

# Draft Annual Plan 2020/21 Submissions for Oral Hearings

Submissions received 8 May to 8 June

17 June 2020



## **List of oral submitters**

<b>Curtis Nixon</b> .....	<b>3</b>
<b>Mike Britton, Forest &amp; Bird Wellington</b> .....	<b>7</b>
<b>Liz Springford</b> .....	<b>8</b>
<b>Paul Robinson, Property Council New Zealand</b> .....	<b>12</b>
<b>Alicia Hall, Millions of Mothers</b> .....	<b>17</b>
<b>Paul Ward, Capital Kiwi</b> .....	<b>19</b>
<b>Angela Rothwell, Mount Victoria Residents' Association</b> .....	<b>30</b>
<b>Brad Olsen, Wellington City Youth Council</b> .....	<b>31</b>
<b>Jaenine Parkinson, New Zealand Portrait Gallery Te Pūkenga Whakaata</b> .....	<b>38</b>
<b>Lisa Schollum, Arts Wellington</b> .....	<b>40</b>
<b>Sam Donald, Vogelhorn Community Group</b> .....	<b>42</b>
<b>Rhona Carson, Newtown Residents' Association</b> .....	<b>45</b>
<b>Graeme Carroll</b> .....	<b>47</b>
<b>Bev Abbott, Otari Wilton's Bush Trust</b> .....	<b>58</b>
<b>Susannah Lees-Jeffries, Royal New Zealand Ballet</b> .....	<b>61</b>
<b>Anna Kivi, Kaicycle Inc</b> .....	<b>68</b>
<b>Rory Lenihan-Ikin, Kaicycle Inc</b> .....	<b>76</b>
<b>Kate Walmsley, Kaicycle Inc</b> .....	<b>78</b>
<b>Kathryn Collyns, Gender Minorities Aotearoa</b> .....	<b>82</b>
<b>Sonja Randhawa, National Council for Women</b> .....	<b>85</b>
<b>Melanie Vautier</b> .....	<b>93</b>
<b>Chris Horne, Wellington Botanical Society</b> .....	<b>95</b>
<b>Polly Griffiths, Sustainability Trust</b> .....	<b>100</b>
<b>Julia Stace, Tenera Gully Restoration</b> .....	<b>106</b>
<b>Michael Gibson</b> .....	<b>109</b>
<b>Bruce White</b> .....	<b>111</b>
<b>Ollie Goulden, DPA</b> .....	<b>120</b>
<b>Bernard O'Shaughnessy</b> .....	<b>122</b>
<b>Jackson Lacey</b> .....	<b>124</b>
<b>Lynn Cadenhead, Environmental Reference Group</b> .....	<b>127</b>
<b>Paula Warren</b> .....	<b>132</b>
<b>Caroline Taylor, Growspace Wellington</b> .....	<b>134</b>
<b>Ian Reid, Owhiro Bay Residents Association</b> .....	<b>138</b>
<b>Luke Wilson, Good Food City</b> .....	<b>142</b>
<b>Barry Blackett, Glenside Progressive Association</b> .....	<b>146</b>
<b>Eleanor West, Generation Zero</b> .....	<b>149</b>

## Curtis Nixon

Submission No: 3

### Q1. Please let us know if you would you like to speak to your submission at an oral hearing?

Yes

### Q2. How strongly do you agree or disagree with the overall approach to this Annual Plan?

Somewhat agree

### Q3. Why did you indicate the level of support above?

I support most of the operational spends but I do not believe it is the Council's business to stimulate economic growth by building a convention centre or funding WellingtonNZ to support business. Business needs to be exposed to financial realities and sink or swim on its own merits. I also oppose the Council supporting or owning shares in Wellington Airport. The Council should sell the shares and let the airport's bloated, carbon-heavy operations undergo a natural die back. For example the proposed extension of the airport onto Miramar Golf Course is now totally inappropriate. I don't believe any of the forecast GDP numbers in any of these projects are real in any way.

### Q4. How strongly to you support or oppose this option of an average rates rise of 5.1%?

Neither agree nor disagree

### Q5. Why did you indicate the level of support above?

The Council needs to strike a balance between keeping the rate's increase to an affordable amount for ratepayers while recognising the Council is under heavy financial pressure from a number of extraordinary areas such as the library, sewage sludge pipe repairs, and Covid-19 effects.

### Q6. How strongly to you support this option of an average rates rise of 2.3%?

Somewhat disagree

### Q7. Why did you indicate the level of support above?

not answered

### Q8. How much do you support these new Tipu Toa initiatives?

Definitely support

### Q9. Why did you indicate the level of support above?

Going away from a 'rubbish' dump system to a resource recovery system makes sense in many ways, especially from an environmental one, but including for major financial reasons. All plastic waste including car tyres can be recycled using catalytic pyrolysis. All burnable wood/paper/cardboard waste can also be treated this way. Sewage sludge and all organic green waste can be processed in a waste digester to make methane gas, which can be burnt to make electricity. The current problems with these methods is that they aren't supported by business. The syn diesel needs a distribution system but since it is in direct competition with fuel companies the only way forward is for councils and government to use this fuel in its vehicle fleet, bypassing the fuel companies. The methane digester method needs to be setup by Council and shown to be viable when it can be taken over by private business in the same way the existing landfill methane capture and use as a fuel was developed by Council before being handed over to Nova

Energy. The weed program is extremely important to recover lost biodiversity values in the cities parks and reserves. Council has done great work replanting areas with natives but there is a serious issue with invasive weeds, mainly tree and vine weeds that have the growth habit of forming impenetrable monocultures. This is undoing the good work of replanting, and is detrimental to native bird and animal life in the city. I suggest leveraging off the predator-free volunteer trapping initiatives with Council supplying equipment, materials, training and leadership as required.

**Q10. 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

**Q11. Why did you indicate the level of support above?**

While increasing landfill fees has the upside of creating funds for waste reduction initiatives it has the downside that the more people have to pay for rubbish disposal the large the degree of fly tipping or rubbish building up in the urban environment.

**Q12. Is there anything else we should know before making decisions?**

not answered

**Q13. 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 enjoy using Council maintained walking/biking tracks I use Council libraries
- I play sport on Council fields or courts
- I have previously submitted on a Council consultation I use Council recycling bags
- I have attended a Council event such as A Very Welly Christmas or Pasifika Festival
- I use Council swimming pools
- I use Council recreation centres
- I use the city's cycleways

**Q14. How did you hear about this consultation?**

Word of mouth

**Additional information provided by email:**

Work Program

**Waste Diversion:** Home composting needs to be prioritised. As a flat dweller who has no private backyard I have been researching the most unobtrusive and least smelly method of composting, since I need to use the common garden area of my flat complex. The method that I have decided is optimal is a buried wheelie bin system that is promoted elsewhere as a method of disposing of pet faeces. A wheelie bin has the bottom cut

out and holes drilled in the sides from the bottom to halfway up. The bin is buried with about 10cm above ground. This has the advantage that it is animal proof, with a tight fitting lid that has a handle for easy access. It is also fly-proof and smell-proof. As the food waste builds up soil, coffee grounds, or sawdust can be layered in to further prevent smell.

**Wellington Zoo:** Snow leopards. I totally reject the concept of keeping large animals such as big cats, giraffes and chimpanzees in confined enclosures such as at Wellington Zoo as a cruel, unethical and outdated practice. If they are to be kept in captivity they need to be in open-range game reserves. Wellington Zoo should phase out its large animals and focus on small animals that can be kept in limited space in a reasonable simulation of their natural environment. Wellington Zoo should also focus much more on New Zealand birds and reptiles.

**Basin Reserve:** As part of the toilet refurbishment can I ask that these toilets be open for the public at times when there is no scheduled event at the Basin, for the standard times WCC opens its other public toilets. At present they are closed when there is no event there.

**Cycle network:** With the Covid-19 outbreak and ongoing social distancing on public transport cycling and walking need to be prioritised immediately. I have quoted from the Annual Plan below, in italics, with my critique following:

*"By 2028 the cycle network is expected to see connections developed to the south through Newtown, Berhampore and Island Bay; to the outer eastern suburbs, including Miramar, and Strathmore Park. This year work will continue on Evans Bay and Cobham Drive projects, and on developing the business case for the Southern Connections cycleway. This work will include the investigations on the Berhampore Village upgrade improvements following the engagement that occurred with the community during 2018. It will also enable the consideration of appropriate budgets to be allocated in the upcoming Long Term Plan."*

2028 is forever away for this work. It needs to happen within two years. In Berhampore we have been consulted for so long people have given up trusting anything WCC says about the cycleway/village upgrade. I doubt that WCC will be able to find any locals willing to participate in the next consultation about this, which inevitably will come, instead of getting on with the work. It is galling that the Island Bay upgrade is on the Council's list of ten shovel-ready projects for central government funding. Any other part of the cycleway network is a higher priority than that. The fact that it is NZTA money, not WCC funds is irrelevant to the perception that Island Bay has a high quality, functioning cycleway but WCC wants to spend more money there under cover of a village upgrade project.



## Mike Britton, Forest & Bird Wellington

Submission No: 259– emailed submission

### Submission on Annual Plan 2020-2021

#### Our Details

Name Mike Britton

Address Chairperson, Forest & Bird, Wellington Branch, P O Box 4183, Wellington 6140

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 CO<sub>2</sub> 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.

**Q1. Please let us know if you would you like to speak to your submission at an oral hearing?**

Yes

**Q2. How strongly do you agree or disagree with the overall approach to this Annual Plan?**

Somewhat agree

**Q3. Why did you indicate the level of support above?**

WCC is taking a considered approach post pandemic, by maintaining most services and a mix of borrowing and rates increases. I am especially grateful for Tipu Toa - Build Back Better, and for the leadership WCC has already shown by reducing management salaries and donating ten percent of councillors' remuneration to community groups - well done! But I believe we as a city could do more to support those in greatest hardship and protect ourselves from rising climate debt before that becomes impossible to pay.

**Q4. How strongly to you support or oppose this option of an average rates rise of 5.1%?**

Definitely agree

**Q5. Why did you indicate the level of support above?**

I support WCC balanced approach in increasing debt, but also having current ratepayers help with the shortfall in income. Residential ratepayers have homes that they own in part or full, so mostly better off than those who rent. I also support even more social housing being created urgently, to increase affordable rental supply, and stop landlords and landladies passing on rate increases as rental increases. Wellington rents (and house prices) are already far too high and hurt the younger generation and those in hardship. I strongly support Tipu Toa Build Back Better and hope that WCC can do even more to make our city fairer and able to halve our climate-damaging emissions well within this decade. As an older home owning boomer, I'm grateful for our lock down but conscious that there was a high cost for many, and it's time now to recognise that in how we build back much better, fairer and safer for our future. I note that the airport, landfill and CBD car parking revenue streams are challenging for WCC in seriously becoming "First to Zero". From a climate protection perspective and the future well-being of Wellingtonians, we need to plan for and encourage these revenue streams to virtually disappear. More plane flights, more fossil-fuelled cars parked and more rubbish dumped will not create the future we need and deserve.

**Q6. How strongly to you support this option of an average rates rise of 2.3%?**

Definitely disagree

**Q7. Why did you indicate the level of support above?**

Current ratepayers need to front up to some of the costs now - not leave to the future. Pandemic protection seems to already disproportionately cost the younger generation and those already in hardship. Property owners, who are for the most part, more well-off Wellingtonians, need to step up help by paying increased rents - this includes our household.

**Q8. How much do you support these new Tipu Toa initiatives?**

Definitely support

**Q9. Why did you indicate the level of support above?**

I strongly support Tipu Toa, but I would like to see WCC go much much further. We need to understand that measures that make Wellington fairer by supporting households and individuals in hardship, and reduce our climate risk by taking strong steps each year to halve our city's emissions well before 2030, are investments - social and climate investments. If we don't seriously invest now, the social and climate debts get harder and harder to repay. We need climate changes that are humanly adaptable, and the time to act is now. I strongly recommend that Wellington develops a Do-Nut framework for our future, of which First to Zero is an important part. This means we prioritise everyone in this city thriving within our environmental limits and act as a socially and environmentally responsible global city citizen. Here's economist Kate Raworth's DoNut refined for Aotearoa NZ - the basic rights of people within our environmental limits <https://www.projectmoonshot.city/post/an-indigenous-view-on-doughnut-economics-from-new-zealand>

The hundreds of thousands being spent on Tipu Toa seem quite small when contrasted with up to \$25 MILLION available for the airport to borrow anytime till June 2022 for "comfort" (albeit at commercial interest rates to incentivise fast repayment). Likewise, I feel uncomfortable about the amount going into one convention centre, compared to a similar amount going into social housing over five years. Can we lift Wellingtonians out of housing hardship much much faster?

Is a city's character best measured by how well those in greatest hardship are supported? As one example, I would like to see WCC exponentially promote and increase the availability of "community cars". Cars for sharing within a community, with a modest hourly charge, within a few minutes' walk of everyone. These enable people to get around our city mostly on foot, scooter, bike, public transport and car pooling - but car convenience a few times a fortnight. Each community car removes the need for around ten privately owned cars, cutting car ownership costs from tight budgets, increasing health, fitness and well-being, clearing road and parking space for everyone, including space for safer walking, scooting and cycling routes.

Overseas research shows partnership is needed - for example, between local council and community car provider - to quickly reach the scale needed for widespread uptake. Community cars are not for everyone, but they are the critical third component along with good public transport and safe active transport routes, for efficient transport use of scarce city land.

**Q10. How much do you support or oppose our changes to fees and charges this year?**

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

**Q11. Why did you indicate the level of support above?**

I want Wellington council services to be accessible for everyone, especially with likely increasing levels of hardship. As an example, I love that our pools are free for little children, even though my children are well and truly all grown up. I strongly support increasing Landfill fees as "polluter pays" and I strongly encourage waste reduction initiatives that remove the need for any more land used to store rubbish. I would like to see recycling bins everywhere that WCC currently provides public rubbish bins - Oamaru and Queenstown do this, why not Wellington? It should be easy for CBD residents and businesses to recycle their waste with weekly collection and convenient places to drop recycling off. I would like to see organic waste collection around all our suburbs - Christchurch residents have had this for years.

Could WCC partner in developing a recycling service for construction sites? So many street-side skips seem to contain reusable and recyclable products that surely shouldn't be dumped. Likewise the Southern Landfill still seems to end up with products dumped that are reusable. Years ago, Kaikoura was able to divert three-quarters of resources otherwise destined for the dump, and they did not offer a regular household rubbish collection service. Personally, as a household of two adults, we've just put out our second bag of rubbish for street-side collection this year - and around half the contents were related to recent visitors.

Admittedly, we are able to compost organic waste onsite - which is why I support organic waste collection for Wellington residents, like Christchurch. I also support increasing Marina charges - and any other WCC charges that are likely to be predominantly paid by better-off Wellingtonians, with scope for hardship relief as needed. Could WCC also consider a campaign to get Wellingtonians to help with services? For example, looking after local park areas. This could be an experiment to see how much Wellingtonians are interested in volunteering to help care for our city. As well as landscape care, perhaps WCC could promote community volunteer needs too for various groups supporting people in hardship? Promote "How can we help our city build back better?"

**Q12. Is there anything else we should know before making decisions?**

Please ensure that every subsidy and stimulus to invigorate business, will also take us towards a safer climate future by helping halve our emissions this decade. The Climate Commission is currently recommending that central government cost all shovel-ready proposals with calculating climate emissions costs - local government must do likewise. The costs of borrowing money will fall disproportionately on younger Wellingtonians, the gains from spending that money must benefit them the most.

I'm really keen that the strongest voices in shaping this Annual Plan are from those in greatest hardship and younger Wellingtonians, and the groups that best represent them. I see WCC have been consulting widely, but before signing off the Annual Plan, can you make sure that those in greatest need have been heard loud and clear please? And that this Annual Plan is truly a Tiriti partnership? Thanks WCC officials and councillors for all your work during what has been an incredibly challenging time. NB: Thank you for ring-fencing Southern Landfill charges, I hadn't appreciated that this was happening, so please read my

earlier comments re perverse incentives around airport, CBD car parking and landfill charges, in that light.

The airport and CDB car parking are the remaining climate challenging income streams.

**Q13. How do you or have you previously interacted with Wellington City Council? (select all that apply)**

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

**Q14. How did you hear about this consultation?**

- Online
- Email
- Social media
- Through a Ward-inar

# Paul Robinson, Property Council New Zealand

Submission No: 260– emailed submission

8 June 2020

Wellington City Council

By email: [busannualplan@wcc.govt.nz](mailto:busannualplan@wcc.govt.nz)

## Re: Submission on Wellington City Council Annual Plan 2020-21

### 1. Recommendations

1.1 Given the current climate due to the COVID-19 pandemic and the economic recession, Property Council New Zealand (“the Property Council”) recommends the following:

- Reduce the rates increase of 2.3 percent (option B) further by finding additional reductions in the budget and taking on further debt.
- Consider extending the rates postponement policy to include rates in the 2020/21 financial year and spreading the deferred payment equally over 3 years.
- Abolish the business rates differential and investigate alternative funding mechanisms such as congestion charges, targeted rates, public-private partnerships and special purpose vehicles.
- Consider taking on more debt to reduce rates while ensuring key infrastructure projects can continue to progress.
- Focus on core infrastructure, such as upgrades to water services and roads, during the recovery period, and reassess spending on other projects as part of the LTP 2021-31.

### 2. Introduction

2.1 Property Council’s purpose is; “Together, shaping cities where communities thrive”. We believe in the creation and retention of well-designed, functional and sustainable built environments which contribute to New Zealand’s overall prosperity. We support legislation that provides a framework to enhance economic growth, development, liveability and growing communities.

2.2 Property Council’s Wellington Branch has 148 businesses as members. The Property Industry contributed \$8.6 billion to the Wellington Economy. This includes a direct impact of \$3.3 billion (11 per cent of total GDP) and flow-on (indirect and induced) impacts of \$5.3 billion. It employs 17,260 directly which equates to eight per cent of total employment in Wellington. That makes it the region’s second largest economic sector.

### 3. Rates

#### *Rates Increase*

3.1 Businesses are facing a very difficult time of unprecedented uncertainty due to the impact of COVID-19 pandemic. On 25 March 2020, we wrote to all local authorities and the Minister of

#### WELLINGTON BRANCH

Level 5, Officesuites  
24 Johnston Street  
Wellington 6011

M + 64 21 847 113  
E [nicole@propertynz.co.nz](mailto:nicole@propertynz.co.nz)  
[propertynz.co.nz](http://propertynz.co.nz)

#### Corporate Sponsors



McCONNELL PROPERTY





Local Government recommending councils minimise proposed rates increases to a level that is financially prudent.

- 3.2 We support the Wellington City Council's ("the Council") increase in rates to 2.3 percent (option B). However, we believe the Council could reduce the rates increase further by finding additional savings in the budget and taking on further debt. The Council will be in a better position to reassess rates and spending while developing its Long-term Plan 2021-31 ("LTP 2021-31").
- 3.3 Cashflow is a major problem for commercial property owners as many tenants are unable to pay rent. During the COVID-19 lockdown period on average commercial property owners had received only 50.5 percent of the rent due, compared to 90 percent in an average month.<sup>1</sup> Retail tenants were the least likely to have paid their rent (37 percent compared to 89 percent normally). Any reduction in rates will be able to be passed onto tenants, especially those struggling in the retail and hospitality sector.
- 3.4 Ultimately increased rates on commercial property will be eventually met by the businesses, as market adjustments during the term of a lease will be adjusted so that rent is higher if rates are higher. For a new building, cost of rates will be added when setting new rent, and rates for older buildings are benchmarked as a proportion of new build rent.
- 3.5 The Council needs to take a more strategic approach. If business rates are too high this could lead to businesses closing or relocating which in turn will result in a reduced rating base. In addition, if businesses close then this will lead to job losses for many residents which further reduces the Council's rating base. High rates are also an issue for attracting business investment, as increased rates and financial costs will discourage businesses from setting up in Wellington.
- 3.6 We commend the Council on proposing a rates postponement policy however we feel this could be extended further. Porirua City Council's proposal to defer the 2020/21 rates payments for 6 or 12 months and spread the deferred payment equally over 3 years commencing 1 July 2021/22. We believe the Council should consider whether it could extend the rates postponement further as this will help ensure flexibility is provided during a time of uncertainty.

#### *Business rates differentials*

- 3.7 Last year the Council increased the business rates differential from 2.8:1 to 3.25:1 to mitigate against residential properties having to pay extra rates increases. We believe the Council should revert to the ratio of 2.8:1 with a plan to abolish the rating differential long term.
- 3.8 As a matter of principle, Property Council has always opposed the business rates differential as a rating tool due to the lack of transparency of funding. In particular, rates differentials are collected as general rates and are added to the overall pool of money, making it near impossible for businesses who pay the rating differential to track the total charges and where it is spent. This results in a lack of transparency for commercial ratepayers as it is unclear what their additional rates are funding and whether it is beneficial to their business needs. Often the level of business rates paid is disproportionate to the level of services received.
- 3.9 Under the Local Government Act 2002, Councils must ensure prudent stewardship of resources and undertake a robust cost benefit analysis for fulfilling their functions. On this basis and in the

---

<sup>1</sup> <https://www.newsroom.co.nz/2020/04/17/1131365/retail-rent-take-drops-60-in-april>



principle of transparency we request that the Council releases a copy of this analysis publicly so that businesses can assess whether the rating differential is fair.

- 3.10 Our position on transparency is consistent with the 2019 New Zealand Productivity Commission report on local government funding and financing<sup>2</sup> which found that “councils’ rating practices are too often not transparent.” The report recommends councils should make better and more transparent use of their rating and other funding tools.
- 3.11 Abolishing rates differentials is also consistent with Central Government’s 2007 Local Government Rates Enquiry which recommended that in the interest of transparency, rates differentials should be abolished and replaced with alternative funding mechanisms. This includes targeted rates, user charges (i.e. congestion charges), public-private partnerships and special purpose vehicles.

#### *Alternative funding mechanisms*

- 3.12 Alternative funding mechanisms such as targeted rates and user pay rating systems support the principles of transparency and objectivity in legislation (Local Government Act 2002 and Local Governing (Rating) Act 2002). Both these rating systems are beneficiary pay models, meaning those who benefit or use the service contribute towards it. For example, money collected via targeted rates are ringfenced to a project or geographic area that will benefit from the funding.
- 3.13 We support beneficiary pay funding mechanisms, as they are transparent and provide a better understanding and opportunity to engage on where rates are spent. For example, the Council should consider introducing metering for both drinking water and wastewater as it will help to reduce usage while also identifying leaks. To deal with investment in growth supporting infrastructure from new developments the Council should investigate how it could set up Special Purpose Vehicles by using the powers granted under the Infrastructure Funding and Financing Bill.
- 3.14 The Council’s future plans to fund Let’s Get Wellington Moving by adding a one percent compounding rate increase onto ratepayers should be reconsidered. We encourage the Council to work with the Government to introduce congestion charging which will help to fund major transport projects like Let’s Get Wellington Moving.
- 3.15 The topic of ‘rates differentials’ is of significant interest to our members and we would welcome further discussion and collaboration with the Council on how to abolish rating differentials. We recommend that Council investigates the use of alternative funding mechanisms as part of its Long-Term Plan 2021-31.

#### **4. Debt**

- 4.1 We support the Council’s decision to increase its debt levels as this provides rates relief to ratepayers during this difficult time. Given the planned debt to revenue ratio is 167 percent, we believe that the Council should consider taking on more debt to reduce rates. This extra borrowing should be ringfenced for capital expenditure on key infrastructure projects. Furthermore, the Government has indicated that the debt to revenue ratio limit can increase beyond the current 250 percent cap, which is an indication that the Government supports

---

<sup>2</sup> Productivity Commission inquiry into local government funding and financing. Retrieved from <https://www.productivity.govt.nz/inquiries/local-government-funding-and-financing/>



councils increasing their debt during this period. The Council will be in a better position to reassess debt levels during the LTP 2021-31.

## **5. Focus on core services**

- 5.1 In a rapidly changing environment assumptions that underpin the LTP 2018-28 are changing as well. At a time of economic crisis and uncertainty it is significantly important that the Council focuses on its core functions and operates as efficiently and effectively as possible. Therefore, we recommend reviewing expenditure for the 2020-21 to bolster economic resilience in the face of the current challenge. This would see a focus towards maintaining essential services such as core infrastructure upgrades to water services and roads during the lockdown.
- 5.2 While we recommend rates minimisation, it is also critical for our economy that key infrastructure projects continue to progress. We also want to emphasise the importance of continuing with existing contracted capital projects and Council's procurement pipeline. It is particularly important to maintain the workforce that will be needed long after COVID-19 has left the headlines. Therefore, we recommend the Council balance the requirement to exercise fiscal responsibility with the need to continue to invest in key infrastructure projects as well as existing contracted capital projects to ensure continuity of work post lockdown.
- 5.3 We support the Council's investment in water infrastructure as this is critical and cannot be deferred. Often councils will look to defer investment in water infrastructure during an economic downturn however, it is important that Wellington invests in water infrastructure. Currently most of the funding received by Wellington Water is reactionary, focusing on repairing and upgrading the pipes with little focus on improved capacity. The Council needs to consider whether amalgamating Wellington's water services further by transferring their water assets along with other Council's in the region into a CCO like Watercare. This will help to better utilise the balance sheet, improve capacity and spread the costs of upgrades regionally over generations through debt financing.
- 5.4 We also commend the Council on much of its investment into roading as this provides businesses and employees with the necessary roading network in any economic recovery. However, the Council should consider deferring part of the \$8.8m for cycling improvements as this often does not get fully spent.
- 5.5 We are encouraged by the Council's \$3.2m savings target and plans to further review Council costs to ensure all savings have been identified. We recommend further reprioritisation of some operational expenditure to ensure affordability, particularly in a light of COVID-19.

## **6. Conclusion**

- 6.1 At this time of uncertainty, the Council must balance the requirement of exercising fiscal responsibility with the need to continue to invest in key infrastructure projects. We hope that the Council is willing to adapt and adjust to help soften the economic impact of COVID-19 on many of its ratepayers.
- 6.2 Given the current environment of unprecedented uncertainty and in light of the economic forecasting data, we recommend:
  - further reducing rates increases;
  - abolishing the business rates differentials;



- taking on more debt; and
  - focusing on core services.
- 6.3 The combination of these actions are necessary to assist all ratepayers during the economic impact of COVID-19, as they have a big role to play in lifting our country out of recession during these uncertain times. These actions will also enable the Council to better accommodate growth and provide much needed infrastructure in the future.
- 6.4 Property Council wishes to thank the Council for the opportunity to submit on the Annual Plan consultation document. We would like to speak in support of our submission at an oral hearing.
- 6.5 Any further queries do not hesitate to contact James Kennelly, Head of Advocacy, email: [james@propertynz.co.nz](mailto:james@propertynz.co.nz) or cell: 021 779 312.

Yours sincerely,

*Paul Robinson*

Paul Robinson  
Wellington Branch President  
Property Council New Zealand

## Alicia Hall, Millions of Mothers

Submission No: 134

**Q1. Please let us know if you would you like to speak to your submission at an oral hearing?**

Yes

**Q2. How strongly do you agree or disagree with the overall approach to this Annual Plan?**

Definitely agree

**Q3. Why did you indicate the level of support above?**

We support investing in good things now because this has the ripple on effect of investing in our future.

**Q4. How strongly to you support or oppose this option of an average rates rise of 5.1%?**

Definitely agree

**Q5. Why did you indicate the level of support above?**

We fully support this option - the short term pain means long term gain for Wellingtonians. We all know that 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 for climate justice. To enable that work to go ahead without leading to even higher rates in future years, we think it's worth supporting the Council's preferred option, which is a 5.1% rates increase.

**Q6. How strongly to you support this option of an average rates rise of 2.3%?**

Definitely disagree

**Q7. Why did you indicate the level of support above?**

There are no long term benefits from a smaller increase now - short term gain means long term pain.

**Q8. How much do you support these new initiatives?**

Definitely support

**Q9. Why did you indicate the level of support above?**

Millions of Mothers strongly support Tipu Toa. A resource recovery centre will help stop so much waste going to landfill, it is crucial for people's health that they live in warm, dry houses, and we want safer footpaths for our families and elderly whanau. We also believe much more is needed. We want steps to improve representation of mana whenua and tangata whenua in Wellington's decision-making processes, and we want to see Council make urgent steps to implement 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.

**Q10. 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

**Q11. Why did you indicate the level of support above?**

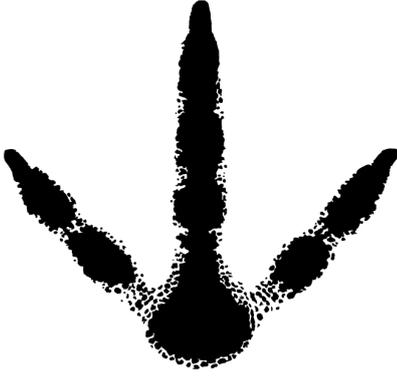
We support holding the majority of fees and charges at current levels for 2020/2021, but also support increasing Southern Landfill fees to reduce waste going to landfill. One of the things a circular economy depends on is recovering resources from waste streams instead of throwing everything away.

**Q12. Is there anything else we should know before making decisions?**

If we look after our children, elderly, disabled and most vulnerable then by proxy everyone is taken care of. We would also like to see WCC become good te tiriti partners which means including mana whenua in all decision making as equal partners.

**Q13. How do you or have you previously interacted with Wellington City Council? (select all that apply)**

- I enjoy using Council maintained walking/biking tracks I have previously submitted on a Council consultation I use Council recreation centres
- I use the city's cycleways
- I use Council recycling bags
- I play sport on Council fields or courts I use Council rubbish bags
- I use Council swimming pools I use Council libraries
- I have attended a Council event such as A Very Welly Christmas or Pasifika Festival



## **Capital Kiwi + WCC + Kiwis for Kiwi – dog management primer**

This document is a primer submitted as feedback to WCC's 2020-2021 Annual Plan to inform a conversation around how WCC can support Capital Kiwi's mission to return kiwi to Wellington – specifically with regard to managing dogs, with a focus on WCC reserve land in the Outer Green Belt.

Capital Kiwi is a landscape scale community conservation project aiming to create and sustain a population of wild kiwi in the hill country west of Wellington.

Foundational funding is from Predator Free 2050 Ltd, Wellington Community Trust and philanthropic support. Partnerships have been forged with iwi, landowners, Predator Free Wellington, Wellington City Council, Greater Wellington, DOC, Kiwis for Kiwi, and Meridian.

The pivotal action to enable kiwi is the removal of the threat of stoats (who kill kiwi chicks), this is the focus of Capital Kiwi's 4,400 traps. The trap density is based on a model that has eradicated stoats from Fiordland islands; deployed for the first time at scale on the mainland. Capital Kiwi is a Charitable Trust. The project area is 24,000ha, from Porirua southwards to Red Rocks. An 11,000ha core area (the southwest corner) comprises Terawhiti Station, Kinnoull Station, Makara Farm, Meridian West Wind, and Wellington City Council Outer Green Belt (OGB) land including Te Kopahou and Makara Peak. On its borders are Island Bay, Brooklyn, Karori and the western suburbs.



As of June 2020 97% of the network is deployed. All stoat monitoring targets have been achieved to date using DOC best practice surveys.

## **Capital Kiwi and dogs**

An adult kiwi is feisty and can fight off stoats and possums. The main animal threats to adult kiwi are ferrets (not present in the Wellington region) and uncontrolled dogs. In the vast bulk of the core project area dogs are either excluded, or the only dogs present are working dogs (who will be put through aversion training). In Makara and Ohariu there is a population of c.800 people spread over 15,000ha.

While there is work to be done to ensure it, we consider the risk of roaming dogs in the core area to be manageable; we have a trail camera monitoring regime in place which is validating this assumption.

After three summers of sustained stoat control we will be looking at reintroducing kiwi in the southwest (2021). Ultimately the goal is to have kiwi living alongside people in areas of the city's Outer Green Belt (OGB), with residents from Karori to Mt Kaukau going to sleep at night hearing kiwi. We expect to reach this point in 2-3 years. For more details see [www.capitalkiwi.co.nz](http://www.capitalkiwi.co.nz).

While the bulk of the Capital Kiwi project area is private land where key risks are mitigated and base kiwi populations will be established, the higher profile areas where people and kiwi will intersect will be public reserves. There are some areas where kiwi will be in conflict with existing behaviours of some people.



Capital Kiwi is seeking to establish a strategic context, and partnership, for achieving behaviours that will enable kiwi, people, and their pets, to live alongside each other.

## **Kiwis and kiwi**

We have inspiring references where intersections between people, pets and kiwi are being successfully managed: from Whakatane/Ohope (the largest population of people and kiwi living together); Oban on Rakiura-Stewart Island; and over the harbour in Remutaka Forest Park, where a population has grown to 150 birds, and residents of Sunny Grove in Wainuiomata hear kiwi at night.

The promise of those projects is that, where key threats are managed and the community is on-board as guardians (kaitiaki), Kiwis and kiwi can live together.

## **Doggo conservation**

Dogs are required to be on a leash in the OGB except in designated dog exercise areas. However people frequently let their dogs loose on the OGB. We believe that the existing by-laws are sufficient in principle, but that for Capital Kiwi ambitions to be realised, behaviour shifts will be required.

Capital Kiwi's dog management plan consists of aversion training, a communications campaign and community and corporate liaison.



## **1. Aversion training**

### **Purpose:**

- a) Generate hands-on engagement between dog owners and the presence of kiwi.
- b) Promote awareness to shift the culture in the project area (e.g. dogs on leads in the OGB) to enable kiwi to safely share those spaces.

**Scope/target audience:** Free/subsidised aversion training for significant landowners with working dogs, and for pet owners. Our aim is to have every dog in the core SW area aversion trained, and for a majority of dogs in the western Town Belt to be aversion trained.

**Approach:** utilise existing aversion training best practice, and improve where needed to adapt to Wellington context. (We will glean from current best practice, guided by Kiwis for Kiwi (successful case studies from projects in Northland, Stewart Island and Whākatake) and from closer to home: from the Remutaka Kiwi Trust's dog management experience across the harbour in the hills behind Wainuiomata.

Aversion training will target strategic locations e.g. dog parks in suburbs abutting the OGB (Karori, Wilton, Johnsonville, Polhill, Makara Peak). It will include at least one inner-city session per year to promote general awareness and increase community peer pressure (e.g. we will partner with our mates Garage Project brewery who sponsor popular doggo days in the city).



**Timing:** sessions will be scheduled to build up to the expected presence of kiwi in an area, (although publicity around first releases in the remote southwest may mean we proactively run earlier events in more populous areas).

**Costing:** based on targeting 700 dogs per year.

- Assumption of \$25 per dog = \$17,500 per year, plus \$2,500 for material cost.
- Total over three years for aversion training = \$52,500, plus \$17,500 for misc costs (e.g. materials such as electric kiwi, transport).

## **2. Campaign**

**Purpose:** a multi-pronged campaign that will spur kiwi-friendly dog ownership, reinforce aversion training, promote wider awareness of responsible pet ownership (e.g. containing cats), and foster community ownership of the desired outcomes.

**Scope/target audience:** all dog owners and their families in Wellington, with specific media targeting key demographics (e.g. rural/urban, working dogs/pets). Media will range from online (Wellington Live, community hubs, Wellingtonnz.com) to targeted offline campaigns. E.g. we have a working relationship with the Dominion Post who have adopted Capital Kiwi as an advocacy project. We're working with WCC to hone their annual dog registration info packs (sent to all of the 10,000 registered dog owners).

**Approach:** the campaign will target a range of motivations. It will involve positive community-led leadership, and will communicate the benefits of controlled dogs for owners, dogs, and other OGB users, as well as for vulnerable native wildlife. Capital



Kiwi will be positioned as the carrot rather than the stick. (90% of our project area is private land and we will not win by ordering those owners to obey, not do we have the mandate to tell people what to do with their dogs on private property.) We will replicate the inclusive 'Take the Lead' kaupapa used in Polhill Reserve to successfully achieve shifts in dogs on leads.

Capital Kiwi's team includes community building expertise e.g. Project Lead Paul Ward drove the award-winning community building for Polhill Protectors; trustee Paul Ford (head of comms at Contact Energy, ex-TradeMe) is founder of popular NZ cricket fan club The Beige Brigade and the Alternative Cricket Commentary.

We need to ensure that WCC dog by-laws reflect these goals and are effectively communicated. For a small minority of dog owners, compliance will mean increased by-law enforcement. This will require more resources being put into Animal Control patrols in the OGB than are currently allocated.

The campaign will include the development of a 'community response plan' in partnership with WCC and Kiwis for Kiwi e.g. for when a roaming dog is seen in a kiwi zone or a dead kiwi is found. The plan will include positive actions that dog owners and community members can take; it and may be distributed online, by flier, or kanohi kit e konihi in person at community hall meetings etc.

**Timing:** wider campaign planning to begin as soon as possible (early 2021), and to ramp up strategically as kiwi are translocated and/or moving in to areas. With regard to Animal Control, kiwis meeting Kiwis in the OGB is not likely to occur until 2022 at



the earliest, but increased patrols (as with other campaign aspects) may be necessary to deploy strategically 'before the fact' in order to establish behaviour expectations. This would be likely from 2021-2022 onwards.

**Costing:** campaign costs include design, signage, production, photography/videography, social media management, flyers, advertising, mail-drops, schools kit. Animal Control costs to be determined, but would involve increased intensity of patrols in the OGB.

### **3. Liaison**

**Purpose:** successful kiwi projects have established dog community liaison roles and such a role has been recommended for Capital Kiwi. The purpose is to establish a dedicated Capital Kiwi presence in dog owning groups, relevant schools and communities of the project area, to advocate for the necessary behaviours, and to ensure that we're situated effectively as a friend of the dogs.

**Scope/target audience:** Capital Kiwi has strong connections in the dog-owning community, and the liaison role will build on those: regularly communicating and being available to dog owners, animal control, rangers, dog walking and pet care businesses, local vets, SPCA, Zealandia Ecosanctuary, and popular dog walking areas like Makara Peak Mountain Bike Park.

**Approach:** a kaupapa of *kanohi ki te kanohi* / face to face engagement will underpin this role. We love dogs, many of our team are dog owners, and we expect Wellingtonians to embrace minor behaviour change in return for living alongside kiwi.



As the key area we're looking to effect change in is the OGB reserves, we envisage a partnership with Wellington City Council.

**Timing:** on the ground from late 2020 and becoming known in the community..

**Costing:** based on \$350 daily rate, x200 per year. The liaison role could be a shared role. Kiwis for Kiwi have mooted supporting such a role.

#### **4. Organisational cohesion / tautoko**

**Purpose:** Ensure that the Capital Kiwi mission, and the dog management goals to help achieve it, are supported at a high level across relevant organisations.

**Scope/target audience:** Mayor, Councillors, senior WCC managers, Kiwis for Kiwi.

**Approach:** Capital Kiwi and WCC to regularly liaise. Ensure that CK is represented in WCC annual and long term planning, urban planning (e.g around new subdivisions and reserves) and that all relevant divisions of council (environment, public health, parks and recreation) are up to speed with the project and supportive. Ensure that this is reflected in agreements with contracted external organisations (e.g. animal control). Ditto re Kiwis for Kiwi and any other relevant organisations (vets, dog training facilities, SPCA etc).

**Timing:** from now – ongoing.

**Costing:** to be covered by Capital Kiwi/WCC operational budget.



## Capital Kiwi – dog management budget

	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	Total
Aversion Training	\$25,000	\$25,000	\$20,000	\$70,000
Liaison role/s	\$100,000 (incl vehicle)	\$70,000	\$70,000	\$240,000
Comms	\$10,000	\$10,000	\$10,000	\$30,000
Animal Control	NA	?	?	?
<b>Total funding required</b>				<b>\$340,000</b>
Contributions (Kiwis for Kiwi)	-\$60,000*	-\$60,000	-\$60,000	-\$180,000
<b>Total</b>				<b>\$160,000</b>

- This budget is indicative only (as of June 2020). We expect that Wellington City Council will commit resource to achieve these shared goals.
- \*TBC. We expect resource will be contributed by Kiwis for Kiwi. \$15,000 has been committed to date, with ongoing support pledged and a commitment to specifically support CK's dog management programme. (Kiwis for Kiwi CEO Michelle Impey is happy to speak to this commitment.)
- We have been working with WCC to ensure kiwi and associated dog management needs are enmeshed in long term planning: Capital Kiwi is prominently included in the Outer Green Belt Management Plan. It will be a spur to change that will significantly benefit biodiversity outcomes for the city.



## **Bringing kiwi to the people: a capital opportunity**

When successful, Wellington will by far be the largest population that kiwi live alongside. If we are collectively to meet recovery goals for our national icon and taonga, we need bold projects like Capital Kiwi to succeed, “to increase New Zealanders’ connections with kiwi and the ecosystems they inhabit, thereby increasing their willingness to become kaitiaki of our kiwi and the wider environment.” Kiwi projects in Northland have struggled with achieving behavioural shifts to lessen the impact of dogs on kiwi. Capital Kiwi is a high profile opportunity to make a step change in how we engage dog owners.

Wellington is uniquely primed; Capital Kiwi is jointly funded by PF2050 Ltd alongside Predator Free Wellington (PFW are working on eradicating stoats, rats and possums from Miramar Peninsula). Surveys show 92% of citizens support predator free, and residents have embraced the returning tūī, kākā, kereru, kārearea, and even breeding tīeke (cheers Zealandia and council possum control). Every suburb has a backyard and reserve trapping community. Cats are required to be micro-chipped.

There is unanimous support from politicians (national and local).

A social license has been earned to bring back the birds. Kiwi would be the ultimate reward for all that predator free mahi. The dog ownership context is relatively friendly. There are 10,000 registered dogs in Wellington, but the ownership rate is



low (12% of households compared to 30% nationally). There is next-to-no pig hunting culture, and few dogs are unsupervised (Animal Control call-outs are comparatively low). The demographic is largely middle class, and dogs are overwhelmingly pets rather than hunting dogs.

The project area has been designed so that core kiwi areas are initially in the remote, sparsely-populated southwest (likely 2021). But the suburban zones where kiwi will eventually intersect with people represent arguably one of the project's biggest opportunities. We need to create the framework and strategic plan to achieve this from now onwards, working with the dog-owning community, WCC and Kiwis for Kiwi to do so. Kiwi recovery goals require more than business as usual. The potential of Capital Kiwi is to be transformative of our relationship to our national icon. While there will no doubt be challenges that come with behaviour change, Capital Kiwi represents an unprecedented opportunity to shift the national conversation about how people, pets and our manu taonga live with each other.

Capital Kiwi is seeking support from, and partnership with, Wellington City Council to deliver 'best in show' dog management systems for how Kiwis and kiwi can get along. Ngā mihi – to kōrero, go kiwi!

Paul Ward

Founder, Project Lead

[paul@capitalkiwi.co.nz](mailto:paul@capitalkiwi.co.nz)

+64 (0)21 118 4329

**Angela Rothwell, Mount Victoria Residents' Association**

Submission No: 262

Submission to be tabled at oral hearings

# **Annual Plan 2020-21 Submission**

## **To Wellington City Council**

*June 2020*

We would like to appear in person to support our submission

*Contact person:*

**Ella Flavell, Chair**  
Wellington City Youth Council

c/o Wellington City Council  
PO Box 2199, Wellington 6140

**Wellington City Youth Council**  
Te Rūnanga Taiohi o te Kaunihera o Pōneke

## **Introduction**

1. The Wellington City Youth Council (Youth Council) welcomes the opportunity to submit on Wellington City Council's 2020/21 Draft Annual Plan.

## **Youth Council supports Option A**

2. The COVID-19 pandemic and economic downturn presents Wellington City Council (WCC) with no good options. But Youth Council views Option A, with a 5.1% rates rise, as the best option to ensure that Wellington both has the money to invest in our future, and also ensure we don't leave future Wellingtonians saddled with higher debt.
3. Obviously, the 2020/21 Draft Annual Plan is different from other Annual Plans produced before. With this difference in mind, in this submission Youth Council has outlined our reasoning for supporting Option A, and clearly outlined the priorities areas that we see as critical for Wellington's present and future success.
4. These priority areas are:
  - i. Investing in the city
  - ii. Enabling communities
  - iii. Being smart and sustainable with our money.

## **Investing in the city**

5. We support Council's focus on continuing to invest in Wellington, particularly around housing, water assets, transport, and the environment.
6. The quality and robustness of Wellington's water systems have been questioned more and more in the last year, and Youth Council urges Council to maintain a strong focus on Wellington's ability to safely deliver drinking

water and remove waste and storm water. Large-scale spills into Wellington Harbour, or anywhere else in the City, are both environmentally and reputationally damaging, and this area should continue to receive close attention.

7. Providing adequate infrastructure connections is also important to allowing Wellington to build more homes, and alongside direct work by Council to increase housing supply, continued infrastructure investment will enable better housing outcomes for Wellingtonians over time.
8. Enabling Wellingtonians to move about the City as quickly and conveniently as possible remains a core focus for young people. It is equally important that this focus on transport accessibility also best meets our aspirations for Wellington's shift to a carbon neutral future and our actions to combat climate change.
9. Other large investments like in Wellington's civic and cultural buildings (e.g. St James Theatre, and the Central Library) will be important moving forward to ensure that Wellington has spaces for the community to congregate around.
10. A fast, and reliable, solution for the Central Library will become even more important as the need for community connection increases, with the Central Library and Te Ngākau Civic Square being a core space for a range of community activities.
11. In general, we urge Council to consider what additional community-based investments can be considered moving forward to boost community resilience and build towards Wellington's goals around housing, water and the environment, and transport.
12. All of these areas remain important regardless of the short-term implications of COVID-19. We support Council's balancing act between investing in the future and responding to the pandemic and its impact on finances.

## **Enabling communities**

13. Much of the focus regarding the impact of COVID-19 on Wellington has been on employers and the economic recovery. Youth Council supports this work, and believes it is important to Wellington's future.
14. However, we feel that more attention is needed on supporting the communities that businesses service. The economic effects of COVID-19 have so far hit young people the hardest, in that it is the industries in which we are predominantly employed – hospitality and retail – that have had to reduce their operations the most.
15. To that end, a significant proportion of young people have lost their jobs, jobs that were precarious to begin with, and are at the back of the queue for new ones.
16. This economic chaos, combined with the stress and disconnection of lockdown, has created and will continue to create an expanded need for community for young people.
17. This community is in all senses of the word: community centres and spaces for young people to congregate and find social connection, community organisations to strengthen young people and their hauora, community resources and events to connect young Wellingtonians with their city, and most importantly, community funding to support young people in difficult situations as a consequence of the virus, the lockdown, and the economic chaos.
18. As the main traditional funder of community centres, community organisations, community resources, community events, and community grants, it is Council that needs to take the lead on supporting Wellington's diverse communities.
19. We ask that Council works to partner with young people earnestly and thoroughly when deciding on its priorities and how it will do things. In this

regard, Youth Council will continue to collaborate with officers to best influence community action and resilience.

20. With young people facing higher unemployment, volunteering provides an opportunity for young people to maintain their work-ready skills and retain a strong community connection through tough times. Youth Council urges Council to support additional opportunities for young people in Wellington.
21. The upgrading of our community facilities will play a crucial part in Wellington's ability to recover and support locals. As a city, we need to ensure that our people have somewhere safe and comfortable to congregate and connect with each other.
22. The development work that has already begun on the Newtown community facilities is promising and encouraging. However, we need to ensure that the plans for developing the Aro Valley and Strathmore centres are prioritised and not put on hold due to other competing focuses at Council.
23. Investing in these centres shows a commitment to supporting people from the ground up, and can make changes to the everyday lives of Wellingtonians, beyond higher level planning.
24. Particularly for young people in our city, the focus on developing these centres to be accessible and inviting shows a commitment to our youth, as these are often spaces that they highly engage in. Improved usability of these spaces will allow more opportunities for our young people to come together to learn and engage with our city, and demonstrates the impact that the work of Council can have on the ground level.
25. Furthermore, upgrades to the Alex Moore Park Sport and Community Hub need to continue to be a focus. Whilst these investments may have been delayed due to COVID-19, any efforts that could reduce this delay and allow the centre to be functioning sooner than expected need to be prioritised. With the changing environment for young people due to Covid-19, investment in sport and other pro-social activities is going to be crucial in fostering community engagement and personal development for our youth.

## **Being smart and sustainable with our money**

26. Wellington's finances, like the rest of New Zealand's, are looking dire. Lower non-rate income is putting a squeeze on the amount of money available, forcing Council to borrow to fund the shortfall between revenue and expenses.
27. Youth Council supports Council's move to fund the difference to ensure Wellington operating again without losing many of the services that locals use daily.
28. We are keen to see Council focus on how to best manage this debt in the 2021-31 Long Term Plan to ensure that young people in Wellington are not left burdened with unmanageable levels of debt.
29. Holding fees at current levels also makes sense, to ensure that the costs to Wellingtonians remains as low as possible, at time when budgets will be tight for many.
30. The limited increases to fees for marina and waste fees broadly make sense. Marina users are paying for the very specific service they receive, and waste management charges are designed to limit any uptick in waste volumes and for cost recovery. More work is likely needed to improve Wellington's ability to reduce waste volumes.
31. Youth Council views a constant rates rise as better than an artificially low rates rise in 2020/21, followed by larger rates rises when Wellington residents and businesses are starting to recover in future years.
32. A higher rates rise in future years could harm Wellington's recovery, and by proceeding with option A, Wellington has the funds to invest in our future.
33. Rates rises and debt are needed to keep Council services at the same level. Lower rates rises mean more debt to be paid by future Wellingtonians, or would require Council to drop service levels, either cutting services or reducing hours on some services it provides.

## **Wellington City Youth Council**

Te Rūnanga Taiohi o te Kaunihera o Pōneke

34. There is a balance to be struck between the amount Council charges in rates and the service level it provides. Youth Council would prefer to see a larger rates increase if that is what is necessary to retain the essential services Council provides.
35. Youth Council urges Council to keep a clear focus on delivering the core essentials in Wellington, which aren't working properly. Additional investment in water assets is critical, as is good planning for transport spending, to ensure Wellington remains a vibrant, productive, city, and one that protects, rather than contaminates, its surrounding environment.
36. Tipu Toa: Build Back Better is a good first pitch for Wellington's recovery, and Youth Council urges Council to ensure this fund is spent smartly to get businesses operating and people back into employment.
37. A clear focus on reopening Wellington, attracting investment and visitors, and generally signalling that Wellington is back to business is important.

### **Conclusion**

38. Wellington, and Council, face some tough decisions to allow Wellington to keep moving during a significant economic disruption. Youth Council supported Council's preferred Annual Plan option to ensure that our City has the funds to get us through these tough times, and can invest in our future.
39. By investing in Wellington, supporting our community, and staying smart with our money, Wellington has the ability to emerge from this downturn in the best shape possible to keep Wellington the coolest little capital.

## Jaenine Parkinson, New Zealand Portrait Gallery Te Pūkenga Whakaata

Submission No: 158

### Q1. Please let us know if you would you like to speak to your submission at an oral hearing?

Yes

### Q2. How strongly do you agree or disagree with the overall approach to this Annual Plan?

Somewhat agree

### Q3. Why did you indicate the level of support above?

We agree that the approach to the Annual Plan should provide support for the arts and culture sector in the Wellington region, which contributes to Wellington's quality of life and encourages visitors to our city with the resulting economic stimulus. The New Zealand Portrait Gallery will contribute to the cultural recovery and wellbeing of Wellington by offering a free, accessible, centrally located attraction that provides approachable exhibitions (including online) and supporting activities for different groups. We will also continue to provide opportunities and employment for professional and emerging gallery staff, artists, interns and volunteers, who have all been eager to return to the Gallery since we reopened on 18 May. Along with most of the city's arts organisations, the New Zealand Portrait Gallery has lost income and now faces the uncertainty of the continuing impact of the Covid-19 crisis on our finances.

Our existing structural funding deficit of approximately \$100,000 per annum, is likely to be exacerbated over the next two to three years with the forecast decline in funding from our current supporters, and that could make our continued survival very challenging. We do not have the balance sheet to continue in this way. We are encouraged by the Council's continued support of the Gallery through our contract funding grant. At this time when future funding is uncertain, the Council's committed support is vital to us.

We note however that, even on this the 30th anniversary of the Gallery's founding, the level of support the Council provides is modest, covering only 4% of our operating costs. Many other organisations with much shorter legacies, smaller visitation and memberships attract two, three or four times the level of WCC financial support. We note that the Tipu Toa funding criteria has a focus on project-type initiatives. However, for the arts and culture sector to survive post Covid-19, increased support with operational funding will be essential. This is especially true for us as we currently receive no on-going central government core funding.

### Q4. How strongly to you support or oppose this option of an average rates rise of 5.1%?

Definitely agree

### Q5. Why did you indicate the level of support above?

The existing level of service needs to continue (and hopefully increase if the Annual Plan aim of finding efficiencies and savings is successful). A decrease in service levels would compromise the city's ability to continue to recover economically and culturally. We support the new Tipu Toa initiative and investment in the arts through the City Recovery Fund, as it will ensure Wellington and the sector is more resilient to future challenges.

### Q6. How strongly to you support this option of an average rates rise of 2.3%?

Definitely disagree

**Q7. Why did you indicate the level of support above?**

not answered

**Q8. How much do you support these new Tipu Toa initiatives?**

Definitely support

**Q9. Why did you indicate the level of support above?**

The loss of international visitation will impact all of Wellington heavily, including the Gallery for whom a third of visitors are from overseas. Another third of our visitors are from outside the Wellington region. We already encourage and support a focus on domestic tourism and see the proposed Tipu Toa: Build Back Better recovery package as an opportunity to maximise the potential for growing national engagement.

The New Zealand Portrait Gallery is well placed to connect with locals and visitors with engaging stories that reflect on the uniqueness and diversity of the people of Aotearoa. Wellington and its reputation as the cultural capital of New Zealand, benefits greatly from the presence of national arts organisations such as ours. We look forward to playing our part in promoting visitation to Wellington to aid Wellington's cultural and economic recovery and would welcome leadership from and opportunities to work with Wellington.nz on such initiatives.

**Q10. 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	Somewhat support

**Q11. Why did you indicate the level of support above?**

not answered

**Q12. Is there anything else we should know before making decisions?**

We also support continued Strategy and Policy work in 2020/21 on the Arts and Culture Strategy and hope that a timeline and draft can be presented shortly to the Arts Wellington organisation we belong to.

**Q13. How do you or have you previously interacted with Wellington City Council? (select all that apply)**

- I use Council libraries
- I have previously submitted on a Council consultation
- I use Council recycling bags
- I have called the Council call centre before
- I play sport on Council fields or courts
- I use Council rubbish bags
- I enjoy using Council maintained walking/biking tracks

**Q14. How did you hear about this consultation?**

Social media



5 June 2020

Tēnā koutou Wellington City Council,

**SUBMISSION TO 2020 ANNUAL PLAN**

1. Arts Wellington is a not-for-profit membership organisation and charitable trust that represents over 50 national, regional and independent arts organisations including museums, venues, performing and visual arts, Māori and Pasifika contemporary and heritage arts, creative education institutions and individual artists.
2. Like many of Wellington's citizens and businesses, Arts Wellington members are experiencing huge challenges due to Covid-19. Many are experiencing unemployment, at risk of closure or grappling with a significant reduction in revenue in the short and medium terms as the economic downturn impacts sponsorship and box office revenue potential.
3. As the Annual Plan outlines, arts and culture are central to Wellington's identity as the Culture Capital, making it a place where people want to live, work and play. The arts and culture sector generates significant social, cultural, business and economic impacts and creates positive impacts for the hospitality, retail and tourism sectors.
4. Arts Wellington acknowledges the unprecedented challenges facing the Council at this time. We are encouraged to see that no investment cuts have been identified to arts and culture in the Annual Plan as the sector is at severe risk for the next eighteen months.
5. We raise concern that the Council investment does not go far enough to meet significant challenges facing the Wellington arts and culture sector over this period. Arts Wellington looks to Council for its leadership to support sector bids to central government by committing foundational investment or other commitments of support.
6. Arts Wellington supports the focus on creativity of the City Recovery Fund but notes that this investment is repurposed from other funds that focused predominantly on arts, culture and events. Arts Wellington submits that it is essential that expenditure decisions and allocation of the City Recovery Fund remain directed at the arts, culture and events sector during this time of significant need.
7. Governance: For Wellington to develop as the Culture Capital, artists and culture leaders should be considered for task forces, working groups and consultation on Council-wide projects, such as transport, environment and infrastructure and urban development, as well as arts and culture programmes. This will bring creative thinking, innovation, diversity and vibrancy to Council projects, and promote Wellington as the Culture Capital in a demonstrably tangible way. Such an approach also demonstrates that the skill of artists and culture-leaders is valued and prioritised in the City's planning for the future.
8. We support the necessary earthquake strengthening work for Council-owned arts and culture

venues including the Town Hall and St James Theatre, and support the inclusion of Wellington Museum as a 'shovel-ready' project.

9. Regarding the proposed Exhibition Centre and the public exhibition gallery space, we urge the Council to consider commissioning and/or investing in homegrown creative content to complement other exhibitions. This would not only generate employment, but it would create Wellington-based Intellectual Property that will generate future commercial returns.
10. Arts Wellington endorses WCC's support of its arts and cultural CCOs by providing additional investment support during the Covid-19 crisis. These entities are an important part of the city's cultural infrastructure and have been impacted severely by Covid-19. Arts Wellington submits that a significant and recurring issue for its members is the availability, accessibility and flexibility of the Venues Wellington operational model – an issue further compounded by the liquidity and revenue generating challenges for facility hirers as a consequence of Covid-19. Some Arts Wellington members are priced out of Civic performance venues due to hire rates and extra costs like technical equipment hire, and it has been well documented by touring New Zealand companies and promoters that Wellington has some of the most expensive venues in the country. Arts Wellington proposes that new operating and financing models should be explored by Council and WellingtonNZ to improve access to Civic venues for local arts companies, develop high quality work made in Wellington driving creative employment, and ensure Wellingtonians receive high quality arts experiences from elsewhere.
11. Consideration also needs to be given to adapting facilities to ensure they are fit for purpose in a post-Covid environment. Digital technology will play an increasingly important role in the customer/visitor experience. New approaches to ticketing and design/ operation of public facilities will be demanded by the public, who are looking for a curated well-managed and safe visitor experience that they can trust.
12. Arts Wellington is encouraged to see that the development of an Arts and Culture Strategy is planned for 2020/21, but notes that this has been a policy development area since the formation of the Long Term Plan and is now long overdue (the policy was last renewed in 2011). Arts Wellington recommends that some of the good work completed on Aho Tini is reviewed, revived and adapted. We offer that Arts Wellington is commissioned by City Council to convene the development of a community and sector-led Arts and Culture Strategy in partnership with mana whenua, WCC (whole-Council), WellingtonNZ, the professional and community arts sectors.

Many thanks for considering our submission and we would welcome the opportunity to make a submission in person.

Nāku noa nā,

Arts Wellington Board:

Meg Williams

Courtney Johnston

Claire Mabey

Garry Nicholas

Lester McGrath

## Sam Donald, Vogelmorn Community Group

Submission No: 265



### Submission on: WCC Annual Plan 2020-2021

From: Vogelmorn Community Group

(VCG) 8 June 2020

Dear Wellington City Council,

Thank you for the opportunity to provide feedback on the 2020/21 Annual Plan. We are keen to see community engagement continue in the most open and transparent way possible during Covid-19 restrictions and would welcome any opportunities to be involved and to encourage our wider community of interest to be involved too.

Feedback is grouped around a) crisis b) engagement c) city commitments and d) rates rises.

#### **a) Reflection on Crisis**

Covid-19 has been a challenging time for our community as we have in the past been connected through physical activities and events. Our attempts to offer support during Alert Level 4 lockdown, through a community phone tree and other more direct support to our local residents, were challenging in part due to WCC and WREMO 'top down' processes.

Our key request is that we would like to see more **devolvement and partnership** with communities in times of crisis. We would welcome the opportunity to discuss with Councillors and Council Officers how this might work better in the future.

#### **b) Community engagement**

The consultation over the proposed temporary cycleways has caused great upset in our Brooklyn community and we feel that better engagement over the intent of these projects and the processes around working collaboratively with communities could avoid topics like this becoming so divisive. Anticipation of this division given the history of Island Bay would have been really useful.

We support best practice community engagement, collaboration and co-design and would love to be involved in a constructive process that sees WCC working with the community on projects located in our neighbourhood. Our community has positive experience of how these ways of *working can lead to positive outcomes for the project and for all stakeholders and to have wonderful community outcomes in ways unimaginable at the outset.*

We believe the potential erosion of democracy with such a short turn around and little planned engagement can disrupt the goodwill of the community - a shame on what is ostensibly a human centred project. We can advise on improved engagement practices.

Community engagement is an area that we have put a lot of energy and resources into, some of it off our own bat and some of it in partnership with WCC and other organisations. We would love to do more of this and to see more open democracy and civic engagement across the whole city.

We have been very impressed with the Aotearoa Town Hall online events hosted by Cr Tamatha Paul and GWRC Councillor Thomas Nash and would love to see this kind of citizen engagement brought to the fore. We see the potential for local community spaces (such as the Vogelhorn Bowling Club and the Vogelhorn Hall) being used as physical spaces for similar themed discussions which could be a hybrid of live and online. We are trying this out on Monday 8th June by live screening the Aotearoa Town Hall session on Transport and Urban Design and intend to rescreen some of the previous sessions also.

**c) Facilities for ongoing civic korero**

At a time of crisis and reflection such as 2020 has brought us, it's opportune to consider the spaces Wellington's central city has for open, free and inclusive public activity and civic engagement.

Non-commercial 'third spaces' for communities to come together. With the Central Library and Town Hall out of action for a number of years we have no places for exchange and public discussion in the city centre. We believe that the proposed convention centre currently proposed for opposite Te Papa could be repurposed either permanently or temporarily as a venue for the public to come together and be engaged in civic conversation, to act as a town hall and a venue for the people of Wellington to come together and hear each other, engage with each other, make decisions with each other. The ground floor could be a permanent display playing host to all current WCC areas of engagement, with breakout rooms where residents associations and / or citizen advocacy groups could display material and hold meetings on topics currently up for discussion. The Council might relocate some of its functions from The Terrace to the upper levels or to nearby buildings while still maintaining some space for the occasional convention event.

**d) Rates increases**

We are pleased to see a reduction in the previously forecast rates increase down to 5.1% from the originally proposed 9.2% and support your 'Rates Option A' preferred option that minimises the rates increases in future years. We do encourage you to continue with investment in our city's infrastructure and support cultural and physical wellbeing rather than taking a path of cost cutting and austerity which would be at great detriment to the short, medium and long term health of the city and its residents. We would also encourage you to make all decisions with the declaration of climate and ecological emergency front and centre and to not let short term Covid-19 events detract you from medium and long term goals.

We would love the opportunity to speak to our submission, whether this will be in person, or over Zoom or similar, as social distancing restrictions dictate.

Yours sincerely,

Trustees (David Bagnall, Phil Clatworthy, Natalie Crane, Sam Donald, Ruth Fischer-Smith, Sophie Jerram, Thomas Lahood, Jeremy Macey)

Vogelhorn Community Group

[vogelmornbc@gmail.com](mailto:vogelmornbc@gmail.com)

## SYMPOSIUM - HOLDING THE SPACE : COMMUNITIES AND SPATIAL AUTHORITY POST CRISIS

Curated by Sophie Jerram

1 JULY 2020

1 - 3:30PM

VIRTUAL ATRIUM

<https://vuw.zoom.us/j/268880745>

### SPEAKERS:

**Jade Kake**, (Ngāpuhi, Te Whakatōhea, Te Arawa) - Power and visibility post-COVID - crisis capitalism vs hapū rangatiranga

**Sophie Jerram** (Te Herenga Waka, VUW/ University of Copenhagen) - Stuck in the transitional zone: reflections from Ōtautahi

**Heidi Svenningsen Kajita** (University of Copenhagen) - Architectural Care : Caring Democracy

**Hannah Hopewell** (Te Herenga Waka, VUW) - Spatial imaginaries and the general ecologisation of the commons

**Anna Brown** (Massey University of Wellington) - Fighting for space - a small town participatory planning case study

**Fiona Hillary** (RMIT, Melbourne) - Speculative Cites

**Tamatha Paul** (Ngāti Awa, Waikato Tainui ;Wellington City Councillor) -The Big Push for Liveable Cities



IMAGE: Phil Dadson Bicycle Choir; Transitional Economic Zone of Aotearoa (TEZA), New Brighton, Ōtautahi/ Christchurch 2013 Credit: Gabrielle McKone

This half-day symposium focuses on the transition from the point of crisis (where temporary demonstrations of care for space and community abound in Aotearoa), toward formalising or recognising the responsibility being demonstrated by these communities. There is often vocal celebration of care work at the time of crisis and revitalisation; however the authority attributed to communities following the recovery does not match the responsibility that the community takes on. As a Pākeha curator I realise many Māori colleagues and activists know too well the pain of this gap between responsibility and authority. This is one opportunity to imagine the future together beyond this current 'state of exception.'

We do not know how long the financial crisis will last, what else is being planned as we 'lockdown' nor what form the balance of power is likely to be in the long term but we might begin to imagine structures, formal and informal modes of decision-making and clearer routes to "partner state" politics - whereby the state is an ally of community and solidarity movements rather than the controlling authority of our spaces.

## Rhona Carson, Newtown Residents' Association

Submission No: 121 – emailed submission



## Submission on the Wellington City Council Draft Annual Plan, 2020/21

### Introduction

The Newtown Residents' Association has been an Incorporated Society since July 1963. We are residents and business owners from Newtown and the surrounding area, who take a keen interest in the community and local issues. We are concerned with maintaining and improving our area's liveability, connectedness and sustainability and working to make our community a thriving, diverse, great place to live.

### Submission

#### Overall approach to the plan

**We agree with the overall approach to the plan.** This is a pragmatic approach to providing support for recovery while being committed to continuing with essential services and plans for infrastructure improvements.

#### Rates increases

**We approve of the proposal to increase rates by 5.1%.** Although rates increases of any size have a detrimental impact on some households, the need to deal with water issues and also to repair important, earthquake prone buildings makes this a challenging time financially, and if rates weren't increased now it would increase the funding problems in the future.

**We approve of the proposal to defer rates payments without penalty** where this is necessary to ameliorate financial hardship caused by covid-19. We also recommend publicising the Rates Rebate available to low income households.

#### Tipu Toa – Build Back Better

##### We approve of these initiatives.

We are particularly excited about the potential for a **resource recovery centre** and for **green stormwater infrastructure**, and look forward to these initiatives being included in the 2021/31 Long Term Plan.

We are also pleased to hear about the **City Recovery Fund**. We have heard some discussion about this fund being used for innovative projects. This is attractive, but we are concerned that existing initiatives will need help to recover. Vibrant arts, events and festivals in our city are essential to the essence of Wellington. They are also the source of work and income for a whole range of artists,

technicians, and providers of infrastructure such as stages and lighting, who have been hard hit by the cancellation of so many events this year.

We have a particular interest in this because of our long association with Newtown Festival. As the country recovers from covid-19 it begins to seem that it will be possible to hold the Festival in March 2021, but if so there will be significant difficulties ahead. The majority of the usual funders and sponsors have had a dramatic decrease in income and are very unlikely to be able to provide the level of support the Festival

has had in previous years. The City Recovery Fund could be a truly essential life-line to ensure the Newtown Festival can continue.

### **Support for improving Three Waters infrastructure**

The Newtown Residents' Association has been advocating for this for many years. It was in our submission for the 2018/28 Long Term Plan, and we hope that it will get high priority in the 2021/31 LTP. We agree with the extra support for Wellington Water proposed in this Annual Plan.

**Water storage and network improvements** - We continue to support the speedy development of the Prince of Wales Reservoir.

**Waste water network improvements** - We strongly support the urgent upgrade of the waste water network.

**Stormwater networks** - We are concerned about the management of stormwater across the city. There are times in our area when the existing infrastructure is clearly insufficient and the streets are flooded. This is exacerbated by the rain running off hard, impervious surfaces. We strongly support water sensitive urban design, and hope this will be required in future plans.

### **The City Library**

We are relieved that after a long wait there are now some options available for the restoration of the City Library. We look forward to being involved in the consultation about this in the near future.

**Thank you for the opportunity to make this submission. We would like the opportunity to speak to Councillors about it in the appropriate forum.**

**Rhona Carson**

**President, Newtown Residents' Association June 8<sup>th</sup>**

**2020**

## Graeme Carroll

Submission No: 266 – emailed submission

### Submission to the Wellington City Council Draft Annual Plan 2020-21

8 June 2020

Graeme Carroll  
42 Mills Road  
Brooklyn  
Wellington 6021

Ph: 04 934 0051 & 021 435 401

Email: [Graeme.Carroll@globalreachassociates.com](mailto:Graeme.Carroll@globalreachassociates.com)

1. During this period of Covid-19 Recovery urge that Rates either be held or there be only minimal increases with a trade off of using the Council's ability to leverage use of historically low interest rates to borrow additional funds as required for this period.
2. Build Back Better – support these initiatives in particular for the Resource Recovery Centre and Green Stormwater Infrastructure as well as improved earthquake and drought period resilience for the city water supplies and water storage infrastructure. Want to see greater attention given to encouraging green building design and construction including use of resilient timber built buildings and low damage to earthquake design approaches such as greater use of base isolation approaches.
3. Support for the City Recovery Fund initiative.
4. Wish to see significantly more focus, action and associated resourcing for initiatives to improve the city's Earthquake Resilience, while also acknowledging and expressing support for the range of initiatives already undertaken and getting underway. These to include:
  - 4.1 The implementation of the recommendations from the November 2019 Wellington Mayor's Insurance Task Force Report, including securing Government/EQC support for the recommended increase to the EQC level for residential insurance claims and support for rapidly lifting the use of seismic health monitoring of buildings instrumentation systems.
  - 4.2 This should include a fast track approach to establishing support for the wide spread rapid implementation of the installation and use of seismic health monitoring of buildings instrumentation systems in Council multilevel properties including for the Council's housing multilevel properties estate as well as working with the Government and private sector for use across the commercial property market. There are now modern low cost systems available to do this.

A leading example is the Wellington developed and based Global Seismic Data seismic health monitoring system. Today's DomPost "Levin quakes trigger sensors" news story of Wellington property developer Ian Cassels positive experience of using these highlights the practical use of these. Also attached is a copy of Dom Post article on this from 6 June 2019.

This technology enables rapid assessment of buildings after an earthquake, with major public safety, economic and social benefits.

Noting that to maximise gaining these benefits the focus needs to be on building multilevel installed systems rather than ground level based reference systems. Wellington has the opportunity to demonstrate international leadership through enabling widespread installations and use.

- 4.3 A ramping up of the WREMO initiative of supplying and getting installed for residential housing many more households to install Water Storage 200 litre Emergency Rainwater Tanks. It is recommended that this include greater collaboration with local Resident Associations and other community networks, such as the Newtown Residents Association. In essence initiatives that will make it easier for more people to get these and get them installed on their properties. There are other associated new designs that have been suggested and could be more made more readily available too.
- 4.4 A Housing Foundations Resilience initiative is needed – building on earlier research undertaken a few years ago by WCC with EQC funding support and with input from BRANZ, as well as also initiatives by the VUW School of Architecture. This earlier work identified that a major risk for Wellington in a moderate to strong earthquake is a high proportion of older houses in particular failures with in most cases low cost basic strengthening being able to prevent this. It is recommended that a Task Group initiative be formed to fast track establishing a resilience programme in conjunction with EQC funding support to undertake assessments and provide a user friendly implementation service to undertake the strengthening work needed. This could be done in a similar manner to the house insulation programmes that are run in conjunction with the Sustainability Trust and others including Government co-funding.
- 4.5 A Non-Structural Components Programme for multilevel buildings initiative be developed to help fast track improving the ceiling and associated elements of multilevel buildings. This needs to be a collaborative initiative with industry partners that makes use of the specialist expertise available. The Kaikoura Earthquake highlighted this issue in a number of buildings.
- 4.6 Closer and more wide spread engagement with the private sector and others specialist expertise that is within the Wellington community to assist the fast tracking of such initiatives. There is a lot of expertise and good will to make Wellington a more resilient city for the long term. This includes amongst the Members and Associates of the Wellington based Natural Hazards Inc Business Cluster ([www.naturalhazards.co.nz](http://www.naturalhazards.co.nz)) that was originally established with WCC support.

Thanks!

**Attachments included with email follow**

## Attachment 1:

<https://www.stuff.co.nz/business/113276789/prominent-wellington-developer-ian-cassels-adopts-new-seismic-monitoring-system-for-his-buildings>

Stuff 6 June 2019

# Prominent Wellington developer Ian Cassels adopts a new seismic monitoring system for his buildings

Marta Steeman 16:43, Jun 06 2019\_



ROSS GIBLIN/STUFF

Wellington property investor Ian Cassels is one of the first to adopt a new seismic monitoring system analysing how his buildings perform in an earthquake.

Prominent Wellington property investor Ian Cassels is one of the first to adopt a new seismic monitoring system analysing how his buildings have performed in an earthquake.

The home-grown technology, Structural Health Monitoring System, was recently launched by Global Seismic Data, a Wellington company with seven local shareholders.

It could be installed also in key infrastructure, priority evacuation and lifeline routes, the company said.

It would give building owners, tenants and engineers information within a few minutes of an earthquake stopping to enable them to decide if a building should be evacuated or could be re-entered.

The system comprised a network of seismic sensors to provide data on how infrastructure stands up in an earthquake. Information from the sensors was translated into reports on how each building performed.

Cassels company, The Wellington Company, is one of the first commercial customers and is having the system installed in his portfolio of buildings in Wellington.

Cassels said it was part of the company's plan to have stronger, safer and more resilient buildings.

"This system provides us with invaluable information about how our building portfolio performs in an earthquake."

It would provide real-time information to manage a building after an earthquake and to decide if a building needed to be evacuated or was safe to re-enter.

"Secondly, we will have specific detailed information to enable us to confidently target our seismic upgrade investment to create safer and more resilient buildings for our tenants and the Wellington community."

One shareholder Mark Futter, a former chief executive of the Hutt Valley Chamber of Commerce, said the seismic sensor system had been in research and development for about four years and in the past year had been tested in a host of buildings in the region.



SUPPLIED

An installed sensor, part of local company Global Seismic Data's "Structural Health Monitoring System" launched commercially on April 1 2019.

It launched commercially on April 1. The system was "incredibly affordable" and tax deductible, Futter said.

Global Seismic Data was working with four to five other large portfolio owners in Wellington.

"We are also engaged with the insurance industry who are incredibly interested in what we've got, not only here but for offshore. The offshore potential for this is phenomenal, absolutely huge," Futter said.

Global Seismic Data's supply chain director and shareholder Steve McLauchlan said the system would save lives.

"SHMS can instantly provide earthquake response information in cities, for first responders, engineers, building owners, insurers and the public.

It was working with building owners and leading engineering and insurance companies around the world and as a result the system was being installed in several countries.



MAARTEN HOLL

Mark Futter, a shareholder in Global Seismic Data and a former Hutt Valley Chamber of Commerce chief executive, said the seismic monitoring system had been in research and development for about four years.

Futter said the shareholders were a mix of business people and technology developers. "It basically addresses market failure. There isn't too much like this on the market."

Their system had analytics which others did not have. Others might eventually catch up with them though.

"At this point in time we think we can do stuff a little bit quicker with a greater degree of accuracy than other people."

"Sensing technology is nothing new, what we are doing with it is," Futter said.

The sensor system also had wider uses like detecting building degradation over time.

"If a building behaves or a structure or any form of infrastructure behaves in a manner that is outside its design parameters it will trigger an alert."

The number of sensors in a building depended on its size. Recently the company had installed five sensors in an 11-storey building, with the owner's engineer determining where they were placed.



SUPPLIED

Ian Cassels' said the new seismic monitoring system would enable the company to have stronger, safer and more resilient buildings. The Wellington Company has applied to turn Avalon Tower - part of the former Television New Zealand (TVNZ) studios in Lower Hutt - into apartments.

"If we had an earthquake now, within about 15 seconds of that earthquake stopping we send out alerts to tenants, owners, the engineers for the building and let them know the building has had either low intensity shaking, medium or high. Based on that they can make an occupancy decision. Within a few minutes of that quake stopping that data's available."

If the seismic monitoring system was installed in many buildings then a city-wide report could be produced. It would enable rapid triaging and emergency response in an earthquake.

The company had installed systems in the United States and had an international partner working with them under an agency agreement to make inroads into other countries. It was engaged with the Mexican Government and was looking at projects with them over the next four months.

Updated all day at **stuff**

Dom Post 8/6/2020

# Levin quakes trigger sensors



## Seismology

**Piers Fuller**

piers.fuller@stuff.co.nz

Wellington should take advantage of its status as an earthquake “laboratory”, a property owner says.

Fifteen buildings in the city are fitted with new sensors, and the Wellington City Council is in commercial talks to fit about 100 more throughout the capital.

The recent Levin earthquakes were the first big test for the sensors.

Wellington property developer Ian Cassels has installed quake sensors in four of his buildings and said more needed to be done to paint an accurate picture of how the city behaved during quakes.

Cassels was happy to share his findings to create a better picture of what was happening.

“I know the buildings had reacted differently from what the engineers had expected.

“Some of them have moved more than they thought and some of them have moved less than they thought.”

He said by harvesting data from real events, they could see how their buildings performed “actually, rather than theoretically”.

“It’s enormously valuable and we should be doing it throughout the city because we are an earthquake laboratory in Wellington.”

Cassels said engineers sometimes limited themselves by “designing by code”.

“They model it on their computers and continue to assess buildings on the basis of theoretical motions ... but an actual earthquake is a different thing.

“The actual performance is something they were woefully unaware of.”

Structural engineer Scott Miller, of Silvester Clark, said real life was always a better test of how a building would cope with an earthquake rather than running computer models.

In the Levin earthquake, one of Cassels’ buildings registered it at about 10 per cent of the building’s structural capacity.

“We didn’t expect the accelerations that we got in the top of one of his buildings, and the other buildings ... didn’t react much at all.

“The more information that we can put together and showing positive steps in our understanding our environment, the better.”

There are 724 buildings registered as earthquake-prone in the Wellington region, many in the capital’s central business district.

## Attachment 3:

Extracts from March 2020 Natural Hazards Newsletter (page 1, 5, 6 and 10)



### Natural Hazards Inc. Continuing to Create a More Resilient Tomorrow.

Natural Hazards Inc. Business Cluster is a New Zealand based partnership of industry leaders delivering innovative solutions for earthquake and other natural hazards risk management internationally. [www.naturalhazards.co.nz](http://www.naturalhazards.co.nz).

Currently Covid-19 is the major global issue, now recognized as a world pandemic, causing major effects for communities all around the world including for business, travel, education, and just about every area of our lives. Along with a range of recent natural hazard events occurring in various parts of the world, such as the recent devastating bushfires in Australia, flooding in Jakarta, eruptions of the Taal volcano in the Philippines and Whakaari White Island in New Zealand, along with recent earthquakes in Puerto Rico and Turkey.

Natural Hazards Inc. helps to promote and facilitate the application of New Zealand based innovation and specialist expertise that can be applied offshore to provide benefits for the safety and well being of people in many parts of the world. Though it is not a natural hazard, we also now have the global Coronavirus that has affected many, becoming a world pandemic. Many of our members and associates are involved in one way or another including with emergency measures and planning for recovery as the devastating effects are widely felt with the spread of Covid-19.

### Recovery Support for Central Sulawesi Project

Parts of Central Sulawesi province in Indonesia were impacted by a magnitude M7.5 earthquake and tsunamis on the 28 September 2018. The earthquake resulted in 4400 deaths and approximately USD\$910 M of damage. Nearly 70,000 houses, along with hundreds of government and commercial buildings, were damaged by the earthquake shaking, tsunamis and liquefaction-induced, low angle earthflows, that buried whole communities.

### March 2020

The provincial capital of Palu City, of approximately 350,000 inhabitants, suffered the most significant human and economic losses. The large loss of life makes this earthquake the deadliest natural disaster worldwide in 2018, and the deadliest earthquake to affect Indonesia since the 2006 Yogyakarta earthquake.

GNS Science and UGM have been working in Palu City since 2010 and specifically the [StIRRRD](#) programme worked in Palu City and Donggala and Morowali districts in Central Sulawesi between 2014 and 2019. Hence, when the M7.5 earthquake struck on 28 September 2018, the StIRRRD team (GNS Science and UGM) in collaboration with New Zealand consultants approached MFAT New Zealand for funding to provide assistance, utilising existing relationships and also the earthquake engineering expertise and experience of UGM and New Zealand. As a result, MFAT New Zealand has funded the Recovery Support for Central Sulawesi project implemented by GNS Science, in collaboration with the Universitas Gadjah Mada (UGM), Beca, Miyamoto and University of Tadulako (UNTAD) and others.



Members of the team assessing a damaged building at Tadulako University. From left: Alejandro Amaris (Miyamoto) Fatmawati Amir (Tadulako University), Prof Iman Satyarno (UGM), Matt Fox, Tony Pettigrew (Beca) Ketut Selandura (Tadulako University) and Andrew Baird (Beca). Rebecca Sanders (Miyamoto) is taking the photo.



An Australian contractor, Hall Contracting Pty Ltd was engaged in early 2018 to carry out the upgrade work and completed the last of the four upgrades in November 2019. Calibre has just completed a final visit to the atolls to review the completed construction works and to engage with the Taupulega in a “lessons-learned” exercise to inform future development projects.

Of note is that this NZ aid-funded project is the largest contract ever carried out in Tokelau and the improvements have already shown benefits for the local communities in terms of ease of operation, safer passenger and cargo transfer and has also provided an improved community facility for swimming and fishing when not used for transport.



*New Zealand's Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern opens the new facility on 31 July, 2019*

For more information regarding Tokelau, please go to the project page, <http://www.calibregroup.com/projects/project/tokelau-wharfs-and-reef-channels>, or contact:

Peter Ollivier, Head of Advisory, Calibre Group  
 Email: [Peter.Ollivier@calibregroup.com](mailto:Peter.Ollivier@calibregroup.com)  
 Phone: +64 4 894 7860

## Global Seismic Data - Preserving Lives - Impacting Economies

Global Seismic Data (GSD) is a global full-service Structural Health Monitoring software as a service company.

“We are disrupting the status quo, integrating innovation, technology and structural engineering into a single professional solution with our industry partners,” says the team at GSD.

Earthquakes are recognised as a workplace hazard which could jeopardize your safety causing significant and social upheaval instantly. With our systems and by working together we can save lives and lessen the impact on the economy.

GSD delivers Structural Health Monitoring of building movement and behaviour while collecting data that allows informed decisions to be made in real-time. This system, service and solution promotes:

- human safety · building structural health · reductions in business interruption · prevents unnecessary evacuations;
- engineers use data for rapid post event assessment of buildings · coordination of emergency response;
- reduction of costly downtime and distress.

The priority is to ensure a business receives the vital data required to determine their building status and improve decision makings affecting life safety outcomes before an event.

Structural Health Monitoring System (SHMS) provides continuous monitoring of a building or infrastructure frequency, ambient noise, movement and behaviour essentially giving the building a measurable pulse, with Seismic Data Sensors tuned to a building via-engineers.

Sensors measure any changes in its orientation and capacity to ensure everyone's safety. Data from Structural Health Monitoring is a building's ECG, providing quantified information which allows multiple stakeholders to improve their role in making people and buildings safer.

"The continuous real-time monitoring of your building or infrastructure allows you to identify and respond to defects before they have a serious impact on your operation or finances."

An early adopter has been prominent Wellington property investor Ian Cassels who has been rolling out the installation of the Global Seismic Data system across the portfolio of his The Wellington Company commercial sector buildings. This is being done with Global Seismic Data industry partner consulting engineers Silvester Clark.

"Our Structural Health Monitoring System a leading solution in today's Prop Tech sector globally it's fast, reliable, and with a range of capabilities that positions Global Seismic Data ahead of others in the marketplace," says the GSD team.



Graphic design from Global Seismic Data, the Structural Health Monitoring System (SHMS) allows for continuous monitoring of building health.

For more information, please contact:

Steven McLauchlan, Global Supply Chain Director, Global Seismic Data [www.gsdhq.io](http://www.gsdhq.io)  
& Director, Survive It [www.surviveit.co.nz](http://www.surviveit.co.nz)  
Email: [steven.mclauchlan@gsdhq.io](mailto:steven.mclauchlan@gsdhq.io)  
Phone: +64 27 876 4960

Mark Futter, Managing Director, Global Seismic Data  
Email: [mark.futter@gsdhq.io](mailto:mark.futter@gsdhq.io)  
Phone: +64 21 442 447

## Seismic Risks in ASEAN?

What are the seismic risks in ASEAN?

As a structural engineer from New Zealand, earthquakes have been at the centre of both my education and time working as a consulting engineer. New Zealand is often referred to as the Shaky Isles due to the regularity of earthquakes. As I write this, a M5.1 earthquake occurred on New Zealand's east coast.

In Southeast Asia, while earthquakes are rare, the consequences can be severe when they do occur. It is estimated that 37% of the total ASEAN population are exposed to the risk of an earthquake of Modified Mercalli Intensity (MMI) 7 and above. This is a measure of shaking that corresponds to slight to moderate damage in well-built structures and considerable damage in poorly built or badly designed structures. Compounding the impact, ASEAN countries have on average 146 people per sq km, eight times more than New Zealand, and this increases sharply in the capital cities. In Bangkok, the population density is 5,300 people per sq km and in Jakarta a whopping 14,500 people per sq km.

With a combination of high-density, high-risk and many high-rises, it is unsurprising that earthquakes and tsunamis rank as the number one natural disaster threat to ASEAN residents. The most effective way to reduce seismic risk is to design for it.

These design requirements mean the newest generation of skyscrapers being built in many other ASEAN cities. While the probability of a large earthquake occurring is low, the one thing we know for certain is that it's not a question of 'if' but 'when' it will occur.

Summary taken from Senior Structural Engineer, Andrew Baird's, recent article online at <https://www.beca.com/ignite-your-thinking/ignite-your-thinking/december-2019/seismic-risks-in-asean>

For more information, please contact:

Andrew Baird Email: [Andrew.Baird@beca.co.nz](mailto:Andrew.Baird@beca.co.nz)  
Richard Sharpe, Technical Director Earthquake Engineering  
Email: [Richard.Sharpe@beca.com](mailto:Richard.Sharpe@beca.com)

### Natural Hazards Inc. Members' Expertise

- Strategies for disaster risk reduction, readiness, response and recovery.
- Development of organisational frameworks for emergency management.
- Emergency management education.
- Community preparedness for natural disasters.
- Multi-hazard land use planning.
- Improvement of building controls, standards and codes.
- Seismic retrofit strengthening of buildings, including simple houses.
- Seismic isolation of important buildings such as hospitals, schools, emergency management centres, government buildings, apartment buildings and heritage buildings.
- Tsunami and flood risk assessment, modelling and mitigation strategies.
- Disaster risk insurance strategies and systems.

For More Information, please visit  
[www.naturalhazards.co.nz](http://www.naturalhazards.co.nz)

Instagram: [www.instagram.com/naturalhazardsnz](https://www.instagram.com/naturalhazardsnz)  
Facebook: [www.facebook.com/naturalhazardsnz](https://www.facebook.com/naturalhazardsnz)

### New Members Always Welcome!

If you are interested in joining Natural Hazards Inc. we have a range of membership options available. For more information including more about Natural Hazards Inc. please visit our website [www.naturalhazards.co.nz/join-us/](http://www.naturalhazards.co.nz/join-us/)

### Next Natural Hazards Inc Business Cluster Meeting:

**Thursday 21 May 4pm to 6pm**  
**Calibre**

Kordia House, Level 13  
109-125 Willis Street,  
Te Aro,  
Wellington 6011, NZ

NOTE With Covid-19, this is now expected to be an online meeting. Further details closer to the time.

### Natural Hazards Inc. Key Contacts Co-Chairs



David Johnston  
Joint Centre of Disaster Research,  
Massey/GNS Science  
Phone +64 27 452 4000  
Email [david.johnston@massy.ac.nz](mailto:david.johnston@massy.ac.nz)



Greg Szakats  
Senior Structural Engineer  
Miyamoto International  
Phone +64 27 589 1055  
Email [greg.szakatas@miyamoto.nz](mailto:greg.szakatas@miyamoto.nz)



### Facilitator

Graeme Carroll, Global Reach Associates Ltd  
Email [Graeme.Carroll@globalreachassociates.com](mailto:Graeme.Carroll@globalreachassociates.com)  
Phone +64 21 435 401, +64 4 470 5554

## Bev Abbott, Otari Wilton's Bush Trust

Submission No: 267



8 June 2020

### SUBMISSION ON WCC'S ANNUAL PLAN 2020/21

#### INTRODUCTION

1. Nestled within the 100 hectares of Otari-Wilton's Bush are five hectares of native plant collections, a simple visitor centre, a small nursery, and the Leonard Cockayne Centre which can be hired for meetings and workshops. Locals value 24/7 free access to Otari's native gardens and bush walks where dogs on leashes are welcome but mountain bikes are not allowed. Visitors from further afield, including many from overseas, are surprised they can't buy coffee and light refreshments. Families and ethnic communities are making increased use of the Troup Lawn for picnics and BBQs.
2. Wellington City Council is responsible for the governance and management of Otari. The Otari Wilton's Bush Trust is a public charitable trust; it's not part of a Council Controlled Organisation. The Trust was established in 2001 and will soon need to decide whether to celebrate its 20th birthday in 2021 or its 21st birthday in 2022. This keeps the focus on the Trust and the last 20 years, whereas the centennial of Otari in 2026 will have a much wider focus.
3. The Trust contributes to Otari in many different ways. Regular roles and contributions are listed on page 2. Highlights in the current triennium included:
  - donating \$25,000 towards the cost of the platform protecting the roots of the giant rimu
  - preparing and presenting a substantial submission on *WCC's Draft Outer Green Belt Management Plan*
  - enabling Karin van der Walt, Otari's conservation and science advisor, to accept an invitation to speak at the Cryo2019 conference in San Diego, California in July 2019. The invitation arose from the conservation and research work underway in the Lions Otari Native Plant Conservation Laboratory, especially in the fields of seed cryopreservation. Karin's informative report was in the Trust's newsletter.
  - assisting Megan Ireland, one of Otari's gardeners, to visit several of the subantarctic islands as part of a 'True Young Explorer Scholarship' (Heritage Expeditions) to see, and learn more about the challenges of conserving the islands' unique megaherbs. Megan subsequently shared her experiences at one of the Trust's March seminars.

#### LONG TERM PLAN INITIATIVES

4. In 2018, the Trust submitted on WCC's draft Long Term Plan 2018-28. In August 2018, we were pleased to learn that Council had agreed to re-schedule the upgrade of the Otari-Wilton's Bush visitor centre and its displays from 2021/22 to 2019/20. (The upgrade was first approved in 2009, but was deferred for 10 years in 2012). Following the Covid-19 lockdown, we anticipate that work on the

upgrade will continue into 2020/21. We are hoping the new interpretation will stimulate people's interest in native plants and help them understand how deeply embedded they are in our identity.

5. To bring forward funding for the visitor centre upgrade, the construction of a board walk on the Collections Walkway project was deferred to 2021/22.
6. Council also signalled that more scoping work would be required on the reconfiguration of the Otari Nursery prior to a future funding bid. We hope the revised scope will deliver more than a reconfigured nursery. An enhanced nursery with improved equipment, layout and technologies would enable Otari to facilitate and advance its growing leadership role in plant conservation, especially its work with partner organisations to re-establish populations of threatened plants in the wild.

## FINANCIAL SITUATION

7. Currently, the Trust is in a healthy financial position but future funding decisions will be more restrained and more strategic. Volunteers have earned most of the Trust's revenue in recent years by providing guided tours to busloads of tourists off cruise ships. We expect this source to reduce substantially given the role cruise ships played in spreading coronavirus. Other Trust revenue is usually generated through Otari's Open Day, (including a sausage sizzle and a cake stall), but this year's Open Day has been cancelled. Interest rates on our bank deposits continue to fall.

## LOOKING AHEAD

8. The Trust is not asking Council for new capital expenditure this year as we recognise Council's difficult financial situation. We will be content if the upgrade of Otari's visitor centre delivers a range of high quality educational opportunities by the end of 2020/21. (Note the extended time frame). We also hope the nursery scoping will recognise an expanding role for Otari in the conservation of NZ plants. Over 1250 species of vascular plants are threatened with, or at risk of extinction in NZ. Perhaps some of the glasshouse/nursery space at the WBG and Berhampore could be freed up to complement what is already being done at Otari. Wellington could become a centre of excellence for plant propagation and conservation in NZ.
9. The Trust will soon be initiating its own strategic planning. It would be helpful, as part of that process, to know more about Council's priorities and strategic directions for Otari over the next five years. There are projects and possibilities in the *Wellington Botanic Gardens Management Plan* (2014), in *Our Natural Capital* (2015), and in the *Outer Green Belt Management Plan*. There are also signs that the national and regional context for the conservation is changing; see for example, MfE's draft *National Policy Statement on Indigenous Biodiversity*, the *Wellington Conservation Management Strategy*, DOC's new biodiversity strategy (still in draft), and GWRC's new *Pest Management Strategy 2019-2039*. Perhaps as part of the 2020/21 Annual Plan, Council could produce a supplement to *Our Natural Capital* showing progress to date, projects abandoned, and a realistic work programme for the next five years.

## OTHER WAYS THE TRUST SUPPORTS OTARI

**Hosting in the Visitor Centre:** A roster of volunteers from the Trust provide visitor services at the Otari visitor centre at weekends. At other times, the visitor centre is not staffed. It also means staff don't have to work at weekends.

**Cruise ship tours:** International visitors from cruise ships probably learn more about Otari's special plants in their one-hour guided tour by Trust volunteers than many self-guided walkers learn in a lifetime of visits.

**Animal pest control:** Meticulous record-keeping shows our RAMBO<sup>1</sup> team has trapped 563 rats, 120 hedgehogs, 30 stoats, 32 weasels, 34 rabbits, and 8 unidentified carcasses in the 10 years from 2007-2017. (Greater Wellington manages the possums).

**Restoring Kaiwharawhara Stream:** Since 2001, volunteers have replaced vast quantities of weeds in Kaiwharawhara Stream and at the former landfill face with native plants.

**Learning opportunities for the public:** The Trust runs weekly seminars in March, monthly walks on Sunday afternoons, and guided walks on request for local groups and senior biology students. It helped organise Wellington's first Bioblitz in 2007.

**Weeding the gardens:** Experienced gardeners help staff maintain the planted gardens and propagate new plants in the nursery.

**Funding accession trips:** Funding accession trips to other parts of NZ enables staff to enrich Otari's collections by collecting seeds and cuttings.

**Advocacy:** The Trust submits on Council's statutory plans and non-statutory strategies with implications for Otari. We also advocate nationally and regionally for more investment in the conservation of New Zealand's indigenous plants and ecosystems.

Bev Abbott

for Phil Parnell, Chair of Otari-Wilton's Bush Trust

---

<sup>1</sup> RAMBO means Rats and Mustelids Blitzing Otari

# Susannah Lees-Jeffries, Royal New Zealand Ballet

Submission No: 178

**Q1. Please let us know if you would you like to speak to your submission at an oral hearing?**

Yes

**Q2. How strongly do you agree or disagree with the overall approach to this Annual Plan?**

Somewhat agree

**Q3. Why did you indicate the level of support above?**

Our support is specifically for the economic development and arts and culture initiatives outlined in the Plan. We have some additional thoughts which we have submitted via email, and we look forward to making an oral submission in due course.

**Q4. How strongly to you support or oppose this option of an average rates rise of 5.1%?**

Definitely agree

**Q5. Why did you indicate the level of support above?**

We support WCC's considered view and therefore support WCC's preferred option.

**Q6. How strongly to you support this option of an average rates rise of 2.3%?**

not answered

**Q7. Why did you indicate the level of support above?**

not answered

**Q8. How much do you support these new initiatives?**

Definitely support

**Q9. Why did you indicate the level of support above?**

not answered

**Q10. 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

**Q11. Why did you indicate the level of support above?**

not answered

**Q12. Is there anything else we should know before making decisions?**

We are pleased to have had the opportunity to make a more detailed submission particularly regarding the future of the St James Theatre and WCC's ongoing investment in arts and culture.

**Q13. How do you or have you previously interacted with Wellington City Council?  
(select all that apply)**

- I use Council libraries
- I have attended a Council event such as A Very Welly Christmas or Pasifika Festival
- I use Council rubbish bags
- I use Council swimming pools
- I have previously submitted on a Council consultation Other (please specify)

**Q14. How did you hear about this consultation?**

Email

**Additional information sent via email**

## Submission on Wellington City Council's 2020/21 Annual Plan, June 2020

Submitted by: Lester McGrath, Executive Director  
Susannah Lees-Jeffries, Director of Marketing and Development



*Hansel & Gretel*, premiered by the RNZB at the Opera House in November 2019

### The Royal New Zealand Ballet's interest in Wellington City Council's Annual Plan

1. The Royal New Zealand Ballet is a flagship cultural organisation based in Wellington. In addition to presenting high quality ballet performances nationally the company employs a staff of 76 people, including 38 dancers, and provides a comprehensive programme of education, community and access programmes. In 2019 the company presenting 78 performances nationally, playing to an audience of over 60,000 people, with a further 34,000 people participating in the Royal New Zealand Ballet's education, community and accessibility programmes.
2. The Royal New Zealand Ballet is the resident company at the St James Theatre, where it has been based since the theatre was reopened in 1997. In June 2019 the RNZB

relocated to temporary, purpose-built studio and costume facilities on Wakefield Street, as well as administrative offices on Willeston Street, to enable the seismic strengthening of the St James.

3. While the St James is closed the RNZB is performing its major repertoire at the Opera House, as well as presenting education and community-based events at venues such as Te Papa.
4. The Royal New Zealand Ballet is extremely grateful to Wellington City Council for its decision to build the temporary Dance Centre on Wakefield Street. Without the support of Wellington City Council the Royal New Zealand Ballet's operations in Wellington and indeed nationally would have been seriously compromised.
5. The Royal New Zealand Ballet is funded directly by the Ministry for Culture and Heritage and generates approximately 30% percent of its revenue from charitable trusts, donations and through sponsorship, and 30% through ticket sales. Wellington City Council is a major supporter of the Royal New Zealand Ballet and the company is extremely grateful for Council's support over a long period of time.
6. The Royal New Zealand Ballet recently received an increase in funding from the Ministry for Culture and Heritage as part of the substantial package of support offered to the arts sector in Budget 2020. This increased funding from central government will help the RNZB to maintain and increase its local and national performance, community and accessibility programmes at a time when income from ticket sales, grants and sponsorship is disrupted due to Covid-19.
7. As an anchor cultural institution in Wellington, and especially at a time of disruption for the city's vital creative industries, the Royal New Zealand Ballet is a key player in the city's creative eco-system. It welcomes the opportunity to make a submission to the Wellington Council's 2020/21 Annual Plan.

### **Submission**

8. The Royal New Zealand Ballet wholeheartedly endorses Wellington City Council's emphasis on supporting Arts and Culture in its annual and long term plans for the city. We regard investment in arts and culture to maintain the city's position internationally as a vibrant, capital as essential, in that arts and culture are a defining feature of Wellington and an important contributor to making the city a desirable place to live, work and visit.
9. The Royal New Zealand Ballet acknowledges the unprecedented challenges facing the Council at this time. We are encouraged to see that no investment cuts have been identified to arts and culture in the Annual Plan as the broader sector is at severe risk for the next eighteen months.

### **Strengthening Cultural Facilities**

10. The Royal New Zealand Ballet strongly agrees that investment in facilities for cultural and other events supports this sector as 'a strong economic, cultural and social opportunity for Wellington.'
11. The Royal New Zealand Ballet is therefore entirely supportive of Wellington City Council's plans to invest in the future of the St James, both in the vital seismic strengthening of the theatre complex, and the commitment to upgrade the theatre's facilities and systems.

### **The future of the St James Theatre**

12. As stated in the Royal New Zealand Ballet's submission on the 2019/20 Annual Plan, as the St James's resident company and a frequent user of the theatre over many years, the RNZB welcomes the opportunity to work with Wellington City Council on future plans for audience and performer facilities.
13. The St James is Wellington's only international-standard lyric theatre. It is an important venue for both local and international performers and the theatre's presence as a lively arts venue on Courtenay Place, has a vital role in making the downtown area a vibrant and welcoming destination for people of all ages and at all hours of the day and night.
14. It is important to note that Wellington has changed considerably since the St James Theatre was re-opened in 1997. Demographics have changed, as has Courtenay Place itself.
15. Technology is now an integral part of everyday life and the expectations for customer service and delivery of high quality food and beverage experiences cannot compare to twenty-five years ago, when the facilities for the 'new' St James were designed.
16. It is also important to recognise that the performing arts sector has changed considerably over this time. There are now a plethora of independent arts organisations, many of them operating successfully on a year-round basis but which are struggling to find suitable accommodation and production (set and costume construction) facilities.
17. The Royal New Zealand Ballet recommends that Wellington City Council leverage its investment in the seismic strengthening and upgrade work at the St James by encouraging Council officers to collaborate with key institutions that have a stake in the future of the St James to scope out a fresh vision for the St James Theatre. This will strengthen Wellington's arts and culture sector and deliver to future user, audience and community needs.
18. Such an appraisal would also determine whether there are synergies between performing arts and other organisations which can be harnessed and what resources

might be required from public and private sources to deliver such a vision.

19. At the most basic level the Royal New Zealand Ballet would be glad to explore ways in which the company can have a greater year-round presence in the theatre complex, including a digital presence in the foyers and working closely with Venues Wellington to develop a more customer-focused in-house ticketing operation.
20. The Royal New Zealand Ballet is concerned that other than some improvement to theatre systems and facilities in the auditorium, there is no marked or obvious improvements to patron facilities particularly in the foyers.

### **Studios and administration floors at the St James**

21. The studio, wardrobe and office facilities on levels 2 and 3 of the St James are largely unchanged since the RNZB's move to the theatre in the late-1990s. We note that there is limited upgrade work planned for the levels two and three of the St James Theatre where the Royal New Zealand Ballet operates from as resident company.
22. We are nevertheless pleased that discussions have recently commenced with Council officers to determine whether any of the Royal New Zealand Ballet's upgrade requests can be accommodated within the existing works programme, which extends to seismic strengthening, a new roof (to address the current leaks) and repairs to windows so that they open. We note that there have been discussions about HVAC and air-handling but we are unsure whether where this has landed in the current scope of works.
23. Many of the facilities and the spaces occupied by the company are in need of an upgrade, even if to keep in line with current working practices and requirements. In particular, the toilets on level 2 and 3 of the St James Theatre are inadequate for the number of people using them.

### **The Opera House**

24. We have now been unable to perform at the St James for more than two years, with the prospect of at least another year and a half presenting our Wellington performances at the Opera House. The Opera House's shortcomings for both audiences and performers are well-documented; we would add that performing there also restricts the repertoire that we are able to perform and has had an ongoing impact on income from ticket sales, due to both the smaller capacity of the theatre compared to the St James, and the inferior quality of the seats and sight lines.
25. The Opera House's front of house facilities for audience members, particularly to facilitate good hand hygiene and social distancing, are presently of grave concern as we prepare for performances in August.
26. Like the St James, the Opera House is a key component of Wellington's cultural infrastructure. It is also in need of an upgrade to meet the needs of to better serve the

performing arts sector, commercial hirers and the community organisations which make use of it.

### **Investment in the Arts**

27. The Royal New Zealand Ballet is fully supportive of Wellington City Council's commitment to continue its investment in professional and community arts and cultural projects via three-year funding contracts for established organisations and funding for one-off projects.
28. We welcome support being offered for high-quality new local theatre and dance works being offered via the Arts and Culture Fund.

### **Arts and Culture Strategy**

29. The Royal New Zealand Ballet welcomes the news that Wellington City Council will review its 2011 Arts and Culture Strategy. The company looks forward to participating in the consultation process or in whatever way Council deems appropriate.

## Anna Kivi, Kaicycle Inc

Submission No: 172

### Q1. Please let us know if you would you like to speak to your submission at an oral hearing?

Yes

### Q2. How strongly do you agree or disagree with the overall approach to this Annual Plan?

Somewhat agree

### Q3. Why did you indicate the level of support above?

We agree with many of the options given here. However we have not listed strongly because Kaicycle would like to see more emphasis on food security and climate resilience for our city. Furthermore, we agree with an approach that focuses on recovery for Wellington City and delivery but this needs to be designed to ensure we do not slow progress on tackling climate change and also take this opportunity for a sustainable transformation. New Zealand needs to cut greenhouse gases (GHG) by 50 percent by 2030. Our response to Covid-19 must not result in any delay on delivery of the Te Atakura / First to Zero plan. Investment decisions must be made that will create a low carbon, climate resilient and inclusive economy, and avoid carbon intensive development.

### Q4. How strongly to you support or oppose this option of an average rates rise of 5.1%?

Somewhat agree

### Q5. Why did you indicate the level of support above?

The Council appears to have taken a prudent approach to the rates rise, with all factors like future rate rises and loss of revenue considered. It's imperative the Council remains a key pillar in supporting our community to build back better. They must remain in a financially sustainable position to do this over the long term. We agree that a 5.1% rates rise strikes the right balance.

Kaicycle would like to see some of this rates rise funding going into empowering social enterprises, like Kaicycle, in the community to provide jobs, food security and sovereignty, climate change resilience, waterway restoration, and diversion of kitchen waste from landfill. Kaicycle sees the need to restore our native flora and fauna and waterways inextricably linked to improving our local food supply, through the nexus of healthy soil health.

What we are seeing in the central Government's response to Covid so far, is a focus to providing food bank handouts. We agree this has its place but it must be a balanced approach: Give a person a box of food, and you feed him for a week. Teach a community how to run an urban farm and you feed them for generations (you also give them sustainable jobs for generations)

### Q6. How strongly to you support this option of an average rates rise of 2.3%?

Definitely disagree

### Q7. Why did you indicate the level of support above?

This option would bring the Council into too much debt and disable it from adequately supporting the city.

### Q8. How much do you support these new Tipu Toa initiatives?

Definitely support

### **Q9. Why did you indicate the level of support above?**

Kaicycle fully supports WCC's plan to build a more environmentally robust and resilient city following the Covid-19 lockdown. We strongly encourage the city to take every opportunity to transform our city, it's social and economic enterprises to follow a circular economy model. - We encourage the Council to focus on building community capacity and capability to provide services and positive places to live and work. Working with mana whenua and upholding Te Tiriti must be key parts of this. Investment in infrastructure should position our communities to be able to better support and sustain future growth, and enable them to better respond and adapt to local challenges with help from Council rather than full reliance on Council. Examples include community-led resource recovery centres, organic waste diversion and composting schemes, local urban farms meeting local food needs. Strong communities and local economies bring resilience.

Only support an expanded weed management programme if it takes a holistic approach to biodiversity health, considering the health and diversity of the wider ecosystem beyond plants, including soil biology, insects, birds and waterways. This means avoiding the use of biocidal agents including herbicide sprays such as glyphosate, and instead implementing different planting and management strategies that avoid the need for using biocides. We encourage the Council to make public its proposed expanded weed management programme and assessment of impacts on the wider ecosystem, including any impact on local food production. E.g. the drift of biocidal sprays affecting food plants in urban farms and community and backyard gardens can have a detrimental health effect on those eating the food.

In progressing a green infrastructure stormwater demonstration project, Council would be wise to seriously investigate the potential of urban farms and rooftop farms/living roofs to capture excess water and mitigate flooding. Regenerative urban farming techniques improve soil health including by raising levels of soil organic matter. This healthier soil has vastly improved ability to hold onto and filter water, acting as a buffer to flooding or desiccation. Council should also look into how to complement these passive effects of urban farms with additional water sensitive design features, such as rain-gardens, dry wells and rainwater tanks that feed into urban farms, reducing their reliance on public water supply especially in times of water restriction.

This approach could potentially be expanded to greywater management.

*Statement from Adam Schellhammer, Senior Healthy Waters Specialist/Wai Ora Partnerships Team, Auckland Council* "The role of regenerative farming practices will play a critical role in shaping the future of the Auckland region. Regenerative agriculture utilizes techniques and processes that restore soil health, improve biodiversity, and increase a community's ability to remain resilient in the face of climate change. Healthy Waters supports the uptake and inclusion of regenerative agriculture as a means to create a climate ready future. Improved soil health and healthier native floral communities have a greater capacity to collect and attenuate stormwater as the region can expect to have less frequent, but more intense rain events. This means that communities will need to better prepare to capture and re-use these

vital freshwater resources, while safeguarding against the threat on damaging flood conditions. The techniques associated with this urban regenerative farm include measures that will inherently improve water quality and reduce stormwater peak flows where implemented. There is also a greater opportunity to partner with other governmental and community groups to integrate additional water sensitive design features into the urban farm complex. Rain gardens and dry wells along pedestrian walkways can collect and redistribute the water into the farm for later use, which will reduce the farms need to rely solely on public water to sustain growth and production. These integrated approaches to holistic landscape management will serve as a premier educational tool for how to better manage urban landscapes and provide a thriving and sustainable future.”

**Q10. How much do you support or oppose our changes to fees and charges this year?**

<b>I support or oppose not increasing the majority of fees and charges for 2020/21</b>	Somewhat oppose
<b>I support or oppose increasing Southern Landfill fees to help fund ‘polluter pays’ and waste reduction initiatives</b>	Definitely support

**Q11. Why did you indicate the level of support above?**

*To what extent do you agree or disagree with holding the majority of fees and charges at current levels for 2020/21? We strongly disagree with not increasing charges for landfilling organic waste - this type of waste to be subject to at least an equivalent increase in charges to other kinds of waste, e.g. general domestic waste. Increasing landfilling charges is needed to incentivise the diversion of organic waste e.g. through composting, and to increase the viability, popularity and diversity of composting solutions Food and green waste represent the largest percentage of material currently being landfilled. People in Wellington want solutions to avoid sending their organic waste to landfill. We are currently trialling Community Composting Hubs with Sustainability Trust with the support of WCC; recognising that there is unlikely to be a one size fits all solution for organic waste. The results of this will feed into any analysis from the kerbside organic kitchen waste diversion trail. We agree that this trial should be conducted as soon as possible so that the results can be considered in time for the LTP. To what extent do you agree or disagree with increasing Southern Landfill fees to help fund ‘polluter pays’ and waste reduction initiatives?*

Kaicycle strongly agree with increasing Southern Landfill fees - We support the Sustainability Trust’s stance: “We agree that landfill charges need to increase to support sustainable waste solutions, to minimise waste where possible, and to help incentivise waste minimisation behaviour among the community. - We agree that the fees for sludge disposal need to be increased to reflect the true cost of this disposal. The current situation, where the sludge is disposed of to landfill, requiring four tonnes of general waste to be landfilled for every one tonne of sludge, is not acceptable. It is not environmentally sustainable and is seriously hampering progress on waste minimisation in the city. Urgent progress is needed on the analysing and progressing options for a Sludge Minimisation Utilisation and Reclamation Facility.

We are very supportive of a proportion of the fee increases at landfill being put towards waste minimisation projects run by council, as well as increasing the waste minimisation grant to further support waste diversion initiatives for Wellington city. The commitment to investigate this was stated in the minutes of the Ordinary Council Meeting from the 30th of April. The current level of funding for waste minimisation initiatives, at \$100k, is insufficient in the context of the targets that need to be achieved over a short space of time, and considering the important role that businesses and social enterprises can play in helping the Council achieve their targets. Funding to support business to reduce waste and their carbon footprint, would have the dual benefit of making businesses more financially resilient in the face of Covid-19 and the expected landfill levy increases, as well as supporting the Council's carbon and waste goals. This type of support could link well with the support that has been provided by WellingtonNZ to support businesses during the Covid-19 crisis."

**Q12. Is there anything else we should know before making decisions?**

**Taiao me te Hanganga Environment and Infrastructure**

Kaicycle would like to see an initiative that takes a long term view to the health and regeneration of our soil and water. Such an initiative would ban the use of agrichemicals, such as glyphosphates, by Council and Council contractors. Chemicals like these affect soil biodiversity for generations to come. Three waters work programme Kaicycle encourages community initiatives, like regenerative urban agriculture that vastly improves stormwater issues to be encouraged and supported by The Council.

**Tipu Toa: Build back better**

We support the creation of this approach and encourage the Council to take a long term view on job creation that will serve our food security and climate resilience best. The Kaicycle vision for a centre of regenerative learning to be established in Wellington which will employ 20-30 FTEs and within 24 months seed another urban farm and compost hub - which we hope to see every kilometer around Wellington City by 2035. A self-sustaining social and community-led enterprise will greatly assist Wellington City to build back better and address food security and climate change resilience. Resource recovery centre Creation of community resource recovery and reuse hubs for businesses and householders will support behaviour change and realisation of economic opportunities.

To this end we agree that the transition to a Resource Recovery park at the Southern Landfill needs to be brought forward. We also advocate for the need for a central hub for resource recovery and reuse which is accessible by walking, cycling and public transport, this should be considered within the business case. Any additional location/s can dovetail with facilities at the Southern Landfill. Kaicycle supports the Sustainability Trust in their efforts to create such a central resource recovery hub.

**Waste diversion trial**

We agree with "Encourage waste minimisation and actively divert more than 15,000 tonnes waste of from the Southern Landfill" and support the WCC waste diversion trial Kaicycle would like to see The Council change the tender process for organic waste and allow organised community groups or social enterprises like Kaicycle to tender for this work. In the past we have seen Council support one contractor

to do all the work. We know the climate and resilience outcomes are worthy of this initiative. Kaicycle believes overtime we can offer a negative-carbon solution to organic kitchen waste diverted from landfill. We are currently trialling Community Composting Hubs with Sustainability Trust with the support of WCC; recognising that there is unlikely to be a one size fits all solution for organic waste. The results of this will feed into any analysis from the kerbside organic kitchen waste diversion trail. We agree that this trial should be conducted as soon as possible so that the results can be considered in time for the LTP

### **Southern Landfill extension**

We disagree with the southern landfill extension and the process followed to consult community. Kaicycle believed other alternatives should be sought to solve the waste problem. Including an increase in levy of organic waste going to landfill. We will cover this in more detail in the relevant question.

Kaicycle supports the **Coastal renewals and Zealandia** initiatives by council. We would much prefer to see the \$3.7 million Council is budgeting for a new snow leopard enclosure at Wellington Zoo to be spent on work that will deliver more tangible benefit to our communities and environment; we do not think this can be considered a priority for spending ratepayer dollars in the face of the COVID crisis and climate crisis.

### **Whanaketanga ōhanga Economic development**

Kaicycle would like to see The Council supporting local, sustainable economic development initiatives that are circular in nature. Covid-19 lockdown has highlighted the weakness of relying on Tourism for such a large section of our economy. To create a long- term sustainable future for Wellington we need to invest in economic development opportunities that will still serve our community not in 10 or 20 years but in 100 years. Food security is central to this. For the past 5 years, Kaicycle has been piloting this initiative and is shovel-ready to scale across the city: Kaicycle, in collaboration with The Urban Farmers Alliance has an economic development plan for our region, and for Aotearoa New Zealand, called Tipua Kia Puawai - Grow to Blossom. This is a national recovery farm package that will develop Centres of Regenerative Learning that build community resilience through job creation and food security, and regenerate ecosystems contributing to healthy water outcomes, carbon sequestration and climate change resilience. We encourage the Council to support community-led initiatives like this to better the economic outlook of our city, while keeping within its environmental bounds.

### **Oranga ahurea Cultural wellbeing**

We support the art and culture initiatives set out in the annual plan. Food is the heart of Wellington's culture, we would like to see food events with a local focus like Seeds to Feeds continue to be supported by The Council in the years to come.

### **Kaupapa pāpori me ngā mahi a rēhia Social and Recreation**

Kaicycle urban farm enables Wellington city to offer a more diverse social and recreation option to its residents. We agree with and wish to support The Council in delivering the following points outlined in your strategy: Ensure we are a welcoming and inclusive, tolerant and healthy city with a strong social

infrastructure supporting its residents the big four wellbeing outcomes Support activation of community spaces and places that improve local community resilience and connectedness

### **City Housing upgrades and rent-setting**

We support The Sustainability's stance on Home Energy Audits: "There has been a spike in rheumatic fever cases in the Wellington region during the pandemic underlining the need to improve housing standards for our resilience. Tackling energy hardship requires fast tracking recommendations in the Electricity Price Review by investing in programmes and direct support for households in energy hardship. A widening of the scope and scale of home energy efficiency programmes such as Warm Up Wellington and Home Energy Saver is needed. This is especially urgent as many households will experience reductions in income and lowering overall outgoings on energy will be of benefit. On the flip side, those with the means to invest in household upgrades, through advice provided in the Home Energy Saver programme will provide additional economic activity and job creation.

Over the past year WCC has supported Sustainability Trust to deliver the **WarmUp Wellington and Home Energy Saver** programmes. Te Atakura has targeted 50% of the 70,000 homes in Wellington to receive assistance from Home Energy Saver by 2029. We estimate that at June 2020 approximately 5,000 homes would have received an assessment over the past 10 years of programme delivery. We support the need for additional funding to reach the remaining 30,000 homes (c.3,500 homes /year)."

Kaicycle supports the **Sustainable Food Initiative**, development of a sustainable food policy and sustainable food council. Such an initiative is imperative to the food security of our region. Kaicycle is grateful for the support WCC has given to develop the Hospital Rd site. We support the need for additional funding to set up a centre of regenerative learning, the Te Papa of urban farms and compost hubs in Wellington where our community can learn to regenerate soil, improve our ecosystems and waterways, grow food, use organic waste to grow food and feed our communities for decades if not centuries to come. After 24 months of full operation it will seed fund the next urban farm. The model is different to a community garden which is sustained only by the quality and time of volunteers. The Kaicycle, Urban Farm Alliance, Social enterprise Model is a professional industry providing local jobs to support local communities - that includes their people and their ecosystem. It's a win win situation which would see Wellington well set up to be resilient to climate change or earthquake needs. Furthermore, it will work to eradicate food poverty in our region.

### **Tāone tupu ora Urban Development Planning for Growth**

We support the programme to develop a 30 year spatial plan. We believe this must be created with food resilience in mind and therefore more sustainable areas for agriculture and organic waste management be built into this plan, either by repurposing or zoning aread of land within new and existing developments.

### **Waka Transport**

#### **Cycling masterplan**

We support the building of a safe and practical cycle network around the city. We support initiative for greener, low to zero carbon transport initiatives. We would like to see Council benefits to more rapidly encourage low to zero carbon emission transport in the city.

### **Final comments**

We agree with the Council's proposed approach focusing on recovery and continued delivery of services in the wake of the COVID crisis, but we urge Council to remain focused on making progress on tackling and responding to the climate crisis. All investments Council makes in the name of COVID recovery must also aid the response to the climate crisis, to help us mitigate and adapt to climate change with the urgency required with the limited funds available, and to mitigate debt and rates increases, and ultimately reduced wellbeing, experienced by Wellingtonians in the future. The creation of jobs to avoid widespread unemployment is important but must not send us backward in upholding our climate commitments.

Supporting the emerging sector of regenerative localised urban farming and composting, as advocated for by Kaicycle, is one solution. Food security and resilience is a key issue that must be included in focusing on recovery and building back better. Strains on food distribution systems and foodbanks during COVID have clearly shown our lack of food security. Handouts are not food security. Upskilling and empowering communities to produce some of their own food, such as with localised urban farms, builds long term food resilience along with many other co-benefits (health, community cohesion, optimism, biodiversity etc etc).

Regenerative urban farming has unparalleled potential to change our food system for the better and build food security that will make us more resilient now and into the future, while simultaneously helping us tackle the climate crisis and delivering Wellington's and New Zealand's emissions reductions targets. It also has many other co-benefits like Kaicycle is working hard to demonstrate the potential of regenerative urban farming in Wellington, and is well-connected with other groups across NZ working to similar goals through the Urban Farmers' Alliance. This collective and coordinated effort.

Council should have a clear strategy for recovery and building resilience that outlines how the waste, water, recreation, community services etc. parts of Council all work together to contribute to Council goals, e.g. those outlined in Te Atakura. Investment of ratepayer dollars by Council for this financial year and those going forward should be allocated by considering the potential of that investment to deliver community and environmental benefit in addressing both the COVID recovery and climate crisis.

### **Q13. How do you or have you previously interacted with Wellington City Council? (select all that apply)**

- I use the city's cycleways
- I enjoy using Council maintained walking/biking tracks I use Council recreation centres
- I use Council libraries
- I use Council recycling bags
- I have attended a Council event such as A Very Welly Christmas or Pasifika Festival
- I have called the Council call centre before I play sport on Council fields or courts
- I use Council swimming pools I use Council rubbish bags

### **Q14. How did you hear about this consultation?**

Email

## Rory Lenihan-Ikin, Kaicycle Inc

Submission No: 147

**Q1. Please let us know if you would you like to speak to your submission at an oral hearing?**

Yes

**Q2. How strongly do you agree or disagree with the overall approach to this Annual Plan?**

Definitely agree

**Q3. Why did you indicate the level of support above?**

Support the plan's roadmap for re-building a more sustainable city post-COVID. Strongly support urban food production (through Sustainable Food Initiative); public transport and walking/cycling infrastructure; rebuilding of the central library; repairing essential infrastructure particularly the Three Waters project. I endorse rates increase option A in order to support our recovery and fund these projects. I am not supportive of prioritising the Convention Centre at a time where we have other fundamental infrastructure priorities, and when the economy can be better supported by backing local business than building a convention centre.

**Q4. How strongly to you support or oppose this option of an average rates rise of 5.1%?**

Definitely agree

**Q5. Why did you indicate the level of support above?**

Required in order to achieve goals set out in the annual plan.

**Q6. How strongly to you support this option of an average rates rise of 2.3%?**

Definitely disagree

**Q7. Why did you indicate the level of support above?**

Not sufficient. Wellington will suffer.

**Q8. How much do you support these new initiatives?**

Definitely support

**Q9. Why did you indicate the level of support above?**

not answered

**Q10. 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

**Q11. Why did you indicate the level of support above?**

The cost of landfill dumping should be higher. It also needs to be accompanied by resource recovery centres to disincentivise illegal dumping, and to extend the useful life of many resources that would otherwise go straight to landfill.

**Q12. Is there anything else we should know before making decisions?**

I strongly endorse council support for community urban food production in the city. Regenerate urban farming has been successfully prototyped at the Kaicycle urban farm in Newtown. With public support to

get established, urban farms can be quickly financially self sufficient (12 months). They can simultaneously delivery new job creation, carbon sequestration, biodiversity enhancement, food security, social connectedness and community development. At a time when we so desperately need to build a sustainable economy and address climate change, urban farming is a perfect opportunity to do both, and help establish Wellington as a resilient, climate change-ready city. In the proposed plan, urban food production falls under the sustainable food initiative within the Social and Recreation strategic area. However it is also worth noting that urban farms (as opposed to community gardens) can offer much more than this, also drawing from and supporting each of the other strategic areas; Environment and infrastructure; Economic Development; Cultural Wellbeing; Urban Development and Transport.

**Q13. How do you or have you previously interacted with Wellington City Council? (select all that apply)**

- I use Council swimming pools
- I have attended a Council event such as A Very Welly Christmas or Pasifika Festival
- I use the city's cycleways
- I enjoy using Council maintained walking/biking tracks I have previously submitted on a Council consultation I use Council recreation centres
- I play sport on Council fields or courts
- I have called the Council call centre before I use Council rubbish bags
- I use Council recycling bags I use Council libraries

**Q14. How did you hear about this consultation?**

Social media

## Kate Walmsley, Kaicycle Inc

Submission No: 180

### Q1. Please let us know if you would you like to speak to your submission at an oral hearing?

Yes

### Q2. How strongly do you agree or disagree with the overall approach to this Annual Plan?

Somewhat agree

### Q3. Why did you indicate the level of support above?

I agree with the general approach of the Plan. However I would like to see a lot more emphasis on food security and climate resilience for our city, and be assured that Council is carefully considering recovery investments to make sure they will also keep us on track to becoming a zero carbon, equitable capital. New Zealand needs to cut greenhouse gases (GHG) by 50 percent by 2030. Our response to Covid-19 must not result in any delay on delivery of the Te Atakura / First to Zero plan.

Investment decisions must be made that will create a low carbon, climate resilient and inclusive economy, and avoid carbon intensive development. Investment of ratepayer dollars by Council for this financial year and those going forward should be allocated by considering the potential of that investment to deliver community and environmental benefit in addressing both the COVID recovery and climate crisis.

Thus, I do not believe the spending proposed for the new convention centre, Town Hall and St James Theatre, or bringing snow leopards to the Zoo, should be prioritised this year; spending in community development, food resilience and environmental restoration should be prioritised instead.

### Q4. How strongly to you support or oppose this option of an average rates rise of 5.1%?

Somewhat agree

### Q5. Why did you indicate the level of support above?

This seems like a prudent and well-considered option. I would like to see my rates going into future-thinking resilience- focused investment - e.g. investment in water system solutions that will support a rapidly growing Wellington population, rather than fixing our failing and outdated pipes network.

### Q6. How strongly to you support this option of an average rates rise of 2.3%?

Definitely disagree

### Q7. Why did you indicate the level of support above?

I oppose shifting rates burden to hit harder in the future.

### Q8. How much do you support these new Tipu Toa initiatives?

Neither support or oppose

### Q9. Why did you indicate the level of support above?

Investment should prioritise building communities, which need to be the basic functional unit of our city, especially as it grows over years to come. Communities need to be more capable of meeting their own needs, which they know best, so Council's role should be to educate, empower and support communities to support themselves.

E.g. investment in well- resourced community centres which have many functions including arts and resource recovery (also reducing burden on larger centralised infrastructure, and creating more net jobs).  
- Working with mana whenua and upholding Te Tiriti must be key parts of this.

Investment in infrastructure should position our communities to be able to better support and sustain future growth, and enable them to better respond and adapt to local challenges with help from Council rather than full reliance on Council.

Examples include community-led resource recovery centres, organic waste diversion and composting schemes, local urban farms meeting local food needs. Strong communities and local economies bring resilience.

I only support an expanded weed management programme if it takes a holistic approach to biodiversity health, considering the health and diversity of the wider ecosystem beyond plants, including soil biology, insects, birds and waterways. This means avoiding the use of biocidal agents including herbicide sprays such as glyphosate, and instead implementing different planting and management strategies that avoid the need for using biocides.

I encourage the Council to make public its proposed expanded weed management programme and assessment of impacts on the wider ecosystem, including any impact on local food production. E.g. the drift of biocidal sprays affecting food plants in urban farms and community and backyard gardens can have a detrimental health effect on those eating the food.

In progressing a green infrastructure stormwater demonstration project, Council would be wise to seriously investigate the potential of urban farms and rooftop farms/living roofs to capture excess water and mitigate flooding. Regenerative urban farming techniques improve soil health including by raising levels of soil organic matter. This healthier soil has vastly improved ability to hold onto and filter water, acting as a buffer to flooding or desiccation.

Council should also look into how to complement these passive effects of urban farms with additional water sensitive design features, such as rain-gardens, dry wells and rainwater tanks that feed into urban farms, reducing their reliance on public water supply especially in times of water restriction. This approach could potentially be expanded to greywater management.

Creation of community resource recovery and reuse hubs for businesses and householders will support behaviour change and realisation of economic opportunities.

To this end I agree that the transition to a Resource Recovery park at the Southern Landfill needs to be brought forward. I also advocate for the need for a central hub for resource recovery and reuse which is accessible by walking, cycling and public transport, this should be considered within the business case.

Any additional location/s can dovetail with facilities at the Southern Landfill. I support the Sustainability Trust in their efforts to create such a central resource recovery hub.

I strongly support the increase in funding for Home Energy Audits.

**Q10. How much do you support or oppose our changes to fees and charges this year?**

<b>I support or oppose not increasing the majority of fees and charges for</b>	Neither support or
--	--------------------

2020/21	oppose
I support or oppose increasing Southern Landfill fees to help fund 'polluter pays' and waste reduction initiatives	Definitely support

**Q11. Why did you indicate the level of support above?**

Increasing landfill charges is essential and I would support higher still increases. I strongly disagree with not increasing charges for landfilling organic waste - this type of waste to be subject to at least an equivalent increase in charges to other kinds of waste, e.g. general domestic waste. Increasing landfilling charges is needed to incentivise the diversion of organic waste e.g. through composting, and to increase the viability, popularity and diversity of composting solutions Food and green waste represent the largest percentage of material currently being landfilled. People in Wellington want solutions to avoid sending their organic waste to landfill.

I am part of Kaicycle currently working on such solutions that have many more co-benefits for the community and environment. Higher fees at landfill directly support this work. I agree that landfill charges need to increase to support sustainable waste solutions, to minimise waste where possible, and to help incentivise waste minimisation behaviour among the community. I agree that the fees for sludge disposal need to be increased to reflect the true cost of this disposal.

The current situation, where the sludge is disposed of to landfill, requiring four tonnes of general waste to be landfilled for every one tonne of sludge, is not acceptable. It is not environmentally sustainable and is seriously hampering progress on waste minimisation in the city.

Urgent progress is needed on the analysing and progressing options for a Sludge Minimisation Utilisation and Reclamation Facility.

I am very supportive of a proportion of the fee increases at landfill being put towards waste minimisation projects run by council, as well as increasing the waste minimisation grant to further support waste diversion initiatives for Wellington city.

**Q12. Is there anything else we should know before making decisions?**

Bring food security and food resilience to the forefront of recovery discussions. - I support the Sustainable Food Initiative, development of a sustainable food policy and sustainable food council. Such an initiative is imperative to the food security of our region. –

I support the need for additional funding Kaicycle needs to set up a centre of regenerative learning, the Te Papa of urban farms and compost hubs in Wellington where our community can learn to regenerate soil, improve our ecosystems and waterways, grow food, use organic waste to grow food and feed our communities for decades if not centuries to come. After 24 months of full operation it will seed fund the next urban farm.

The model is different to a community garden which is sustained only by the quality and time of volunteers. The Kaicycle, Urban Farmers' Alliance, Social enterprise Model is a professional industry providing local jobs to support local communities - that includes their people and their ecosystem. It's a

win win situation which would see Wellington well set up to be resilient to climate change or earthquake needs. Furthermore, it will work to eradicate food poverty in our region. –

Community wellbeing and ensuring all Wellingtonians' basic needs are met must be a priority for spending this year. We must ensure our homeless, unemployed and other more vulnerable people are looking after before spending money on such things as a snow leopard enclosure at the zoo and building a flash new convention centre. I encourage the Council to work to improve communication between different departments and facilitate holistic decision making which will lead to better outcomes per ratepayer dollar spent. Council should have a clear strategy for recovery and building resilience that outlines how the waste, water, recreation, community services etc. parts of Council all work together to contribute to Council goals, e.g. those outlined in Te Atakura. Investment of ratepayer dollars by Council for this financial year and those going forward should be allocated by considering the potential of that investment to deliver community and environmental benefit in addressing both the COVID recovery and climate crisis.

Instead of spending enormous amounts of ratepayer money on our terminally ill water system, Council should put some money toward educating households about wiser water use and incentivising households to implement water saving measures and grey water systems. Put some money into subsidies instead of infrastructure as part of 'planning for growth' –

I applaud Council for deciding to take wage cut/make equivalent donations and freeze salaries, and commend your work on Tipu Toa.

**Q13. How do you or have you previously interacted with Wellington City Council? (select all that apply)**

- I enjoy using Council maintained walking/biking tracks
- I have attended a Council event such as A Very Welly Christmas or Pasifika Festival
- I use Council rubbish bags I use the city's cycleways
- I use Council libraries
- I have called the Council call centre before
- I have previously submitted on a Council consultation

**Q14. How did you hear about this consultation?**

- Social media
- Email
- Word of mouth

## Kathryn Collyns, Gender Minorities Aotearoa

Submission No: 165

**Q1. Please let us know if you would you like to speak to your submission at an oral hearing?**

Yes

**Q2. How strongly do you agree or disagree with the overall approach to this Annual Plan?**

Somewhat agree

**Q3. Why did you indicate the level of support above?**

Most of how thoughts are with regard to implementation, and particularly to do with resources being allocated to community groups and vulnerable populations. Most of the plan discusses rates and roads, which are important but not an area we work in.

**Q4. How strongly to you support or oppose this option of an average rates rise of 5.1%?**

Somewhat agree

**Q5. Why did you indicate the level of support above?**

not answered

**Q6. How strongly to you support this option of an average rates rise of 2.3%?**

Neither agree nor disagree

**Q7. Why did you indicate the level of support above?**

not answered

**Q8. How much do you support these new initiatives?**

Definitely support

**Q9. Why did you indicate the level of support above?**

We support any council investment to building communities and supporting marginalised or vulnerable groups

**Q10. 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	Neither support or oppose

**Q11. Why did you indicate the level of support above?**

not answered

**Q12. Is there anything else we should know before making decisions?**

### Annual Plan 2020-21 Submission

This is a Submission from Gender Minorities Aotearoa, based at 130 Riddiford Street Newtown, Wellington, 6021.

We are a cross cultural and 100% trans led organisation, providing wrap around advocacy and support to promote positive health outcomes and full inclusion and empowerment in society for takataapui, transgender and intersex people.

We can be contacted at [genderminorities@gmail.com](mailto:genderminorities@gmail.com) or on 04 385 0611, or 02040492568

All of our responses in this submission are directed at the Pandemic Response and Recovery section of WCC's annual plan.

**Section 2 Council Services:** Many recreational spaces including gyms and pools are organised in a sharply gendered way which causes a barrier to transgender people being able to access them, feeling comfortable and being safe from harassment. Over 50% of transgender people avoid using gyms or pools because of how they might be treated. Upper Hutt city council has reached out to GMA to open a discourse about how their spaces can be managed better and we would warmly welcome a similar engagement from WCC.

**Section 3 Community Wellbeing:** The WCC housing commitment is wonderful and very needed. 20%, or 1 in 5 trans people are homeless at some stage of their life. Emergency housing initiatives are segregated by gender, and trans people are often not allowed to use these. Even in cases where they are allowed, they are usually not safe using gender segregated services, which cover things like sleeping and showering. We ran an emergency housing project in Wellington for 6 years and it was always full. It is critical for transgender people to be named as a priority population in homelessness and housing strategies. We also suggest setting aside council/social housing specifically for transgender people, and note that many trans people living in council housing appreciate the sense of community they have when living near other trans people.

**Section 5 Absolutely Positively Wellington:** With regard to continuing to build on Wellington's positive, diverse, welcoming social landscape, we would like to see the council reallocate funding for the city's pride parade in February to organisers who are representative of and accountable to Wellington's rainbow communities and the community organisations supporting rainbow Wellingtonians 365 days a year. Wellington Pride Festival Inc. has run Out in the Park, the community parade, and over 100 community events each year (prior to and since the formation of WIPP). Based on track record and overwhelming support from the rainbow communities, GMA sees Wellington Pride Festival Inc. as the appropriate group to receive funding for the pride parade.

**Section 6 Regional & Central Government Collaboration:** We respect the City's commitment to reestablishing employment in the region. Alongside housing, employment is a key area where transgender people face discrimination. The median income for trans people is half that of the general population, transgender people report being denied work at four times the rate of the general population, and almost 1 in 5 have been forced to leave their job. While the economic fallout from Covid-19 affects us all, it is particularly harsh on people who were already struggling to find sufficient work. As such, we would like to see transgender people named as a priority group in employment promoting strategies.

We wish to make an oral submission.

Sincerely, Gender Minorities Aotearoa

**Q13. How do you or have you previously interacted with Wellington City Council? (select all that apply)**

- I use Council libraries

- I have attended a Council event such as A Very Welly Christmas or Pasifika Festival
- I enjoy using Council maintained walking/biking tracks
- I use Council rubbish bags
- I use Council recycling bags

**Q14. How did you hear about this consultation?**

Word of mouth

# Sonja Randhawa, National Council for Women

Submission No: 268



National Council of  
Women of New Zealand  
Te Kaunihera Wahine o Aotearoa

**GENDER  
EQUAL** NZ  
MAKING EQUALITY BEAUTY

09 June 2020

## **Submission to the Wellington City Council Annual Plan 2020/21**

**Based on feedback from the public consultation session  
“What Wellington Women Want 2020” on Wednesday 03 June 2020**

### **1. Introduction**

- 1.1. The National Council of Women of New Zealand, Te Kaunihera Wahine o Aotearoa (NCWNZ) is an umbrella group representing over 200 organisations affiliated at either national level or to one of our 15 Branches. In addition, about 450 people are individual members. Collectively our reach is over 450,000 with many of our membership organisations representing all genders. NCWNZ's vision is a gender equal New Zealand and research shows we will be better off socially and economically if we are gender equal. Through research, discussion and action, NCWNZ in partnership with others, seeks to realise its vision of gender equality because it is a basic human right.
- 1.2. This submission has been prepared by the NCWNZ Wellington Branch after consultation with women in Wellington at a public session titled “What Wellington Women Want 2020”. The session had 37 women in attendance, including six Wellington City Council (WCC) City Councillors. Local organisations represented on the night included: Aurecon, Business Central, Dignity NZ, Gender Minorities Aotearoa, Girl Guiding NZ, Anglican Women NZ, Zonta Club of Wellington, Graduate Women Wellington, The Career Development Company, Soroptimist International Aotearoa New Zealand, Stroke Central Region, Victoria University of Wellington, VSA, Webalite, Women in Tech (VUW), YWCA Aotearoa New Zealand, Zonta Club of Wellington.
- 1.3. Before the event, we received indications of which priority areas those who registered to attend were interested in discussing, based on areas in the Annual Plan consultation:
  - Rates options 2020/21 - 8 votes
  - Tipu Toa: Build Back Better - new initiatives - 34 votes
  - Changes to fees and user charges - Southern Landfill fees & marina fees - 9 votes
  - General feedback - 29 votes.

- 1.4. Attendees to the session split into small zoom breakout room groups on Zoom and discussed the priority areas of the Annual Plan. The summary of the discussions has been prepared in bullet-point format to indicate individual submissions/main ideas that arose.
- 1.5. **This submission is not a reflection of or aligned with NCWNZ policy. Views expressed here are based from attendees who attended the “What Wellington Women Want 2020” Zoom session.**

## COMMENTS FROM “WHAT WELLINGTON WOMEN WANT 2020” SESSION

### 2. General and Overall feedback

- 2.1. There was general feedback with agreement on parts of the plan.
- 2.2. However, many commented on the lack of options, or distinct proposals offered in the consultation. Some were confused on where the consultation was for the pandemic response in the questions.

*The bullet points below are comments, views, and points made by individual attendees.*

*Definitely agreed - 2*

*Somewhat agreed - 4*

*Those that definitely agreed said:*

- Overall they thought the plan was sound.
- They noted concerns that borrowing the amount of money proposed to make up for lost revenue would mean it would be a number of years before we could pay it off - but acknowledge there is no alternative but to borrow to cover the losses.

*Those that somewhat agreed said:*

- Overall many thought the plan was good.
- Some said they would find it hard to “definitely agree”, due to not being able to see the finer details of the plan but it seemed to be a very prudent approach.
- They noted that housing needs to be a priority, including increasing the stock and increasing accessibility for women, in particular. Lighting and footpaths should be maintained as they are needed.
- A few renters who were part of the discussions said they would support a rate increase, but conscious of those going through financial hardship e.g. those who are struggling to pay mortgages, might there be a safety net for them.
- There was also concern on what the WCC could do with the parking revenue.

*The bullet points include comments, views, and points made by individual attendees.*

### 2.3. Supporting Ti Tiriti o Waitangi

- One group discussed where the partnership with mana whenua was, when it came to developing this Annual Plan. They questioned if mana whenua endorsed this, if they had been part of it's design.
- They suggested if you need to resource partnership, then such a fund should be established to do so immediately.

#### 2.4. Applying a Gender Budgeting Lens

- All groups who discussed this topic agreed it's important to look at all city planning through a gender lens, and that WCC should seriously consider applying a gender budgeting lens.
- Strong urge for WCC to integrate the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals, and work towards Wellington to become a CEDAW city, as Auckland City is working at.
- It was noted that women and children are the higher uses of council services, such as playgrounds, sidewalks, libraries and public transport. By seemingly keeping rates higher, we would be supporting women and the services they use.
- Many acknowledged the need to support **all** genders in the city - see further comments below in support of Gender Minorities Aotearoa.
- One person asked if there is gender balance across the council committee structure.
- Many would urge the WCC to have a gender lens review on all future plans, what will it actually be doing to have impact on women's lives. The Ministry of Women's Toolkit is a great resource for city councils to apply.
- While some had an opinion that the Councillors and staff may have used their gender lens and consideration of the community, high trust others questioned what our city would look like if it was designed by women.

#### 2.5. Responding to COVID-19

- There was discussion about applying a post COVID-19/lockdown lens - as there will be a number of issues (old and new) that will need further examination after the pandemic. For example; the home office (working from home and juggling parenting and working), increased electricity and heating bills, health and safety issues, mental health, public health - multiple implications.
- Some noted major concerns for businesses in the CBD; and the need to get people back into the CBD to support those businesses; others noted the unemployment in Wellington is not nearly as high as other areas of the country.
- Some were concerned about waste management, and recycling during COVID-19.
- Some urged WCC to take a good look at the health and safety policies of the council about working from home, as this is our new reality.
- One person stated, "COVID-19 will have an impact in Wellington but it might not be the rainiest day for Wellington considering natural disasters".
- One comment recorded was "the pandemic response, timely and important supporting those struggling in these unusual times, we tautoko that part."

#### 2.6. Child and Youth friendly city

- One group discussed the need to think of Wellington as a child and youth friendly city. They urged that WCC look at planning through a child's lens, in light of COVID-19 and how the lockdown has impacted their lives in Wellington.
- Another suggested a missing focus was on how initiatives will support students, could look through a gender lens - but perhaps a youth lens may be more appropriate.

## 2.7. Accessibility of consultation documentation

- Overall, many were not impressed with the consultation documentation.
  - Found it hard to find documents for Annual Plan on the website, had to go through three web pages, difficult for many to navigate on the WCC website.
  - Another person said the "website is not easily accessible, great for Councillors to have feedback sessions for customer satisfaction which is published, hard to know where to find and who is doing what, information overload, nightmare getting hold of people, especially as a homeowner it is difficult."
- It was suggested that:
  - A quick video from the Mayor or Councillors on the plan would have been useful - to cut through other information and increase engagement.
  - They would like to see success indicators reported, metrics for success or targets. Questions like, "are we on track, where is the needle, how do we know we're achieving goals" could be navigation options for readers.

## 3. Rates options 2020/21

- Of those that participated in this group, people were split on the rates with only a few more participants in favour for a 2.3% increase. Many noted and agreed that WCC needs more money now especially with the recent water crisis, earthquake strengthening, and for the COVID-19 response.
- It was noted that if there was any increase, landlords are likely to pass on the costs.
- It was noted that rates always go up but never stay the same, or come down - and the cost of living is always increasing, but not salaries or wages.
- WCC was questioned on if there are any published customer service surveys on ratepayers satisfaction. It was suggested this could be part of managing the performance of the CEO. Some were unsure on the approach of getting information from the council to the ratepayer. Open and transparent communication that is easily accessible (and easy to read) was desired.

## 4. Tipu Toa: Build Back Better - new initiatives

- 4.1. Overall, there was a strong feeling that WCC has already decided on its priorities and what is important. Many questioned if consultation feedback will be used, or if it will affect this list of pre-decided challenges.
- 4.2. Many worry about lack of inclusion of trans people in this plan and about domestic violence. There was specific feedback which was supported by the NCWNZ Wellington Branch from Gender Minorities Aotearoa (GMA), which we support:

- Importance of access to recreational spaces like gyms and pools and waiving entry fees - organised in a sharply gendered way causes a barrier to transgender people being able to access them feeling comfortable and safe. GMA noted Upper Hutt City Council has reached out to GMA to open a discourse about how their spaces can be managed better and they welcome similar engagement from WCC.
- Increase in funding for community groups - specifically more funds set aside for Rainbow initiatives, as the vast majority of that funding goes to cisgender led organisations. Although cisgender led organisations do work on behalf of trans people, there is a noticeable absence of trans people, especially trans women, in leadership positions in these organisations. Trans led and trans staffed organisations are the key organisations offering specialist support that trans people need, but are generally unsupported to access funding.
- Urge WCC for a plan to make city-funded homeless shelters accessible to trans people, especially trans women, who have the greatest need. It is critical for transgender people to be named as a priority population in homeless strategies. Transgender people are a high risk population for homelessness and 1 in 5 are homeless at some stage of their life. Current homeless shelters are set up very incredibly gendered, excluding trans people from accessing all but one shelter in Wellington. This needs to be addressed, either through the City Mission, or by WCC setting aside social housing specifically for transgender people in need of housing. Another way to support all trans people is to put up inexpensive public shower blocks, where people sleeping rough could take a shower.
- Transgender people named as a priority group in employment promoting strategies. Trans people face barriers to both housing and employment, and should be named as a priority group in reestablishing employment in the region. The median income for trans people is half that of the general population. While the economic fallout from COVID-19 affects all, it is particularly harsh on people who were already struggling to find sufficient work to get by.
- Suggest WCC work with communities on positive messaging about trans people around Wellington to help challenge the stigma and exclusive narratives, especially in light of anti-trans organising and media around Births, Deaths, Marriages, and Relationships Registration (BDMRR).
- Urge WCC to note Gender Minorities Aotearoa (GMA) submission, noting that NCWNZ Wellington Branch tautako our friends and the issues raised.

Participants discussed the specific new initiatives:

### .3. Arts

- Arts are our community builder, part of Welly identity, and source of tourism revenue. Important for younger generations for inspiration and as a potential career. We need support to produce good artists.
- Suggest the City Recovery Fund will encourage more people to come into the city - which will help with the local economy and with Wellington.
- Hopefully will encourage more people to come into the city, spending money, parking in the street, this will give the council more money.

- Noted the library is a great place for gathering, meeting, staying warm - this is important. Keen to get this back and running in its place.
- Public events should be free to bring a group, as supports wellbeing.
- Suggested if the WCC seeks to provide more funding for public events, Pride events should centre the concerns and needs of Rainbow people, not tourism. Funding should go to groups who are accountable to Rainbow Wellingtonians and do open consultation such as Out in the Park.
- Noted we can't live without the arts - can't encourage young people that music or the arts isn't a viable career. It's part of our social wellbeing. The capital city needs to fly the flag high, and our arts in the capital city is an attraction.

#### 4.4. Home energy

- Questioned if we are investing enough to provide basic human rights, for health and basic comfort to young people in development?
- Noted it feels really relevant, safe and healthy environment especially for children, important to have proper heating and a place to keep warm. It's a basic human necessity, and more so important due to COVID-19 with more people working from home.
- While it was seen that this initiative was a step in the right direction - can we increase the funds? Is it enough? \$150k didn't seem like enough investment for home energy audits.

#### 4.5. Stormwater

- Urged the WCC to create basic infrastructure which would be sound and green.
- Agreed this was a great focus as it appeared to be a dire situation.
- Many were curious on the details of how this is going to actually be implemented; including the development/replacement plan.

#### 4.6. Built heritage

- Agreed there was little doubt about the importance of this issue, it was agreed that "it needs to be done".
- However many worried about equalities. The topic triggered discussions about homelessness, equal access, domestic violence.
- Noted that investment in earthquake resilience was also important - plays on the mind of young people.
- Noted that COVID-19 showed how we can get people into housing if they need it.

#### 4.7. Weed management

- Agreed that "green" is a big selling point for Wellington inhabitants and visitors. Not many capital cities where you can walk 10 minutes and be in a park. This topic raises issues of managing pollution, education, human diversity, tourism, wellbeing.
- Noted the city's selling points are our green landscape, which contributes to tourist dollars, for environmental protection. We need to be future based about our choices

- Desire for a green city that contributes to the future, people want a great city to grow up in.
- Noted by caring for biodiversity it's possible to manage pollution, human interaction. This has an affect on tourism - so many repercussions.

#### 4.8. Road improvements

- Wellington must stay a walkable and safe city, also for disabled persons and children. Cars should not be primary road users. In Brussels car drivers bear the burden of guilt in case of accidents with weaker road users, also bicycles are encouraged to use the road so cars get used to sharing it safely.
- Anything that makes walking easier is good - kids active learning, walking and scooting. The ability to send a group off by themselves affects programmes like the ones run by GirlGuidingNZ.
  - Invest in good footpaths
  - If living in the Northern suburbs and working at primary school - initiatives like "Moving March" are great to get kids walking.
  - Desire to normalise the act of walking to school - both initiatives nationwide or council driven, to keep kids motivated to walk to school - footpaths that are in a state that make it easy to walk.
  - Make it easy for people to make the choice to leave the car at home. Education and infrastructure will be key.
- Agreed accessibility for people of all abilities is key. Roads need to be safe, well lit at night, not covered in cracks. Minor road improvements - does not show where the disability analysis is.
- Great to encourage cycleways, but questioned how this limits parking? What about people with mobility issues? Safety concerns about forcing people to walk a bit further to get to a space?
- Need to consider rideshare services. Owning a car/having a bicycle is yesterday's form of transport.

#### 4.9. Resource recovery was not discussed.

#### 4.10. Other issues: Homeless shelters

- Homeless shelters are set up very incredibly gendered, excluding trans people from accessing all but one shelter in Wellington.
- Trans people face barriers to both housing and employment, and should be named as a priority group in these initiatives. Median income for trans people is half of the median income for the general population. While the pandemic is affecting everyone, already marginalised people are getting hit so much harder.
- Urge WCC for a plan to make city-funded homeless shelters accessible to trans people, especially trans women, who have the greatest need. Another way to support all trans people is to put up inexpensive public shower blocks, where people sleeping rough could take a shower.
- Suggest WCC to work with communities on positive messaging about trans people around Wellington, to help challenge the stigma and exclusive narratives, especially

in light of anti-trans organising and media around Births, Deaths, Marriages, and Relationships Registration (BDMRR).

## 5. Changes to fees and user charges - Southern Landfill fees & marina fees

### 5.1. Southern Landfill fees

- Attendees were split in their support for introducing landfill fees.
- Those in favour said people should pay / understand the true cost of doing things.
- Those against noted:
  - Concern for landfill fees - may entice people to dump that rubbish elsewhere?
  - Need to improve the recycling of things before fees go too high - move for much better recycling.
  - Consider option for bins of green waste collected from households - everybody may then be concentrating on they're recycling / putting into waste
- Discussed inability to recycle during COVID-19, and why does some 'recycling' get put into landfill.

### 5.2. Marina fees

- Attendees were also split in their support for introducing marina fees.
  - Those in favour were so on the condition that WCC use money to properly manage recycling and inform people. Some suggested:
    - fees could be quadrupled - suggesting people should be paying their way if they have a boat.
    - could there be a tiered system? Boats mooring, depending on the price of the boat, the higher the mooring cost. More according to the worth or size of the boat; or take into account the pollution of the boat, trash they leave behind.

## 6. Conclusion

- 6.1. We suggest WCC support and encourage further engagement face-to-face sessions like "What Wellington Women Want", facilitated by groups such as NCWNZ Wellington Branch. The Branch was pleased to see such interest to attend the consultation session, our first online public session.
- 6.2. We thank the WCC councillors who attended online on the night. Their support and insights were much appreciated, as was their inclination to listen and help answer questions alongside attendees. A special thanks to Councillor Jill Day, our Branch Co-Patron and Councillor Rebecca Matthews for their willingness to support this event.

## Melanie Vautier

Submission No: 107

**Q1. Please let us know if you would you like to speak to your submission at an oral hearing?**

Yes

**Q2. How strongly do you agree or disagree with the overall approach to this Annual Plan?**

Somewhat agree

**Q3. Why did you indicate the level of support above?**

not answered

**Q4. How strongly to you support or oppose this option of an average rates rise of 5.1%?**

Definitely agree

**Q5. Why did you indicate the level of support above?**

Lots of things need doing that need money to do them!

**Q6. How strongly to you support this option of an average rates rise of 2.3%?**

Somewhat disagree

**Q7. Why did you indicate the level of support above?**

as above

**Q8. How much do you support these new initiatives?**

Definitely support

**Q9. Why did you indicate the level of support above?**

I strongly agree with all the measures that will contribute to lowering emissions and waste. It is awesome to see all the campaigning and engagement efforts from a whole host of groups in recent years be implemented into policy; and affirming to know you have our interests at heart beyond simple neoliberal economics. Great job on these measures- but would also love to see if go further!!! E.g more (paid) collaboration with mana whenua and Māori urbanism; a framework such as Doughnut Economics being an overarching framework for the city; more efforts toward waste reduction; more support for local urban agriculture / compost groups; and more pedestrianization of the CBD.

**Q10. How much do you support or oppose our changes to fees and charges this year?**

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

**Q11. Why did you indicate the level of support above?**

Go circular economy!

**Q12. Is there anything else we should know before making decisions?**

Lots of awesome stuff in the mix but I urge you to go further, bolder, and more innovative!! So many very urgent challenges bearing down- such as climate change- that we need visionary leaders! Also would be awesome to have a chance to be more involved at much earlier stages - e.g. finding what the community

wants and then implementing it, rather than ticking boxes at the end of it. (E.g. participatory budgeting, as many cities around the world do with great success).

**Q13. How do you or have you previously interacted with Wellington City Council? (select all that apply)**

- I use Council libraries
- I use Council recycling bags
- I use Council rubbish bags
- I enjoy using Council maintained walking/biking tracks
- I have previously submitted on a Council consultation
- I use the city's cycleways

**Q14. How did you hear about this consultation?**

Word of mouth

## Chris Horne, Wellington Botanical Society

Submission No: 269

Wellington Botanical Society

PO Box 10 412

WELLINGTON 6143

Web site: [www.wellingtonbotsoc.org.nz](http://www.wellingtonbotsoc.org.nz)

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/322939557873243/>

8 June 2020

Annual Plan

Wellington City Council

busannualplan@wcc.govt.nz

To whom it may concern

### **Submission: Mahere ā-Tau Annual Plan 20/21 consultation document**

Thank you for the opportunity to present this submission. When hearings are held, we would like to speak in support of our submission, then take the opportunity to answer any questions from councillors and staff.

#### **Introduction**

Wellington Botanical Society was formed in 1939. Our membership of c. 245 people includes amateur and professional botanists.

#### **Our advocacy work**

We advocate for the protection of:

- existing scenic reserves and recreation reserves as required by the provisions of the Reserves Act 1977;
- the Wellington Town Belt as required by the provisions of the Wellington Town Belt Act 2016.

We advocate for legal protection to be given to areas of native vegetation which are not subject to it. If the plant community is privately owned we may alert Wellington City Council or Greater Wellington Regional Council or the QE2 National Trust to the natural values of the site.

#### **Our programme February – November**

- First Saturday each month: Field trips to reserves and other protected natural areas in Wellington city and beyond;
- Third Monday each month: Public meetings in Murphy Lecture Theatre 101 at Victoria University when speakers give presentations on botanical subjects.

#### **Global biodiversity crisis**

New Zealand and the rest of the world face an intensifying four-pronged indigenous biodiversity crisis:

1. Global climate change and rising sea levels;
2. Pollution of soils, air and waters as a result of human activities;
3. Pest animals which infest indigenous plant communities, browsing on palatable plant species. Wellington City Council and Greater Wellington Regional Council have done excellent work in the last two decades by almost eliminating possums from our urban areas;
4. Pest plants and other weeds which crowd out those indigenous plant species which occur naturally in the areas infested and in addition may adversely impact on soil micro-organisms associated with those indigenous plant species.

#### **Wellington City Council's responsibilities for protected areas**

The legislation:

- Reserves Act 1977
- Conservation Act 1987
- Wellington Town Belt Act 2016

For many decades, WCC's funding for the control of weeds on the lands which it manages on behalf of Wellingtonians has been woefully inadequate. The result is a huge backlog of weed-control work to be done on many areas of the city's scenic reserves, recreation reserves, road reserves and the Wellington Town Belt. Many of these areas are infested with

a wide range of aggressive weed species which prevent or delay the growth of native plant species.

### Tipu Toa Build Back Better

Wellington Botanical Society welcomes the allocation of \$200,000 in the Tipu Toa Build Back Better package in the draft Annual Plan 20/21. We note that this is for only one year. Given the huge amount of weed work which has accumulated over the decades because WCC has failed to keep up with the rate of infestation, vastly larger sums must be budgeted for and spent each year for the foreseeable future.

### Recommendation

The bulk of this money should be spent teaching the members of community groups which work in the city's scenic reserves, recreation reserves, road reserves, the Wellington Town Belt and unclassified public land to identify and control the weed species infesting the areas they look after. We believe that contractors should only be employed to do weed-control work which is too dangerous to be done by community groups.

\$200,000 Tipu Toa Build Back Better funding would be quickly absorbed by money paid to the contractors for wages, herbicides and wear-and-tear on equipment.

### Some pest plants infesting public land in Wellington

We list below some of the many weed species which infest parts of the city, suburbs, rural hinterland and coastal areas. These lists are far from comprehensive. They indicate the scale of the threats faced by native plant communities in our scenic reserves, recreation reserves, road reserves, the Wellington Town Belt, unprotected public land, QE2 Open Space Covenants, a DOC covenant and private land.

<b>Climbers</b>	
Cape ivy	<i>Senecio angulatus</i>
Cathedral bells	<i>Cobaea scandens</i>
English ivy	<i>Hedera helix</i>
Garden nasturtium	<i>Tropaeolum majus</i>
German ivy	<i>Delairea odorata</i>
Great bindweed	<i>Calystegia silvatica</i>
Hairy vetch	<i>Vicia hirsuta</i>
Jasmine	<i>Jasminum polyanthum</i>
Mile-a-minute	<i>Dipogon lignosus</i>
Old man's beard	<i>Clematis vitalba</i>
<b>Ferns</b>	
Maidenhair (one of several ferns with this common name)	<i>Adiantum raddianum</i>
Male fern	<i>Dryopteris filix-mas</i>
Tuber ladder fern	<i>Nephrolepis cordifolia</i>
<b>Grasses</b>	
Buffalo grass	<i>Stenotaphrum secundatum</i>
Marram grass	<i>Ammophila arenaria</i>
Pampas grass	<i>Cortaderia selloana</i>
Purple pampas grass	<i>Cortaderia jubata</i>
Veld grass	<i>Ehrharta erecta</i>
<b>Ground-cover plants</b>	
Allseed	<i>Polycarpon tetraphyllum</i>
Alyssum	<i>Lobularia maritima</i>
Annual mouse-ear chickweed	<i>Cerastium glomeratum</i>
Buck's horn plantain	<i>Plantago coronopus</i>
Bur medic	<i>Medicago nigra</i>
Catsear	<i>Hypochaeris radicata</i>
Hedge woundwort	<i>Stachys sylvatica</i>
Mexican daisy	<i>Erigeron karvinskianus</i>
Periwinkle	<i>Vinca major</i>
Tradescantia / wandering willie	<i>Tradescantia fluminensis</i>
<b>Herbaceous plants</b>	
Agapanthus	<i>Agapanthus praecox</i>
Arum lily	<i>Zantedeschia aethiopica</i>
Bear's breeches	<i>Acanthus mollis</i>

Black nightshade	<i>Solanum nigrum</i>
Broad-leaved dock	<i>Rumex obtusifolius</i>
Bur medic	<i>Medicago nigra</i>
Cape crassula	<i>Crassula</i>
Fennel	<i>Foeniculum vulgare</i>
Ginger	<i>Hedychium</i> (Two species)
Holly-leaved senecio	<i>Senecio glastifolius</i>
Montbretia	<i>Crococsmia Xcrococsmiiflora</i>
Onion weed	<i>Allium triquetrum</i>
Oxtongue	<i>Picris echioides</i>
Parsnip palm	<i>Melanoselinum decipiens</i>
Pellitory-of-the-wall	<i>Parietaria judaica</i>
Scotch thistle	<i>Cirsium vulgare</i>
Selfheal	<i>Prunella vulgaris</i>
Spur valerian	<i>Centranthus ruber</i>
Three-cornered garlic	<i>Allium triquetrum</i>
Velvet nightshade	<i>Solanum chenopodioides</i>
Wild carrot	<i>Daucus carota</i>
Wild radish	<i>Raphanus raphanistrum</i> subsp. <i>raphanistrum</i>
<b>Trees and shrubs</b>	
Australian ngaio	<i>Myoporum insulare</i>
Bamboo	<i>Bambusa</i> species
Bay	<i>Laurus nobilis</i>
Bishop pine	<i>Pinus muricata</i>
Blackberry	<i>Rubus fruticosus</i> agg.
Boneseed	<i>Chrysanthemoides monilifera</i>
Brush wattle	<i>Paraserianthes lophanta</i>
Buddleia	<i>Buddleja davidii</i>
Cotoneaster – several species	<i>Cotoneaster</i> spp.
Darwin's barberry	<i>Berberis darwinii</i>
Elaeagnus	<i>Elaeagnus Xreflexa</i>
English broom	<i>Cytisus scoparius</i>
Flowering cherry	<i>Prunus</i> species
Gorse	<i>Ulex europaeus</i>
Hawthorn	<i>Crataegus monogyna</i>
Himalayan honeysuckle	<i>Leycesteria formosa</i>
Holly	<i>Ilex aquifolium</i>
Inkweed	<i>Phytolacca octandra</i>
Japanese spindle tree	<i>Euonymus japonicus</i>
Macrocarpa / Monterey cypress	<i>Hesperocyparis (Cupressus) macrocarpa</i>
Montpellier broom	<i>Teline monspessulana</i>
Pig's ear	<i>Cotyledon orbiculata</i>
Radiata	<i>Pinus radiata</i>
Sycamore	<i>Acer pseudoplatanus</i>
Tree lucerne / tagasaste	<i>Chamaecytisus palmensis</i>
Tree lupin	<i>Lupinus arboreus</i>
Tree mallow	<i>Malva dendromorpha</i>
Tutsan	<i>Hypericum androsaemum</i>

**Native plants not occurring naturally in Wellington Ecological District 39.01 and are invasive**

Karaka	<i>Corynocarpus laevigatus</i>
Karo	<i>Pittosporum crassifolium</i>
"Karo"	<i>Pittosporum ralphi</i>
Lacebark / houhere	<i>Hoheria populnea</i>
Mangeo	<i>Litsea calicaris</i>
Pōhutukawa	<i>Metrosideros excelsa</i>
Pseudopanax hybrids	<i>Pseudopanax lessonii</i> hybrids
Pūriri	<i>Vitex lucens</i>

**Weed control in Wellington**

- *Pest Management Plan for the management of weeds and pest animals*. WCC, 2004. This was followed by:
- *Our Natural Capital*. WCC, 2015. This set objectives and priorities.
- Some weed-control work is done by community groups of which there are over a hundred in the city, some by contractors and some by council staff.

### Request for information

Please provide us with:

1. the results of Wellington City Council's weed-control work year by year – areas worked on - cost; since 2000;
2. the cost-effectiveness of WCC methods of doing weed-control work.

### Recommendations

Wellington City Council:

- invests in some of the “shovel-ready” capital projects identified by WCC for potential Government funding to support economic recovery will incorporate indigenous biodiversity actions identified in WCC's *Our Natural Capital* and in recent statutory management plans, e.g., the *Outer Green Belt Management Plan*;
- assesses the impacts on WCC's funding of weed-control work of Greater Wellington Regional Council's *Regional Pest Management Plan 2019-2039*;
- assesses the impacts on WCC's funding of weed-control work of the Ministry for the Environment's draft statutory *National Policy Statement for Indigenous Biodiversity*;
- allocates at least \$200,000 in the Tipu Toa Build Back Better package and very much more in every Annual Plan for the foreseeable future, until such time as infestations of pest plants and other ecologically damaging weed species are uncommon, if not eliminated, from all scenic reserves, recreation reserves, road reserves, the Wellington Town Belt, covenanted areas and unclassified public lands;
- undertake a thorough and independent review of its weed management role over the last two decades. This should include Council's present approaches to weed management planning, results to date, cost effectiveness, monitoring, priorities over the last two decades and implications for the next decade, partnership opportunities with GWRC, iwi, residents' associations, secondary schools, service clubs, sports clubs, etc., fragmentation of public lands caused by pest-plant infestations, public attitudes to weed control, the potential for new jobs for those involved on community-led weed-control projects who have gained experience in identifying weed species and learning control methods, the benefits of doing work in-house rather than using contractors, the implications of climate change for weed control in Wellington; This review is essential because of the mounting crisis of global climate-change and its impact on indigenous biodiversity. In addition, central government and regional authorities are raising the profile of indigenous biodiversity, so Wellington City Council must do likewise. The reasons include increased funding by central government for the protection of indigenous biodiversity and “shovel-ready” projects, the increased role for iwi in decision-making under DOC's and MfE's indigenous biodiversity strategies, the overlapping of weed-management roles in public-sector agencies, the complexity of health and safety matters and the impacts of weeds on restoration projects;

We ask Wellington City Council to prepare a concise **Current Situation Report – Weed Management** to be the basis for weed-management planning. The report should list:

1. what has been achieved since 2004;
2. annual investment since 2010, showing average investment and trends in allocation by provider group, e.g., volunteers, contractors, partner agencies' work such as GWRC's work in Key Native Ecosystems (KNEs);
3. how the available budget is allocated, prioritised by severity of the threats to indigenous biodiversity values;
4. what remains to be done, prioritised by the severity of threats to indigenous biodiversity values;
5. official performance objectives and trends from Annual Plans, and reports on management plans;
6. what has been established from WCC and third-party monitoring or research;
7. the number of weed management jobs funded by WCC;
8. the social make-up of existing partnerships, e.g., residents' associations, sports clubs, ‘friends of’ groups, conservation organisations, etc.

### Focus groups

We suggest that WCC establish focus groups to determine public and landowner attitudes to weeds and weed control.

### Job creation

The enormous backlog of weed-control work required should provide the opportunity for WCC to create permanent positions within WCC and among contractors to do hazardous work which volunteers should not do.

Volunteers already do a large amount of weed-control work, so the onus should not be put on them to do even more.

J C Horne  
For the committee of Wellington Botanical Society

## **Polly Griffiths, Sustainability Trust**

Submission No: 163

### **Q1. Please let us know if you would you like to speak to your submission at an oral hearing?**

Yes

### **Q2. How strongly do you agree or disagree with the overall approach to this Annual Plan?**

Somewhat agree

### **Q3. Why did you indicate the level of support above?**

We agree with an approach that focuses on recovery for Wellington City and delivery but this needs to be designed to ensure we do not slow progress on tackling climate change and also take this opportunity for a sustainable transformation. New Zealand needs to cut greenhouse gases (GHG) by 50 percent by 2030. Our response to Covid-19 must not result in any delay on delivery of the Te Atakura / First to Zero plan. Investment decisions must be made that will create a low carbon, climate resilient and inclusive economy, and avoid carbon intensive development. We have set out specific points under the other consultation response questions.

### **Q4. How strongly to you support or oppose this option of an average rates rise of 5.1%?**

Somewhat agree

### **Q5. Why did you indicate the level of support above?**

Covid-19 has negatively impacted the financial security of a large proportion of New Zealand's households', in particular our more vulnerable communities. The real financial pressures on our communities need to be recognised and assisted where possible. Our own organisations financial security was assisted by being given rent relief by our landlord during the lockdown. However, we also agree with WCC that the actions of today should not impact unfairly on ratepayers in the future.

A 5.1% increase is still equivalent to an extra 15 percent of rates transferred to debt. Not all businesses and householders have been equally impacted by the pandemic. Many are likely to be willing to pay more to support the recovery of the city. We suggest the Council should put in place a system by which there is the option to pay the rate increase previously proposed of 9.2 percent.

### **Q6. How strongly to you support this option of an average rates rise of 2.3%?**

Definitely disagree

### **Q7. Why did you indicate the level of support above?**

We do not support this option as it does not meet the balanced budget requirement as per the Council's financially prudent Revenue and Financing Policy or in a manner that promotes the current and future interests of the community as required in the Local Government Act. It will result in a significantly higher rates increase in the 2021/22 year, effectively just deferring the financial impact and burden on householders and businesses.

### **Q8. How much do you support these new Tipu Toa initiatives?**

Definitely support

### **Q9. Why did you indicate the level of support above?**

Sustainability Trust fully supports Wellington City Council's plan to build a more resilient and environmentally robust city during and following the pandemic. We support the additional funding identified for a business case for a resource recovery centre and the increase in funding for Home Energy Audits.

This funding aligns with our top priorities for where money should be spent in any post Covid-19 recovery package: tackling energy hardship, improving housing standards, supporting a circular economy, reducing waste to landfill, diverting food waste, building local food resilience, developing community energy infrastructure, prioritising walkers, cyclists and electric vehicles and supporting social enterprises. Wellington has an ambition to be waste free, and landfilled waste makes up more than 80% of Council emissions.

There is potential to create more jobs from the transition to a circular economy and from creation of decentralised local methods for diverting waste from landfill. Creation of community resource recovery and reuse hubs for business and householders will support behaviour change and realisation of economic opportunities.

To this end we agree that the transition to a Resource Recovery park at the Southern Landfill needs to be brought forward. We also advocate for the need for a central hub for resource recovery and reuse which is accessible by walking, cycling and public transport, this should be considered within the business case. Any additional location/s can dovetail with facilities at the Southern Landfill. Food and green waste represent the largest percentage of material currently being landfilled. People in Wellington want solutions to avoid sending their organic waste to landfill.

We are currently trialling Community Composting Hubs with Kaicycle with the support of WCC; recognising that there is unlikely to be a one size fits all solution for organic waste. The results of this will feed into any analysis from the kerbside organic kitchen waste diversion trial. We agree that this trial should be conducted as soon as possible so that the results can be considered in time for the LTP.

There has been a spike in rheumatic fever cases in the Wellington region during the pandemic underlining the need to improve housing standards for our resilience. Tackling energy hardship requires fast tracking recommendations in the Electricity Price Review by investing in programmes and direct support for households in energy hardship.

A widening of the scope and scale of home energy efficiency programmes such as Warm Up Wellington and Home Energy Saver is needed. This is especially urgent as many households will experience reductions in income and lowering overall outgoings on energy will be of benefit. On the flip side, those with the means to invest in household upgrades, through advice provided in the Home Energy Saver programme will provide additional economic activity and job creation.

Over the past year WCC has supported the Trust to deliver the WarmUp Wellington and Home Energy Saver programmes. Te Atakura has targeted 50% of the 70,000 homes in Wellington to receive assistance from Home Energy Saver by 2029.

We estimate that at June 2020 approximately 5,000 homes would have received an assessment over the past 10 years of programme delivery. We support the need for additional funding to reach the remaining 30,000 homes (c.3,500 homes /year).

We are also supportive of the commitment to progress a green infrastructure stormwater demonstration project, funding for protection of biodiversity and improvements to make walking safer, more child friendly, and more accessible.

**Q10. How much do you support or oppose our changes to fees and charges this year?**

<b>I support or oppose not increasing the majority of fees and charges for 2020/21</b>	Somewhat support
<b>I support or oppose increasing Southern Landfill fees to help fund ‘polluter pays’ and waste reduction initiatives</b>	Definitely support

**Q11. Why did you indicate the level of support above?**

As previously stated, we support the Council taking action to insulate householders and business from the financial impacts of the Covid-19 crisis. We agree that landfill charges need to increase to support sustainable waste solutions, to minimise waste where possible, and to help incentivise waste minimisation behaviour among the community.

We agree that the fees for sludge disposal need to be increased to reflect the true cost of this disposal. The current situation, where the sludge is disposed of to landfill, requiring four tonnes of general waste to be landfilled for every one tonne of sludge, is not acceptable. It is not environmentally sustainable and is seriously hampering progress on waste minimisation in the city. Urgent progress is needed on the analysing and progressing options for a Sludge Minimisation Utilisation and Reclamation Facility.

We are very supportive of a proportion of the fee increases at landfill being put towards waste minimisation projects run by council, as well as increasing the waste minimisation grant to further support waste diversion initiatives for Wellington city. The commitment to investigate this was stated in the minutes of the Ordinary Council Meeting from the 30th of April.

The current level of funding for waste minimisation initiatives, at \$100k, is insufficient in the context of the targets that need to be achieved over a short space of time, and considering the important role that businesses and social enterprises can play in helping the Council achieve their targets. Funding to support business to reduce waste and their carbon footprint, would have the dual benefit of making businesses more financially resilient in the face of Covid-19 and the expected landfill levy increases, as well as supporting the Council’s carbon and waste goals.

This type of support could link well with the support that has been provided by WellingtonNZ to support businesses during the Covid-19 crisis. We do not support the delay in the parking fee increases in the inner city.

The proposed Parking Policy 2020 includes the following principles:

- Make parking changes that are linked to improvements in the overall transport system.

- Parking is priced at a level that achieves policy objectives and is consistent with other transport objectives.

Covid-19 crisis has highlighted the need to reclaim our streets for walking and cycling. Increases had been proposed to support transition to more sustainable modes of transportation. Ensuring the parking policy does not subsidise private vehicle travel, particularly single passenger transport, is a key factor in supporting mode shift.

Progress is needed rapidly on new bike lanes, wider footpaths, bus lanes, innovative streets projects, smarter parking and land-use policy. We look forward to Council progress on more ambitious plans to look at user charging as set out in Te Atakura and the Parking Policy 2020.

**Q12. Is there anything else we should know before making decisions?**

“COVID-19 reflects a broader trend: more planetary crises are coming. If we muddle through each new crisis while maintaining the same economic model that got us here, future shocks will eventually exceed the capacity of governments, financial institutions, and corporate crisis managers to respond. Indeed, the “coronacrisis” has already done so.”, World Economic Forum

A team of internationally-recognised experts, led by Cameron Hepburn at the University of Oxford, and including Nobel prize winner Joseph Stiglitz and well-known climate economist Nicholas Stern, came together to assess the economic and climate impact of taking a green route out of the crisis. The economists found that green projects create more jobs, deliver higher short-term returns per dollar spend and lead to increased long-term cost savings, by comparison with traditional fiscal stimulus.

In 2019 the Council declared a climate and ecological emergency recognising that the city is already seeing the effects of climate change on the city. At the end of 2019 11,000 scientists from around the world, declared, clearly and unequivocally that planet Earth is facing a climate emergency

<https://academic.oup.com/bioscience/article/70/1/8/5610806>).

This situation has not changed; there is a risk that reactions to Covid-19 will see us diverted away from climate action and carbon emissions are pushed up in the longer term if recovery or stimulus measures are poorly chosen (<https://blogs.otago.ac.nz/pubhealthexpert/2020/04/17/covid-recovery-or-sustainable-transformation/>)

There is an opportunity now to “build back better”, implementing solutions already available to us, to create an economy based on the pillars of the UN Sustainable Development Goals. We agree with the Sustainable Business Network that investment should only be in initiatives that reduce carbon, pollution and waste, and directly improve the wellbeing of every New Zealander throughout the multi-generational long term. Research has shown that a shift to a greener economy can create millions of new jobs globally if the right policies are put in place. We cannot afford to return to normal.

Prioritisation of spending should not tie us into further environmental degradation, but build a low carbon, resilient future for us all. The Council must lead by example, and continue to progress the plans set out in Te Atakura around housing, waste and transport. Priorities for recovery must include tackling energy hardship, improving housing standards, supporting a circular economy, reducing waste to

landfill, diverting food waste, building local food resilience, developing community energy infrastructure, prioritising walkers, cyclists and electric vehicles and supporting social enterprises.

**Some additional specific points:**

- We support the amendment of the Council's Procurement Strategy and Policy as set out in the Minutes of the Ordinary Council Meeting on the Annual Plan from the 30th of April. This will reflect Council's desire to progress its procurement with increased focus on social, environmental and local principles. We note that officers will identify and introduce specific initiatives/projects that demonstrate local, social, environmental procurement principles and report back to Council on progress on these within three months. We feel this shift in procurement approach will be in support of the work that we do as a social enterprise.
- A Sustainable Food Policy is needed for Wellington City, to underpin the Sustainable Food Initiative, create circular local food economies and work on diverting food waste from landfill.
- We are supportive of the introduction of a centrally organised public e-scooter and bike share scheme.
- We want steps made to improve representation of mana whenua and tangata whenua in Wellington's decision-making processes.

The Trust is committed to remaining and growing our contribution as an active partner with the Council and the wider community. The Trust already delivers a range of programmes that have an impact on emissions, and these are ready to grow in size and scope. We are well positioned to facilitate and lead other new programmes/projects ourselves and with community partners. With a large community, and face-to-face reach of over five thousand households per year as well as an increasing number of businesses, we continue to be an active partner in cutting net emissions to zero by 2050.

Sustainability Trust is a not-for-profit organisation with a focus on supporting people in the Wellington region to live in warm, dry homes and assist them to reduce their impact on the environment. We work across the region installing insulation and energy efficient heating, providing sustainability advice and education, and a host of other initiatives promoting urban sustainability. We also contribute to sustainability-focused programmes nationally through a range of partner organisations including Community Energy Network, Zero Waste Network, and Environment Hubs Aotearoa.

Like all businesses, Sustainability Trust has been experiencing extreme challenges during the Covid-19 crisis. With the help of the NZ Government and our own financial reserves, we have been able to keep our 52 staff in full employment with no wages reduced. We continued to work as much as possible, including exploring new ways to support our community during lockdown, such as the provision of a free home energy helpline and sustainability at home webinars. We have now resumed our services, but we do face uncertain times.

Looking after our staff and our community has been our highest priority. We are grateful for the support of various NZ Government Ministries and Wellington City Council, who continue to support our various work programmes. These programmes include the Warmer Kiwi homes subsidised insulation/heating programmes funded by WCC as well as some of our urban agriculture and waste minimisation work.

Our social enterprise model is enabling us to maintain our community programmes through this period and beyond, as well as continuing to look after the 30 volunteers who regularly contribute time to support our programmes.

**Q13. How do you or have you previously interacted with Wellington City Council? (select all that apply)**

I use the city's cycleways

**Q14. How did you hear about this consultation?**

- Social media
- Online
- Word of mouth

## Julia Stace, Tanager Gully Restoration

Submission No: 270

### Submission on behalf of Tanager Gully Restoration Group

We wish to submit on the following section in the 2020/2021 Draft annual Plan

#### Section 4 Tipu Toa: Build Back Better.

We strongly agree with these initiatives, in particular the proposed biodiversity fund of an additional \$200k to fund the protection of biodiversity through an expanded weed management programme, for the reasons below.

Many restoration groups are removing weeds on public sites all over Wellington City to replant with Wellington's native species instead.

We have been weeding and planting for a decade or so around Aro Valley and this is our sixth year in Tanager Gully, which covers the valley at the top of Epuni St and the bushy surrounds of Tanager Park, bounded by Ohiro Rd, Laura Ave and Mortimer Tce. In the last 2 years a huge volunteer effort has gone into removing hundreds of mature old man's beard (OMB) vines that were smothering trees there, many of which were native trees. In Tanager there is a pine/ native/ exotic tree cover over 7 ha. of Town Belt.

Although it is close to being eliminated on our restoration site, there are many mature plants seeding conspicuously every year on Council land surrounding our restoration area. These are often on road reserves, with cuttings and the steep banks that are beyond the capabilities of weekend volunteers.

We have had tremendous support in our restoration efforts from WCC who provide us with a ranger to call on for assistance, a team of botanical experts to call on for advice and a nursery which supplies an annual allocation of new plants. We provide 100+ hours of volunteer labour most months, almost the equivalent of having a paid full time worker on site.

On several occasions we have been provided with WCC workers to spray huge area of blackberry or WCC has engaged contractors to chain saw down swathes of mature weed trees. But the existing budget for that has been far too small for all the work needed.

We are asking that money from the proposed biodiversity fund be spent on the serious weed problems on public spaces like road reserves, particularly in Aro Valley. Cuttings above busy roads like Raroa Rd are far too dangerous for amateur volunteers to tackle, but we need to get the whole area weed free to stop re invasion of the newly cleared sites. Prevailing westerlies blow seeds downwind from Aro Valley. Work done here prevents the seeds downwind to contaminant other suburbs thus extending the area needing to be weeded.

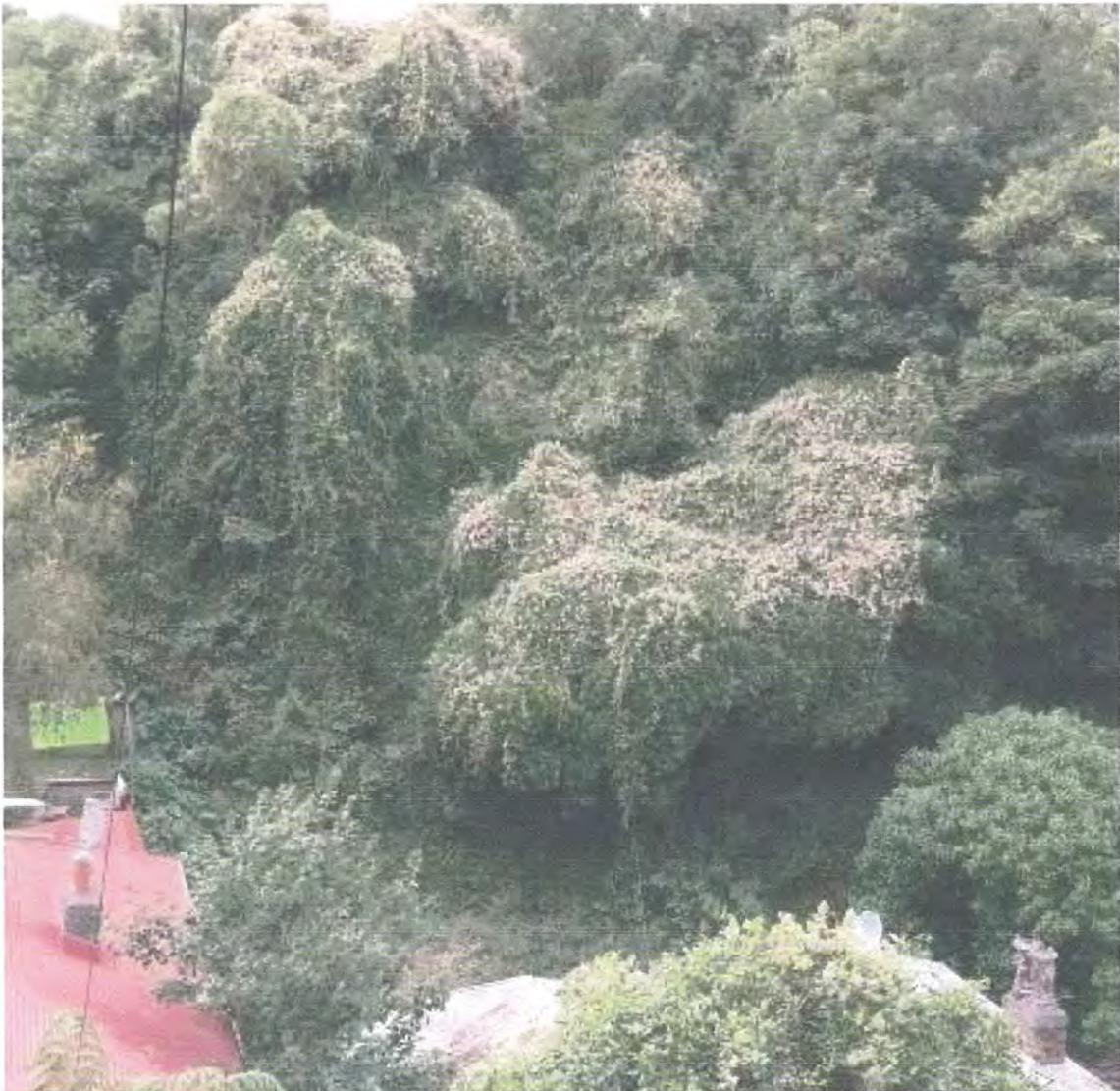
WCC has been very helpful with supporting our weed control, for example Illona Keenan will give a herbicide demo before our weeding bee on Sunday 6 June so everyone who comes regularly can handle the Picloram safely.

There is a need for more professional weeders on the WCC payroll to do the weed work that requires skill and equipment. There is so much work being done voluntarily on public land by

community groups all around Wellington that a hit squad of weeders could be kept busy all year round. Old man's beard is a major problem for half the year, but when it is dormant there are still plenty of other weeds, trees like barberry, flowering cherry, sycamore and Eleagnus spring effortlessly to mind, to keep a weed team going.

Weeding on ropes, or chain sawing trees, are too hard and dangerous for weekend volunteers.

We have recently assembled a squad of volunteers under the banner of OMB MUST GO ready to help control OMB on public and private land at the request of the owners. The plans is to help WCC by controlling sites accessible to volunteers, leaving the experts to tackle the inaccessible land.



Old man's beard on steep public & private land in Devon St gully. March 2020

Our long term goal is to return Tanera Gully to the typical forest of two centuries ago and to extend the food resources for native birds expanding out from Zealandia. We are beginning see this happening, especially over lockdown when in the quiet the birds were more conspicuous, and kereru, for example, are now known to be travelling via Tanera to the Eastern suburbs.

We think that a fulltime WCC weed squad is what's needed next to support and extend the work of all the restoration groups throughout Wellington, to help achieve the Council's goal of Our Natural Capital.

Julia Stace  
Tanera Gully Restoration Group  
5 June 2020

## Michael Gibson

Submission No: 271

From: Michael Gibson  
Sent: Monday, 8 June 2020 4:53 PM  
To: Ian Hunter; Barbara McKerrow  
Subject: Formal submission re WCC's Annual Plan

I object to the lack of information in the Annual Plan regarding a proposed children's play ground on the waterfront. The material below illustrates the reasons for my concern.

SIGNED

Michael Gibson  
Ratepayer and father or grandfather of eight Wellingtonian residents

---

From: Michael Gibson  
Sent: Monday, 8 June 2020 4:46 PM  
To: Ian Hunter  
Subject: Meeting re Frank Kitts playground

Dear Mr Hunter - following my request for information under the LGOIMA about the formal meeting which took place in the last Mayor's office my record of what happened at the meeting in question is as follows:

MINUTE OF MEETING HELD May 22 2018, 3.15 p.m., WCC Mayor's Office.

Present: Mayor Justin Lester, his P.R. chief (Joseph Romanos), two senior WCC Waterfront managers, Victor Davie (Chair of Waterfront Watch) and Michael Gibson whose letter requesting this meeting is shown below.

Michael Gibson started by thanking the Mayor for agreeing to a meeting with the two Environment Court appellants. He said that he thought that a way could be found forward so that the Frank Kitts Park Playground could be progressed without affecting any decisions regarding the destruction of the arena or which concerned the proposed Garden of Beneficence. He said that he had noted in particular that a majority of local Chinese were worried that proceeding with the Garden of Beneficence would bring Chinese people into disrepute locally even with its new name of Garden of Beneficence.

Justin Lester said that he had a new plan for the Garden which he tabled.

Victor Davie responded that the colours in the new plan were far from compatible with the green space which presently characterised Frank Kitts Park.

Justin Lester immediately got to his feet and said that the meeting was over.

The meeting therefore ended at 3.25 p.m. having lasted for ten minutes.

END OF FORMAL MINUTE

As a matter of further information please let me have details of all interchanges with the Council in the last year regarding the undertakings given to the Council for contributing funds to the proposed re-development of Frank Kitts Park.

With kind regards,

Michael Gibson

---

COPY OF OPEN LETTER to Mayor Justin Lester, Mayor of Wellington  
and to Victor Davie, President, Waterfront watch Inc.

From: Michael Gibson

Sent: Saturday, 21 April 2018 9:26 AM

To: Justin Lester; Victor Davie

Subject: Suggested way to make progress

Dear Justin and Victor,

I was shocked to see that the Council's claim that the present legal action in the Environment Court is being used as a reason for delaying the improvements which have long been so desirable to the playground in Frank Kitts Park.

The development of the playground is surely an entirely different matter from the separate creation of the dangerous and unsafe areas elsewhere in the Park which were the subject of my Appeal to the Environment Court.

During the Hearing it was clear that the playground was being used by the Council as an excuse or reason for the separate attempt to create a Garden of Beneficence (see below) and to destroy the amphitheatre.

This approach seemed to me to be obfuscatory and unworthy of a public body like the Wellington City Council.

I therefore formally request a meeting of the Respondent and the two Appellants so that any problem with agreeing resource consents for improvements to the Playground can be agreed and therefore removed from possible contention.

In the meantime, I note that the Environment Court's Decision stated that the proposed Chinese Garden was "to be known as the Garden of Beneficence" (Decision dated 6 Apr 2018, Para 3). I am pleased about this and record that, in future, I intend to refer only to a "Garden of Beneficence".

Finally, I record that, apart from circular emails which have been distributed to all other relevant parties, I have not communicated with either the Respondent (Wellington City Council) or the other Appellant (Waterfront Watch) in the Environment Court proceedings.

Yours with very kind regards,

Michael Gibson  
Appellant

**SUBMISSION ON WCC DRAFT ANNUAL PLAN FOR 2020/21**

**Key Points**

- 1.1 **How credible is it to set rates for 2020/21 (an increase of either 5.1% or 2.3%) predicated on an increase of at least 2-3 times that (either 10% or 14%) for the following year?** The recession New Zealand is entering can be expected to be deep and prolonged. In which case the economic conditions prevailing at the time the next long-term plan (LTP) for 2021-31 is being developed, in first half calendar 2021, are likely to be at least as, if not more, difficult than currently. By then anticipated job losses and business failure will be real job losses and business failures. A double-digit percentage increase in rates for 2021/22 will be no more, and probably less, credible than it would have been to have proceeded with the initially forecast 9.2% increase for 2020/21. The irresistible force (Council aspirations) seems to be running into the immovable object (the budget constraint).
- 1.2 **The alternatives given for 2020/21, as between rates increases of 5.1% or 2.3%, are not really alternatives, given that the underlying spending programme is the same in each case.** The only difference is in the amount to be borrowed; whereas it is the amount, quality, and prioritisation of spending that matters. How spending is financed - rates now or more borrowing now with additional rates later - is a secondary consideration.
- 1.3 **Council needs to shift now to focus its planning work on preparing for the next LTP, due to be finalised by 30 June 2021.** Prompted by a reading of the consultation document for the 2020/21 Annual Plan, this submission identifies some specific areas and aspects of Council policy and activity on which in-depth analysis needs to be undertaken, with that feeding into the information and alternatives to be put to the community for consultation next year (due around March/April 2020/21) on the next LTP. The quantum of work needed is such that it needs to be scoped and to commence now.
- 1.4 **It is also submitted that it is necessary for Council to augment consultation on the next LTP with a process by which it can obtain representative views from the community on how the community sees the priorities.** Self-selected responses, such as by way of responses to a consultation document, cannot be relied on for that purpose; indeed such responses are likely to give a (possibly highly) biased indication of the community's preferences. More likely is that Council hears disproportionately from those with 'narrow agendas' to promote or 'barrows to push'.

That, of course, is a legitimate part of the democratic process. But it must also be recognised that where those with a vested interest can get the Council to pay for or subsidise their interest, then their gain is at the expense of the wider community. And because the gains are concentrated on "the few", with the costs being spread across "the many", the consultation process is necessarily skewed. Those with an agenda have a strong incentive to push for their (narrow) interests since, with Council paying, they potentially get 'something for nothing'; whereas, because the cost is widely spread across the whole community, individual members of that wider community have only a weak incentive to respond. In Kiwi parlance, it's a process by which those with a narrow agenda can 'screw the scrum'. It is therefore important that the Council augments its standard consultation process with a 'survey' mechanism that puts alternatives and trade-offs to the community in a neutral manner and enables feedback to be received that is genuinely representative of the whole community – recognising the old saying that 'there is no free lunch'.

**Background**

2. Thank you for the opportunity to submit on the Wellington City Council 2020-2021 Annual Plan.

3. I am a Wellington City residential property ratepayer; and have been continuously for nearly 45 years. I am semi-retired, but still undertake economic consulting assignments, some in New Zealand but mostly internationally, including in some of the world's poorer countries.
4. This submission is informed by my local and international experiences, as well as by my professional understanding of the economic effects of the Covid-19 crisis. The latter are very considerable and, notwithstanding that virus has been well-contained in New Zealand, will be with us for some time. Any short-term bounce-back in consumer and business spending is likely to leave economic activity well short from pre-Covid levels. Given the damage that has been done to the incomes/cash-flows and balance sheets of many firms and households, and lingering uncertainty associated with the possibility of further clusters of infection, full economic recovery can be expected to take years rather than months. Recall that, following the GFC, it was not until the December quarter 2012, five years from the depths of the crisis, that the real average income of New Zealanders reached its pre-GFC level ([source http://archive.stats.govt.nz/infoshare/ViewTable.aspx?pxID=2a326eb3-d112-4f9c-a1b5-a4d3065f5cfc](http://archive.stats.govt.nz/infoshare/ViewTable.aspx?pxID=2a326eb3-d112-4f9c-a1b5-a4d3065f5cfc)).
5. This downturn is going to be very much deeper and potentially longer than the GFC recession, and most probably the deepest New Zealand has experienced since the Great Depression of the 1930s. Over the next 3-4 years New Zealanders, on average, **can expect lose at least 20 per cent of a year's income**. To be sure, for some, e.g., those employed in relatively sheltered sectors such as central and local government, the loss of income may not amount to much at all, perhaps just the absence of a couple of annual pay increases. But for others - those who lose their job, or their business - the loss will be very much greater.
6. Given the significance of central and local government to Wellington City, Wellington can expect to be somewhat more sheltered from the downturn than other regions. But still, the extent and duration of the downturn should not be under-estimated. Clearly there will be significant contraction in some areas of activity, e.g., export education, tourism (cruise ships), and the airport, as well as a more pervasive 'pulling back' across the City's economy as firms and households reassess what is now affordable/economic, in light of increased uncertainty.

### **Comments on 2020/21 Annual Plan**

7. Against the preceding backdrop, **my key submission for 2020/21 Annual Plan** is that the Council should use the remainder of this calendar year to think long, and to work hard, on preparing for development of its next LTP, focusing in particular on the initial 3 years commencing from 2021-22, until the LTP is revisited in 2024.
8. Accordingly, I do not propose to provide specific input on the specific proposals included in the consultation document for 2020/21. I accept that there is insufficient time to make anything other than marginal changes to those before the plan and budget for 2020/21 have to be finalised. Rather, I will take the opportunity to outline some of the **work that I think needs to be undertaken by the Council's management for the Mayor and Councillors** during the remainder of this calendar year, so as to ensure that the work needed adequately to prepare for formulating the next LTP is undertaken in time.
9. But before proceeding to that, let me make two general points prompted by the current consultation document:
- Rating Options for 2020/21 Annual Plan***
- 9.1 The rating options presented for 2020/21 are not real alternatives, but different representations of the same thing. The underlying spending programme is the same under each option, and it is that programme which really matters. Whether funded initially by rates or borrowing, spending has to be funded, ultimately, by taking resources from the community. Whether that happens this year, or in future years (by borrowing more this year), is a secondary consideration. In this sense, I submit that the alternatives presented in the consultation document distract from, rather than focus on, what matters. They are, in most respects, 'Clayton's options'.

There is also a question about the credibility of either option, presented in the consultation document as follows:

<b>Proposed 2020/21 Annual Plan rates options compared</b>	<b>Option A</b>	<b>Option B</b>
Rates increase 2020/21	5.1%	2.3%
Rates increase in 2021/22	10%	14%

Both options for 2020-2021 are predicated on double-digit percentage increases in rates for 2021/22. How credible is that given the likelihood that income levels in New Zealand, including Wellington, in first half next year will still be well below pre-Covid levels? If anything, the levels of hardship in the (business and household) community by then will be greater than they are now. Redundancies and business failures that now are anticipated will by then be real. It seems to me that what we have is a case of ‘the **irresistible force**’ (Council’s aspirations) running into the ‘**immoveable object**’ (the budget constraint) – with things approaching the point where ‘something has to give’.

Perhaps that might be taken as suggesting a preference for option A for 2020/21 - that is, “get the rates up whilst you can”. But that, I think, would be an excessively cynical approach, and unbecoming of a Council that seeks to provide effective leadership for its community - which I am sure is what Wellington City Council aspires to.

I therefore urge the Council, instead, to adopt option B for 2020/21 - that is, keep the increase in rates to the lower figure, on the basis that if the Council commences now on the process of review and reprioritisation needed for preparing the next LTP, it will be possible to identify some ‘quick wins’ that realise savings within the upcoming financial year. And in the unlikely event that is not achievable, it will be better to have been a little over-ambitious and to end up with a 2020-2021 operating deficit a little larger than budgeted, than to have taken the more ‘leisurely’ route afforded by increasing rates by the greater amount (5.1%).

### ***Consultation Process for 2020/21 Annual Plan***

9.2 I have two concerns about the consultation process that is being followed. One concern is about the 2020/21 consultation document (and Mayoral/Councillor webinar thereon) - with carry-over implications for the next LTP. The other is more general in nature. Taking each in turn:

*(a) Is the Council consulting on spending or funding choices?*

I should say at the outset that I fully recognise the Covid-19 crisis will have seriously complicated the process for consultation on the proposed 2020-2021 Annual Plan. And from what I can see, Wellington City has done better than many other councils in getting consultation material out to its community.

But I do have a concern that the consultation is focused not much at all on spending priorities and options, and instead is concerned mostly with how an essentially given spending programme is to be funded - i.e., how much by rates now and how much by rates later (by borrowing). How spending is to be funded, in my view, is quite secondary to the choices to be made on the spending side of the budget - both the ‘on what’ and the ‘how much’. The 2020/21 consultation process, if anything, steers people away from those questions.

*(b) Consulting with versus surveying the Community*

My more general concern is about how the process seems to conflate true ‘consultation’ with the community and undertaking a ‘survey’ of the community.

Consultation is a process for seeking input for the purpose of making a proposal better by checking for perspectives and insights that those affected in the community might have but which Council Officers and Councillors can miss. It should not be about gauging where community preferences lie, or in other

words what is the most 'popular' option. To discover community preferences and priorities, it is necessary to 'survey' the community - paying careful attention to ensuring that real alternatives are portrayed, that they are presented in an un-biased manner, and that the population or sample being surveyed is representative. Too much of what the Council puts out for consultation comes across as 'advocacy' (making the case) for a Councillor/Council Officer-preferred proposal, for self-selected respondents to respond to. This means that the feedback received cannot, indeed must not, be taken as necessarily providing a true reflection of community views. The feedback mostly will be from the 'noisy minority', not from a representative cross-section of the community.

To discern the true preferences of the community, the Council needs to present a well-informed and analysed set of spending options to a representative (not self-selected) population or sample. It should also elicit preference weightings on, say, the proportion of the budget that should be allocated amongst broadly defined strategic priorities, and amongst competing projects/priorities within those areas. Critical is that candidate projects and programmes have costs (and possible fees/charges) attached so that respondents can make informed assessments of trade-offs, for example, that by indicating a preference for X, it is clear that also entails a preference for not having Y or Z instead. If proposals are put forward without the trade-offs being clear, it is not difficult to obtain expressions of support for just about anything!

### **Further Work Needed Ahead of the Next LTP**

10. From the consultation document for the 2020/21 Annual Plan I have identified a number of matters on which further work should be undertaken to be able to obtain informed feedback on what the Council is proposing. As above, it will not be feasible to do that before the upcoming Plan must be finalised, but the work is necessary in preparation for the next LTP, due to be finalised by June 30 2021.

11. This is not to overlook that the Council has already set a 'savings target' for 2020/21, of \$3.2 million (page 8). But that target is out of operating costs of \$577 million, i.e., not much more than 0.5% and still leaving a (net?) increase in operating expenditure for 2020/21 of \$53 million (an increase of over 10% compared with 2019/20). That suggests that the 2020/21 "organisational savings target" is very much 'on the margin' - not the kind of basic 'organisational effectiveness and efficiency review' that needs to be undertaken ahead, and as part, of preparing a LTP.

12. Nor is it to overlook that some such work already appears to be slated for 2020/21, with the Annual Plan consultation document including the following:

- "Policy work in 2020/21 will include developing a new Economic Strategy, an Arts and Culture Strategy, a review of the Dangerous and Insanitary Buildings policy, how we might regulate the Beauty Industry, our approach to Footpath Management and Trading in Public Places, changes to the Traffic Bylaw to accommodate delegations from NZTA, an update of the Procurement Strategy, a review of our Gambling Venues Policy, and the regional waste management by-law. The above is a highlight only, and the full forward programme of work is regularly considered by Council committees" (page 22); and
- "A Mayoral Taskforce has been set up to better understand the state of Wellington's water network, and to provide a recommended action plan to help inform the 2021-31 Long-Term Plan" (page 26); and
- Wellington City's Waste Operations team has several key areas in waste where we are looking to make substantial improvements" (page 27).

13. While I am not sure that any need to regulate the beauty industry has been well-established (perhaps that is another of those impositions from central government?), some of these other proposed work programmes could be consistent with the kind of effectiveness and efficiency evaluations that I see as required.

14. Other matters meriting rigorous review and analysis also came to my attention from reading the current consultation document. These include the following:

#### 14.1 Wellington venues

These I understand include the:

Michael Fowler Centre

Old Town Hall

St James Theatre

Embassy Theatre

Opera House

TSB Arena

Convention Centre (under construction)

Taken together these must represent in the vicinity of a billion dollars worth of Council's (scarce) resources. That is a very substantial investment amount, which points to a corresponding need for careful and continuous attention to how well the resource is being utilised, in its current use. There is no lack of competing claims for the Council's investment resources!

A starting point for keeping track of the costs of, and benefits being delivered by, this investment would be to account annually for:

- the cost of capital (depreciation plus the opportunity cost of capital) plus operating cost; alongside
- an up-to-date record of the basic state of these facilities - some seem, repeatedly, to have required upgrades/strengthening and/or to have suffered repeated escalation of costs arising from the uncovering of more serious structural issues than had been expected;
- utilisation levels (% days used)/attendances, including
  - o revenue generated (being what direct beneficiaries have been prepared to pay for the benefit delivered);
  - o the attendees - which segment of the community are ratepayer funds being used to support/subsidise?; and
  - o the balance of the cost borne by those (the majority?) who do not use the facilities, relative to the 'public benefit' (along with identification of the assessed nature of that benefit).

I also note the following from the 2020/21 Annual Plan consultation document:

- with respect to the Convention Centre (under construction), it is stated that:  
"In addition, the ground floor will have a public exhibition gallery to showcase leading touring exhibitions, attracting primarily domestic visitors and Wellingtonians alike (page 33)."
- and with respect to the Wellington Museum upgrade (at a cost of \$10 million), it is stated that:  
"While the building is being strengthened the Wellington Museum Trust are seeking to make a range of improvements to the Museum and particularly the ground floor to improve the visitor experience and enhance the way the Museum displays and tells the stories of Wellington's rich history and connection with mana whenua. Initial planning and design work has commenced and a final business case will be presented to Council before funding is confirmed (page 36.)"

Is there some duplication here?

## 14.2 Library services

The closure of the City Library provides an opportunity to assess what kinds of library services are fit for purpose in the 21<sup>st</sup> century digital age. It has already necessitated something of a change of model with the establishment of the Collection and Distribution Centre (CDC) at Johnsonville. And plans are already in place to enable approximately 350,000 items to be ordered online from the CDC and collected from a library of choice (page 41). With that, is it now the case that Council could, and should, move more fully to a model under which access to library resources is provided more effectively (and at lower cost) by way of an online service, say, with courier delivery and return? Perhaps in conjunction with an audit of utilisation of the whole library collection - what proportion of the total collection has not been accessed for over 5 years, 10 years, etc? With modernisation of the library service, would it be possible to repurpose existing library buildings, to become more predominantly community facilities for events, meetings, functions, displays, etc? Many library-like services in other settings have already moved to more efficient digital modes of operation.

Also, are there opportunities for some integration of the platforms for library and archives resources? The consultation document mentions, on page 23, that “we launched Archives Online, as part of a wider programme to make Wellington City Council’s archives more accessible and to offer our services online. Anyone can now search online to discover what we have in our collections. Many of our digitised records are available for download and the public can request items to be digitised (page 23).” And on page 40: we are “re-homing Wellington [Library’s] rare book collection to the Wellington City Archives.”

I should emphasise that none of the above is suggesting any curtailment of the library services provided by the Council to its residents. Rather, it is about how the service can be made more effective and at no more, or less, cost. I for one, as an avid reader, would find the service considerably more effective if I could have books issued on-line and despatched/returned by courier (even though the library caters only for a smallish proportion of the titles of interest to me).

## 14.3 The flora and fauna ‘portfolio’ (Zoo, Zealandia, Otari-Wilton Bush Reserve, Botanical Gardens... etc).

When did Council last undertake a strategic review of this collection of facilities/reserves? What are the current relative priorities and how can they most effectively be catered for? If there is a budget constraint - which there always is, we can never have everything we would like to have! Where does the balance of priorities lie between:

- native flora and fauna/exotic flora and fauna?
- the demographics catered for e.g., children/adult; local v international, etc?
- a Wellington ‘point of difference’/having something for everyone - is there a trade-off between ‘focused excellence’ v broad-based ‘mediocrity’?

Are short-term decisions in these respects - e.g., \$4.575 million allocated for snow leopards at the Zoo, and \$3.520 million for upgrading the visitor facilities at Zealandia - being made within a clear longer-term strategic context, or piecemeal?

## 14.4 The economic development portfolio

The “What we do” section of the 2020/21 Annual Plan consultation document seems more vague than the corresponding content for other strategic areas. It includes only general deliverables:

- Monitor domestic and international visitor numbers to Wellington.
- Support high-quality events such as concerts, festivals and sports matches, including WOW, All Blacks matches and Home Grown.
- Promote Wellington as a tourist, conference and business destination.
- Encourage the business community to work together through our Business Improvement Districts.
- Operate venues and convention centres
- Support large- and small-scale economic growth programmes through the City Growth Fund.

Rigorous review is needed of what is being achieved by the various programmes undertaken under the auspices of 'economic development'. At least some will have proceeded on the basis of consulting advice suggesting benefits as a multiple of the outlay of Council funds. Periodic and independent/peer review of such advice needs to be undertaken, as a check on how the assumptions and analyses upon which such conclusions were arrived at stack up against actual results delivered.

In this connection, I note in passing the reference on p 17 that the Convention Centre will, during the construction stage, contribute \$76.3m to Wellington GDP and provide 864 jobs. On its face, this is plainly flawed economics - it takes use of resources, i.e., input costs, as one and the same as economic benefit. In a market context, where there is some basis for assuming that costs will be at least covered by revenue generated, that might provide the basis for a meaningful rule of thumb (and is the basis for the macroeconomic identity Production GDP = Expenditure GDP = Income GDP). But in the non-market context, resource use does not necessarily equate to economic benefit. To see that, consider the implications if construction of the (same) Convention Centre was to require twice the number of workers and to cost twice as much - would we then have a \$150m contribution to Wellington GDP and 1,700 jobs to celebrate? Or would the Convention Centre have just cost twice as much, for the same benefit?

A related point concerns the role of local government in providing support to the local economy through periods of macroeconomic contraction, like at present. (This I mention only in passing as the point relates only to the short-term (cyclical), not the fundamental structural issues now facing the Council.) To the extent that there is a temporary loss of demand from an exogenous 'shock', and consequential curtailment of private consumption and investment spending, a case can be made for the public sector to step into the breach, and to dis-save (to borrow). That can help to keep aggregate demand closer to the level of the economy's capacity to produce. But there is also a need for caution. Ramped-up spending that would not ordinarily pass a cost-benefit test carries a permanent opportunity loss - a permanent offset to any short-term gain that might be achieved. And, in that regard, it is generally very difficult at short notice to bring forward spending without some loss of quality in that spending - especially if the capacity needed to ensure maintenance of standards of project and programme rigour is already under strain.

For these reasons, considerable care is needed by the Council, with its limited capacity, to avoid rushing forward on things that carry a risk of long-run regret. Arguably, macroeconomic 'stimulus' is something that is much better left to central government fiscal policy, and to the central bank through adoption of expansionary monetary policy. The Council does not have the capacity needed to do it well, consistent with, as many would say, it not being the Council's role.

I should perhaps also add a further cautionary note. Even at the best of times an economic promotion/development programme requires some very hard-headed thinking. Some of what happens under that kind of banner will pass muster, but a whole lot of what I have seen, both here and abroad, is based on little more than 'snake oil' economics. I urge Council to be especially wary of those analyses that would have you believe that there will be, say, \$7 of benefit for the community for each \$1 of 'ratepayer investment'. If you believe that, you probably also believe in the 'tooth fairy'! (And I say that as an economic consultant!)

#### 14.5 Council pricing policies (fees and charges)

There is a good case for the Council pricing the services it provides, particularly where the user has a choice between the Council-provided service and an alternative, e.g., Council refuse collection or an alternative; or where control over the level of service use can be exercised by the user, an obvious example being water use. A case can also be made for the Council to charge to recover (some or all of) the cost of other services, even if access to alternatives is not available, or user control over use is not so possible, e.g., consent and licence fees. At the same time, especially in these latter cases, where the user 'cannot go elsewhere', it is imperative to have in place robust arrangements to ensure cost effectiveness of delivery.

Also, care is needed to avoid taking good practice on pricing too far. Good practices taken too far tend to become not such practice! In this connection, there is a question whether Wellington City Council (and other Councils) are increasingly framing their approach to setting fees and charges less in terms of “getting the pricing right” and more in terms of “where can we generate some additional revenue, so as to keep the rates increase down?”.

If there is something to that question, it will be resulting in loss of coherence in pricing. For example, at the same time as we have seen steady increases in pricing of some services with a large element of public health benefit (proper disposal of garbage at a properly run facility), there appears to have been increased subsidisation of provision of venues for ‘cultural’ performances (the many Wellington venues). To be sure, a rational case can be made for public provision of both yet one might have thought that the priorities would be the other way around - public health (a ‘public good’) being of higher priority than cultural performance (a ‘merit good’). Both the current Covid crisis, and my work in developing countries (get sanitation and disease under control and you are well on the road to development) underscores the validity of this, perhaps seemingly academic, distinction.

This is just but one example of how the Council’s approach to setting fees and charges may have become less than fully coherent. Is it time for the Council to take a reasonably comprehensive and ‘first principles’ look at its policy for setting fees and charges? The Controller and Auditor-General's publication *Charging for public sector goods and services* (2008) outlines guiding principles.

#### 14.6 Spatial planning

A prominent element of the ‘Urban Development’ strategy component of the proposed 2020/21 Annual Plan is the ‘Planning for Growth’ programme. Getting this right will be vital for the future of Wellington City.

I include this programme on the list of matters in need of careful review and evaluation out of concern about aspects of the approach adopted to urban planning to date. My concern relates mainly to possible over-prescription and excessive rigidity in the final ‘Planning for Growth’ template that is to emerge. This is not the place to go into detail on that, but I do want to highlight one point. The process to date has been based on the definitively stated view that:

“Wellington City is poised to grow by between 46,766 and 74,484 people by 2047 from a base of 209,713 people in 2017.”

[https://planningforgrowth.wellington.govt.nz/\\_data/assets/pdf\\_file/0015/3282/Wellington-Regional-HBA-Chpt-2-Wellington-City-Council.pdf](https://planningforgrowth.wellington.govt.nz/_data/assets/pdf_file/0015/3282/Wellington-Regional-HBA-Chpt-2-Wellington-City-Council.pdf), p 59)

Yet the reality is that no one knows what will transpire over the next 25-30 years. Over that time a number of things likely will happen that we cannot now remotely foresee. Just as the Covid-19 crisis was not anticipated (other than in the sense that many epidemiologists always considered that it was a matter not of ‘if’ but ‘when’). And there will be other shocks, some of which will result in population projections being revised upwards and others in downward revisions.

The forecast that the Wellington City population will increase by 46,766 and 74,484 people over the next 25-30 years appears to be based on extrapolation of the NZ population growth trend during the past decade or two - a period of unusually rapid growth, attributable to an exceptional level of immigration. If that is so, it may be tempting now to revise the numbers down, possibly substantially, given that immigration levels, post-Covid, could be considerable lower than they have been over the past decade or two.

But that would also be to miss the point. Rather, what is needed is for a good amount of elasticity to be built into the planning framework - elasticity that enables housing supply to flex with shifts in demand, both up and down. That should include early moves to relax some of the constraints on supply that have seen the massive increase in residential land prices over the past decade or two - a truly man-made problem that is causing considerable damage to the fabric of society. That should remain the case even if it is thought that

with slower population growth for a period, demand pressures might now ease. There is still a substantial backlog of unmet housing demand - evidenced by the fact that land values have yet to fall much, if at all. Also, an early shift to a more flexible planning framework would be entirely consistent with a need for there to be a lot more elasticity in the system - the flexibility needed to cater for the unforeseeable. That might be seem counterintuitive to planners - who like to plan (if not prescribe) for foreseeable scenarios. However, recent experience will hopefully have made clear how, because we cannot see the future, the best laid plans are as likely as not to end up anything but that. (For a similar assessment, in the current town planning context, see this recent short piece from the Productivity Commission <https://www.productivity.govt.nz/pandemicblog/dont-stand-so-close-to-me/>)

### **End note**

15. This submission, in essence is a proposal that Council, during 2020/21, undertake a review of its effectiveness, in preparation for development of the next LTP, due for finalisation by 30 June 2021. This needs to be done with a **'hard head'**, as well as the **'soft heart'** that comes from really caring about the well-being of the community that the Wellington City Council serves.

16. To a significant extent that **'soft heart'** will be about how the costs and benefits are distributed. That ultimately involves making value judgements about the balance to be struck between 'individual' and 'social' responsibility', which may entail a 'political' dimension. Yet **hard-headed** analysis can also help to inform those judgments, particularly when it is recognised that the ultimate incidence of costs and the distribution of benefits often, if not almost always, is quite different from what, at first blush, seems to be the case. (Don't be tricked by the 'corporate veil', and beware of 'middle class capture', and of how incentives are skewed when a wedge is introduced between the allocation of costs and benefits).

17. I should also emphasise that the thoughts set out above are not directed at just cost-cutting. Rather the driver should be cost-effectiveness - with at least as much attention being given to whether what the Council does is **effective** in delivering benefit to those who it is intended should benefit, as to how much it **costs**. If such a review is undertaken, I expect you will find programmes and projects that, while well-intentioned, are actually not delivering much at all to those whom the Council wants most to benefit, and others that, with some adaptation, could deliver a lot more benefit than they currently do.

18. I wish the Council well in preparing its next LTP.

\*\*\*\*

## Ollie Goulden, DPA

Submission No: 166

**Q1. Please let us know if you would you like to speak to your submission at an oral hearing?**

Yes

**Q2. How strongly do you agree or disagree with the overall approach to this Annual Plan?**

Somewhat agree

**Q3. Why did you indicate the level of support above?**

not answered

**Q4. How strongly to you support or oppose this option of an average rates rise of 5.1%?**

Neither agree nor disagree

**Q5. Why did you indicate the level of support above?**

not answered

**Q6. How strongly to you support this option of an average rates rise of 2.3%?**

Somewhat agree

**Q7. Why did you indicate the level of support above?**

Many people have lost their jobs, making extra expenses difficult at this time.

**Q8. How much do you support these new Tipu Toa initiatives?**

Somewhat support

**Q9. Why did you indicate the level of support above?**

not answered

**Q10. How much do you support or oppose our changes to fees and charges this year?**

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

**Q11. Why did you indicate the level of support above?**

not answered

**Q12. Is there anything else we should know before making decisions?**

### **Introducing Disabled Persons Assembly NZ**

The Disabled Persons Assembly NZ (DPA) is a pan-disability disabled person's organisation that works to realise an equitable society, where all disabled people (of all impairment types and including women, Māori, Pasifika, young people) are able to direct their own lives.

DPA works to improve social indicators for disabled people and for disabled people be recognised as valued members of society.

DPA and its members work with the wider disability community, other DPOs, government agencies, service providers, international disability organisations, and the public by: telling our stories and identifying systemic barriers developing and advocating for solutions celebrating innovation and good practice.

### **Context**

All state bodies in New Zealand, including local government, have a responsibility to uphold the principles and articles of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.

There are a number of articles pertinent to transport and the built environment in the UNCRPD, including:

- Article 3, which includes the principles 3(c) “full and effective participation and inclusion in society” and 3(e) “equality of opportunity”.
- Article 4.3, which states that for “decision-making processes concerning issues relating to persons with disabilities, States Parties shall closely consult with and actively involve persons with disabilities, including children with disabilities, through their representative organizations”.
- Article 9, which states “To enable persons with disabilities to live independently and participate fully in all aspects of life, States Parties shall take appropriate measures to ensure to persons with disabilities access, on an equal basis with others, to the physical environment, to transportation, to information and communications, including information and communications technologies and systems, and to other facilities and services open or provided to the public, both in urban and in rural areas.”

New Zealand Disability Strategy 2016-2026 is also a key document for guiding public service provision in New Zealand.

The outcome of the Strategy most relevant to this consultation is Outcome 5: “We access all places, services and information with ease and dignity”, which includes priority 10, “Increase the accessibility for disabled people of the built environment and transport services”.

**Q13. How do you or have you previously interacted with Wellington City Council? (select all that apply)**

- I have previously submitted on a Council consultation
- I use Council recreation centres
- I use Council swimming pools
- I have called the Council call centre before
- I use Council libraries
- I use Council recycling bags

**Q14. How did you hear about this consultation?**

Word of mouth

## Bernard O'Shaughnessy

Submission No: 119

**Q1. Please let us know if you would you like to speak to your submission at an oral hearing?**

Yes

**Q2. How strongly do you agree or disagree with the overall approach to this Annual Plan?**

Somewhat agree

**Q3. Why did you indicate the level of support above?**

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

**Q4. How strongly to you support or oppose this option of an average rates rise of 5.1%?**

Definitely disagree

**Q5. Why did you indicate the level of support above?**

I didn't - the organisation should be restructured

**Q6. How strongly to you support this option of an average rates rise of 2.3%?**

Definitely agree

**Q7. Why did you indicate the level of support above?**

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

**Q8. How much do you support these new initiatives?**

Somewhat support

**Q9. 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.

**Q10. 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

**Q11. Why did you indicate the level of support above?**

Common sense

**Q12. 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.

**Q13. 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

**Q14. How did you hear about this consultation? Online**



5 May 2020

Wellington City Council Annual Plan/Long Term Plan Committee  
By digital submission

Kia ora koutou,

**Re: Wellington City Council 2020-21 Annual Plan**

Thank you for the opportunity to submit on the 2020-21 Annual Plan. This Annual Plan comes at an important time for Wellington, and in my opinion, will set us up for a successful recovery from the economic consequences of Covid-19. I support the Option A rates rise recommended by Council, for a multitude of reasons most prominently its preservation of Council's fiscal position so it can continue to invest in the city. I also generally support the proposed work plan, therefore my submission is less a set of requests for new work, and more an idea I would like you to think about.

We don't have an economic recovery *and* a social recovery, we have *one* recovery, and it's got to work for everyone.

While the economic effects of Covid-19 are the most harmful for Wellington as a city and as an economy, it's the social effects of Covid-19 that will do the most harm to Wellingtonians as people. I'm referring here to the combined mental and social tolls of the news of a global pandemic, of a nationwide lockdown, and yes, of an economic crisis. Personally, even though I've held on to my job with a small CBD business, my mental health has suffered, and I am far from alone. Young Wellingtonians, and Wellingtonians in general, share the collective traumas of the lockdown period and its consequences.

Before Covid-19, Council was in my view doing an excellent job of supporting Wellingtonians to maintain their hauora, and their connection to others. That job is now bigger than ever, and I look forward to seeing increased social spending in next year's Long Term Plan. In the mean time, I am pleased there is no change to the proposed Annual Plan work programme for the social and recreation sector.

None of this is to say we should ignore the economic impact of Covid-19. I believe, however, that we need to be very careful about the way we think of that recovery. The three sectors that have arguably been hurt most by the economic effects of Covid-19 are hospitality, retail, and events. The workers in these sectors are predominantly young, and their situations of work are often precarious. If we are truly to 'build back better', a hope I share, then we need to make sure that the recovery of Wellington's economy does not come at the

expense of its workers. I urge Council to engage with workers and unions directly when considering its continued economic response. In particular, I believe much good could come out of appointing workers and union representatives to the Wellington Recovery Advisory Panel, and to other economic think-tanks Council organises.

Finally, I remain hopeful that Council's continued focus on the social needs of Wellingtonians will mean that the Linden project will not fall by the wayside. This hope is, in my unofficial opinion, one shared by the Tawa community and in particular its Community Board. I look forward to being engaged, as a Board member, in further progress in this area.

Ngā mihi nui,



Jackson Lacy

Address for correspondence: [hello@lacy.nz](mailto:hello@lacy.nz)

## **Lynn Cadenhead, Environmental Reference Group**

Submission No: 273

Wellington City Council Draft Annual Plan 2020/2021; submission from the Wellington City Council Environmental Reference Group (ERG)

Contact name: Lynn Cadenhead

Address: c/-Hedi Mueller, Democracy Advisor and contact for WCC ERG

Postal address: WCC PO Box 2199 WELLINGTON 6140 Attn: Hedi Mueller

### **Introduction**

Thank you for the opportunity to submit on the 2020-2021 Annual Plan. We wish to be heard in support of our submission.

The WCC Environmental Reference Group (ERG) roles include to;

- Advise Council on the best ways to improve Wellingtonian's quality of life environmentally, socially, culturally and economically by protecting and enhancing the local environment and,
- Bring knowledge and insight into Council around the environment, including water, energy, waste, biodiversity, urban design and transport management, in the context of Council's roles and priorities.

### **General Comment**

ERG is not commenting on the rates increase options as it is beyond our scope.

We would, however, in the interests of clarity and transparency, suggest that WCC provide alongside its detailed costing information, where this sits in light of the Long-Term Plan (and any variance against the Long-Term Plan)

This will help people see the 'bigger picture' and better understand the proposals in light of this.

For example, see Appendices One and Two, below, for selected pages from Christchurch City Council and Nelson City Council's 2020-2021 Annual Plans. These demonstrate the level of detail we would like to see in order to make an informed submission, and which is missing from the WCC Annual Plan. Note that they both reference their

Long-Term Plans.

### **Transport**

We support the proposals here as WCC's contribution towards Let's Get Wellington Moving.

### **Climate Change**

As a general statement, the ERG appreciates that Covid-19 has put an economic strain on many Wellington businesses, and especially those that are wholly or partially dependent on tourism. Nevertheless, it is widely accepted that the reduction in greenhouse gases has significantly improved Wellington's chances of being 'First to Zero' as promised in Te Atakura.

Future generations and the natural environment would be better off if WCC stopped changing the climate with its petrol, diesel, kerosene, bunker fuel and sewerage (methane) projects, as follows:

- Petrol - stop building motorways, car parks and roads. Start building German-standard bike roads and allowing German-type public transport; remove the golden mile "bus blockade" and build car-free streets - again, like German cities and elsewhere. Fix planning so people can live within 15 minutes' walk/public transport of central business district (so that, in the future, citizens can afford to buy apartments and townhouses with access to the city)
- Diesel - prevent diesel vehicles entering the city, which are also air polluters
- Kerosene - stop encouraging flying to and from the city. Shrink the airport and aviation activity. Build video convention facilities and promote the rapidly expanding technology of Virtual Reality tourism instead
- Bunker fuel - stop promoting the cruise ship industry
- Sewerage - stop converting it to methane in the tip. Instead, burn the sludge as a fuel or otherwise process it without releasing greenhouse gases.

## **Waste**

We strongly support bringing forward the business case analysis and additional \$75k funding for the transition of the Southern Landfill to a resource recovery park.

We welcome the regional goal of 30% waste reduction over 10 years, but urge the regional councils to set a bolder goal to reflect that NZ is ranked the 4th most wasteful nation. Other areas in New Zealand have achieved much higher targets already. For example, Raglan has reduced household rubbish by 76%.

We agree with the need to increase landfill fees to incentivise waste diversion and provide increased funding for sustainable waste solutions. This has proven to be effective in the past, and even in a time of difficult financial circumstances, the council must remain committed to its long-term objectives. We recommend that the increase is supported by a public education effort, which will help ratepayers understand how they can reduce their costs. We would like to see the Council monitoring the level of fly-tipping/unauthorised waste disposals following any fee increase. It is positive that green waste will now be free.

We strongly support the kitchen waste diversion trial.

We are excited to see the council signalling a shift to a Circular Economy mindset, and encourage the council to consider this as a framework for wider waste issues, such as sewage sludge and construction waste, as well as household and kitchen waste. Waste should be seen as a resource wherever possible.

We accept the extension of the landfill as a transitional solution, but strongly urge WCC to link the extension to a commitment to a sustainable long-term alternative to landfilling sewage sludge in order to minimise future landfilling.

## **Resilience**

We support the provision of additional funding for Wellington Water Limited (WWL) for water leak detection and repair; an assessment of the condition of assets; and to cover the additional cost of sewage sludge disposal. We also agree with fixing sewage leaks. However, we recommend that techniques such as tracing with dye and other new techniques should also be used in addition to roving teams .

We agree with the commitment to progress a green infrastructure demonstration project for stormwater, and would expect water sensitive urban design to be mandatory within 12months for new builds.

We agree with the investigation of minor roading improvements that are designed to make walking safer and to more safely allow social distancing. Council must not only 'investigate' these improvements they must also *implement* them.

To maintain and improve community resilience we agree with the need to work with others to address emerging needs. We note that existing needs must also be addressed. We particularly agree with the need to maintain transitional housing, to ensure food is available for all, and to address harm reduction and family violence.

## **Water**

We strongly support the proposed three waters work programme that will be delivered, on WCC's behalf, by Wellington Water Limited (WWL).

The Omāroro reservoir is a critical piece of resilience infrastructure, and the sludge project is also important in light of the ongoing issues with the landfill and its (in)ability to take this into the future.

We support the Mayoral taskforce that is being set up from which to develop an action plan to help inform the 2021-31 Long-Term Plan.

As an outcome of this, we ask that the public and ratepayers be provided with a very clear picture of the current state of assets; their current capacity; and where increased capacity and resilience is needed to adjust to climate change. Furthermore, we expect that this should meet increased density and growth that is forecast for Wellington, without any risks to the supply or quality of water.

We anticipate that these issues will require significant investment. For that reason, the sooner ratepayers are provided with the true costs of better managing our three waters' resources and delivery infrastructure, the better. Having a sound information base is crucial to this.

## **Mana Whenua Iwi & Treaty Relations**

ERG strongly advocates for meaningful relationships between the Council and Iwi, and we believe it is crucial for the Council to ensure that the voice of Mana Whenua is included in all planning processes. We therefore support the continuing funding provided for this.

As a group that is providing advice on environmental matters, the ERG also notes the Kaitiaki role of Māori in relation to Wellington's natural resources and supports their direct input on this plan.

## **Biodiversity**

We strongly support an additional \$200k in funding for the protection of biodiversity through an expanded weed management programme. This work is hugely important for safeguarding Wellington's natural environment.

It's important to recognise that a healthy environment has many links with good mental and physical health, social cohesion, and cultural identity. It's also imperative that intergenerational equity is taken into account when considering environmental matters - future generations deserve a clean and healthy natural environment.

It is for these reasons, as well as the intrinsic value of nature, that we support increased funding for biodiversity protection. Additionally, we continue to encourage WCC to prioritise environmental protection and restoration in future planning.

## **Heritage**

We strongly agree with an additional \$100K in funding for the Built Heritage fund to progress earthquake strengthening. This work increases the resilience of the city, adds to the city's desirability as a place to both live and visit. We would also like the Heritage Team to be adequately resourced so that Heritage Trails, signage and other work can be progressed. This work will be important to Wellington's local tourism recovery and to increase Wellington residents' enjoyment of their city during their stay-at-home holidays.

We support the cultural landscape principles proposals.

**Lynn Cadenhead, On behalf of the WCC Environmental Reference Group**

## Appendix One: Christchurch City Council pages 8 and 12 from the 2020-2021 Annual Plan

### Revenue

Property based rates are the primary source of revenue. A brief explanation of each source of revenue is included in the Funding Impact Statement rating policy section of the LTP.

#### Major changes from the LTP are:

- Lower interest revenues from funds held (\$10.2 million). Refer to interest expense comment on the Capital Endowment Fund, and impact of falling interest rates.
- Lower Vbase recoveries (\$8.3 million) – offset by lower costs.
- Lower volumes of building consents (\$5.6 million) reflecting the drop in demand. These are largely offset by cost reductions.
- Reduction in Trade Waste revenues (\$2 million), due to several large clients who have downsized their business.
- Lower Housing revenues of \$2 million, reflecting current income received due to the transfer of housing stock to the Ōtautahi Community Housing Trust.
- Crown funding for the Canterbury Multi Use construction costs (\$5.4 million). The Crown's contribution had not been confirmed when the LTP was adopted
- Additional NZTA operational (\$1.7 million) revenues as a result of Council revising its work programme to take advantage of enhanced subsidies.

### Surplus, operating deficits, and sustainability

The Draft Annual Plan for 2020/21 shows an accounting surplus of \$49.3 million before revaluations of \$233.6 million. Under accounting standards Council is required to show all revenue, including earthquake-related recoveries, and contributions from central Government and NZ Transport Agency, as income for the year. However, some of these recoveries reimburse Council for capital programme expenditure.

### Capital programme expenditure

\$512 million will be invested in the capital programme in 2020/21, an increase of \$2 million over the LTP. Excluding any carry forward / bring back of budgets from prior financial years, the increased budget which relates to:

- Christchurch Northern Corridor Downstream Delivery Package 1 & 2 (\$16 million) – bringing forward budgets to address designation conditions regarding the Northern Arterial and Cranford Street Upgrade ahead of the opening of the Christchurch Northern Corridor due mid 2020.
- Cycleway Projects (\$12.5 million) originally brought forward to take advantage of the NZTA Targeted Enhanced Funding Assistance Rates (TEFAR). Specific projects can be seen in the Capital programme section.
- Strategic Land Offset Programme (\$9.4 million) – reprogrammed to reflect changes in timing of related projects.
- Performing Arts Precinct (\$8 million) – funding was planned 2018/19 – 2019/20 in the LTP. Project was retimed due to a delay in the land transfer from the Crown and development agreement approval.
- Linwood Pool (\$6.9 million) – updated to reflect the current work programme with funding through to 2021/2022.
- Well Heads Improvement Programme and Water Safety Plan requirements (\$5.6 million) – bringing forward budgets for further well and well head replacements plus funding added for backflow prevention, rezoning and smart meters to meet the changing safety standards.
- Robert McDougall Gallery Strengthening (\$5.5 million) – project has been rephased to be delivered earlier.
- Wastewater Reticulation Renewals (\$5.3 million) – the budget was pushed out during the 2020 Annual Plan, due to incomplete work in 2018/19 which was carried forward to 2019/20. This resulted in an additional spend planned for 2020/21.
- Old Municipal Chambers (\$4.9 million) – project has been rephased to be delivered earlier.
- Neighbourhood Reserve purchases (\$2.6 million) – due to increasing demand growth for new reserves and funded through development contributions.

Annual Plan	Note 2	Long Term Plan	Annual Plan	Variance	Expenditure Category		
2019/20	Capital Programme	2020/21	2020/21	to LTP	Renewals & Replacements	Improved LOS	Increase Demand
69,614	Communities & Citizens	103,016	118,040	15,024	94,473	1,500	22,067
24,522	Flood Protection	48,346	39,008	(9,338)	7,218	131	31,659
	• Governance	-	-	-	-	-	-
3,661	Housing	4,117	4,117	-	4,117	-	-
20,143	Parks, Heritage & Coastal Environment	28,350	54,246	25,896	47,731	963	5,552
2,570	Refuse Disposal	2,966	2,966	-	1,234	1,732	-
	2 Regulatory & Compliance	-	3	3	3	-	-
78,373	Roads & Footpaths	75,826	95,200	19,374	23,824	64,578	6,798
19,987	Stormwater Drainage	22,439	28,087	5,648	28,027	-	60
872	Strategic Planning & Policy	1,020	1,020	-	-	-	1,020
30,483	Transportation	34,405	43,718	9,313	3,845	39,075	798
58,782	Wastewater	85,817	81,883	(3,934)	69,346	11,208	1,329
33,154	Water Supply	53,281	48,476	(4,805)	44,695	2,047	1,734
77,595	Corporate	50,402	(4,802)	(55,204)	15,448	(10,173)	(10,077)
<b>419,758</b>	<b>Total capital programme</b>	<b>509,985</b>	<b>511,962</b>	<b>1,977</b>	<b>339,961</b>	<b>111,061</b>	<b>60,940</b>

One page from the Nelson City Council's Annual Plan - Financial section

**SUMMARY OF CAPITAL EXPENDITURE OVER \$100,000 IN ANY ONE YEAR**

Project	Annual Plan 2019/20	Long-Term Plan 2020/21	Annual Plan 2020/21	Difference to LTP 2020/21
<b>Corporate</b>				
<b>Civic Expenses</b>				
Christmas decorations CBD	51,100	52,224	100,000	47,776
<b>Civic House</b>				
Floor 1 upgrade	800,000	-	-	-
Airconditioning	400,000	52,224	50,000	( 2,224)
Capital: Furniture & Fittings	30,000	18,801	120,000	101,199
Building modifications	50,000	1,357,824	-	( 1,357,824)
Civic House Renewal Program	174,498	5,222	586,000	580,778
Floor 6 fit out/ upgrade	100,000	-	100,000	100,000
<b>Strategy</b>				
Haven precinct capital works	558,800	-	-	-
<b>Administration</b>				
Aerial Photography Programme	136,000	-	93,000	93,000
Upgrade TOTSM	-	104,448	104,448	-
Capital: Motor Vehicles	143,622	90,327	150,000	59,673
Core Systems enhancement	275,940	282,010	282,010	-
<b>Corporate Projects under \$100,000</b>	<b>728,963</b>	<b>411,487</b>	<b>562,139</b>	<b>150,852</b>
<b>Total Corporate</b>	<b>3,448,923</b>	<b>2,374,567</b>	<b>2,147,597</b>	<b>( 228,970)</b>
<b>Economic</b>				
<b>Economic Development</b>				
CBD Enhancements	590,000	208,896	590,000	381,104
<b>Total Economic</b>	<b>590,000</b>	<b>208,896</b>	<b>590,000</b>	<b>381,104</b>
<b>Environmental Management</b>				
<b>Monitoring the Environment</b>				
Healthy Streams	110,478	112,908	112,908	-
Plant & Equipment	86,870	104,448	141,005	36,557
Upper Trafalgar Street Pedestrian Precinct	250,000	-	-	-
<b>Environmental Management Projects under \$100,000</b>	<b>113,949</b>	<b>104,256</b>	<b>13,861</b>	<b>( 90,395)</b>
<b>Total Environmental Management</b>	<b>561,297</b>	<b>321,612</b>	<b>267,774</b>	<b>( 53,838)</b>
<b>Flood Protection</b>				
Maitai flood management	51,100	104,448	150,000	45,552
Brook Stream fish passage	51,100	167,117	167,117	-
Brook Stream Catchment Improvements	-	112,908	50,000	( 62,908)
Inventory of Urban Streams	251,400	104,448	104,448	-
Review of Jenkins & Arapiki (airport)	-	121,433	121,433	-
Flood Mitigation	161,610	165,165	165,165	-
Saxton Creek upgrade	1,300,000	-	2,100,000	2,100,000
Minor Flood improvement prgm	300,000	-	-	-
Whakatu Drive (Storage World)	600,000	-	80,000	80,000
Secondary Flow Paths	102,200	-	-	-
Saxton Creek Culvert Upgrade	150,000	3,951,790	300,000	( 3,651,790)
Orphanage Stream - bunding and Suffolk Road Culvert	918,480	668,467	500,000	( 168,467)
Vested Assets	169,652	173,384	173,384	-
<b>Flood Protection Projects under \$100,000</b>	<b>300,051</b>	<b>288,880</b>	<b>511,480</b>	<b>222,800</b>

## Paula Warren

Submission No: 117

### Q1. Please let us know if you would you like to speak to your submission at an oral hearing?

Yes

### Q2. How strongly do you agree or disagree with the overall approach to this Annual Plan?

Somewhat disagree

### Q3. Why did you indicate the level of support above?

I think rates levels should stay as needed to do the job. Many of us are not suffering significant financial effects of the pandemic, and should be contributing to the city. Targeted rates relief is more appropriate than an overall rates cut. Rates are a relatively small part of my annual costs and I get a lot of value from the council services. There is some rates money being wasted, including by Roads vegetation management contracts, but mostly we need more effort, not just continuation of past levels of work.

### Q4. How strongly to you support or oppose this option of an average rates rise of 5.1%?

Somewhat agree

### Q5. Why did you indicate the level of support above?

Because it's better than the second option. But as I said, i want to see some activities increased. I would also support (at AL1) an increase in charges for parking.

### Q6. How strongly to you support this option of an average rates rise of 2.3%?

Definitely disagree

### Q7. Why did you indicate the level of support above?

We need to maintain services and continue to improve infrastructure. Many of us are not significantly financially affected by Covid and shouldn't be pushing our costs off onto future ratepayers.

### Q8. How much do you support these new initiatives?

Definitely support

### Q9. Why did you indicate the level of support above?

This is the opportunity to change the way we do a lot of things. We need green infrastructure, including stormwater retention wetlands, stormwater gardens, etc. We need to make the city truly walkable. It's about time we got some LGWM stuff happening, after what feels like decades of making submissions and attending working groups and having WCC and others pull the plug on every useful initiative. I was the pedestrian rep on the Thorndon transport project. The minute the retailers started making a fuss about parking places, the mayor pulled the whole thing, and the positive things that all reps wanted never happened. I've been asking for years for some greenways, and WCC makes nice noises and does nothing. We ran two very successful closed road days on Miramar Peninsula and people asked for a change to the road to open it up for walkers, but WCC did nothing, and have now only advertised a short term change. There are around 160 restoration groups doing great work, but WCC's support for them has reduced rather than increased. I used to be able to get wood chips and now can't. We need to stop trying to maintain a non-functioning BAU and start doing transformations to deliver the walkable, green city that residents are saying they want. But these initiatives aren't enough. We need more investment in making

our water infrastructure fit for the future. We need to develop and implement nature-friendly coastal changes before sea level rise becomes a serious problem. We need more rangers to work with community groups.

**Q10. 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

**Q11. Why did you indicate the level of support above?**

I want to see charges for use of public road space for private car storage increased. The additional income can be used to improve the walking environment and subsidise bus fares for low income households.

**Q12. Is there anything else we should know before making decisions?**

One thing I want you to stop spending money on is Downers contracts for road vegetation. I run a restoration project and despite having a no-cut no-spray agreement for Clifton Terrace and a "you will be notified before we do work" agreement for Tokyo Lane, they still come and make a mess. I wouldn't mind so much if what they did was useful, but it isn't. They damage trees, weed-eat plants Berhampore have provided, but don't deliver benefits for pedestrians over the longer term. For example where there are agapanthus taking up a large part of the footpath, they cut about twice a year, when what it needs is to have them dug out and replaced with something like renga lilies that will not need maintenance. The head of Parks and I discussed this one year and he agreed that there were much better ways to invest funding to deliver better CPTED, pedestrian and biodiversity outcomes. But year after year after year I raise this issue - in Annual Plan submissions, ERG, at functions, when receiving awards. But nothing changes. Why? Why do you go on with stupid expenditure and not listen? Why outsource things that could be done competently by a park ranger? Why can't you work constructively with your restoration groups? What do I need to do to get change?

**Q13. How do you or have you previously interacted with Wellington City Council? (select all that apply)**

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

**Q14. How did you hear about this consultation?**

- E Newsletter
- Word of mouth

## Caroline Taylor, Growspace Wellington

Submission No: 170

**Q1. Please let us know if you would you like to speak to your submission at an oral hearing?**

Yes

**Q2. How strongly do you agree or disagree with the overall approach to this Annual Plan?**

Somewhat agree

**Q3. Why did you indicate the level of support above?**

We agree with an overall approach that focuses on recovery for Wellington City and takes this opportunity for a sustainable transformation towards a low carbon, resilient and inclusive economy. We urge a strong commitment to the Te Atakura / First to Zero plan. We believe Covid-19 has shown the importance of an increased emphasis on relocalisation with its environmental, social and cultural benefits - in particular through circular local food economies. Alongside this we urge prioritising local food security to support resilience and the diversion of organic waste from landfill through decentralised, local methods.

**Q4. How strongly to you support or oppose this option of an average rates rise of 5.1%?**

Somewhat agree

**Q5. Why did you indicate the level of support above?**

not answered

**Q6. How strongly to you support this option of an average rates rise of 2.3%?**

Somewhat agree

**Q7. Why did you indicate the level of support above?**

not answered

**Q8. How much do you support these new Tipu Toa initiatives?**

Definitely support

**Q9. Why did you indicate the level of support above?**

We support and applaud the intent of the Tipu Toa: Build Back Better framework, plan and funding through the City Recovery Fund. We agree with the initiative's focus on local creativity and innovation for the recovery and revitalisation of Wellington city. We encourage this to be done in keeping with Te Atakura / First to Zero Plan and with a view to supporting more resilient and inclusive local communities and livelihoods. GrowSpace Wellington is a new enterprise supporting local food growing initiatives. We are part of a growing groundswell of dedicated activity toward a more sustainable food system in Wellington. Along with our collaborators, we are committed to aligning this with multiple benefits of food security, community, health, and engagement, care and regeneration of our natural environment, and sustainable livelihoods. In this network we provide education services as well as play a role as connector, helping to build and progress a range of collaborations, for example:

- Urban farming – working with Kaicycle, and the pivotal leadership role they have in developing and modelling a working urban farm in Wellington. An opportunity to extend this model is being

explored with some Wellington communities, linked with the work of the national level Urban Farmers Alliance ·

- Urban farming/growing qualifications – launched in late May, Wellington now hosts New Zealand’s first secondary school course in regenerative urban farming. There are an initial 12 students enrolled, with teaching led through Kaicycle and Papa Taiao Earthcare ·
- Community composting trial – assisting the work led by the Sustainability Trust and Kaicycle with the support of the Council and other collaborators including Manaaki Whenua Landcare Research, linked to their work on the National Science Challenge Building Better Homes, Towns and Cities

We acknowledge and strongly support the Sustainable Food Initiative in the Annual Plan. This has enabled some of our activities including some of the collaborations we participate in noted above. It is, however, well below the scale required to realise the potential of the new food system energy that is emerging in Wellington. This potential extends beyond ‘social and recreation’ to also creating new innovative business and sustainable green jobs, aligned with circular economy principles, that can enable local solutions for food security, decentralised organic waste management, emissions reduction, and also enable community connectedness and resilience.

We are noticing cities in places all over the world embracing urban farming and food growing as a way of bringing new pride and life into city communities and local economies. Wellington is well placed to do this too, and with our own creative, smart city edge. We think this will happen within current settings, but perhaps quite slowly.

The opportunity we have in front of us to accelerate this, taking advantage of the grassroots energy and skills we have around us, and with the Council support through governance and strategic funding of local initiatives. Food and green waste represent the largest percentage of material currently being landfilled. People in Wellington want solutions to avoid sending their organic waste to landfill. We strongly support the current trialling of community composting hubs by Sustainability Trust and Kaicycle with the support of WCC as a potential solution.

We also support the creation of community resource recovery and reuse hubs for business and householders.

**Q10. How much do you support or oppose our changes to fees and charges this year?**

<p><b>I support or oppose not increasing the majority of fees and charges for 2020/21</b></p>	<p>Definitely support</p>
<p><b>I support or oppose increasing Southern Landfill fees to help fund ‘polluter pays’ and waste reduction initiatives</b></p>	<p>Definitely support</p>

**Q11. Why did you indicate the level of support above?**

We agree that landfill charges need to increase to support sustainable waste solutions, to minimise waste where possible, and to help incentivise waste minimisation behaviour among the community.

We are very supportive of a proportion of the fee increases at landfill being put towards waste minimisation projects run by council, as well as increasing the waste minimisation grant to further support waste diversion initiatives for Wellington city.

More funding to support business to reduce waste and their carbon footprint, would have the dual benefit of making businesses more financially resilient in the face of Covid-19 and the expected landfill levy increases, as well as supporting the Council's carbon and waste goals.

**Q12. Is there anything else we should know before making decisions?**

It is critical that Wellington's recovery seizes this opportunity to tackle the climate emergency with innovative local solutions and support for the role of social enterprises in this delivery.

We also encourage the Council to prioritise work on the Sustainable Food Initiative in the Annual Plan. This has enabled some of our activities including some of the collaborations we participate in.

As GrowSpace Wellington we are part of a growing groundswell of dedicated activity toward a more sustainable food system in Wellington. Along with our collaborators, we are committed to aligning this with multiple benefits of food security, community, health, and engagement, care and regeneration of our natural environment, and sustainable livelihoods.

In this network we provide education services as well as play a role as connector, helping to build and progress a range of collaborations, for example:

- Urban farming – working with Kaicycle, and the pivotal leadership role they have in developing and modelling a working urban farm in Wellington. An opportunity to extend this model is being explored with some Wellington communities, linked with the work of the national level Urban Farmers Alliance ·
- Urban farming/growing qualifications – launched in late May, Wellington now hosts New Zealand's first secondary school course in regenerative urban farming. There are an initial 12 students enrolled, with teaching led through Kaicycle and Papa Taiao Earthcare ·
- Community composting trial – assisting the work led by the Sustainability Trust and Kaicycle with the support of the Council and other collaborators including Manaaki Whenua Landcare Research, linked to their work on the National Science Challenge Building Better Homes, Towns and Cities

It is, however, well below the scale required to realise the potential of the new food system energy that is emerging in Wellington. This potential extends beyond 'social and recreation' to also creating new innovative business and sustainable green jobs, aligned with circular economy principles, that can enable local solutions for food security, decentralised organic waste management, emissions reduction, and also enable community connectedness and resilience. We are noticing cities in places all over the world embracing urban farming and food growing as a way of bringing new pride and life into city communities and local economies. Wellington is well placed to do this too, and with our own creative, smart city edge. We think this will happen within current settings, but perhaps quite slowly.

The opportunity we have in front of us to accelerate this, taking advantage of the grassroots energy and skills we have around us, and with the Council support through governance and strategic funding of local initiatives.

**Q13. How do you or have you previously interacted with Wellington City Council? (select all that apply)**

- I use Council recycling bags
- I use Council rubbish bags
- I use Council swimming pools
- I use Council recreation centres
- I enjoy using Council maintained walking/biking tracks
- I use Council libraries
- I have called the Council call centre before
- I have previously submitted on a Council consultation
- I have attended a Council event such as A Very Welly Christmas or Pasifika Festival
- I use the city's cycleways
- I play sport on Council fields or courts

## Ian Reid, Owhiro Bay Residents Association

Submission No: 275

### OBRA Submission to 2020 Annual Plan

#### Introduction

Wellington's South Coast is the raw edge of the innovative capital – known to be a little wild and a little eccentric but also highly innovative. It is the leading edge of Wellington when the wind turns to the South and it should be the leading edge for recovery and recycling.

OBRA agrees with the Draft Annual Plan's (AP) statement that the "role of Wellington City Council is to deliver services that support a well-functioning city" (page 4) and also the Annual Plan as a mechanism to support the building of a stronger Wellington to meet current and future challenges (page 8).

This submission covers the following aspects of the Annual Plan

1. **Investigation Process of the Owhiro Catchment + Roving crews**
2. **Digital Platform for Wellington Freshwater Super Catchments**
3. **Coastal Mitigation**
4. **Residents Associations and Democracy Project**
5. **Landfill**
6. **Recycling Precinct**

#### 1. Investigation Process of the Owhiro Catchment + Roving crews

Owhiro Bay Residents Association welcomes the news that WCC has approved funding for the Roving Crews to investigate contamination in Wellington Waterways, commencing with the Owhiro Catchment. Councillor Sean Rush and Wellington Water CEO Colin Crampton have confirmed this at recent meetings and we look forward to this work commencing in the coming months.

OBRA have been invited by Wellington Water to help establish the requirements/parameters for the Roving Crews.

We believe Wellington City Council will need to provide significant financial resources to Wellington Water to ensure that the programme is professionally structured to achieve the following cycle of activity which to date has not been carried out systematically in any catchment:

1. Monitoring
2. Evaluation & Reporting
3. Investigation
4. Evaluation & Reporting
5. Remedying
6. Reporting

WCC and Wellington Water face rising expectations from both the community and its commitments under the National Policy Statement on Fresh Water. Wellington Water does not have a high level of expertise or adequate budget to undertake serious ongoing freshwater investigation and remediation of the kind that will significantly improve water quality in Wellington's catchment. The Owhiro Catchment, feeding into the Taputeranga Marine Reserve, will be the test case for whether Wellington City Council is serious about meeting its commitments. To do so, Wellington Water must be tasked and funded by WCC to undertake this work as part of a Catchment Management Plan developed in collaboration with the community.



## 2. Digital Platform for Wellington Freshwater Super Catchments

At a meeting between Wellington Water's Senior Management, led by CEO Colin Crampton, and the Owhiro Bay Residents Association on 28 May, it was agreed that Wellington Water would lead a project to create a significant digital platform for sharing information, including monitoring, investigations, surveys and plans, with the public.

The agreement is to use Owhiro Bay as the Beta test case and rapidly expand it to cover all of Wellington's super catchments. Wellington Water has traditionally been extremely poor at sharing data with the community and this has contributed to the health risks in bays and the appalling state of contamination in our streams.

WCC is ultimately responsible for this and needs to ensure Wellington Water is adequately tasked and funded to deliver a first class digital platform that has two primary audiences:

**General public who need access to simple, clear information.** This would involve Wellington Water aggregating data, presenting to the public in visually simple and interesting ways and ensuring it is distributed to both the web and social media, such as the community Facebook Page. LAWA's Baywatch site system is hugely misleading and a menace to public health and safety and needs to be addressed by WCC and GWRC.

Accurate, up-to-date information that will help people make decisions about whether it is safe to swim, ideally getting real time information to the public.

### **Stream and Marine ecologists, activists, etc:**

Community groups increasingly use applications with analytical capability and are developing their own analysis.

Therefore we need:

### **Structured unit record data:**

Machine readable data – raw operational data at a low level of granularity to develop our own insights, with all the associated metadata. This will cover all monitoring, investigating and reporting of the waterways and bays, including leachates, e-coli and an array of other data currently gathered by Wellington Water and its suppliers.

This is a significant project and needs to be appropriately funded.

## 3. Coastal Mitigation

In recent months, the Mayor, WCC Chief Executive and WCC's Chief Resilience Officer have all told coastal communities that "hard conversations have to be had" over rising sea levels, increasing frequency of over-topping storm events, and other threats posed by climate change. We are not aware of anything practical that WCC has done to address this challenge or what budget currently exists for this.

WCC needs to provide significant funding to prepare the city and coastal communities for these changes and to ensure our coastal homes, businesses, roading network, bridges and other infrastructure are protected to the degree possible.

Budget needs to be allocated not just for "consultation" but for active collaboration with communities who need to be adequately resourced/funded to take part in this process.

Communities need to be engaged immediately and be active partners as the city starts the process of risk mapping and planning. Funds need to be made available to assess the risks, identify the most vulnerable points on our coastlines, and develop science/fact-based responses to the upcoming

events. Decisions need a high level of scientific expertise including from Metservice, Niwa and coastal engineering specialists.

We suggest a permanent, multi-agency taskforce, with community membership, be immediately formed to start this process.

#### 4. Residents Associations and Democracy Project

Owhiro Bay Residents Association welcomes WCC commitment to establishing an integrated digital platform for individual Residents Associations and the Wellington Residents Associations Network.

The quality of OBRA's community engagement experience with the Wellington City Council, it's officers and it's operational partners has been variable and primarily reflects a mind-set that Council is 'expert' with a focus on 'educating the community'. Generally, engagement is characterised by reductionist patriarchal over tones that minimises citizen voice and knowledge. OBRA acknowledges the advocacy efforts of some Councillors to strengthen constituent voices, knowledge, and expertise. However, given the rash of inaccurate information and poor management we are cynical about the quality of the Council's assessments of costs and option. The Annual Plan is silent on funding allocation to strengthen community engagement practices within council. This can be achieved with minimal impact on financial resources.

#### 5. Landfill

The current process of minimal rubbish recycling, and dumping of sewage sludge, as outlined in the Southern Landfill, (page 9) is an embarrassment to a City. The Council is completely out of alignment with its Community in terms of its commitment to environmental protection. Community groups, such as the 'Predator Free' programmes have worked tirelessly in their own time to reintroduce Kaka to city suburbs, but this is not matched by the Council who continues to dump sewage sludge in the landfill. Rather than minimise waste it has created an incentive to increase waste to match a growing population.

OBRA considers the Southern Landfill Extension an opportunity for Council to enhance and strengthen its community engagement methodology and systems. The Resource Recovery hub and work to minimise Wellington's waste, sludge transformation and reduction in need to maximise Southern Landfill Extension are opportunities for Council to develop practice excellence with community engagement.

OBRA proposes the Council uses a co-design methodology to develop the Resource Recovery hub. Co-design provides a strength-based partnership model that values all participants equally, engages people who have used and are end users of services/ product to inform process and design. Co-design values all participants equally for their own unique expertise. The bringing together of a more diverse range of expertise to the design process, a wider range of ideas are generated and more creatively explored.

When well done, co-design services meet needs more efficiently, effectively and sustainably. The mutual respect required by the process encourages a sense of collective ownership for the service models that emerge from it

#### 6. Waste Diversion and Recycling Precinct

We also support the Waste Diversion Trial (page 9) and OBRA is keen to endorse the concept of bringing the timeframe for the Resource Recovery Centre forward.

Our initial assessment is that the budget of \$200,000 is appropriate for the beginning of the transformation needed, but more funding should be applied in future years to ensure a transformation of refuse recycling that is appropriate for a Capital City known for both leading edge innovation and environmental concerns.

We also believe that the Business Plan should be widened to consider:

- A recycling retail centre which moves the emphasis from disposal imports to re-using good quality older products.
- Related recycling industries which could range from recycled timber to repurposed furniture.

Our conversations with other entities suggest that there is far greater potential than the Council may be considering. Our initial conversations around re-cycling schools at Massey suggests that there is a growing potential for this model.

We believe that the potential can involve both commercial activities (repair of appliances) through to community based ones such as 'Mens Sheds'. There is the potential for

- recycling retail centre/department store for much greater recycling – that is big enough to compete with bulk retail as a destination for shoppers.
- Multiple types of retail activities including compost and plant growing.
- Recycling retail centre/department store for much greater recycling – that is big enough to compete with bulk retail as a destination for shoppers.
- Multiple types of retail activities including compost and plant growing.
- University-led programme on recycling innovation which attracts Government funding for education and research.
- A visitor centre for schools
- A recycling 'incubator' with space for start up firms which are trailing new technology

Owhiro Bay already is home to innovative concepts like the Carlucci Land and Nautilus Art Space, which demonstrate world class recycling and innovation. Let's move from the drudgery of filling landfills to the innovation of recycling and reusing in a way which befit the 'coolest capital in the world.'

### In conclusion

We are eager for the opportunity to present on these issues.

Responses can be made to:

Ian Reid  
Chair Owhiro Bay Residents Association

# Wellington as a Good Food City

## City Council Submission 2020

As a group of local health professionals, academics and community members, we are calling for Wellington City Council (WCC) to adopt and action healthy, sustainable food policies.

As declared by Wellington City Council in 2019, we are living in a climate and ecological emergency. Agriculture contributes almost half of Aotearoa New Zealand's greenhouse gases; this must be addressed to allow us to shift towards a carbon neutral economy. In addition, our community faces significant health challenges, many of which are caused or exacerbated by our current food systems and food environments. Poor nutrition is a leading cause of health loss in Aotearoa New Zealand; healthy, sustainable food policies are central to improving the quality of life of all New Zealanders.

To protect and preserve the health of citizens and the environment, we call on WCC to align with the C40 Good Food Cities Declaration by committing to the following:

1. Align food procurement to the Planetary Health Diet, ideally sourced from regenerative organic agriculture.
2. Support an overall increase of healthy plant-based food consumption in Wellington by shifting away from unsustainable, unhealthy diets.
3. Reduce food loss and waste by at least 50% from a 2015 baseline.
4. Work with citizens, businesses, public institutions, and other organizations to develop a joint strategy for implementing these measures and achieving these goals inclusively and equitably, and incorporate this strategy into WCC's Climate Action Plan within two years.

Cities committed to the [C40 Good Food Cities Declaration](#) aim to promote and preserve the health of citizens and the health of the planet by introducing policies that make healthy, delicious, and low-carbon food affordable and accessible for all, while reducing food waste. Mayors will work with their citizens, aiming to achieve by 2030 a 'Planetary Health Diet' comprising nutritious food, reflective of the culture, geography, and demography of their citizens. More information is found [here](#).

In October 2019, 14 global cities signed the C40 Good Food Cities Declaration. These are Barcelona, Copenhagen, Guadalajara, Lima, London, Los Angeles, Milan, Oslo, Paris, Quezon City, Seoul, Stockholm, Tokyo and Toronto. We are asking WCC to join these cities in efforts to reduce climate emissions and improve population health by committing to the C40 Good Food City Declaration.

## An opportunity for Wellington and Aotearoa New Zealand

Wellington has a unique opportunity to become New Zealand's first 'Good Food City', a move that would lay the foundations for substantially improving the health of its people and environment. [Poor nutrition is a leading cause of disease and early death](#) in New Zealand, exceeding even cigarette smoking. Accordingly, actively improving food environments and reducing exposure to unhealthy foods is crucial. Phasing in edible landscaping, regenerative agriculture, and habitats that support diverse fauna, especially bees, across Wellington would bring a range of benefits. A shift towards sustainable eating patterns, including the reduction of food waste, is also vital to safeguard the health of the planet. As the 2019 [EAT-Lancet Commission](#) emphasised, a food-consumption and food-system transformation offers win-wins for individual health in the near term and for global population health over the long term. Here in New Zealand, the:

- Ministry for the Environment reported that in 2018, the agriculture sector was [NZ's largest contributor to gross emissions](#), at 48%. They recommend people [reduce food waste, compost kitchen scraps, and eat less meat](#).
- Ministry of Education [Climate Change Learning Resource](#) for schools recommends composting food scraps and eating less meat and dairy products.
- Ministry of Health [report on sustainability and health](#) recommends that the health sector promote reducing meat and dairy (referring to the EAT-Lancet commission) and composting organic food waste.

Researchers at [Otago University](#) recently found that a shift towards healthy, climate friendly eating patterns would confer diet-related emissions savings of up to 42%, large health gains for Aotearoa (1.0–1.5 million quality-adjusted life-years) and health care system cost savings (NZ\$14–20 billion). When an equity analysis was applied, per capita health gains among Māori were found to be between 121% and 178% greater than those found among non-Māori. Reduced rates of heart disease, type II diabetes, obesity, and certain cancers are likely.

In 2019, WCC publicly declared that the world is in a state of climate emergency that [requires urgent action](#). In addition to needed action on transport and energy, food policies must be prioritised.

A coordinated approach at multiple levels provides the greatest chance of achieving health, equity, and planetary benefits, both short- and long-term. Whilst the City Council, community, and other stakeholders can design the approach to achieving the goals, potential areas for action are listed below to to guide the approach to achieving.

C40 Good Food City Declaration commitments	Examples of potential actions and approaches to meet commitment. <i>Informed by actions taken by other C40 Good Food Cities, adapted for a Wellington setting.</i>
Aligning food procurement to the Planetary Health Diet, ideally sourced from organic agriculture.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Align Council food procurement to the planetary-health diet. Promote the use of climate-friendly menus and seasonal food; increase the share of plant-based foods like fruits, vegetables, grains and legumes; and reduce consumption of dairy products and meat. Aim for food procured to be 90% organic or regenerative by 2025.</li> <li>● Set up a Community of Practice with all the stakeholders and shareholders of the city to present and exchange knowledge on the framework of the Planetary Health Diet and the commitment of the City. Define a Voluntary Agreement with a set of joint guidelines to support other organisations and businesses to align with the planetary diet.</li> </ul>
Supporting an overall increase of healthy plant-based food consumption in our cities by shifting away from unsustainable, unhealthy diets.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Develop an action plan with the DHB for promoting healthy, sustainable diets and the merit of shifting collective consumption.</li> <li>● Involve private caterers/restaurants/actors in the challenge of shifting procurement through voluntary commitment aligning with the Good Food Cities Declaration or the 'Cool Food Pledge'.</li> <li>● Investigate how Wellington can reduce the exposure of children and young people to unhealthy food marketing and advertising with a particular focus on making the areas in close proximity to schools nutritionally health promoting.</li> <li>● Co-create an awareness campaign on the food-climate nexus targeting citizens between 15-35 years (similar to the EU-funded project "Food Wave").</li> <li>● Promote and support the creation of school and community gardens. Pilot and scale programmes for children learn about food and sustainability in the food system. Leverage public property for urban agriculture by increasing the number of edible gardens in City parks and public libraries by 50% by 2025.</li> <li>● Working with community representatives, produce Food Poverty Action Plans, enabling a more strategic approach to address the underlying causes of food insecurity.</li> </ul>
Reducing food loss and waste by at least 50% from a 2015 baseline.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Develop a baseline for food waste to find the potential for reducing food waste in the City and to set milestone goals for food waste.</li> <li>● Support initiatives to reduce food waste and collaborate with organisations, academic institutions and the business community to reduce food waste and food loss.</li> <li>● Pilot and implement community led kerbside food waste collection.</li> <li>● Teach young students in the schools about reducing food waste.</li> <li>● Ongoing support of campaigns and initiatives to prevent food and associated packaging going to waste, for example: Kaibosh.</li> </ul>
Develop a joint strategy for implementation	By 2022, agree a strategy to achieve goals inclusively and equitably, prepared with input from both internal and external (iwi, community based organisations, NGOs, businesses, other involved parties) stakeholders.

We would be delighted to discuss this concept further with the City Council and staff and welcome any questions.

Thank you for supporting meaningful change.

Professor John Potter, Epidemiologist, Public Health Doc, Centre for Public Health Research  
Massey University

Dr Mike Joy Senior Researcher, IGPS, Victoria University Wellington

Dr Luke Wilson, General Practitioner, Miramar Medical Centre

Dr Marion Leighton, Physician, General Medicine, CCDHB

Lai-Kin Wong, Clinical Nurse Specialist - Stroke, Neurology, CCDHB

Raj Nagar, Pharmacist, Unichem Miramar Healthcare Pharmacy

Deirdre Kent, former Director of Action on Smoking and Health

Rachael Horwood, Pharmacist/Director of Wellworks Pharmacy

Dr Lauren Richardson, General Practitioner, Newtown Medical Centre

Simon Terry, Executive Director, Sustainability Council of New Zealand

## Barry Blackett, Glenside Progressive Association

Submission No: 278

Glenside Progressive Assn. Inc. c/- 267

Middleton Road Glenside

Barry Blackett,

Claire Bibby,

We would like to make an oral submission.

### **Glenside Progressive Association Submission to the Wellington City Council draft Annual Plan 2020-2021 7 May 2020**

#### **Introduction**

Our submission this year comments on where we think Council's expenditure should be focused for the coming financial year. It then covers some selected issues including two issues that particularly affect our suburb at the moment.

#### **General Comments**

- The GPA supports most of what is proposed in the draft Annual Plan. Once again, emphasis needs to be on essential services and resilience enhancement rather than glamour capital expenditure projects.
- We support the 5.1% rates rise proposed due to the special circumstances posed by the Covid-19 shutdown as the best compromise between keeping rates low and saddling future generations with additional debt. In normal circumstances, we would want to see annual rates increases kept down to annual increases in wages, lower level salaries and benefits.
- Council needs to have another careful look at the *Get Wellington Moving* initiative, post Covid-19. The best time to do this might be sometime after the Transmission Gully project has been completed and assessed. We also believe it would be prudent for Council to place further development of the *Upper Stebbings Valley and Glenside West* structure plan on hold until then.
- Prioritising so called shovel ready projects to help the City return to normal economic activity is a helpful initiative but Council shouldn't spend a single cent on projects that are not absolutely needed or that do not make an acceptable return on investment. We advocate adding spade and lopper ready projects to the list of priorities.
- Once again, we remind Council that there is a dearth of walking tracks in the Northern suburbs, especially those accessible to the residents of Glenside, Churton Park and Grenada North. Council needs to give Northern Suburbs high priority when allocation funds for walkways. In particular, we strongly advocate advancing the planning for tracks along Marshall Ridge and within the Glenside Reserve. Please refer to our comments below.
- We welcome the proposed \$200k funding for weed control and comment further below.
- Recycling is an on again, off again story. In respect of plastics recycling, we urge that Council persists with finding ways to ensure that the recyclable classes of plastics (categories 1, 2 and 5) are in fact recycled and that residents are given good information about how to clean and separate recyclable plastic items from the rest. We also want to see more done to start recycling category 4 (LDPE).

#### **Track Development**

The walkway network in Wellington is one of the City's great assets. Walking tracks encourage awareness of our city, fitness and wellbeing, and are also much appreciated by tourists and visitors to Wellington as well as local residents.

In a number of previous submissions since 2006, the Association has asked for funding for the construction of walking tracks within or close to our suburb to fill a gap in the track network in the Northern suburbs, in particular a track along Marshall Ridge and a loop track within the Glenside Reserve. These have not been progressed by Council so far for various reasons.

In the last few years, Council has been pushing for a track along Ohariu Ridge (Sector 2 of the Outer Green Belt). This is probably unachievable in the short to medium term due to lack of access to the land along part of the ridgeline so Council should cast its net on the other side of the boat and look to creating a track along Marshall Ridge in the meantime.

We provided a full discussion of the track network in our submission to the Annual Plan last year.

**Recommendation:**

We ask that Council set aside appropriate funding for the design work for the Glenside Reserve loop track and a track along Marshall Ridge for the year 2020-2021 and keep in mind that we would like actual tracks to be constructed as soon as possible after that.

## **Weed Control**

The GPA made a detailed submission on this item last year which we would like readers to refer to again.

Weeds spread rapidly and end up costing far more to eradicate when not controlled from the beginning. Weed removal is a necessary prerequisite to the planting of native trees and shrubs. Planting along streams and steep slopes also assists with stabilising banks, reducing water runoff, flooding and erosion and reducing sediment reaching our harbours (for instance, the 44,000 tonnes of sediment estimated to have washed into Porirua Harbour in the last five years can be mitigated over time by removing weeds and planting erodible slopes with native plants).

More and more native planting will be necessary from now on to maintain hydrological neutrality associated with housing developments (increased hard surfaces) and to counter the effects of increased rainfall due to climate change. Weed and pest control are necessary prerequisites to planting in reserves, on the lower slopes of hillsides and within riparian strips.

Wilding pines are also causing headaches in New Zealand and have high eradication costs. There is no excuse for wilding pines in urbanised districts such as the Wellington District. Council's weed control team and community groups as well as individual landowners should remove them when they first appear. We favour a Council led community initiative to remove wilding pine, macrocarpa, wild cherry and sycamore etc whilst still seedlings. This can be done at almost zero cost if done early enough. The wilding pines we do have should be felled now. The cost of removal doubles for every five years during their growing phase if left unattended.

We would encourage Council's Biosecurity Team to work with community groups to help eradicate weeds, not just from planting sites but all over their respective localities. Emphasis should be given to controlling weeds that belong to the dirty dozen list such as Old Man's Beard. Council's Weed Control Team could use part of the proposed funding to complement the activities of community groups by providing services such as spray programmes, and eradicating weeds from areas that are difficult or dangerous for community groups to access.

**Recommendation**

Retain the \$200k funding allocated for weed control in the draft annual plan and clarify how the money should be spent.

## **Plastics Recycling**

It is disheartening for residents to separate and wash plastic waste for our recycle bins only to find that it is being recombined with general waste at the Landfill. This is a great way to kill recycling for good! Innovative

thinking is required.

What about encouraging residents to use their green bins for plastic which they think might not be recyclable (eg PP caps with cardboard inserts, PVC and category 7), as well as for glass jars and bottles? This would help avoid the recyclable and non-recyclable categories of plastic being mixed. Glass and non-recyclable plastics would then be separated at the landfill which would be an easy process. This might help to keep the yellow bins free from or low in non-recyclable plastics.

We also advocate that collection of low density polyethylene be resumed. LDPE (category 4) constitutes about 25% of all plastic waste in New Zealand. It shouldn't be difficult to collect clear, undyed and unmixed LDPE film uncontaminated with other types of plastic for converting to granules, mixing with virgin granules (eg 1:1) and reconstituting as plastic film for non-food uses..

About a year ago, many supermarkets were collecting soft plastics for some type of reprocessing and need to be encouraged to do so again. They could use their security staff at the supermarket entrance/exit points to receive LDPE and hence ensure that only clear, undyed LDPE is accepted.

We want to see WCC work with the providers of LDPE film, other councils and users such as supermarkets, the Dom Post and other newspaper distributors to find a recycling solution to this problem. Some degree of manufacturer recycling fee and/or ratepayer subsidy may be warranted to help solve an unnecessary environmental sore.

**Recommendation**

Share the problems openly. Throw them open to experts outside of Council and others, and seek innovative solutions. Don't keep putting this on the backburner.

Thank you for reading our submission. We are available to discuss these matters further.

Barry Blackett,

Claire Bibby,

Glenside Progressive Assn. Inc. c/-

267 Middleton Road Glenside



# Generation Zero



**Generation Zero's Submission to**

## **Wellington City Council Annual Plan 2020**

**More ambition is required to ensure the Annual Plan can implement Council's commitments under Te Atakura - First to Zero**

Wellington City Council has made a commitment to a zero-carbon future under Te Atakura - First to Zero. This requires Council to take urgent action to reduce the city's emissions and improve its resilience. We appreciate the unprecedented circumstances and significant loss of council revenue in the past few months, but this plan is not ambitious enough if the council is to meet its zero carbon commitments, and reflects a history of underfunding and lack of planning.

***Generation Zero supports Tipu Toa and supports maintaining funding for Lets Get Wellington Moving and other council services, however projects supporting active transport must be fast tracked.***

There are many aspects of this plan that we do support including:

- Commitment to continuing to maintain service levels to the best of their ability and not cutting services in response to COVID-19.
- The preferred option of a 5.1% rates increase in order for council to adequately respond to the many challenges it faces at the moment.
- Holding the majority of fees and charges at current levels for 2020/2021 while increasing Southern Landfill fees to reduce waste going to landfill.
- Significant investment in repairing and upgrading our water infrastructure which is a long time coming.

Generation Zero recognises the extreme circumstances of COVID-19. This pandemic represents a large shock to council revenue and household income. However, we advise against a 'slash-and-burn' approach and instead support the 5.1% rates increase. Wellington is privileged to have a diversified and largely stable rate base. Government and the creative sector both are resilient to this shock and put the council in a better position to other local authorities in New Zealand.

A rates increase now avoids a far more painful increase in the next few years. It also avoids gutting council's workstreams and passing more costs onto future generations. To defund council services now puts Wellington into an immediate social debt, medium-term financial debt with higher costs to restart services, and a longer-term environmental debt. We support Council leveraging its balance sheet (within its constraints) and taking a longer term view.

We also strongly support the intent of the items under Section 4 Tipu Toa: Build Back Better, however none of these projects are ambitious enough and frankly, ought to have been included in the budget in the first place. The fact that Councillors had to fight to include this amendment reflects the lack of urgency we've seen from WCC on climate action.

A commitment to a business case for a resource recovery centre is not the same as actually committing to building a resource recovery centre (something Wellington needs desperately) and an additional \$100k in funding for the Built Heritage Incentive Fund is a drop in a bucket compared to the cost of the restoring even one building. These projects are not enough.

We are happy to see the council is not planning to delay investment in LGWM as part of the COVID-19 response; *"The capital expenditure funding has been allocated to the early delivery and city streets areas to enable LGWM to begin programmes this year, subject to the outcomes of the business case investigations. This work will relate to walking, cycling and public transport improvement."* However, COVID-19 has highlighted how desperately Wellington needs better walking, cycling and public transport infrastructure to improve mobility options and the resilience of our city. These projects need to be fast tracked. If we are to halve our emissions by 2030, we cannot wait until 2028 for the Cycling Master Plan to be completed.

***Generation Zero is concerned at the level of detail provided in the plan***

This draft plan is severely lacking in the detail interest groups need to be able to provide informed, useful feedback. Many of the items in the plan lack appropriate context and are often poorly justified. For

instance, the plan refers to a 9.5% increase in operational expenditure in the past year, with the following explainer, *“which primarily relates to increased depreciation due to new assets, a property revaluation and inflation on contracts and personnel costs.”* 9.5% is a massive increase for a single year and needs far more explanation. What exactly are we paying for now that we weren’t paying for before and how is it broken down?

The proposal also covers the specific projects the council intends to fund this year, which is useful to see, but without the context of knowing what the council has decided *not* to fund it is difficult for anyone to take a position on whether these are in fact the right projects to be funding. In addition, other potential investments in the next year are glossed over.

For instance, in regards to the Wellington Airport bail-out loan, the plan refers to the council’s commitment to the *“underwriting of a convertible equity type arrangement that will ensure that funding is able to be quickly accessed by Wellington Airport”* but does not tell us how much money will be made available to the airport. Considering the controversy surrounding this decision, we are alarmed by the lack of transparency and it is unacceptable.

Thank you for the opportunity to feedback on this proposal. As it is, the Annual Plan does not support the urgent implementation of Te Atakura. This Plan should be an important part of Wellington’s transition to a zero-carbon future, and we look forward to seeing it strengthened.

Ngā mihi nui,

Generation Zero Wellington

