

Absolutely Positively
Wellington City Council

Me Heke Ki Pōneke

Ordinary Meeting of Kōrau Tōtōpū | Long-term Plan, Finance, and Performance Committee Agenda

9:30am Tuesday, 16 May 2023

Ngake (16.09)

Level 16, Tahiwī

113 The Terrace

Wellington



MEMBERSHIP

Mayor Whanau
Deputy Mayor Foon
Councillor Abdurahman
Councillor Apanowicz (Deputy Chair)
Councillor Brown
Councillor Calvert
Councillor Chung
Councillor Free
Holden Hohaia
Liz Kelly
Councillor Matthews (Chair)
Councillor McNulty
Councillor O'Neill
Councillor Pannett
Councillor Paul
Councillor Randle
Councillor Wi Neera
Councillor Young

Have your say!

You can make a short presentation to the Councillors, Committee members, Subcommittee members or Community Board members at this meeting. Please let us know by noon the working day before the meeting. You can do this either by phoning 04-803-8337, emailing public.participation@wcc.govt.nz or writing to Democracy Services, Wellington City Council, PO Box 2199, Wellington, giving your name, phone number, and the issue you would like to talk about. All Council and committee meetings are livestreamed on our YouTube page. This includes any public participation at the meeting.

AREA OF FOCUS

The Kōrau Tōtōpū | Long-term Plan, Finance, and Performance Committee has responsibility for:

- 1) Long-term planning and annual planning.
- 2) Financial and non-financial performance oversight in relation to the long-term plan and annual plan.
- 3) Financial oversight.
- 4) Procurement policy.
- 5) Non-strategic asset investment and divestment as provided for through the long-term plan (recommending to Council where matters are not provided for in the long-term plan).
- 6) Council-controlled Organisation oversight and performance.
- 7) Council-controlled Organisation director review and appointments.
- 8) WellingtonNZ oversight and performance.
- 9) Approve asset management plans.

To read the full delegations of this committee, please visit wellington.govt.nz/meetings.

Quorum: 9 members

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1. Meeting Conduct

1.1 Karakia

The Chairperson will open the meeting with a karakia.

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

At the appropriate time, the following karakia will be read to close the meeting.

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

1.2 Apologies

The Chairperson invites notice from members of apologies, including apologies for lateness and early departure from the meeting, where leave of absence has not previously been granted.

1.3 Conflict of Interest Declarations

Members are reminded of the need to be vigilant to stand aside from decision making when a conflict arises between their role as a member and any private or other external interest they might have.

1.4 Confirmation of Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on 23 March 2023 will be put to the Kōrau Tōtōpū | Long-term Plan, Finance, and Performance Committee for confirmation.

1.5 Items not on the Agenda

The Chairperson will give notice of items not on the agenda as follows.

Matters Requiring Urgent Attention as Determined by Resolution of the Kōrau Tōtōpū | Long-term Plan, Finance, and Performance Committee.

The Chairperson shall state to the meeting:

1. The reason why the item is not on the agenda; and
2. The reason why discussion of the item cannot be delayed until a subsequent meeting.

The item may be allowed onto the agenda by resolution of the Kōrau Tōtōpū | Long-term Plan, Finance, and Performance Committee.

Minor Matters relating to the General Business of the Kōrau Tōtōpū | Long-term Plan, Finance, and Performance Committee.

The Chairperson shall state to the meeting that the item will be discussed, but no resolution, decision, or recommendation may be made in respect of the item except to refer it to a subsequent meeting of the Kōrau Tōtōpū | Long-term Plan, Finance, and Performance Committee for further discussion.

1.6 Public Participation

A maximum of 60 minutes is set aside for public participation at the commencement of any meeting of the Council or committee that is open to the public. Under Standing Order 31.2 a written, oral or electronic application to address the meeting setting forth the subject, is required to be lodged with the Chief Executive by 12.00 noon of the working day prior to the meeting concerned, and subsequently approved by the Chairperson.

Requests for public participation can be sent by email to public.participation@wcc.govt.nz, by post to Democracy Services, Wellington City Council, PO Box 2199, Wellington, or by phone at 04 803 8334, giving the requester's name, phone number and the issue to be raised.

2. General Business

ANNUAL PLAN 2023/24 ORAL HEARINGS

Kōrero taunaki | Summary of considerations

Purpose

1. This report to the Kōrau Tōtōpū | Long-term Plan, Finance, and Performance Committee asks that committee members recognise the speakers who will be speaking to their submissions regarding the Mahere ā-tau Annual Plan 2023/24 engagement.

Strategic alignment with community wellbeing outcomes and priority areas

Aligns with the following strategies and priority areas:

- Sustainable, natural eco city
 - People friendly, compact, safe and accessible capital city
 - Innovative, inclusive and creative city
 - Dynamic and sustainable economy
- Strategic alignment with priority objective areas from Long-term Plan 2021–2031**
- Functioning, resilient and reliable three waters infrastructure
 - Affordable, resilient and safe place to live
 - Safe, resilient and reliable core transport infrastructure network
 - Fit-for-purpose community, creative and cultural spaces
 - Accelerating zero-carbon and waste-free transition
 - Strong partnerships with mana whenua

Relevant Previous decisions

The 2023/24 Annual Plan is year three of the [2021-31 Long-term Plan](#).

On Thursday 23 March 2023, the Kōrau Tōtōpū | Long-term Plan, Finance, and Performance Committee adopted the [2023/24 Annual Plan Engagement Document](#) and noted that the formal consultation period was 27 March – 30 April 2023.

Financial considerations

- Nil Budgetary provision in Annual Plan / Long-term Plan Unbudgeted \$X

Risk

- Low Medium High Extreme

Author	Alisi Folaumoetu'i, Democracy Advisor
Authoriser	Stephen McArthur, Chief Strategy & Governance Officer

Taunakitanga | Officers' Recommendations

Officers recommend the following motion

That the Kōrau Tōtōpū | Long-term Plan, Finance, and Performance Committee:

1. Receive the information.
2. Hear the oral submitters and thank them for their submissions.

Takenga mai | Background

3. Wellington City Council consulted the community on the 2023/24 Annual Plan from 27 March 2023 to 30 April 2023. More information on the consultation can be accessed on the [Kōrero Mai page](#).
4. Additional submissions received through a separate consultation form were accepted and will be included in the final analysis of all submissions.

Kōrerorero | Discussion

5. A document comprising all of the speakers' submissions will be provided to committee members and published on the wellington.govt.nz website.
6. A list of speakers and their submissions is Attachment 1.

Ngā mahinga e whai ake nei

Next actions

7. Deliberations are scheduled for 31 May 2023, and adoption is scheduled for 29 June 2023. The full submission document will be published alongside the 31 May 2023 meeting agenda.

Attachments

Attachment 1. [Annual Plan 2023/24 - Oral submissions](#)  

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Annual Plan 2023/24 Oral Hearing submissions

Name	Organisation	Submission page number
Nick Ruane		2
James Sullivan	350 Wellington	3
Martin Jenkins		108
Finn Cordwell	Living Wage Movement Aotearoa New Zealand	4
Debbie Leyland	United Community Action Network (UCAN)	12
Raewyn Hailes	CCS Disability Action Wellington	13
Gerard Earl and Sandamali Ambepitiya	Property Council	21
Matt Wills		27
Andrew Leslie		31
Cleve Cameron		38
Warwick Taylor and Graeme Clarke		41
Maggie Bayfield		44
Richard Murcott		115
Jane Patterson and Eryn Gribble		45
Patrick John Sullivan		48
James Dwyer		49
David Harkness		51
Lynward Chung		112
Steve West		53
A Bramley		73
Connor Molloy	NZ Taxpayers Association	76
Adelaide Gwynne	Cancer Society Wellington Division	84
Christopher Dudfield		103
Cyrus Free		87
Alex Marinkovich-Josey		88
Thomas Guldborg		89
Sam Somers		91
Michaela Manley		95

Elizabeth Parker		96
Angela Potts		97
Dan Eves	Huetepara Park Committee	100



2023-24 Annual Plan

Official Submissions for Oral Hearings

	Respondent No: 135	Responded At: [REDACTED]
	Login: [REDACTED]	Last Seen: [REDACTED]
	Email: [REDACTED]	IP Address: [REDACTED]

Q1. **Full Name** Nick Ruane

Q2. **Contact details: Address** [REDACTED]

Q3. **Phone number** [REDACTED]

Q4. **What is your connection to Wellington? Tick all that apply** I am a Wellington City Council ratepayer

Q5. **We are offering community oral forums to speak to Councillors about your submission (informal 60min table discussion with 4-5 Councillors alongside other submitters). Do you wish to speak to Councillors about your submission at a Community Oral Forum?** Yes

Q6. **If yes, please indicate a preferred date and time** 16 May afternoon

Q7. **Do you have any overall feedback on our 2023/24 Annual Plan?**

I would like Council to provide an explanation about how they they can justify a 12.3% rate increase to disabled people based upon on a rationale of investment into City Infrastructure and Council Services when both of those things will have a detrimental impact upon disabled people. Firstly investment into Infrastructure will require disruption of existing infrastructure which will mean making our already Inaccessible City even less Accessible for an extended period of time. Second, investment into Services, many of Council's existing services and the buildings through which these services are delivered are not Accessible to disabled people today. How will Council ensure through the LTP that these services will become more Accessible and available to disabled people through the LTP?

Q8. **Do you support these policy changes?** Yes

Q9. **Do you have any feedback on the proposed material fee increases?**

not answered

Q10. **Do you have any feedback on the proposed new fees?**

Increases in fees will disproportionately impact those on the lowest incomes, disabled people are proven to be on the lowest incomes in Wellington. the average income per week for a disabled person is \$900 compared to \$1100 for a non disabled person.

Q11. **Do you have any additional feedback on the proposed fee changes?**

not answered

	Respondent No: 206	Responded At: [REDACTED]
	Login: [REDACTED]	Last Seen: [REDACTED]
	Email: [REDACTED]	IP Address: [REDACTED]

- Q1. **Full Name** James Sullivan
- Q2. **Contact details: Address** [REDACTED]
- Q3. **Phone number** [REDACTED]
- Q4. **What is your connection to Wellington? Tick all that apply**
 I am a Wellington City Council ratepayer
 I live in Wellington
 I work in Wellington
- Q5. **We are offering community oral forums to speak to Councillors about your submission (informal 60min table discussion with 4-5 Councillors alongside other submitters). Do you wish to speak to Councillors about your submission at a Community Oral Forum?** Yes
- Q6. **If yes, please indicate a preferred date and time**
 16 May afternoon
 16 May evening
 17 May morning
 17 May afternoon

Q7. **Do you have any overall feedback on our 2023/24 Annual Plan?**

While painful, the raises are largely a result of decades of pretending things were in better condition than thought. Resulting in successive councils not doing due diligence in oversight. The increases are unwanted but also needed to do more than just catch up with previous inaction. With global warming and living costs increasingly bringing in new crises, we cannot just pause normal operation while handling previous mistakes. I expect to be a ratepayer in Poneke for decades to come so these raises will require juggling with rate increases on mortgages and other costs. With all that I do find the proposed budget to be acceptable. Wellington City residents get shockingly good service for the relative pittance we pay compared to other locations around the world. I looked at what my rates would be for the two bedroom apartment I had in the UK and it is still less than what I pay for a three bedroom detached house in Wellington. And that is even before taking into account that water fees are not included in the UK.

Q8. **Do you support these policy changes?** Yes

Q9. **Do you have any feedback on the proposed material fee increases?**
 not answered

Q10. **Do you have any feedback on the proposed new fees?**
 I would honestly prefer further rates increases to cover the income gained from the fees for sports fields.

Q11. **Do you have any additional feedback on the proposed fee changes?**
 Where fees are expected to largely impact the young and infirm I would be ok with increased general rates instead.

	Respondent No: 213	Responded At: [REDACTED]
	Login: [REDACTED]	Last Seen: [REDACTED]
	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED] 203.211.105.4
	Email: [REDACTED]	

- Q1. **Full Name** Finn Cordwell
- Q2. **Contact details: Address** [REDACTED]
- Q3. **Phone number** [REDACTED]
- Q4. **What is your connection to Wellington? Tick all that apply**
- I am a Wellington City Council ratepayer
 - I live in Wellington
 - I work in Wellington
 - I study in Wellington
- Q5. **We are offering community oral forums to speak to Councillors about your submission (informal 60min table discussion with 4-5 Councillors alongside other submitters). Do you wish to speak to Councillors about your submission at a Community Oral Forum?** Yes
- Q6. **If yes, please indicate a preferred date and time**
- 16 May afternoon
 - 16 May evening
 - 17 May morning
 - 17 May afternoon
- Q7. **Do you have any overall feedback on our 2023/24 Annual Plan?**
- Yes, I have sent our submission document to democratic services.
- Q8. **Do you support these policy changes?** Neutral/Don't know
- Q9. **Do you have any feedback on the proposed material fee increases?**
- not answered
- Q10. **Do you have any feedback on the proposed new fees?**
- not answered
- Q11. **Do you have any additional feedback on the proposed fee changes?**
- not answered



**Wellington Living Wage Network
Submission
To
Wellington City Council Annual Plan
2023-2024**

Introduction

We would like to make an oral presentation.

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

We are part of the wider national Living Wage Movement, which consists of over 150 organizations from community, faith, and union backgrounds. The movement aims to secure a living wage for all workers, enabling them to live with dignity and cover their basic necessities.

Due to the cost of living crisis it is more important than ever for workers to be paid a Living Wage. Fundamentally, paying the living wage not only ensures that wages keep pace with the cost of living but also allows workers to participate fully in society and live with dignity.

The Benefits of the Living Wage for Wellington

As well as being having a positive impact on the lives of workers themselves, extensive research both in New Zealand and overseas shows the living wage benefits the wider community in a variety of ways:

1. Workers who are paid the Living Wage are more productive.
2. When people on low incomes have more discretionary income, they spend it on local businesses and stimulate the local economy.
3. Job turnover is reduced.
4. No perceptible growth in unemployment through raising the wages of those workers on the lowest rates.

There is extensive research on this topic, which includes benefits for workers, employers and for local economic development. We have included some references at the end of this submission.

Importance of Social Procurement

Government agencies, local authorities and big corporates are waking up to the importance of social procurement.

Social procurement involves looking at the organization's purchase of services through a new lens that goes beyond price and quality for the purchasing organization. It also takes into account the social value that can be created through well-thought-out procurement.

It was these points that the Wellington Living Wage Movement had emphasised to WCC as far back as 2013. We suggested to WCC officers dealing with procurement that they could reconfigure their tenders to provide additional outcomes around local jobs, a living wage and better environmental outcomes.

They should state this up-front as it then changed the behaviour of contractors and forced them to look at their own businesses from these outcomes.

We set out various options for changing the WCC approach to tendering and emphasised that this was not just about the living wage but for WCC to take a greater interest in the efficiency of how services are packaged and delivered to get the outcomes that Wellington requires.

Under previous tendering regimes WCC was committed to picking up any increases in the minimum wage with no specific outcome gained.

WCC is now an exemplar in the way it tenders its service contracts. It demonstrated that social gains, such as payment of the living wage to contractor employees, can be made with negligible or no extra cost to ratepayers over the period of the contract.

Keep up the good work WCC!

Our Submission

Our submission to the WCC Annual Plan 23/24 is asking for the following:

- Maintain WCC's accredited living wage employer status.
- Continue to pay workers employed by contractors and CCOs the living wage.
- Pay the living wage at council events.
- WCC must maintain the 'Living Wage for Events Fund.'
- WCC must continue to prioritise the living wage in procurement.
- WCC must pay all apprentices at WCC the living wage.
- WCC must champion the living wage across Wellington.

Maintain WCC's Accredited Living Wage Employer Status

We suggest that WCC should commit to maintaining Accreditation as a Living Wage employer. Living Wage Accreditation is not just a 'badge' or a 'slogan'. It is absolute confirmation to ratepayers and residents - through independent verification - that their funds are not contributing to low wages and perpetuating in-work poverty.

WCC's status as an Accredited Employer means willingly participating in a formal process where each year, the council formally certifies that it is paying a Living Wage and is part of the community of more than 370 accredited employers. Fundamentally, maintaining accreditation is about continuing to honour and take care of the workers who help keep our city running. The key factors for why WCC should maintain accreditation are as follows:

- It provides certainty to ratepayers that their funds are not contributing to low wages and instead are enhancing the quality of life of individuals in their communities.

- It provides living wage employees at the WCC with the certainty that each year their pay will be adjusted according to the timeframes outlined by the living wage movement.
- It sends a strong signal throughout the community and the WCC's procurement pipeline that the council is committed to the concept of a living wage, the calculation that underpins it, and to championing it throughout the Wellington Region.
- Lastly, accreditation ensures that a living wage is paid in the long term at WCC. This means that the council will be required to take positive steps each year to ensure that staff who meet the criteria for accreditation are paid a living wage. No ifs, no buts!

Continue to Pay Workers Employed by Contractors and CCOs the Living Wage

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

In addition, WCC understands that merely paying the living wage to contractors and direct employees is insufficient. Instead, becoming an accredited employer ensures that WCC is willing to be held to account on its commitment to liveable incomes for working people. Furthermore, the accreditation process operates to remove any doubt that all direct and contracted employees are paid the living wage, through the rigorous auditing process that comes with accreditation. In essence, we submit that WCC continues to be accredited, paying both direct, contracted, and workers employed by CCOs the living wage.

Pay the Living Wage at Council Events

We submit that the living wage should continue to be paid to all staff at council events. This ensures that Wellingtonians who work hard to make these events possible are valued and treated with respect for the mahi they do by being paid a living wage. Additionally, we ask that living wage employers be prioritized to take part in, sponsor, and support these events. In summary, for any short-term events, contracted staff should continue to be paid at least the living wage.

WCC Must Maintain the 'Living Wage for Events Fund'

We applaud the council for the creation of the fund to support Wellington Event's to pay the living wage during the COVID-19 uncertainty. The fund is an excellent step in supporting the widespread adoption of the living wage

throughout Wellington. We submit that the council maintain this fund, keeping the living wage as central to its Kaupapa, and promoting the fund throughout Wellington's artistic community.

WCC Must Continue to Prioritise the Living Wage in Procurement

The council's decision to set procurement guidelines that prioritize living wage businesses and organizations for any service means that WCC is utilizing its powers as local government to improve the lives of working people. Fundamentally, we thank the council for leading the way in local government to demonstrate the ability of government procurement to improve people's lives.

One adjustment we suggest is that the procurement guidelines should place greater emphasis on accredited living wage employers. This could be achieved by giving a "high ranking" in the tendering process for accredited employer bids rather than contractors who are merely willing to pay the living wage on that particular contract. This ensures that the council is supporting employers who have stepped up and ensured that all staff across their business are paid the living wage.

WCC Must Pay All Apprentices at WCC the Living Wage

Although the payment of "Apprentices' sits outside of the accreditation requirements it is critical that Wellington city council continue to lead the way to ensure all staff are provided with a living wage. The Kaupapa of the movement is that all workers who are paid the living wage are unable to live with dignity and properly participate in society. Hence, there should be no distinction between the pay of Apprentices or any other WCC staff member.

Thus, we submit that apprentices, particularly those working in Amenity, Sports Turf, Arboriculture and Nursery Production, should be paid the Living wage at all stages of their employment. Fundamentally, this ensures that WCC continues to be an exemplary living wage employer going beyond the call of duty to improve the lives of its workers.

WCC Must Champion the Living Wage Across Wellington.

It is important that WCC be a visible champion of the living wage among the Wellington community. In simple terms, this request is about ensuring that WCC makes an effort to make it publicly known that it supports the concept of the living wage and wants it to be more widely paid across the city.

This "championing" of the living wage could involve the council following the lead of other Accredited Councils, such as Hutt City Council, by hosting events to promote the concept of being an accredited living wage employer or being willing to call out bad employers who mistreat their staff and fail to pay a living

wage. WCC could also actively encourage other councils within the Greater Wellington area to come onboard by explaining the success of accreditation and the benefits it brings not only to the community but also to the work environment at WCC.

Ultimately, championing the living wage is a key way in which the Wellington City Council can help create a living wage city and alleviate the suffering caused by the provision of the minimum wage.

Conclusion

This submission has provided 7 recommendations that call for current progress to be maintained and further built upon. We again thank WCC for continuing to work constructively and leading the way in delivering the living wage across Wellington City. It is credited to the supportive mayor and councillors for backing the view of the Wellington community and taking bold steps to support Wellington's lowest paid workers. Such ensures that not only low wage working people can live with dignity, but it also supports local accredited employers by ensuring funds circulate throughout the local economy fostering sustainable business.

As a movement we are incredibly proud of what we have been able to achieve by working with WCC – let's keep a good thing going and make our capital Aotearoa's first Living Wage City!

Stephen King

Living Wage National Chair

Wellington Living Wage Network

19 April 2023

Appendix – Research into effect of living wage

Thompson and Chapman (2006), in a detailed survey of 20 American cities, found that the actual budgetary effect of living wage laws had been consistently overestimated by city administrators; actual costs tended to be less than one-tenth of 1% of the overall budget.

Chapman, J. and Thompson, J. (2006) *The economic impact of local living wages Report*. Economic Policy Institute.

Maloney and Gilbertson (2013 – AUT and Auckland Council) drew on studies from North America, the UK and New Zealand. Paying a living wage can increase productivity, reduce worker turnover and absenteeism, and improve the quality of future job applicants. They said that there may be a reduction in employment levels and hours of work but that *“the empirical evidence on these effects is quite limited”*. In sum, they considered that *“the living wage has a relatively small cost impact on many firms”* but greater on businesses with a higher proportion of workers on low pay.

Maloney, T. and Gilbertson, A. (2013) *A Literature Review on the Effects of Living Wage Policies*, Technical Report 2013/034, August, Auckland Council

Zeng and Honig examined the differences between living wage and minimum wage workers on three attitudinal and behavioural outcomes: affective commitment, organizational citizenship behaviour and turnover intention. They also examined the effects of training and benefits on the three outcomes. The *“results show that living wage workers have higher affective commitment and lower turnover intention”*. Training and benefits also improve workers' attitudinal and behavioural outcomes.

Zeng, Z., & Honig, B. (2016). A study of living wage effects on employees' performance-related attitudes and behaviour. *Canadian Journal of Administrative Sciences*, 34, 19-32. doi:10.1002/CJAS.1375

Carr, Haar and Hodgetts et. al. 2019 in a study with a nationally representative sample of 1011 low-waged New Zealanders measured each participant's hourly pay rate, number of household dependents and total household income, alongside individual job attitudes indicative of quality of work life (job satisfaction, work engagement, career satisfaction, meaningful empowerment, affective commitment, organizational citizenship behaviours and work-life balance). *“As a set, job attitudes consistently pivoted upwards into positive values approximating the campaign LW rate in New Zealand”*. The effect size was greater *“among lowest-waged workers, in single-income households”*. They also noted that *“paying at or above the living wage threshold may bring productivity gains and thereby contribute toward decent work and economic development combined”*.

Carr, S., Haar, Hodgetts, D., Arrowsmith, J., Parker, J., Young-Hauser, A., Alefaio-Tuglia, S. and Jones, H. (2019) An Employee's Living Wage and Their Quality of Work Life: How Important are Household Size and Household Income? *J Sustain Res.* 2019;1:e190007. <https://doi.org/10.20900/jsr20190007>

	Respondent No: 220	Responded At: [REDACTED]
	Login: [REDACTED]	Last Seen: [REDACTED]
	Email: [REDACTED]	IP Address: [REDACTED]

Q1. Full Name Debbie Leyland

Q2. Contact details: Address [REDACTED]

Q3. Phone number [REDACTED]

Q4. What is your connection to Wellington? Tick all that apply I live in Wellington

Q5. We are offering community oral forums to speak to Councillors about your submission (informal 60min table discussion with 4-5 Councillors alongside other submitters). Do you wish to speak to Councillors about your submission at a Community Oral Forum? Yes

Q6. If yes, please indicate a preferred date and time 16 May afternoon
17 May morning
17 May afternoon

Q7. Do you have any overall feedback on our 2023/24 Annual Plan?

We support the intention to use the Council Community Trust to provide decent homes for people who cannot get secure, affordable accommodation at present.

Q8. Do you support these policy changes? Yes

Q9. Do you have any feedback on the proposed material fee increases?

No

Q10. Do you have any feedback on the proposed new fees?

No

Q11. Do you have any additional feedback on the proposed fee changes?

No

From: [Redacted]
To: [Redacted]
Subject: Annual Plan submission
Date: [Redacted]
Attachments: [Redacted]

Good afternoon,

Please find attached CCS Disability Action submission to annual plan.

Ngā mihi
Raewyn

Raewyn Hailes (she/her)
Regional Access Coordinator for the Central Region
Access Aware Coordinator
CCS Disability Action Wellington

[Redacted]

[Redacted]
[Redacted]
[Redacted]

[Redacted]



TE HUNGA HAUĀ MAURI MŌ NGĀ TĀNGATA KATOĀ

Submission to Wellington City Council Annual Plan 2023/24

Date: 28th April 2023

Contact person: Raewyn Hailes.

Regional Access Advisor for the Central Region CCS DisabilityAction.

Email:

Phone:

Mobile:

I would like to speak to Councilors at the 6 May afternoon session or 17 May morning session.

Introduction

We appreciate the opportunity to provide feedback and advice to Wellington City Council on Annual Plan 2023/2024. Councils play an important role in ensuring communities are fully inclusive of everyone allowing people with Impairments or disabilities to independently access, and therefore move around with ease, all areas of the community in which they Live, Work & Play

How we live work and connect affects everyone's wellbeing but experiences we have vary for everyone. Stats NZ released data on disability that confirms almost one in four New Zealanders are disabled.

We encourage Council to consider the needs of all their citizens, rather than focus just on efficient or cost-effective infrastructure and services. A narrow focus on efficiency can result in Councils cutting corners with access. This can have significant effects on the wellbeing of disabled people, especially in times of extreme financial hardship.

Disabled New Zealanders do not get a fair go.

Too often disabled people do not get a fair go. They do not get the same opportunities as non-disabled people.

A lack of accessible infrastructure, including a lack of mobility car parks, plays a role in isolating people from their community and preventing them from accessing work, social, and educational opportunities.

Recommendations.

- Ensure that accessibility is enshrined as a guaranteed fundamental right in all Council decisions.
- Ensure that Tangata Whenua as Tiriti partners share in meaningful decision-making.
- Include the meaningful, effective, and active participation of individuals and groups from marginalised communities in decision-making that affects them.

- Recommend Council work collaboratively with the disability sector to progressively identify access barriers in the community and remove them. That collaboration and co-design is a part of all projects to ensure that all new projects are fully accessible, meet Universal Design best practice and provide a fully accessible journey from home to destination.
- We recommend that Council continue to provide Mobility Parking Spaces in any projects to be undertaken in the annual plan timeframe.
- Increasing the number of mobility car parks could be considered to meet the needs of the aging population growth.
- We recommend that Council collects regular accurate data on the ability of people with access needs to move around their community and access services
- Ensure all Council engagements are accessible for disabled people, including information and physical space.

Content

Our work for 2023/24 year

Question 1: Do you have any overall feedback on our 2023/24 Annual Plan?

Disabled people are over-represented in all aspects of poverty related statistics, especially income and material hardship. Disability support and welfare assistance must ensure an adequate standard of living for disabled people. We acknowledge the current economy impacts on Council budget and encourage collaboration, flexibility and timely responses to concerns to ensure disabled people are not forced further into poverty and increased debt.

Change to Rates remission and Rates postponement policies

Question 2 – Do you support these policy changes?

The proposed 12.3% rates increase will impact on people with disability both as homeowners and renters. It is pleasing to see the increase to the low-income remission amount from \$500 to \$700, but this will not help people renting as the rates increase will be passed on.

Disabled people are more likely to live in subpar inaccessible houses that don't suit their needs. There is a lack of affordable healthy accessible homes available. Disabled people should have affordable, appropriate and accessible housing options.

Research has shown that disabled peoples housing needs aren't being met, as well as being more likely to be renters. Disabled people are more likely live in houses that are mouldy or damp with 29% of disabled people living in damp houses compared with 22.8% of non-disabled people. Damp and mouldy houses tend to be rentals, which correlates with disabled people being more likely to be renters rather than owners. 1 in 4 disabled people report that in winter their home is often or always colder than they'd like compared with 1 in 6 non-disabled people.

Housing accessibility is also a significant issue that disabled people face. For disabled people who view their home as unsuitable for their needs, access when moving around was identified as a problem for 19.8% compared with 3.9% of non-disabled people. It can be difficult for disabled people to find affordable housing that meets their access needs, often, disabled people have to choose between an affordable inaccessible house, or expensive accessible house. Housing is a significant determinant of health and overall, wellbeing and the rates increase could significantly impact on the decision to choose to live in Wellington.

The economy is probably already in recession and likely to remain so into next year so, amid rising interest rates and pressured household budgets, the impacts are potentially more disabled people living in poverty.

Council should ensure that all information on financial support is available in accessible communication and there is ongoing collaboration with marginalised groups to best understand their needs.

Fees and User Charges

Question 3 – Do you have any feedback on the proposed material fee increases?

In general, we support the material fee increases.

We recommend that Council collects regular accurate data on the ability of people with access needs to move around their community and access services. This would give accuracy to impact of proposed new fees on a marginalised population.

- Town Belts & Reserves – implementation of the Trading and Events in Public Places Policy
- Public health regulation – registration fee for Responsible dog owners, which has not been adjusted for several years
- Waste minimisation services – increased ETS costs and Waste Minimisation Act levy

Question 4: Do you have any feedback on the proposed new fees?

We note proposed costs increases of some 'User Pays' services. Some people living with a Disability or Impairment will struggle meet these increases as they are often in the lowest income brackets of the community and do not get the same opportunities to earn meaningful incomes. We would encourage Council to keep any increase in costs in the areas listed below to an absolute minimum.

- Waterfront Public Spaces – multiple new fees relating to taking over management from Centreport
- Swimming pools – multiple new fees relating to pool party offerings
- Botanic Gardens – including new picnic kits and hire rates for Bolton Cottage
- Sports fields – including a new sandcourt hire fee and hire rates for the Newton Park function room
- Recreation Centre – multiple new fees for booking Ākau Tangi Sport Centre sessions

Other fee increases

Question 5: Do you have any additional feedback on the proposed fee changes?

Poverty and standards of living

Disabled people are over-represented in all aspects of poverty related statistics, especially income and material hardship. Disability support and

welfare assistance must ensure an adequate standard of living for disabled people.

Many disabled people cannot afford the basic necessities, let alone the additional costs that come with being disabled. 47.7% of disabled people reported having enough or more than enough money to meet their everyday needs, compared with 64.1% of non-disabled people. Research found that the additional weekly costs for a single disabled person living alone range from \$200-2500 p/w. Many disability costs simply aren't covered either because they either aren't recognised or financial support available is woefully insufficient (ie. Disability and child disability allowances). As a result, the additional and unavoidable costs of disability falls on the disabled person and their whanau, which then creates an additional and ongoing financial strain. Disabled children are more likely to be living in poverty, as well as more likely to be living in single parent households. 86% of disabled children who live in households earning under \$30,000 p/a are single parent households, with an unemployment rate of primary carers for disabled children sitting at 17% Disabled people tend to have worse outcomes for physical and mental wellbeing. In the wellbeing statistics for December 2020, self-rated general health status was steady over the quarter, with over half of New Zealanders aged 18-64 years rating their health as very good or excellent. 29.3 percent said their health was good, and only 10.4 percent rated their health as fair or poor. However, over half of disabled people rated their own health as fair or poor.

1 in 5 disabled adults can't afford to visit a GP when needed due to both the consultation and transport costs.

Planning for access

It is important to consider access issues when planning how our communities and transport systems develop. Working in collaboration with all stakeholders is necessary to ensure good decisions.

Accessibility is an on-going goal rather than a set of minimal standards to be complied with. There is always room for improvement, especially as new and innovative approaches are constantly being developed.

Conclusion

- We support the principals driving this Plan, being mindful of the past as we move into the future.
- We would like to see access as a high-level priority in the Annual Plan, 2023/24 especially in the main areas of focus.
- We would like to see Council develop and expand on the goals of an engaged and empowered community to ensure Wellington is a positive, strong, inclusive and self-determining community, with equitable opportunities for everyone leaving no one behind.

About us.

CCS Disability Action is a community organisation that has been advocating for disabled people to be included in the community since 1935. We provide direct support to approximately 5,000 children, young people and adults through our 18 branches, which operate from Northland to Invercargill. Our support focuses on breaking down barriers to participation. We receive a mixture of government and private funding.

CCS Disability Action has a national network of access coordinators, who work with local government and transport operators to create a more inclusive society. We also run New Zealand's nation-wide Mobility Parking Permit scheme. This scheme currently supports more than 150,000 people to more easily access their communities and facilities. Lifemark™, a division of CCS Disability Action, has a globally recognised process to assist the New Zealand construction sector develop and demonstrate the accessibility and functionality of residential new builds.

From: [REDACTED]
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: Property Council New Zealand - Submission on Draft Annual Plan 2023/24
Date: [REDACTED]
Attachments: [REDACTED]

Hi,

Please see Property Council's submission attached. Can you please acknowledge receipt of this email when received?

We also wish to speak to our submission.

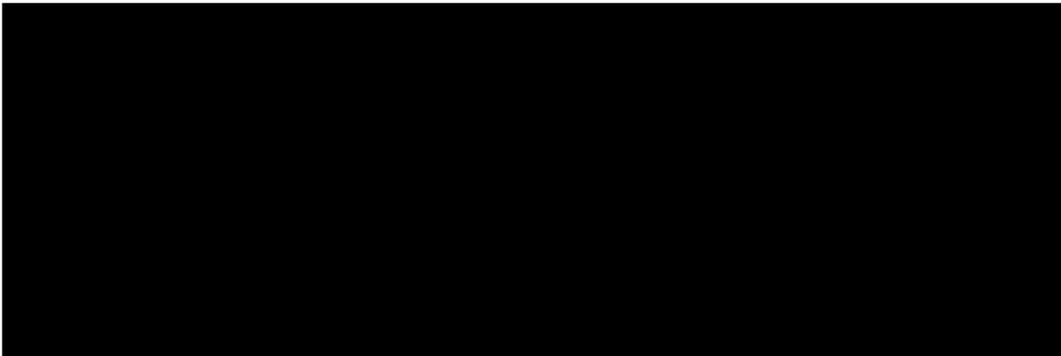
Kind regards,

Sandamali Ambepitiya

Senior Advocacy Advisor

M [REDACTED]

 **Property Council
New Zealand**



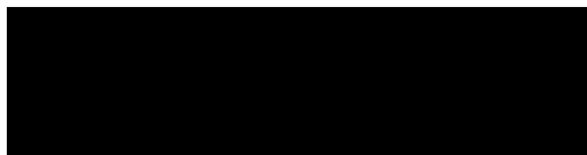


Property Council New Zealand

Submission on Wellington City Council's Draft Annual Plan 2023/24

28 April 2023

For more information and further queries, please contact
Sandamali Ambepitiya [Redacted]



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Wellington City Council's Draft Annual Plan 2023/24

1. Summary

- 1.1 Property Council Wellington Branch ("Property Council") welcomes the opportunity to provide feedback on Wellington City Council's Draft Annual Plan.
- 1.2 We support the Council's Draft Annual Plan and the proposal to introduce a Johnsonville Business Improvement District but require additional information on the Business Improvement Districts fees and geographic boundary.
- 1.3 We do not support the continuation (of extremely high) business differentials and believe alternative funding and financing should be explored for the Council's 2024 Long Term Plan to ensure fair and equitable outcomes for the business sector.

2. Recommendations

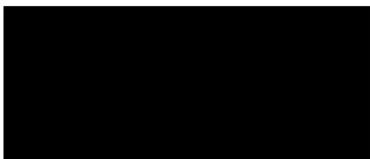
- 2.1 At a high level, we recommend that Wellington City Council ("the Council"):
 - Discuss with Greater Wellington Regional Council the effects that their rates increase will have to Wellington businesses and the vibrancy of Wellington's City Centre;
 - Consider alternative funding methods such as targeted rates and special purpose vehicles to help reduce the business differential in next years' Long Term Plan; and
 - Work with Johnsonville business community in determining what the targeted rate is, and geographic boundaries for the Business Improvement District.

3. Introduction

- 3.1. Property Council is the leading not-for-profit advocate for New Zealand's most significant industry, property. Our organisational purpose is, "Together, shaping cities where communities thrive".
- 3.2. The property sector shapes New Zealand's social, economic and environmental fabric. Property Council advocates for the creation and retention of a well-designed, functional and sustainable built environment, in order to contribute to the overall prosperity and well-being of New Zealand.
- 3.3. Property Council is the collective voice of the property industry. Property is the fourth largest industry in Wellington. There are around \$40.4 billion in property assets across Wellington, with property providing a direct contribution to GDP of \$4 billion (10 percent) and employment for 20,640 Wellington residents.
- 3.4. We connect property professionals and represent the interests of 134 Wellington based member companies across the private, public and charitable sectors.
- 3.5. This document provides Property Council's feedback on the proposed changes to [Wellington City Council's Draft Annual Plan 2023/24](#). Comments and recommendations are provided on issues relevant to Property Council's members.

4. General Comments

- 4.1. Property Council values the strong working relationship we have with Wellington City Council.





We would like to thank the Wellington City Council for its engagement with us. Our members are passionate about the future of Wellington City and want to see a thriving city with fairer outcomes for all. We look forward to continued collaboration.

- 4.2. We are generally supportive of the Draft Annual Plan as it seeks to strike a balance between consistency of rates increases with the 10 Year Plan and upgrading or maintaining current services.
- 4.3. However, our long-standing position on rating differentials remain unchanged as we are concerned that Wellington's business sector contributes 43% of total rates but does not receive 43% of council services or benefits.
- 4.4. We are long supporters of user pay funding systems and alternative funding and financing mechanisms such as; targeted rates and Special Purpose Vehicles under the Infrastructure Funding and Financing Act. We are alarmed to see that the Annual Plan states that Wellington City Council has considered accumulative surpluses as an 'alternative funding mechanism'. A council surplus comes from collected rates and is not an alternative funding solution, it is merely spending rates that have not spent in the past. We recommend the Council investigate viable options of alternative funding for next years Long Term Plan.

5. Rates increase

- 5.1. Wellington City Council has proposed a 12.3% average increase in rates. Although this is only a 3.4% increase from last year, when combined with the proposed rates increase of 17.8% in the Greater Wellington Region, this means that the total rates increase is significant for Wellington City businesses.
- 5.2. The combined Wellington City Council and Greater Wellington Regional rates increase for Wellington's business sector will result in increased prices for goods and services in Wellington. The flow-on effect to building owners and managers will result in a shortage of capital, and instead of reinvesting into Wellington City, or maintaining or upgrading current buildings, a negative effect of no expenditure in Wellington will likely result. This will not see Wellington's built environment flourish. We have written to Greater Wellington Regional Council about our concerns.
- 5.3. We encourage Wellington City Council to discuss with Greater Wellington Regional Council the effects that their rates increase will have to Wellington businesses and the vibrancy of Wellington's City Centre.

Rating Solutions

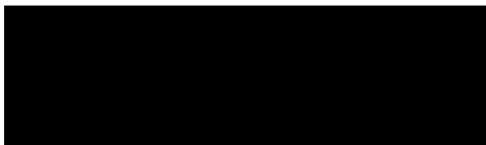
- 5.4. Property Council has longed championed for the reduction of rating differentials in Wellington. The proposed rating differential remains significantly high, with the Wellington business sector paying 43% of the total rates. This is significantly higher than Auckland's business sector who pay 31.33%, with a policy to eventually reduce to 25.8% for a fairer and more equitable rating split.
- 5.5. We do not believe that Wellington's proposed percentage split of general rates is equitable. Wellington City Council has not investigated the general rating split and what specific benefits the commercial sector receives. This is particularly important to assess post COVID-19, with the city still months or years away from worker capacity.



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- 5.6. Currently Wellington City Council are undertaking a rates review, which is much needed for Wellington's business community. Property Council has long supported a fairer and more equitable system with alternative funding mechanisms such as; user pay models (e.g. toll roads), Private Public Partnerships (e.g. Transmission Gully), Special Purpose Vehicles (e.g. Milldale) or Targeted rates (e.g. downtown targeted rate collected from commercial properties in the downtown area).
- 5.7. These alternative models meet the legislative principles of transparency and objectivity for funding local government set out in both the Local Government Act 2002 and Local Governing (Rating) Act 2002. Our approach is also consistent with the recommendation of the New Zealand Productivity Commission that local government should adopt a more transparent approach to rating tools and other funding sources.
- 5.8. We recommend Wellington City Council consider viable alternative funding solutions for next year's Long-Term Plan in order to reduce the business differential and encourage long term investment into the future of Wellington.
- 6. Johnsonville Business Improvement District (BID)**
- 6.1. Property Council supports Business Improvement Districts because the local business community will contribute towards a project or service within the specified area. Typically, the business association would be granted the funds collected from the targeted rate to use on activities that promote economic growth and wellbeing within the geographic location of the improvement district.
- 6.2. Despite our support for the introduction of a Johnsonville Business Improvement District, more information is required. The Draft Annual Plan is currently silent on the proposed fee for the Business Improvement District, and the specified area that the Business Improvement District would cover. We are concerned that without these key pieces of information, coupled with already high rating differentials, we are unable to provide any additional feedback to Wellington City Council.
- 6.3. We recommend Wellington City Council work with Johnsonville business community in determining what the targeted rate is, and location boundaries for the Business Improvement District.
- 7. Conclusion**
- 7.1. In summary, we are supportive of the proposed Annual Plan, noting our growing concerns with rating differentials.
- 7.2. Property Council members invest, own, and develop property in Wellington. We wish to thank Wellington City Council for meeting with us as well as the opportunity to submit on the draft Annual Plan 2023/24. This gives our members a chance to have their say in the future of our city. We also wish to be heard in support of our submission.
- 7.3. Any further enquires do not hesitate to contact Sandamali Ambepitiya, Senior Advocacy Advisor, via email: [REDACTED].

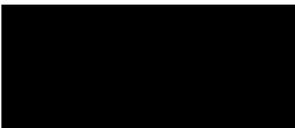




Yours Sincerely,



Gerard Earl
Wellington Committee Chair
Property Council New Zealand



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From: [REDACTED]
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: Cricket Wellington - Annual Plan Submission
Date: [REDACTED]
Attachments: [REDACTED]

Good afternoon,

See attached Cricket Wellington's submission to Wellington City Council for the 2023/24 draft annual plan consultation.

I began the process of completing a formal submission through the survey link, however there was no opportunity to include an attachment. Please confirm receipt of this submission by return email.

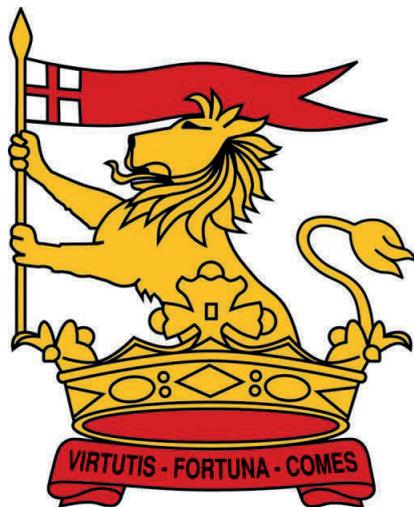
Cricket Wellington would like to present to Councillors if the opportunity is available.

Ngā mihi nui,
Matt



Matt Wills (he/him)
Head of Community Cricket
Kaiārahi Kirikiti mō te Hāpori
Cricket Wellington

[REDACTED]



WELLINGTON CITY COUNCIL
ANNUAL PLAN 2023

Cricket Wellington Submission
APRIL 2023

CRICKET WELLINGTON SUBMISSION:

Intro

Cricket Wellington is responsible for the administration, promotion, and development of cricket in Wellington and is committed to 'Creating Outstanding Experiences for the People of Wellington'. Chaired by David Howman and led by CEO Cam Mitchell, Cricket Wellington was the first RSO in Aotearoa to achieve the Sport New Zealand Governance Mark for good governance in sport.

Cricket is New Zealand's summer game. From the beach to the backyard, from local parks to the Basin Reserve, cricket is played across the nation. Furthermore, the ongoing success and profile of the BLACKCAPS and WHITE FERNS has seen the popularity of cricket continue to grow.

Locally, it has been a successful season with the Wellington Blaze, U17 girls, and U19 men and women winning their respective national tournaments. Additionally, Wellington has several superstars representing us on the world stage including Melie Kerr, Devon Conway, Tom Blundell, and Sophie Devine.

To maximise the opportunities created by our on-field success, Cricket Wellington and our clubs continue to prioritise community cricket. This is evident in our Strategic Plan (2020-2023) that identifies our community priorities as youth and female cricket, while continuing to focus on our core deliverables of community player pathways, coach and umpire development and capability.

It is our responsibility to create a vibrant, integrated and participant focused environment that inspires Wellingtonians to be active and contribute to their community. Highlights from the 2022/23 season included:

- Engaging 15,000 Tamariki and Rangatahi from over 100 schools and colleges across greater Wellington with our Smash Play, Big Smash and Yeah! Girls programmes
- Providing coach education opportunities to over 275 coaches of differing skills and abilities
- Delivering our inaugural Multi-Cultural Backyard Cricket Festival at the Basin Reserve with 200 participants representing 15 diverse communities. Cricket Wellington continues to strive to make cricket a game for all
- Providing weekly competition offerings for over 450 teams with participants ranging in age from 5 to 80 years old

To ensure our membership is heard, we recently engaged with member clubs to understand what they believed would help ensure more Wellingtonians are playing and loving cricket. Improved facilities, both on and off field were identified by our community as a strategic priority. This is supported by insights from the annual Sport New Zealand Voice of Participant survey that has highlighted on and off field facilities as the second and third greatest areas of need respectively.

Therefore, in our submission Cricket Wellington seek support from Wellington City Council to ensure that we continue to work collaboratively and take an evidence-based approach to the development and maintenance of facilities that are under Council guardianship.

Our Partnership

Cricket Wellington would like to begin by acknowledging the strength of our existing partnership. Over the past year we have met quarterly with Lauren Joyce and Sanjay Patel to discuss facilities strategically and this has allowed us to provide feedback on Kilbirnie Park and better understand proposed future works. Additionally, we regularly engaged with Sarah Campbell and Sarah Sullivan on bookings and ground allocations and Kieran Graham on operational matters. These interactions have allowed us to resolve several immediate issues that will enhance the participant experience.

What We Know

Evidence indicates that high-quality facilities contribute to positive participation outcomes resulting in healthier societies. Healthier communities are a stated outcome for Wellington City Council. With approximately 8,000 registered players and an additional 15,000 active participants, cricket plays a fundamental role in the wellbeing of Wellingtonians.

Facilities in the Wellington City Council region under considerable pressure and evidence collated following the 2021/22 season highlights there is a shortage of both artificial and grass pitches:

	Senior	Junior
Wellington Teams	85	163
Pitches Needed	42	81
Pitches Available	35	51

In addition to these pressures, there are concerns around the ongoing maintenance of fields, grass wickets and artificial wickets. There are also challenges with off field facilities as many grounds have antiquated facilities or inadequate gender-neutral changing facilities and toilets.

What Our Community Needs from the Wellington City Council

Cricket Wellington implores Wellington City Council to consider the following priorities when developing its annual plan:

1. Partner with Cricket Wellington to increase the quantity and quality of on field facilities
2. Partner with Cricket Wellington to establish minimum standards for the maintenance and upkeep of facilities. This includes a mechanism to provide in season feedback
3. Provide Cricket Wellington with a forum to identify and upgrade facilities that require maintenance (Grenada North, Ian Galloway Park, Kilbirnie Park etc)
4. Partner with local schools and colleges to unlock their facilities for public use

What is Cricket Wellington Doing

Cricket Wellington understands there is a strain on sports fields and facilities during peak times and as underutilisation during off peak times. To alleviate these pressures, we are playing midweek and on Sundays, being flexible with our scheduling, and partnering with other codes and colleges.

Additionally, Cricket Wellington continues to invest significantly in community cricket, of which \$190,000 was spent on council ground fees, with \$94,000 specific to Wellington City Council.

SUMMARY:

Sport plays a fundamental role in keeping communities active and engaged, and Cricket Wellington looks forward to continuing to work in partnership with Wellington City Council to offer participants the opportunity to engage with cricket in a safe and enjoyable environment.

Cricket Wellington would like to thank the Wellington City Council for your ongoing support, and we look forward to being given the opportunity to discuss our submission further.



Cam Mitchell
Chief Executive



Matt Wills
Head of Community Cricket

From: [REDACTED]
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: Nuku Ora Annual Plan submission
Date: [REDACTED]
Attachments: [REDACTED]

Kia ora,

Please find attached the Nuku Ora submission to Wellington City Council on the annual plan for 2023-2024.

We would welcome the opportunity to talk to the council about the key points through the submission.

Ngā mihi

Andrew Leslie

Chief Executive Officer, Nuku Ora – An active Wellington region | [REDACTED]



[REDACTED]

Submission to Wellington City Council's Annual Plan 2023 - 2024



To Wellington City Council

Thank you for the opportunity to make a submission to your annual plan 2023 – 2024.

We have looked at your plan through a wellbeing and physical activity lens. We implicitly believe in the value that being physically active can add to increasing and maintaining wellbeing at an individual, city and district, and regional level.

Consideration of your proposed projects through a wellbeing and physical activity lens involves taking account of several factors including:

- the impact of proposals on play, active recreation, active transport, and sport opportunities
- the extent to which proposals support diversity and inclusion that help to address inequity of opportunity
- spaces and places that are designed for multi-use and multi-domain purposes
- the opportunity to activate cities and towns and communities

At the same time, we are taking the opportunity to introduce new councillors to Nuku Ora (formerly Sport Wellington) with a view to understanding how your council and Nuku Ora can work more effectively together on physical activity opportunities and experiences that encourage and support greater wellbeing in your communities.

We would welcome an opportunity to talk to you about our submission.

Nga mihi



Andrew Leslie
Chief Executive



- We want providers to understand the importance of removing barriers and understanding better the needs of participants to support and encourage ongoing, regular participation as well as creating quality experiences that realise the value of physical activity for maximum wellbeing benefit.

3. A connected and effective regional physical activity system

- Our focus here is on building a system that supports physical activity through facilitating and working in partnership with organisations that have an interest in wellbeing through physical activity and ensuring that there are enough of the right resources – people, money, spaces and places, insights, and opportunities to enable more physical activity.

To implement Strategy 2032, we will:

- Recognise community differences within a regional context
- Collaborate meaningfully to create value for partners and communities
- Be advocates for inclusion as we recognise the diverse nature of our communities so that no-one misses out.

System challenges

The system is currently facing a number of challenges brought on by the aftermath of the pandemic, including the possibility of new variants and further disruption to their work. Rising costs of everything and rising inflation rates are also making things difficult for both participants and providers. Discretionary spending is being restricted and this is causing some households to reconsider their participation in different forms of physical activity. This disproportionately affects Māori and Pacifica and single-parent families and is another example of the increasing socio-economic inequality that exists throughout our communities currently.

Removing cost as a barrier and continuing to support our communities to access and enjoy being physically active is a focus for Nuku Ora and one we cannot address entirely on our own. We commend Wellington City Council for not increasing sportsfield fees in 2023-24. Increased costs for providers will often mean increased costs for participants and/or reduced options and services, neither of which is a desired enabler of increased physical activity.

People and organisations within the system are also grappling with the changes in climate and the effects on their activities. The physical activity system is not immune to its effects and consequences whether it be the impact on athletes' health and wellbeing, the ability to run a competition without disruption, or the ongoing availability, management, and design of sports fields and other facilities. There is increasing awareness of climate change factors and the need for the system to respond through effecting change in the way they manage their activities. There is an opportunity for our sector to play a role in minimising the carbon effect. However, actions taken to minimise carbon emissions overall may well place additional demands on the way in which sports fields and other facilities are developed, managed, and used and may demand changes in the way community sport especially is managed e.g. scheduling of games, length of season, indoor v outdoor.

As well, we will be challenged over the next few years with population growth. This challenge is not so much in terms of the numbers but the demographic change this will bring. In particular the increase in older people in our population, the increasing ethnic diversity, and the drive for greater inclusive practices that allow anyone to participate in their activity of choice in a way that meets their needs will likely drive different demand for physical activity. Given the nature of projected increases and the widening diversity of our projected population we cannot assume that this will naturally increase demand for participation in sport. It will be the actions taken by sports codes to develop and implement programmes which meet the needs of people who



want to be active that will be more likely to increase sport participation rates. This may generate new activities which may increase competition for space. Where there are increases in sport participation, this may not be even across codes.

Facilities

Access to and use of facilities remains one of the main areas of interaction between the sector and councils. Nuku Ora previously led the development of the Regional Spaces and Places Strategy which is focused on a one-region approach to developing regional facilities and advocates for the development and maintenance of a network of community facilities in support of community-based physical activity in all domains.

In support of this strategy Nuku Ora is currently leading two regional facility projects – one focused on sports fields and the other on indoor court venues. We have established working groups for each of these projects comprising council and sport sector representatives. From this work will come recommendations that may have value in councils' long-term planning.

Spaces and places that are accessible, safe, and affordable play a key role in supporting people to be physically active. In light of this focus, our feedback is concentrated on the proposed spaces and places projects in your plan.

Nuku Ora's feedback on specific proposals

We have focused on projects that start this year that have relevance and/or impact for the physical activity system. As an over-arching approach we generally support any actions that improve the quality and accessibility of sport fields and other facilities that support a broad range of physical activities. This would include the planned programme of sports field, aquatic facility, and synthetic turf renewals and upgrades such as the Karori Pool project.

Project: Kilbirnie Park and Rec Centre

We would support the proposed work to upgrade the Kilbirnie Recreation Centre, in particular the reconfiguring of the toilets to gender neutral. Our experience and learning shows that becoming more inclusive and enabling the participation of a broad range of people with differing needs is important.

The work on the concept development and design of the destination Skate Park is also valuable to be able to support a wider range of physical activities and provide new and different opportunities, in particular an activity that is growing in popularity, especially amongst girls.

Project: Grenada North Park Upgrade

The upgrade of Granada Park North has the potential to address some of the issues that are being identified through the regional sports field project in terms of access to quality fields – from a quality surface that can support longer hours of play and associated amenities (lighting, toilets etc) perspective. Several codes have expressed their support for this development and are very interested in being part of the consultation during the design phase.

Nuku Ora's interest in this development also relates to the use of universal and active design principles and consideration of creating opportunities for other aspects of physical activity such as play in order to create a real community space, not just a sport space.

Project: Paneke Poneke – Bike Network Plan

Nuku Ora advocates for active transport and recreational opportunities that allow physical activity to be easily integrated into people's daily lives. Having a connected network of cycleways and walkways that facilitate

walking, cycling and scootering is critical to this. We would also seek consideration of play opportunities in support of play journeys and the play-on-the way concept as part of the planning process.

We would welcome an opportunity to discuss these projects with you.

Nga mihi
Andrew Leslie
[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: Annual Plan 23/24 Feedback from Big Street Bikers
Date: [REDACTED]
Attachments: [REDACTED]

Kia ora,

Please see attached feedback sent on behalf of Big Street Bikers.

Contact:
Cleve Cameron, co-founder, Big Street Bikers

[REDACTED]

Ngā mihi,

Pippa

[REDACTED]



Submission to the Wellington City Council on the draft Annual Plan 23/24

On behalf of Big Street Bikers

Big Street Bikers is an Aotearoa owned company. We are a social enterprise accredited by the Akina Foundation focused on removing the barriers to the rapid, widespread and equitable uptake of ebikes across Aotearoa. We aim to achieve this through physical infrastructure for secure bike parking and charging data insights as well as financial infrastructure that allows everyone in Aotearoa the opportunity to have access to or afford an ebike through both subsidised and commercial ebike subscription services.

Big Street Bikers has embarked on the nation-wide rollout of a network of free, secure bike parking and recharging stations known as Locky Docks with partnership funding from Waka Kotahi and Mercury sponsorship. Locky Docks are a public amenity that is both free to the council and free to the user and bring many benefits. Independent research* shows that a network of 10 Locky Dock stations reduces vehicle kilometres travelled by 250,000 a year and contributes a net social benefit of \$32 million to the region over a 30 year period. This impact is from reduced air pollution, reduced carbon emissions and increased health benefits. * (*Locky Dock - a Cost Benefit Analysis, Sense Partners, commissioned by Big Street Bikers, February 2022*).

Locky Dock sites with digital screens provide a medium for storytelling and sharing of council communications and a climate positive media network to engage the public. They also provide bike path wayfinding for new bikers and allows Big Street Bikers to cover the capex and opex of the Locky Docks. Locky Docks enable more people to ride more often; people are more likely to use their bike when they have secure bike parking at their destination.

Big Street Bikers is currently working with Wellington City Council on a network design for extending the Locky Docks network in the public realm to promote and enable the city's modeshift plans.

Big Street Bikers congratulates Wellington City Council on the decisions and investments made in safer streets and cycle-friendly infrastructure, and the way they contribute to social and environmental wellbeing, building more livable and climate friendly cities.

Infrastructure investment that gives locals the opportunity to switch short expensive car trips to an easy bike ride is one of the most effective ways of reducing household transport costs. All residents benefit from a transport network that supports an urban lifestyle where short trips by bike or on foot are the norm. More trips by e-bike lead to cleaner, safer, more business friendly streets, and more resilient communities.

It is an investment that will pay long term dividends for the future with less pollution, emissions reductions, healthier and safer neighbourhoods and reduced costs on business and maintenance costs for wear and tear on local roads.

We applaud the council for the ambition it has around meaningful climate action, and the commitment to the key activities in Wellington’s climate change action plan Te Atakura - First to Zero. We also need to work together - as businesses, individuals, and institutions - to get the best long term outcomes out of significant investments (particularly in transport).

In providing feedback to the Annual Plan 23/24 process and looking ahead to the 10 year plan, Big Street Bikers requests Wellington City Council support:

- the installation of Locky Docks to create a network of connected “villages” of secure e-bike parking and recharging stations - at no cost to council
- low traffic neighbourhoods and safer speeds especially around schools and shops
- continued delivery of Paneke Pōneke – Bike network plan
- advocating to government for an e-bike subsidy scheme to put e-bikes into targeted groups and low income households to greatly expand the uptake of e-bikes as a viable form of transport especially for short trips

Big Street Bikers would welcome the opportunity to speak to this submission virtually if this option is available.

Cleve Cameron, co-founder, Big Street Bikers

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Submission on 2023/24 Draft Annual Plan from Wellington Residents' Coalition
Date: [REDACTED]
Attachments: [REDACTED]

Kia ora,

Attached is a submission from the Wellington Residents' Coalition on the 2023/24 Wellington City Council Draft Annual Plan.

We wish to make an oral presentation in support of our submission. Our speakers will be:

Graeme Clarke - email [REDACTED]
Warwick Taylor - email: [REDACTED]

Nga mihi,
Warwick Taylor
Chairperson
Wellington Residents' Coalition

WELLINGTON RESIDENTS' COALITION

Submission of the Wellington Residents' Coalition on the 2023/24 Wellington City Council Draft Annual Plan

Introduction

This submission concentrates on two issues: rates and water.

Rates

We note that whereas in 1990 about 70% of rates income of Wellington City Council came from the commercial sector and 30% came from the residential sector, residential ratepayers now pay about 49% of general rates. In addition there are now a plethora of user and uniform charges on residents. These changes are now resulting in divisions between sections of residents as increasing costs arising partly from neglect and partly from unforeseen circumstances. One such division is between those who pay rates as residential property owners and those who pay rates via their landlord.

We support the proposal to increase the rates rebate for those having difficulty paying their rates, to \$1000. We believe that this rebate should also be available to tenants. This could be funded by requiring all residential landlords to register as such stating how much rent they collect. Wherever they collect more than a given proportion of the value of their rental properties they should pay extra rates. This would discourage landlords whose tenants qualified for such a rebate from increasing rent to cover the rebate.

Water

Wellington City Council should reverse its current stance of supporting volumetric charging for water and water meters. Use the money saved by not installing water meters outside every property to carry out the following instead:

- Create a two-tier water and waste water rate for residents and unmetered commercial users. Tier 1 for water efficient users to be lower than tier 2 for inefficient water users.
- Amend by laws to require all commercial users and all residential housing landlords' properties to become water efficient by 2028. Water efficient means household water pressure not exceeding 4 bar (400 kilopascal); taps, shower heads, washing machines, and toilets to be at least WEL 5 star rated; and installation of a water pressure reducing valve where water pressure may regularly exceed 4 bar.
- For low-income house owners WCC to assist to transition to water efficiency by surveying households and identifying the changes required to meet the water efficiency standard, and by providing financial assistance to make the changes required.
- Promote and assist with the installation of water tanks and/or grey water systems.

- Prioritise identifying leak prone areas and in those areas replace pipes that are in leak prone condition regardless of water pressure, or control water pressure to avoid excessive leakage.
- Investigate using the Gear Island treatment plant (drawing water from the Waiwhetu aquifer, currently operating 2 days per month) to bottle water commercially with the return on investment used to finance water conservation in the region.
- Advocate the above in Wellington Water or any replacement water entity.

From: [REDACTED]
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: Submission from the Newtown Community Centre
Date: [REDACTED]
Attachments: [REDACTED]

We would like to speak to our submission

Jane Patterson

Newtown Community Centre submission to the Wellington City Council Annual Plan 2023-24

Introduction

The Newtown Community Centre is a large community centre with a number of staff. Activities include, venue rental, Timebank, Smart Newtown computer training, the Tool Library and a variety of other programmes including free soup Fridays and a drop in facility. Our staff are professionals who can manage venues effectively and are skilled in community development which our programmes reflect. We understand from feedback that it is well regarded within the Wellington community centre community. It has recently moved back into a beautifully renovated community centre building and we are looking forward to enjoying the new environment. A particular source of pleasure is the revamped and equipped theatre facility which will make it useable in a variety of ways.

Reason for Submission

We are increasingly finding that our funding is not allowing us to operate in the way that we might reasonably expect to be able to. We want to take this opportunity to raise this issue and signal that we expect to submit on it in more detail next year.

Major Issues

Our grant from WCC is our largest source of income and is on a 3 yearly funding cycle with CPI increases. Last year we requested \$330,093 but received \$217,500.

We have 4 building that we manage – Newtown Tool Library, Network Newtown, the Community Centre and Newtown Hall. Within the four buildings we have 7 hireable spaces across 3 of the 4 buildings. We have two sub-tenants which are Kiwiclass and the Citizens Advice Bureau. While venue hire is a source of funding it represents a very small part of our budget.

We have heard, when we have raised the issue of funding in the past, that we have too much in reserves. The principal reason for this is the \$150,000 that has been earmarked for theatre equipment and which is now all committed. We will also need to use reserves to pay for items to make the re-vamped community centre space ready for community use. We have also gone into reserves in order to fund a new administrative position which frees up time for the other work which needs to be done by the manager. We have also used reserves to increase staff salaries to a level closer to those in WCC run community centres and pay a living wage to other ancillary staff.

This situation is not sustainable long term – costs have generally increased and we are also finding that the cost of consumables in the new centre will increase noticeably, for example we expect towels and toilet paper to amount to around \$100/week. We are uncertain if we will be able to pay the increased living wage

amount when it goes up in September and senior staff are still not remunerated appropriately given the responsibilities that they assume.

[Conclusion](#)

We want the NCC to be a vibrant and effective part of the Newtown community and to be an exemplar of good practice. At present we are feeling very concerned about our ability to meet these goals in future.

We would like to speak to our submission.

Jane Patterson
Member of the Board of Trustees

	Respondent No: 27	Responded At: [REDACTED]
	Login: [REDACTED]	Last Seen: [REDACTED]
	Email: [REDACTED]	IP Address: [REDACTED]

- Q1. **Full Name** Patrick John Sullivan
- Q2. **Contact details: Address** [REDACTED]
- Q3. **Phone number** [REDACTED]
- Q4. **What is your connection to Wellington? Tick all that apply**
I am a Wellington City Council ratepayer
I live in Wellington
I work in Wellington
- Q5. **We are offering community oral forums to speak to Councillors about your submission (informal 60min table discussion with 4-5 Councillors alongside other submitters). Do you wish to speak to Councillors about your submission at a Community Oral Forum?** Yes
- Q6. **If yes, please indicate a preferred date and time** 16 May evening
- Q7. **Do you have any overall feedback on our 2023/24 Annual Plan?**
It's great. We need to put our money where our mouth is and truly invest in our city to see it thrive.
- Q8. **Do you support these policy changes?** Yes
- Q9. **Do you have any feedback on the proposed material fee increases?**
It's necessary
- Q10. **Do you have any feedback on the proposed new fees?**
All fair and balanced
- Q11. **Do you have any additional feedback on the proposed fee changes?**
not answered

	Respondent No: 228	Responded At: [REDACTED]
	Login: [REDACTED]	Last Seen: [REDACTED]
	Email: [REDACTED]	IP Address: [REDACTED]

- Q1. **Full Name** james dwyer
- Q2. **Contact details: Address** [REDACTED]
- Q3. **Phone number** [REDACTED]
- Q4. **What is your connection to Wellington? Tick all that apply**
 I am a Wellington City Council ratepayer
 I live in Wellington
 I work in Wellington
- Q5. **We are offering community oral forums to speak to Councillors about your submission (informal 60min table discussion with 4-5 Councillors alongside other submitters). Do you wish to speak to Councillors about your submission at a Community Oral Forum?** Yes
- Q6. **If yes, please indicate a preferred date and time** 16 May evening

Q7. Do you have any overall feedback on our 2023/24 Annual Plan?

Kia ora, and thanks for letting us submit on the annual plan. I make this submission on behalf of 350 Pōneke, a climate change action group. We've always appreciated and valued our engagement with WCC. Our overall feedback is that we would like to see more localised renewable energy generation incorporated into the council projects e.g solar panels. We know the council understands the climate crisis we are in and the immediate action we need to take, so we submit that all attempts should be made, where possible, to incorporate localised renewable energy generation into the projects. For example, if you are upgrading a facility, it would be a great opportunity to put solar panels on the facility, such as Ākau Tangi Sports Centre. We've seen GWRC do similar things like solar powering Masterton Station (<https://www.gwrc.govt.nz/your-region/news/sky-stadium-lights-train-station-solar-panels-powered-by-greater-wellington/>). This ties in with our current homegrown energy campaign, which we have presented to WCC, in which we are asking all councils in the wellington region to commit to installing or sourcing renewable energy generation on council owned buildings (<https://actionnetwork.org/petitions/wellington-homegrown-energy-campaign/>). We ask this because we don't believe we can rely on the gentailers for reliable renewable energy at a fair price - this is because the system incentives the opposite to this. Localising the generation of electricity literally puts the power back in the community's hands, provides resilience and makes visible the climate solutions we need. So we ask the appropriate projects in the annual plan, where possible, are reconsidered in this light. Thanks you for considering this submission.

- Q8. **Do you support these policy changes?** Neutral/Don't know
- Q9. **Do you have any feedback on the proposed material fee increases?**
not answered
- Q10. **Do you have any feedback on the proposed new fees?**
not answered

Q11. Do you have any additional feedback on the proposed fee changes?

not answered

	Respondent No: 229	Responded At: [REDACTED]
	Login: [REDACTED]	Last Seen: [REDACTED]
	Email: [REDACTED]	IP Address: [REDACTED]

- Q1. **Full Name** DAvid Harkness
- Q2. **Contact details: Address** [REDACTED]
- Q3. **Phone number** [REDACTED]
- Q4. **What is your connection to Wellington? Tick all that apply**
- I am a Wellington City Council ratepayer
 - I live in Wellington
 - I work in Wellington
- Q5. **We are offering community oral forums to speak to Councillors about your submission (informal 60min table discussion with 4-5 Councillors alongside other submitters). Do you wish to speak to Councillors about your submission at a Community Oral Forum?** Yes
- Q6. **If yes, please indicate a preferred date and time**
- 16 May evening
 - 17 May morning

Q7. **Do you have any overall feedback on our 2023/24 Annual Plan?**

Ian Galloway Park Masterplan - in last year's annual plan council rejected my submission to complete a masterplan for Ian Galloway Park by December 2022 (which would have enabled a bid by Capital BMX to host the BMX National Championships in 2026) because this work was in plan for the 2023/24 financial year. In August 2022 I co-presented a petition to have toilets installed in southern Ian Galloway Park. Council voted unanimously to investigate placement of temporary toilets within 12 months; with permanent facilities to be determined by the masterplan of 2023/24. I am alarmed that there is no commitment or funding for completing the IGP masterplan in the 2023/24 WCC draft annual plan - given that this was noted in the minutes of the August 4 Social Cultural and Economic committee meeting. So I would like WCC to amend the plan to include a commitment to _completing_ the masterplan for the area, not just scoping it or starting it. In the masterplan I am seeking relocation of the fenced dog park to make space for a 'wheels hub' - adding a regional scale destination asphalted pump track, dirt jumps and spaces for future skate park and playground; as well as site developments at the BMX track to enable a pitch for a major event (which has a 3 year lead time). Completion of the masterplan by December 2023, assuming it confirmed extensions of the berms around the BMX track, would also enable spectator space sufficient to host a BMX nationals event which would bring up to 1000 families to Wellington for up to a week in March 2027. I am ready to start the fund raising for a pump track, so this will not cost the rate payers to implement; but the space allocation at the outset is important to give some level of certainty - hence my request to prioritise completion of the Ian Galloway Park masterplan - event if you split it into components and accelerate the southern end. Temporary Toilet Facilities - Given the council voted with the intention of installing temporary toilet facilities at the southern end of Ian Galloway Park it seems disingenuous that officers chose to read the minutes as 'investigate within 12 month'. The \$150k cost of temporary facilities has not to my knowledge been put back to councillors in the form of a choice about funding priorities. Please amend the 2023/24 annual plan to install temporary toilets at the southern end of Ian Galloway Park to service the BMX, skate and dog park users until the outcome of the masterplan and permanent location is implemented.

Q8. **Do you support these policy changes?** Neutral/Don't know

Q9. Do you have any feedback on the proposed material fee increases?

I would like events on leased land to be exempt from any TEPPP fees - i.e. Capital BMX host 1 or 2 national qualifying meets per year at the BMX track on land in Ian Galloway Park that is leased from council - we should not have to pay any fees for operating at our track.

Q10. Do you have any feedback on the proposed new fees?

not answered

Q11. Do you have any additional feedback on the proposed fee changes?

not answered

From: [REDACTED]
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: Submission on the 2023/24 Annual Plan
Date: [REDACTED]
Attachments: [REDACTED]

Good evening,

Please find attached my submission on the 2023/24 Annual Plan. As noted in my submission I would like the opportunity to speak to my submission at the Finance, and Performance Committee meeting, as the matters raised are important and I want all Councilors/Mayor to hear my views.

Regards Steve West

[REDACTED]

Submission on the 2023/24 Annual Plan

Steve West

Resident, ratepayer and local business owner

Contact information

I would like the opportunity to speak to my submission at the Finance, and Performance Committee meeting, as the matters raised are important and I want all Councilors/Mayor to hear my views.

Introduction

Wellington City Council is facing a spending crisis with dreams far larger than its revenue. Instead of getting real about what can be afforded, Council has proposed an outrageous 12.3% rates increase while its residents are facing significant financial headwinds as the cost-of-living crisis bits.

There is talk of being a city of impact and having a great vibe, but this spending-spree will not deliver that outcome. Rather the biggest contribution Council can make is keeping its spending in check so its residents can afford to get out and about, resulting in a vibrant and impactful community.

Focusing on SNAs, initial investigations by Officers identified SNA incentives would likely require rates relief, financial support for those wanting to complete projects, ecological advice, and support for establishing ecological management plans. My calculations suggest rates relief could cost \$8 million annually, a cost that Council simply can not afford. At least Officers have proposed deferring the development of the SNA Incentives Program for the 2023/24 Annual Plan.

Indigenous biodiversity in Wellington

Over the last three decades activities like Zealandia, Predator Free, Capital Kiwi and other voluntary conservation efforts, including by local residents have seen an explosion of birds across the city, while pests are in decline. Over the last decade Kākāriki have increased 500%, Kākā by 250% and Kererū are also up 186%.¹

However, Wellington's souring indigenous biodiversity is under threat by Council's intention to create SNAs on private urban land. I have previously explained to Councilors/Mayor how this poor policy will likely diminish biodiversity outcomes for Wellington. Rather than explain this again, I have simply appended a selection of documents and submissions that I have made:

1. Dominion Post article on SNAs 27 May 2021
2. Submission on the draft district plan November 2021
3. Letter to Councilors, Mayor and Chief Planning Officer June 2022
4. Submission on the proposed district plan July 2022

¹ <https://wellington.govt.nz/news-and-events/news-and-information/our-wellington/2021/11/bird-count-and-video>

While creating SNAs on private urban land would contribute many landowners to the SNA pool, it would contribute very little native bush. For Wellington:

- a) 83% of the approximate 1,700 identified SNA landowners are private urban dwellers
- b) Private urban land only contributes around 6% of the 5,300 hectares of proposed SNAs

The addition of many urban landowners with small pockets of native bush will add little value to the SNA area for Wellington but will create significant workload and cost for the Council.

Furthermore, if SNAs were sensible policy that encouraged indigenous biodiversity, there would be no need for a SNA Incentives Program. Instead, the proposed policy will create significant impacts (such as up to 30% loss in land value) and will likely undermine landowner goodwill, which is needed if conservation activities are to continue of private urban land.

Better solutions

Thankfully there are better options for encouraging indigenous biodiversity on private land, than creating blanket SNAs, as suggested below.

1. The cheapest and easiest option would be for Council to retain the status quo, by removing all private land from the proposed SNAs, as this would deliver significantly better outcomes.
2. Signing up to SNAs on private land could be voluntary, and if coupled with some incentives would see some landowners signing up to lock in their SNA for future generations.
3. If there were a significant (large) block of private land Council could negotiate with that landowner to seek its protection, or even purchase it for addition to Council reserves.
4. Council could accept all types of protection including QEII and title conservation covenants as valid means for protecting indigenous biodiversity, rather than largely ignoring these, as has been done to date. This would require creating more nuanced maps with multiple protection measures shown (including SNAs) to show protected indigenous biodiversity areas.
5. Council could establish a contestable fund (perhaps using the money it would be spending on administering SNAs) for qualifying landowners to seek assistance with protecting native bush.
6. Or Council could establish a program to encourage city wide planting of suitable natives, after all what our birds actually need is a broad spread of food across the city, not SNAs!

Recommendation

Rather than continuing to push SNAs in the face of widespread community dissatisfaction, I strongly encourage Councilors to retain the status quo, by passing a resolution to permanently stop private urban land from becoming SNAs.

This would allow the current conservation efforts to continue without interruption, enabling our flora and fauna to flourish. It would also remove the need for Council to develop a SNA Incentives Program and avoid having to budget for the significant cost of rates rebates in future planning periods.

Appendix 1 – Dominion Post article | 27 May 2021

Stuff ☰ dominion post

Wellington council targets mediocrity with Significant Natural Areas policy

Steve West . 05:00, May 27 2021 f t r m



SUPPLIED

Creating SNAs to manage land-use changes is a blunt tool, says Steve West.

OPINION: What's to love about [Backyard Taonga](#), asks the Wellington City Council website. Well, it turns out not much.

Seemingly this council-led initiative is about working alongside Wellingtonians to protect important natural areas with plants and ecological systems that are under threat. But strip away the facade and the truth is Backyard Taonga is about creating Significant Natural Areas under the district plan, including on private land, with little concern about the outcomes for affected landowners or our precious flora and fauna.

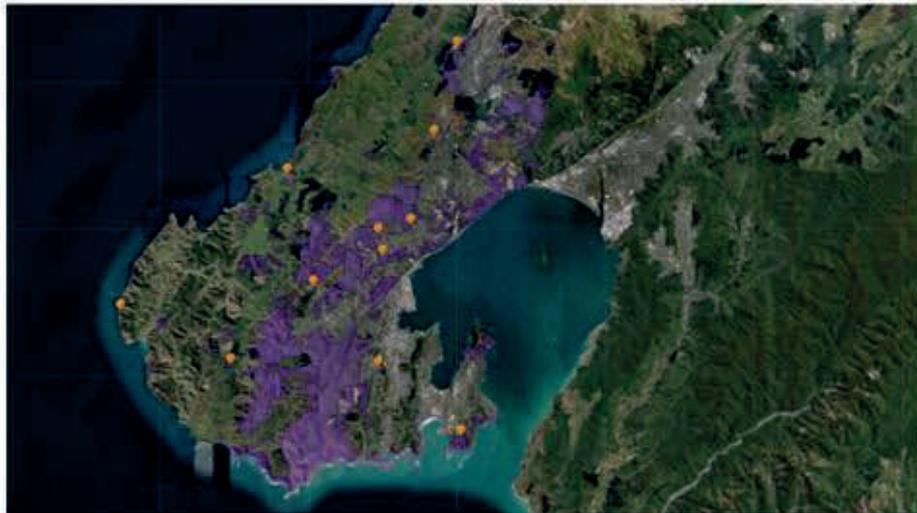
So far, the council has downplayed its intention to classify 5285 hectares, or around 18.2% of Wellington's land, as SNAs. While the council is yet to fully detail what this will mean for the 1693 private landowners who will be affected, it is clear there will be tighter rules on land use and management, along with new resource consent requirements for some currently permitted activities.

For landowners with SNA areas there is not much to love about the expected increase in costs that will be caused by these new rules, or the up to 30% loss of land value that will result if the findings in the [Darroch report](#) to the council are proved to be correct.

Reviewing the Department of Conservation's [2020 Biodiversity in Aotearoa report](#), DOC states that while indigenous vegetation continues to disappear with land-use change and intensification, the rate of loss has slowed in recent times.

And while 7% of terrestrial species remain under threat, there are positive changes starting to occur such as for some land birds where populations are now increasing.

It seems current conservation efforts and increasing community awareness for protecting indigenous biodiversity, while not perfect, are beginning to make a difference.



WELLINGTON CITY COUNCIL

The land in purple shows Wellington City Council's draft Significant Natural Areas. The orange markers are individually highlighted SNAs.

Arguably the biggest risk facing our flora and fauna is continuing land-use change. But creating SNAs to manage that is a blunt tool, that will add new layers of bureaucracy at a time when the council is already facing substantial budgetary challenges.

Arguably the biggest risk facing our flora and fauna is continuing land-use change. But creating SNAs to manage that is a blunt tool, that will add new layers of bureaucracy at a time when the council is already facing substantial budgetary challenges.

Finding ways to encourage protection of our flora and fauna, like what has been achieved with Predator Free, could provide a lower-cost solution.

Meanwhile, proponents of the draft National Policy Statement for Indigenous Biodiversity, such as Forest & Bird, contend that SNAs are required to protect the natural environment on private land, often citing global or older reports and statistics to support these claims.

What they and the council fail to acknowledge is that managing indigenous biodiversity on private land relies on the goodwill of landowners, which will be significantly weakened by the creation of SNAs on that land.

Rationally, private landowners in the face of increased costs and loss of land value will be less likely to keep investing time and money in protecting their native bush. So, while this land would become technically protected as an SNA, conservation efforts on that private land will likely diminish, and for our indigenous biodiversity there is not much to love about that outcome.

For Wellington's native flora and fauna the stark reality is that SNAs, while likely well intentioned, are a bad policy that will provide mediocre outcomes, at the expense of private landowners.

So is there anything to love about Backyard Taonga? Well, maybe, but only if the council is willing to strip SNAs from this programme and instead focus on new creative ways to actively work alongside landowners with regenerating native bush to seek better indigenous biodiversity outcomes for all of Wellington.

****Steve West is a landowner whose Ngaio property would be part of an SNA.***

Draft district plan

Submission on the proposed SNA policy

Steve West
-
Ngaio
Wellington

30 November 2021 1

Introduction

- Local Ngaio landowner, foundation member of Zealandia, predator free trapper with almost **50%** of our land targeted as a SNA
- For local context, bird numbers are flying high in the capital ¹
 - Council data (last 10 years) shows 50% rise in bird count
 - Kakariki up 500%, Kaka up 250%, Kererū up 186%
 - Titi pounamu beginning to establish locally in the wild
- These statistics highlight the importance of Zealandia, council reserves, private landowner actions and predator free
- Yet **no** SNAs have led to this rising symphony in Pōneke

The question is will SNAs help or hinder our biodiversity?

1. <https://wellington.govt.nz/news-and-events/news-and-information/our-wellington/2021/11/bird-count-and-video>

Submission by Steve West, local resident 30 November 2021 2

SNA policy discussion

Submission by Steve West, local resident

30 November 2021

3

Biodiversity policy objectives

- Council states SNAs are about protecting indigenous biodiversity, if true then policy would:
 - *Squarely target land use change on all land*¹
 - *Seek out unprotected land with rare significant habitat values*²
 - *Provide vision and incentives to encourage habitat protection*
 - *Work alongside private landowners to achieve biodiversity objectives*
- Instead Council has delivered SNAs, which provide:
 - *A blunt tool that captures commonly found bush, like Mahoe*
 - *Unworkable rules for landowners who have been looking after their bush*
 - *Disincentive for retaining or developing new indigenous habitat*
 - *Destruction of landowner goodwill*
 - ***And as a result, poor outcomes for indigenous biodiversity***

1. DOC and Forest & Bird cite land use change, such as greenfield development and dairy expansion as the primary cause of habitat loss

2. Logically there is little to be gained by re-targeting land already protected by conservation covenants or where under public ownership

Submission by Steve West, local resident

30 November 2021

4

Resource Management Act

- Section 6c is often quoted as the basis for creating SNAs, yet searching the RMA finds:
 - 54 references to “significant”
 - 123 references to “natural”
 - 601 references to “area”
 - But **no** references to “significant natural area” or “SNA”
- However, the RMA does require recognising and providing for the protection of areas of significant indigenous vegetation and habitats
- Importantly Section 5¹ requires balancing of **physical and natural resources**, as well as enabling persons to provide for their **social, economic and cultural well-being**, and for their **health and safety**

So qualified protection balanced with requirements like well-being, but the RMA does not mandate SNAs

¹ Section 5 describes the purpose to which Section 6 applies

GWRC regional policy statement

- Policy 23 sets out criteria for identifying and evaluating indigenous ecosystems and habitats (again **no** reference to SNAs)
- Instead the SNA term arises from legal fiction created by GWRC on its website linking back to Policy 23
- Wellington is part of MF6 ecosystem¹:
 - described as a *Kohekohe, Tawa forest* with only 16% remaining
 - also in this ecosystem are *Kawakawa, Mahoe, Nikau, Supplejack*
- Yet reviewing reports including by GWRC finds none of these species threatened
- As a compact region with a large urban base, having specific criteria for our natural and built up environment would seem more appropriate than using regional criteria



¹ Forest ecosystems of the Wellington Region | Greater Wellington Regional Council | December 2018

SNA assessment criteria

- Policy 23 sets out the five criteria provided by GWRC for assessing for SNAs
- While Council argues it is just following this policy, these policies were set in consultation and agreement with Councils in the region ¹
- Representativeness criteria is used to assess for now uncommon ecosystems, but no detail on how the '30% remaining' trigger was validated or set
- In Wellington the MF6 ecosystem triggers 'representativeness' and as the ecosystem is broad, vast areas of native bush will be captured:
 - Including commonly found bush like Mahoe and Rangiora
 - SNAs would need to increase by 3,400ha to avoid triggering the representativeness criteria
 - Given the broad criteria used, arguably the policy can be simplified to the diagram below



The qualifying criteria is so broad that most native bush, if connected to other native bush, will eventually become a SNA

¹ www.gw.govt.nz/SNA/

Draft NPSIB and other legislative changes

- Draft National Policy Statement on Indigenous Biodiversity (NPSIB):
 - So far the policy has taken 14 years to develop but is still struggling to get over the line ¹
 - SNAs are defined in this policy, referencing RMA language, presumably to establish more legislative weight for creating SNAs
 - MFE website indicates the timeframe for completion is now by year end, but currently this policy remains under development with the regulation not finalised or in effect
- Government intending to repeal and replacement of the RMA:
 - Have started the process for replacing the RMA with new legislation
 - There is an exposure draft of the Natural and Built Environments Bill, which has now been referred to a Parliamentary Select Committee
 - Government hopes to pass the new legislation before the 2023 election

Timing is wrong for deciding on SNAs in the District Plan, Council should put this on hold (as other councils have done)

¹ <https://environment.govt.nz/acts-and-regulations/national-policy-statements/proposed-nps-indigenous-biodiversity/developing-a-national-policy-statement-for-indigenous-biodiversity/>

Council policy settings and impacts

- Good policy should balance **deliverables** with **cost** and **impacts**, which the proposed SNA policy fails to achieve
- Current policy captures 5,300 hectares of SNAs from 1,700 landowners, with private urban landowners:
 - accounting for 83% of the landowner pool
 - only contributing 6.6% of the SNA area
- Excluding urban private land from SNAs at worst would deliver over 98% ² of the habitat while impacting only 17% of the current landowner pool
- Excluding these landowners would also avoid them facing significant land value losses of up to 30% ³

Good SNA policy would exclude urban private land with an option for interested urban landowners to sign up

1. Statistics based on LCOIMA requests and public Wellington City Council information
2. This assumes 30% of the private urban SNAs were destroyed which seems unlikely
3. Significant Natural Areas Implementation by Wellington City Council and Impact on Property Owners | Darroch | 2019

Submission by Steve Wood, local resident

30 November 2021

9

SNA policy – closing comments

- RMA requires recognising and protecting areas of significant indigenous vegetation and habitats, instead the G WRC policy used by Council is so broad that it has captured virtually **all** connected native bush
- To date Council has shown little regard for how SNAs will impact landowners or our native flora & fauna when setting its SNA rules
- By creating SNAs on private land Council will effectively de-zone that land, rendering it incapable of reasonable use, creating RMA litigation risk for Council in the process
- The only thing SNAs will protect, is Council from litigation by Forest & Bird (as has happened to other councils seeking alternatives to SNAs) ¹

Creating SNAs will have a chilling effect on indigenous biodiversity

1. E.g. such as the response from Officers to Council on the legality of SNAs at the Council meeting on 22 October 2022

Submission by Steve Wood, local resident

30 November 2021

10

SNA rules discussion

Submission by Steve Viter, local resident

30 November 2021

11

GWRC policy and Council rules

- GWRC requires district plans include policies and rules to protect significant indigenous ecosystems from inappropriate subdivision, use and development
- GWRC does not prescribe the policies and rules to be used – the unworkable SNA rules in the draft District Plan have been set by Council ¹
- In summary, under the new rules private urban landowners will not be permitted to trim any native trees on their SNA land, unless:
 - *These are encroaching on a formed road or accessway*
 - *Within three metres of an existing building*
 - *Complying with the Fire and Emergency Act 2017*
 - *Flood protection, but only if done by Regional or Territorial Authorities*
 - *Removing dead trees if there is an imminent threat, but that will require an arborist*
- Landowners can remove exotic trees, do pest control and plant eco-sourced local indigenous vegetation. But **all** other activities will require resource consent supported by an ecologist's report

¹ The full set of policies and rules are described in the ECO – Ecosystems and Indigenous Biodiversity Chapter

Submission by Steve Viter, local resident

30 November 2021

12

Unworkable rules (1 of 3)

- SNA rules do not permit trimming of bush to protect daylight or view shafts
- Despite Section 5 of the RMA highlighting well-being, the rules have ignored the importance of protecting daylight and view shafts
- In contrast our Conservation Covenant allows trimming for daylight and views
- Views like this (enjoyed by many) will quickly grow into this:



For non SNA land these rules will discourage native planting to avoid the risk of becoming a SNA in future

Submission by Steve Viles, local resident

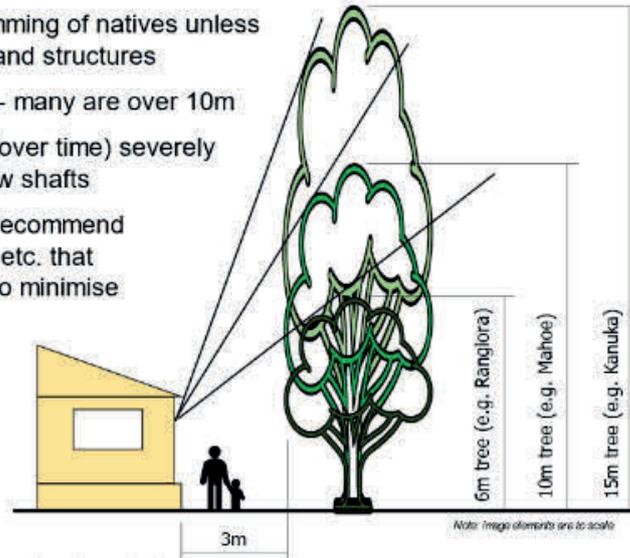
30 November 2021

13

Unworkable rules (2 of 3)

- The new rules will limit trimming of natives unless closer than 3m to houses and structures
- Yet native trees are large - many are over 10m
- The 3m trimming rule will (over time) severely impact on daylight and view shafts
- Fire and Emergency also recommend landowners remove trees, etc. that are within 10m of houses to minimise fire risk

In short, the new trimming rules are both daylight robbery and may increase fire risk



1: <https://www.fireandemergency.nz/at-home/protect-your-home-from-outdoor-fires/>

Submission by Steve Viles, local resident

30 November 2021

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Unworkable rules (3 of 3)

- Landowners will not be permitted to create simple things like a path in the SNA, unless a resource consent (with ecologist's report) is obtained
- Whereas, Council has provided rules that will allow it to create public paths without consent
- Creation of paths in SNAs will not result in mass loss of indigenous habitat, rather this will facilitate access to often difficult land with enhancement of that bush and predator trapping likely to increase
- Again the new rules have not considered Section 5 of the RMA, and in particular well-being



Private path to some traps

With the hurdles for providing access to their bush, landowner protection and enhancement of that land will likely diminish

Submission by Steve Viter, local resident

30 November 2021

15

SNA rules – closing comments

- In its 2019 letter, Council promised not to introduce anything that gets in the way of day to day use and maintenance ¹
- Instead Council has created unworkable SNA rules that will require private landowners to obtain resource consents (with ecologist reports) for undertaking most activities
- The SNA rules will not provide protection for our indigenous flora and fauna, rather they will further erode landowner goodwill that will already be strained if SNAs are created on private land in urban Wellington
- The rules have failed to comply with the boarder requirements set out in Section 5 of the RMA

The SNA rules will discourage native planting and will likely diminish protection and enhancement of existing bush by private landowners

¹ Council letter to landowners from David Chick (Chief City Planner) dated 20 August 2019

Submission by Steve Viter, local resident

30 November 2021

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SNA Recommendations

Submission by Steve Viter, local resident

30 November 2021

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Recommendations

- That Council:
 - Does the right thing for our indigenous biodiversity and landowners by rejecting SNAs, or at minimum making SNAs on urban private land voluntary
 - Challenge GWRC policy settings for assessing SNAs so realistic criteria are used to identify unprotected significant habitat rather than indiscriminately capturing out all green bush
- Failing that, Council must amend the rules to comply with its earlier promise to not introduce anything that gets in the way of day to day use and maintenance ¹
 - amend the SNA rules to permit trimming for daylight and view shafts
 - Increase the trimming distance from buildings to 10m
 - allow landowners to undertake simple activities such as building a path on their land

As previously stated, SNAs are bad policy that will provide mediocre outcomes both for indigenous biodiversity and private landowners ²

1. Council letter to landowners from David Chick (Chief City Planner) dated 20 August 2019

2. www.stuff.co.nz/dominion-post/comment/125244594/wellington-council-targets-mediocrity-with-significant-natural-areas-policy

Submission by Steve Viter, local resident

30 November 2021

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Appendix 3 – Letter to Councillors, Mayor and Chief Planning Officer | June 2022

To the Mayor, Councillors and Chief Planning Officer

Approval of the Proposed District Plan for public notification

I am writing to provide comments on the SNA sections in the report provided by Officers to the Planning and Environment Committee for seeking approval to publicly notify the Proposed District Plan.

1. **Consultation statistics:** On page 40 Officers note there were 89 SNA submissions and commented that a considerable number expressing support for various SNA provisions.
I too have reviewed all 1,034 submissions, identifying 148 SNA submissions (67% more than Officers). By my count, 78% fully rejected SNAs with under 7% offering support. Generally, the rest were not keen on SNAs and then offered suggestions to make the SNA provisions more workable.
2. **Statutory requirement for SNAs:** In paragraph 77 Officers refer to the 2015 Environment Court case between Forrest & Bird and New Plymouth District Council as evidence of the statutory requirement to identify and protect SNAs. Whereas the Environment Court concluded Councils might conceivably meet RMA Section 6(c) duties through methods other than identification and rules, but in this case the non-regulatory methods relied on by the Council were insufficient to provide protection.¹
Also relevant (and not mentioned by Officers) is the Hutt City Council case where the Environment Court rejected Forrest & Bird's application to force reintroduction of Plan Change 46 to apply restrictive SNAs. Instead allowing Council and Landowners to continue work collaboratively to protect and enhance indigenous biodiversity.²
3. **NPSIB:** Paragraphs 74-75 comment on the draft National Policy Statement for Indigenous Biodiversity noting the intention for this to be gazetted this year but does not mention that previous attempts have failed. It would be inappropriate for Council to preemptively apply the draft NPSIB requirements.
4. **SNA outcomes:** The SNA policy is harmful and will deliver poor indigenous biodiversity outcomes. Loss of landowner property value and goodwill is well documented, chainsaw solutions are in play, developers are describing SNA areas as a liability, and Officers are seeking immediate effect for SNA provisions to minimize harm. If the SNA policy was good none of this would be happening or be required.
5. **Council compensation:** In paragraph 79 Officers propose developing SNA incentives as part of the 2024-27 long term plan. If Council were serious about SNAs then surely this would have been provided at the same time as the policy and would form part of the SNA package in the Proposed District Plan.
6. **Better options:** There are better options for Council, than progressing the current SNAs:
 - a) The cheapest would be to stop SNAs, as the status quo will deliver better biodiversity outcomes.
 - b) Establish a contestable fund for qualifying landowners to seek assistance protecting native bush.
 - c) Actively encourage planting of natives citywide – our birds need food, not SNAs.
 - d) Set appropriate policy so that only truly significant bush is formally protected, while voluntary conservation is encouraged to thrive elsewhere in the city.

In closing, if you vote for SNAs at the meeting on 23 June 2022, then **SHAME ON YOU** for failing to listen to residents and for supporting bad policy that will deliver poor indigenous biodiversity outcomes.

It's time for this SNA mischief to stop but failing that Council must defer SNAs until both the NPSIB has been gazetted and the SNA incentives/compensation package has been developed by Council.

Regards, Steve West

 Ngaio, Wellington

¹ Nature in Court | An overview of Forest & Bird's case law themes | Sally Gano | 13 May 2019

² <https://www.scoop.co.nz/stories/AK2104/500072/voluntary-conservation-thriving-in-lower-hutt.htm>

Appendix 4 – Proposed district plan submission | July 2022

Wellington City Proposed District Plan - submission form

**Absolutely Positively
Wellington City Council**
Me Heke Ki Pōneke

Clause 6 of the First Schedule, Resource Management Act 1991.

How to provide feedback

- online at eplan.wellington.govt.nz/proposed
- email your submission to: PDPsubmissions@wcc.govt.nz
- post this form to us (no stamp needed)
- drop your completed form off to Wellington City Council reception, Level 16, 113 The Terrace.

To make sure your feedback counts please complete the survey by **5pm Monday 12 September 2022**.

Privacy statement - what we do with your personal information

All submissions (including name and contact details) are published and made available to elected members and to the public from our offices and on our website. Personal information will also be used for the administration of the notified Proposed Plan process.

All information collected will be held by Wellington City Council. You have the right to ask for a copy of any personal information we hold about you, and to ask for it to be corrected if you think it is wrong. Please contact us at district.plan@wcc.govt.nz.

Your details

All fields marked with an asterisk (*) are required.

Name*	Steve West		
Postal address (including suburb)*	[REDACTED]		
Phone/mobile	[REDACTED]	Email	[REDACTED]

I am making this submission:

as an individual

on behalf of an organisation. Organisation's name:

I would like to be heard in support of my submission in person Yes No

If others make a similar submission, I will consider presenting a joint case with them at a hearing. Yes No

This is a submission on the Wellington City Proposed District Plan

I could I could not - gain an advantage in trade competition through this submission

If you could gain an advantage in trade competition through this submission answer the next question.

I am I am not - directly affected by an effect of the subject matter of the submission that:

(a) adversely affects the environment; and
(b) does not relate to trade competition or the effects of trade competition.
(Please tick relevant box if applicable)

Note: If you are a person who could gain an advantage in trade competition through the submission, your right to make a submission may be limited by clause 6(4) of Part 1 of Schedule 1 of the Resource Management Act 1991.

Multiple provisions can be commented on within the following section. Feel free to add more pages to your submission to provide a fuller response.

The specific provision of the plan that my submission relates to:	PART 2 - ECO
Do you: <input type="checkbox"/> Support <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Oppose <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Amend	
What decision are you seeking from the Council? And why?	
<p>The intention by Wellington City Council (WCC) to give effect to Significant Natural Areas (SNAs) via the Proposed District Plan (PDP), including on private urban land in future, is poorly conceived and will fail to promote protection of indigenous biodiversity. Instead by requiring SNAs on private land the biodiversity outcomes in Wellington City will diminish over time.</p> <p>To be blunt, if WCC continues with SNAs in the PDP it will be complicit in undoing much of the good environmental work that has occurred across Wellington in recent years.</p>	

1. Council Duties:

The Resource Management Act 1991 (RMA) provides the main framework for maintaining and protecting indigenous biodiversity, including defining the requirements (or duties) on councils, like WCC. The Draft National Policy Statement for Indigenous Biodiversity (NPSIB) also explains the maintenance of indigenous biodiversity (if gazetted) will require at least no reduction in outcomes.

But by using the PDP to identify and manage the effects on SNAs on private land (including private urban land in future) this will result in WCC failing to discharge its RMA duties, because:

- a) Enforcing SNAs in the PDP requires WCC to create rules to limit land use and doing this will crystallise significant loss of value for landowners. The Darroch report to WCC suggests land value losses could be up to 30%, which is significant for private landowners.

In short, setting PDP rules turns native bush into an expensive and unwanted burden for private landowners, destroying landowner goodwill in the process.

- b) Some of the native bush that has been cared for will be removed by private landowners, rather than having to face unworkable SNA rules. There are recent examples of Wellington landowners having removed bush in advance of the PDP being notified (such as those reported in Stuff in 2022).

Whether bush remains or is removed will likely come down to whether the private landowner loves their bush more than they hate SNAs, or if they hate SNAs more than they love their bush.

- c) The process of creating SNAs penalises those who have looked after their bush while those who haven't will face no consequences from the previous removal of that indigenous biodiversity.

- d) The generic PDP rules will not suit many properties (particularly urban land when this is added) as each has its own characteristics, such as slopes, views, future development potential, etc. For rules to work successfully these would need to be unique to each property to maximise both private landowner and indigenous biodiversity outcomes.

Unfortunately WCC has taken the easy option of creating generic PDP rules, rather than engaging one on one with each impacted landowner to seek agreement on the best outcomes for each party.

- e) New Zealand native trees are large (many grow over 15m tall) and are not well suited to small plots of urban land, if left unchecked. Yet the rules being proposed by WCC largely ignore that regular trimming is an important part of maintaining bush in the urban environment. The PDP trimming rules set by WCC are very restrictive.

- f) The PDP rules create significant legal risk for landowners if they misunderstand those rules, are unaware of future rule updates, or if the SNA boundaries are imprecisely defined. Of note many of the proposed SNA boundaries in Wellington run through the middle of bushy areas. The use of imprecise maps to show where the SNA boundaries are is inappropriate, these boundaries require proper markings.

- g) Planting of new natives on private land will slowly diminish as other landowners will not want to become captured by the SNA policy in future, instead planting of exotics will increase. Adding trendy requirements such as needing "eco-sourced local indigenous" plants, will further discourage native planting.

In short SNAs will result in less not more native bush on private land over time, meaning that by imposing SNAs on private land WCC will have failed to discharge its RMA duties.

2. SNA Criteria:

While not directly part of the PDP, the criteria being used by WCC for assessing for SNAs are broad with large areas of commonly found bush being captured by the policy settings as a result, adding weight to the community perception that SNAs are a modern day land grab.

Arguably the most permissive SNA criteria is 'representativeness'. For Wellington:

- a) The city is part of the MF6 ecosystem, which is described as a Kohekohe and Tawa forest with only 16% remaining. Also in this ecosystem are Kawakawa, Mahoe, Nikau, Supplejack.
- b) Using the Greater Wellington Regional Council criteria of 30% remaining, means areas of native bush with any of the listed plants, including secondary trees like Mahoe will trigger the representativeness criteria, despite none of these trees being listed as threatened species in the region.
- c) Mahoe is very commonly found right across Wellington city, in the town belt, council reserves and on private land. As a result, urban land with few notable features, other than some Mahoe has become ensnared in the WCC SNA assessments. Our own property with its Mahoe is a prime example of this unfortunate situation.
- d) Furthermore, Wellington is a compact region with a large urban base, so it would seem appropriate for WCC to have set its own specific criteria, rather than using those set by the Greater Wellington Regional Council, to reflect Wellington's natural and built-up environment.

4. SNAs on Urban Land:

Creating SNAs on private urban land in future will contribute many landowners to the SNA pool while contributing little native bush. For Wellington:

- a) 83% of the approximate 1,700 identified SNA landowners are private urban dwellers
- b) Private urban land only contributes around 6% of the 5,300 hectares of proposed SNAs

The addition of many urban landowners in future, with small pockets of native bush will add little value to the SNA area for Wellington but will create significant workload for the already overworked WCC. Furthermore, urban SNAs will create challenges for WCC as it looks to intensify housing within urban boundaries as some of the undeveloped city land will include native bush.

5. SNAs in the PDP:

If WCC decides SNAs on private land should remain in the PDP, then in order to meet both its legal and moral obligations WCC must:

- a) Compensate landowners for their loss of land value, to avoid those landowners either removing natives, or reducing their environmental efforts to protect that bush.
- b) Provide accurate cadastral markings of the SNA boundaries so all parties are clear about the boundaries and where the PDP rules will apply as there could be legal consequences for either party should those boundaries be unclear. Vague maps of SNA areas is not an acceptable approach.

c) Set individual land policies and rules in conjunction with each landowner. This should focus on limiting landowner losses while providing the required indigenous biodiversity protection. WCC should not take the easy route of providing blanket rules in the PDP, as these blanket rules will do more harm than good.

d) Offer incentives for new planting of natives so as to avoid diminishing food sources (that would otherwise result from WCC creating SNAs) for our indigenous biodiversity.

6. Better Options:

I see better policy options for managing indigenous biodiversity on private land, and have provided some examples below:

a) The cheapest and easiest option would be for WCC to remove all private land from the SNA requirement, as this will deliver significantly better outcomes than what's been proposed in the PDP.

b) WCC could make signing up to SNAs on private land voluntary, and if coupled with WCC incentives would see some landowners signing up to lock in their SNA for future generations. I see this as a one way door, that is once signed up the land can't be removed from the SNA.

c) If there were a significant area of private land (say more than one hectare) WCC could negotiate with that landowner to seek agreement on how to protect this area, or even to purchase the land for addition to the WCC land reserves.

d) WCC could accept all types of protection including QEII and title conservation covenants as valid means for protecting indigenous biodiversity, rather than largely ignoring these, as WCC has done in its work to date. This would require WCC to create more nuanced maps with multiple protection measures shown (including SNAs) as a measure of the protected indigenous biodiversity areas.

e) Or WCC could just establish a program to encourage city wide planting of suitable natives, after all what our birds actually need is a broad spread of food across the city, not SNAs!

Closing Remarks:

It is disappointing that WCC continues to ignore the strong feedback from its residents that they do not want or support SNAs. In the recent draft District Plan consultation 78% of the SNA submitters fully rejected SNAs with under 7% offering support. Generally, the rest were not keen on SNAs and then offered suggestions to make the SNA provisions more workable.

The intention to create SNAs on private land is poorly thought through policy that will result in mediocre biodiversity outcomes and will come at the expense of private urban landowners. Community sentiment towards protecting the environment and indigenous biodiversity has increased significantly since 2000, so it is time for WCC, other Councils, MFE and the Government to accept that this harmful SNA policy is past its use by date and instead rethink how best to work alongside the community to encourage better biodiversity outcomes for all.

Regards

Steve West

From: [REDACTED]
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: Annual Plan 2023/2024 submission
Date: [REDACTED]

Base Details Please redact before publishing

Individual submission

Wellington city resident and ratepayer

Want to speak to councillors at Community Oral Forum

Available for Any session

Submission

The Council finances are in disarray with borrowing exceeding any reasonable limits, rate increases whether directly or through rents stressing households and essential work not being funded nor investment reserves being increased to finance these future needs.

The council needs to pause expensive projects that are not basic services and prepare to downsize.

Plans beyond this year need to be tightly focused on basic services that benefit large sections of the community.

Community money needs to be spent wisely.

Consultation and Council Decisions

All council engagements should contain more relevant hard data such as:

- spending by location and demographic. e.g suburban, city, commercial, residential, visitor, number of households affected. The age group targeted
- attaching throughput data to the various financial sub group costs. e.g number of playgrounds being maintained
- split plan costs between interest, depreciation, wages(staff numbers), outsourced contracts and other.
- upload year to date data to the website with the relevant comparisons to annual plans and any measures voted for but still unfunded -contingent plans so everyone can find out where we are.
- project costs should be displayed as per household per annum to match against annual rates bills.
- alternatives should provided and costed not "done deals".
- motions are being put to the council on a creeping barrage basis rather than a full project time line. Opportunistic direction changes are being made on a whim.
- consultation responses are ignored, take place in silo's or there has been major agenda

capture

-items should not be knocked out at the sub committee level that may pass the whole council.

Central Government Relationships

Lobby hard for

-national population policy so we can plan correctly and are not spending money on population increase that may never happen.

-systemic interventions in the most needed areas. Currently the government is throwing hundreds of millions at cycle ways for about 1500 hundred people, wavering on public transport used by 40,000 to 60,000 in the rush hour and trying to pin the council to the wall over about \$10 million of previously funded affordable housing costs. None of that makes sense.

Specific Annual Plan Changes

- remove funding from any lobby groups that are actually using it to lobby the council. Other voices don't have the same advantage.

Transport

- remove any internal council car parking that is not used by council owned FBT zero rated vehicles. Any non council owned vehicles should be required to pay for their parking at the usual rates.

- fund rush hour bus clearways but cease funding cycle ways. One is mass use public transport, the other niche use limited demographic low user non green expense.

- Ensure LGWM funds only road changes needed to improve bus or walking options. Ensure the options are tailored to the actual traffic volumes at the relevant time so that other uses are options at non peak times. Cease funding planter boxes and unused leisure areas.

- target the 20,000 company car parks (and 70% of peak hour traffic) in the centre of the city for non rush hour access only and eventual removal. Central city parking should be either residential, service or public. Congestion charging is not sufficient and new roading schemes just become "Roads for the Rich" unless this traffic segment is removed.

- cease schemes that remove traffic and parking outside peak hours. Increasingly this is non fossil fueled cars and the community sees this as unnecessary social engineering reducing access to and enjoyment and use of public and entertainment amenities. Safety and accessibility is also a major consideration for many groups after dark. There is also unneeded loss of revenue.

- In areas where there are already parking schemes (and including the central city) charge a fee for kerb crossings based on the number of parks accessed. Kerb crossings reduce the ability to use that kerbside space for other options that may also be revenue generators. The encroachment licence fees are a similar structure.

- sell the car parks the council bought a few months ago instead of knocking out street parks unnecessarily.

Urban Development

-Affordable housing should be restructured so that the council retains the ground leases (to maintain control over sale and the actual use) but the actual housing is transferred to the central government. Affordable rentals barely cover basic costs of rates, insurance and day to day maintenance leaving rates funding from households, many of whom are little better off. to make up interest and capital components. They are paying twice though rates and taxes.

Other Plan Areas

- Ensure that the next round of proposals provide a great deal more information, focus tightly on the top options in each area while aiming for a general reduction of up to 25% in costs. Should Wellington be hit with any event (a cyclone?) we simply don't have the headroom to cover it.

- Localise the spending budget suburb by suburb to help focus on the most necessary.

A Bramley

,

From: [REDACTED]
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: NZ Taxpayers' Union Annual Plan Submission
Date: [REDACTED]
Attachments: [REDACTED]

Kia ora,

Please see our attached submission on the 2023/24 Annual Plan on behalf of the New Zealand Taxpayers' Union. There was not sufficient space in the provided form for our feedback so I have also attached a separate PDF. Please don't hesitate to get in touch if there are any issues.

We look forward to speaking to our submission orally.

Ngā mihi,

Connor Molloy

Deputy National Campaigns Manager | New Zealand Taxpayers' Union | Auckland Ratepayers' Alliance

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

We stand for Lower Taxes, Less Waste, and More Accountability across all levels of government. If you like what we do, join the [Taxpayers' Union](#) or the [Auckland Ratepayers' Alliance](#).

Submission form

Kōrero mai mō te mahere ā-tau Have your say on the Annual Plan

All submissions must be received by midnight **Sunday, 30 April 2023**

You don't have to give feedback on every question – just choose the ones you're interested in. You can only submit once. You can include supporting information along with your submission.

Before you start, read about our Annual Plan and budget, including the changes to fees and user charges, in the engagement document.

Why we're collecting this information

Your feedback matters. This plan is about the future of Wellington, and it affects everyone who lives and works here. That's why we want to hear from as many people as possible. Your views will help us to decide on the next steps we take.

Privacy statement

All submissions (including names and contact details) are provided in their entirety to elected members. Submissions (including names but not contact details) will be made available to the public at our office and on our website.

Your personal information will also be used for the administration of the consultation process, including informing you of the outcome of the consultation.

All information collected will be held by Wellington City Council, 113 The Terrace, Wellington, with submitters having the right to access and correct personal information.

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----- 2nd fold here -----

Free Post Authority Number 2199
**Absolutely Positively
Wellington City Council**
Me Heke Ki Pōneke



FREEPOST 2199
Planning and Reporting team
PO Box 2199
Wellington 6140

J016410

77

Full name:			
Contact details			
Address: [REDACTED]			
Phone number: [REDACTED]			
Are you making this submission as an individual or on behalf of an organisation?			
<input type="checkbox"/> Individual		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Organisation:	
What is your connection to Wellington? (tick all that apply)			
<input type="checkbox"/> I am a Wellington City Council Ratepayer	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> I live in Wellington	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> I work in Wellington	
<input type="checkbox"/> I own a business in Wellington	<input type="checkbox"/> I study in Wellington	<input type="checkbox"/> I am a visitor to Wellington	
We are offering community oral forums to speak to Councillors about your submission (informal 60min table discussion with 4-5 Councillors alongside other submitters). Do you wish to speak to Councillors about your submission at a Community Oral Forum?			
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes		<input type="checkbox"/> No	
If yes - please indicate a preferred date and time			
<input type="checkbox"/> 16 May afternoon	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 16 May evening	<input type="checkbox"/> 17 May morning	<input type="checkbox"/> 17 May afternoon

Our work for 2023/24 year

For 2023/24 we plan to continue to deliver on the programme of work set out in the 2021-31 Long-term Plan.

We have a full programme of projects planned across all areas. Many are already underway, have been consulted on, decided on by Council or were included as part of the previous Long-term Plan.

Visit our website to see which projects are in your area: letstalk.wellington.govt.nz/annual-plan-2023-24

This year we are considering a rates increase after growth in the ratepayer base of 12.3 percent. This is equal to the after-growth increase budgeted for in previous plans for this year. In total, the council proposes to collect \$479m (GST exclusive) of rates during 2023/24.

This increase is driven by investment in the city's infrastructure and services signalled in the Long-term Plan, and the impact of increased inflation, borrowing costs, and depreciation.

Council has considered alternative funding mechanisms to absorb some inflationary impacts, and keep rates increases to levels previously signalled. This has resulted in a decision to pause some debt repayments and to fund some initiatives through accumulated surpluses.

Question 1: Do you have any overall feedback on our 2023/24 Annual Plan?

Change to Rates remission and Rates postponement policies

There are several ways to manage rates payments, such as spreading your payments into regular affordable amounts across the year.

Along with Central Government, we have a rates rebate scheme that provides a reduction in rates to those that meet set low-income criteria.

The Council is proposing to make some changes to enable better support to ratepayers facing financial hardship.

The key changes proposed are:

- Increase low-income remission amount from \$500 to \$700
- Engage with DIA to include the Council remission in their rates rebate form
- Eliminate the financial hardship postponement application fee for ratepayers that also qualify for the Central Government rates rebate

Question 2 – Do you support these policy changes?

<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> Neutral/Don't know
------------------------------	-----------------------------	---

Fees and User Charges

As part of the proposed plan, we have reviewed our fees and charges and are proposing to change some fees and charges.

The full details of our proposed changes can be found here: letstalk.wellington.govt.nz/annual-plan-2023-24

Material changes

The following areas have material increases because of changes to existing Council policies, implementation of new policies. These changes were consulted on, and we are now seeking feedback on the proposed impact on fees in the following areas:

- **Town Belts & Reserves** – implementation of the Trading and Events in Public Places Policy
- **Public health regulation** – registration fee for Responsible dog owners, which has not been adjusted for several years

These two material fee increases are related to the rising costs to Council to offer the service in these two areas

- **Waste minimisation services** – increased ETS costs and Waste Minimisation Act levy
- **Building control and facilitation** – alignment of some existing fees to new fee structure

Question 3 – Do you have any feedback on the proposed material fee increases?

New fees

We are also proposing new fees in the following areas to streamline some Council booking processes or to offer new services:

- **Waterfront Public Spaces** – multiple new fees relating to taking over management from Centreport
- **Swimming pools** – multiple new fees relating to pool party offerings
- **Botanic Gardens** – including new picnic kits and hire rates for Bolton Cottage
- **Sports fields** – including a new sandcourt hire fee and hire rates for the Newton Park function room
- **Recreation Centre** – multiple new fees for booking Ākau Tangi Sport Centre sessions
- **Marinas** – fees for new services for boat pump-out and service outside license agreement
- **Burials and Cremation** – Ash Plots Makara extensions
- **Public Health regulations** – Parklet permissions
- **Building Control & facilitation** – New minor works fee, new LIM fast track option

Question 4: Do you have any feedback on the proposed new fees?

Other fee increases

Finally we are proposing standard inflation increases for the following areas:

- | | |
|---------------------------------|--|
| • Parking Encroachment licences | • Burials and cremations |
| • Botanic gardens | • Public health regulations |
| • City Archives | • Building control and facilitation |
| • Waterfront public spaces | • Development control and facilitation |
| • Swimming pools | • Sewerage collection and disposal |
| • Recreation centres | • Waste minimisation |
| • Marinas | |

Question 5: Do you have any additional feedback on the proposed fee changes?



30 April 2023

Wellington City Council

SUBMISSION ON THE 2023/24 Annual Plan

About the Submitter

1. Founded by David Farrar and Jordan Williams in 2013, the *Taxpayers' Union's* mission is Lower Taxes, Less Waste, More Accountability.
2. We enjoy the support of some 200,000 registered members and supporters, making us the most popular campaign group championing fiscal conservatism and accountability. We are funded by our thousands of donors and approximately two percent of our income is from membership dues and donations from private industry.
3. We are a lobby group not a think tank. Our grassroots advocacy model is based on international taxpayer-group counterparts, particularly in the United Kingdom and Canada, and similar to campaign organisations on the left, such as Australia's *Get Up*, New Zealand's *ActionStation*, and *Greenpeace*.
4. The Union is a member of the *World Taxpayers Associations* – a coalition of taxpayer advocacy groups representing millions of taxpayers across more than 60 countries.
5. Nothing in this submission is confidential.



Introduction

6. The proposed 12.3% rates increase will exacerbate hardship felt by many families who are already struggling with high inflation and the cost of living crisis. We fear that these increases are likely to be passed on to renters indirectly so will not just affect property owners. The Council should be urgently looking for ways to cut back on all areas of spending that do not relate to the provision of core council services and find creative ways to increase revenues. Now is not the time to be splashing out on 'nice to haves' when so many are struggling.
7. The rates hike is almost double the current CPI inflation rate, the Council should aim to bring this figure down to be in line with this rate. In this submission, we propose a number of options that the Council could explore to help ease this burden on ratepayers.
8. We wish to speak orally to this submission and would like to be part of a community oral forum to speak to Councillors about our submission. Our preferred date and time would be the evening of the 16th of May.
9. Our submission will substantially be focused on question 1 from your submission template which is overall feedback for the 2023/24 Annual Plan. It will be focusing on where spending can be reduced, how the Council can generate more revenue without increasing rates and how to improve accountability to ensure value for money.
10. For question two, we believe that working to keep rates at or below the rate of inflation should be prioritised over increasing the low-income rates remission amount. Our rationale is that we are concerned that, over time, the burden of high rates will continue as the size of local government grows and so the focus should be on ensuring that rates rises are kept to a minimum for everyone rather than increasing the remission amount.
11. For questions 3, 4 and 5, our general position as that council fees and charges for services should aim for cost-recovery as much as practically possible. We also think it is worth considering whether some of these areas should even be within the function of the Council in the first place, we will likely have more detailed comments on this when we submit orally.

Reducing Council Spending

12. Delay or completely cancel expensive projects that are not absolutely necessary.
 - a. The recent decision to delay construction of the Golden Mile should be extended to other non-
[REDACTED] pects of Let's get Wellington Moving.
 - b. With interest rates continuing to rise, taking on debt to finance major projects will lead to significant costs for ratepayers in the future. If it is not necessary infrastructure, it should be delayed or cancelled.
13. Reducing personnel costs
 - a. The Council should review the roles of all employees to see where efficiencies can be created. It will likely make sense to combine, reduce or completely eliminate certain positions.

- b. Large numbers of managers, communications staff, marketing teams and consultants are expensive. It is our view that these positions should be prioritised for cost savings rather than front-line and customer facing roles.
 - c. It may also make sense to share certain employees with other nearby councils on a cost-sharing basis. This is likely to work out cheaper than, for example, paying a consultant when there isn't sufficient work at a single council to justify a full time position.
14. Review, and withdraw membership from organisations providing poor value for money for ratepayers such as Local Government New Zealand. Auckland Council has recognised this cost and decided to withdraw, WCC should follow suit.
15. Emissions reductions should be focused solely on cost reductions.
- a. The Emissions Trading Scheme (ETS) governs New Zealand's net carbon emissions on a national level under a cap and trade system. This means that the only way for New Zealand's net carbon emissions to reduce is by Central Government lowering the number of credits allocated. Any effort by the Council to reduce Wellington's emissions will simply free up carbon credits to be used elsewhere in the economy and the country's net emissions will remain unchanged.
 - b. In light of this, any decision relating to emissions reduction should be based on economics, not virtue signalling. If an emissions reduction project costs ratepayers less than the cost of purchasing carbon credits via the ETS, it should proceed. If it would instead be cheaper to buy the credits, the council should buy them and allow those reductions to occur more cheaply elsewhere in the economy.
16. Consider selling the central library.
- a. The library has been an expensive drain on ratepayers and should be considered for sale in favour of continuing with the pop-up libraries.
 - b. Pop-up libraries have many advantages over a traditional single, larger library.
 - i. They are dispersible which means they are more accessible. Rather than having it only in one location, we can have multiple libraries around the city making it easier for people to use them.
 - ii. [REDACTED] Scalability means that during tougher financial times, the service can shrink while also being able to significantly grow when finances allow.
 - iii. They are relocatable. rather than being constrained to one specific building, pop-up libraries can relocate as our city changes and suburb populations and land uses changes. This helps to ensure that our libraries are in locations where they are most likely to be used.

Other ways of raising revenue



17. The council should consider selling off some of their properties as a way to pay down debt and assist with covering increased council costs.
 - a. The new Tākina Wellington Convention and Exhibition Centre means there will be significantly more space for events in the city. The Council should use the Centre's opening as an opportunity to sell off some of its other venues where there is a duplication of the service being provided.
 - b. Having a large property portfolio exposes the ratepayers to a significant level of financial risk in the event of an earthquake or other natural disaster.
 - c. The council should not be in the property management business. We can understand the case for some community buildings but believe that there are too many properties that constrain significant amounts of capital.
18. Other council services or assets should be considered for privatisation of some form. Mixed-ownership models have been popular ideas in other council areas and have tended to function well.
 - a. CentrePort is just one example which should be considered for at least a partial privatisation. TDB Advisory recently looked into whether Auckland Council should consider selling the port. We suggest this council assess whether this is a viable option for Wellington also.
 - b. Our current economic situation and the significant rates rise ahead of us means that everything should be on the table for consideration.
19. The Council should actively lobby the government to implement a GST sharing scheme for all new building and construction occurring in the city.
 - a. We understand the challenges that councils all across the country face with consenting and zoning new developments. When this development occurs, local government bears most of the costs of providing the necessary infrastructure and services to these areas while central government receives most of the benefits such as income tax, company tax and GST from those who decide to live or operate a business in these areas.
 - b. A GST sharing scheme where a proportion of GST is returned to local government would help to deal with some of the systematic challenges you are facing and alleviate some of the burden on ratepayers.
20. Consider  ke out long-term leases on some of its prime land which would be a significant revenue generator for the council.
 - a. Expanding more hospitality and commerce to more areas like the waterfront, Mount Victoria and some of the parks through leasing would not only generate revenue but would also make these areas more lively and enjoyable places to visit for both locals and those from out of town.
 - b. Furthermore, where there are businesses there is light and people which makes our city safer for everyone. Commerce has many positive externalities and so the Council should be looking to make the city as easy and attractive as possible for businesses to operate here.

- c. If the Council wants to spend money on general promotion of the city, it should be funded by a levy on commercial businesses but conditional on being supported by a majority of businesses. If businesses aren't willing to agree to such a levy, it is probably a poor use of money.
- d. Any spending on supporting specific businesses or industries under the guise of 'economic development' should be scrapped in favour of lower commercial rates. These policies pick and choose winners rather than allowing competition to ensure that Wellingtonians (and visitors) get great products and services at the most affordable prices.

Ensuring Accountability

- 21. Accountability is a very effective mechanism for reining in spending. As much as practically possible, the Council should aim to publish all spending records online so that organisations such as ours, along with other groups and experts can review and identify potential cost savings.
- 22. Councillors should be given sufficient time to review proposals before voting on them and should be granted prompt access to all relevant material that could inform their decision. Councillors should not need to use the LGOIMA to request information from their own council.
- 23. All additional funding for CCOs or specific projects should not be blank cheques with no accountability. Those seeking the funding should justify exactly why they need the money, what it will be spent on what other measures they have taken to reduce costs before seeking additional funding.

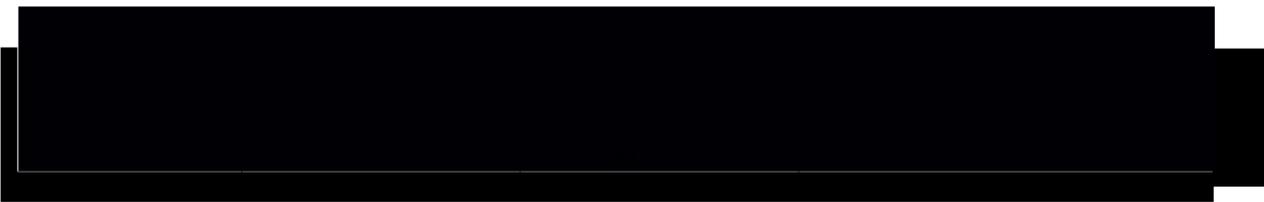
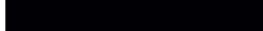
Concluding Comments

- 24. We thank you for the opportunity to submit, we look forward to making our oral submission.

Yours faithfully,
New Zealand Taxpayers' Union Inc.



Connor Molloy
Deputy Campaigns Manager



	Respondent No: 224	Responded At: [REDACTED]
	Login: [REDACTED]	Last Seen: [REDACTED]
	Email: [REDACTED]	IP Address: [REDACTED]

- Q1. **Full Name** Adelaide Gwynne
- Q2. **Contact details: Address** [REDACTED]
- Q3. **Phone number** [REDACTED]
- Q4. **What is your connection to Wellington? Tick all that apply** I live in Wellington
I work in Wellington
- Q5. **We are offering community oral forums to speak to Councillors about your submission (informal 60min table discussion with 4-5 Councillors alongside other submitters). Do you wish to speak to Councillors about your submission at a Community Oral Forum?** Yes
- Q6. **If yes, please indicate a preferred date and time** 17 May morning

Q7. **Do you have any overall feedback on our 2023/24 Annual Plan?**

Areas of opportunity for open spaces Cancer in New Zealand: Aotearoa has the highest death and incidence rates from melanoma globally, although skin cancer is highly preventable. While we need a bit of sun exposure and vitamin D to stay healthy, over 90% of skin cancer is caused by too much sun - which can be reduced by spending time in places that provide shade. The strength of UV light is expressed by a Solar UV Index (UVI). The World Health Organization recommends that sun protection measures be used when UVI levels are three and above (World Health Organization, 2022). Annually the Wellington region has 127 days where the UVI equals or exceeds 6 (Liley B. 2022). As noted in your Wellington Play Spaces Policy 2017, children aged 5-10 years are the main playground users, with the 0-5-year age group second and 11-12 third. Preventing episodes of sunburn and overexposure to the sun's UV radiation in childhood is crucial to reducing the incidence of skin cancer later in life. Public parks and playgrounds are important recreational resources for families and promote physical activity for children. However, they are places where children can be exposed to UVR, making these sites an important setting for skin cancer prevention. Suppose the main purposes of play areas are to improve well-being through promoting physical activity and exposure to green space. In that case, it makes sense to consider shade provision in these spaces. Promoting health in some areas seems counterproductive while exposing people to cancer risk factors. Given that the top five ideas for improvement in play spaces included more shade or shelter, we would like to make the following recommendations for your consideration in developing and designing the above play spaces, parks and recreation areas.

Areas of opportunity: ● Kilbirnie Destination Skate Park ● Grenada North Park Upgrade ● Huetepara Park ● 44 Frederick Street Urban Park ● Cuba Street Playground ● Frank Kitts Park Playground ● Play areas (208 areas according to your summary) ● Free public events (approximately 25, especially from September to April when UV radiation levels are high)

Provide some cover in open spaces: As noted in your 2021-2031 Long-term Plan (LTP), "Council activities are carried out to maintain or improve the well-being of Wellingtonians and visitors to Wellington." To achieve this Plan, you have stated that "an important consideration is providing shade over the equipment and not just for caregivers" (Wellington City Council, 2017). We commend you on this proposal as shade is one of the most effective forms of sun protection. Good quality shade will reduce an individual's UV exposure by more than 75% (Mackay, 2016). Therefore, a great option for highly frequented public spaces such as parks and playgrounds would be to provide appropriate shade. This creates opportunities and protection from exposure to harmful UVR, which can cause skin cancer. Increase the number of trees to increase the density and coverage of natural shade: An option for shade is to increase the number of trees within open spaces. Good tree

planting is visually attractive and can help cool urban areas, reduce greenhouse gas emissions, enhance the mauri of land and water, enhance biodiversity and improve human health and well-being. As well as lowering the temperatures of the surfaces, they shade by as much as 10 to 25 degrees (Greenwood et al, 1998), benefiting the environment by reducing CO2 and erosion and enhancing greenspaces, which is shown to impact well-being positively. Therefore, we recommend that trees are grouped in three or more so their canopies can weave together, increasing the density of the foliage and providing quality shade. This also aligns with your Social and Environmental Community Outcomes for a city where; "People and communities can learn, are connected, well housed, safe and healthy," and "Where the natural environment is being preserved, biodiversity improved, natural resources are used sustainably, and the city is mitigating and adapting to climate change." As a result, we recommend you on your commitment to climate change action. We are pleased to see this reflected through Te Atakura – First to Zero plan. Moreover, as access to shade is an equity issue, The Cancer Society Wellington Division strongly requests you increase shade in low socio-economic neighbourhoods. This should be prioritised to ensure that shade is fairly distributed to prevent skin cancer in areas that already have other compounding cancer risk factors. Future collaboration for sun protection: When re-developing the above parks and playground areas, please consider shade development. While the one-off costs of shade structures of tree planting may be sufficient, but the impact of skin cancer is even more costly. We recommend combining built and natural shade options for caregiver space and play equipment. Some examples include; ● choosing play equipment that provides shade ● adding seating that is under shade or adding shade to existing seated areas ● increase the number of seats in shaded areas ● provide some cover in larger play areas

Smoke and Vape free: We want to use this submission as an opportunity to congratulate you on the strength of your Smokefree Wellington Action Plan and to encourage the continuation of increasing awareness about smoke-free outdoor public spaces through signage. As of November 2020, vape products are now included in the Smokefree Environments and Regulated Products (Vaping) Amendment Act. The Cancer Society recommends investing in Smokefree-Vapefree signs at all skateparks, playgrounds, parks, and reserves, especially in newly developed areas. Also, implement smoke and vape free signage and communications at public events, as there is no 'safe level' of outdoor second-hand smoke exposure and is potential for harm to health over five metres from people smoking.

Alcohol: We also congratulate you on the Wellington Alcohol Ban in central city areas, including the 24/7 alcohol-free zones in: ● Wellington central ● Oriental Bay ● Mount Victoria West ● Mount Victoria lookout ● Aro Valley ● Central Park ● Mount Cook ● Newtown ● Kilbirnie As stated in your Annual Plan, the Cancer Society recommends alcohol-free zone signage at all skateparks, playgrounds, parks, and reserves, especially in new developments. Not only will this prevent arrests, violence, and other offences, as stated on your website, but it will create a healthy environment that promotes well-being. This is important as not drinking or drinking less alcohol reduces the risk of seven types of cancer, including mouth, throat, voice box, oesophagus, liver, bowel and breast (in women), as the less you drink, the lower the cancer risk. Therefore, any environment that promotes an alcohol-free message is beneficial. Hence, we recommend alcohol-free signage and communications at public events. If you would like to talk to someone in our Health Promotion Team or set up a time to meet, don't hesitate to get in touch with Adelaide Gwynne - Health Promotion Advisor, at adelaideg@cancersoc.org.nz. We appreciate your consideration. Ngā mihi nui, Cancer Society Wellington Division

References: Greenwood JS, Soulos GP, Thomas ND. Under cover: Guidelines for shade planning and design (<https://cancernz.org.nz/assets/Sunsmart/Sunsmart-resources/Guidelines-Under-Cover.pdf>). Sydney: NSW Cancer Council and NSW Health Department. 1998. Liley B. 2022. Atmospheric Scientist NIWA, provided average UVI by Council based on 10 years of UVI data. Retrieved January 12, 2023, from <https://www.sunsmart.org.nz/assets/Communities/Councils/CS-High-UVI-Days-NZ-A4.pdf> Mackay C. Built SunShade in New Zealand Public Spaces (<https://www.sunsmart.org.nz/sites/default/files/documents/Built%20sunshade%20in%20six%20New%20Zealand%20public%20spaces.pdf>). A research report commissioned by Health Promotion Agency of New Zealand. Wellington City Council. 2017. Wellington Play Spaces Policy. Retrieved April 19, 2023, from https://search.wellington.govt.nz/s/search.html?collection=wccsearch&profile=_default&query=wellington+play+spaces+policy World Health Organization. 2022. Ultraviolet Radiation. Retrieved January 12, 2023, from who.int/news-room/fact-sheets/detail/ultraviolet-radiation

Q8. Do you support these policy changes? Neutral/Don't know

Q9. Do you have any feedback on the proposed material fee increases?

N/A

Q10. Do you have any feedback on the proposed new fees?

N/A

Q11. Do you have any additional feedback on the proposed fee changes?

N/A

	Respondent No: 134	Responded At: [REDACTED]
	Login: [REDACTED]	Last Seen: [REDACTED]
	Email: [REDACTED] m	IP Address: [REDACTED]

- Q1. **Full Name** Cyrus Free
- Q2. **Contact details: Address** [REDACTED]
- Q3. **Phone number** [REDACTED]
- Q4. **What is your connection to Wellington? Tick all that apply**
- I am a Wellington City Council ratepayer
 - I live in Wellington
 - I work in Wellington
- Q5. **We are offering community oral forums to speak to Councillors about your submission (informal 60min table discussion with 4-5 Councillors alongside other submitters). Do you wish to speak to Councillors about your submission at a Community Oral Forum?** Yes
- Q6. **If yes, please indicate a preferred date and time** 17 May morning
- Q7. **Do you have any overall feedback on our 2023/24 Annual Plan?**
not answered
- Q8. **Do you support these policy changes?** No
- Q9. **Do you have any feedback on the proposed material fee increases?**
fully endorse dog ownership fees.
- Q10. **Do you have any feedback on the proposed new fees?**
I am supportive of fees in general. It takes the burden off those rate payers that are not interested in or not using the many services provided by Council for free (but funded through rates).
- Q11. **Do you have any additional feedback on the proposed fee changes?**
not answered

	Respondent No: 183	Responded At: [REDACTED]
	Login: [REDACTED]	Last Seen: [REDACTED]
	Email: [REDACTED]	IP Address: [REDACTED]

Q1. **Full Name** Alex Marinkovich-Josey

Q2. **Contact details: Address** [REDACTED]

Q3. **Phone number** [REDACTED]

Q4. **What is your connection to Wellington? Tick all that apply**
I live in Wellington
I work in Wellington

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Q7. **Do you have any overall feedback on our 2023/24 Annual Plan?**

Things are moving in the right direction. I'd like to see increased investment in our public transportation, cycleways and pedestrian infrastructure. Specifically, cycle infrastructure in the Kelburn-Northland-Karori area connecting to Te Herenga Waka - Victoria University of Wellington would be a massive boon to the youth population in that area and make transport safer. The commitment to the Pōneke Promise is also commendable and I'd love to see more in that space. Increasing the presence of greenery and plants would also go a long way to improving the feel of the central city. Specifically, alongside roads and in-place of old carparks.

Q8. **Do you support these policy changes?** Yes

Q9. **Do you have any feedback on the proposed material fee increases?**

not answered

Q10. **Do you have any feedback on the proposed new fees?**

As long as these fees are being used to shape our green transition they have my support.

Q11. **Do you have any additional feedback on the proposed fee changes?**

Consider having parking increase more, and work with Greater Wellington Council to improve our public transport network so that people don't need the car space any longer.



Respondent No: 191

Login: [REDACTED]

Email: [REDACTED]

Responded At: [REDACTED]

Last Seen: [REDACTED]

IP Address: [REDACTED]

- Q1. **Full Name** Thomas Guldborg
- Q2. **Contact details: Address** not answered
- Q3. **Phone number** not answered
- Q4. **What is your connection to Wellington? Tick all that apply**
I am a Wellington City Council ratepayer
I live in Wellington
I work in Wellington
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- Q6. **If yes, please indicate a preferred date and time** 17 May morning

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There is a cost of living crisis at the moment, and rate payers are struggling to make their rapidly increasing mortgage payments, as well as feeding their families with increasing food prices. The Reserve Bank is telling everyone to limit spending to bring inflation down, and is engineering a recession to that end. Since your proposed increase, there has been another 50bp increase to the OCR, taking even financial experts by surprise. This is not the time for WCC to "keep delivering" on a 2 year old plan, this is the time to do essential spending only to help rate payers get through this rough period. I want a nice liveable city too, but if we still have roads covered in gravel and pot holes in the suburbs, and every single road has at least one major water leak running for months, then no amount of cute little cycle lanes in the CBD can make up for that. I find the Council's attitude cavalier and disconnected from the realities most people are facing. The argument that 12.3 is better than 17.8 is hyperbole. 12.3 is still much too high for most people to be able to absorb, especially at a time with significant drop in house prices. How come RV doesn't reflect that? It is very easy to sit in a meeting and budget with and spend other people's money, but your decisions have real life consequences for people in Wellington just trying to get by, living from pay check to pay check.

- Q8. **Do you support these policy changes?** No

Q9. Do you have any feedback on the proposed material fee increases?

Fees not having been adjusted for several years is not a good enough reason to increase them. The dog owner fees already seem high, increasing them just because you can is cruel. According to your introduction, our rates pay for town belts and recreation already. There shouldn't be a fee in the first place to use them except for commercial purposes. If someone wants to have their wedding in the town belt they shouldn't have to pay for it

Q10. Do you have any feedback on the proposed new fees?

The increases in fees seem random at best. Swimming pools and sports fields are the few things people can enjoy relatively cheaply, and should stay where they are.

Q11. Do you have any additional feedback on the proposed fee changes?

Inflation increases are cruel in nature, as most rate payers' salaries aren't afforded the same courtesy. It is another example of council's complete disregard for the real life effects their decisions have.

From: [REDACTED]
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: Annual Plan Submission
Date: [REDACTED]
Attachments: [REDACTED]

Dear Sir/Madam

Here is My submission

Sam Somers

[REDACTED]



Virus-free www.avast.com

Annual Plan Submission By Sam Somers

After seeing many proposed changes in the Annual plan, we have quite a lot of expenditure out there that is needed, and a very limited tool of revenue collection, with the main being the dread word Rates. My submission will be based on looking at Alternative tools to bring in extra dollars to relieve some of the burden from ratepayers.

Bus lane enforcement increase

Often as a newtown resident I see many motorists who think that Bus Lanes are simply a suggestion and drive down them like it's a general traffic lane. On many of my morning commutes, if you had the camera out there, you would collect in fine in the short 2-4 minutes along Riddiford Street, you could collect \$1500 in fines, of clear cut bus lane violations, this would be driving length to length in the 70m cone enforcement area. The time I usually travel through is between 8am and 830am in the morning. My commercial insurance premium on my vehicle is \$1200 a year for a comparison figure.

- If we had enforcement on every working day in a 12 month period based on my morning experience.
- 8am to 9am - 225 Vehicles fine - \$33,750 per working day
- Working days from Wellington Anniversary Weekend to Christmas for a measure of prudence, 232 working days, that would be an estimated revenue of \$10,901,250 or in percentage terms, 1.339% of the total operating budget
- If we looked at Saturday enforcement, another day where people often offend using similar fine figures over 40 Saturdays in a year, it would net \$1,350,000 per year or 0.16% of the total operating budget.

Now this is an example of 1 area of offending and the results might vary but we should look at aggressive policing of our bus lane areas so we can progressively reduce those offending wrongly using bus lanes using them, clear up our roadways for public transport priority and collect revenue from offenders who want to flout the law and help reduce the overall rates increase on ratepayers. **Bus lanes fines are mainly collected from council and not often the police enforce these days. Sign of \$150 fine for offenders should be places on all bus lanes to remind motorists to not use them.**

Stop Light Camera Enforcement

Another revenue generation tool we can add is Stop Light Cameras, with a focus on Intersections which are known for high crash/collision rates. Auckland Council has rolled out in the last financial year 8 new cameras across their network and we should look at doing the same. A red light Camera offense also collects a \$150 fine. This will over time reduce the number of people chasing the orange arrow and entering an unclear intersection holding up other traffic on the road.

Rates Rebate

I support the increase to the rates rebate scheme and would like WCC to actively go out to get people to sign up to it for those that are eligible. When I lived in Levin, Rates Rebate season was the talk of the town, everyone knew about it and this needs to be publicized. This should include going to residence association meetings, weekend fruit and vegetable markets, through MSD with both Superannuitants and those on the benefit.

Water Meter

I firmly oppose water meters being put in for revenue generation or so called cost recovery. I have been informed that 87% of Wellington's Water reticulation costs are fixed. Implementing water meters would also shift the undue burden for renters onto the tenants, and often some landlords would fake a bill or add administration fees onto the tenants water costs and adding water meters would help some bad landlords from trying to exploit our rental sector. Water is a human right and should not be let out for profit.

General expenditure

I think the general expenditure is right for the budget, there is work that is needed and implementing Austerity like Auckland Council isn't an option. We should focus on the essentials, such as fixing the leaks, maintaining the potholes, upgrading Moa Point Sludge and keeping our community facilities open.

We should remain committed to the heavily subsidized cycleway improvement, because of the Social Media campaign from the group Wellington Live where people are proud to pass cyclists within 6 inches of their life, and brag about it as you get a participation trophy for endangering someone's life. Cycleways help reduce congestion on NZ Roads, and too often their safety is treated as if they are second class citizens.

From what I see, we don't have a expenditure problem in general, more the poor selection of options for revenue generation.

Submission out the Annual Plan but related

- Would like Wellington City Council councilors at the next Local Government NZ conference to lobby for changes to revenue generation for Council
 - I would like to propose my idea of having a portion of the GST calculation given to local government
 - Of the 15% figure we currently use collected through IRD (Not Customs), We should have 12.5% to central government, 2% to local councils like WCC and 0.5% to Regional Councils like GWRC

- Utilize a suffix on the IRD number so IRD know where the revenue from those GST registered business are being collected, we can use the liquor license database number. (Horowhenua District Council number is 040)

Request to read this submission Orally

	Respondent No: 184	Responded At: [REDACTED]
	Login: [REDACTED]	Last Seen: [REDACTED]
	Email: [REDACTED]	IP Address: [REDACTED]

- Q1. **Full Name** Michaela Manley

- Q2. **Contact details: Address** [REDACTED]

- Q3. **Phone number** [REDACTED]

- Q4. **What is your connection to Wellington? Tick all that apply**
 - I am a Wellington City Council ratepayer
 - I live in Wellington
 - I work in Wellington

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- Q6. **If yes, please indicate a preferred date and time** 17 May afternoon

- Q7. **Do you have any overall feedback on our 2023/24 Annual Plan?**

Thanks for the engagement document, some parts were not that well explained and generated some questions.

- Q8. **Do you support these policy changes?** Yes

- Q9. **Do you have any feedback on the proposed material fee increases?**

not answered

- Q10. **Do you have any feedback on the proposed new fees?**

not answered

- Q11. **Do you have any additional feedback on the proposed fee changes?**

not answered

	Respondent No: 225	Responded At: [REDACTED]
	Login: [REDACTED]	Last Seen: [REDACTED]
	Email: [REDACTED]	IP Address: [REDACTED]

- Q1. **Full Name** Elizabeth Parker
- Q2. **Contact details: Address** not answered
- Q3. **Phone number** not answered
- Q4. **What is your connection to Wellington? Tick all that apply**
I am a Wellington City Council ratepayer
I live in Wellington
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- Q9. **Do you have any feedback on the proposed material fee increases?**
not answered
- Q10. **Do you have any feedback on the proposed new fees?**
not answered
- Q11. **Do you have any additional feedback on the proposed fee changes?**
not answered

From: [REDACTED]
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: submission on Annual Plan
Date: [REDACTED]
Attachments: [REDACTED]

Dear Council Officer
Please find attached my submission for the Annual Plan

Angela Potts
[REDACTED]

Submissions on the Annual Plan

I would like to make this submission for the 2023/2024 Annual Plan:

Speed limits – I am opposed to making a 30 km speed limit throughout the city for the following reasons:

- It's very difficult to maintain this speed without looking down at your speed and taking your eyes off the road increasing the chances of having an accident, nose to tail.
- As an example, driving from where I live in Johnsonville to Karori I average 40-45 km now. If I slow down to 30 it's so slow that cars will continually build up behind me and get frustrated. Going at 30km on this road doesn't make it any safer because there are no people crossing the road except at pedestrian crossings.
- When traffic moves at 30 kms, it is a natural tendency for pedestrians not to pay as much attention before crossing the road. The Golden Mile is a prime example there with pedestrians not paying attention when crossing the road because they think the traffic is moving so slowly. Whereas in a 50 kms area pedestrians will always look before they cross the road.

Cycleways –

- There should be NO car parks removed to install cycle ways around the Government and Parliament precincts. This area should be sacra scant. A prime example are the plans to remove the car parks to be replaced by cycle ways in Molesworth St, Murphy St, Hill St, Aitken St and around Old St Paul's. Many people go to these areas and require car parks and this includes tourists and tour buses who take visitors from around NZ.
- It is dangerous narrowing Kenya Street and removing car parks from one side for the cycle lane. Instead of making these cycle lanes permanent, they should be like clearways and only applicable from 7-9 am and 4-6 pm and retain car parks outside these hours.
- Originally Wellington was just going to focus on the Tier one cycle ways that would get the most use and it seems now that doing the Tier two will have minimal use. These things can wait until there is money in the kitty instead of continuing borrowing.

Wellington Hospital –

- Removal of car parks around the entrance of the Hospital causes great confusion and stress for people, as it's confusing.
- Other areas that are confusing with cycle ways are Island Bay which after spending \$16,000,000 and two iterations, it is still frustrating residents who want to stop there for shopping etc.
- Ngaio Gorge doesn't require a cycle lane on both sides of the road and this could also just run in peak times as above.
- Adelaide Road – The Blind Institute is halfway up Adelaide Rd and two of blind members have been hit by cyclists while crossing to their bus stop. This is exactly

the same when blind members disembark from the buses as they step straight on to the cycle ways.

- This is in the hundreds of millions that is better spent on fixing the leaking pipes and infrastructure that effect everyone and not just the 2% of the commuting public

Car Parks –

- Removal of car park has adversely affected business and customers and public in the CBD with the result that these people are now going to Petone, Lower Hutt and Porirua. This is killing Wellington business that is evident by all the empty shops in Lambton Quay. This is especially so in Courtenay Place where 17 businesses have closed in the last 3 months.
- Therefore Council is not getting the income from rates and from the car park removals.

Electric Scooters

These should not be allowed on footpaths and there have been numerous reports of them hitting people by their speed, plus they are usually not wearing helmets. Many have a flagrant disrespect for traffic rules, and frequently going through red lights at intersections.

Summary –

- The Council is currently borrowing more money than ever before causing this huge rate increase that many people just can't afford making Wellington a very unaffordable and unattractive without the vibrancy we used to enjoy.
- The Council must live within its means and just focus on the "must haves" and can't afford the "nice to haves".

Submission form

Absolutely Positively Wellington City Council
 Me Heke Ki Pōneke

Kōrero mai mō te mahere ā-tau
 Have your say on the Annual Plan

All submissions must be received by midnight **Sunday, 30 April 2023**

You don't have to give feedback on every question – just choose the ones you're interested in. You can only submit once. You can include supporting information along with your submission.

Before you start, read about our Annual Plan and budget, including the changes to fees and user charges, in the engagement document.

Why we're collecting this information

Your feedback matters. This plan is about the future of Wellington, and it affects everyone who lives and works here. That's why we want to hear from as many people as possible. Your views will help us to decide on the next steps we take.

Privacy statement

All submissions (including names and contact details) are provided in their entirety to elected members. Submissions (including names but not contact details) will be made available to the public at our office and on our website.

Your personal information will also be used for the administration of the consultation process, including informing you of the outcome of the consultation.

All information collected will be held by Wellington City Council, 113 The Terrace, Wellington, with submitters having the right to access and correct personal information.

----- 1st fold here - fasten here once folded -----

----- 2nd fold here -----

Free Post Authority Number 2199
Absolutely Positively Wellington City Council
 Me Heke Ki Pōneke



FREEPOST 2199
 Planning and Reporting team
 PO Box 2199
 Wellington 6140

.J016410

100

Full name: Huetepara Park Committee (Contact-Dan Eves)			
Contact details			
Address: [REDACTED]			
Phone number: [REDACTED]			
Are you making this submission as an individual or on behalf of an organisation?			
<input type="checkbox"/> Individual		<input type="checkbox"/> Organisation:	
What is your connection to Wellington? (tick all that apply)			
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> I am a Wellington City Council Ratepayer	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> I live in Wellington	<input type="checkbox"/> I work in Wellington	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> I own a business in Wellington	<input type="checkbox"/> I study in Wellington	<input type="checkbox"/> I am a visitor to Wellington	
We are offering community oral forums to speak to Councillors about your submission (informal 60min table discussion with 4-5 Councillors alongside other submitters). Do you wish to speak to Councillors about your submission at a Community Oral Forum?			
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes		<input type="checkbox"/> No	
If yes - please indicate a preferred date and time			
<input type="checkbox"/> 16 May afternoon	<input type="checkbox"/> 16 May evening	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 17 May morning	<input type="checkbox"/> 17 May afternoon

Our work for 2023/24 year

For 2023/24 we plan to continue to deliver on the programme of work set out in the 2021-31 Long-term Plan.

We have a full programme of projects planned across all areas. Many are already underway, have been consulted on, decided on by Council or were included as part of the previous Long-term Plan.

Visit our website to see which projects are in your area: letstalk.wellington.govt.nz/annual-plan-2023-24

This year we are considering a rates increase after growth in the ratepayer base of 12.3 percent. This is equal to the after-growth increase budgeted for in previous plans for this year. In total, the council proposes to collect \$479m (GST exclusive) of rates during 2023/24.

This increase is driven by investment in the city's infrastructure and services signalled in the Long-term Plan, and the impact of increased inflation, borrowing costs, and depreciation.

Council has considered alternative funding mechanisms to absorb some inflationary impacts, and keep rates increases to levels previously signalled. This has resulted in a decision to pause some debt repayments and to fund some initiatives through accumulated surpluses.

Question 1: Do you have any overall feedback on our 2023/24 Annual Plan?

We would like WCC to continue their support for Huetepara Park to enable it to be completed.

Change to Rates remission and Rates postponement policies

There are several ways to manage rates payments, such as spreading your payments into regular affordable amounts across the year.

Along with Central Government, we have a rates rebate scheme that provides a reduction in rates to those that meet set low-income criteria.

The Council is proposing to make some changes to enable better support to ratepayers facing financial hardship.

The key changes proposed are:

- Increase low-income remission amount from \$500 to \$700
- Engage with DIA to include the Council remission in their rates rebate form
- Eliminate the financial hardship postponement application fee for ratepayers that also qualify for the Central Government rates rebate

Question 2 – Do you support these policy changes?

<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> Neutral/Don't know
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Fees and User Charges

As part of the proposed plan, we have reviewed our fees and charges and are proposing to change some fees and charges.

The full details of our proposed changes can be found here: letstalk.wellington.govt.nz/annual-plan-2023-24

Material changes

The following areas have material increases because of changes to existing Council policies, implementation of new policies. These changes were consulted on, and we are now seeking feedback on the proposed impact on fees in the following areas:

- **Town Belts & Reserves** – implementation of the Trading and Events in Public Places Policy
- **Public health regulation** – registration fee for Responsible dog owners, which has not been adjusted for several years

These two material fee increases are related to the rising costs to Council to offer the service in these two areas

- **Waste minimisation services** – increased ETS costs and Waste Minimisation Act levy
- **Building control and facilitation** – alignment of some existing fees to new fee structure

Question 3 – Do you have any feedback on the proposed material fee increases?

New fees

We are also proposing new fees in the following areas to streamline some Council booking processes or to offer new services:

- **Waterfront Public Spaces** – multiple new fees relating to taking over management from Centreport
- **Swimming pools** – multiple new fees relating to pool party offerings
- **Botanic Gardens** – including new picnic kits and hire rates for Bolton Cottage
- **Sports fields** – including a new sandcourt hire fee and hire rates for the Newton Park function room
- **Recreation Centre** – multiple new fees for booking Ākau Tangi Sport Centre sessions
- **Marinas** – fees for new services for boat pump-out and service outside license agreement
- **Burials and Cremation** – Ash Plots Makara extensions
- **Public Health regulations** – Parklet permissions
- **Building Control & facilitation** – New minor works fee, new LIM fast track option

Question 4: Do you have any feedback on the proposed new fees?

Other fee increases

Finally we are proposing standard inflation increases for the following areas:

- Parking Encroachment licences
- Botanic gardens
- City Archives
- Waterfront public spaces
- Swimming pools
- Recreation centres
- Marinas
- Burials and cremations
- Public health regulations
- Building control and facilitation
- Development control and facilitation
- Sewerage collection and disposal
- Waste minimisation

Question 5: Do you have any additional feedback on the proposed fee changes?

**Absolutely Positively
Wellington City Council**
Me Heke Ki Pōneke



2023-24 Annual Plan

Non-official Submissions for Oral Hearings

From: [REDACTED]
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: Submission - WCC Draft Annual Plan
Date: [REDACTED]
Attachments: [REDACTED]

Dear Sir/Madam
Attached please find a submission pertaining to the 2023/24 Wellington City Council Draft Annual Plan.
As indicated on the submission form, I would like to attend an oral forum to speak with councillors.
Best regards
Christopher Dudfield [REDACTED]

Wellington City Council draft 2023/24 Annual Plan

This year the Council is proposing a rates increase of **12.3 percent**. In total, the council proposes to collect \$479m (GST exclusive) of rates during 2023/24.

It is likely that Council will face further cost escalation due to additional interest rates increases and material cost increase before the final plan is determined at the end of May 2023. Following the pandemic there also continues to be other societal changes and inflationary pressures not factored into the current draft plan.

Wellington Water has also asked Wellington City to fund an extra \$8 million to go towards fixing the pipes. Council officers' advice is that this is approximately an additional 2% on the average rates bill (not included in the proposed 12.3%).

To contain some costs, the Council plans to shift the timing of some projects and delay others (e.g. strengthening of Sheds 1 and 5). Fee increases on council services are proposed along with the introduction of new fees. The question is can more be done?

Further detail can be found on the Council's website along with the Council's prepared submission form (which focuses on asking you about changes to the rates postponement and remission schemes and Council fees for services.) <https://www.letstalk.wellington.govt.nz/annual-plan-2023-24>

This additional submission form has been based on community feedback to help you provide feedback on other options for Council to consider. For more information about completing this form please contact Councillor Ray Chung at ray.chung@wcc.govt.nz

You can *Email* this completed submission to annualplan@wcc.govt.nz. *Post* via Freepost 2199 Planning and Reporting team PO Box 2199 Wellington 6140 or *drop it* into one of the Council's local libraries. **Feedback closes Sunday 30 April 2023**

Please print

Full Name	CHRISTOPHER J DUDFIELD		
Contact Address Details	[REDACTED]		
Phone Number	[REDACTED]		
What is your connection to Wellington City? (✓ tick all that apply)			
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> I am a Wgtn City Council ratepayer	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> I live in Wgtn city	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> I work in Wgtn city	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> I own a business in Wgtn city	<input type="checkbox"/> I study in Wgtn city	<input type="checkbox"/> I visit Wgtn city	
Council is offering community oral forums to speak to Councillors about your submission (informal 60-minute table discussion with 4-5 councillors alongside other submitters). Do you wish to speak at one of these forums?			
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes		<input type="checkbox"/> No	
If yes - please indicate a preferred date and time			
<input type="checkbox"/> 16 May afternoon	<input type="checkbox"/> 16 May evening	<input type="checkbox"/> 17 May afternoon	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 17 May evening

Submission to the Council's 2023/24 Annual Plan

1. Do you support an additional \$8 million going into fixing the water pipes with the proviso that Wellington Water provides a plan with clear targets

<input type="radio"/> I support	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> I support but would like the council to find equivalent savings in other areas	<input type="radio"/> I do not support
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2. Do you support scaling back the Council's existing building pace of 15.3km to be completed with further planning for more in 2023/24 (part of 149km of bike route plan, at a current cost of \$350m, by 2031)

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	I support the scaling back of the bike network plan schedule in 2023/24 to enable resources to be applied to other work e.g. fixing pipes, slip remediation, bus priority lanes, pedestrian improvements
<input type="radio"/>	I do not support scaling back the Council's bike network plan schedule

3. Do you support scaling back and readjusting plans to save costs and disruption for the Let's Get Welly Moving Programme's projects – City streets, Golden Mile, Thorndon and Hutt Rd? (due to post pandemic societal changes, population prediction changes and inflationary pressures)

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> I support	<input type="radio"/> I oppose and want to see current plans proceed
---	--

4. Do you support NOT increasing debt by \$10+ million to demolish the Civic administration and Municipal office buildings on Te Ngākau Civic Square in 2023/24 until rebuild/ strengthening plans are in place?

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> I support putting the demolition on hold	<input type="radio"/> I oppose and want to see current demolition plans proceed
--	---

5. Do you support the Council increasing rates by 12.3+% in 2023/24

<input type="radio"/> I support based on Council's current plans	<input type="radio"/> I support but would want the council to reprioritise work as mentioned above	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> I do not support the increase
--	--	---

General Comment (if required – please carry on with an additional page)

REFER TO THE PAGES THAT FOLLOW

The Local Government Act 2002 states:

The purpose of local government is—

- (a) to enable democratic local decision-making and action, by and on behalf of, communities; and**
- (b) to promote the social, economic, environmental, and cultural well-being of communities in the present and for the future.**

In performing its role, a local authority must act in accordance with the following principles:

(a) a local authority should—

- (i) conduct its business in an open, transparent, and democratically accountable manner; and**
- (ii) give effect to its identified priorities and desired outcomes in an efficient and effective manner;**

(b) a local authority should make itself aware of, and should have regard to, the views of ALL of its communities;

In addition, the Local Government Rating Act 2002 specifies the following:

There are three main purposes of the LGRA –

- To provide local authorities with flexible powers to set, assess, and collect rates.**
- To ensure rates reflect decisions made in a transparent and consultative manner.**
- To provide for processes and information to ensure ratepayers can identify and understand their liability for rates.**

One of the prime objectives of the LGRA is to establish clarity, certainty, and stability in rating matters.

Mechanisms are set out in the LGRA to allow local authorities to raise revenue from the community generally, specified groups or categories of ratepayers, and those who use or generate the need for particular services or amenities.

It would therefore seem that the current mayor, elements within the WCC corporate body, and a number of political party affiliated councillors are not acting or conducting themselves in accordance with the LGA 2002 or LGRA 2002 and should be held to account. The lunatic fringe of the cycling community, including the Cycle Action Network (and its various entities) should also therefore be expected to help finance the 'cycleways' they so actively demand.

The current situation is not acceptable and Wellingtonians deserve better. It is incumbent upon all councillors to act in the interests of their constituents and to elevate their decision making above blundering, submissive adherence to the increasingly disconnected back room policies and directives of their political masters. The idea that compliant, political minions on and within council feel a need to "phone home" for instructions on how to proceed negates any notion of intelligent thought or open, democratic process (including transparent, informed and inclusive decision making).

Many of the excessively costly "projects" that are increasing the indebtedness of Wellingtonians have no real value and offer no solution to climate change, associated impact mitigation or the infrastructural crises confronting us. For its part, central government seems determined to tweak the ETS to push for reductions in gross rather than net emissions. Unfortunately, this has generated an incentivised obsession with obscenely expensive

'cycleways', counter-productive attempts to eliminate ICE and electric vehicles from city centres and a disastrous fetish for transitioning essential urban commercial districts into nothing more than picnic areas. Claims that these measures will reduce emissions are unfounded nonsense and cannot be substantiated, while an associated obvious increase in travel times and congestion around Wellington city suggests an actual increase in emissions.

In short, they are decimating Wellington and other cities unfortunate enough to have a preponderance of obsequious, self-seeking, party apparatchiks who consider their roles on council to be nothing more than a step in whatever political career they see for themselves.

In the meantime, serious climate change mitigation is pushed aside, Wellington's streets and walkways are in a state of disrepair, the storm water system is incapacitated, the sewer system is antiquated and our fresh water reticulation network resembles a sprinkler system.

There also appears to be no coordination between any planned infrastructural work and "cycleway" construction. In other words more public money will be wasted as cycleways are removed during installation of underground services and then reinstated. Furthermore, the atrociously designed 'cycleways' as constructed offer an impediment to the disabled, the infirm, the impaired and the elderly- who together comprise 20% of the population. The Disabled New Zealanders Act currently progressing through parliament does I believe rightfully refer to the removal of impediments and will no doubt require the removal of many 'cycleways' – which would in turn mean that continued implementation of the ill-conceived Cycle Network Plan represents gross misallocation of public money.

The current Annual Plan proposes indebtedness and rates increases that can and should be reduced. I would ask city management, council staff and various elected members to consider their obligations under the LGA and the LGRA. They might also like to contemplate the nature of their legacy.

It is obviously time for those with political affiliations to push back against the incompetence of their political masters, to finally represent the interests of constituents and to ensure that Wellington becomes a resilient, finely tuned, dynamic and fully functional city. If they are unable to do this because of commitments to (or agreements with) political parties, they should show some probity and resign.

From: [REDACTED]
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: Annual Plan Submission - Jenkins
Date: [REDACTED]

Dear Sir/Madam,

Please find my submission on the Annual Plan attached. Thank you for this opportunity.

Best regards,
Martin Jenkins

Please print

Full Name	Martin Jenkins		
Contact Address Details	[REDACTED]		
Phone Number	[REDACTED]		
What is your connection to Wellington City? (✓ tick all that apply)			
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> I am a Wgtn City Council ratepayer	<input type="checkbox"/> I live in Wgtn city	<input type="checkbox"/> I work in Wgtn city	
<input type="checkbox"/> I own a business in Wgtn city	<input type="checkbox"/> I study in Wgtn city	<input type="checkbox"/> I visit Wgtn city	
Council is offering community oral forums to speak to Councillors about your submission (informal 60-minute table discussion with 4-5 councillors alongside other submitters). Do you wish to speak at one of these forums?			
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes		<input type="checkbox"/> No	
If yes - please indicate a preferred date and time			
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 16 May afternoon	<input type="checkbox"/> 16 May evening	<input type="checkbox"/> 17 May afternoon	<input type="checkbox"/> 17 May evening

Submission to the Council’s 2023/24 Annual Plan

1. Do you support an additional \$8 million going into fixing the water pipes with the proviso that Wellington Water provides a plan with clear targets

<input checked="" type="radio"/> I support	<input type="radio"/> I support but would like the council to find equivalent savings in other areas	<input type="radio"/> I do not support
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2. Do you support scaling back the Council’s existing building pace of 15.3km to be completed with further planning for more in 2023/24 (part of 149km of bike route plan, at a current cost of \$350m, by 2031)

<input checked="" type="radio"/>	I support the scaling back of the bike network plan schedule in 2023/24 to enable resources to be applied to other work e.g. fixing pipes, slip remediation, bus priority lanes, pedestrian improvements
<input type="radio"/>	I do not support scaling back the Council’s bike network plan schedule

3. Do you support scaling back and readjusting plans to save costs and disruption for the Let’s Get Welly Moving Programme’s projects – City streets, Golden Mile, Thorndon and Hutt Rd? (due to post pandemic societal changes, population prediction changes and inflationary pressures)

<input checked="" type="radio"/> I support	<input type="radio"/> I oppose and want to see current plans proceed
--	--

4. Do you support NOT increasing debt by \$10+ million to demolish the Civic administration and Municipal office buildings on Te Ngākau Civic Square in 2023/24 until rebuild/ strengthening plans are in place?

<input checked="" type="radio"/> I support putting the demolition on hold	<input type="radio"/> I oppose and want to see current demolition plans proceed
---	---

5. Do you support the Council increasing rates by 12.3+% in 2023/24

<input type="radio"/> I support based on Council’s current plans	<input type="radio"/> I support but would want the council to reprioritise work as mentioned above	<input checked="" type="radio"/> I do not support the increase
--	--	--

General Comment (if required – please carry on with an additional page)

The current approach to rates in Wellington, by some Council staff and some City Councillors is ‘RECKLESS’.

When all of the specific costs were identified and provided to City Councillors to review (with the view to making saving) scant detail was provided in the spreadsheets by Council staff (headings) and only 6 or so days to make suggested changes. Unlike in Auckland, hardly any cost savings were identified. At least 3 weeks should have been allowed for, or a lot more detail.

Rather than thinking of the significant burden to Ratepayers (particularly the elderly) it is obvious that some City Councillors saw this more as competing with their 'slush fund' to progress their own special interest and vanity projects (eg; cycleways...)

The current rates increases each year is unsustainable, and the rate payers will just not be in a position to afford them in time. Some Council staff and some City Councillors need to act more Responsibly, be Accountable and Transparent.

In time, it is anticipated that the Government will need to step in, and take the role of setting and managing rates off the Councils.

A way that the Government should progress is to separate out Core Services and Infrastructure from ALL other project work (including Vanity and Special projects). The Council needs to harden up and give some of the other burden back to the Government (eg; tourism, resilience planning/ future proofing and mitigation – eg; GWRC Hutt River Levy work (part of the proposed 18% increase)

Core Services and Infrastructure projects can carefully be calculated and adjusted for inflation.

For ALL other project work (including Vanity and Special Interest projects) they should be put out to the ratepayers, to be voted and decided upon by Referenda.

The Special projects can be levied and identified separately in the rates, but expire once the project has been paid for (eg; an music entertainment stadium)

If nothing is done about the Rating System, there will be a MASS EXODUS from Wellington, to surrounding Cities, where they have their act together !

The Auckland Council acted responsibly in the way that they reviewed the projects and potential rates increases.

Wellington will become a ghost town and backwater if nothing changes !

From: [REDACTED]
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: WCC Draft Plan 2023-24
Date: [REDACTED]
Attachments: [REDACTED]

Wellington City Council draft 2023/24 Annual Plan

This year the Council is proposing a rates increase of **12.3 percent**. In total, the council proposes to collect \$479m (GST exclusive) of rates during 2023/24.

It is likely that Council will face further cost escalation due to additional interest rates increases and material cost increase before the final plan is determined at the end of May 2023. Following the pandemic there also continues to be other societal changes and inflationary pressures not factored into the current draft plan.

Wellington Water has also asked Wellington City to fund an extra \$8 million to go towards fixing the pipes. Council officers' advice is that this is approximately an additional 2% on the average rates bill (not included in the proposed 12.3%).

To contain some costs, the Council plans to shift the timing of some projects and delay others (e.g. strengthening of Sheds 1 and 5). Fee increases on council services are proposed along with the introduction of new fees. The question is can more be done?

Further detail can be found on the Council's website along with the Council's prepared submission form (which focuses on asking you about changes to the rates postponement and remission schemes and Council fees for services.) <https://www.letstalk.wellington.govt.nz/annual-plan-2023-24>

This additional submission form has been based on community feedback to help you provide feedback on other options for Council to consider. **For more information about completing this form please contact Councillor Ray Chung at ray.chung@wcc.govt.nz**

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Please print

Full Name	Lynward Chung		
Contact Address Details	[REDACTED]		
Phone Number	[REDACTED]		
What is your connection to Wellington City? (✓ tick all that apply)			
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> I am a Wgtn City Council ratepayer	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> I live in Wgtn city	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> I work in Wgtn city	
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If yes - please indicate a preferred date and time			
<input type="checkbox"/> 16 May afternoon	<input type="checkbox"/> 16 May evening	<input type="checkbox"/> 17 May afternoon	<input type="checkbox"/> 17 May evening
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Before the 16 th May			

Submission to the Council's 2023/24 Annual Plan

1. Do you support an additional \$8 million going into fixing the water pipes with the proviso that Wellington Water provides a plan with clear targets

<input type="radio"/> I support	<input checked="" type="radio"/> I support but would like the council to find equivalent savings in other areas	<input type="radio"/> I do not support
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--	--	--

General Comment (if required – please carry on with an additional page)

Council is spending too much money that
we can't afford
Council must live within its means

From: [REDACTED]
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: Submission to the Council's 2023/24 Annual Plan
Date: [REDACTED]
Attachments: [REDACTED]

Please find my submission attached.

Richard Murcott

[REDACTED]

Wellington City Council draft 2023/24 Annual Plan

This year the Council is proposing a rates increase of **12.3 percent**. In total, the council proposes to collect \$479m (GST exclusive) of rates during 2023/24.

It is likely that Council will face further cost escalation due to additional interest rates increases and material cost increase before the final plan is determined at the end of May 2023. Following the pandemic there also continues to be other societal changes and inflationary pressures not factored into the current draft plan.

Wellington Water has also asked Wellington City to fund an extra \$8 million to go towards fixing the pipes. Council officers' advice is that this is approximately an additional 2% on the average rates bill (not included in the proposed 12.3%).

To contain some costs, the Council plans to shift the timing of some projects and delay others (e.g. strengthening of Sheds 1 and 5). Fee increases on council services are proposed along with the introduction of new fees. The question is can more be done?

Further detail can be found on the Council's website along with the Council's prepared submission form (which focuses on asking you about changes to the rates postponement and remission schemes and Council fees for services.) <https://www.letstalk.wellington.govt.nz/annual-plan-2023-24>

This additional submission form has been based on community feedback to help you provide feedback on other options for Council to consider. **For more information about completing this form please contact Councillor Ray Chung at ray.chung@wcc.govt.nz**

You can *Email* this completed submission to annualplan@wcc.govt.nz, *Post* via Freepost 2199 Planning and Reporting team PO Box 2199 Wellington 6140 or *drop it* into one of the Council's local libraries. **Feedback closes Sunday 30 April 2023**

Please print

Full Name	Richard Murcott		
Contact Address Details	[REDACTED]		
Phone Number	[REDACTED]		
What is your connection to Wellington City? (✓ tick all that apply)			
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> I am a Wgtn City Council ratepayer	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> I live in Wgtn city	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> I work in Wgtn city	
<input type="checkbox"/> I own a business in Wgtn city	<input type="checkbox"/> I study in Wgtn city	<input type="checkbox"/> I visit Wgtn city	
Council is offering community oral forums to speak to Councillors about your submission (informal 60-minute table discussion with 4-5 councillors alongside other submitters). Do you wish to speak at one of these forums?			
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes		<input type="checkbox"/> No	
If yes - please indicate a preferred date and time			
<input type="checkbox"/> 16 May afternoon	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 16 May evening	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 17 May afternoon	<input type="checkbox"/> 17 May evening

Submission to the Council's 2023/24 Annual Plan

1. Do you support an additional \$8 million going into fixing the water pipes with the proviso that Wellington Water provides a plan with clear targets

<input type="radio"/> I support	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> I support but would like the council to find equivalent savings in other areas	<input type="radio"/> I do not support
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2. Do you support scaling back the Council's existing building pace of 15.3km to be completed with further planning for more in 2023/24 (part of 149km of bike route plan, at a current cost of \$350m, by 2031)

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	I support the scaling back of the bike network plan schedule in 2023/24 to enable resources to be applied to other work e.g. fixing pipes, slip remediation, bus priority lanes, pedestrian improvements
<input type="radio"/>	I do not support scaling back the Council's bike network plan schedule

3. Do you support scaling back and readjusting plans to save costs and disruption for the Let's Get Welly Moving Programme's projects – City streets, Golden Mile, Thorndon and Hutt Rd? (due to post pandemic societal changes, population prediction changes and inflationary pressures)

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> I support	<input type="radio"/> I oppose and want to see current plans proceed
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4. Do you support NOT increasing debt by \$10+ million to demolish the Civic administration and Municipal office buildings on Te Ngākau Civic Square in 2023/24 until rebuild/ strengthening plans are in place?

<input type="radio"/> I support putting the demolition on hold	<input type="radio"/> I oppose and want to see current demolition plans proceed
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5. Do you support the Council increasing rates by 12.3+% in 2023/24

<input type="radio"/> I support based on Council's current plans	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> I support but would want the council to reprioritise work as mentioned above	<input type="radio"/> I do not support the increase
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General Comment (if required – please carry on with an additional page)
