



# **The Basin Reserve**

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Our village green in the heart  
of the coolest little Capital

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



## Introduction

The Basin Reserve is ranked as one of the world’s top ten cricket venues, and known as New Zealand’s most picturesque and historic cricket ground. But its future is far from assured, with competition from an increasing number of grounds around the country such as the new Hagley Oval in Christchurch and Bay Oval at Mount Maunganui.

The Basin Reserve Trust has developed a 25-year vision for the future of the Basin Reserve. The key features of the vision are to retain the premiere test status of the ground and to enhance the Basin Reserve as a local recreation space for the community.

The plan identifies \$21.2m of investment over 10 years that would address outstanding maintenance requirements, the integration of more usable public space and embankment areas to enhance the ‘Village Green’ feel of the grounds, the installation of flood lights, and creating flexibility in capacity by providing areas for the use of temporary seating to increase capacity as required to accommodate a range of sporting and cultural events.

## History

In the days of early European settlement in Wellington there was a channel linking the harbour with a lagoon known as Basin Lake. However, in 1855 a massive earthquake raised the land by two metres leaving the lagoon resembling a swamp. Subsequently, intrepid locals decided to drain the swamp in order to turn the site into a recreation area.

The 1884 Trust Deed conveyed the area to the Council in Trust so that the Basin Reserve would be “forever used for the purposes of

a cricket and recreation ground by the inhabitants of the City of Wellington.”

The Basin is one of the oldest dedicated sports grounds in New Zealand, and the oldest to be purposely set aside for the game of cricket. The venue has hosted many of New Zealand’s finest cricketing moments, and seen many sporting records set. Who will forget Richard Hadlee taking his three hundredth test wicket, and Brendan McCullum’s magnificent innings of 302 against India in 2014.



## The Vision:

That the Basin Reserve is highly valued locally as a public reserve of unique character and is recognized as the premier International Cricket venue in New Zealand.

## The Aim

Retain the Basin as the premier test cricket venue in New Zealand and celebrate the heritage of cricket.

Enhance the Basin Reserve as a local recreation space by opening up the ground with better space for community activity.

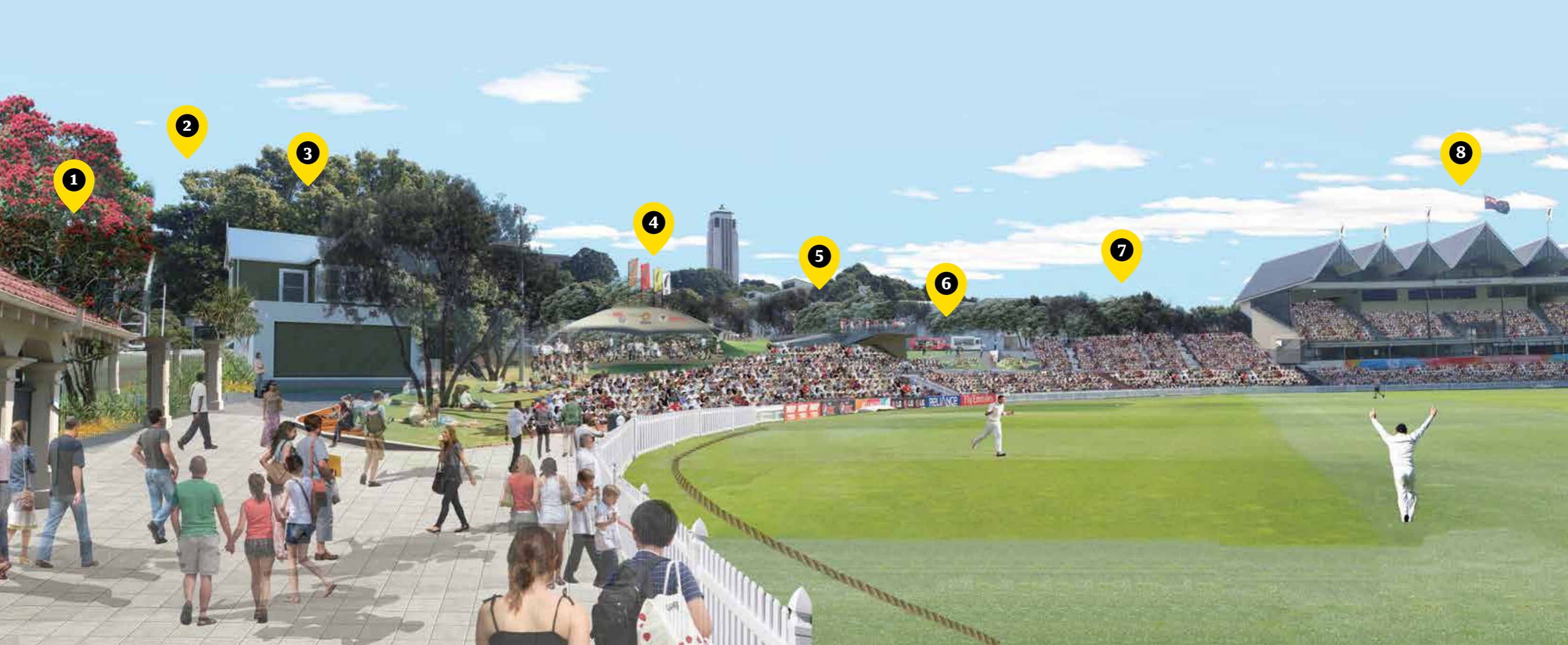
Strengthen the ‘village green’ feel of the Basin for all users and create a more connected and outward facing Basin Reserve with strong links to the new Memorial Park in the northwest, the Town Belt to the east, Kent and Cambridge Terraces to the north and Newtown to the south.



## The projects within the plan

To fulfil the vision, we will seek to:

- Enhanced public recreation opportunities
- Increase hours open per day for use by the public as a walk and cycle thoroughfare, preferably to 24/7 access
- Capacity for up to 9000 spectators in a combination of permanent seating and embankment with the ability to expand through additional temporary seating
- Flood lighting to meet future requirements for cricket and other community events
- Enhanced ability to be used year round as a venue for community events, sport and recreation



## Basin Upgrades

- 1** Upgraded entrance and ticketing areas
- 2** Tree plantings
- 3** Upgraded ground keeping facilities
- 4** Corporate hosting facilities
- 5** Additional public toilets
- 6** Better areas for food and beverage offerings
- 7** More public space that can be turned into additional seating as required
- 8** Refurbished R.A Vance stand
- 9** Better pedestrian and cycle connections with Memorial Park, Adelaide Road and Mt Victoria
- 10** Tiered embankment area for enhanced viewing
- 11** Flexible public areas for play, relaxation and recreation
- 12** New 24/7 public toilet facilities
- 13** Opportunities to tell the story of the Basin through creative displays and information posts
- 14** Enhanced viewing of practice areas



# Why do we need a plan?

Planning provides us with a structured approach and framework to what are often complex issues. To remain viable a Masterplan has to be dynamic and have a degree of flexibility because it needs to be able to respond to change as well as guide it. There are three main benefits to having a plan for the Basin Reserve:

- It provides an opportunity for consistency in decision making
- It gives the ability to make informed, connected decisions rather than ad hoc, disconnected and often reactive thinking
- It achieves transparency for stakeholders to plan with confidence knowing that the Basin Reserve will be developed in a certain way.



## The need for flexibility

The uncertainty regarding the transport solution for SH1 and the development of areas immediately adjacent to the Reserve means that the Masterplan will need to be flexible.

## How we will deliver the plan

The Masterplan has been developed with a staged approach to the implementation of the different components. These can be divided into three categories:

- Deferred maintenance projects: including ground keeping facilities, R.A Vance stand, seating, scoreboards and the picket fence
- Ground and amenity enhancements: such as public toilet facilities, beautification and perimeter fence improvements
- Development projects: removal of the Museum stand and development of the surrounding area, flood lights, the players pavilion and northern entrance.

The implementation process is based around achieving the long-term vision for the Basin and ensuring that the area remains a vital and essential asset for Wellington that continues to be celebrated at the local, national and international level.



## How we measure success

The plan will deliver a vision that will ensure the Basin Reserve remains one of the world's top cricket venues. Of equal importance is that the Basin is able to realise its full potential to be highly valued locally as a public reserve of unique character.

## What this plan will deliver:

- Premiere test cricket retained at the Basin Reserve
- Enhanced public spaces
- Increased use of the Basin as a recreation space on non-game days
- Upgraded facilities with a comprehensive asset management plan in place
- Better links to neighbouring parts of the city for pedestrians and cyclists
- Reopening the Basin to 24/7 public access.



## A Staged Process

The focus of the first few years of delivering the plan is on remedying the deferred maintenance and health and safety risks associated with the current assets within the Basin Reserve and improving the use of facilities and land. The projects in years 1 to 5 are listed below.

Project	Timing	Estimated cost (\$,000)
New building for Grounds Keeping staff and equipment and preservation of the old Cottage Note: this programme is underway, funded through the WCC mid-term capex review	2014/15	
<b>R.A. Vance Stand</b> Undertake the deferred maintenance work required on R.A. Vance Stand	2015/16 and 2016/17	\$2,900
<b>Basin ground improvements:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Development planning and concept design work</li> <li>• Maintaining Basin assets to appropriate standards</li> <li>• Improving public amenities such as the toilets, seating and entrance ways</li> <li>• Beautification and perimeter fence improvements</li> <li>• Southern gateway enhancements</li> </ul>	2015/16 and 2016/17	\$2,240
<b>Western Precinct redevelopment including:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Resource consent and preparation</li> <li>• Relocation of Museum</li> <li>• Demolition of the old stand and make good the site as a recreation space across the western side of the Basin Reserve (west side reflecting east side)*</li> <li>• Further improve land use efficiency, increase recreation space, spectator seating capacity and related support facilities</li> <li>• Replace the existing wooden perimeter fence with a 'see through' wrought iron style fence to open up</li> </ul>	2015/16 and 2016/17	\$3,300
<b>Northern entrance redevelopment including:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Players Pavilion replaced including Wellington Cricket offices</li> <li>• Northern entrance enhancements</li> </ul>	2016/17, 2017/18 and 2018/19	\$3,000
<b>R.A. Vance Stand carpark redevelopment</b>	2016/17 and 2017/18	\$1,000
<b>Flood lights</b>	2018/19	\$8,750
<b>Total</b>		<b>\$21,190</b>

\* Note that funding for the retention of the old stand is not included in the Masterplan or draft 10 year plan. If a decision is made to retain the old stand, additional funding will be required to earthquake strengthen and redevelop the building into a useable space.