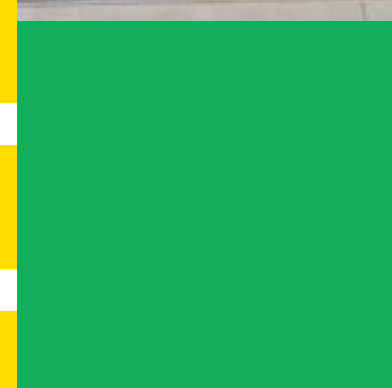


# Tō mātou mahere ngahuru tau Our 10-year Plan

2024-34 Long-term Plan Amended Volume 1 - Summary of our plan



Absolutely Positively  
**Wellington City Council**  
Me Heke Ki Pōneke



# Ihirangi Contents

## Wāhanga 1: Kupu Whakataki

### Section 1: Introduction

#### He mihi nā te Koromatua me te Tumu Whakara

Mayor and Chief Executive's Welcome

#### Te Tākai Here Tākai Here Partnership

Tākai Here Partnership

#### Tā mātou mō te anamata

Our vision for the future

#### Tā mātou mahere ngahuru tau

Our plan for the next 10 years

#### Ā mātou i rongo ai

What we have heard

4

6

8

11

12

15

## Wāhanga 2: He whakarāpopoto

### Section 2: Summary of our plan 20

#### Ngā whakarāpopoto rautaki matua

Key strategy summaries

21

#### He kupu whakataki

Introduction

21

#### He whakarāpopoto o te rautaki ahumoni

Financial strategy summary

22

#### Kōrero ahumoni kē atu

Additional financial information

27

#### He whakarāpopoto o te rautaki tūāhanga

Infrastructure Strategy summary

30

#### Tā mātou anga rautaki

Our strategic framework

36

#### Ngā Kaikaunihera

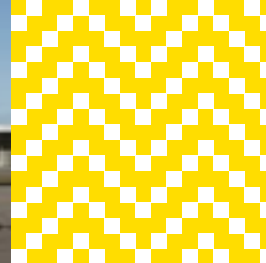
Your Councillors

44

#### Tō te Kaitātari Kaute Whakaaro

Independent Auditor's Report

46



# Kupu Whakataki

## Introduction



### Kei tēnei wāhanga

Kei tēnei wāhanga, he kupu tāwhiri nā te Koromatua rāua ko te Tumu Whakarae, he whakarāpopototanga anō hoki o tō mātou tiro whakamua, o ā te hāpori whakahoki kōrero, me ngā panonitanga i muri mai o te whakawhitinga kōrero.

### In this section

This section includes a welcome from our Mayor and Chief Executive, summaries of our vision, feedback from the community and what was changed after formal consultation.





# Kia ora Welcome

Ko tō mātou matawhānui mō  
te anamata o *Pōneke: te pokapū  
auaha e ora tōnui nei te tangata  
me te taiao*, e whai ana kia  
tāone tainekeneke, tāone toitū,  
tāone ngangahau anō hoki.  
Me whakatakoto e mātou ngā  
tūporo ināianehei hei tūāpapa mō  
te anamata.

Ko tā te mahere pae tawhiti he  
whakatakoto i te ara e taea ai tēnei  
whāinga. Ka whakatakoto i ngā  
whakaarotau mō ngā tau 10 e haere  
ake nei, ko ngā mahi ēnā, me ngā  
moni e utua ai ēnā mahi.

Our vision for the future,  
*Pōneke: the creative capital  
where people and nature thrive*,  
is about creating a dynamic,  
sustainable and vibrant city.  
We need to put the building  
blocks in place now to lay the  
foundations for this future.

A Long-term Plan sets out how we  
will do this. It states our priorities  
for the next 10 years, including what  
we will do, how much it will cost and  
how we will pay for it.

## What makes up the plan?

### Volume 1 Amended

- Strategic priorities and overview of work programme
- Budget summary
- Financial Strategy summary
- Infrastructure Strategy summary

### Volume 2

- Statements of service provision (amended)
- Significant forecasting assumptions (amended)
- All financial information (amended) and policies that support this plan

### Volume 3

- Full strategic framework
- Full Infrastructure Strategy (amended)
- Financial Strategy (amended)



# He mihi nā te Koromatua me te Tumu Whakarae

Kātahi te tāone papai, ngākau ko tēnei. Ngā toi, te taiao, me te hāpori kanorau – koinā i pai ai tēnei tāone hei noninga, hei wāhi mahi, hei wāhi pārekareka.

Heoi anō kua eke tō tātou tāone ki tētehi wā motuhake o tōna hītori. Me whanake tātou e pai kē atu ai, e manawaroa ake ai tō tātou tāone ā haereke nei, me te whai whakaaro anō hoki ki ngā take ōhanga o te wā.

Nā reira ko tā mātou mahere ngahuru-tau 24-34, he mea nui whakaharahara. Ko tā mātou, he āta tāupeupe i te kahu, kia whai tahua haumi a Pōneke hei oranga mō ōna hāpori, ka rua he ngana ki te papare i ngā aukaha o te ao ōhanga e rongonui nei tātou katoa, huri i te motu.

Inā te nui whakaharahara o ngā whakataunga mō tēnei tāone, ko whea hoki ngā whakaarotau, me te titiro whakamua tonu anō ki te anamata ngahuru tau o tēnei tāone, ā haere ake noa. Inā anō te nui o ngā wero. E pahake haere ana ngā tūāhanga – e mate moni ana ngā whatunga tūnuku, tūnuku ā-wai anō hoki.

Me mātua whai tātou kia whare manawaroa ō tātou whare, kia whakarite katoa i ngā whare me ngā tūnuku mō te tini haeretanga o te tangata, me te āki tonu i te kauparenga o te huringa āhuarangi.

Kua waihangahia e mātou tētehi mahere pūtea ka 12.0% te pikinga ki ngā utu rēti (tipunga tōmuri i te tumu kaiutu rēti). Ko ngā utu kene hoki tērā, he āpitihanga ki ngā rēti matua, he mea whakataki i te tau 2024/25, ā, he pikinga 1.6% anō tērā (he pikinga toharite o te 0.6% i ia tau mō ngā tau ngahuru o te mahere).

Kei te mahere ngahuru tau o 2025 ngā panonitanga ki ngā mahere pūtea e hāngai ai ki ngā pānga o tā te kāwanatanga whakahoutanga ki te wai ā-rohe pai. Ko te hua o tēnei, ko te whakawhitinga o te mana pupuri, me te mana whakahaere i tō tātou tūāhanga wai, mai i Te Kaunihera ki tētehi hinonga Kaunihera-rau hou. Ko te 1 o Hūrae 2026 te rā o te whakawhitinga mana e ai ki tēnei mahere.

Ko te tauira tuku whakamutunga mō tō mātou whatunga wai, ka whai kiko i ngā whakataunga ā ērā atu Kaunihera o te rohe, ā, i whakatauria tō mātou panonitanga ki te mahere ngahuru tau i mua i te tukanga taha whakature mō ngā whakahoutanga e whakamutua ana, nā tēnei ka kore e āta mōhio ka pēwhea ngā hoahoa whakawhiti i te mutunga.

E memeha ai ngā tūraru ki te manawaroa o tō tātou tāone, e hokona atu ana e mātou hētehi whenua rīhi o Te Kaunihera, ka whakamahia ai hēra pūtea ki te whakatū i tētehi tahua manawaroa hou e whakaiti ai i ngā tūraru inihua, e āwhina ai hoki ki te whakakanorau i tō mātou kōpaki haumitanga. Mā tēnei me te whakaitinga o tō mātou hōtaka pūrawa ki te paku whakawātea i ō mātou nama, e ngāwari ake ai te wāhi ki te whakapakari i a Pōneke i te huringa āhuarangi- i te whiunga o te huarere, i te rūwhenua nui rānei.

E tohu ana tēnei mahere ngahuru tau me tōna panonitanga i tētehi tirohanga whakawhanake, he mea ārahi i te ngahuru tau e haere ake nei. Tēnā koutou katoa o Pōneke i whai wāhi mai ki tēnei tukanga me ā koutou whakahoki kōrero ki ā mātou tono i ngā tau 2024/2025.

Mā te kotahitanga, ka ora pai a Pōneke hei pokapū auaha e ora nei tōna taiao, me ōna tāngata.



**Tory Whānau**  
**Te Koromatua o Pōneke**



**Matt Prosser**  
**Te Tumu-Whakarae**

# Mayor and Chief Executive's Welcome

We have a great capital city with a lot of heart. Art, nature and diverse communities – it's what makes the city such an amazing place to live, work and play.

But we've come to an important time in Wellington's history. We must develop into a more liveable and resilient city for the future while responding to our current economic environment.

So this next 10-year plan (our 2024–34 Long-term Plan) is hugely important. We've had to balance between investing in Wellington, so our communities thrive while also responding to tough economic conditions being felt by councils and communities all over the country.

As a city, we've had to make some hard decisions about what to prioritise while also picturing what our city can look like in ten years' time and beyond. We have some major challenges. Our infrastructure is ageing – our water and transport networks need significant, ongoing and costly upgrades. We need to ensure our buildings are resilient, prepare for population growth with housing and transport, and act on climate change.

Over the next 10 years, we plan to spend \$3.5 billion in capital costs to make improvements in the city, and \$8.96 billion in operating costs to provide

the hundreds of services Wellingtonians use every day – including libraries, swimming pools, recreation centres and sports fields, festivals, footpaths and our many regulatory services.

We have created a budget that results in a rates increase in 2025/26 of 12.0 percent (after growth in the ratepayer base). This includes the sludge levy, which is in addition to general rates, and was introduced from 2024/25. This year the levy is a 1.6 percent increase (average annual increase of 0.6 percent over the 10 years of the plan).

The LTP Amendment in 2025 also included adjusting our budgets to reflect the impact of the Government's Local Water Done Well reform. This will result in the transfer of ownership and management of our water infrastructure from the Council to a new multi-Council-owned water entity. The transfer date of 1 July 2026 is reflected in this plan.

The final delivery model for our water network will be subject to decisions made by other Councils in the region and we finalised our LTP Amendment prior to the legislative process for the reforms being completed, which creates a level of uncertainty as to the final transition arrangements.

Our environment also needs care and attention, and this is reflected in the

Council's Zero-Waste Strategy, as well as increased funding for climate resilience and tree coverage in our city centre. Our Zero-Waste Strategy aims to build a sustainable future through reusing, recycling and reducing waste. From 2027, we'll be introducing an organics collection service and redesigning our rubbish and recycling collections to reduce landfill waste.

As with any Long-term Plan, we've also needed to consider our financial resilience. The increasing risk of earthquakes and climate change-related disasters, and the increasing difficulties getting insurance cover, has massively changed the insurance risk that Council faces. As a result, our public assets like libraries, pools and waste systems cannot be covered by insurance. As our current investment portfolio is not diversified, most of our investment assets are exposed to the same kind of risk.

To mitigate these risks and build our city's resilience, we are selling several of the Council's ground leases and using this money to set up a new disaster resilience fund that will reduce our insurance risk, and help diversify our investment portfolio. This, along with a reduction in our capital programme to increase our debt headroom, will put us better placed to help rebuild Wellington after a climate change-charged weather event or a major earthquake.

This Long-term Plan and Amendment represents a developing vision which will inform the next decade. Thank you to the thousands of Wellingtonians who participated in this process and provided feedback on our consultation proposals in 2024 and 2025. Together, we can ensure Pōneke continues to be a creative capital where people and nature thrive.



**Tory Whānau**  
Mayor of Wellington



**Matt Prosser**  
Chief Executive

# Te Tā kai Here

## Tā kai Here Partnership

In April 2022, Te Kaunihera o Pōneke and mana whenua in the Wellington rohe adopted Tā kai Here – a collective partnership agreement with Taranaki Whānui ki te Upoko o te Ika, Te Rūnanga o Toa Rangatira, and Te Rūnanganui o Te Ātiawa ki te Upoko o te Ika a Māui.

This collective agreement set the principles, values and priorities for our work together. The date of the signing was significant, in being the 182nd anniversary of the signing of the Treaty of Waitangi in Te Whanganui-a-Tara.

The partnership is expressed through the narrative and imagery of a waka. The role we all play is like that of a hoe (paddle) propelling the waka forward, creating a partnership that looks ahead and plans for the future of Wellington. It also refers to the binding, lashing, knotting and tying of the waka to ensure it is safe and fit for our shared purposes. This represents the way our shared values and tikanga ensure a strong relationship.

The Council is dedicated to strengthening our relationships with our Tā kai Here partners as well as Māori communities. This includes providing opportunities for meaningful input, contribution and leadership roles in the decision-making process for our city.





## Ko wai mā ō mātou hoa Tā kai Here? Who are our Tā kai Here partners?

Within all these iwi are multiple hapū (sub-tribes) and whānau (families) who we will work with to establish formal partnerships over the coming years.

## Taranaki Whānui ki te Upoko o te Ika

The Port Nicholson Block Settlement Trust was created in 2008 to receive the settlement package for Taranaki Whānui ki te Upoko o Te Ika (Taranaki Whānui). Taranaki Whānui represents people who whakapapa back to Te Āti Awa, Ngāti Ruanui, Taranaki, Ngāti Tama, Ngāti Mutunga and other iwi from the Taranaki area.

Taranaki Whānui ki Te Upoko o Te Ika is the collective group of individuals who descend from one or more of the ancestors of the following Iwi: Te Atiawa; Ngāti Tama; Taranaki; Ngāti Ruanui; and other Taranaki iwi such as Ngāti Mutunga. The takiwā for Taranaki Whānui ki te Upoko o te Ika was recounted to the New Zealand Company by the Rangatira Te Wharepouri in 1839 and followed the Māori tradition of marking a takiwa by tracing from headland to headland. The eastern boundary was established by the kāinga at Mukamuka on the stream of the same name. The takiwā (areas) included are the catchments of the Orongorongo, Wainuiomata, Te Awakairangi (Hutt) Rivers and Makara Stream along with Te Whanganui-a-Tara and the three islands in the harbour. The western boundary was established at Pipinui Point and included the pā of Ngutu Kākā on the northwestern side.

## Ngāti Toa Rangatira

Te Rūnanga o Toa Rangatira is the mandated iwi authority for Ngāti Toa Rangatira. It is the administrative body for their assets and interests.

There are two Ngāti Toa marae in Te Upoko o te Ika – Hongoeka Marae and Takapūwāhia Marae.

The Ngāti Toa Rangatira area of interest spans the Cook Strait. It covers the lower North Island from the Rangitikei in the north and includes the Kāpiti Coast, Hutt Valley, and Wellington areas, as well as Kāpiti and Mana Islands. It includes large areas of the Marlborough Sounds and much of the northern South Island. The main areas of Ngāti Toa Rangatira occupation in the Wellington Region were the lands on the south-west coast of Wellington at Ōhāriu, Porirua, Kāpiti Island and at locations on the Horowhenua Coast.

## Te Āti Awa

Te Rūnanganui o Te Āti Awa ki te Upoko o Te Ika a Māui is based out of Te Māori in Waiwhetu.

There are three Te Āti Awa Marae in the region, Waiwhetu Marae, Pipitea Marae and Te Tatau o te Pō Marae.

## Ngā Whakaarotau rautaki Strategic priorities

To fulfil our vision of Pōneke being the creative capital where people and nature thrive, we need to ensure that these iwi and Māori from our wider community are contributing to the decision making in our city.

To ensure we successfully achieve this we will continue to work on the following shared strategic priorities with our Tā kai Here partners and Māori communities:

- Mauri Ora o te Tangata – Wellbeing of people
- Te Ao Māori and te reo Māori – Wellbeing of culture, heritage, arts, and language
- Kāinga me te Whenua – Wellbeing of housing and land
- Taiao – Wellbeing of our environment
- Partnership.

Together with strong, open and transparent relationships, these priorities will provide the platform for further opportunities for Māori to participate in and create a positive future for Wellington.

We already have several strategic and operational commitments, which align with these priorities. Council staff will continue to work alongside Māori in our city to enhance effective engagement of Māori in decision-making. We have committed staff and other resources to support, advocate on behalf of, and guide the Council's interactions with Māori.

We are dedicated to building the staff capability and cultural intelligence of our organisation to further strengthen our capacity as an organisation to respond to the needs of our Tā kai Here partners and Māori. This includes building staff capability in basic te reo Māori (language), tikanga (practices) and developing staff knowledge and understanding of Māori concepts, values, histories and experiences. It also includes enhancing staff confidence and skills in engaging with Māori to establish and manage effective relationships.

In October 2022, the Council appointed two Pou iwi, both of whom were nominated by our Tā kai Here partners. These Pou iwi have joined us for the 2022–2025 triennium, have full voting rights on all committees and sit on nearly all Council committees and sub committees. The Council also established Te Whanganui-a-Tara, Māori Ward at the 2022 election so that all Māori in the city have stronger representation. Increasing the ways that the Council involves Tā kai Here partners and Māori in the formal governance of the Council are key steps toward achieving meaningful partnership with Māori in shaping the future of Wellington City.



# Tā mātou mō te anamata

## Our vision for the future

Wellington is situated at the south-western tip of the North Island and is New Zealand's capital city. We provide various services to the community to achieve our vision:

- Pōneke, te wāhi auaha e whitawhita ai ōna tāngata me tōna taiao  
Pōneke, the creative capital where people and nature thrive.
- Our commitment to our mana whenua partners grounds us in how we deliver on the vision.
- We are committed to Te Tiriti o Waitangi and strong partnerships with mana whenua. Tākai Here and Te Tiriti o Waitangi lay the foundation for everything that the Council does.

Underpinning our vision are five intertwined community outcomes. These are aspirational statements and more detail on these is provided from page 38–42.

To help us achieve these goals, we asked what priorities we should focus on now to make sure we make progress towards them. In March to May 2023, more than 3,000 Wellingtonians gave us feedback that led to the nine on the right.

These priorities have helped us shape this plan and to make the hard decisions needed.

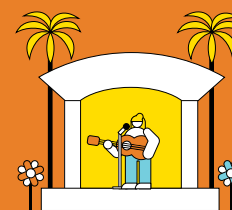
We are proud that this 10-year plan also embeds five approaches to help guide the Council in all parts of our work – meaning that going forward we are committed to putting te ao Māori, accessibility, the climate, community engagement and effective delivery at the heart of the Council and your city.

More information on these approaches is included from page 37 of this document and is also provided in our Statements of Service Provision in the amended Volume 2.

Wellington City Council

### Community outcomes

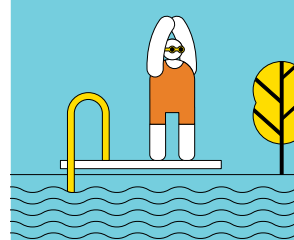
### LTP priorities



#### Cultural Wellbeing

A welcoming, diverse and creative city

- Nurture and grow our arts sector
- Celebrate and make visible te ao Māori across our city



#### Social Wellbeing

A city of healthy and thriving whānau and communities

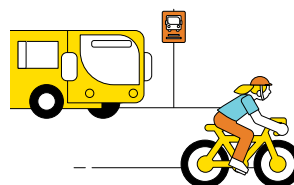
- Increase access to good, affordable housing to improve the wellbeing of our communities
- Invest in sustainable, connected and accessible community and recreation facilities



#### Economic Wellbeing

An innovative business friendly city

- Revitalise the city and suburbs to support a thriving and resilient economy and support job growth



#### Urban Form

A liveable and accessible, compact city

- Collaborate with our communities to mitigate and adapt to climate change
- Transform our transport system to move more people with fewer vehicles



#### Environmental Wellbeing

A city restoring and protecting nature

- Fix our water infrastructure and improve the health of waterways
- Transform our waste system to enable a circular economy

# Tā mātou mahere ngahuru tau

## Our plan for the next 10 years

This Long-term Plan was amended in 2025 to reflect the Council's decision in October 2024 not to sell its shares in Wellington International Airport Limited.

The decision means the Council has sought an alternative approach to addressing its two key financial issues of under-insurance and a lack of investment diversification (see page 25 for more).

This has resulted in changes to the Council's Financial Strategy, and some changes to the Infrastructure Strategy, detailed in the amended Volume 3 of the LTP.

The alternative approach has also included changes to Council's planned capital programme over the remaining nine years of the LTP. Several projects have been rephased, rescoped or stopped.

Budgets have been amended as appropriate in this LTP Amendment, as well as service levels as outlined in the amended Volume 2.

### The main projects impacted are:

- Begonia House remediation
- Bond Store upgrade
- City Streets upgrades
- Frank Kitts Park redevelopment
- Karori Events Centre
- Low-cost, low-risk transport projects
- Paneke Pōneke Bike Network Plan
- Suburban Town Centres upgrades
- Te Awe Māpara – the Community Facilities Plan
- Te Ngākau Civic Square Precinct
- Venues upgrades
- Wellington Zoo upgrades

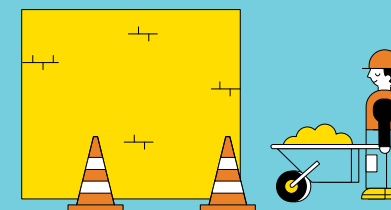
### Three Waters

In response to the Government's Local Water Done Well reform process, the Long-term Plan now reflects that from 1 July 2026 ownership, cost and responsibility of the three-waters network will no longer be with the Council.

As disclosed in the amended Volume 2 Significant Forecasting Assumptions, from page 124, and in our Infrastructure Strategy, there is uncertainty in this area as our Water Services Delivery Plan (WSDP) is yet to be finalised and other Councils in the region are yet to make decisions on water reform. Any WSDP also has to be approved by the Secretary for Local Government.

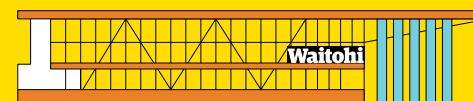
There is also uncertainty about the financial impact of the reforms because the ownership structure, and the details of assets, liabilities and services that will be transferred are not yet confirmed.

## We plan to invest



# \$3.5 billion

of capital expenditure (CAPEX) to improve our city over the next 10 years



# \$8.96 billion

of operating expenditure (OPEX) to run our services

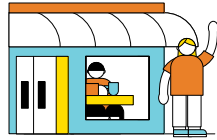


## Urban Development



**\$63.5m**

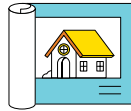
of OPEX on our public spaces, including the Green Network Plan



**\$112.5m**

of CAPEX on the Golden Mile

## Governance



**\$46.2m**

of OPEX for protecting our history through the City Archive



**\$60.5m**

of OPEX to provide help to our residents through the Service and Contact centres

## Transport



**\$925.1m**

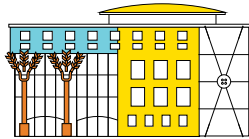
of CAPEX on our transport network, including \$71.4m on sustainable street changes through Paneke Pōneke, our bike network plan, and \$169.1m on our retaining walls, tunnels and bridges

## Social and Recreation



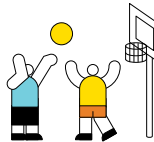
**\$108.6m**

of CAPEX on our recreation facilities and services, including \$12.7m to upgrade Grenada North sportsfields



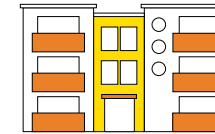
**\$108.6m**

of CAPEX to finish construction of the new Te Matapihi Central Library



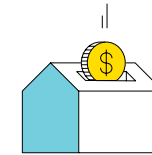
**\$57.4m**

of OPEX over 10 years in grants for our social and recreation communities



**\$559.6m**

of CAPEX on renewing and upgrading our social housing units



**\$488.6m**

of OPEX on our social housing portfolio

## Economic Development and Cultural Wellbeing



**\$167.0m**

of CAPEX on our venues, museums and galleries, including \$112.2m on the Town Hall (excluding demolition costs)



**\$124.3m**

of OPEX over 10 years in grants for our arts, cultural and economic communities

## Environment and Infrastructure



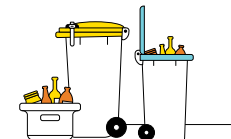
**\$37.4m**

of CAPEX on upgrading and renewing our Coastal, Town Belt and Reserves and Walkways infrastructure



**\$33.4m**

of CAPEX on the Southern Landfill extension



**\$27.6m**

of OPEX on waste minimisation programmes



# Ā mātou i rongo ai What we have heard

## Tā te hapori ki te waihangatanga o te mahere How the community shaped our plan

The following section summarises the engagement on the 2024–34 Long-term Plan, the feedback we received and the decisions adopted by the Council following formal consultation in May 2024.

For details of the consultation on the LTP Amendment in March to April 2025, visit [wcc.nz/plans](https://wcc.nz/plans).

We have built this plan with help from our community. In the past 18 months we have conducted specific Long-term Plan engagements on community outcomes and priorities in March–May 2023, on the review of our rating policies in September–

October 2023, a Citizens' Assembly in October 2023, and a final formal consultation phase in April–May 2024.

Summaries of the information we received on this Long-term Plan are below with more information on our website [wcc.nz/ltp](https://wcc.nz/ltp).

### Priorities for the Long-term Plan

We received 2,722 responses in this early engagement – a huge increase on the 327 responses to the similar engagement for the 2021 LTP.

The priorities that were consistently ranked highly by the community were:

- Improve resilience of pipes, roads and other infrastructure
- Improve city safety at night
- More funding for the arts and cultural sectors
- Better public transport infrastructure
- Make our cultural diversity more visible

- Upgrade suburban town centres
- Shift to an economy that creates less waste
- Improve the health of our waterways
- Prepare to withstand and adapt to climate change.

The feedback from this stage was used alongside data and research to develop the priorities for the Long-term Plan that are outlined on page 9 and this information informs our full strategic direction, which is summarised from page 36 of this document and in full in Volume 3 (unamended).

The full report of this stage is available on our website.

We received

**2,722**

responses in this early engagement – a huge increase on the **327** from the **2021 LTP**





## Rating Policy Review

As part of this Long-term Plan we conducted a review of our rating policies. This determines how we cut up the rates pie, not how much the rates are. We received 160 submissions during an engagement process where we asked about six changes to our rating policies:

- Decreasing the commercial rates differential from 3.70 to 3.25
- Introducing a general rates differential of 4.5:1 on vacant land/derelict buildings
- Increasing the value threshold for properties with more than one land use from \$800k to \$1.5m
- Introducing a remission of general rates for Earthquake-Prone-Buildings (EPB) and targeted rates for both residential and commercial not-fit-for-purpose buildings
- Removing the first home builder remission
- Extending the current Māori freehold land remission policy to all types of Māori land.
- Introducing a general rates differential of 5:1 on vacant land and for derelict buildings
- Increasing the value threshold for properties with more than one land use from \$800k to \$1.5m
- Increasing the rates remission for low-income ratepayers from \$700 (GST inclusive) to a maximum of \$800 (GST inclusive)
- Introducing a remission of general rates for Earthquake-Prone-Buildings (EPB) and targeted rates for both residential and commercial not-fit-for-purpose buildings
- Removing the rates remission for first home builders
- Extending the current Māori freehold land remission policy to all types of Māori land.

After receiving the feedback, Council has made the followings changes to Rating Policies:

More information is available on page 28, and all of the details are in the full policies in Volume 2 (unamended) of this plan from page 160.

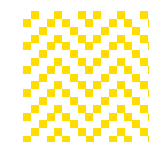
## Citizens' Assembly

In September and October 2023, a Citizens' Assembly of 42 Wellingtonians met to deliberate on the following question and provide their perspectives to feed into Council decisions about the Long-term Plan:

*We need to find a balance between what WCC could deliver, and what resource it has available, which is fair to everyone. How might we do this?*

Sessions were facilitated to ensure all perspectives were heard, and subject matter experts were called upon to answer participants' questions and provide information to support the Assembly in developing its advice. During the final session, the Citizens' Assembly's advice to Council was presented to the Mayor, Councillors and members of the Council's Executive Leadership Team. The full advice is available here [wcc.nz/citizens-assembly](https://wcc.nz/citizens-assembly). It includes 10 pieces of advice across the following areas:

- Investigating alternative revenue streams
- Capital expenditure
- Open space
- Housing
- Community funding
- Process





## Formal consultation

The formal consultation went live on Friday 12 April and ran until midnight 12 May. The public could submit via our Let's Talk website, through posted or emailed submission forms or via direct email to [ltp@wcc.govt.nz](mailto:ltp@wcc.govt.nz). The aim was to accept feedback in as many forms as possible from as many audiences as possible. We received 4,077 submissions in the month, double the number received in 2021. Overall, there were 7,724 downloads of LTP information from our website. The consultation document was downloaded 3,779 times, and the additional individual files on the key proposals were downloaded 1,709 times. The third highest downloaded document was the information on fees and user charges which was downloaded 1,208 times.

We hosted 16 hui across the month of consultation, including a general public webinar, school workshops with 130 children, specific consultation with hapori Māori, businesses, and topic specific engagement on Khandallah Pool and Wadestown Community Centre.

Direct emails were sent to over 10,000 people, including all 83 primary and secondary schools in Pōneke and 87 community organisations, including 14 te ao Māori organisations. Our promotional campaigns on Council social media channels had 1,534,503 reach, 42,422 engagements, and 7,870 link clicks to the LTP website. Digital advertising had 1,375,158 impressions, with 8,102 clicks through to the website.



# 4,077

total submissions

# 298

oral hearing requests

# 3,799

downloads of the consultation document

# 44

funding requests

# 4,013

comments across 2,367 website submissions

# 27,000+

unique visitors to the LTP website homepage

## Ngā whakataunga What was decided

The Council deliberated on the key proposals and all of the consultation feedback and other changes to the plan at the 30 May 2024 Long-term Plan committee meeting.

The three key proposals were adopted as consulted:

### 1. Increased water network funding:

Investment of \$680m OPEX and \$1.2b CAPEX, addressing some of the drinking water network issues in the short to long-term with additional operational funding for short-term work to address water leaks as well as initiatives, such as water meters, to address water supply over the medium to long-term. Our capital expenditure will be prioritised toward the most critical wastewater network risks.

### 2. Waste collection changes:

The new services to be introduced from 2027 onwards are: a rates-funded rubbish wheelie bin that will be collected fortnightly, combined with a rates-funded weekly organics service for food scraps and garden waste; a bigger 240L fortnightly recycling wheelie bin and retaining our 45L fortnightly glass service. In addition the Council will:

- investigate how to implement collection trials for multi-unit developments and the central city
- investigate how the current recycling bins can be repurposed or recycled as part of the implementation of the new services
- review the size of the bins for the collection of rubbish 6 to 12 months after the implementation of the new services to ensure the collection meets the needs of households, including those with high and low waste disposal needs.

### 3. Investment and insurance:

The Council will sell its full holding of airport shares and create a new publicly owned financial asset by reinvesting the proceeds in a perpetual investment fund. Proceeds from future ground lease sales could also be transferred into the fund (if/when these leases were considered for sale).

## Key changes

### Parking

The Council agreed not to include the additional parking revenue from the suburban parking proposal for the 2024/25 year in the LTP, and it will investigate and report back in time for the 2025/26 Annual Plan process on options for suburban parking where demand for parking is high and which align with Parking policy. This change will result in \$2m of lost revenue and a 0.4 percent increase in rates for the 2024/25 year.

The Council adopted the motorcycle parking fees as per the consultation proposal. It noted that the fee is up to \$2.50 per hour but the specifics of the fee will be determined through a separate Traffic Resolution consultation process that will follow the LTP process. There will also be the option of a daily cap on the fees included as part of the traffic Resolution process.

### Khandallah Pool

The Khandallah Pool will remain open for at least Year 1 and a community advisory group will be established to be engaged with over six months. This group receive the findings of an engineering review that will identify if a cheaper fix for the pool is possible within the \$7.5m budget currently assigned to this project.

This group will include representatives from both the community, to be approved by the Mayor, and the Council and will be supported by Council officers. The Council will also commission further technical and engineering expert advice to support this process, noting the health and safety imperatives of any preferred solution. Officers will report back to Council at the conclusion of process with all final decisions remaining with the Council. This process will cost \$80,000.

### Community requests

In summary, the Council decided that the final plan should include the following additional changes from the draft that was consulted on.

- Capital Kiwi:** Allocate \$100,000 per annum to the community organisation.
- Wellington NZ funding:** Reallocate \$500,000 per annum of funding from Te Papa to Wellington NZ. This results in a \$500,000 decrease in funding for WellingtonNZ, as opposed to the \$1m decrease proposed in the draft budget.
- National Music Centre:** The Council will provide the requested \$182,500 funding for the National Music Centre in Te Ngākau Civic Square, which is its portion of the centre's request that the region's councils provide \$500,000 of funding, with a funding proposal to be developed between officers and the centre.

This funding will come from reprioritising the existing Creative Capital operational budget from the 2023/24 and 2024/25 financial year to the National Music Centre.

**4. City safety:** The Council will develop a plan (including key measures), with relevant agencies, to reduce crime and improve safety in Wellington with a focus on the central city, including increasing social grants funding for safety initiatives by \$500,000 per annum from Year 1.

**5. Arts sector:**

- a. Retain ongoing commitment to support a Living Wage top up for events and artists, and review the options in the next 12 months for this to be achieved through existing fund criteria or the continuation of specific top-up Living Wage funding.
- b. Add a musicians' sector group to the Aho Tini Creative Sector working group(s) in line with the Aho Tini 2030 Arts, Culture and Creativity Strategy and Aho Tini Action Plan.

**6. Skate parks:** The Grants Subcommittee will allocate \$80,000 from the Sportsville Fund in Year 2 of the LTP for feasibility studies for upgrades of the Waitangi Park and Ian Galloway skate parks.

**7. Living wage:** On top of the events and artists funding above, the Council will provide Council-controlled organisations (CCOs) with additional top-up funding (at a cost of \$145,000) to pay the Living Wage in the 2024/25 financial year, with direction that CCOs will need to manage this within their budgets from Year 2 onwards.

### Other changes

- 1. Climate initiatives:** \$14m from the Climate Resilience Fund will be allocated to degasify the pool network, reducing emissions and operating costs.
- 2. Waste initiatives:** The Council will support community compost hub providers to educate the community and divert organics from the waste stream. This will be funded using (ring fenced) Waste Levy Funding of \$50,000 to \$150,000 per annum until the 2027/28 Long-term Plan. It will then be reviewed to assess whether the initiative should continue.
- 3. Capital programme:** If funding currently allocated against the Town Hall and Te Ngākau strengthening projects is not fully spent, officers will report to the Council as soon as possible with options to reallocate the money to the water network's capital projects. The capital work programme will be closely monitored for other opportunities to reallocate funding to the water network's capital projects.

**4. City Streets:** Officers will report back on all projects within the City Streets budget for a Council decision on prioritisation by September 2024 with a focus on delivering the following central city projects within Years 1 to 3 of the LTP:

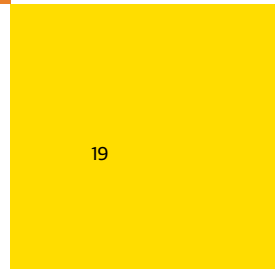
- a. Secondary bus corridor (bus spine on the Quays).
- b. Cross-city cycle connection (connect Thorndon Quay to Cambridge Terrace).
- c. Cuba St pedestrianisation infrastructure and activations (significant improvements beyond proposed footpath widening).
- d. Dixon St upgrade (required as part of the Golden Mile design).

**5. Transport:** Once the Waka Kotahi National Land Transport Plan is finalised, officers will report back to the Council on the Paneke Pōneke Bike Network Plan and whether projects will require reprioritisation.

**6. EV chargers:** The Year 1 funding for the installation of EV chargers which have already been approved is retained within the LTP (bringing the total installed to 34), but funding beyond this amount is removed, pending further advice on the costs and benefits of proceeding with installation of the remaining 26 chargers. We will also investigate the potential to sell existing EV chargers to recover the Council's investment.

**7. Golden Mile:** Officers will report back by September 2024 on how the Golden Mile design can be revised to give higher priority to pedestrian space including the connection to public transport.

**8. Business Improvement Districts:** Officers will report back in time for the 2025/26 Annual Plan on options for further investment in areas with Business Improvement Districts to support more effective economic development.



# He whakarāpopoto

## Summary of our plan

### Kei tēnei wāhanga

He whakarāpopoto o tā mātou rautaki ahumoni, rautaki tūāhanga, me tētehi tironga whānui o te anga rautaki. Kei ēnei tuhinga ā mātou whakamahere katoa, ā kei te huānga tuatoru katoa.

### In this section

This section includes summaries of our Financial Strategy and Infrastructure strategy and an overview of our Strategic Framework. These documents underpin all of our planning and are available in full in the amended Volume 3.





# Ngā whakarāpopoto rautaki matua

## Key strategy summaries

### He kupu whakataki

#### Introduction

Our city is experiencing the impacts of earthquakes, the aftermath of the global pandemic, issues with our ageing three waters network, and climate change. We also have financial pressures, with higher inflation and increases in the cost of interest and insurance, as well as higher costs associated with asset ownership (for example, higher depreciation). We know our community faces many of the same cost pressures, meaning the ability to pay for these increasing costs is becoming more difficult. It is important for the Council to operate an affordable and balanced budget.

The biggest challenge for the Council is being realistic about what we can pay for and when. We own a lot of infrastructure that we need to maintain and upgrade (buildings, roads, pipes and more). We also need to keep our budgets affordable and to have money available for future risks, such as responding to a natural disaster.

This means the list of what we need to pay for is growing faster than our ability to pay for it.

To make sure we continue to work towards our vision for the future, the Council has rephased and reprioritised the work in our capital programme, with a focus on completing projects that we have started, looking after our existing assets, and meeting our regulatory requirements.

The financial challenges we face are not limited to the 10 years of this plan. We also need to think about how we provide financial sustainability for the future. We are exposed because we cannot insure all our assets so if there is a natural disaster we will not have sufficient funding to repair damage and rebuild our city. Also, all our investments are concentrated in Wellington International Airport Ltd shares or ground leases.

This means if something were to happen to those assets, we could lose our investment revenue.

The LTP Amendment approach is to manage these risks through making \$385m of changes to Council's planned capital programme over the remaining nine years of the LTP. Several projects have been rephased, rescoped or stopped. Budgets have been amended as appropriate in this LTP Amendment, as well as service levels as outlined in the amended Volume 2. The LTP Amendment also included adjusting our budgets to reflect the impact of the Government's Local Water Done Well reform. This will result in the transfer of ownership and management of our water infrastructure from the Council to a new multi-Council-owned water entity from 1 July 2026.

The following summaries of our Financial Strategy and Infrastructure Strategy and how we are planning to face the current challenges to create a more liveable and resilient city for the future.

More detail is provided in our Financial Strategy and Infrastructure Strategy in the amended Volume 3 of this plan.



# He whakarāpopoto o te rautaki ahumoni

## Financial strategy summary

### Affordability

The Council and residents of the city are facing affordability challenges. The economic and community operating environment has changed dramatically since the Council prepared its 2021-31 LTP. We are operating in an environment of high inflation and borrowing costs have also increased steeply since 2021. Insurance premiums continue to rise while access to insurance for many of Council's assets is becoming more difficult. Put simply, everything we do is costing more to deliver. Residents ability to pay more rates is limited, and the Council will need to find ways to deliver our services in a more constrained funding environment.

The Council's Financial Strategy was updated in 2025 as part of the LTP Amendment process.

Our budget results in a rates increase in 2024/25 of 16.9 percent (after growth) and an average annual increase over the 10 years of the plan of 3 percent. The low average annual increase is partly due to the transfer of our three-water assets to a new water entity as part of the Government's Local Water Done Well reforms. The sludge levy, which is in addition to general rates, was introduced from 2024/25 and is a further 1.6 percent increase (average annual increase of 0.6 percent over the 10 years of the plan).

The Council has set an average rates increase limit of between 5-8 percent (excluding sludge levy and the impact of water reform) over the 10 years of the Long-term Plan. However, the higher rates increases in the first four years of the Long-term Plan are necessary to continue to fund the current core levels of service. These include moving to fully fund three waters depreciation by 2028/29 and dealing with increasing operating costs, such as insurance and interest. The graph of the forecast rates increases for the 10 years of the plan is on page 24.

We have tried to forecast a fair and balanced budget for this plan that deals with the critical issues and keeps our city moving forward.

More information about our budget and how it was created is available in the Financial Strategy.

### Funding issues

#### Council revenue

Local government has a narrow range of tools for funding projects and everyday costs. Most of our operating revenue comes from residents through rates, or fees and user charges, and our capital investments are paid for through debt. We also receive some funding for projects from the NZ Transport Agency Waka Kotahi (NZTA).

The Council has received a reduction in funding from the National Land Transport Plan (NLTP). New Zealand Transport Agency/ Waka Kotahi approves funding on a three-year cycle based on the Government's priorities for the same period. The funding level approved for one three-year period is not an indication of funding in the future years.

The Council has reduced its capital programme to mitigate the loss of funding from the NLTP for the current three-year cycle, over the ten years of the plan.

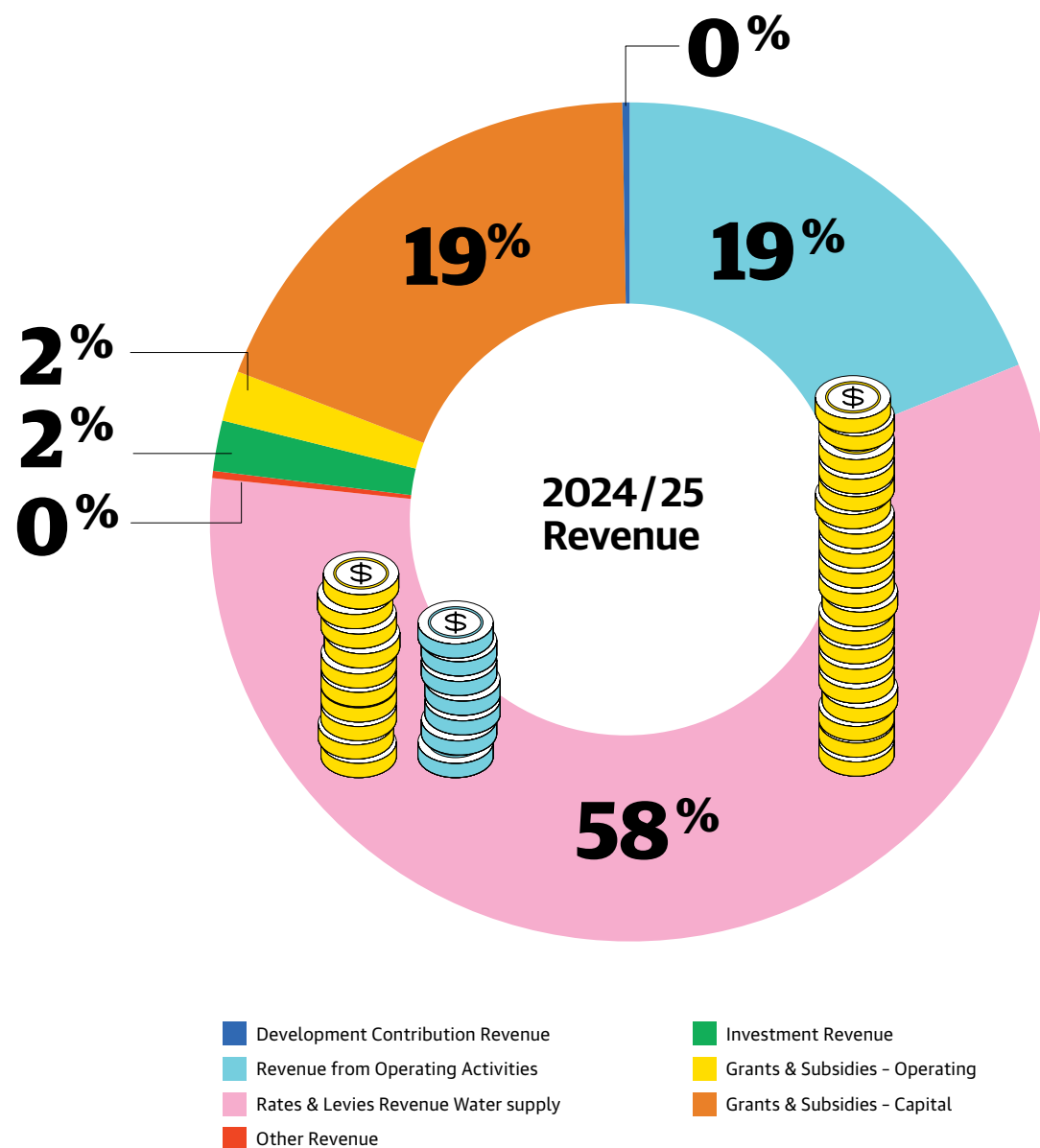
We have been able to access funding through the Infrastructure Funding and Finance Act 2020 for the new Moa Point Sludge Minimisation Facility. Getting a loan for this asset via this central government pathway means we don't increase our debt directly, but it will still impact ratepayers through a levy on rates bills from August 2024 (a 1.6 percent increase in 2024/25). More information about this project, including the levy and how it is funded, is available here [wellington.govt.nz/sludge](https://wellington.govt.nz/sludge). The projected levy is included in the rates graph on page 24.

All of our budgets are linked – increasing our debt also increases the operating costs for paying it back, including the cost of interest. Therefore, we need to balance having a city we can all enjoy, with the ability of our residents to pay rates.

As part of this plan the Council reviewed its balance sheet (what we own and owe) and identified that it was not sufficiently resilient and was overly exposed to certain risks. Some of this is because of the limited sources Council has for funding.

This has significant implications for our long-term financial position and action is required to address this. Part of the advice from the 2023 Citizens' Assembly was for Council to diversify revenue streams and to advocate to central government for changes to reduce the burden on ratepayers. This work is underway and the Council's decision to set up a perpetual investment fund is part of this work. See our full Financial Strategy in the amended Volume 3 for more detail on our funding sources, from page 94.

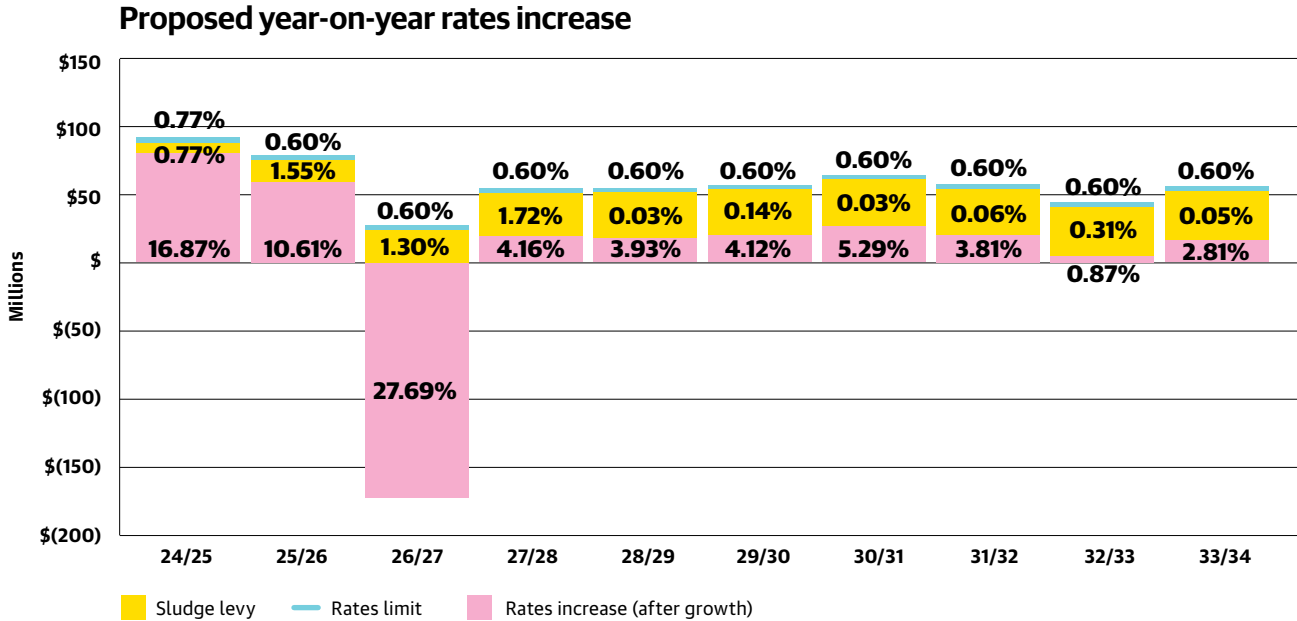
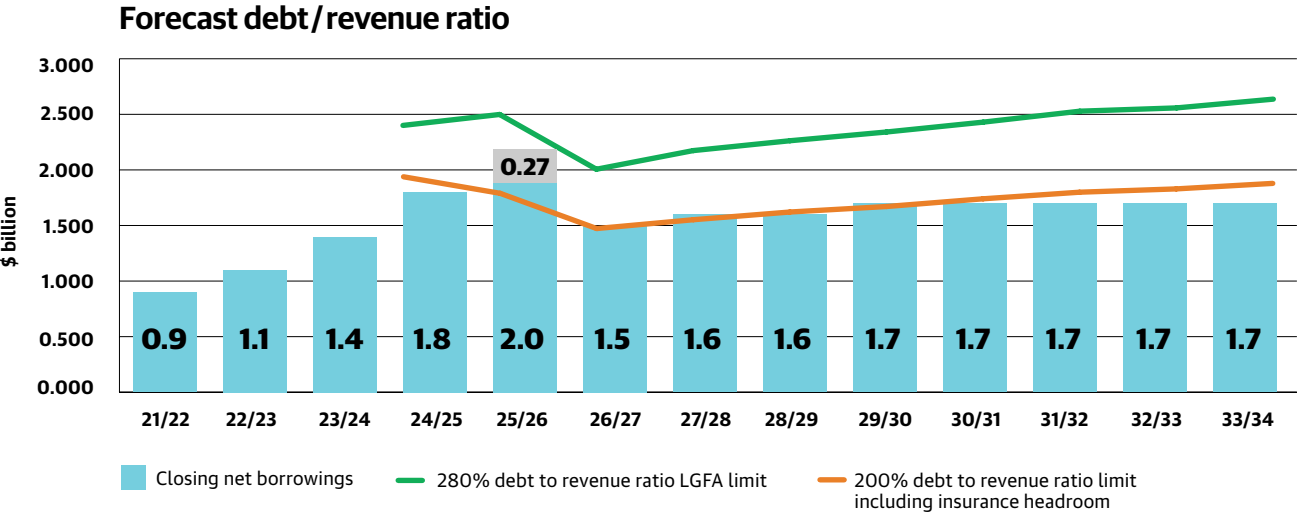
Our Financial Strategy and budgets are based on operational money coming from the following areas in 2024/2025:



Council debt

The Council's net debt is expected to decrease to \$1.7b by 2033/34. This is a result of LTP Amendment which agreed to a reduction in the capital programme to increase borrowing capacity to be used in the event of a natural disaster and because of the transfer of assets, expenses and revenue to the proposed new water entity from 1 July 2026.

The amended Financial Strategy decreases the Council's self-imposed revenue from 225 percent to 200 percent from 2025/26 onwards, and the changes to the capital programme will result in increased borrowing capacity in the event of a disaster, along with the establishment of a disaster resilience fund, which will further mitigate some financial and insurance risks. The forecast shows that the Council will exceed its self-imposed debt to revenue limit for four of the first five years of the plan, then it gradually returns within this limit in Year 6.





# Ensuring fairness

Everyday costs should be paid for from everyday revenue. If we fail to achieve this, the everyday costs are funded by increasing debt. This means existing ratepayers are not paying for some of the services and amenities being provided to them. This is like using a loan to pay for everyday costs – sometimes this is necessary in an emergency, but it puts pressure on future budgets when the money needs to be paid back. This is neither prudent nor sustainable.

# Increasing costs

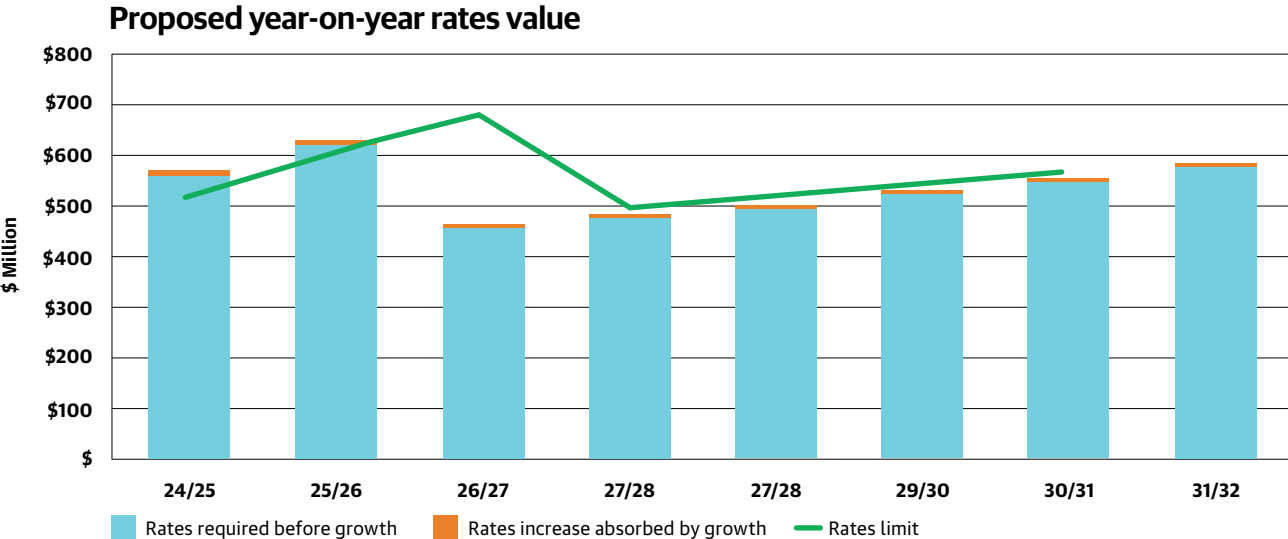
As mentioned in our Infrastructure Issues section on page 31, we have gone through the budgets included in this plan to make sure we are successfully delivering our important services. This has included initiatives to find cost savings, looking for where we can be more efficient and considering if we need to change the levels of service we provide. The review resulted in several changes to service levels to manage costs and the key ones are detailed from page 18.

Section 100 of the Local Government Act 2002 requires that a local authority must ensure that each year's projected operating revenues are set at a level sufficient to meet that year's projected

operating expenses. In Year 3 we are forecasting a loss on disposal of approximately \$3b due to recognising the transfer b of three-water assets to the new water entity, meaning our budget is unbalanced. For Years 6 to 10 there is a minor imbalance. We consider this prudent as we only want to set rates to cover the depreciation costs (the cost of looking after our assets) for the assets we intend to replace in the future. We also don't collect rates for the assets that we expect to get third party funding for (for example NZTA funding). Also while the Council is forecasting a balanced budget in years 1 and 2 of the plan, it is important to note the Council is recognising significant revenue in those years to fund the sludge minimisation project.

If this funding was not included, the Council would not be setting a balanced budget for those years of the plan.

To keep the costs to our residents down, we will not be using rates to fully fund depreciation on three water assets due to the revaluation on 30 June 2022 which saw a significant increase in the value of our water assets. Furthermore, in response to the Local Water Done Well reform process, the Long-term Plan reflects that from 1 July 2026 three water assets will be transferred to a new regional water service entity. The Council was planning to return to fully funding depreciation by 2028/29. We are also proposing to not fund depreciation costs on some of our other assets which are unlikely to be replaced.



### Insurance costs and investment risks

The Council has two financial challenges to manage: the increasing difficulty and cost to insure our assets means we are significantly underinsured, and the lack of diversification of our investment portfolio means all our investments are exposed to the same kinds of risk – in other words, all our eggs are in one basket. More information on these challenges is available in our full Financial Strategy in the amended Volume 3, from page 94.

The scale of the challenges cannot be ignored – doing nothing leaves the Council exposed to unnecessary risk and any solution needs to address both the insurance and diversification problems. The Council has reduced its self-imposed debt to revenue ratio to 200 percent to increase borrowing capacity. We will also set up a new disaster resilience fund using the proceeds from the sale of several of the Council's ground leases. This will be a publicly owned fund that is intended to continue forever and support generations of Wellington ratepayers by ensuring funding is available to support the city's recovery from natural disasters, including by covering an insurance gap. The fund will become a strategic asset in the Council's Significance and Engagement Policy, meaning if significant changes were proposed, we will need to consult with the community.

### Deferral of renewal spending

The Long-term Plan capital expenditure programme includes only a proportion of the required renewal investment for our infrastructure based on our asset planning. This will result in some assets not being renewed at the time they should be. This is a 10-year decision, with a need for a catch up to happen over years 11 to 20 of our asset management plans.

To reduce spending, we will seek value-for-money options through good procurement practices and we will review our programmes to identify more cost-effective options. For some areas there is a low risk of this reduced spending resulting in a lower level of service, but in Transport, Property, Housing and other community assets we are planning to defer 25 percent of the renewals spend.

This carries some risk that the levels of service experienced by the community will be lower than planned. For example, this could involve a greater use of chipseal rather than asphalt. This risk can be reduced by having confidence in the condition data for our assets. We will prioritise renewals where the greatest need is, such as for safety and resilience reasons.

This approach has not been applied to the three waters network prior to the transfer of water assets. Furthermore, in response to the Local Water Done Well reform process, the Long-term Plan reflects that from 1 July 2026 three water assets will be transferred to a new regional water service entity.

The table below shows the total cost of capital projects over the 10-year period of the 2024–34 Long-term Plan categorised by type of expenditure. We have split out our top four key areas of spending – the three waters network (for 2024/25 and 2025/26 only, except for the Moa Point Sludge Treatment Facility which will be completed in 2026/27) and our transport network. Further details are in Our plan for the next 10 years on pages 12 to 13.

Capital expenditure	Renewals	Upgrades	Growth	Total
Activity Group	(\$000s)	(\$000s)	(\$000s)	(\$000s)
Water supply	25,684	3,451	892	30,027
Wastewater	35,632	365,201	32,987	433,819
Stormwater	3,286	5,625	314	9,226
Transport	438,481	421,265	70,741	930,487
Other Activity Groups	1,312,582	524,499	214,075	2,051,156
<b>Total Capital expenditure</b>	<b>\$1,815,665</b>	<b>\$1,320,041</b>	<b>\$319,009</b>	<b>\$3,454,715</b>

# Kōrero ahumoni kē atu

## Additional financial information

### What are my rates?

The tables here show a selection of the indicative rates 2024/2025 for residential, suburban commercial and downtown commercial ratepayers. These do not include the sludge levy.

They are for indicative purposes only and may vary from actual rates. Fuller tables are provided in Volume 2 (unamended), from page 241.

### Sludge Levy

In July 2024, the Council will be collecting a new sludge levy to fund the cost of the new Moa Point Sludge Minimisation Facility, on behalf of Crown Infrastructure Partners. This was approved under the Infrastructure Funding and Finance Act 2020 (IFFA). We consulted on this option through 2021/2022 and received support from the New Zealand Government (Cabinet and the Minister of Housing) in August 2023.

The amount of the sludge levy is dependent on whether the property is classified as commercial or residential and where its wastewater is treated.

The following examples outline the indicative sludge levy for a property with a capital value of \$1 million:

- Levy for commercial property with wastewater treated at Moa Point, Karori or the new Sludge Minimisation Facility: \$108.37
- Levy for residential property with wastewater treated at Moa Point, Karori or the new Sludge Minimisation Facility: \$83.03
- Levy for commercial property with wastewater not being treated in one of the above plants or not connected: \$31.72
- Levy for residential property with wastewater not being treated in one of the above plants or not connected: \$21.40

### Indicative residential property rates inclusive of GST (for properties without a water meter)

Capital Values \$	2024/25 Total Rates (inc GST) \$	Increase over 2023/24
400,000	1,937	18.94%
800,000	3,365	18.57%
1,200,000	4,793	18.42%
1,600,000	6,221	18.34%
2,000,000	7,649	18.29%

### Indicative downtown commercial property rates inclusive of GST (for properties with a water meter)

Capital Values \$	2024/25 Total Rates (inc GST) \$	Increase over 2023/24
1,000,000	12,782	13.09%
1,500,000	19,034	13.03%
2,000,000	25,287	13.00%
2,500,000	31,539	12.98%
3,000,000	37,792	12.97%
3,500,000	44,044	12.96%
4,000,000	50,297	12.96%
4,500,000	56,550	12.95%
5,000,000	62,802	12.95%

### Indicative suburban commercial property rates inclusive of GST (for properties with a water meter)

Capital Values \$	2024/25 Total Rates (inc GST) \$	Increase over 2023/24
1,000,000	11,268	15.12%
1,500,000	16,764	15.07%
2,000,000	22,260	15.05%
2,500,000	27,756	15.03%
3,000,000	33,252	15.02%
3,500,000	38,748	15.01%
4,000,000	44,244	15.01%
4,500,000	49,740	15.00%
5,000,000	55,236	15.00%

## Changes to Rating Policies

These policies are provided in full in Volume 2 (unamended) of the Long-term Plan from page 160.

### Rating Policy

This Long-term Plan we have made some changes to our Rating Policy. This impacts how and who we charge rates.

Key changes are:

- A new general rates differential on vacant land and derelict buildings
- A targeted rate for recycling and organics collection (starting from Year 4 of the LTP)

### Vacant Land and Derelict Building Differential

The purpose of the differential on vacant land and derelict buildings is to promote development in the city and to ensure that owners of vacant sites and derelict buildings pay their fair share of costs.

A key community outcome the Council wants to achieve is a vibrant central city, and vacant land and derelict buildings can decrease the likelihood of this, and can have negative effects on retailers. Furthermore, vacant land and derelict buildings have a lower capital value (compared with similar land that is non-derelict or has improvements) and the benefits that owners (whether in the commercial or residential zone) receive from our general activities are disproportionate to the rates they pay, as compared to land which is fully developed and utilised. Also, the appearance of vacant land and derelict buildings can have a negative impact on the perceptions of the central city.

Further details on the definition of vacant land and derelict buildings can be found in the Funding Impact Statement Rating Mechanism section in Volume 2 (unamended) from page 184.

### Waste targeted rate

This proposed targeted rate will pay for the rubbish and organics collections and will start from Year 4 of the LTP. The targeted rate will be a fixed charge per residential, serviceable rating unit. Further specifications of the targeted rate will be worked through and consulted on later. Residents in non-serviceable rating units will need to continue to access rubbish and organics collections through private providers.

## Rates Remission and Postponement Policy

The Council has made some changes to the Rates Remission and Postponement Policy to provide support to ratepayers where really needed.

Key changes are:

- Increasing the low-income remission from \$700 to \$800
- Providing a remission of general rates for owners of earthquake prone buildings who undertake strengthening work
- Clarifying that the remission of targeted rates for properties under development applies to both residential and commercial properties.
- Extending the remission on Māori freehold land to other types of Māori land
- Providing a remission for vacant land if the vacant land is 'activated'.

Further details on the policies can be found in the Rates Remission and Postponement Policy in Volume 2 (unamended) from page 231.

## Changes to Fees and User Charges

Our Revenue and Financing Policy guides our decisions on how to fund council services. We consider who benefits from a service (for example, individuals, parts of the community or the community as a whole) to help determine how the service should be funded.

The policy also sets targets for each Council activity, stating what proportion should be funded from user charges, general rates, targeted rates and other sources of income.

As part of the Long-term Plan, we have reviewed our fees and charges and have made some changes. The full list of fees and charges is provided in Volume 2 (unamended) of the plan from page 243.

The following areas have **material fee increases** because of the alignment of fees with market rates or implementation of Council Policy:

- **Transport network control and management** – the fees structure for Corridor Access Request applications will change to align with market rates.
- **Parks & Reserves** – fee increases related to the implementation of the Temporary Trading & Events in Public Places Policy.
- **Parking** – Introduction of paid carparks for motorcycle parks, in line with the Council's Parking Policy. More details are available in the Revenue and Financing Policy in Volume 2 (unamended) from page 178.

These **material fee increases** reflect the rising costs to Council to offer the services:

- **Waste minimisation services** – increased costs due to increases to the Waste Disposal Levy, brought in through the 2024 changes to the Waste Minimisation Act 2008.
- **Building control and facilitation** – new fee charged as part of the Corridor Access Request application process to recover the cost of the Wellington Underground Asset Map project.
- **Building control and facilitation, Development Control and Facilitation, Public Health Regulations** – fee increases reflect the increasing costs associated with the delivery of the services, including operating costs to support ageing digital systems, support improvements to delivery, and costs associated with developing and maintaining staff competencies.
- **Cemeteries** – fee increases for urns due to supplier price increases.

We are also introducing **new fees** in the following areas to streamline some Council booking processes or to offer new services:

- **Charged Up Capital** – the Charged Up Capital project is a Council initiative to increase the availability of publicly accessible electric vehicle charging facilities in Wellington. Fees will apply to battery charging (per kwh) and for parking in the spaces on which the chargers are located.
- **Parks & Reserves** – new fees related to the implementation of the Temporary Trading & Events in Public Places Policy.
- **Urban Planning & Policy** – new fee related to the Wellington Underground Asset Map project.
- **Wellington Gardens** – new fees related to the implementation of the Temporary Trading & Events in Public Places Policy, as well as for hiring Sexton's Cottage.
- **Marinas** – fees for Evans Bay boat ramp parking.

We also have **standard inflation increases** for the following areas:

- Swimming pools
- Recreation centres
- Golf course
- Cemetery
- Waterfront.







## He whakarāpopoto o te rautaki tūāhanga Infrastructure Strategy summary

We all know that a city's infrastructure is crucial for residents to thrive, but it is often taken for granted. Poor infrastructure can have significant negative consequences on our city, affecting our environment, public health and safety, and community and business confidence.

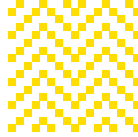
However, dependable and future-proofed infrastructure is expensive and must be affordable, have benefits for future generations and meet the Council's other investment priorities.

In this Long-term Plan, we've prioritised funding for three waters infrastructure, and are focusing our efforts on investigating our buildings and other assets to address significant earthquake prone issues and changing community demands.

We've identified five infrastructure challenges for this LTP, with more detail in our Infrastructure Strategy and Financial Strategy. These are significant problems that need long-term planning to solve them. There is no quick fix and these issues need funding across multiple years. However it is important to note that while the challenges and solutions in this section have

not changed, the LTP Amendment in 2025 included adjusting our budgets to reflect the impact of the Government's Local Water Done Well reform. The reform will result in the transfer of ownership and management of our water infrastructure from the Council to a new multi-Council-owned water entity. The transfer date of 1 July 2026 is reflected in this plan and our Infrastructure Strategy has also been updated to reflect this. The exception to this is the Moa Point Sludge Treatment Facility which will be completed in 2026/27.

The Council's  
Infrastructure  
Strategy was updated  
in 2025 as part of  
the LTP Amendment  
process.



## Five infrastructure challenges

### 1 Population growth and changing demand

We need to future-ready our infrastructure to serve our growing and changing population, so that we can foster liveable, safe, low-emission neighbourhoods and travel. Considerations include:

- Population growth and ageing demographic profile
- Lack of growth capacity in transport and three waters systems
- Changing community needs and service use patterns.

### 2 Ageing and declining condition of infrastructure

Much of the city's infrastructure was built in waves when parts of the city were urbanised, including a sizeable portion that was built after World War Two. This means a lot of our infrastructure will reach the end of its life in the next 30 years. Issues include:

- Some assets have exceeded their useful life
- Historical lack of a coordinated, data-based approach to asset management, and data maturity resulting in under investment in maintenance and renewals.

### 3 Mitigation and adaptation to climate change

Our city's infrastructure, including transportation and waste systems, play a key role in where we live, how we move around, and the industries we support. However, as a steep coastal city with many of our emergency lifeline routes and other critical assets situated at or near sea level, the functioning of our city depends on our infrastructure adapting and being resilient to climate change. Issues include:

- Global warming
- Increased frequency and intensity of extreme weather events
- Coastal hazards
- Climate adaptation costs.

### 4 Earthquake hazards and earthquake prone buildings

Wellington is built on shaky ground due to its location on an active tectonic boundary, and climate change makes things worse by causing land to sink and saturate the soil in low-lying areas. This combination increases the likelihood and severity of natural disasters in the city. Considerations include:

- Landslides
- Earthquakes
- Earthquake prone buildings.

### 5 Affordability and deliverability

The costs of maintaining, operating, renewing, and upgrading infrastructure are big and have been increasing quickly since the global pandemic. Obtaining the funds to improve our infrastructure is also becoming challenging as the costs increase. Local government funding is therefore a pressing issue and Councils are working with central government to address the funding issues and find a sustainable system for the future. Challenges include:

- Limited funding tools
- High inflation putting pressure on construction costs
- Constrained capacity of the construction market to deliver
- Increasing insurance costs.

We also recognise that we have not always consistently delivered the planned infrastructure programme. To ease the increase in everyday costs, and have a programme that can be fully delivered, all the individual budgets included in the draft Long-term Plan have been scrutinised and refined. The focus has been on ensuring we're delivering core services. A key part of ensuring deliverability includes a focus on budgeting for 75 percent of renewal spending (refer to the Infrastructure Strategy in the amended Volume 3 from page 3 for more information).

## Responding to the challenges

Solutions to these challenges are not simple. There is also a better outcome if we think holistically. We can achieve this by taking a consistent approach using sustainable principles in projects, and through collaborative and integrated planning. Five principal options for addressing our infrastructure challenges in the long-term are outlined in the Infrastructure Strategy:

### 1 Prioritise growth areas

- Phase investment for growth and urban form.
- Coordinate land use and infrastructure for cost-effective growth.
- Select priority areas: Tawa, Johnsonville, Central City, and Newtown.
- Focus on three waters network resilience and growth planning.

### 2 Target emissions reductions for the greatest gains and operational efficiency

- We have set an objective of net-zero emissions by 2050 through Te Atakura: First to Zero Strategy, with a target of a 57 percent reduction in city and the Council's emissions by 2030.
- We've made progress already, with 10 percent reduction in city emissions, and 44 percent reduction in council emissions.
- We have an emissions reduction plan which focuses on decarbonisation through electrification and efficiency. Council actions include electrifying our vehicle fleet and degasifying facilities such as heated pools.

### 3 Grow our understanding of climate impacts and adaptation costs

- Understand climate risks and embed resilience from the outset. This is critical for ensuring we meet our objectives for assets in terms of serviceability, financial return and social outcomes.
- Base our planning for climate change on modelling by NIWA for the Wellington Region, to anticipate heightened risks.
- Focus on gaining a systematic quantitative understanding of the localised impacts and developing adaptation plans, enabling us to plan for climate adaptation costs alongside future asset renewal cycles.

### 4 Carry out strategic rationalisation to better manage the overall asset portfolio

- Make sure our assets match what the community needs before spending on repairs or new assets. Consider selling or getting rid of some assets.
- Take a careful look at all assets, conducting strategic reviews, to ensure investments are financially sustainable and contribute to community outcomes.
- Foster coordination and integration across the whole organisation and city.
- Identify inefficiencies and overlaps in operating models and infrastructure.
- Use accurate asset condition data to assess and manage the assets in an effective manner.
- Remain abreast of technological advancements to address evolving community needs and enhance asset management practices.
- Employ a balanced approach of reactive and proactive investment; prioritising longevity and cost-effectiveness.
- Assess the necessity and potential for upgrades or replacements before undertaking asset renewal initiatives.
- Target renewals at 75 percent of unconstrained forecasts for the first 10 years, with the exception of the three waters network.



## 5

### **Prioritise the interventions and work programme for affordability and deliverability**

- Apply a hierarchy of interventions, considering lower cost interventions before higher cost interventions; integrated land use and infrastructure planning, managing demand, making best use of what we have, and using best practice in business case development.
- Reprioritise and rephase the capital programme to manage affordability.
- Maintain financial capacity for the future.
- Adjust to external cost pressures.
- Prioritise non-asset solutions to maximise the use of our assets and deliver value for money and operational efficiency.

We cannot afford to continue maintaining, operating, and renewing all our assets as we have in the past eg. adding more assets when affordability was less of an issue. This is now not sustainable. Therefore, we must pause and reset. This means taking a careful look at all of our assets and by conducting strategic reviews.

Financial affordability for both the Council and ratepayers means that we must focus on doing the right things at the right time in the most cost-effective way whilst deliberately managing risk. We will prioritise non-asset solutions to maximise the use of our assets and deliver value for money and operational efficiency.

The focus of the Infrastructure Strategy is addressing our infrastructure challenges. These challenges are heavily linked to the financial challenges, which are addressed in the Financial Strategy (in full in the amended Volume 3 from page 94), for example:

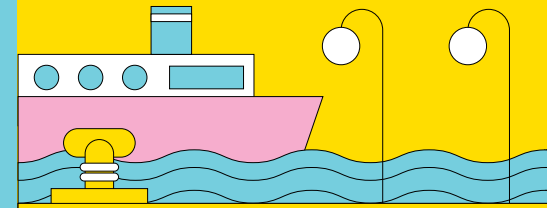
- The Council and residents of the city are facing affordability constraints. With higher interest rates, a greater proportion of rates income is being used to service our increasing debt, and with current high inflation our money does not stretch as far. For residents, the ability to pay more rates is limited, so we need to find ways to deliver the Council's operations within a constrained funding environment.
- Balance sheet (what we own and owe) resilience addresses the challenges of managing our capital expenditure and investments to support long-term financial sustainability and resilience.





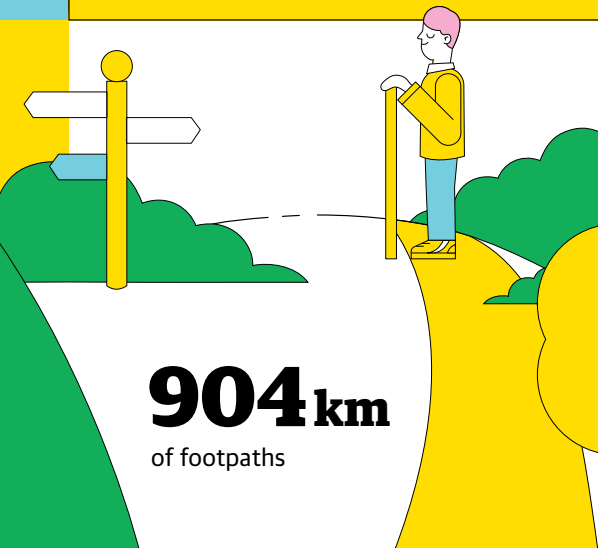
# Key infrastructure

**200**  
seawalls



**700 km**  
of roads  
**40 km**  
of bike lanes  
**8 km**  
of bus priority lanes  
**2 km**  
of bridges and tunnels

**904 km**  
of footpaths



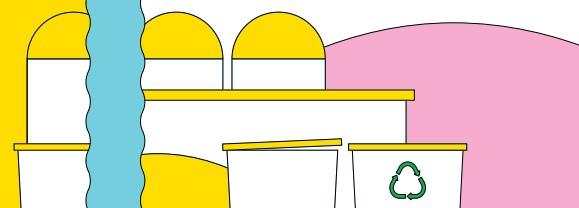
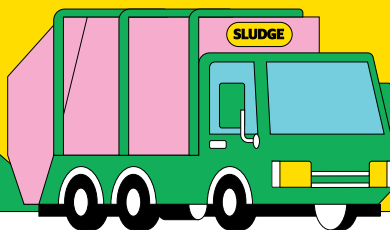
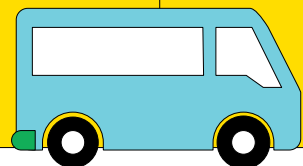
**2,757 km**  
of pipes across our three  
waters network

**105**  
three waters pump stations

**02** wastewater treatment  
plants (Moa Point and  
Kārori).

The Southern Landfill, Capital  
Compost, the Tip Shop and  
Recycle Centre

**Tip Shop**



# 4,305 ha

of parks, reserves  
and beaches



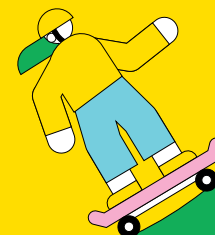
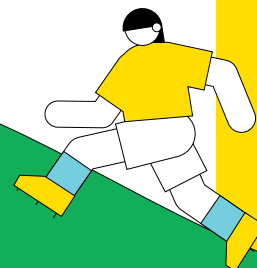
# 44

natural sportsfields



# 11

artificial sportsfields

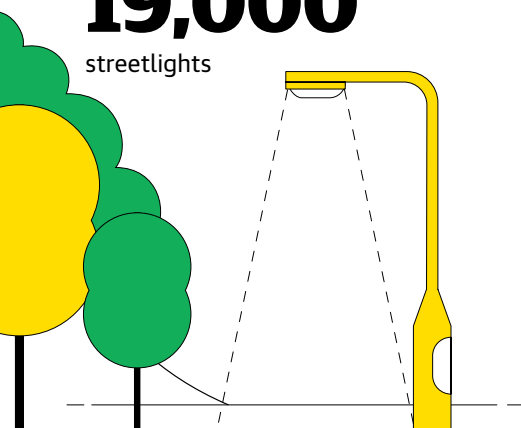


# 07

skate parks

# 19,000

streetlights



# 277

community facilities including:

7 swimming pools

12 libraries

5 recreation centres

25 community centres

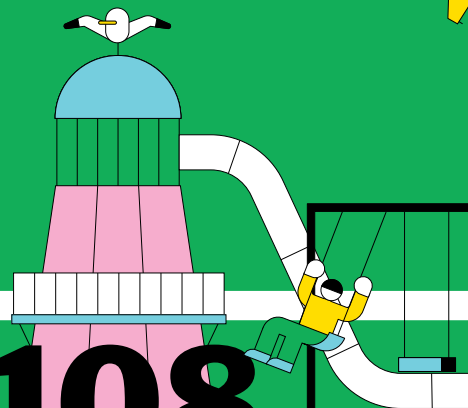
1 marae

13 community spaces in Council  
housing buildings, and

83 public toilets

# 108

playgrounds



# 387 km

of walking and biking tracks



# 04

cemeteries



Buildings and grounds for various  
cultural and sporting activities  
including the **Town Hall, Tākina, TSB  
Bank Arena, Te Whaea National Dance  
and Drama Centre, Sky Stadium, Basin  
Reserve and City Gallery**

# 275

social housing buildings



# Tā mātou anga rautaki

## Our strategic framework

The Community Outcomes and Strategic Priorities were identified with the Council and the community by looking at the data and evidence relating to the LTP Outcomes and Priorities, as well as the commitments made through various strategies.

Our community outcomes are our long-term goals – what we want for the city in the next 10+ years. The Council developed a set of strategic priorities, designed to look at what we want to achieve in the mid-term (3–10 years) which will support our journey to achieving our community outcomes. We tested these with the community using an online survey and community engagement hui in April and May 2023. The results of this mahi was reported on Let's Talk – [wcc.nz/outcomes-and-priorities](https://wcc.nz/outcomes-and-priorities)

## Ngā Whakaarotau Priorities

From this we have nine strategic priorities that will guide our investment and help us to measure the impact of this investment.

Four of the strategic priorities are focused on significant infrastructure investment:

- Fix our water infrastructure and improve the health of waterways
- Transform our transport system to move more people with fewer vehicles
- Invest in sustainable, connected and accessible community and recreation facilities
- Transform our waste system to enable a circular economy.

Five of the strategic priorities are focused on ongoing efforts that require community engagement, partnerships, and efficient and effective regulation and service delivery:

- Collaborate with our communities to mitigate and adapt to climate change
- Revitalise the city and suburbs to support a thriving and resilient economy and support job growth
- Increase access to good, affordable housing to improve the wellbeing of our communities
- Nurture and grow our arts sector
- Celebrate and make visible te ao Māori across our city.

## Ngā ara rautaki Strategic Approaches

Our five strategic approaches act as a lens and are embedded in everything we do.



### Integrating te ao Māori

We are building a future where Te Tiriti is honoured through robust relationships with our Tāka Here partners and Māori communities. By integrating Māori perspectives and thinking into every aspect of our work, we are maximising positive outcomes for Māori and fostering a more inclusive and equitable society for all.

### Making our city accessible and inclusive for all

We are creating a future where everyone can effortlessly find information, access our services, and engage in social and economic activities. Accessibility is for all – including those with mobility impairments, the neurodiverse, the elderly, children, individuals who are blind or have low vision, the d/Deaf community, non-English speakers, parents with pushchairs, and people with temporary injuries. By removing barriers, we are making inclusivity a reality for everyone.

### Embedding climate action

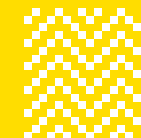
We are proactively addressing the effects of climate change with urgency, supporting Wellingtonians to do the same. Through our continued efforts in biodiversity planning, we aim not only to minimise harm but to create positive environmental impacts. By acknowledging and preparing for future climate changes, we are committed to safeguarding and enhancing our environment for generations to come.

### Value for money and effective delivery

We are committed to using our resources efficiently and effectively to achieve the best possible outcomes, even within a constrained funding environment. By delivering high-quality, well-managed programmes and projects, we maximise value for our residents and our city. Additionally, we will actively seek innovative funding solutions, including advocating for central government support, to further enhance our initiatives and services.

### Engaging our community

We are committed to engaging with Wellingtonians in ways that respect and reflect our diverse cultural contexts, ensuring every community voice is heard. By collaborating with communities to understand their aspirations for Wellington, we utilise a variety of methods to enhance the diversity, quality, and accessibility of our engagements. Our decision-making processes are evidence-informed, transparent, and focused on achieving the best outcomes for both current and future generations.



## Ngā hua ahurea: He tāone wairua mahana, kanorau, auaha anō hoki

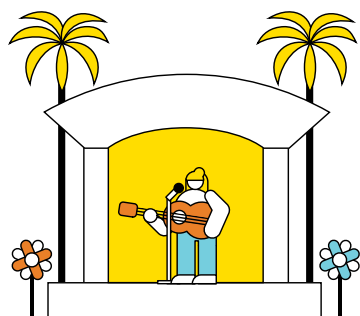
### Cultural Outcome: A welcoming, diverse and creative city

For Wellington – a welcoming, diverse and creative city is one that:

- celebrates and uplifts te ao Māori
- champions the arts
- embraces heritage, creativity, curiosity, and expression of our multi-cultural communities and identities

We plan to:

- Bring the city to life with the possibility of art and culture around every corner.
- Integrate cultural heritage into our urban form.
- Enable built heritage to adapt and change to meet present and future needs such as accessibility, earthquake resilience and climate change.
- Support the arts, culture, and creative sector ecosystem through our activities.
- Celebrate our multi-cultural diversity by encouraging and enabling local events and festivals.
- Continue to work with Rainbow and Disabled communities to make their stories and histories visible and create safe, accessible spaces.
- Increase the presence of te ao Māori by supporting a growing understanding and recognition of local iwi narratives, identities, histories, and landmarks.



## Investments to deliver on the Strategic Priorities

### Celebrate and make visible te ao Māori across our city

- Shifting the focus of grant funding to local arts.
- Embedding Tūpiki Ora across Wellington City Council's services and activity areas. This will lead to a transformed city through:
  - An increasing number of streets, public spaces, and facilities with te reo Māori names
  - Urban design that reflects Māori histories and identities
  - Te Matapihi ki te Ao will demonstrate a narrative and perspective that is grounded in iwi history
  - Increased Māori capability across all of Council. An increased focus on Puanga in advance of Matariki celebrations, which is centred on the narrative and experience of local iwi.
  - Investment into Kaiwharawhara Stream will enable the mauri to be restored and allow all communities to better understand the significance of the stream to our Tā kai Here partners.
- The Tā kai Here partnerships programme provides ongoing contribution to infrastructure and community programmes.

### Nurture and grow our arts sector

- Shifting the focus of grant funding to local arts.
- Developing alternative venues options for Toi Pōneke, to support artists, dancers, theatre practitioners, musicians and other artists.
- Continue the earthquake strengthening work for reopening the Wellington Town Hall in 2026. The Town Hall is a Grade One listed heritage building and is nearly 120 years old. It has been closed since the Seddon earthquake in 2013.
- Upgrading venues including an HVAC system for TSB, minor strengthening works on Bond Store, and façade strengthening work on the Opera House.
- Supporting, sponsoring and delivering events across the city to continue delivering a diverse range of cultural experiences for residents and visitors to the city.



# Ngā hua pāpori: He tāone e ora pai ana ngā whānau me ngā hāpori

## Social Outcome: A city of healthy and thriving whānau and communities

For Wellington – a city of healthy and thriving whānau and communities is a city:

- where people feel safe and connected
- that takes an equity approach to caring for its people and
- provides awesome, vibrant and diverse places to meet and play

Our priorities are to:

- Increase access to good, affordable housing to improve the wellbeing of our communities
- Invest in sustainable, connected and accessible community and recreation facilities

We plan to:

- Deliver equitable outcomes for people who need more āwhina (support).
- Create safe and interesting environments that encourage social connections.
- Evolve towards a more sustainable, resilient and cohesive community facilities network, for people to connect, have fun and belong.
- Deliver a flourishing network of parks and recreation opportunities, interwoven into everyday life, that supports Wellingtonians to live well and connect to nature and each other.
- Improve the systems and processes of our public health and safety regulations and enforcement to ensure safety in our city and to make it easier to do business.
- Continue to support emergency preparedness and response.

## Investments to deliver on the Strategic Priorities

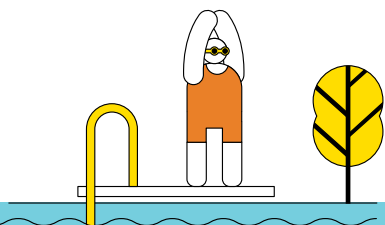
### Increase access to good, affordable housing to improve the wellbeing of our communities

- Complete Phase 2 of the Social Housing upgrade.
- Continue our efforts towards meeting the target of providing 1,000 Te Kāinga affordable rental apartments by 2026. To date, we have opened three apartment buildings along Willis Street, comprising 210 units, with a fourth building of 78 units about to open.

### Invest in sustainable, connected and accessible community and recreation facilities

- Begin the design and engagement for Granada North Park sports field upgrade, with the aim of initiating works in the early years of the LTP.
- Complete the new Kilbirnie skate park facility.
- Remediate the earthquake prone Kilbirnie Recreation Centre by 2028.
- Upgrade two dog parks to support the recent changes to the Dog Policy.

- Keep the Khandallah Pool open for at least a year before making a decision on its future. Establish a community advisory group to consider an engineering review and to identify whether it is possible to fix the pool within the current \$7.5m budget.
- Continue the work on Te Matapihi (the central library), progressing toward the scheduled opening in 2026. This project has been substantial, involving the earthquake strengthening of the building foundation and the reconstruction and reconfiguration of the library.
- Improve quality and provision of neighbourhood parks to support anticipated population growth (50,000–80,000 over 30 years).
- Create and enhance parks to ensure they are well-utilised, accessible, and fit-for-purpose.
- Overcome barriers such as lack of toilets, accessibility, and safety concerns.
- Meet increasing demand for quality, accessible, and resilient trails.



## Ngā hua ōhanga: He tāone aronga hou, e pai nei ki te ao pakihi

### Economic Outcome: An innovative business friendly city

For Wellington – An innovative business friendly city:

- provides good jobs for people
- operates successfully in a dynamic zero-carbon circular economy, and
- has efficient and fit-for-purpose regulatory processes

Our priority is to:

- Revitalise the city and suburbs to support a thriving and resilient economy and support job growth.

We plan to:

- Build relationships with businesses and foster collaboration to improve city precincts and enhance the night-time economy.
- Work with businesses and tertiary education providers and deliver business capability programmes to support transitioning to a circular economy, job creation, career development and to build skills for the future workforce.
- Refocus and redesign regulatory services and interactions to be customer centric.
- Make procurement choices that support local business and employment ecosystems to thrive.
- Upgrade suburban town centres to improve the appeal of shopping and connecting with others locally.



## Investments to deliver on the Strategic Priorities

### Revitalise the city and suburbs to support a thriving and resilient economy and support job growth

- Use City Growth funding to revitalise the central city precinct, beginning with Courtenay Place.
- Progress the scheduled City Streets and Golden Mile projects as planned.
- Over the next three years, we will investigate the best course of action for Te Ngākau Civic Square area. This includes the former Capital E building, the basement supporting the Town Hall, Te Matapihi, and the 'City to Sea' bridge to the waterfront. Options under consideration include the possibility of demolishing these structures.
- Continue work on the new public park, Frederick Street Park, situated alongside the Chinese Mission Hall and a new residential apartment block on Frederick Street.
- We will also explore potential options for earthquake-prone venues, including the Michael Fowler Centre, Bond Store, and Opera House.
- Include a new general rates differential for vacant land and derelict buildings to promote development in the city and ensure that owners of vacant sites and derelict buildings pay their fair share of costs. (For details, see the Rating Policy in Volume 2 (unamended), from page 160).

# Te āhua o te rohe tāone: He tāone pai hei kāinga, ā e tuwhera ana

## Urban Form: A liveable and accessible, compact city

For Wellington – a liveable and accessible, compact city has:

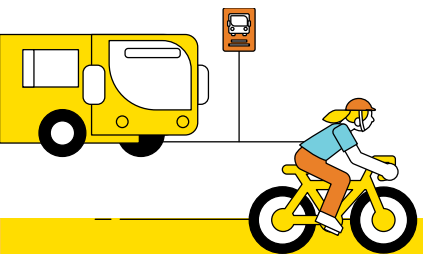
- affordable, warm, dry housing
- zero-carbon accessible transport choices,
- resilient infrastructure fit for growth, and
- proudly visible te ao Māori and multicultural heritage

Our priorities are to:

- Transform our transport system to move more people with fewer vehicles
- Collaborate with our communities to mitigate and adapt to climate change

We plan to:

- Work with GWRC to urgently deliver bus priority improvements, that support reduced travel times and increase the reliability of the services.
- Improve accessibility and safety, when maintaining and improving our transport network.
- Work closely with the community in the delivery of cycleways and alternative transport choices for non-cyclists.
- Utilise the skills of Māori, mana whenua and local artists and creators to create a sense of place and identity when investing in infrastructure and placemaking.
- Ensure the lighting and cleanliness of the city supports a high-quality experience across the city.
- Improve planning and logistics for emergency events, including slips, and work closely with disabled people to meet their needs during emergencies.
- Address the earthquake resilience of Council owned buildings and find creative ways to support private building owners to find solutions for their earthquake prone buildings.



## Investments to deliver on the Strategic Priorities

### Transform our transport system to move more people with fewer vehicles

- Progress the highest priority people friendly streets projects such as a second bus priority route through the central city and improvements on the routes between the CBD and Miramar for biking, walking and bus priority.
- Developing, completing, and implementing 19 parking management plans. We have already introduced small changes to Newtown East (hospital side of the suburb) regarding the parking scheme and time restrictions as part of the Newtown Parking Plan. We will monitor the scheme until mid-2025 before making further modifications and finalising it.
- Continue public EV charger roll out. (in Year 1 only).
- In years 4 to 8 of the Long-term Plan, we will commit to upgrading a town or suburban centre, aiming to enhance safety and access within the town centre and creating an attractive and functional space for community activity.

### Collaborate with our communities to mitigate and adapt to climate change

- Continue the programme of renewals and upgrades of transport network resilience, including on key routes. Increased investment in retaining walls across the network.
- Progress an urban greening programme in the Central City to commence delivery of the Green Network Plan.
- Develop local Climate Adaptation Plans to support the most affected communities, and prepare and adapt to the unavoidable impacts of climate change.
- Green the central city over the next 30 years.
- Develop two new urban parks, improve 20 existing urban spaces, and double the number of street trees (to 4,000) in the next 10 years.
- Respond to city growth and redevelopment by acquiring land for new parks and open spaces.

# Ngā hua taiao: He tāone whakaora, tiaki anō hoki i te taiao

## Environmental Outcome: A city restoring and protecting nature

For Wellington – a city restoring and protecting nature includes:

- providing easy access to nature,
- with systems to reduce waste and
- thriving biodiversity and nature-based solutions in natural and urban environments

Our priorities are to:

- Transform our waste system to enable a circular economy
- Fix our water infrastructure and improve the health of waterways

We plan to:

- Weave biodiversity through our urban landscape and continue to regenerate, protect and preserve our native plants and animals, following a strong biodiversity plan.
- Maintain green spaces, and when investing in infrastructure, parks, and open spaces:
  - Reflect Te Tiriti o Waitangi, our Tā kai Here partnership and mātauranga Māori
  - Improve access to nature for all ages and abilities
  - Respond to the needs of the community
  - Adapt to climate change
- Improve the resilience of our roads and other infrastructure to reduce the risk of slips caused by heavy rainfall and climate change, and support the community to do the same.
- Establish infrastructure and systems to increase resource circularity.
- Investments to deliver on the Strategic Priorities



## Investments to deliver on the Strategic Priorities

### Transform our waste system to enable a circular economy

- Continue with the construction of the Sludge Minimisation Facility at Moa Point. Construction began in May 2023 and the expected completion date is around mid-2026. This facility will reduce the amount of sludge currently created and being deposited into the Southern Landfill by 60 percent, by creating a stable, dry, odourless product that can be more easily transported, and used in productive ways such as a soil conditioner and fuel for industrial heat.
- Continue creating a new landfill on top of an old one at the Southern Landfill. Resource consent was lodged in March 2023, a decision is due by mid-2024, and construction is expected to begin in late 2024. The new landfill is expected to be completed and operating in June 2026, which is when the resource consent for the current landfill expires.
- Implement the new kerbside collection system to include organics and increase the volume of recycling collected.



# Tō te Kaitātari Kaute Whakaaro Independent Auditor's Report

AUDIT NEW ZEALAND  
Mana Arotake Aotearoa

## To the readers

### Independent Auditor's Report on Wellington City Council's amended 2024-34 Long-term Plan

I am the Auditor-General's appointed auditor for Wellington City Council (the Council). I use the staff and resources of Audit New Zealand to audit information that the Council is required to have audited.

The Council adopted its 2024-2034 Long-term Plan (the plan) on 27 June 2024. We issued an unmodified opinion on the plan in our report dated 27 June 2024 and drew attention to the uncertainty and risks over planned renewals of three waters assets, and risks associated with plans to defer renewals of transport and operational assets.

The Council has since consulted on a proposed amendment to the plan. The plan proposed managing insurance and investment risks through the sale of the Council's shareholding in Wellington International Airport Limited. However, on 10 October 2024, Councillors approved a process to remove the airport share sale from the plan and provide alternative options to manage the Council's insurance and investment risks.

At the same time, the Council consulted on the future of its water services delivery separately under the Local Government (Water Services Preliminary Arrangements) Act 2024. The Council's decision following that separate consultation is to establish a new multi-council-owned water organisation that will own and operate public water, wastewater and stormwater networks (the water services).

Following the consultation processes, the Council has decided to amend its plan adopted on 27 June 2024.

The amended plan must contain a report from the auditor that either confirms or amends the previous audit report issued when the plan was adopted.

We considered the impact of the proposed amendments on our previous audit report. We completed our work on 26 June 2025 and our report is below.

## Report amending our previous audit report of 27 June 2024

Our previous audit report on the plan adopted by the Council on 27 June 2024 is affected by the amendments to the plan in two ways:

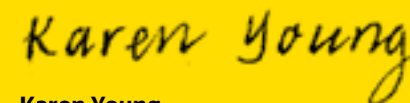
- It is no longer necessary for us to draw readers' attention to uncertainties and risk over planned renewals of three waters assets. In our view, there is no longer significant uncertainty as the Council will no longer operate water services from 1 July 2026.
- We draw readers' attention to uncertainties related to the future delivery of water services.

We do not consider it necessary to further amend our previous report, including our opinion. Our previous audit report on the plan, with the changes noted above, is attached.

## Basis of this report

Our audit focused only on the amendments and their effects on the plan. We did not repeat the audit that we carried out on the plan when it was originally adopted.

The way we carried out the work, the responsibilities of the Council and auditor, and independence and quality control requirements are as stated in our previous audit report.



**Karen Young,**  
**Audit New Zealand**

On behalf of the Auditor-General,  
Wellington, New Zealand



**Attachment – previous audit report without the text that drew attention to the uncertainties and risks over planned renewals of three waters assets, but with new text drawing attention to the uncertainties over the future delivery of water services.**

## To the readers

### Independent Auditor's Report on Wellington City Council's 2024-34 Long-term Plan

I am the Auditor-General's appointed auditor for Wellington City Council (the Council). The Local Government Act 2002 (the Act) requires the Council's Long-term Plan (plan) to include the information in Part 1 of Schedule 10 of the Act. Section 94 of the Act requires an audit report on the Council's plan. Section 259C of the Act requires a report on disclosures made under certain regulations. I have carried out this work using the staff and resources of Audit New Zealand. We completed our report on 27 June 2024, and completed our report on the amended plan on 26 June 2025.

## Opinion

In our opinion:

- the plan provides a reasonable basis for:
  - long-term, integrated decision-making and co-ordination of the Council's resources; and
  - accountability of the Council to the community;
- the information and assumptions underlying the forecast information in the plan are reasonable; and
- the disclosures on pages 112 to 115 of the amended Volume 3 represent a complete list of the disclosures required by Part 2 of the Local Government (Financial Reporting and Prudence) Regulations 2014 (the Regulations) and accurately reflect the information drawn from the plan.

This opinion does not provide assurance that the forecasts in the plan will be achieved, because events do not always occur as expected and variations may be material. Nor does it guarantee the accuracy of the information in the plan.

## Emphasis of matters

Without modifying our opinion, we draw attention to the following matters.

### Future delivery of water services

Page 12 of Volume 1, outlines that the Council has decided on the future delivery model for water services and is planning to establish a multi-council-owned water organisation that will own and operate public water, wastewater and stormwater networks from 1 July 2026. This has been reflected in the plan.

As disclosed in the Council's assumptions on the future of three waters on pages 124 to 128 of the amended Volume 2, there is uncertainty as the proposal is yet to be accepted by the Secretary for Local Government and the arrangements with the other participating councils are still under development. There is also uncertainty about the financial impact of this decision because the ownership structure, and details of assets, liabilities and services that will be transferred are not yet confirmed.

## Risks associated with plans to defer renewals of transport and operational assets

Page 26 of Volume 1 outlines the Council's plan to defer 25 percent of its transport, property, housing and other community asset renewals for the next 10 years. The Council notes that the community may, as a result, experience lower levels of service than planned.

## Basis of opinion

We carried out our work in accordance with the International Standard on Assurance Engagements (New Zealand) 3000 (Revised) Assurance Engagements Other Than Audits or Reviews of Historical Financial Information. In meeting the requirements of this standard, we took into account particular elements of the Auditor-General's Auditing Standards and the International Standard on Assurance Engagements 3400 The Examination of Prospective Financial Information that were consistent with those requirements.

We assessed the evidence the Council has to support the information and disclosures in the plan and the application of its policies and strategies to the forecast information in the plan. To select appropriate procedures, we assessed the risk of material misstatement and the Council's systems and processes applying to the preparation of the plan.

Our procedures included assessing whether:

- the Council's financial strategy, and the associated financial policies, support prudent financial management by the Council;
- the Council's infrastructure strategy identifies the significant infrastructure issues that the Council is likely to face during the next 30 years;
- the Council's forecasts to replace existing assets are consistent with its approach to replace its assets, and reasonably take into account the Council's knowledge of the assets' condition and performance;
- the information in the plan is based on materially complete and reliable information;
- the Council's key plans and policies are reflected consistently and appropriately in the development of the forecast information;
- the assumptions set out in the plan are based on the best information currently available to the Council and provide a reasonable and supportable basis for the preparation of the forecast information;
- the forecast financial information has been properly prepared on the basis of the underlying information and the assumptions adopted, and complies with generally accepted accounting practice in New Zealand;
- the rationale for the Council's activities is clearly presented and agreed levels of service are reflected throughout the plan;
- the levels of service and performance measures are reasonable estimates and reflect the main aspects of the Council's intended service delivery and performance; and
- the relationship between the levels of service, performance measures, and forecast financial information has been adequately explained in the plan.

We did not evaluate the security and controls over the electronic publication of the plan.

## Responsibilities of the Council and auditor

The Council is responsible for:

- meeting all legal requirements affecting its procedures, decisions, consultation, disclosures, and other actions relating to the preparation of the plan;
- presenting forecast financial information in accordance with generally accepted accounting practice in New Zealand; and
- having systems and processes in place to enable the preparation of a plan that is free from material misstatement.

We are responsible for expressing an independent opinion on the plan and the disclosures required by the Regulations, as required by sections 94 and 259C of the Act. We do not express an opinion on the merits of the plan's policy content.

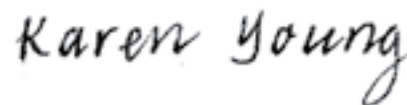
## Independence and quality management

We have complied with the Auditor-General's:

- independence and other ethical requirements, which incorporate the requirements of Professional and Ethical Standard 1 International Code of Ethics for Assurance Practitioners (including International Independence Standards) (New Zealand) (PES 1) issued by the New Zealand Auditing and Assurance Standards Board. PES 1 is founded on the fundamental principles of integrity, objectivity, professional competence and due care, confidentiality, and professional behaviour; and

- quality management requirements, which incorporate the requirements of Professional and Ethical Standard 3 Quality Management for Firms that Perform Audits or Reviews of Financial Statements, or Other Assurance or Related Services Engagements (PES 3) issued by the New Zealand Auditing and Assurance Standards Board. PES 3 requires our firm to design, implement and operate a system of quality management including policies or procedures regarding compliance with ethical requirements, professional standards, and applicable legal and regulatory requirements.

Other than our work in carrying out all legally required external audits, we have carried out a limited assurance engagement related to the Council's debenture trust deed, assurance engagement on greenhouse gas emissions inventory information and procurement assurance for the regional processing solution for organics in the Wellington region, and performed a review of the revenue and expenditure of the Clifton Terrace Car Park managed by the Council on behalf of NZ Transport Agency Waka Kotahi which are compatible with those independence requirements. Other than these engagements we have no relationship with or interests in the Council or its subsidiaries and controlled entities.



**Karen Young,**  
**Audit New Zealand**

On behalf of the Auditor-General,  
Wellington, New Zealand











# Ngā Kaikaunihera

## Your Councillors

Wellington City Council is made up of 15 councillors and a Mayor.

Like all other local authorities in New Zealand, the Council is elected every three years. The Mayor is elected "at large", meaning by all the city's residents. Councillors are elected by voters from their respective geographical areas (wards). The last election was on 8 October 2022, with a by-election on 17 February 2024 in the Lambton Ward. We also have two Pouwhiri representatives of our mana whenua partners who sit on our Council committees.

### Citywide

**Tory Whanau** Mayor  
mayor@wcc.govt.nz

**Chair:** Te Kaunihera o Pōneke  
Wellington City Council, and Ngutu Taki  
CEO Performance Review Committee

**Elected:** 2022

### Paekawakawa | Southern Ward

**Laurie Foon** Deputy Mayor  
laurie.foon@wcc.govt.nz

**Deputy Chair:** Te Kaunihera o Pōneke  
Council and Unaunahi Ngaio  
Chief Executive Performance Review  
Committee

**Elected:** 2019

**Nureddin Abdurahman**  
nureddin.abdurahman@wcc.govt.nz

**Deputy Chair:** Kōrau Mātinitini | Social,  
Cultural, and Economic Committee

**Elected:** 2022

### Takapū | Northern Ward

**John Apanowicz**  
john.apanowicz@wcc.govt.nz

**Deputy Chair:** Kōrau Tōtōpū  
Long-term Plan, Finance, and  
Performance Committee

**Elected:** 2022

**Ben McNulty**  
ben.mculty@wcc.govt.nz

**Deputy Chair:** Koata Hātepe  
Regulatory Processes Committee

**Elected:** 2022

**Tony Randle**  
tony.randle@wcc.govt.nz

**Deputy Chair:** Unaunahi Māhirahira  
Audit and Risk Committee

**Elected:** 2022



## Motukairangi | Eastern Ward

### **Sarah Free**

sarah.free@wcc.govt.nz

**Chair:** Koata Hātepe | Regulatory Processes Committee

**Elected:** 2013, and served as Deputy Mayor 2019–2022

### **Tim Brown**

tim.brown@wcc.govt.nz

**Chair:** Kōrau Tūāpapa | Environment and Infrastructure Committee

**Elected:** 2022

### **Teri O'Neill**

teri.oneill@wcc.govt.nz

**Chair:** Kōrau Mātinitini | Social, Cultural, and Economic Committee

**Elected:** 2019

## Pukehinau | Lambton Ward

### **Iona Pannett**

iona.pannett@wcc.govt.nz

**Elected:** 2007

### **Nicola Young**

nicola.young@wcc.govt.nz

**Deputy Chair:** Pītau Pūmanawa Grants Subcommittee

**Elected:** 2013

### **Geordie Rogers**

geordie.rogers@wcc.govt.nz

**Elected:** 2024 (by-election)

## Wharangi Onslow-Western Ward

### **Diane Calvert**

diane.calvert@wcc.govt.nz

**Elected:** 2016

### **Ray Chung**

ray.chung@wcc.govt.nz

**Elected:** 2022

### **Rebecca Matthews**

rebecca.matthews@wcc.govt.nz

**Chair:** Kōrau Tōtōpū | Long-term Plan, Finance, and Performance Committee

**Deputy Chair:** Kōrau Tūāpapa Environment and Infrastructure Committee

**Elected:** 2019

## Te Whanganui-a-Tara Māori Ward

### **Nikau Wi Neera**

nikau.wineera@wcc.govt.nz

**Chair:** Pītau Pūmanawa Grants Subcommittee

**Elected:** 2022

## Pouiri | Mana whenua representatives

### **Liz Kelly**

liz.kelly@wcc.govt.nz

### **Holden Hohaia**

holden.hohaia@wcc.govt.nz

