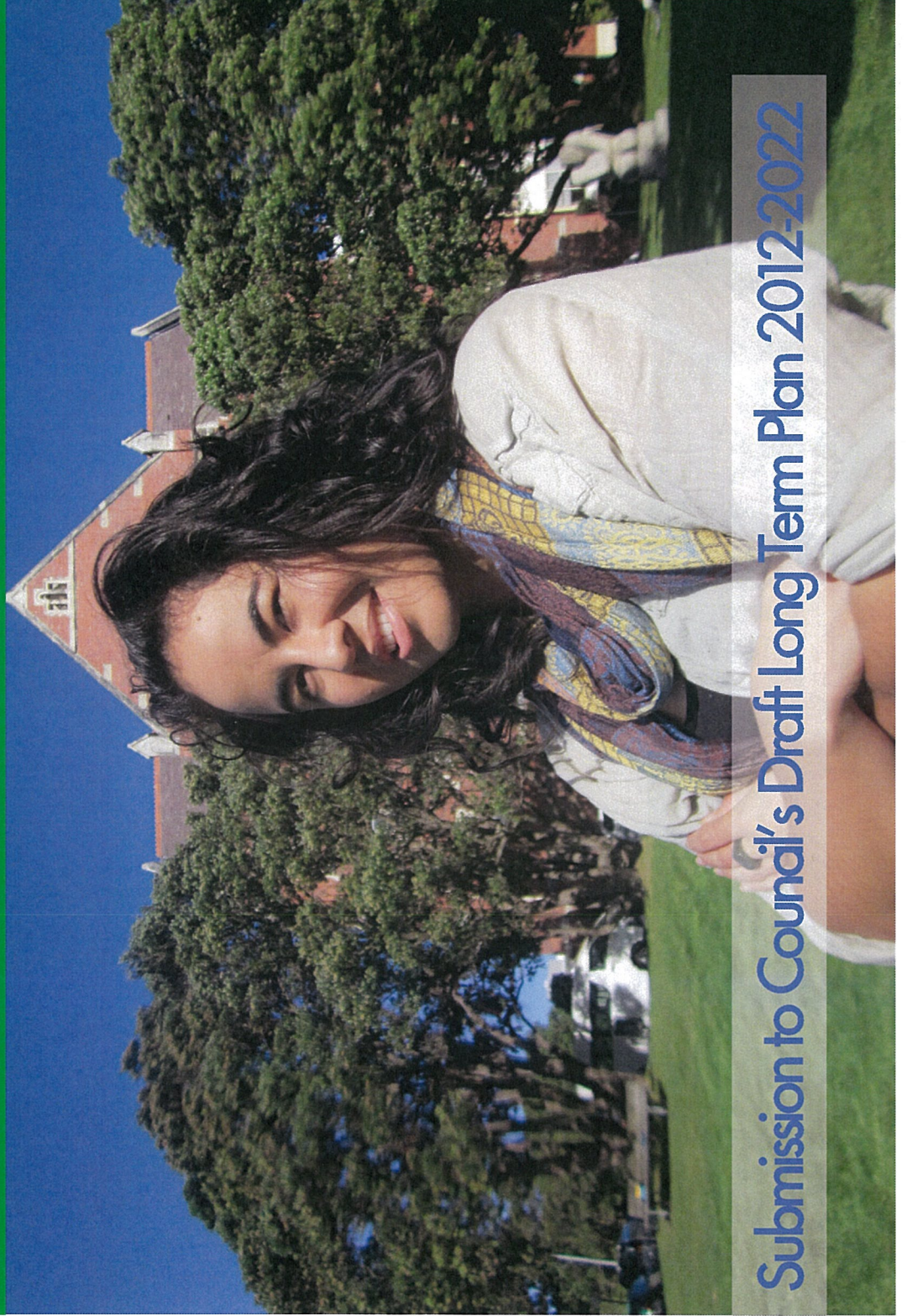


Tabled information  
reference 151/12P(h)

**VUW/SA**  
YOUR STUDENTS' ASSOCIATION



Submission to Council's Draft Long Term Plan 2012-2022

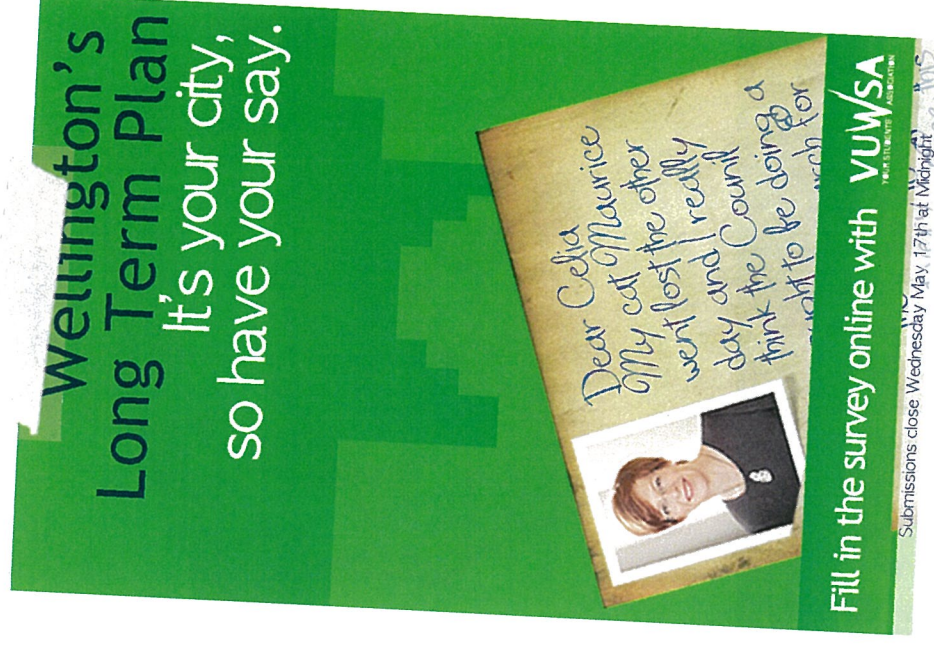
# About VUWSA

- 13,500+ members
- Based around Victoria University of Wellington
- Built on the philosophy of students helping students
- History of serving students and speaking up for better public institutions
- Democratic and transparent



# Our Consultation Process

- Executive feedback
- Online survey
- Physical survey
- Social media engagement
- Representative Groups



# Issues that Matter to Students

- Public transport
- Housing
- Environmental improvement
- Employment-focused growth
- Democratization of public assets and utilities



# Our Recommendations

**A**

**OPTION A**



**B**

**OPTION B**

**C**

**OPTION C**

## A. Council cancels the proposed user charge increases to park users.

- We are opposed to any increase in park usage fees by sports and other groups.
- Students regarded an 18% increase in these fees to be unreasonable and prohibitive for families to engage with sport, especially those with low incomes.

## B. Council maintains its funding to environmental grants.

- We are strongly opposed to any reduction in Council's funding of environmental grants.
- Students were asked if they supported the Council's proposal and 87.2% were against, with less than an eight percent of that in favour.
- VUWSA regards this grant funding as essential in making Wellington the place where talent wants to live by encouraging sustainable innovation and environmentally conscious communities.
- This funding gives effect to the Council's strategic vision of a smart, green capital by investing in the communities that will make that vision possible.
- A student said that the grants were crucial for "ensuring that we have a green and sustainable Wellington"

## C. Council's should maintain ownership and management of the Yellow-bag waste service.

- We are opposed to the privatisation of this service.
- Privatisation could lead to price gouging or general price increases due to the added cost to maintain a private firm's profit-margin.
- "Privatisation of a utility leads to monopolies with higher costs and impaired service"
- "Don't privatise... Especially when the Mayor is supposed to be a Green Party member."
- Current and future environmental targets for the city undermined while a private firm was aiming to lift refuse collection, as it inevitably would in its natural pursuit of profit.
- "There would be less incentives in the system to minimise waste"



## C(1). Council's should maintain ownership of Vogelmorn community assets.

- The facilities should stay in public ownership

## D. Council's should cease moves to corporatise public utilities.

- We are strongly opposed to the corporatisation of Council's currently and future-owned public utilities. Students were 82.5% opposed to the corporatisation of utilities such as landfills and water, with the former being proposed in Council's plan. Only 5% of students were actually in favour of increased corporatisation. 12.5% were not sure.
- Public benefit role. An economic student commented that "With natural monopolies such as utilities, profit maximisation is allocatively inefficient, and the harm to consumers will outweigh increased profits for the council".
- VUWSA is especially against the appointment of boards by Central government or any devolved organisation under the authority of the Council to CCOs. We regard democratic oversight of publicly held institutions and assets as crucial to a transparent Wellington.

## E. Council's should maintain its funding commitments to Te Papa.

- Students spoke overwhelmingly (82.5%) in favour of maintaining Council funding levels for Te Papa.
- Potential for user-charges prohibitive for many students from visiting what makes Wellington a place where talent wants to live.
- "As Te Papa is a resource not just for the country but for the city as it attracts lots of locals and visitors. By being free it ensures accessibility of the information it beholds for everyone"
- "Te Papa is a huge attraction to Wellington. It is the national museum, and already has to fundraise itself for a large amount of money. Decreasing funding may result in charges, which puts a price on the wonderful education and experience which visitors both domestic and foreign would otherwise have experienced for free."

## F. Council's should not reduce real spending over 10 years, as proposed in the plan

- We believe investment in Wellington's future depends on a commitment from Council to continue real spending at current levels, and in some cases to increase it.
- Spending cuts as outlined in the Plan will have a detrimental effect on Wellington's local economy, especially as the central Government looks to continue austerity measures.
- The Council must make the investments required to attract and retain talent, otherwise the overall rating base will fall and fixed costs will be distributed amongst an even smaller pool of ratepayers.

## G. Council does better to engage with young people.

- Without VUWSA's efforts, many believed they would not have heard of the LTP consultation.
- The Android and iPhone application was not publicized through avenues students are respondent to and no visible attempt was made to engage with students besides Cr.s Eagle, Pallet and McKinnon.
- A student said "Few things are notified in student media and giving feedback is still too complex."
- Council should encourage Democratic Services and Councilors themselves to visit our campuses and talk to students about consultation, policy and strategic vision. Consultation on amalgamation is an opportunity to do this.

## H. Council's should subsidise public transport more

- Council should work with other groups and authorities to subsidise bus transport more for students and young people.
- Talent wants to live near regular, affordable public transport.
- This could be Wellington City's edge in the competition for students and graduates.

Thank you.

**VUW**SA  
YOUR STUDENTS' ASSOCIATION

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# Oral Submission To Eco-City Proposal

By Catherine Isaac,  
Chair,  
on behalf of the Trustees of Karori Sanctuary Trust

Tabled Information  
Reference 151/12P(h)



# Overview

## Listening

- Extensive consultation with volunteers, members, supporters, donors, community
- Listened carefully to Councillors' views and concerns
- Good understanding of Council's financial, strategic and biodiversity objectives

# Overview

## Consultation outcomes

- Widespread recognition of importance and value of Council partnership
- Strong support for Council's 2040 eco vision and willingness to collaborate with other organisations
- Warm appreciation of Council's commitment to continue to support Zealandia

# Overview

## Consultation outcomes (cont)

- Strong sense of financial and emotional community ownership of the project
- Strong opposition to Council control and ownership
- No support for Council's proposed options
- No confidence that savings can be made
- Objection to merging with organisations with minimal fit
- Deep concern about
  - potential loss of support
  - erosion of lean organisational and volunteerism ethos
  - abandonment of drive to be self sustaining
  - likely increase in costs

# Overview

## Proposed solutions

### *Big Picture*

- Positioning Wellington as a world leader in fostering the coexistence of human society and the natural world
- Partnership with VUW and others in Centre of Research Excellence in ecological restoration
  - Sir Paul Callaghan/Jim Lynch 'Apollo' project

# Overview

## Proposed solutions

### *Detailed proposals*

To work collaboratively with other organisations and Council in areas where there is scope for savings, synergies and opportunities to advance the city's eco vision

# An alternative option

The least cost and best option for:

- addressing the future of Zealandia
- advancing the city's eco-vision and
- preserving and extending critical community support and involvement

# An alternative option

1. **The Trust will immediately:**
  - Reduce trustees from seven to five
    - three appointed by the Guardians, two by the Council, with the Council to retain the right to appoint the chair
  - Undertake a full review of the current structure and operations of Zealandia to ensure the optimal organisation to
    - meet the Council's requirements and
    - achieve the objects of the Trust, in association with its members, volunteers and other stakeholders

# An alternative option

## 2. Over the next three years the Trust will:

Work collaboratively with the Zoo, Otari Wilton's Bush, Botanic Garden and other organisations such as Te Papa, DOC, Marine Education, Matiu Somes, Forest & Bird, Iwi etc to

- improve the ecology of the city
- build Wellington's unique standing as an eco-city and
- inspire people (local, domestic and international) to learn more about and value the natural world



# An alternative option

Explore and implement agreed projects with the Zoo, Otari Wilton's Bush, the Botanic Garden, and other organisations such as TePapa, DOC, Marine Education, Matiu Somes, Iwi, Forest & Bird etc that will

- aim to reduce costs by better utilisation of resources and synergies
- increase revenue/profitability such as cross selling, joint fundraising etc

# An alternative option

- Review the current admissions pricing structure
- Continue to be subject to regular, formal reporting to Council's management and councillors

# An alternative option

- **Assist in positioning Wellington as a world leader in urban ecological restoration by**
  - working with Victoria University and other organisations to develop a Centre of Research Excellence on ecological restoration
  - developing a “tripartite” relationship between private sector funders, local and central government, and the community, to advance Sir Paul’s Callaghan and Jim Lynch’s Apollo project, linking Zealandia with other fenced sanctuaries to form the nucleus of a network of fenced sanctuaries to protect dispersing native species and advance pest eradication.

# An alternative option

- 3. Over the next three years we would ask the Council to**
  - pay the Trust an annual fee of \$700k to manage Karori valley on its behalf, this being in line with the costs for Council to maintain similar ecological assets with public access

# An alternative option

- 4. Noting the alternative model will:**
- provide Council with more control of the Trust and
  - provide the Trust with greater stability and security to
    - fundraise
    - evaluate ongoing support required from Council and ultimately reduce funding from Council and
    - work with Council and other organisations on projects with the aim to reduce costs, realise synergies and to increase revenue opportunities and advance the city's eco city vision

# An alternative option

- 5. To maximise the achievements of the above objectives, the Trust will ask the Council to assist in:**
- facilitates the works identified
  - instruct PWT to set aside marketing funding to package and market the eco-city attractions
  - working jointly with the Trust to seek Community Trust of Wellington to convert the outstanding loan into a grant
  - facilitating discussions with other councils, GW, DOC, Iwi and other trusts to work on biodiversity and
  - publicly presenting the value that Zealandia brings to our community more clearly and widely

# Recommendations

- **Note** that the Trustees want to continue to work in partnership with the Council and other organisations to achieve the Trust's vision and the 2040 eco vision
- **Consider** and **accept** the Karori Sanctuary Trustees' proposed alternative model as set out above.

Many thanks for your time

