



A Message from Mayor Kerry Prendergast

Looking after Wellingtonians' quality of life.

The challenge of a Council, currently, is to provide for the well-being of its communities, both now and into the future.

We do this by providing the essential services on which the city depends – bringing water to Wellington's homes and businesses, collecting and safely disposing of waste, providing roads and footpaths so that people can move around the city, looking after parks and gardens, and overseeing building, land development and public health.

The Council also provides other services, which – in our view, and I am sure in the view of most Wellingtonians – make vital contributions to residents' quality of life and the city's prosperity.

We provide swimming pools, recreation centres, libraries, the City Art Gallery and museums. We also support events such as the IRB Sevens, the World of WearableArts, the NZ International Arts Festival, and provide venues and public spaces that bring people together, and contribute to the city's vibrancy and economic strength.

We fund environmental programmes and grants, preserve heritage and fund artworks such as Sky Blues in Post Office Square which reflect the city's character. We also provide housing for those whose needs are not met by other landlords and support efforts to help people who have no homes.

This long-term plan sets out our programme for the next 10 years. In determining this programme, we've considered the views of hundreds of Wellingtonians who made submissions on our draft plan, and the many more who have provided feedback in other ways such as taking part in community meetings or signing electronic submissions or sending letters to councillors.

Some of you supported an expansion of services, while others preferred the status quo. Very few submitters wanted to see major cuts to the work we currently do.

We have also had to consider the challenging and changeable economic environment, and its impact on household budgets. In the past 10 years we have invested in the city's infrastructure and key services – transport, water, waste – and in parks, events, festivals, venues, and artistic and creative endeavours that make the city such a fantastic place to live and do business.

Our approach to this plan has been to sustain this momentum – to focus on areas that will make a difference, while reducing costs by making modest alterations to some services where these do not unduly impact on the high quality of life that Wellingtonians experience.

The alternative would have been to make deep cuts that might cost jobs in the local economy, remove important services, and make Wellington less vibrant, less competitive, and a less enjoyable place to live.

This plan seeks to balance competing views and interests, to reflect the collective wishes and aspirations of Wellington's people for the years ahead.

And it contains, in my view, a strong programme – one that is affordable, and will position us as a vibrant, internationally competitive city.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Kerry Prendergast".

KERRY PRENDERGAST
MAYOR