |
|--|---------------------|
| I agree or disagree that this should be the preferred option | Definitely disagree |
|--|---------------------|

Why did you indicate the level of support above?

Where is the REDUCE RATES option? What would the impact of THAT be? SPEND SPEND SPEND needs to be replaced with SAVE SAVE SAVE.

How much do you support these new initiatives?

| | |
|---|-------------------|
| I support or oppose the new funding for these initiatives | Definitely oppose |
|---|-------------------|

Why did you indicate the level of support above?

You have not clearly shown the cost of these. NO TO NEW INITIATIVES. SAVE SAVE SAVE.

How much do you support or oppose our changes to fees and charges this year?

| | |
|--|---------------------------|
| I support or oppose not increasing the majority of fees and charges for 2020/21 | Neither support or oppose |
| I support or oppose increasing Southern Landfill fees to help fund 'polluter pays' and waste reduction initiatives | Definitely support |

Why did you indicate the level of support above?

Reduce services and save money or increase user pays. Stop charging rate payers to support others using services that aren't crucial to life and living.

Is there anything else we should know before making decisions?

I voted solely for councillors that were not profligate with my money. You are letting us all down. Grand projects and grand spending meaning a grand on my rates. ENOUGH IS ENOUGH.

How do you or have you previously interacted with Wellington City Council? (select all that apply)

- I use Council swimming pools
- I use Council rubbish bags
- I have called the Council call centre before
- I have applied for a resource or building consent
- I use Council recycling bags

How did you hear about this consultation?

Email

Christine Davies

How strongly do you agree or disagree with the overall approach to this Annual Plan?

| | |
|--|-------------------|
| I agree with the Council's overall approach to the Annual Plan | Somewhat disagree |
|--|-------------------|

Why did you indicate the level of support above?

A rates option of zero should have been suggested even with the service level drops.

How strongly to you support or oppose this option of an average rates rise of 5.1%?

| | |
|--|---------------------|
| I agree or disagree that this should be the preferred option | Definitely disagree |
|--|---------------------|

Why did you indicate the level of support above?

The rates payers of today should not have to pay for the poor spending of the 3 waters depreciation and poor management over the last 50 years

How strongly to you support this option of an average rates rise of 2.3%?

| | |
|--|-------------------|
| I agree or disagree that this should be the preferred option | Somewhat disagree |
|--|-------------------|

Why did you indicate the level of support above?

As above. There are other services that could be reviewed. The Arts could take a back seat for a couple years to keep rates down the hideous hand for example.

How much do you support these new initiatives?

| | |
|---|-------------------|
| I support or oppose the new funding for these initiatives | Definitely oppose |
|---|-------------------|

Why did you indicate the level of support above?

Why pay for the arts recovery when people have no homes and the 3 waters are overdue for renewals. Individuals should look after own Home Energy audits why would the council or me as a rate payer have to pay for this. Support the weed management which is under funded at present for all the gorse in Newlands at the moment.

How much do you support or oppose our changes to fees and charges this year?

| | |
|--|-----------------|
| I support or oppose not increasing the majority of fees and charges for 2020/21 | Somewhat oppose |
| I support or oppose increasing Southern Landfill fees to help fund 'polluter pays' and waste reduction initiatives | Somewhat oppose |

Why did you indicate the level of support above?

Due to the Turd taxi's due to the lack of proper 3 waters management the Southern Landfill. The landfill will be filled sooner. Rather than increasing the cost that will just cost us all. Invest in the resource consents for a new landfill.

Is there anything else we should know before making decisions?

What happened to the large increase in revenue from revaluing residential value? There is no increase in rates revenue from revaluations, it just changes the way the rates are allocated across the rating base. This answer is not true I am paying an extra \$100 per quarter are you telling me that this money is just being wasted.

How do you or have you previously interacted with Wellington City Council? (select all that apply)

- I use Council recycling bags
- I have applied for a resource or building consent
- I use Council libraries
- I enjoy using Council maintained walking/biking tracks
- I have called the Council call centre before
- I use Council rubbish bags

How did you hear about this consultation?

Online

Mike Britton, Forest & Bird Wellington

Submission on Annual Plan 2020-2021

Our Details

Name Mike Britton
Address Chairperson, Forest & Bird, Wellington Branch, P O Box 4183, Wellington 6140
Email wellington.branch@forestandbird.org.nz
Phone 021 783 776
We are making this submission on behalf of an organisation: Forest & Bird, Wellington Branch

Introduction

Thank you for this opportunity for Forest & Bird's Wellington Branch to provide Wellington City Council (WCC) with comments on the 2020-2021 Annual Plan. The Branch represents about 1,700 members in Wellington and is active in a number of sites on WCC-administered public land.

Section 4 – Tipu Toa: Build Back Better

Our submission is in support of an improved environment for our native fauna and flora, which will also bring flow-on benefits to Wellington socially, culturally and economically.

1) Invasive weeds are a major concern to our members and so we are particularly pleased and **strongly agree** to the additional \$200k to protect biodiversity. This is very welcome and provides a boost to morale for the many volunteers who have been working tirelessly to remove some of the worst of the weeds in Wellington. Their focus is naturally on their project sites on Council land and roadways. In our case these sites are Tanera Gully and the surrounding area in Aro Valley, Chartwell Bush and the sites used by the Places for Penguins project. We urge Council to use the additional funding to deal to the worst of the many invasive weeds, in particular Old Man's Beard (which is making a comeback), and to contain the spread of Darwin's barberry.

2) We **tentatively agree** with the additional funding proposed for:

- Home Energy Audits
- Built Heritage Incentive Funding
- Improvements in roading to make walking safer and more child friendly

There is very little detail in the plan about these initiatives; however, they appear to have the potential to indirectly contribute to a reduction in energy consumption and CO₂ emissions. Every saving matters and will benefit our wildlife, which is already stressed through the impact of climate change.

3) We have consistently urged the Council to reduce its dependence on landfill for waste disposal and to build capacity to recycle and reuse material. One of the stated aims of the City is to be an eco city, which in our view is to embrace the zero waste principle of waste prevention as opposed to waste management. So we are pleased to see that the Council is taking a first step by establishing a Resource Recovery Park alongside other waste reduction initiatives.

4) On page 26 under the heading "Three Waters Works Programme" it states "stormwater is increasingly in focus as a changing climate delivers more intense rainfall which tests the capacity of the stormwater system". Nowhere in the document do we see any reference to Water Sensitive Urban Design (WSUD), which is a methodology that addresses this issue and at the same time conserves and puts rainwater to use in a constructive way. We are getting more intense rainfall and hotter and drier summers; the common factor is water.

Building greater pipe capacity will carry more rainwater, which will cause more erosion of the streams and the habitat that they feed into; the evidence is plain to see in Trelissick Park. We are hopeful that the "commitment to progress a green infrastructure stormwater demonstration project" is in fact a demonstration of WSUD principles.

George Hobson, Forest & Bird Youth Wellington

Tēnā koutou,

To all councils of the Greater Wellington Region:

Ensuring nature is at the heart of our region's response to the COVID-19 pandemic is vital for ensuring a healthy future society.

As youth, we do not want to inherit a planet that has been ravaged by business-as-usual behaviour. The decisions you make now must be long-term focused and honour your roles as kaitiaki of our environment. We currently have an opportunity to turn the ship around. We can avert the many environmental crises we face and create more prosperous, meaningful communities - while ensuring the recovery of our economy, and the transition to a more sustainable economic model.

Nature is in crisis: this has not changed under current circumstances. In fact, 60% of diseases affecting humans (such as COVID-19) <<https://www.unenvironment.org/news-and-stories/story/six-nature-facts-related-coronaviruses>> originate from other animal species. The emergence of these kinds of diseases has been increasing in recent decades, driven by land-use, climate change, and other human activities. These diseases are a symptom of our destructive behaviour towards nature, and the only way to prevent them in the future is to make sure we don't return to business-as-usual.

Any recovery efforts must consider people's wellbeing - recognising that nature has many links with good mental health, social cohesion, and cultural identity. Recovery efforts must also include giving effect to the principles of Te Tiriti o Waitangi, enabling you to exercise your roles as kaitiaki of our region and cities.

We understand the economic damage that COVID-19 has, and will continue to cause. However, we currently have an opportunity to respond in a way that protects our environment for future generations to enjoy. It's crucial that Wellington invests in innovative, environmentally friendly projects, rather than sticking with status quo projects such as building more roads, or encouraging extractive industries.

Below, we have listed some suggestions for projects that will get our economy back on track, while preserving and enhancing our natural environment:

Conservation

- Invest in habitat restoration;
- This includes creating new green and blue belts, new protected areas, and expanding existing ones across the region;
- Support the implementation of the National Policy Statement on Indigenous Biodiversity;
- Substantially increasing funding for weed and predator control programmes across the region;
- Recognise and financially support the many environmental community groups already established;
- Work alongside the primary sector to encourage and subsidise the shift to sustainable agriculture;
- This must include phasing out pastoral leases within regional parks and converting them into places for conservation and social wellbeing.

Communal spaces

- Restore and revitalise public spaces which foster social cohesion using nature-based methods;
- This includes creating new green spaces, integrating nature into accessways, communal composting stations, and community gardens;

- Create and re-design public spaces in a way which makes them accessible to disadvantaged groups, so that everybody can experience nature and the outdoors.

Water

- Major investment in water infrastructure, especially for wastewater and stormwater;
- Wellington's water quality and aquatic habitats are currently under immense pressure due to crumbling infrastructure, and require urgent protection;
- Restore piped, dammed, and underground streams;
- This will allow freshwater habitats to be restored, providing important ecosystem services;
- Create new wetlands to treat contaminated water outlets<<https://www.theguardian.com/cities/2020/jan/15/the-case-for-making-low-tech-dumb-cities-instead-of-smart-ones>>;
- This will save money on water treatment and infrastructure spending, as well as have co-benefits for nature and people;
- Support the implementation of the government's Freshwater Package.

Housing

- Implement strong standards for energy efficiency, sustainable building materials, and other eco-friendly measures for new and existing housing stock;
- Ensure that the Resource Management Act and environmental bottom lines are not pushed to the side for fast results;
- Commit to higher-density homes and neighbourhoods and reducing urban sprawl, giving space for nature to thrive.

Transport

- No further investment in new roads;
- We need quality alternatives that give us more choice and freedom;
- Fund cycleways, public transport, and car-sharing options;
- These have better cost-benefit ratios and allow for lifestyles that are kinder to nature;
- Reprioritise space on existing roads for green space, walkways, cycleways, and public transport;
- Implement congestion charging to reduce carbon emissions and air pollution;
- Electrify new and existing public transport and car-sharing options.

Waste

Overhaul our waste systems to encourage a circular economy while simultaneously reducing waste in the first instance;

The lockdown response to COVID-19 is yet another example of the pitfalls of recycling<https://www.scoop.co.nz/stories/PO2004/S00168/covid-19-pandemic-exposes-flaw-in-recycling-system.htm?fbclid=IwAR1mF3GwuXoyeyXdUVBAZ2YPeZL39pCtAIsbi_C3zuoWC1btUGRBDV8TZRY>;

- Encourage local and commercial composting initiatives;
- Commit to no further expansion of landfills, cleanfills, and other waste disposal sites;
- Clean up Wellington's legacy waste sites.

Iwi partnerships

- Include elements of co-design in response measures so that mana whenua are actively involved in rebuilding our communities and exercising kaitiakitanga;
- Uphold the principles of Te Tiriti o Waitangi.
- This leads to better economic outcomes for Māori and the protection of nature.

We understand the urgency of this situation, and that many of you may have already indicated 'shovel-ready' projects to the government. However, the response and recovery to COVID-19 is likely to take years, and applying the principles and projects outlined in this letter is possible within those timeframes.

You owe it to young people and future generations to take this opportunity up, change our planetary trajectory, and build a more prosperous society for both people and nature. Local authorities have a key role to play in ensuring that Aotearoa New Zealand transitions to a more sustainable way of life. Without you taking action now, nationwide transformative change will not be possible.

Hutia te rito o te harakeke,
Kei whea te kōmako e kō?
Kī mai kī ahau;
He aha te mea nui o te Ao?
Māku e kī atu,
he tāngata, he tāngata, he tāngata

We would like to discuss this with you further.

Ngā mihi nui,

Forest & Bird Youth Wellington

Esther Fung, David Lee and Duncan Campbell, Wellington Chinese Garden Committee

1) How strongly do you agree or disagree with the overall approach to this Annual Plan?

| | |
|--|----------------|
| I agree with the Council's overall approach to the Annual Plan | Somewhat agree |
|--|----------------|

a) Why did you indicate the level of support above?

Post COVID-19, the plan reveals a degree of understanding of the need to give appropriate attention to the variety of civic infrastructure that a city such as Wellington requires.

2) How strongly to you support or oppose this option of an average rates rise of 5.1%?

| | |
|--|------------------|
| I agree or disagree that this should be the preferred option | Definitely agree |
|--|------------------|

a) Why did you indicate the level of support above?

3) How strongly to you support this option of an average rates rise of 2.3%?

| | |
|--|-------------------|
| I agree or disagree that this should be the preferred option | Somewhat disagree |
|--|-------------------|

a) Why did you indicate the level of support above?

4) How much do you support these new initiatives? (Tipu Tpoa)

| | |
|---|--------------------|
| I support or oppose the new funding for these initiatives | Definitely support |
|---|--------------------|

5) How much do you support or oppose our changes to fees and charges this year?

| | |
|--|--------------------|
| I support or oppose not increasing the majority of fees and charges for 2020/21 | Definitely support |
| I support or oppose increasing Southern Landfill fees to help fund 'polluter pays' and waste reduction initiatives | Definitely support |

a) Why did you indicate the level of support above?

6) Is there anything else we should know before making decisions?

We write to you as two long-standing committee members of the Wellington Chinese Garden Society and in connection with the recently released Wellington City Council Annual Plan. As you know, the proposal for a Chinese Garden in Wellington, to commemorate the contribution made to this city over the course of its history by successive generations of Chinese New Zealanders, has long been the aspiration of the Society, as representative of the wider Wellington Chinese community.

Over the past twenty years, the Society has worked closely with the City Council in the attempt to realise this proposal, with an agreed site and an approved design. And 21 December 2018 saw this proposal finally surmount all the various legal challenges that it needed to surmount. We note however that although

under the “Key Projects in 2020/21” section of the Annual Plan (p. 22) there is some discussion of the delays encountered with the renovation planned for Frank Kitts Park subsequent to the granting of resource consent, there is no explicit mention of the Garden of Beneficence that is to be a component part of this redevelopment.

The COVID-19 pandemic changes much, but we write to assure you that the Society remains fully committed to the proposal of a Chinese Garden for Wellington, and engaged with the community to raise the amount of funding agreed upon with the Wellington City Council and which would allow work to commence. It strikes us that the hopeful message of the Garden and the manner in which it embodies something of both the connection between city and sea and the history of Wellington as it has been built by waves of migration and settlement seems a particularly timely one given the challenges we now face as a city. Yours sincerely, Esther Fung ONZM Duncan Campbell

7) How do you or have you previously interacted with Wellington City Council? (select all that apply)

- I use Council recycling bags
- I have previously submitted on a Council consultation
- I enjoy using Council maintained walking/biking tracks
- I have applied for a resource or building consent
- I use Council rubbish bags
- I have attended a Council event such as A Very Welly Christmas or Pasifika Festival
- I use Council swimming pools
- I use Council libraries

8) How did you hear about this consultation?

- Newspaper
- Word of mouth

Wellington Chamber of Commerce



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PO Box 1087
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New Zealand

8 June 2020

Wellington City Council
Via email: busannualplan@wcc.govt.nz

SUBMISSION ON WELLINGTON CITY COUNCIL MAHERE Ā-TAU ANNUAL PLAN 2020/21

INTRODUCTION

1. Thank you for the opportunity to submit on the Wellington City Council's Annual Plan 2020/21 (the Annual Plan). The Chamber has consistently worked hard to ensure the city's business community has a voice in city matters, and the annual plans are an essential part of this.
2. The Chamber would welcome the opportunity to discuss this submission with the Council and wishes to take part in an oral submission.

ABOUT THE CHAMBER

3. The Wellington Chamber of Commerce ('the Chamber') has been the voice of business in the Wellington region for 164 years since 1856 and advocates for policies that reflect the interest of Wellington's business community, in both the city and region, and the development of the Wellington economy as a whole. The Chamber is accredited through the New Zealand Chamber of Commerce network and as part of our broader organisation is also one of the four regional organisations of BusinessNZ.
4. Through our three membership brands, the Wellington Chamber of Commerce, Business Central and ExportNZ, our organisation represents around 3,500 businesses across the central and lower North Island. Our organisation is one of the four regional organisations that make up the Business New Zealand family and is also accredited through the New Zealand Chambers of Commerce network.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

5. As Wellington enters the 2020s, it is worth reflecting how far the city has come. Over the last 40 years, the city has transformed from a grey centre of bureaucracy to the thriving cultural and commercial hotspot it is today. Much of this progress has been shaped by successive councils who had a vision for how the city can redefine itself and had the leadership to make it happen.
6. Today, the city is facing challenges as daunting as any from the 1980s. The success of the last 40 years has grown the city's population and economy, putting critical infrastructure under strain. Our transport networks have barely changed since the Thorndon Motorway was built in the 1970s. Housing construction has not matched population growth meaning affording a house is now out of reach for many. And the passage of time has further decayed our water pipes which are regularly failing.
7. On top of this growth, contemporary events have conspired against the city. In 2016, the Kaikoura Earthquake caused considerable damage to the CBD. Significantly, the city's heart around Civic Square closed, turning an already struggling area into a 'dead zone'. The earthquake also caused commercial property insurers to rethink their risk exposure and push up premiums.



8. While all the challenges outlined above have evolved over time, we now find ourselves in the middle of a 1-in-100-year pandemic, leading to perhaps the most severe economic recession of the post-war period. Covid-19 has brought urgency to the need for Wellington to tackle these problems. Our challenges amount to more than we can afford under a business-as-usual approach, which would lead to rapidly rising rates at the very time families and businesses can't afford them. This urgency means not waiting until the next iteration of the 10-year plan to act. While it is probably not feasible to bring the 2021-31 Long-term Plan forward, we do urge councillors to start tackling the larger problems and, as a minimum, avoid taking decisions which close off longer-term solutions.
9. So now Wellington city is facing specific, large-scale problems which require councillors to think differently about how to solve them. This is all within the context of climate change and the need to reduce emissions over coming decades. The Council needs a strategic vision for what it wants Wellington to be to meet the needs of residents and businesses. We cannot retreat into just being a 'public sector' city. The city's vibrancy is a crucial reason why people and companies choose to be here.
10. In short, this annual plan requires the Council to lift its head and think hard about where Wellington needs to go over the next 40 years.
11. Wellington needs to address six key challenges:
 1. Supporting economic recovery by ensuring Council expenditure goes towards projects and infrastructure, which brings long-term productivity benefits.
 2. Empowering Wellington Water to better manage its assets and fund future investments by raising its own revenue streams.
 3. Use the current opportunity through central government stimulus to renegotiate the flawed 'Let's Get Wellington Moving' deal so transport costs are fairly split between central and local government.
 4. Champion housing developments which supports the construction sector while giving residents modern, affordable homes.
 5. Rethink how Civic Square can be revitalised in partnership with commercial developments, this should evolve into considering the future of the whole 'ground floor' of the city.
 6. Collaborate with ratepayers to increase the city's environmental resilience, this includes strengthening earthquake prone building, addressing runaway insurance premiums, preparing for sea level rise, and working to reduce emissions.
12. Tying this all together is the need for the Council to undertake a thorough stocktake of all its existing assets. This should include water, transport, housing, land, property, and civic amenities. The Council should re-examine the objective of owning each asset and whether it is meeting that objective. Given the scale of the challenges itemised above, continuing with the current mix of assets simply because that is what the Council inherited from its predecessors is perhaps the worst possible reason. This is not a call for a wholesale 'sell off' of assets, it is a call for methodical asset management that best serves the interests of ratepayers and residents.
13. Combined, these challenges lay out a stark warning to councillors: business-as-usual will not work. The Council must fundamentally rethink how it conducts its business and best serves local residents and businesses.

BACKGROUND

14. Local businesses have a significant interest in the planning and operation of the Council. The decisions made by the Council and their vision for the city have a considerable effect on the business community's confidence and behaviours.

15. It is important to note that the Wellington business community pay the highest shares of rates in the country. The community contributes 45 per cent of the Wellington City Council's (the Council's) total rates revenue. Businesses also pay about 33% of the overall Greater Wellington Regional Council rates take.
16. This submission provides feedback on the content and proposals in the Council's consultation document 'Mahere ā-Tau Annual Plan', before setting out ideas for how to tackle the six key challenges listed in the executive summary.

ANNUAL PLAN 2020/21 & RATES

17. The Chamber acknowledges the Council's efforts in minimising the rates increase from the 7.2 per cent proposed in the 2018-2028 Long-term Plan, and the 9.2 per cent increase indicated earlier this year, to the suggested 5.1 per cent and the secondary option of 2.3 per cent.
18. However, we need to point out that in the current economic environment and with many businesses already struggling, any increase in the general rates will hit businesses hard where it matters most – their cash flow. While the proposed options allow for services to continue at pre-COVID levels, we believe it is vital that the Council finds additional savings in the current budget.
19. Concerning the Annual Plan and on behalf of its members, the Chamber holds the following views:
 - The Chamber disagrees with the overall approach of the Annual Plan. We acknowledge the Council's efforts to-date, but believe it is necessary for the Council to fundamentally rethink some of their business-as-usual methods in the face of enormous challenges.
 - The Chamber supports the minimum rates increase available to the Council. Given the options presented, this would be the secondary option of 2.3 per cent, rather than 5.1 per cent rates increase. However, we also wish the Council to make the large-scale investments necessary to solve the city's challenges.
 - The Chamber supports the "Tipu Toa: Build Back Better" initiative.
 - The Chamber agrees with holding the majority of fees and charges at the current levels for 2020/21.
 - The Chamber agrees with increasing Southern Landfill fees to help fund 'polluter pays' and waste reduction initiatives.
20. The Chamber supports the minimum rates increase available to the Council. Given the options presented, this lends the Chamber to support the secondary option of 2.3 per cent, rather than a 5.1 per cent rates increase.
21. However, we are also concerned there is a false dichotomy in the choices presented. The current 2.3 per cent proposal means that while the rates increase this year is low, the increase in outyears is a greater, sharper, potentially more unaffordable increase. Given Council determines its rates and spending options, we would urge Council to use next year's LTP process to ensure the impacts of this current proposal is fully assessed and considered.
22. Our recent member survey found that our members were split on the options available, with just 23 per cent of members agreed with the larger 5.1 per cent increase. The largest group, 36 per cent of members, agreed with a 2.3 per cent rates increase. A further 30.5 per cent rejected both options.
23. However, we are acutely aware that given the size of the current challenges, there is little point in deferring the necessary decisions now. We need to invest significantly in our water, transport, housing, and civic amenities. Our members appreciate the Council's efforts with the Covid-19 Pandemic Response Rates Postponement scheme. This scheme makes use of existing government support criteria which gives greater certainty to businesses about whether they can qualify. Again, we would urge Council to use next year's LTP

process to ensure the impacts are fully assessed and considered – we cannot allow Wellington to continue to be held back.

24. We urge the Council to remember that many businesses are struggling, and further significant rates increases in future years will severely impact them. Therefore, the Council must maintain financial discipline, and we continue to encourage the Council to find savings where possible so it can further expand necessary infrastructure upgrades. So far, there is little evidence the Council is willing to do this.
25. As the city 'builds back better' following this recession, we should incorporate new technology and ways of doing things to reduce energy use, emissions, and waste. We should use this opportunity to tackle climate change and continue to aim for carbon zero by 2050.

Challenge 1
ECONOMIC RECOVERY

26. Over the past three months, the Wellington business community has been detrimentally affected by the Covid-19 pandemic and subsequent lockdown. Our retail, hospitality, accommodation, manufacturing, and tourism sectors were not able to operate for eight weeks and are only now beginning their recovery process.
27. Many banks, economists, and experts have predicted an economic recession. With this forecast economic storm coming and the continued closure of our international border, many local businesses and organisations will continue to struggle financially for the foreseeable future. The unemployment rate in New Zealand is already rising rapidly, and the central Government is injecting an extra \$50 billion of spending. This is not business-as-usual and, therefore, the response from the Council should not be business-as-usual.
28. As detailed in the section above, the Council can help businesses by investing in crucial infrastructure and maintaining their financial discipline. Any activities that the Council wishes to pursue to stimulate the local economy must focus on projects that enhance productivity and keep businesses going over the long term.
29. Also, the Council should consider its involvement in non-core activities such as social housing. This is a responsibility of the central government. Wellington city's participation in social housing is a considerable financial risk that it has struggled to manage over the preceding several decades. Citizens deserve warm, dry houses they are safe to live in. Yet, because of the financial demands on Council, it has struggled to maintain the housing stock for its citizens adequately. Instead, the Council could partner with NGOs and Kāinga Ora who are better equipped to provide successful social housing outcomes.
30. In light of the enormous financial demands coming on the Council, the Council must undertake a thorough review of its existing mix of assets and whether they are optimal. Some of the Council's asset classes are explored further in the coming sections, such as water, transport, housing and Civic Square. The obvious example is for the city to sell down their stake in the airport and use the capital to invest in new infrastructure. This approach maintains the existing airport operations to the benefit of the city while also allowing the construction of new infrastructure. Ownership is not essential to the Council achieving the objective of Wellington maintaining a successful international airport.
31. We understand some councillors will find 'asset recycling' challenging. However, whether or not this path is pursued, we urge the Council to at least conduct a fundamental stocktake of all its assets. Doing so is not ideological, but a practical response to the urgency of the current challenges. As the unfolding situation with Wellington Water is demonstrating, ignorance of your asset portfolio is an enormous risk and problems will emerge regardless.

Challenge 2

WATER

32. Wellington Water has inherited decaying infrastructure. Sewerage running across streets or into the harbour is unacceptable. The Council and Wellington Water must get a grip on the size of the problem. That means a thorough assessment of the ageing assets and the likely programme of maintenance and renewal required. It appears initial estimates are for \$1 billion over the next ten years. Such an extensive investment programme is out of the reach of the Council under existing arrangements.
33. We should empower Wellington Water to manage its assets better and raise its own revenue stream. We can do this by investing the assets into a dedicated CCO (such as the successful Water Care in Auckland) and installing water metres to provide a user pays revenue stream that also significantly improves water conservation.
34. Water metering in Wellington can significantly reduce consumption while increasing the detection of wasteful leaks. Metres would provide the Council with an additional revenue stream to assist with costs of upgrading the city's water infrastructure. Experiences in other areas, such as Kāpiti, has illustrated the benefits of metering while demonstrating initial community fears are unfounded.
35. Over 23,000 water metres were rolled out in Raumati, Paraparaumu and Waikanae in mid-2014 at the cost of \$8 million. Despite some community apprehension, the process led to measurable improvements. The following summer saw a 25 per cent drop in peak day use as residents cut back to keep their bill down. While 2015's summer rainfall was just one-third of the previous years', sprinkler bans were avoided as residents voluntarily conserved water. During the 2017-18 summer, the hottest in 10 years – Kāpiti was the only lower North Island district not to need water restrictions.
36. The average water bill for a family of four in Kāpiti is \$490 per year. The Council says 75 per cent of ratepayers pay less for water now than they previously did under the one-size-fits-all approach.
37. It is estimated that Wellington's demand for water will outstrip supply within ten years if residents keep consuming at their current rate. Eighteen months ago, Water NZ estimated that Wellington's pipe system leaked 15-20 per cent of its water. They compared this to the leakage rate in the Netherlands of 3 per cent.
38. Some community members fear metering for water is privatisation of the water. It is important to note that it is still a council-controlled organisation managing the water network, it is managed as a not-for-profit CCO, the charging is on a user-pays basis, and all revenue is reinvested in the network for either repairs or network expansion.

Challenge 3

TRANSPORT

39. Wellington's traffic problems are well known. Wellington's growing population has led to rising traffic congestion and longer commuting times. Areas in the central city as well as around the port and airport are particularly problematic. Public transport is straining, trains are reaching capacity, and the bus reforms have been a debacle. Unfortunately, Wellington has been let down by the central government as well as our own lack of vision.
40. The 'Let's Get Wellington Moving' deal announced in 2019 was a poor deal. While addressing some of the capital's most chronic transport needs, the package shifted too much of the cost onto local ratepayers. It deliberately blurs the traditional areas of responsibility between local and central government for transport projects. It imposes a bespoke model of cost-sharing that requires a higher contribution from local councils

than, for example, ATAP in Auckland. Also, there is too much uncertainty over critical projects like the Mount Victoria tunnel, and the Terrace tunnel does not even feature at all.

41. There is now an opportunity to redo the deal. Due to Covid-19, the government is looking for significant productivity-enhancing infrastructure developments it can fund to stimulate the economy. Wellington must take advantage of this opportunity and secure its fair share of stimulus funding. It is also a chance to make the city's transport flows more efficient and facilitate greater public transport development. This will be essential to ensuring the city's emissions continue to reduce over time.
42. Businesses in Wellington have expressed their support for some sort of congestion charging within the central city. By investing in fit-for-purpose transport links around the city, drivers can willingly avoid the more congested areas near the centre. Once completed, financial incentives can be used to ensure traffic sticks to these arterial routes. With such charges, the Council can invest in further projects to aid inner-city mobility such as improved public transport infrastructure, bus priority, scooter paths, cycle lanes, and wider footpaths. Some of this is already underway with the 'quick wins' part of LGWM, but more is required.
43. Councillors should lead public discussions explaining why transport funding is not zero-sum between modes. This would increase public support for upgrades which benefit multiple users of corridors. For example, trenching Karo Drive is an expensive project seen to benefit car users; yet it will be a huge boost for walkers and cyclists in the area, delivering a large amenity benefit to local residents.

Challenge 4 **HOUSING**

44. Wellington's population growth is hurting housing affordability; the city needs to build more houses in both the central city and suburban areas. To achieve this, the Council should encourage developers to push ahead with significant housing developments across the city. This could take the form of regulatory support, expediting consents, and better guidance through the approvals process.
45. One significant barrier to higher density housing is objections from surrounding residents, even when the area is zoned for such developments to proceed. Councillors should prioritise housing developments going ahead and champion them in front of their local communities. It is only with political leadership and people articulating why such housing is essential, will it proceed and contribute to making housing more affordable.
46. In addition, the Council could contribute to common infrastructure costs to get additional housing developments going. An example of the Council holding up a housing development is Shelly Bay. Rather than fighting the development, the Council should be sitting down with proponents and working out how they can get it through the consenting process fairly.
47. If Wellington does not act on housing, the surrounding cities of Porirua, Lower Hutt, and the Kāpiti Coast will pick up the slack. Perversely, this will increase Wellington's traffic congestion and emissions compared to building the houses here.
48. Social housing is already covered in the economic development section under challenge one. Social housing is its own distinct area, and the Council should treat it accordingly. Social housing tenants would best be served by having dedicated social agencies looking after them. The Council should consider transferring its social housing portfolio to Community Housing providers. These providers are better able to offer wraparound services such tenants often require and also better at looking after the properties.

Challenge 5
CIVIC SQUARE

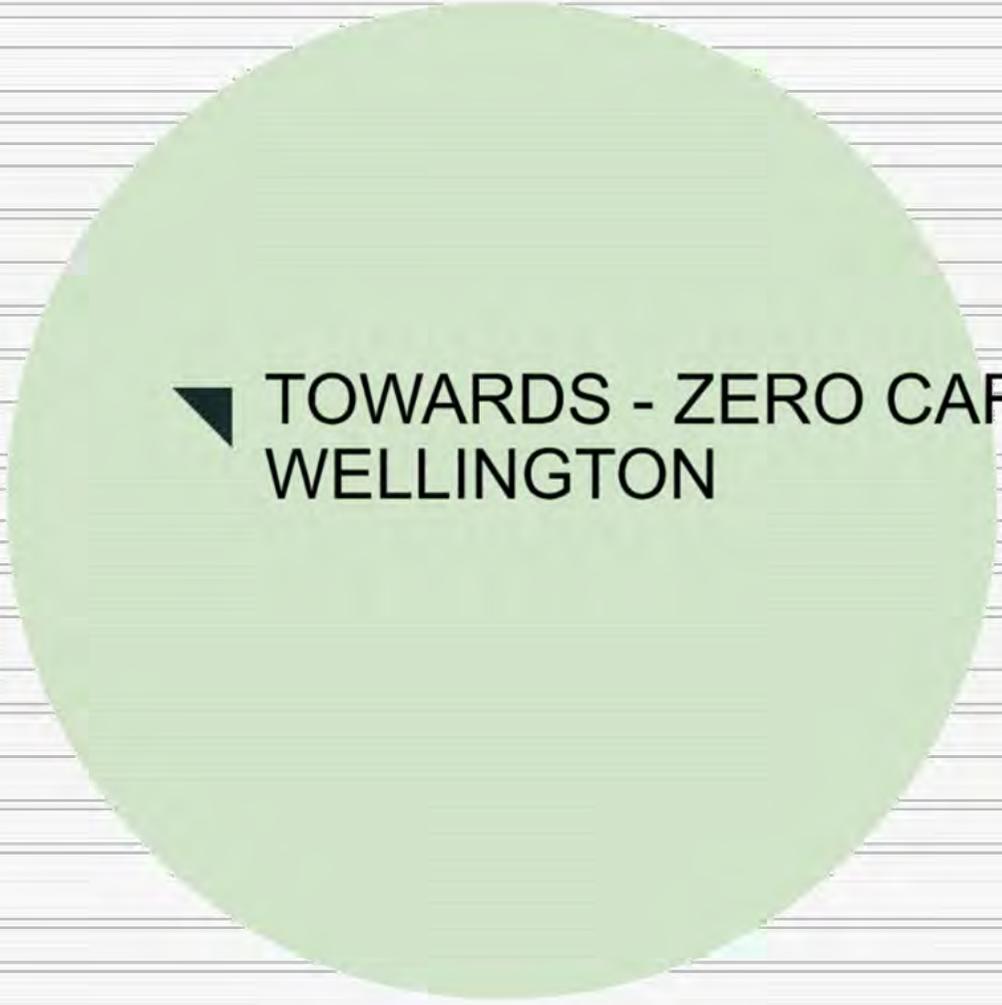
49. It is immensely disappointing that the city's 'heart' of civic buildings are mostly closed for the foreseeable future due to earthquake strengthening issues. However, it must be remembered that Civic Square was not operating as well as it could before these issues arose. We now have the opportunity to redesign this essential public space in a more user-friendly way.
50. The Council should exit ownership of office space in the same way that the central government did decades ago. This relieves the local government of the responsibility of managing catastrophic events to its buildings. The Council should allow commercial-led development of the land, including the co-location of additional residential and commercial tenants. This will contribute to the rebuild cost and avoid the 'dead nights' problem in Civic Square. The Council can maintain the 'ground floor' presence within these new buildings with its offices, town hall, and a central library.
51. Wellington's Central Library doesn't need to rebuild in the same way as before. The current network of central libraries seems to be working well and bringing the facilities closer to people. So, what is wrong with having multiple libraries within the city? This also highlights the challenge of the city's 'ground floor' and what it might look like as the Covid-induced recession deepens.
52. What is the city's strategy for how our streetscape might look in a few years with many retailers having been forced to close? What can we do with the empty shops, and what can the Council do to make its rules more flexible for these commercial building owners? This thinking needs to start now.

Challenge 6
RESILIENCE

53. Concluding the six challenges facing the city are the long-term issues including the need to reduce emissions, improve resilience against the effects of climate change, earthquake strengthen our building stock in an affordable way, and address rapidly rising insurance premiums.
54. Commercial property owners in the city are facing building insurance premiums doubling, tripling or even quintupling over the last few years. For example, one typical office block in Wellington saw its insurance premiums rise 220 per cent in just four years - from \$99,000 in 2016 to almost \$320,000 this year. In one of our quarterly business confidence surveys from 2019, 30 per cent of respondents said they had experienced "significantly increasing premiums" in the past three years. The Chamber has spoken directly to businesses who have told us insurance companies are inserting additional clauses into contracts to reduce cover without clear explanation and that their cover has been "shrinking over the last four years, but premiums continue to go up".
55. Rapidly rising insurance premiums are obviously a cost to business, but they also flow through into the rents of every tenant, which in turn increases the price of all goods and services in Wellington.
56. Insurance companies and their representatives claim the market is adjusting to the 2016 Kaikoura earthquakes, making more granular risk-based assessments of properties based on location, and reverting to international norms when compared to similar jurisdictions in Japan and California. The problem with these arguments is that no matter what mitigation investment a business makes, the insurance premiums still go up. Japan and California have low rates of business insurance compared to New Zealand but are far larger economies.
57. High rates of private insurance cover were a key feature of Christchurch's successful rebuild following their 2011 earthquake. It would be regrettable for businesses to decide to forego insurance cover in a bid to keep

their operating costs down by exposing themselves and our economy to a significant shock in the wake of even a moderate earthquake. New Zealand can preserve its enviable high rates of insurance cover if we act now.

58. The Mayoral Taskforce on Insurance from the previous Council appears to have gone quiet. We urge the Council to continue working with the Government on insurance reforms that will maintain the affordability of premiums for residential and commercial property owners. Increases to the EQC caps on the cover would seem a sensible immediate step that could be taken; for example, raising the cap on residential property from \$100,000 to \$400,000.
59. Commercial property should be included in this scheme as well. Without it, redevelopment of the city will wither over time as limited capacity and uneconomic costs bite.
60. As noted through the sections above, preparing the city for the impacts of sea level rises and continuing to reduce emissions are important goals for the city. Now is the time for the Council to start considering the future of Wellington's famous waterfront and how it might be impacted by rising sea levels. Could Council assets, such as ground leases, become endangered by rising sea levels, and if so, should the Council look to mitigate these risks? Perhaps some waterfront land will need to be dedicated to managing inundation. Whatever solutions are agreed upon, consultation with the community should begin before predictable problems emerge.

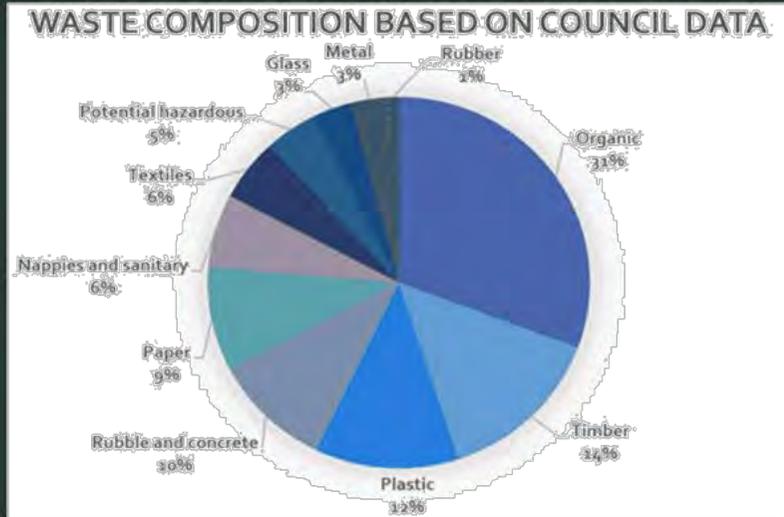


◀ TOWARDS - ZERO CARBON
WELLINGTON

TO BE A SUSTAINABLE CITY WE NEED TO

- REDUCE WASTE
- REDUCE EMISSIONS FROM TRANSPORT





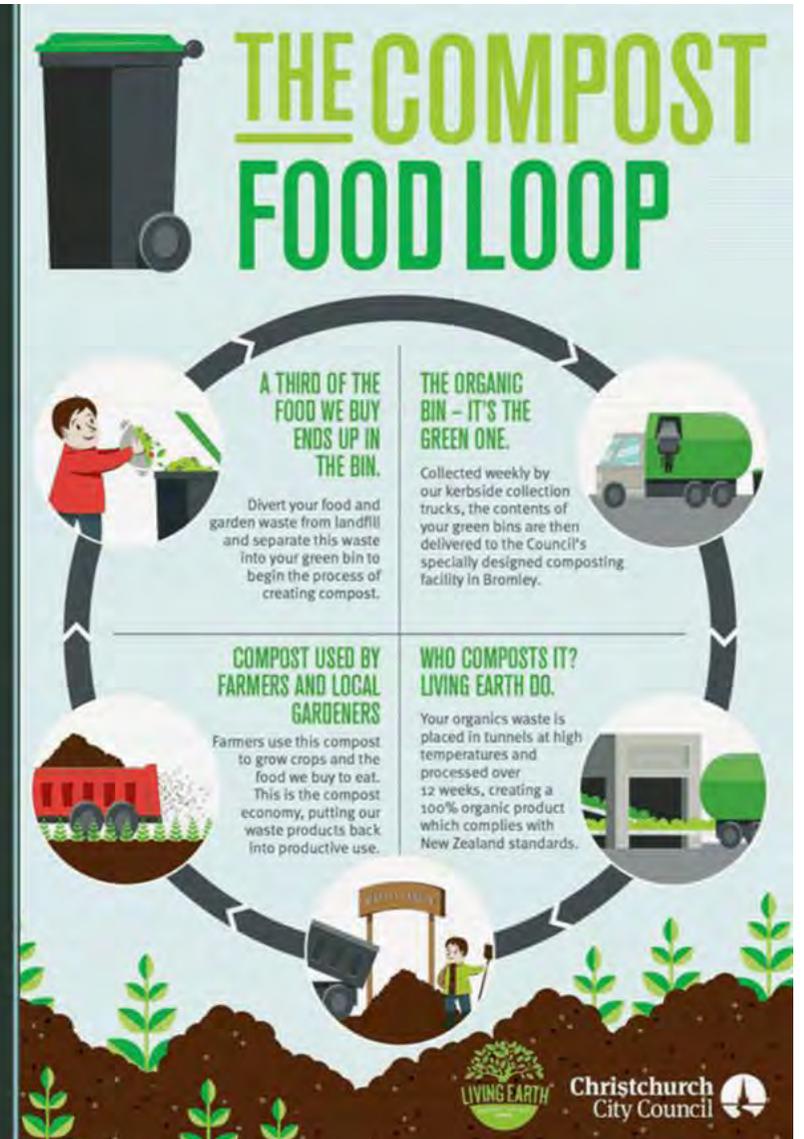
Will cost us more in landfill, waste levy fees and carbon emissions.

PROBLEM WITH WASTE

WASTEFULL WELLINGTON

- Food and green waste is one of the largest contributors to landfill in Wellington.
- Food waste makes up about 35 per cent of what Wellington residents put in their general rubbish bins.
- Christchurch's green waste is turned into organic compost, and sold by Living Earth which operates a plant on behalf of the council.
- Wellington households are sending almost twice as much waste to landfills as homes in Christchurch.

- Wgtn is proposing to spend \$20M on enlarging the landfill which might not be necessary if we were to give every household a green bin for organic waste.
- Not only will it save money from extending the landfill it will save methane – greenhouse gas.
- Organic waste dumped in landfill produces methane - if Wgtn wishes to achieve zero carbon then eliminating methane from landfill would be a big step.
- **The Govt waste levy will soon increase from \$10 per tonne to \$60 per tonne so it pays WCC to invest in kitchen composting.**



TRANSPORT – world leaders in car ownership and obesity

- NZ has one of the highest rates of light vehicle ownership in the world.
- And one of the highest rates of obesity -1 in 3 adults (aged 15 years and over) were obese (30.9%)
- Wellington biggest single carbon emissions are from vehicles.
- Pollution churned out of cars and trucks have contributed to transport emissions increasing 14 per cent in the Wellington region in the last decade.
- Air pollution shown to significantly worsen Covid-19 outbreaks
- **Air pollution** has major effects on health in **New Zealand**
- 1,277 premature **deaths**
- 236 cardiac hospitalisations
- 440 respiratory hospitalisations

WCC prioritises #safe parking NOT safe lives.

- WCC needs to act now so its easier for people to reduce car use, to replace car journeys with reliable public transport and safe infrastructure for active transport.
- We have been waiting over 4 years for LGWM, and all we have is 30kph in CBD.
- We have increasing congestion, children cant play in their streets.
- We are short of space for housing yet give space for cars to park.
- This disproportionately affects low income.

Majority support for safe cycle routes

- Every consultation on cycling, shows majority support for cycle lanes.
- Yet after years of consistent support we still don't have any integrated cycle lanes, just bits.
- **Lack of priority to safe active transport anywhere in the annual plan.**
- **Consultation on Innovating Streets proposals;**
 - **Evans Bay Parade:** 667 submissions, 57% support 43% oppose
 - **Brooklyn Road:** 964 submissions, 63% support 37% oppose
 - **Onepu Road:** 480 submissions 66% support 34% oppose
 - **Shelly Bay to Scorching Bay:** 561 submissions, 73% support 27% oppose
 - **Stout Street:** 386 submissions 76% support 24% oppose
 -



Likely impacts of Climate change on Wellington

- **Here are some of the** coastal hazards from sea-level rise and storm-surge events
- increasing severity and frequency of major storm events with heavier rainfall and stronger winds, especially on Wellington's South Coast, resulting in:
 - surface flooding and slips
 - damage and disruption, for example, downed trees, utility faults, and property and roading damage
 - more coastal erosion

