

6. COMMUNITY WELL-BEING

6.1 Introduction

Future community well-being is another key issue within Horokiwi. This chapter looks at the things that contribute to this well-being, the needs for rural living, social and economic needs, roading and other infrastructure, community safety, and recreation opportunities and management. Horokiwi's contribution to Wellington's well-being is also considered.

As with the previous chapter, a number of rural objectives are identified. These are also based on the WCC Rural Area Objectives (Appendix One) and reflect the nature of Horokiwi's particular issues. Additions to the objectives are shown in underline, and deletions indicated by ~~strikethrough~~.

6.2 Opportunities for rural living

6.2.1 Identifying the issues

There is estimated to be 74 households living on separate lots within the 960 hectare area covered by this plan. The majority of these households are located in the centre of the plan area, and situated reasonably near the main Horokiwi or off-shoot roads. Other information about the area is available through Statistics New Zealand for the 'Grenada area' unit (which includes much of the rural area surrounding Takapu Road), indicates a population where the majority is adult age between 30 and 45 years, with a significant proportion of young children and adults between 0 and 24 years.

Responses to the question of opportunities for rural living focused on the needs of the existing population to live in the rural area and concerns about additional subdivision and the possibility of some infrastructural limitations, for example:

"..accommodation will be needed in the future for ageing/dependent family members and we have the space..."

"..Only with existing subdivisions, no more subdivisions and limit to number of houses/dwellings on each." "rural development only"

"rural zoning must be retained"

"...the facilities and the road would not cope. This would detract from the special character of Horokiwi."

".....very important to stay true to the retention of natural space..."

The suggested key issues concerning the opportunity for rural living are:

- Significant increases in the current population, more dwellings and/or extra allotments would threaten the natural amenity and country atmosphere of the Horokiwi area.
- Such growth could also impact existing infrastructure, particularly roads and rubbish disposal.

6.2.2 Objective

OBJECTIVE	To provide opportunities for rural living where the environment and the local infrastructure is able to support and accommodate growth. (See WCC RAO #3, Appendix One.)
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6.2.3 Methods

Community projects	-
Combined Community Association & WCC projects	-
Provision of WCC services	-
Provision of other services	-
Community Association and WCC advocacy, facilitation and/or education	See also <u>Section 5.2: Horokiwi's rural character</u> .
Individual action	-
District Plan provisions	<p>See <u>Section 5.2: Horokiwi's rural character</u>.</p> <p>The subdivision provisions are seen as significant in controlling future development in Horokiwi, protecting the natural amenity that is distinctive of the area, and managing the effects of development on existing infrastructure capacity, including roads. It is proposed that the existing subdivision provisions be revised as part of a wider plan change, so that the special character of the area is emphasised, while retaining the existing rules concerning allotment size.</p> <p>The district plan also permits a maximum of one household unit per title, subject to minimum standards including access, height and side yard requirements. Additional household units require a resource consent. These rules seek to maintain the rural character of Wellington's rural area, and it is proposed that they be retained for the Horokiwi area, although some provision could be made to recognise the need to house elderly family members.</p> <p>See also <u>Section 5.3: Ridgelines, landscapes and views</u>.</p>
Other methods	

6.3 Supporting social and economic needs

6.3.1 Identifying the issues

Feedback at the Community Open Day included:

“it would be great to have our own community hall!!!”

“promote the future rural plan outcomes”

Interestingly the feedback received did not raise issues concerning the impacts of WCC controls on the profitability of rural land use. While some Horokiwi people derive income from within the area, the majority of residents rely on income derived from outside the area to sustain themselves economically. The suggested key issues concerning Horokiwi’s social and economic needs are:

- Horokiwi is a close rural community, and holds regular social events at people’s places as there is no community facility or focal point for meetings.
- The Horokiwi Community Association could be better supported by WCC.

6.3.2 Objective

OBJECTIVE	To meet, support and enhance the social and economic needs of the rural community through co-operation between the Council and those living and working in the rural area. (See WCC RAO #12, Appendix One.)
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6.3.3 Methods

Community projects	The Horokiwi Community Association will support social activities for the Horokiwi community.
Combined Community Association & WCC projects	At present Horokiwi has no central community meeting point, such as a community hall. WCC and the Community Association will work together to assess the feasibility of options to improve existing community facilities.
Provision of WCC services	The Wellington City Council has a role in promoting community development and fostering the well-being of the city residents generally.
Provision of other services	-

Community Association and WCC advocacy, facilitation and/or education	The Community Association and the Council have a key role in facilitating actions or activities that help meet, support and enhance the social and economic needs of the Horokiwi community. The Association is however a voluntary organisation and its activities in this area can often be constrained by limited resources and its dependence on people's spare time. The Council can provide useful support to the Association to advance the implementation of the Community Plan where appropriate.
Individual action	-
District Plan provisions	The purpose of the District Plan is to assist the Council to promote the sustainable management of natural and physical resources in a way, or at a rate, which enables people to provide for their social, economic, and cultural well-being and for their health and safety. The development of the Rural Community Plan indicates that the District plan is seen as facilitating most of the activities that residents believe are appropriate within the area. The District Plan requires that 'Non-Rural' activities go through a resource consent process. Some utility operations, such as the upgrade of transmission lines, are also provided for in the district plan.
Other methods	-

6.4 Efficiency, convenience and safety of access

6.4.1 Identifying the issues

The future management of Horokiwi's roads stimulated extensive thought and contributions at the Community Open Day, for example:

"Motorway access dangerous and not sufficient." *"Get Transit to finish the intersection as promised, i.e. merging lane."*

"Some pines are planted too close to the road and obscure vision." *"Mud on road from Quarry to SH2 is dangerous in Wellington weather."*

"Hoons speeding and joy riding." *"need...a carefully thought-out balance between safety and retention of the community's rural qualities and values."*

The suggested key issues concerning Horokiwi's roads are:

- Residents report a significant safety issue in getting from Horokiwi onto State Highway 2.
- Many people within the community are concerned that major roading projects could have a significant adverse impact on Horokiwi's rural character.
- There are a number of young children growing up in the community and the demand for pedestrian, horse and cycle access within the area is growing. This could conflict with other road users.
- In some places vegetation including trees growing or planted on road reserve has reduced traffic visibility and is regarded as a road hazard. Pines are perceived by some people to be part of this problem.

6.4.2 Objectives

OBJECTIVE	To allow for efficient, convenient and safe access for people and goods to, <u>from</u> and within the rural area. (See WCC RAO #4, Appendix One.) AND To monitor and, where necessary, improve the safety of rural roads to mitigate any traffic effects arising from rural living and land use activities. (See WCC RAO #5)
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6.4.3 Methods

Community projects	-
Combined Community Association & WCC projects	-
Provision of WCC services	Traffic safety and some views would be enhanced by the trimming and/or removal of vegetation, including trees, from areas of road reserve adjoining the Horokiwi Road. This work will be done in consultation with adjoining landowners. See also <u>Section 5.3: Ridgelines, landscapes and views</u> .
Provision of other services	-
Community Association and WCC advocacy, facilitation and/or education	<p>There is significant community concern at the possibility of a through-road Horokiwi, linking Wellington's west with the Hutt Valley. This option has been identified as an option in the Hutt Corridor Study (Wellington Regional Council) and the Northern Growth Management Plan process. Views within the community are also divided. Many residents believe a through-road would destroy the present sense of community and tranquillity that Horokiwi currently enjoys. The Horokiwi Community Association will carefully monitor any roading proposals.</p> <p>Horokiwi residents have raised issues concerning the safety of the existing intersection of SH2 and Horokiwi Road, particularly for traffic leaving Horokiwi. Various studies by WRC and WCC touch on additional access for the area. WCC and HCA will work with Transit NZ Ltd to explore options to improve the safety of the existing exit from Horokiwi Rd onto SH2.</p> <p>A lower speed limit for Horokiwi's roads has been considered in the development of this plan. On balance, it is assumed that a reduced official speed limit is a relatively low priority for the area. Existing roads are such that drivers are already limited in the speed that they can drive. There are very strong incentives to drive sensibly and safely.</p>
Individual action	Individuals should take responsibility for driving safely.
District Plan provisions	-
Other methods	Monitor traffic safety through various mechanisms including surveys and road accident records.

6.5 Fostering a safe environment

6.5.1 Identifying the issues

Some safety issues were raised at the Community Open Day, in addition to the road safety issues described in [Section 6.4: Efficiency, safety and convenience of access](#). Comments made include:

“there is NO civil defence plan for Horokiwi, no fire training or drills, no emergency water installations, and no early warning emergency support.”

“A water reservoir somewhere up the hill would assist for fire control.”

Residents’ personal safety is perceived as relatively secure, with a close community looking out for one another, and limited road access to the area. The suggested key issues concerning community safety are:

- A Civil Defence Plan for the areas needs revisiting.
- Fire risk in the area can be high and water supplies require reassessment. For example, the dam on Hillcroft Road may need dredging to support emergency fire responses.

6.5.2 Objective

OBJECTIVE	To foster a safe environment for those living, working and visiting the rural area <u>ensuring adequate provision for civil defence and fire safety</u> . (See WCC RAO #14, Appendix One.)
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6.5.3 Methods

Community projects	The “Neighbourhood watch” scheme is a useful tool to promote community safety, and could be promoted.
Combined Community Association & WCC projects	Develop and maintain a Civil Defence Plan for Horokiwi. Appraise rural fire risks and requirements, including training, and take appropriate action. Co-ordinate provision of the official blue rural fire tags for all rural properties. Address emergency water supplies for fire fighting and drinking.
Provision of WCC services	-
Provision of other services	-
Community Association and WCC advocacy, facilitation and/or education	-

Individual action	-
District Plan provisions	-
Other methods	-

6.6 Recreation

6.6.1 Identifying the issues

Horokiwi provides significant space for recreational activities such as walking, horse-riding, and cycling. The area and its residents also have a strong relationship with the adjacent Belmont Regional Park. The Park is administered by the Wellington Regional Council (WRC) and Horokiwi provides a gateway for some Park users. Wellington City Council also manages some significant areas of reserve and other land in the area. WRC and WCC reserve areas shown in [Map 2: Horokiwi’s bush, streams, and open space land](#) (page 20).

The Community Open Day stimulated some a range of responses on recreation:

“Eeling in dam!”

“Playground for kids.”

“Major cycle/foot/horse traffic. That is ok...”

“More recreational activities would mean more visitors, which means more traffic, noise, litter“

The suggested key issue for the future of recreation in Horokiwi is:

- Increased recreational opportunities would benefit both the Horokiwi and wider Wellington communities, although some residents are concerned that visitors to the area could introduce concerns relating to traffic, litter, security, as well as increased fire risk over the summer months.

6.6.2 Objective

OBJECTIVE	To support a variety of high-quality rural recreational opportunities that do not adversely affect the environment. (See WCC RAO #11, Appendix One.)
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6.6.3 Methods

Community projects	-
Combined Community Association & WCC projects	-
Provision of WCC services	<p>Wellington City Council is in a position to facilitate and encourage appropriate recreational use within Horokiwi, as well as to take a role in the provision for recreation facilities or public access on the land that it manages. Better track and bridleway linkages would benefit residents and visitors to be area, although issues concerning access onto private land must be sensitively managed.</p> <p>It is considered a priority to support further improvements in the network of recreation links around Horokiwi, including tracks development. WCC will investigate track options including the following potential candidates:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • a connection linking Horokiwi to Newlands, either to Woodridge or to Seton Nossiter Park, as part of a northern heritage walkway. • additional walking tracks dropping south-east from Horokiwi Road to the Horokiwi Stream and the Korokoro Valley. <p>This investigation will be progressed in close consultation with the Horokiwi community <u>and other affected parties including neighbouring communities</u>.</p>
Provision of other services	-
Community Association and WCC advocacy, facilitation and/or education	-
Individual action	Individuals have a responsibility to act with respect if permitted access to private land for recreational purposes.
District Plan provisions	-
Other methods	Wellington City Open Space Strategy “Capital Spaces” (1998, 80p).

6.7 Water supply and wastewater and rubbish disposal

6.7.1 Identifying the issues

The management of water supply and wastewater (including sewage) and rubbish disposal in Horokiwi has attracted a lot of comment. Septic tanks service Horokiwi households; water supply is sourced through rainwater collection systems and/or stream abstractions; and there are community rubbish bins located at the top of the hill, on Horokiwi Road. These bins are cleared by WCC contractors; residents are expected to maintain them in a clean and tidy state.

The issues raised at the Community Open Day were varied. Comments received include:

“this is entirely suitable for our rural area and contributes to the rural character.” “Recycling station would be a good idea.”

“Not keen on seeing a recycling station. Korokoro is close and there seems to be a lot of mess, particularly glass, around them...”

“there are additional options that could be used – such as composting toilets ...”

“Reduce rates for rural owners if these services are provided without council assistance.”

There is some debate to be had in defining an appropriate level of servicing for what is essentially a rural area, and the extent to which water and waste issues should be included in the Rural Community Plan. The suggested key issues concerning water supply and wastewater and rubbish disposal are:

- The level of water, wastewater and rubbish disposal servicing in Horokiwi is mostly considered adequate and reflects the rural character of the area.
- Some septic tanks may not work effectively and these should be addressed.
- The Horokiwi rubbish collection facility is well used although requires close watch to manage and clean-up after inappropriate use.

6.7.2 Objective

OBJECTIVE	To promote environmentally sustainable water, wastewater and rubbish disposal schemes <u>that meet the needs of Horokiwi residents and that are consistent with the rural character of the area.</u> (See WCC RAO #8, Appendix One.)
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6.7.3 Methods

Community projects	-
Combined Community Association & WCC projects	There is some support within Horokiwi for a waste recycling facility, although some residents are concerned that this will require management in the same way as the present rubbish bins, and that such a service is uncharacteristic of a rural area.

Provision of WCC services	<p>Wellington City Council has an ongoing role in approving the design of new on-site wastewater disposal systems and monitoring any problems as they may arise.</p> <p>The Council contractors empty Horokiwi's rubbish bins. WCC should consult with the Horokiwi Community Association about the design, placement, and frequency of emptying bins in order to take account of the extreme weather conditions and residents' needs, and the responsibilities of both parties.</p>
Provision of other services	-
Community Association and WCC advocacy, facilitation and/or education	The Community Association and the Council each have a role in advocating good waste disposal practices, particularly in the disposal of household waste.
Individual action	Individual residents can take responsibility for the environmental sustainability of their individual waste management systems.
District Plan provisions	The Wellington City District Plan can encourage good practice through assessment criteria for the consideration of water supply, wastewater disposal and rubbish disposal at the time of subdivision or land use consent, where these are required.
Other methods	Regional Council regional policy, regional plan and resource consent provisions control the abstraction of water from Horokiwi's streams, and discharges to land, freshwater and the coast.

6.8 Contributing to Wellington's wellbeing

6.8.1 Introduction

Horokiwi is a vital part of the cultural, natural and economic landscape of the wider Wellington area, including Wellington City. The area provides a number of services to Wellington, in particular the quick sense of rural escape within close proximity to major urban populations, and the protection of important open space and other natural areas, conservation of historic and culturally important sites, and a range of opportunities for recreational users.

While these services might not have a financial value in themselves, they are nonetheless highly valued by many Wellingtonians, both visiting the area and appreciating it from afar.

6.8.2 Objective

OBJECTIVE	To meet, support and enhance the rural area's contribution to the Wellington's economy <u>wellbeing</u> . (See WCC RAO #13, Appendix One.)
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6.8.3 Methods

Community projects	-
Combined Community Association & WCC projects	-
Provision of WCC services	-
Provision of other services	-
Community Association and WCC advocacy, facilitation and/or education	The Wellington City Council has a role in facilitating actions or activities that help to meet, support and enhance the economic needs of the Horokiwi community and facilitate their contribution to Wellington's wellbeing.
Individual action	-
District Plan provisions	-
Other methods	-