
REPORT 1
(1215/52/IM)

WELLINGTON 2040 CITY STRATEGY AND CENTRAL CITY FRAMEWORK: FEEDBACK FROM PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT

1. Purpose of report

Wellington City Council's strategy for Wellington – *Toward 2040: Smart Green Wellington* – has been the subject of public consultation, ending on 19 August. This paper provides an overview of feedback received, identifies a proposed response with regard to drafting changes to the final document, and seeks approval to present the strategy to Council for adoption on 28 September.

Following adoption, the focus will be the development of the Long Term Plan, where the priority activities required to achieve the outcomes of *Toward 2040: Smart Green Wellington* will be identified - through the review of our seven strategies and associated activities.

2. Executive summary

Toward 2040: Smart Green Wellington is a 30 year, whole-of-city vision that defines and positions Wellington's future direction. It has been developed as a response to global (mega) trends and their anticipated impact on cities generally and Wellington in particular. It acknowledges the urgency with which Wellington must develop a coherent and focused response to current and future challenges and opportunities to secure the city's future prosperity and success.

Wellington City Council has successfully led important change in the city in the past. This includes key decisions - such as the development and protection of the Town Belt, the Citylink cable network through the CBD, and support for the Makara Wind Farm. It also includes significant repositioning of the city and the activities that support it, for example the Council's events strategy, which has contributed to Wellington reinventing itself from a government town to New Zealand's Creative Capital. *Toward 2040: Smart Green Wellington* is intended to support Council to continue to lead the city into a successful future and is a response to feedback from the Wellington community that they are seeking this type of leadership from their Council.

On 16 June the Strategy and Policy Committee (SPC) agreed to consult on the draft *Toward 2040: Smart Green Wellington* strategy and Central City Framework. The public consultation period ended on 19 August.

In addition to the extensive engagement over the last two years, during the June-August 2011 public consultation period, over 200 formal submissions were received, including 55 detailed submissions. In addition, over 6000 people visited the Storybox installations and were made aware of the project. Council-led sector workshops were held and numerous presentations were made at industry and community associations throughout the consultation period. The Mayor also hosted meetings and roundtables with groups and individuals to receive further feedback directly. Approximately 40 people contributed to discussions on the Wellington 2040 website and Facebook page.

Feedback and submissions have been overwhelmingly supportive of the high level vision of the strategy – developing Wellington as a ‘smart green’ city, supported by the four city goals. Many submitters noted that the goals built on Wellington’s current strengths and future potential. The overwhelming majority of comments from submitters focused on the Council’s role in supporting and developing the built environment (including how we move around it), protection and continued growth of Wellington’s natural environment and assets, and support for community resilience and participation in the life of the city.

Consistent with the public feedback received, officers recommend that the final Strategy be presented to Council on 28 September for adoption with minor editorial edits reflecting the key themes raised by the public, including any feedback from this Committee. This would then mark the completion of the 30-year vision development phase of Wellington 2040.

The development of the Council’s Long-Term Plan 2012-22 will provide opportunity to prioritise activity related to the Council’s 30-year city vision. The Council’s seven strategic areas are currently being reviewed in the context of *Toward 2040: Smart Green Wellington* to provide clarity and detail on how the Council will align its efforts and resources to achieve a smart green Wellington.

The Council is already enjoying success through current initiatives and activities that are consistent with this vision, including:

- the Digital Strategy, and associated ‘smart’ activities such as the ‘CBDFree’ wireless network
- a successful Mayoral delegation to China and Japan in June 2011, supporting our international business connections
- the upcoming parliamentary Wellington business expo, ‘BIG’, showcasing the diversity of Wellington’s highly skilled business sector.

Toward 2040: Smart Green Wellington is intended to be a city-wide vision. As such, to achieve the outcomes it describes, strong partnerships will be needed

with Wellington individuals, groups and communities. The development of a partnership plan will be a short-term priority, to ensure that there are mechanisms to support an active role for Wellingtonians in partnering with the Council to deliver on the vision and goals of the Strategy. This will support an ongoing focus on the Strategy following its adoption, assisting in maintaining the current momentum and communicating implementation activities over time.

Alongside the high level vision and strategic goals developed in *Toward 2040: Smart Green Wellington*, the Central City Framework project ideas and background reference material formed part of the public consultation process. Public feedback is supportive of the substantial direction of draft Central City Framework project proposals. An implementation plan, including recommendations for priority projects, is being developed for consideration by SPC on 6 October as an input to the Long Term Plan process.

3. Recommendations

Officers recommend that the Strategy and Policy Committee:

1. With regard to *Toward 2040: Smart Green Wellington*:
 - (a) *Receive the information.*
 - (b) *Agree to delegate to the Chief Executive and the Mayor the authority to make changes to the Toward 2040: Smart Green Wellington required as a result of the decisions of this Committee, and the following specific points developed from public feedback:*

Content-related edits

- i) *Explain the link between Wellington's lifestyle offerings, infrastructure and environment, and Wellington's economic, social and cultural success.*
- ii) *Reflect the urgency to act required and supported by the public.*
- iii) *Acknowledge importance of connections between Wellington City and the Wellington region.*
- iv) *Increase focus on Wellington's natural environment and importance of green spaces to Wellington's unique lifestyle offering and future sustainability.*
- v) *Strengthen focus on mixed modal transport options, including support for public transport, safe cycling and walking infrastructure.*
- vi) *Increase visibility of Wellington's diverse communities, and Strategy priorities that contribute to social inclusion, community resilience and civic participation.*

vii) Acknowledge concerns regarding earthquake-prone buildings and infrastructure and identify the Council approach to these issues.

Presentation-related edits

viii) Improve accessibility of the document with larger and clearer font and layout.

ix) 'Look and feel' to be more reflective of Wellington.

x) Review the document for 'plain English' where possible.

(c) Recommend to Council the adoption of the final draft of Toward 2040: Smart Green Wellington at its meeting on 28 September 2011.

2. With regard to the *Central City Framework*

(a) Receive the information.

(b) Note that a detailed summary of submissions and draft of the Central City Framework implementation plan will be developed for consideration by the Strategy and Policy Committee at its meeting on 6 October 2011.

4 Background

4.1 Toward 2040: Smart Green Wellington

Over the last two years, Wellington City Council has been working to develop a long-term vision to guide the future direction of the city. This has been in response to, and informed by, global trends (mega trends) and their likely impact on cities in general and Wellington in particular. The two year development phase of the resulting strategy, *Toward 2040: Smart Green Wellington*, has involved ongoing engagement and communication with the Wellington public and key groups; an extensive research programme; input and peer review from industry professionals; a public engagement process; and regular feedback and input from the Strategy and Policy Committee.

In June 2011, Councillors agreed to consultation on a draft vision for the future of Wellington as 'Smart Green Wellington'. This strategic vision for Wellington is supported by four city goals:

- Connected city
- People-centred city
- Eco-city
- Dynamic central city

Together, the four city goals describe the step change that Wellington will need to achieve to position the city for future success and respond to current challenges and opportunities. This is based on research and understanding of

the opportunities and challenges arising from the global environment, and an assessment of what Wellington's areas of strength are now, and into the future.

The following is a summary of the key steps and deliverables to date, that have informed the development of *Toward 2040: Smart Green Wellington*.

- Public engagement in 2009 on ideas for the future of the central city.
- A scoping paper presented to SPC in May 2010, consisting of :
 - an environmental scan – identification of major global trends that are likely to impact on and have particular relevance to Wellington in the next 30 years; and
 - research on implications of global (mega) trends – identification of Wellington's strengths, weaknesses, challenges and opportunities in light of those trends.
- Exploration of alternative scenarios – understanding how critical underlying trends could play out and give rise to divergent futures for Wellington.
- Workshops with elected members (August, December 2010).
- Conversations/workshops with external community groups and stakeholders (August 2009, October-November 2010).
- Workshops with key stakeholders within Council (September 2009 and December 2010).
- One-day workshop and peer review with business analyst, Rod Oram (March 2011).
- Public consultation process and Council-led workshops (as detailed below) (June-August 2011).

4.2 Central City Framework

The central city is the economic engine and cultural heart of the region. Sustaining this as a dynamic centre is an essential part of a smart green future for Wellington.

With the city's population overall expected to grow by around 55,000 over the coming decades, it is time to plan ahead. A growing population places demand on the urban environment. It poses questions about where we'll live and work and what type of city we want.

The development of a Central City Framework aims to provide an answer to this - the framework will set out a blueprint for how the central city's 'spatial structure' should be developed in the coming years.

The work to date has included:

- public consultation on the future of the central city covering the risks, opportunities and priorities¹
- a facilitated workshop series with local designers and architects
- two background technical studies to feed into the development of the central city framework:
- Spatial Structure Plan – a detailed urban design study undertaken by Boffa Miskell and Randles Straatvriet Architects
- City Centre Movement Infrastructure Analysis. A study of pedestrian and vehicle movement patterns and potential undertaken by Space Syntax.
- the development of nine project ideas to encapsulate key themes as a basis of public engagement
- this latest round of consultation.

Consultation and engagement (June-August 2011)

On 16 June SPC agreed to consult on the draft *Toward 2040: Smart Green Wellington*. A wide range of engagement activities were developed to encourage public participation in the consultation process, including:

- Wellington 2040 Website - designed as a user-friendly portal where readers were encouraged to submit their views directly on Wellington 2040.²
- Online communications, including social media.
- Visible activities in the community e.g. Storybox installations.
- Resources for the media, including opinion pieces and interviews with the Mayor.
- Physical communications material developed for distribution among community and business networks.
- Targeted meetings with key groups and individuals e.g. schools, central government, sector groups.

Toward 2040: Smart Green Wellington - What the public said

In addition to the extensive engagement over the last two years, during the June-August 2011 public consultation period, over 200 formal submissions were received, including 55 detailed submissions. In addition, over 6000 people visited the Storybox installations and were made aware of the project. Council-led sector workshops were held and numerous presentations were made at industry and community associations throughout the consultation

¹ <http://www.wellington.govt.nz/projects/new/pdfs/wgtn2040-feedback-summary.pdf>

² The website will have a long-term lifespan beyond the now concluded public engagement exercise, and serve as a central repository for all things related to Wellington 2040, including updates on complementary operational strategies and plans intended to support the aims of *Toward 2040: Smart Green Wellington*.

period. The Mayor also hosted meetings and roundtables with groups and individuals to receive further feedback directly. Approximately 40 people contributed to discussions on the Wellington 2040 website and Facebook page.

All submissions will be available in hard copy in Council common areas and distributed electronically to each Councillor. A public hard copy of all submissions will be available in the Wellington Central Library.

The submissions received reflected strong support for the draft vision, 'Smart Green Wellington' and associated four city goals. Previous public consultation experience would suggest that people are more likely to be motivated to make submissions when they are concerned and disagree with a proposed course of action, or feedback is requested on specific discrete activity. Consistent with this, many submitters said that they would like to remain engaged with Council and provide further feedback on specific activities as they are developed.

Overall there was significant consistency among comments that were submitted. The vision of a 'Smart Green Wellington' was strongly supported, and linked regularly to what people considered to be Wellington's strengths and points of opportunity in the future. There was much support for the idea that the four supporting city goals – Eco-city; People-centred city; Connected city; and Dynamic Central city – were complementary and reinforcing of each other. Environmental and sustainability-focused outcomes were most frequently prioritised by submitters, followed by themes related to strong and healthy communities.

Comments and feedback focused on the Council's role in supporting and developing the built environment (including how we move around it) and infrastructure, protection and continued growth of Wellington's natural environment and assets, and support for community resilience and social inclusion in the life of the city. High performance across these variables was viewed as necessary foundations for Wellington's success economically, socially and culturally.

Common themes from the consultation include:

- approval for Council's leadership role in developing a long-term vision for the city
- support for 'smart green' as a way of positioning Wellington's strengths
- desire for commitment to and improvements in public transport and cycling and walking accessibility in the city
- support for increasing green spaces in the city, specifically public parks and 'visible' green elements, like trees and gardens
- concern regarding consistency of the Strategy with some current and proposed future investments, specifically roading proposals in the city and region

- the need to ensure that core business, particularly physical infrastructure resilience e.g. earthquake-prone buildings, is not neglected
- interest in Council's role in building strong communities and supporting social inclusion
- importance of retaining our brand and strengths as a creative city as part of the new strategic direction.

A fuller analysis of the public submissions received is **attached** as Appendix A.

Central City Framework – key themes from submissions

The Council was commended for undertaking this exercise. The value in developing a long term integrated vision for the enhancement of the central city received acknowledgment from both professional organisations and individuals.

The submissions covered broad support for the overall project ideas, suggestions to make the final framework more cohesive, and interest in being involved in its development.

Key themes from the submissions include:

- the importance of sustaining a sense of place and liveability in attracting people and business – and that this is a core role of Council
- the need to more directly address the city's resilience to earthquakes and sea level rise
- clearer reference to heritage and its contribution to the city's appeal
- making more of streets as open spaces in the city – improving their amenity for people
- support for interventions that use streets as places to improve storm water quality
- improving public connections in the city
- a call for greater consideration and expression of local conditions and identity
- concerns about the status and need for interventions on the waterfront (as indicated in the Space Syntax study) and the limited commentary on the waterfront³
- broad support for the concepts around transport management (ie address the impacts of the one way system) noting that further evidence will need to be developed and work done to understand and test any changes

³ While the waterfront is recognised as a significant feature of the central city it was not explored in detail as part of the Spatial Structure Plan study due to the quality outcomes that have been achieved under the Waterfront Framework and because the Waterfront framework was subject to a concurrent review process. The Space Syntax work looked at 'potential'. Its recommendations are those of the consultant (and not the Council).

- the need for clarification on the status of the background reference documents and the next steps
- an interest in the levers that could be used to advance the outcomes in the framework (eg urban design panels; the introduction of codes vies a vie strengthening existing guides to enhance residential amenity)
- support for initiatives that enhance and reflect the city’s landscape. These covered historical, visual, recreational and biodiversity values. The role that the landscape has played in the city’s settlement and containment were seen as significant to advance. Cross valley links and city greening initiatives were supported.

The next step is to review and reflect on the feedback and assimilate the work to date into the Central City Framework. A draft of this covering the overall objectives and priorities is scheduled to be presented to the Strategy and Policy Committee on 6 October.

The development of the framework is focused on streets structure, built form and landscapes. The way people relate to these being a vital element. The aim is to create the physical environment to support a ‘dynamic central city’—one that’s built for people, is distinctive and appeal to locals and internationally.

Summary

Overall, consultation and feedback received indicated a strong sense of public goodwill and support for the development of a 30 year vision for Wellington. Groups and individuals were also quick to recognise their own role in contributing to the vision and regularly expressed their desire to work with and alongside Council to achieve the future goals for Wellington.

5. Next steps

5.1 Endorsement of final draft of Toward 2040: Smart Green Wellington – Council (28 September)

Officers propose that a final draft of *Toward 2040: Smart Green Wellington* be presented to Council at its meeting on 28 September, taking on board public submissions and the decisions of this Committee. This will mark the end of the formal Strategy development phase.

Consistent with the direction of public support for the key components of *Toward 2040: Smart Green*, officers recommend that the final draft of the Strategy require only minor editorial changes. Changes will respond to commonly raised issues and areas where greater clarity or emphasis has been requested, including:

Content-related edits

- Clearer explanation of the link between Wellington's lifestyle offerings, infrastructure and environment, and Wellington's economic, social and cultural success.
- Reflect the urgency to act required and supported by the public.
- Enhanced description of the nature and importance of connections between Wellington City and the Wellington region.
- More visibility of our natural environment and importance of green spaces to Wellington's unique lifestyle offering and future sustainability.
- Stronger focus on mixed modal transport options, with better integrated consideration in the Strategy of public transport, safe cycling and walking infrastructure.
- Greater visibility of the different communities that make up Wellington city, and how Strategy priorities contribute to social inclusion, community resilience and civic participation.
- Upfront acknowledgement of concerns regarding earthquake-prone buildings and infrastructure and Council approach to these issues.

Presentation-related edits

- Make the document more accessible with larger and clearer font and layout.
- 'Look and feel' to be more reflective of Wellington. Better images of Wellington people and scenes and less cluttered layout.
- Review the document for 'plain English' as much as possible.

5.2 Implementation activities – Long-Term Plan

The Council then shifts its focus to the Long Term Plan process, through which it will implement a programme of strategy, policy, research, initiatives and actions to give effect to the Strategy. Other current Council work supporting this vision includes:

- the Digital Strategy, and associated 'smart' activities such as the 'CBDFree' wireless network
- a successful Mayoral delegation to China and Japan in June 2011, supporting our international business connections
- the upcoming parliamentary Wellington business expo, 'BIG', promoting the diversity of Wellington's highly skilled business sector.

A partnership plan to support a Smart Green Wellington

Officers will, in the short-term, develop a partnership strategy to ensure that there is a mechanism to support an active role for Wellingtonians in partnering with the Council to deliver on the vision and goals of the Strategy. This is consistent with the development of *Toward 2040: Smart Green Wellington* as a

city-wide vision. This will support an ongoing focus on the Strategy following its adoption, assisting in maintaining the current momentum and communicating implementation activities over time. The partnership strategy will consider ongoing roles and activities to support Councillors to partner with their communities.

5.3 Financial considerations

There are no direct financial considerations. A discussion on Long Term Plan implications is provided in section 5.5.

5.4 Climate change impacts and considerations

Climate change impacts have been considered in the context of future challenges that Wellington must respond to. A key strategic theme, 'Eco-city', has been identified as one of the four key themes of the City Strategy, acknowledging the importance of responding to future climate change implications.

5.5 Long Term Plan considerations

Council adoption of *Toward 2040: Smart Green Wellington* will mark the end of the development phase of the city vision and associated city goals. The Long Term Plan 2012-22 is the first opportunity to identify Council activity that can contribute to the outcomes of the Strategy. The high level vision and city goals will be a key input in the review of the Council's seven strategic areas. Other environmental factors will also be an input into the priorities identified in the seven strategic areas. Examples include the current fiscal environment, and existing commitments such as leaky buildings.

Four Councillor workshops have been scheduled before the end of the year to facilitate Councillor input into the Long-Term Plan development process. They will begin with scene setting, work through priority strategies and activities, through to confirmation of possible actions that need to be worked into full business cases.

6 Conclusion

Toward 2040: Smart Green Wellington is a 30 year, whole-of-city vision that defines and positions Wellington's future direction. It has been developed in iterative consultation with Wellingtonians over the last years. Feedback has overwhelmingly support the overall vision articulated in the draft Strategy – along with a clear message that Wellingtonians are keen to get started now.

Officers propose that SPC Committee refers the final Strategy to Council on 28 September for adoption, subject to the changes indicated by officers following

consultation and discussion on any further changes to Committee wishes to see in the final document.

This will mark the end of the Strategy-setting phase. Attention then turns to the 2012/22 Long Term Plan, and the articulation of Council efforts over the next decade.

Contact Officer: Teena Pennington, Director, Strategy, Planning & Urban Design

Attachments

A: Analysis of public consultation: *Toward 2040: Smart Green Wellington*

Supporting information

1) Strategic Fit / Strategic Outcome

Toward 2040: Smart Green Wellington proposes a new strategic direction for Wellington City – Smart and Green. This builds on the Council's overall vision of Creative Wellington – Innovation Capital. The evolution of this strategic direction is intended to support the increased economic, social and physical resilience of Wellington City.

2) LTP/Annual Plan reference and long term financial impact

The new strategic direction indicated in Toward 2040: Smart Green Wellington will inform the prioritisation of Council's future activities, as developed in the Long-Term Plan and annual plan. No specific financial implications have been identified at this stage.

3) Treaty of Waitangi considerations

Toward 2040: Smart Green Wellington and the Central City Framework acknowledges the role of mana whenua and iwi in Wellington City. It proposes that this role be made more visible in the City – in terms of the place of Maori in both Wellington's history and future.

4) Decision-Making

The Strategy and Policy Committee is asked to agree to proposed editorial changes to Toward 2040: Smart Green Wellington and agree that the final draft be submitted to Council for adoption.

5) Consultation

a) General Consultation

The draft Toward 2040: Smart Green Wellington and Central City Framework have been the subject of wide public consultation. A series of consultation activities and workshops were also held, which have demonstrated general support for the direction of the Strategy.

b) Consultation with Maori

Mana whenua have been consulted on the proposed direction of the Wellington 2040 Strategy and are supportive of the general direction.

6) Legal Implications

There are no legal implications.

7) Consistency with existing policy

Toward 2040: Smart Green Wellington will inform the review of the Council's seven strategy areas as part of the development of the Long-Term Plan 2012

Appendix A: Analysis of public submissions on *Toward 2040: Smart Green Wellington*

A summary of the main themes and feedback from the public in relation to each of the prompt questions is outlined below.

Do you agree a good future for Wellington is to be a smart green city?

The Wellington City Council received over 130 online feedback forms and 55 written submissions, 36 from groups and 18 from individuals. In addition, five Council-led workshops were held and presentations were made across a range of industry and community association throughout the consultation period. Over 6,000 people visited the Storybox installations and over 200 'post-it' feedback comments were received.

The submitters included a range of individuals, businesses, tertiary institutions, non-government organisations, interest groups, community groups and government departments. Almost all submitters support the strategy, some have given suggestions on how to improve it and their views are integrated within each theme below.

There was a strong resounding "yes" from submitters supported the vision for a smart, green, progressive Wellington responding to climate change, reducing the carbon footprint and positioning the city globally. Only a very small number of submitters did not agree that having a smart green city would be a good future for Wellington but they still gave suggestions supporting the concepts related to a smart city approach. In general, they were not opposed to the vision, but thought it should be more broadly defined i.e. 'not just smart and green'.

Why?

Submitters in general agreed that Wellington was positioned well as the capital of New Zealand with a strong foundation to build a 2040 vision upon.

We believe Wellington can take the lead as the biodiversity capital of New Zealand, a role that befits the capital city. This leadership is consistent with other elements of the 2040 vision and will further enhance Wellington's identity and its quality of life, and ultimately the international competitiveness of Wellington.

Zealandia Trust

Ensuring that corporate shareholders (including the government with regard to its SOE and CRI portfolio) recognise that a significant number of people and businesses have a preference for New Zealand's smartest city ahead of its largest city when considering where to locate will be key to Wellington's attracting and retaining businesses and is particularly important at this time.

Wellington Employers' Chamber of Commerce

Wellington has several labels that capture our essence.

Many submitters made comments relating to Wellington under this theme but did not suggest labels. A small number of submitters showed equal support for the range of suggested labels including absolutely positively Wellington, creative & events capital and coolest little capital. A few more submitters supported a range of ideas for Wellington such as sustainable, innovative, the walking capital and smart green leading capital but specific labels were not identified.

How do you want people to talk about us in the future?

There was not a lot of specific feedback in this area and many submitters captured the answer to this within other questions and emerging themes.

What do you see as the priorities for a Wellington that's smart and Green?

The highest priority by far was that of Wellington embracing a more eco friendly, smart green, sustainable approach to green corridors, transport, urban planning & design as soon as possible. The urgency was reflected in comments and concern about the threat of climate change and earthquakes. Unless this approach is not undertaken with a sense of urgency some submitters warned that is unlikely that the Council will achieve its 2040 goals.

Another strong priority identified was for a smarter, more reliable, cost effective public transport system. Most submitters agreed that Wellington has good access to and high use of public transport but that the service needs to improve. Many submitters suggested the benefits of the introduction of a light rail service.

Respondents suggested that Wellington's central city be opened up by incorporating more pedestrian focussed pathways. By combining a range of actions over the city relating to bike and pedestrian accessibility the Council could improve community interactions.

There was strong support for more cycleways, easier movement for cycles between city and suburbs and a more cycle friendly inner city; submitters gave international examples such as cycle transfer stations (for those commuting halfway to work) and cycle sheds in central city as ways to encourage more cycling.

What do you see as the main challenges?

Green urban planning

Some submitters emphasised that for Wellington to be "green" it must be backed up by evidence and by policies that protect and enhance parts of the city and greater region e.g. waterways and harbour, the town belt. Future green corridors are seen as under threat from development and transport systems.

Some submitters suggested that the 2040 strategy and other Council strategies, initiatives and planning documents need to adopt more aggressive targets to mitigate climate change. The focus upon the green corridors must be kick-started soon to achieve the goals.

The majority of challenges raised by individuals were related to how Wellington could embrace a true smart green approach as soon as possible. Some submitters recognised the challenge of how to shift perceptions relating to making the most of urban spaces, the environment, community and embracing sustainability. Community training was seen as one way of addressing this issue.

Better and smarter green urban planning including preserving and expanding the green spaces was a priority, with initiatives such as planting more trees and introducing sustainability approaches such as green roof tops. Some identified that more focus was needed on increasing rather than decreasing the green space around Wellington and there was concern expressed around losing parts of the town belt for tunnel development. The future of the town belt rated highly amongst some submitters.

Earthquake proofing buildings around Wellington such as the Michael Fowler Centre was seen as a priority and also a challenge.

Transport

Many respondents were concerned with the challenge of how to balance government priorities for better roading and transport systems while reducing the traffic impact upon Wellington. Feedback included the desire to reduce vehicular transport in the central city as a means to a more sustainable future. Some respondents outlined the challenge of aligning the 2040 vision with the NZ Transport Authority's (NZTA) work priorities.

NZTA's submission outlined the WCC support for the Ngauranga to Airport Corridor plan and recommends the strategy reflects the multi modal nature of the plan and the contribution this makes to facilitate the movement of goods and people and economic development in relation to the vision of "connecting places". Some supported the corridor plan as important for the economic future of Wellington but many submitters expressed concern for the management of traffic to, from and within the central city area.

Ageing population

One submitter encouraged the WCC to actively address the challenge of an ageing population which in the future will require more affordable housing, good access to key services and amenities, reliable and appropriate public transport, as well as urban form that caters for their particular needs. The reality is that future plans for urban areas will be significantly impacted by this demographic change and they encouraged the Council to actively address this emerging issue.

We have developed the following goals – people centred city; eco city; connected city; dynamic city centre

What do you think the immediate priorities are to get started with achieving these four goals?

The four goals were supported in principle by most submitters. Some respondents felt that all the goals were linked and should be achieved at the same time. The first three goals gained the most support.

Toward 2040 represents a commendably holistic vision of the sort of city Wellington should be aiming to be in 2040 and beyond, and Victoria endorses many of the concepts contained under the catchphrase 'Smart Green Wellington'

Victoria University of Wellington

Is one of the goals more important than the others?

Eco-city

Developing an eco-city was the most commonly cited priority goal and seen as key to Wellington responding to environmental challenges. Most respondents did not view this goal as an option, but rather a necessary condition to secure Wellington's future prosperity and lifestyle.

Some respondents suggested a range of specific actions that the Council should undertake to achieve the eco-city vision including improved transport systems, more efficient public transport, improved recycling facilities in the central city, protecting the town belt and improving broadband services across the city as a means to connect with the rest of the world.

There was strong agreement amongst submitters that the city needs to improve its public transport, pedestrian and cycling infrastructure as an efficient and sustainable way of connecting people with each other. Improving the public transport system and reducing the reliance upon cars with the introduction of light rail and more cycleways and safer roads are seen as ways to build a smart green future for Wellington. Some suggested that the council more actively promotes the use of public transport and alternative means of transport. Some submitters asked for more explicit provisions within the Strategy for what future public transport would look like e.g. one suggested that the need for a high quality transport system, such as light rail, between the railway station and Newtown.

Some submitters see tourism and marketing of Wellington as a key opportunity to tell the world the story of our eco-city and that this should be incorporated into the 2040 strategy.

Makara-based submitters raised concerns around wind turbines and the impact upon the people and the environment.

We applaud your goal to proactively evolve Wellington in the next 30 years to become an ecocity. While smart, green technologies, knowledge based businesses, low carbon initiatives and highly effective transport and energy options are critical to the future, we wish to champion the voiceless elements of your city – nature, biodiversity, water, air, soil – and how people can be an active partner in ecological resilience.

Gecko NZ Trust

People Centred City

Most respondents felt that getting people involved in all four priorities of Towards 2040 was key. Respondents indicated the most support for a people-centred approach and saw it as critical to achieving these goals. He aha te mea nui? He tangata. He tangata. He tangata. What is the most important thing? It is people, it is people, it is people. There was also a wide support for a stronger partnership between the Council and the people of Wellington.

Some referred to their support for targeting highly educated and international talent, linking this to our future economic growth and also the contribution to empowering and capitalising upon Wellington's diversity. The strategy outlines the vision for Wellington to be socially and culturally resilient and understanding the needs of our many diverse and growing communities and working to ensure they can take part in the life of the city. The diversity of Wellington was reflected within the submissions which represented a range of groups within the wider community. Some submitters recommend that the Council considers expanding the Strategy to give more consideration to the needs of groups within Wellington such as Maori, multicultural groups, migrants, beneficiaries, unemployed, students, ageing population, youth, homeless, mental health consumers, environmental groups and children.

The wellbeing and health of people within the Wellington community was a theme that came through with reference to affordable and warm housing, insulation, good access to key services and amenities and urban form that caters to a range of needs.

The health and resilience of communities was frequently mentioned. Council's support for building the capacity of local communities to support social inclusion and initiatives focused on reducing social inequality and increasing civic engagement were highlighted.

Residents with a strong sense of community are key to building strong, socially sustainable and connected communities. These people will act as advocates for their region and promote the positive aspects their region has to offer and contribute to improving their neighbourhood.

Mental Health Foundation

Connected city

Some submitters acknowledge the importance of the CBD being the economic engine room and they felt that 2040 had a narrow focus upon the central city. They recommended that the strategy puts more emphasis upon the relationship between the city to the wider region and regional initiatives.

Respondents indicated that ensuring Wellington has an effective and efficient infrastructure is key to connecting us to the rest of the country and the world.

Dynamic city

Some submitters indicated that for the strategy to incorporate an economic direction it must be more inclusive of the wider employment sector. In order to achieve a dynamic central city, commercial and retail activities must be encouraged within this area. The Chamber of

Commerce commented on the strategy focus being on the “fashionable sectors while neglecting traditional areas of economic activity such as the manufacturing sector which includes 540 businesses in Wellington with many heavily involved in sustainable practice. The port and the harbour were highlighted as an important part of the infrastructure which needs more emphasis.

We strongly support these proposals, especially stream streets and green roofs, but do not think the proposals go far enough. The need to mitigate climate change through sustainable strategies and green building technologies is a real one. Growing plants on walls will only make a small contribution. Requiring zero-energy buildings, zero-waste construction and supporting retro-fitting of existing buildings is key.

The Architectural Centre

We've suggested some ideas to start reshaping our central city for e.g. boulevards, better connected waterfront and triangular spaces - what do you think our priorities should be?

Feedback under this theme was low but the feedback received was supportive of the strategy overall.

Connected waterfront

A strong theme from submitters was how to link the waterfront from the CBD.

Some respondents saw the Jervois Quay six-lane roadway as a barrier to mitigate in order to give flow between the city and the waterfront. There was strong support for making it more accessible for pedestrians to move from the city to the sea, one example given was from Parliament to the harbour.

Some submitters reiterated the ongoing position echoed throughout past consultation processes that there should be a priority upon the Wellington waterfront being preserved as a public wide open spaces complementing the business and residential sector and attracting visitors to Wellington.

There was support for the improvement of the connections between hills to city to the waterfront. A few submitters suggested extending that connection into the inner harbour area as an important asset.

Boulevards

NZTA's submission showed concern that some project ideas such as the boulevard strategy along Aotea Quay lack clarity and purpose and will need further consultation in future. Other boulevard and stream street strategies proposed for several roads including Kent Terrace could compromise other key routes to airport and eastern suburbs. Some recommendations such as the street structure, involve significant redesign and development of Wellington's street structure and built form and there was concern over cost.

Wider and more frequent footpaths were seen by some as critical for ease of movement around the city and from the city to the waterfront.

The concept of stream streets was supported by a few submitters as a way to support the storm water networks.

What other ideas or specific initiatives do you see that could take the city forward?

The written submissions held many ideas for specific initiatives and respondents offered assistance to the Council to advise and expand upon these.

Some ideas included utilising the harbour, floating homes and attractions, increasing minimum building requirements, technology parks attracting more green technology, creating different geometries and street designs rather than all the same and more underground car parks and the development of energy plans.

Ongoing consultation & engagement

Some respondents encouraged the Wellington City Council to put more emphasis upon the role of mana whenua within the *Towards 2040* vision.

Design and architecture students within the city's educational institutions were identified as potential creative collaborators of the Council's 2040 vision. More partnerships between the Council and these institutions could open up visionary responses to the city's problems and opportunities.

A few respondents commented on the large amount of material related to this particular consultation process and encourage the Council to engage in more specific and focussed consultation on future components of the vision. Some emphasised the importance of the Council involving local communities and families in the planning and decision making processes shaping their local areas. Some commented that the Connected City vision linked well to their idea of increased collaboration and engagement within Wellington and at a national and global level.

The NZ Institute of Landscape Architects recommended that the Spatial Structure Plan should be edited to provide more substance as a result of this consultation process. They valued the high level vision of 2040 yet felt it needed to link into other key plans and documents and show some connection with the nine project ideas

Group submissions and workshop attendees June-August 2011

Aro Valley Community Centre
Architectural Centre
Community & Sustainable Transport
Conservation Volunteers
Computer Clubhouse
Cycle Aware Wellington
Forest & Bird Wellington
Gecko NZ Trust
Greater Wellington Regional Council
Habitat Roofs
Health sector workshop
Hutt Valley DHB
Inner City Residents Association
Kaibosh Food Rescue
Kiwi Property Holdings
Makara Guardians Incorporated
Makara/Ohariu Community Board
Maori sector workshop
Mental Health Foundation
NZ Historic Places Trust
NZ Institute of Landscape Architecture
NZ Institute of Architects
NZ Transport Authority
Opus
Planning Institute
Positively Wellington Tourism
Property Council
Provirus City Council
Public Transport Voice
Royal Port Nicholson Yacht Club
School of Architecture, Victoria University
Senior Net Wellington
Sustainability Trust
Student representatives
Technical Advisory Group (waterfront)
Trans Action
Transpower NZ Limited
Unicef
Urban Dream Brokerage
Victoria University of Wellington
Waterfront Watch
Wellington Botanical Society
Wellington Council of Social Services
Wellington Employers Chamber of Commerce
Wellington Civic Trust
Wellington ICT
Wellington Wind Group
Zealandia

Appendix B: Relationship between *Toward 2040: Smart Green Wellington* and the Long Term Plan

To come