

Questions and Answers – Council 30 June 2021

2.2 Setting of Rates for 2021/22

Is this the way we normally communicate about the rates increase?

- Yes, this is the usual way of communicating it at the end of the LTP/AP process.

Is there a summarising statement that can be made that makes it clearer what the rate increase will be for households and businesses?

- The Commercial rates increase is projected to be 13.85% and the Residential increase is projected to be 14.55%. The actual increase per ratepayer would be impacted by further factors including Rating Category, Water meters, RV, etc.

What is the reason we don't communicate the outcome the same as we have been discussing through the LTP process?

- In the LTP consultation we discuss the entire Rates Requirement increase year on year. For both the LTP consultation and the setting of rates we use indicative rates tables to give a better understanding of what the impact on individual rate payers will be.

2.3 Mayoral Visit to Asia Pacific Cities Summit in Australia - September 2021

How have we celebrated the sister city relationship with Canberra to date?

- We agreed as a part of our sister city relationship to a mutual exchange of delegations that connect Wellington City Council and the ACT Government, and this visit would be the fourth one in five years, compared with 12 visits from Canberra.
- This year in May we hosted a trade delegation, including the ACT Chief Minister Andrew Barr. We discussed celebrating the fifth anniversary in July 2021 and he invited the Mayor to celebrate it in Canberra, as he has not visited in an official capacity before. As the Brisbane APCS (Asia Pacific Cities Summit) was scheduled for September, it was thought prudent to visit at the same time.

What specifically would we be aiming to achieve that is good for Wellington in Canberra?

- Our sister city relationships are generally broad based and cover social, economic, cultural, and environmental dimensions. Examples of what has been worked on to date with Canberra is outlined in Appendix 1.
- In the May visit, ACT Chief Minister Andrew Barr identified several areas that they would like to work on with Wellington. Clause 21 in the report on page 441 outlines this further.
- Officers are supportive of that draft agenda but would also like to take the time to understand any lessons from Canberra's light rail project. As the Council is about to sign off on one of the biggest capital investment budgets in our city's history, and key decisions will

need to be made on LGWM (Let's Get Wellington Moving) in the near future, this is an opportune time to understand the lessons Canberra learnt with their light rail project.

What specifically would we be aiming to achieve that is good for Wellington in Sydney?

- Sydney has had several personnel changes in the last year and this visit is an opportunity to engage face-to-face with them. The time in Sydney will be short and it is aimed that it will be focused infrastructure and the night-time economy.
- Sydney is already ten years into their night-time economy / night time safety strategy and will have lessons to share with us. They have also recently undertaken a significant light rail project through their CBD (Central Business District) so the lessons can be learnt here as well.

How will we share the information on UD and light rail with the rest of the council and LGWM programme?

- The Mayor would provide a report to committee after the visit and connect relevant officers to their counterparts in Australia.

How will we measure the impact?

- It is difficult to quantify a sister city visit with a focus on sharing information / lessons learnt from major capital projects and the pandemic. Impact of mayoral visits do occur when accompanied by a trade delegation (delegation satisfaction / business partnership development is measured).

Appendix 1

Background Context for Wellington & Canberra Sister City Agreement (SCA)

In February 2016, Singapore Airlines announced that it would commence flights between Singapore, Canberra, and Wellington. These flights commenced on 21 September 2016.

Following that announcement, the Wellington City Council (WCC) and the Government of the Australian Central Territory (ACT) commenced work towards the development and agreement of a sister city relationship. Now formalized with agreement by both WCC and ACT, the sister city agreement sets out a high-level framework of cooperation in several key areas of mutual interest. These are:

- Cultural exchange that connects arts communities, events development, and national institution engagement.
- Partnerships that facilitate tourism promotion, marketing, and product development.
- Collaboration and knowledge sharing about urban renewal and sustainable growth.
- Supporting engagement through innovation and technology start-up ecosystems.
- Collaboration on opportunities to secure events, grow partnerships and participation in sport.
- Programs that support opportunities for first people and indigenous exchange.
- Biodiversity initiatives and nature-based partnerships.
- Mutual exchange regarding smart city technologies and implementation.
- Collaboration on community services and affordable housing solutions.
- Collaboration on capital civic programs including sustainable transport solutions.
- Mutual exchange regarding renewable / sustainable energy supply.

- Mutual exchange of delegations that that connect Wellington City Council and the ACT Government.
- Mutual exchange of delegations that that connect business of each city.

MOU's have been signed at various levels in the last few years to deepen connections between Wellington and Canberra

<i>Agreement Type</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>Wellington Organisation</i>	<i>Canberra Organisation</i>	<i>Focus</i>
MOU	Mid-2016	Zealandia	Mulligan's Flat Woodland Sanctuary	Biodiversity conservation
MOU	2016	Chamber of Commerce	Chamber of Commerce	Business connections / tourism
Cooperation	2016	WREDA	Visit Canberra	Tourism opportunities with the then Singapore Airlines direct flights
MOU	2017	Botanic Gardens	National Arboretum	Conservation
MOU	2017	Screen Wellington	Screen Canberra	Support Collaboration in the screen industry
MOU	2017	Biz Dojo	Canberra Innovation	Focus on closer collaboration and information sharing.
MOU	Sept 2018	Wellington Zoo	National Zoo & Aquarium	Focus on Animal Conservation & Environmental Security
Artist-in-residence Exchange Programme	2018	WCC Arts team	Arts ACT	Further engagement between the two cities to highlight the indigenous cultures of Australia & Aotearoa NZ

Delegations & Visits between Canberra and Wellington

Date	Wellington Delegation Lead	Canberra Delegation Lead
February 2016		Deputy Chief Minister Yvette Berry
April 2016	Mayor Celia Wade-Brown	
July 2016		Chief Minister Andrew Barr
October 2016		Commissioner for International Engagement, Brendan Smyth
November 2016		Chief Minister Andrew Barr
March 2017		Commissioner for International Engagement, Brendan Smyth
May 2017	Mayor Justin Lester	

May 2017		Commissioner for International Engagement, Brendan Smyth
October 2017	Deputy Mayor Jill Day	
November 2017		Chief Minister Andrew Barr
March 2018		Commissioner for International Engagement, Brendan Smyth
June 2019		Commissioner for International Engagement, Brendan Smyth
November 2019		Minister Gordon Ramsay
November 2019		Minister Mick Gentleman
May 2021		Chief Minister Andrew Barr

Canberra Wellington Indigenous Artist Exchange

The year, 2019, marked the debut year of the Canberra Wellington Indigenous Artist Exchange and the inaugural residency. Wellington hosted aboriginal (Worimi) artist, Dean Cross. Canberra hosted Māori (Te Rarawa) artist, Ana Iti. The artists spent time with one-another both in Wellington and Canberra at the beginning and ends of their residencies, respectively. While in each city they were intensely busy for the 6-week period, meeting art contemporaries, visiting arts institutions, researching, and making work. Ana and Dean have both exhibited work made during or influenced by the exchange and were invited to make work for a group exhibition, Strands at the Dowse during the summer of 2019/20. Their practices have continued to develop and have gone from strength to strength since this pivotal exchange.