

Role and direction

ROLE

Under the Local Government Act 2002, the Council's purposes are:

- to enable democratic local decision-making and action by, and on behalf of, the people of Wellington
- to promote the social, economic, environmental and cultural well-being of the people of Wellington, now and into the future.

The Act also imposes responsibilities relating to water, wastewater and other sanitary works (such as public toilets).

Under other legislation, we are responsible for public health and safety, waste minimisation, civil defence and emergency management, and for regulating building, land use, food and liquor sales, gambling, animal control, and a range of other activities.

The Local Government Act 2002 gives the Council a general right to take actions that are wholly or principally for the benefit of Wellington City. That Act and others give us a wide range of other powers including gathering rates (property tax) and setting bylaws.

THE LONG-TERM DIRECTION OF THE CITY IS GUIDED BY A HUGE RANGE OF FACTORS INCLUDING COMMUNITY WELL-BEING, LEGAL REQUIREMENTS, AND COSTS.

'Well-being' is a very broad concept, and means that Councils are responsible not only for basic infrastructure, but also for helping the community achieve its aspirations for - among others - prosperity, social cohesion, inclusiveness, management of resources and safety.

It is left to the Council, working with the people of Wellington, to determine whether well-being is served by Council action, and if so what type of action the Council should take. To effect the well-being of the city, we can provide services (such as roads and water supply), fund others to provide services, regulate activities (such as building and liquor licensing), or act as an advocate or facilitator working with others in the city's interests.

When we're deciding whether to get involved, and what form our involvement should take, we consider a wide range of factors including: legislative requirements - including the requirement to promote community well-being; contractual obligations; community expectations - as expressed through

'outcomes' (below) and through residents' views on specific proposals; costs, benefits, and risks; and impact on others (for example, is this the Council's responsibility or someone else's? if we provide a service will someone else withdraw?).

OUR AIMS

Our vision is for Wellington to be a vibrant, internationally competitive, and affordable city. As part of our long-term plan we set in place 13 outcomes that describe our 10-year aspirations for the city. The outcomes are: more liveable, stronger sense of place, more compact, more eventful, more inclusive, more actively engaged, better connected, more sustainable, safer, healthier, more prosperous, more competitive, and more entrepreneurial/innovative.

Of our outcomes, the first six can be characterised as seeking a high quality of life. The remaining seven can be characterised as seeking sound city foundations. Everything that we do contributes to one or more of these outcomes and they act as stepping stones to achieving the city's vision.

The outcomes guide our seven strategic areas of focus. These areas are presented as separate chapters within this report. As you read through you'll see the variety of activities that we deliver and the progress that we are making towards the outcomes.

The seven strategic areas are:

- **Governance** - building trust and confidence in decision-making
- **Environment** - protecting and enhancing Wellington's environment
- **Economic Development** - promoting the city's competitive advantages to enhance quality of life
- **Cultural Well-being** - reflecting and helping shape Wellington's unique cultural identity
- **Social and Recreation** - sustaining safe, resilient, and healthy communities
- **Urban Development** - preserving Wellington as a compact, vibrant, and attractive city now and into the future
- **Transport** - delivering an efficient and safe transport system that connects people and places.

The strategic areas are structured around the four 'well-beings' outlined in the Local Government Act 2002: cultural, economic, environmental and social. They also cover urban development, transport, and governance reflecting the importance of the role that local authorities have in these areas.

In developing the strategies we considered a wide range of issues such as population growth and diversity, demands on the transport network, changing service needs and retaining the city's character, amongst other issues.

We also reflected on the fact that to respond to these we needed to ensure there are connections in our work. Take for example our approach to urban development. We aim to manage intensive growth along a 'spine' that connects key centres. This maximises the use of existing infrastructure, provides transport choices, including reducing the need to travel, and strengthens 'sense of place' - pride in our local areas.

We are also tailored in our response - the outcomes we seek have subtle changes in emphasis for each strategy. Our outcome to be safer for instance, relates to road safety in transport and to food regulations or safe city initiatives in our social and recreation area.

This integrated approach provides us with clarity of purpose.

EXPLAINING OUR WORK

We aim to keep you informed and make ourselves accountable. In June 2009, the Council adopted our long-term plan for the period 1 July 2009-30 June 2019. This outlined the services we planned to deliver for the city for that period. This annual report explains how we've delivered on the first year of that plan.

Our comprehensive reporting reflects the fact that we do a lot. We have structured this report so it is easy to find, in one place, information on an activity of interest. For each activity we explain what we did, how effective we are over time, what it cost and how we performed against budget.

We are responsible for the well-being of Wellington and its people, now and into the future.

Snapshot of a changing city



	WELLINGTON NOW	WELLINGTON THEN	DID YOU KNOW?
PEOPLE	Wellington city has an estimated population of 195,500 and makes up 40% of the region's total population.	In 2006, the population was 185,187 and made up 40% of the region's total population.	Our population is expected to increase by 22% to 238,700 by 2031.
CAPITAL CITY STATUS	Wellington is the world's southern most capital city.	In 1839, the first European settlers arrived in Wellington on the ship 'Aurora'. The new arrivals founded the town in 1840. In 1865, it was made the nation's capital.	The Polynesian voyagers Kupe and Ngahue first discovered Wellington when they camped at the southern end of the harbour 1,000 years ago.
URBAN FORM	Wellington has an estimated 665 people per square kilometre. It is the 5 th most densely populated city in New Zealand.	In 2001, our city had an estimated 577 people per square kilometre.	In 1855 a magnitude 8.2 earthquake - the most powerful ever recorded in New Zealand - rocked Wellington. The uplift created a new fringe of beach and rock platforms along the Wellington coast. Blocks of the city's central business district - one of the most densely populated parts of the city - now occupy land that was below sea level before 1855.
DIVERSITY	According to the 2006 census: 70% of people identified themselves as European 14% as Asian 8% as Māori 5% as Pacific People 2% as either Middle Eastern, Latin American or African; and 11% as 'other'.	In 2001: 82% of people identified themselves as European 11% as Asian 8% as Māori 5% as Pacific Peoples; and 2% as 'other'.	Approximately a quarter (27%) of Wellington residents were born overseas.

	WELLINGTON NOW	WELLINGTON THEN	DID YOU KNOW?
RECREATION	Three-quarters (75%) of Wellingtonians spend more than 2½ hours a week in physical activity.	In 2006, 85% of residents spent more than 2½ hours a week in physical activity.	We are building a new 12 court indoor community sports centre and rolling out a programme of artificial surfaces for our sportsfields to encourage more people to get active.
KNOWLEDGE	In 2006, 33% of Wellingtonians over the age of 15 had a bachelor degree or higher level qualification.	In 2001, 27% of Wellingtonians over the age of 15 had a bachelor degree or higher level qualification.	Wellington city has the highest percentage of people with a degree level qualification of New Zealand's major cities.
WORKFORCE	137,970 people were employed in Wellington city in 2009.	134,300 people were employed in Wellington city in 2006.	The public administration and safety industry employs more Wellingtonians than any other industry (17%).
INCOME	Wellington city employees earn an average of \$31.90 per hour.	In 2006, the average employee earned \$24.99 per hour.	Wellington city employees have the highest average hourly earnings of all major cities in New Zealand.
TRANSPORT	Of the residents that travel into the CBD during weekdays, 38% travel by bus, 35% travel by car, 16% walk, and 4% cycle.	In 2007, 28% travelled by bus, 45% drove, 10% walked, and 7% cycled.	Wellington city has the largest proportion of residents who use public transport of all major cities in New Zealand.
WASTE	The amount of waste sent to the landfill is 413 kilograms per person.	In 2004, a total of 496 kilograms of waste per person went to the landfill.	Greenhouse gas from the city's Southern Landfill is being used to generate electricity. This year, 7.2GWh were sourced from the Landfill.