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# Wellington City Youth Council Annual Report

*For the year ended 31 December 2019*

**Wellington City Youth Council**

Te Rūnanga Taiohi o te Kaunihera o Pōneke

# Purpose

Youth Council's purpose is to:

## Assist and advise

Assist and advise the [Wellington] City Council on how to help grow a great City where young people thrive and contribute to the City Council's priorities

## Bring insight

Bring extra insight to Council (a youth perspective) to solve problems facing a changing world

## Develop members

Develop the capabilities of its members (including leadership and engaging wider youth).

# Membership

## Leadership

Ella Flavell (Deputy Chair August 2019 -)

Freja Cook (Chair August 2019 -, Deputy Chair March 2019 - July 2019)

Shine Wu (Chair March 2019 - July 2019)

## Members

- Carl Bennett
- Watene Campbell
- Freja Cook
- Raihaan Dalwai
- Liam Davies
- Neesha Dixon
- Ella Flavell
- Bethany Kaye-Blake
- Jackson Lacy
- Melania Lui-Fai
- Brad Olsen (Chair until March 2019)
- Tim Rutherford
- Dexter Smith
- Shine Wu (term ended July 2019)
- Sarah Gardener (term ended August 2019)



Youth Councillors with Councillor Jill Day at our 2019 end-of-year function.

- Ollie Michie (term ended August 2019, Deputy Chair until March 2019)
- Laura Somerset (term ended August 2019)
- Teri O'Neill (term ended October 2019)
- Grace Day (term began August 2019)
- Tony Huang (term began August 2019)
- Laura Jackson (term began August 2019)
- Shelly Liang (term began August 2019)
- Anastasia Reid (term began August 2019)
- John Sibanda (term began August 2019)



# Chair's introduction

The 2019 year marked another fantastic period for the Wellington City Youth Council. Local Body elections cultivated a different dynamic for the work undertaken by Youth Council, with a focus on engaging young Wellingtonians, providing advice to a range of organisations, and member development.

In 2019, Youth Council built on the success and networks of 2018 to enable a diverse portfolio of work and opportunities for Youth Councillors. Council engagement was focussed at the start of the year on the local elections, resulting in a slowdown in projects towards the end of the year. Consultation spanned from e-scooters to alcohol bylaws to Planning for Growth. Youth Councillors aided the Council in engaging a significant number of young people for Planning for Growth.

The focus on the election freed up time for external consultation in 2019. We began our year by providing our perspective for the Independent Review of the StatsNZ Census 2018. External consultations towards the end of the year increased, ranging from submitting on the Biodiversity Strategy, giving feedback to the Ministry of Education on civics education resources, and submitting to the Environment Select Committee on the Zero Carbon Bill. A key focus of our external consultation was to highlight the need for organisations to bear the Youth Engagement Framework in mind, and not simply consult with us but engage with a diverse range of young people from across the country where applicable.



Collaboration with youth councils from across Aotearoa was a focus in 2019. We held a workshop and discussion with Nelson Youth Council in June, and Youth Councillors enjoyed the opportunity to share ideas and experiences. Youth Council also facilitated a gathering of youth councils from across the country who were attending Festival for the Future in July.

Much like the Council, Youth Council saw change in leadership in 2019. In March, Brad Olsen and Ollie Michie indicated their intentions to step down as Chair and Deputy Chair of Youth Council. I would like to thank them both for their incredible contributions to Youth Council. Without the connections they forged and their effective leadership we would not be where we are today. Shine Wu and Freja Cook were elected as Chair and Deputy Chair respectively and remained until August when Shine travelled to the United States to pursue studies at Duke University. I would like to thank Shine for everything he contributed to Youth Council as a very hard worker and clear communicator. Freja Cook was duly elected Chair and I as Deputy Chair. Freja remained in the position of Chair until early 2020 when she headed to Otago to pursue her studies. I would like to thank Freja for her contributions to Youth Council as a great leader and for showing me the ropes in my time as Deputy Chair.

With a new Council and new goals for 2020, Youth Council will be tackling new issues. The foundation built, connections forged, and experience shared in 2019 has been invaluable to the future of Youth Council and we will continue to reap the benefits for years to come.

**Ella Flavell**

Youth Council Chair

June 2020

# Priorities

Youth Council's priorities for 2019 included:

- Work around the 2019 local authority election
- Engaging with young Wellingtonians
- Consultation on plans, policies, and reviews
- Member development

## 2019 Local Authority election

Youth Council's work in 2019 was underscored by the local body elections, shifting the focus away from Council submissions towards external opportunities towards the end of the year. In May, Youth Council participated in a local election communication workshop. Further in the year, the group worked on a video to promote the importance of voting in local body elections, and how to vote. The video was posted on social media to a wide audience. Youth Councillors, through their own networks, also pushed for young people to place their mark on Wellington.

## Engaging with young Wellingtonians

In 2019, Youth Council engaged with young Wellingtonians in a range of ways and with a range of communities.

One way we engaged was by providing assistance to an event run by the Multicultural Council of Wellington. This event allowed Youth Councillors to engage with many of the cultural minorities in our community and especially the youth across these cultures. It was also an opportunity for Youth Councillors to interact with and get to know people whose voice is not heard enough throughout our community.

In 2019, Youth Council also held two workshops in order to engage young Wellingtonians in local council bylaws and strategies, but specifically those that could affect young people the most. The first of these was on Planning for Growth, which we invited other young people to. Youth Council viewed this workshop was incredibly important as future growth is something that will affect young people very directly for a long period of time. Consequently, we held the workshop in order to reach a large range of young people's thoughts and allow them to be acknowledged and discussed. The second workshop Youth Council held was on the Alcohol Management Strategy and Alcohol Control Bylaw, and a number of important points were raised at this workshop that helped to broaden our perspectives and engage with young Wellingtonians.

Finally, Youth Council promoted a range of opportunities and events throughout the year. One significant area of focus was our promotion of the volunteer options and support available by Take 10. Take 10 is an initiative, mainly for young people, to create safe spaces in Wellington's entertainment zone at night. Youth Council believe these spaces help make our city safer for all and also encourages more people to enjoy Wellington. This promotion of Take 10 has also allowed Youth Council to engage with young people in Wellington through the Take 10 initiative.

## Consultation on plans, policies, and reviews

In 2019, Youth Council was consulted on and submitted on a wide range of plans, policies and reviews. These can broadly be categorised as internal consultations to Wellington City Council) such as the Alcohol Bylaw Submission (Kilbirnie & Kelburn) and Planning for Growth, and external consultations such as the Zero Carbon Bill and New Zealand's 2020-2049 Biodiversity Strategy.

### Alcohol Bylaw submission (Kilbirnie & Kelburn)

Youth Council made both written and oral submissions on this proposal, citing partial support for the plan. In particular, Youth Council supported the proposed changes for an alcohol ban in Kilbirnie, on the basis that a harm reduction approach was taken in dealing with members of the community who were found to be breaching this ban. The focus of our support was due to the identification that it was a small group of individuals who the ban would affect, and that a harm reduction approach would be more appropriate in helping these individuals rather than a penal approach through a ban. However, Youth Council submitted that we did not support the proposed expansion to the alcohol ban area to cover Kelburn Park, on the basis that the Park provides a safe space for students to drink in a controlled manner. Youth Council highlighted that Kelburn Park is seen as an iconic space for university students, and the removal of this space could cause students to drink in other areas surrounding Kelburn Park which has major safety risks for both those drinking and the general public.

## **Planning for Growth**

Submitting on each of the four scenarios proposed by the Council in the Planning for Growth strategy, Youth Council ultimately supported the second scenario. This scenario focused on a commitment to sustainable growth, the ability to facilitate diverse and mixed-use urban form, and allows the potential to promote strong communities. These areas were important areas of focus for Youth Council as they allow for the improvement of public transport, particularly in a way that would benefit young people in Wellington in a sustainable way. Another important value in the submission was the importance of providing housing options for all income brackets through having a variety of house types that vary in price and form. However, the medium-high density housing possibilities meant that it would be more difficult for Wellingtonians to purchase houses with property, rather than simply apartments. Similarly, the concern was raised regarding the need to upgrade infrastructure such as community facilities in order to cater for the increased population in high-rise complexes. Overall, Youth Council supported the scenario proposed by the Council as it would allow for increased accessibility and promote stronger communities in Wellington City.

## **Other internal consultations**

- Met with Council's Library team to better understand changes to Wellington's library system after the closure of the Central Library
- Regularly attended the Safe and Sustainable Transport Forum (SASTF) to discuss mobility and transport issues
- Provided feedback to Council Officers on the design of Arapaki Manners Library and Service Centre
- Provided a submission and advice on the review of Central City Safer Speeds
- Provided a submission and advice on the 2019/20 Annual Plan
- Provided advice on the Southern Landfill consultation
- Provided advice on the review of advisory groups as part of the Advisory Group review session with MartinJenkins
- Provided advice on the Wellington City Council Social Wellbeing Framework
- Provided advice to the Let's Get Wellington Moving project team
- Provided advice on social media engagements planned for Planning for Growth and Smarter Parking Management
- Provided a submission and advice on the Outer Green Belt Management Plan
- Held a discussion around Council's Land, Customer and Property Information work
- Provided advice to the introduction of the e-scooter trial

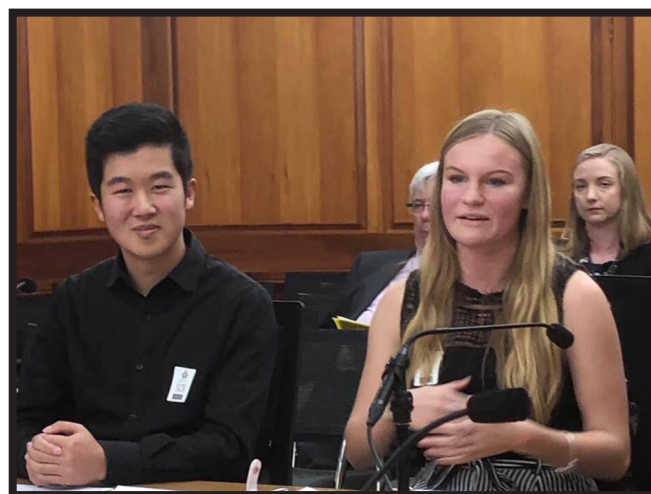
## **Zero Carbon Bill**

Having initially submitted on the proposed Zero Carbon Bill to the Ministry of the Environment in July 2018, Youth Council further submitted on this bill to Parliament. The main areas of submission were around the Climate Change Commission, Māori partnership, setting emissions budgets, monitoring and the effect of the 2050 target

and emissions budgets. The Climate Change Commission was generally supported, noting the importance that expertise in ensuring the success of the commission, as well as highlighting the role that Te Ao Māori should have in the appointment of Commission members. A crucial aspect of the submission discussed the critical nature of the Commission representing Māori interests and including Māori as governance partners, namely in increasing the number of Māori who are constitutionally required to sit on the Climate Change Commission. When considering the setting of emissions budgets, Youth Council acknowledged the need for a robust, cross-political target and process, highlighting the strict conditions under which the budget could be revised. Overall, the Youth Council was supportive of the proposed bill, however, noted the issue of lacking enforceability of the bill if the target and emissions budgets were not met.

## New Zealand's 2020-2049 Biodiversity Strategy

Youth Council submitted a video submission on the Department of Conservation 2020-2049 Biodiversity Strategy in September 2019. In the submission, Youth Council focused on the three principles of the Biodiversity Strategy. These were tiaki, protect and restore; whakahau, empower; and wananga, systems and behaviour. Youth Council thought about what the environment of New Zealand should look like in 50 years, what steps can be taken to ensure youth have the power and support to act as kaitiaki of the environment in their communities, and how can we implement systems to support youth and teach them more about the environment and biodiversity. Youth Council believe that currently there is not enough education for young people about the importance of the environment. Additionally, Youth Council highlighted that many young people want to take action but aren't sure what needs to be done. Youth Council gathered the opinions of a variety of different youth in Wellington as this was a submission which encouraged creativity. By creating an inquisitive video, Youth Council submitted a view that generally supported the Biodiversity Strategy.



Youth Councillors Shine Wu and Freja Cook submitting before the Justice Select Committee.

## Other external consultations

- Provided advice to the StatsNZ Census 2018 Independent Review
- Provided advice on draft civic engagement resources to the Ministry of Education
- Provided advice on countering violent extremist content online to the Department of Internal Affairs
- Provided a submission and advice on the Inquiry into the 2016 Local Authority Elections to the Justice Select Committee at Parliament

## Member development

Youth Council continued to develop its members through engaging with a range of speakers from external organisations. The Youth Council was honoured to have



Youth Councillors Brad Olsen, Bethany Kaye-Blake, and Ella Flavell with Her Excellency The Right Honourable Dame Patsy Reddy GNZM, QSO, Governor-General of New Zealand.



His Excellency Jesus “Gary” Domingo, the Ambassador of the Republic of the Philippines, give a presentation about “Universal diplomacy”. This is the concept of integrating the political, economic, and cultural aspects of diplomacy when it comes to international relations. His Excellency also spoke to the value of young people when it comes to forming international ties, especially with regards to New Zealand’s role within the Asia-Pacific region.

Youth Council also had the opportunity to hear from Alecia Love from Oranga Tamariki (Ministry for Vulnerable Children), to give a presentation on their Youth Advisory Group, and the systems in place for how they consult with youth. She also led a discussion around how to make Wellington a more inclusive environment, in particular for youth who may not be in care. Youth Council learned about how youth are consulted in the context of a central government agency, as well as having our say on how to make Wellington a better place for young people of all backgrounds. Youth Council were also fortunate enough to host members of the Nelson Youth Council in Wellington, which included a discussion about how they run their Youth Council. This discussion was so we could see what was working for us as a Youth Council and what other ideas we could seek to implement.

In 2019, Youth Council also heard from Tania Mead from JustSpeak about how they lift up young people to share their views and opinions on the youth justice system. Their focus is changing these opinions.

## Other projects

### Sharing youth opportunities

In 2019, Youth Council continued to share a variety of opportunities with its networks, to promote youth engagement and interactions. Youth Council used its social media channels, and word of mouth from Youth Councillors, to share opportunities. Among these opportunities were UN Youth events, which are well regarded by youth people as an influential youth development opportunity, alongside the Climate Challenge.

### Other items

Youth Council was also involved with a limited number of other items which do not fall under any other priority categories:

- Wellington City Council Democracy Advisor Sean Johnson and Youth Councillor Brad Olsen (substituting for the Chair) presented to a group of students undertaking a Bachelor of Youth Development at WelTec/Whitireia about youth engagement with local government and what Youth Council does.
- Youth Councillor Brad Olsen organised a meeting between the Mayor, Deputy Mayor, and Children’s Commissioner to discuss children and young people in Wellington, and the importance of different views being considered by local government leaders.
- A delegation from Youth Council met with Hon Grant Robertson, MP for Wellington Central and Minister of Finance, and discussed a range of issues.







Youth Councillors meeting Hon Grant Robertson, MP for Wellington Central and Minister of Finance.



## **Wellington City Youth Council**

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