

FROM THE MAYOR



FUTURE PROOFING THE CITY

Wellington has come so far in the last decade. We've emerged as a truly world-class city – vibrant, fun, energetic, thriving and safe. We're one of the world's hottest visitor destinations and the film capital of New Zealand. We are also the nation's events capital, arts and culture capital, innovation capital, and now one of the safest capital cities in the world having recently been designated a World Health Organization Safe Community. We've also held on to the natural beauty and character that make the city a great place to live.

None of this is by accident. It's the collective result of the enthusiasm that Wellingtonians have for their city, the ideas of local entrepreneurs, the commitments of renowned artists such as those at Weta Workshop, and it's the result of the investments that the Council has made, on behalf of ratepayers, in the city's infrastructure.

This plan aims to build on that platform. It sets out our ten-year vision for the city, as well as specific commitments to take us towards that vision.

One of our major commitments will be to build a 12 court indoor community sports centre. Over the past two years we've engaged with representatives from netball, basketball, volleyball and other sports on how to meet the growing demands in those sports. We've found a solution that will offer a high quality sports and recreation facility for the whole community to enjoy.

We're also adding to the city's cultural life. We plan to support the development of a national portrait and photography gallery on the waterfront. And we'll create new exhibition space in the City Gallery to house the city's art collection.

In preparing this plan we've looked ahead and sought to address the challenges that are likely to face Wellington. We are taking steps to manage the impact of growth. Our aim is to ensure that the city's

urban design reflects our shared identity and heritage. To achieve this we plan to select areas of the city where more intensive development – such as apartments, town houses, new shops and businesses – will be encouraged, while protecting areas that have special character.

At the same time we need to focus on transport. We need to make it easier for people to walk and cycle in their local areas and to promote long-term solutions for the region's state highway and public transport networks. This plan contains several initiatives aimed at these aspirations.

We remain committed to developing Wellington's reputation as a centre for creative industries that rely on innovation, flair and cutting-edge design. These knowledge-led industries are crucial to our prosperity because they're the growth industries of the future. With a well-educated, highly-connected workforce, we're well placed but we'll only succeed if we compete globally. That's why we are working alongside others to ensure that Wellington establishes a direct air route to Asia. It's also why we are part of the Wellington Regional Strategy, which brings together all councils in the region to map out a path towards sustainable economic growth.

As we prepared this plan, we listened to what ratepayers want. After hearing your submissions, we've amended some proposals, increased our support for others, and in doing so kept the rates requirement broadly in line with that originally proposed.

The Council has worked hard on this programme. We've taken a strategic approach, and sought to support projects that will enhance our city well into the future.

A handwritten signature in black ink, which appears to read 'Kerry Prendergast'.

KERRY PRENDERGAST MAYOR