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## **WELLINGTON PARTICIPATION IN THE UN-HABITAT "CITIES RESILIENCE PROFILING PROGRAMME"**

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### **1. Purpose of report**

To provide information on an international resilience work programme that Wellington City has been invited to join as one of ten selected cities, and seek Committee's approval for Council to participate in the programme.

### **2. Executive summary**

The "City Resilience Profiling Programme" (CRPP) has been established by UN-Habitat in order to develop tools that will assist local government to measure and increase their resilience.

CRPP provides a mechanism for Council to share its experiences and learn from others on practical action to address risk and become more resilient as a city. The programme has broad coverage across activities ranging from earthquake preparedness and risk reduction, to climate change resilience, energy and food security, and community awareness. The Council already has well established work programmes on issues such as earthquake and climate change preparedness, and would benefit greatly from a more joined-up approach across the variety of business units and organisations involved in it regionally, nationally and internationally.

Officers are working through the details of Council involvement, the level of commitment required from us and partner organisations, and publicity surrounding the launch of the programme. It is recommended that the Committee agree that Council participate as a partner city in the CRPP.

### **3. Recommendations**

Officers recommend that the Strategy and Policy Committee:

- 1. Receive the information.*
- 2. Agree that Wellington participate as a partner city in the UN-Habitat City Resilience Profiling Programme (CRPP).*
- 3. Agree that Wellington register for the UNISDR Making Cities Resilient Campaign (a prerequisite for the CRPP).*
- 4. Note that our involvement in these activities is expected to be cost-neutral, with any incremental costs to be met by UN programme funding.*

5. *Note that upon agreeing to the programme the Mayor will notify the Minister of Civil Defence and the Director of the Ministry of Civil Defence and Emergency Management regarding Wellington's participation, and will develop a city partnership agreement with UN-Habitat.*

## **4. Background**

### ***City Resilience Profiling Programme***

The CRPP was launched by UN-Habitat to provide national and local governments with tools for measuring and increasing resilience to multi-hazard impacts including those associated with climate change and natural hazards such as earthquakes. As a partner, Wellington would work with the CRPP to help cities build resilience against disasters within a sustainable urban development agenda.<sup>1</sup> The Council would appoint a CRPP 'focal point' to liaise with UN-Habitat and would assemble a team of local project partners to participate. Further detail on the programme is attached at Annex 1.

UN-Habitat would provide technical and financial resources to support Wellington's participation in model development and travel to international coordination meetings and conferences. UN-Habitat is still fundraising for the programme, so total funding levels are not yet confirmed. However, officers' understanding is that UN-Habitat would cover the incremental costs associated with the city's participation in the CRPP, and the city would leverage its expertise and existing resource allocation for resilience activities. Details of the partnership would be confirmed in a partnership agreement.

### ***Making Cities Resilient Campaign***

The CRPP partner cities are required to join the Making Cities Resilient Campaign (MCRC) implemented by the UNISDR<sup>2</sup>. The MCRC targets cities and local governments, but also directs advocacy toward national authorities. Participants agree to implement a ten-point checklist of essentials for making cities resilient (refer to Annex 2), and to apply a 'Local Government Self-Assessment Tool' through a multi-stakeholder process. No resources are provided from UNISDR, but as a CRPP partner city, Wellington would receive some financial support to apply the tool as a baseline activity. No other New Zealand cities are participating in the MCRC at present<sup>3</sup>. Wellington would be participating in the second cycle, which extends from April 2013 to November 2014, in preparation for the 2015 World Conference for Disaster Risk Reduction.

### ***Expression of interest***

This initiative was brought to the attention of WCC officers by a researcher at Victoria University via the Greater Wellington Regional Council (GWRC). Under a tight deadline, WCC submitted a non-binding Expression of Interest

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<sup>1</sup> The CRPP aims to develop an adaptable urban systems model; a set of indicators, standards and profiles to support cities to calibrate their ability to withstand and recover from crisis; city resilience profiles and tools; a set of global standards for urban resilience; and a new UN-Habitat normative framework for monitoring urban systems globally. The CRPP will apply a multi-hazard, multi-sectoral and multi-stakeholder approach.

<sup>2</sup> United Nations International Strategy for Disaster Reduction

<sup>3</sup> Australian participants include Cairns, Canberra, Lake Macquarie City, Townsville and Sydney.

(EOI, attached at Annex 3) in January 2013 with a cover letter from the Mayor and pledges of support from GWRC, Victoria University, the Institute of Geological and Nuclear Sciences (GNS) and Otago University's Centre for Sustainable Cities. The EOI was also endorsed by the Regional Manager of Civil Defence and Emergency Management (Bruce Pepperell).

These organisations will be contacted to reconfirm their interest in working with WCC on the CRPP, and there would be no restriction on participation by others – indeed a number of other organisations could be invited to collaborate with us.

On 21 February 2013, officers were notified that Wellington has been invited to be one of ten partner cities in UN-Habitat's CRPP. Approval is being sought for the city to participate in the CRPP and to register for the MCRC (a prerequisite for participation).

## **5. Discussion**

### **5.1 Benefits of city involvement**

Wellington is an excellent candidate to be a CRPP partner city because of:

- its complex hazards profile;
- the extent of disaster preparedness and resilience planning that is already happening at the city and regional level;
- the collective level of expertise in these issues across the city, and;
- access to the lessons learned from Christchurch.

Participation would help to raise Wellington's global profile as a leader in resilience planning and build Wellington's capacity as a centre of excellence for research in this area. Wellington and New Zealand more broadly would benefit from:

- improving understanding of Wellington's vulnerability to natural disasters and climate change, how our preparedness compares to that of other leading cities globally and what new approaches could be adopted here and elsewhere in New Zealand;
- more integrated planning and collaboration which strengthens linkages across work areas such as natural disasters and climate change;
- increased technical and financial support from UN-Habitat for resilience planning, including access to new modelling tools and expertise;
- stronger regional coordination and capacity building on resilience planning;
- participation in multi-stakeholder processes and international initiatives on disaster risk reduction.

### **5.2 Funding and initial participation**

Because of incremental funding from UN-Habitat, officers do not anticipate that Council would need to commit significant funding beyond baseline levels in order to participate. It is recommended that the Council re-evaluate its level of investment over time to capitalise on new opportunities. Officers note that some of the funding from UN-Habitat could be applied to enable participation by project partners and other stakeholders. Participation by regional experts and institutions throughout the process would both extend its benefits beyond

the city limits and make the initiative adaptable to any future changes in regional governance.

Wellington representatives will be invited and encouraged to attend the 4<sup>th</sup> Session of the Global Platform on Disaster Risk Reduction in Geneva on 19-23 May 2013, and it is expected that travel funding (for the focal point) would be provided via the UN (this will be confirmed in the funding agreement). This meeting will be a launch for the partner cities, where Wellington may also be invited to make a presentation. An invitation for participation by New Zealand cities was formally extended to Chris Tremain, Minister of Civil Defence, in October 2012.

### **5.3 Consultation and Engagement**

Officers in several Council business units have been involved in developing this work, and collaboration has also occurred across a number of external agencies. Wider community and stakeholder consultation will be appropriate upon commencement of the programme.

### **5.4 Financial considerations**

It is noted that additional Council or partner funding is not anticipated at this point in time. However, opportunities may arise throughout the programme for which some level of targeted funding support could be agreed, either through existing budgets or through new initiative funding bids.

### **5.5 Climate change impacts and considerations**

This initiative addresses risk and resilience issues, including those associated with the impacts of climate change. Involvement in the programme provides an opportunity for Council to improve linkages across some of the discrete pieces of resilience work currently taking place.

### **5.6 Long-term plan considerations**

No specific implications for the long-term plan have been identified.

## **6. Conclusion**

Wellington's participation in two related UN programmes – the CRPP and the MCRC – present a unique opportunity to be involved in the cutting edge of international thinking on managing risk and resilience at the city scale. The progress we have made so far on city resilience already puts us in a strong position, and collaboration across work areas and agencies (a key component of these programmes) is likely to be significantly enhanced.

**Contact Officer:** *Chris Cameron, Principal Advisor*

## SUPPORTING INFORMATION

### 1) Strategic fit / Strategic outcome

*This report supports Council's overall vision of **Wellington Towards 2040: Smart Capital** and the focus on a resilient city.*

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

*Work on risk and resilience is currently taking place across a number of Council work programmes. No additional funding is being sought at this time.*

### 3) Treaty of Waitangi considerations

*Nil.*

### 4) Decision-making

*This is not a significant decision.*

### 5) Consultation

#### a) General consultation

*The report has been developed within Council in collaboration with a number of external agencies. Wider community and stakeholder consultation will be appropriate upon commencement of the programme.*

#### b) Consultation with Maori

*The involvement of mana whenua will be required as the work develops.*

### 6) Legal implications

*Nil.*

### 7) Consistency with existing policy

*This report is consistent with existing policy.*

## **ANNEX 1: CRPP Programme Announcement**

### **A new UN-Habitat City Resilience Profiling Programme**

Nairobi, 15 Nov 12

UN-Habitat announced on Thursday that it is seeking city partners to pilot a new integrated urban planning and management model to help cities build resilience against disasters such as the recent super-storm Sandy which crashed through coastlines from the Caribbean and North America's Atlantic seaboard, or tsunamis and earthquakes.

"This is founded on the principles of 'resilience' which dynamically underpin and improve capacity to protect city people and their assets," said Dan Lewis, the agency's Chief of Urban Risk Reduction. "Urban resilience refers to the ability of any urban system, to withstand and recover quickly from so-called 'critical events'."

He said the new City Resilience Profiling Programme (CRPP) will provide forward-looking, multi-sectoral, multi-hazard, multi-stakeholder approach integrating all functional aspects of human settlements to planning and developing urban settlements through a four year research and development initiative.

The participation of a select number of cities in the programme is essential for developing practical, tested tools, standards and systems for all urban stakeholders interested in the goal of making their cities resilient.

"We are seeking 10 partner cities interested in engaging with UN-Habitat and other partners in an ambitious but critical programme developing a methodology for establishing new planning tools and framework integrating resilience targets within a sustainable urban development agenda," Mr. Lewis said. "Pilot cities will be selected to ensure a good balance between developed and developing countries and regions to demonstrate global applicability of City Resilience Profiling."

UN-Habitat invites local government representatives already engaged in the United Nations International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (UNISDR ) Making Cities Resilient Campaign, or UN-Habitat's World Urban Campaign to express interest and commitment to a four- year programme to develop the City Resilience Profiles.

The deadline of the competition is extended until Friday, January 20, 2013 and shortlisted candidate city representatives contacted the following week.

[City Resilience Profiling Programme Brochure](#)

Source: <http://www.unhabitat.org/content.asp?cid=11638&catid=5&typeid=6&AllContent=1>

## **ANNEX 2: UNISDR Ten-Point Checklist for Making Cities Resilient**

1. Put in place organization and coordination to understand and reduce disaster risk, based on participation of citizen groups and civil society. Build local alliances. Ensure that all departments understand their role to disaster risk reduction and preparedness.
2. Assign a budget for disaster risk reduction and provide incentives for homeowners, low-income families, communities, businesses and public sector to invest in reducing the risks they face.
3. Maintain up-to-date data on hazards and vulnerabilities, prepare risk assessments and use these as the basis for urban development plans and decisions. Ensure that this information and the plans for your city's resilience are readily available to the public and fully discussed with them.
4. Invest in and maintain critical infrastructure that reduces risk, such as flood drainage, adjusted where needed to cope with climate change.
5. Assess the safety of all schools and health facilities and upgrade these as necessary.
6. Apply and enforce realistic, risk compliant building regulations and land use planning principles. Identify safe land for low-income citizens and develop upgrading of informal settlements, wherever feasible.
7. Ensure education programmes and training on disaster risk reduction are in place in schools and local communities.
8. Protect ecosystems and natural buffers to mitigate floods, storm surges and other hazards to which your city may be vulnerable. Adapt to climate change by building on good risk reduction practices.
9. Install early warning systems and emergency management capacities in your city and hold regular public preparedness drills.
10. After any disaster, ensure that the needs of the survivors are placed at the centre of reconstruction with support for them and their community organizations to design and help implement responses, including rebuilding homes and livelihoods.

Source: <http://www.unisdr.org/campaign/resilientcities/toolkit/essentials>

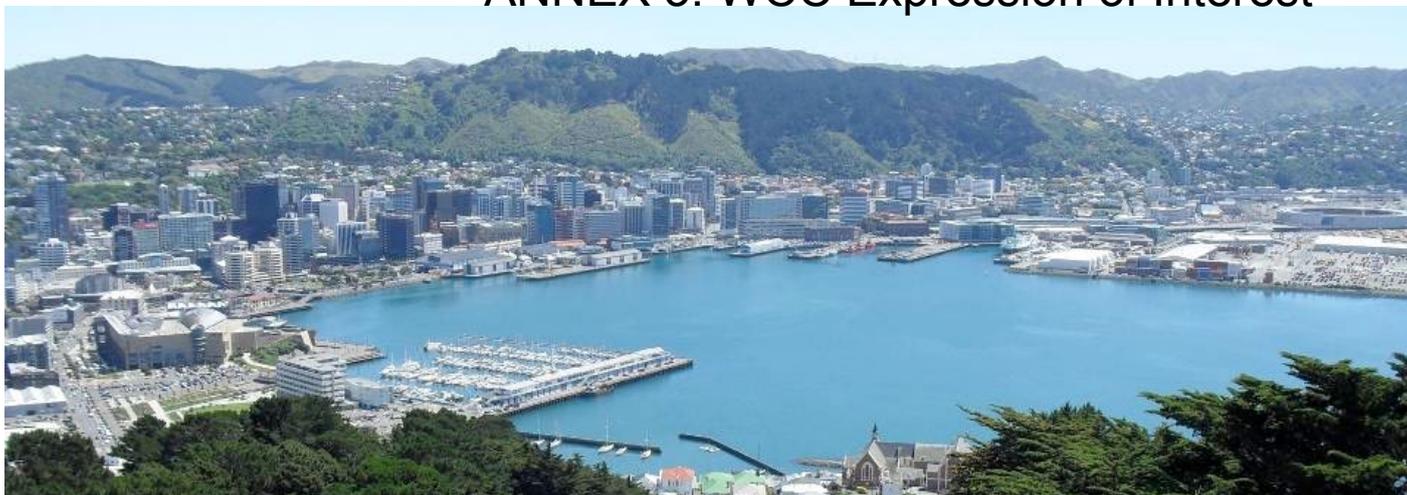
**WELLINGTON, NEW ZEALAND:  
EXPRESSION OF INTEREST**

**COMPETITION FOR  
PARTNER CITIES IN  
THE UN-HABITAT CITY  
RESILIENCE PROFILING  
PROGRAMME**



**JANUARY 2013**

# ANNEX 3: WCC Expression of Interest



Wellington City

## PART 1: WELLINGTON PROFILE

Wellington is uniquely placed to be a partner city in this programme. It is surrounded by sea and intersected by two major tectonic plates, and experiences more than its share of seismic activity and intense weather. This creates exposure to a wide range of hazards – from earthquakes to floods, to landslides and storm surges. Coupled with the effects of sea-level rise, tsunami and liquefaction risk, and possible longer-term economic and social shocks, the region faces a unique set of challenges.

Wellington is New Zealand's dynamic capital city (area, 290 km<sup>2</sup>) servicing a regional population of 490,000 residents and total region of 8,000 km<sup>2</sup>. In addition to hosting the seat of government and a strong business sector, Wellington has world-class universities, research institutions and creative industries. Wellington's geographic position provides a critical transport link between the North and South Islands. It maintains strong national and international connections through an international airport and a busy commercial and ferry port. Wellington was awarded first place in the 2012 *International Awards for Liveable Communities*.

The major fault lines running through the city could experience a very strong or extreme earthquake at any time. A significant earthquake could see the city isolated for months, without full power or gas and with sewerage, transport and water supply links compromised. The economic and social impact of such an event to the city, and nation, has been assessed at \$NZ 37 billion.

While Christchurch was devastated recently, Wellington is considered the city most at risk from a major earthquake in New Zealand. Events in Christchurch have accelerated political commitment to improving Wellington, including identifying and strengthening earthquake-prone buildings, planning for economic recovery, developing more resilient infrastructure, and working alongside the insurance industry. Wellington's old housing stock presents issues for both earthquake resilience and climate change adaptation.

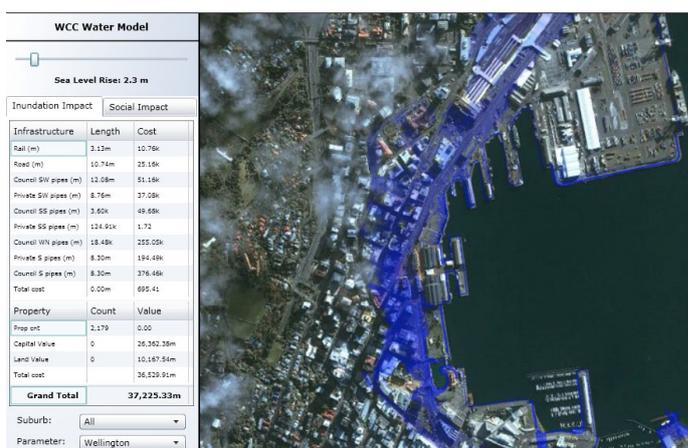
Most residents live within 3 km of the sea, and portions of the city's infrastructure and economy are at risk from sea-level rise. The city is undertaking cutting-edge research on local sea-level rise impacts and

response options. Wellington's *Climate Change Action Plan* was awarded the Government's national "green ribbon" award for environmental achievement in 2011.

Wellington is taking an innovative and unique approach to community resilience, including development of a *strategy focused on societal resilience*. The Wellington Regional Emergency Management Office was established in 2012 to provide a strong cross-boundary response. Extensive research and education programmes on the impacts of major events have been undertaken in recent years, and the Council has carried out community dialogue on earthquake vulnerability and is planning a programme of engagement on climate change adaptation and city resilience during 2013.

In local government 10-year plans, significant expenditure has been committed for mitigating the impacts of major events, including securing water supply, strengthening public buildings, critical infrastructure and transport routes, and flood protection schemes.

Wellington would be delighted to participate in this innovative programme. There is willingness at all levels – political, senior management, regional civil defence and emergency management, and academia.



Dynamic modelling of sea-level rise effects in Wellington

# PART 2: WELLINGTON'S CASE FOR SELECTION

## Willingness to participate

The lead agency submitting this EOI is [Wellington City Council](#), endorsed by the Mayor (Celia Wade-Brown), and Chief Planning Officer (John Hutchings). Several partner organisations have pledged support – including [Greater Wellington Regional Council](#), [Victoria University of Wellington](#), the [Institute of Geological and Nuclear Sciences \(GNS\)](#), and [Otago University's Centre for Sustainable Cities](#). The Regional Manager of Civil Defence and Emergency Management (Bruce Pepperell) has endorsed this EOI, while support from the national ISDR focal point (Ministry of Civil Defence and Emergency Management) will be sought, should Wellington be successful through this EOI process.

We would use existing resilience expertise, programmes and funding to support our involvement throughout the programme. While the Council is not currently involved in the UNISDR Making Cities Resilient Campaign, we have been working to achieve comparable outcomes, and would be excited to join the campaign.

## Availability of data

Our unique risk profile means that we are acutely aware of the need for good quality information to understand and improve resilience. Through our planning and public consultation, we have identified performance indicators and collected data that supports application of UNISDR's Local Government Self-Assessment Tool for Disaster Resilience, examples include:

- analysis of climate change and [sea-level rise](#) impacts and response options
- [fact sheets on natural hazards](#)
- [vulnerability to, and impacts of flooding events](#)
- [resilience of the regional water supply](#)
- [Lifelines study of Wellington earthquake impacts and recovery](#)
- [addressing earthquake-prone buildings](#)
- the [It's Our Fault](#) earthquake project
- the award-winning Tsunami [Warning Lines Project](#)
- [tsunami evacuation zone maps](#).

## Promotional impact

Wellington has a reputation for its focus on earthquake and climate change resilience, has much to offer and gain from inclusion in the programme, and will commit to all appropriate promotional activities. We have a number of information and promotional sources readily available, including for disaster preparedness, and earthquake-prone buildings. A key issue is maintaining the value of promotional activity – the unpredictability of earthquakes can lead to complacency, and climate change is a long-term, slow-onset issue.

Dialogue takes place through existing city partnerships, sister city relationships, evolving partnerships in earthquake resilience (San Francisco, USA) and climate change (Bottrop, Germany), and linkages to relevant work taking place in the Pacific (eg NZAid programmes). Examples of selected international networks include:

- World Mayor's Council on Climate Change – first New Zealand member, 2012
- Urban Climate Change Research Network (UCCRN) – contributor to First Assessment Report, 2011
- UN-Habitat Cities and Climate Change Initiative – providing expert advice, 2011/2012
- City DRM partnerships with Tianjin, China; Kobe, Japan; Santiago, Chile; Lima, Peru; Mendoza, Argentina.

Wellington also has strong working relationships with other major New Zealand urban centres that will benefit from our participation in the CRPP, together with major national research institutes based in the city, including the [National Institute for Water and Atmospheric Research](#) and GNS. The Centre for Sustainable Cities has a powerful national network of universities and research institutions that would also engage in this initiative.

A guide provided by Wellington City Council



Earthquake strengthen  
**YOUR HOUSE**

Ways to make your house better  
cope with earthquakes

# ANNEX 3: WCC Expression of Interest



## Wellington City Council

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