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**ORAL HEARINGS 2014/15 DRAFT ANNUAL PLAN  
WEDNESDAY 26 MARCH 2014, 5.30PM**

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<b>Time</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>Organisation</b>	<b>Sub No</b>	<b>Page</b>
5.30pm	Kareem Omar		256	437
5.35pm	Victor Anderlini	Wellington Marine Conservation Trust	393	443
5.45pm	Rebecca Marseca	Capital BMX Club Inc	398	450
5.55pm	John Randal	Makara Peak Mountain Bike Supporters	399	455
6.05pm	Nessa Lynch	Wellington Trails Alliance	411	462
6.15pm	Jak Wild		541	467
6.25pm	Holly Cotter	Wellington Employers Chamber of Commerce	638	469
6.35pm	Paula Booth and Julia Mosen	Accessibility Advisory Group	592	488
6.45pm	Tamara Baddeley		520	489
6.50pm	Nick Kelly	Public Service Association	509	490
7.00pm	Charlie Cordwell	Surf Life Saving New Zealand - Central Region	542	500
7.10pm	Chris Lawton		473	514
7.15pm	Robin Boldarin	Miramar/Maupuia Progressive Association	615	516
7.25pm	Sonya Clark	Victoria University of Wellington Students Association	552	517

## Introduction

**Wellington City Council's 2014/15 Draft Annual Plan**

Thank you for making a submission on the Wellington City Council's draft Annual Plan for 2014/15.

Consultation runs until 5.00pm Tuesday 11 March 2014.

## Privacy Statement

Note: all submissions (including name and contact details) are published and made available to elected members and the public. Personal information will be used for the administration of the consultation process. All information will be held by Wellington City Council, 101 Wakefield Street, and submitters have the right to access and correct personal information.

## Submitter Details

First Name: **Kareem**

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- Submitter
- Agent
- Both

## Submission

**Wellington City Council's 2014/15 Draft Annual Plan**

Thank you for making a submission on the Wellington City Council's draft Annual Plan for 2014/15.

For each of the proposals below you can click the heading link to view more information. The full plan and summary of what's proposed are available online here: [2014/15 Draft Annual Plan](#).

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**What's new or changed**

Our 2012-22 Long-term Plan contained a number of projects to be undertaken in 2014/15 across the range of Council services. We are now proposing to make changes to some of the things we had planned, and we want to know what you think about these.

Proposal	Strongly agree	Agree	Neutral	Disagree	Strongly disagree
<i>What:</i> We plan to invest more in cycling improvements and make this a priority. This includes improving major commuter cycle routes (eg Island Bay to the CBD) and putting in more green waiting areas (advanced cycle stop boxes) and feeder lanes at busy intersections	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Cost: Increase to \$4.20m in 2014/15 (an extra \$3.25m)

What: Lower development compliance costs, more efficient Council processes and other changes

Why: To encourage more development – in particular, more quality buildings

Cost: There will be no increased costs in 2014/15

What: Incentives to strengthen quake-prone buildings

Why: A 'do now' option while the Council works with the Government and other organisations on the feasibility of other financial assistance schemes for building owners

Cost: Total expected rates remission \$308,000 in 2014/15. This cost will be spread across all ratepayers

### An increase for Council-controlled organisations and contractors is being considered

The Council has committed to a living wage-rate for its staff and is considering it for employees of Council-controlled organisations and contractors that provide Council services. The Living Wage movement aims to reduce poverty and inequality through lifting the wages of the lowest paid.

We propose to direct our Council-controlled organisations, through the statement of intent process, to consider how they would introduce a living wage-rate for their staff and report back to us as part of the 2015-25 Long-term Plan process. Further work will be done on the best way to implement a living wage-rate for employees of Council contractors.

The costs of applying a living wage-rate to these organisations has not been finalised but would be well in excess of \$2 million a year. While it is anticipated that some costs would be offset through improved productivity or savings, the majority would require new funding. The likely options to meet the costs of that are:

- increases or introduction of fees
- increases in rates
- reductions in services.

Do you agree that the Council should introduce a living wage-rate for staff of Council-controlled organisations or Council contractors? [select one]

- Strongly agree  
 Agree  
 Neutral  
 Disagree  
 Strongly disagree

**How should the costs of introducing a living wage-rate for staff of Council-controlled organisations or Council contractors be funded?**

[tick as many as apply]

- increases or introduction of fees  
 increases in rates  
 reductions in services.

Proposal	Strongly agree	Agree	Neutral	Disagree	Strongly disagree
<p><i>What:</i> Johnsonville roading improvements  <i>Why:</i> To improve general road safety  <i>Cost:</i> \$3.5m in 2014/15 with contributions from the NZ Transport Agency</p>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
<p><i>What:</i> Kilbirnie cycle and walkway  <i>Why:</i> To improve cycling and walking connections by creating a shared path through the drainage reserve in Kilbirnie  <i>Cost:</i> \$280,220 in 2014/15 – sponsorship and other funding will be sought to assist with costs</p>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
<p><i>What:</i> Minor CBD enhancements – information panels, public art and pedestrian route improvements  <i>Why:</i> To maintain the attractiveness, functionality and vibrancy of the central city  <i>Cost:</i> \$100,000 in 2014/15</p>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
<p><i>What:</i> Lombard Lane upgrade  <i>Why:</i> To contribute to our goal of investing in public spaces that stimulate increased economic and retail activity  <i>Cost:</i> \$1.5m in 2014/15 (subject to private redevelopment taking place)</p>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

### Are these the most effective investments to support growth?

#### Comments

#### Service improvements

We intend to make improvements to some of our existing services

Proposal	Strongly agree	Agree	Neutral	Disagree	Strongly disagree
<p><i>What:</i> Increase investment in Makara Peak Mountain Bike Park  <i>Why:</i> To create a world-class mountain bike track network to establish Wellington as a premiere mountain biking and walking destination  <i>Cost:</i> \$68,000 in 2014/15</p>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
<p><i>What:</i> Track and walkway renewals  <i>Why:</i> To upgrade reserve tracks and provide the necessary support for on-going community track building  <i>Cost:</i> \$150,000 per annum</p>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
<p><i>What:</i> Community planting and pest control  <i>Why:</i> To increase support to volunteers who maintain and enhance the city's gardens, coastline, biodiversity and open spaces  <i>Cost:</i> \$75,800 per annum</p>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
<p><i>What:</i> Project Halo  <i>Why:</i> To preserve and enhance the conservation work being done at Zealandia and increase native biodiversity outside the sanctuary  <i>Cost:</i> \$47,000 in 2014/15</p>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
<p><i>What:</i> Review existing signage at parks and reserves  <i>Why:</i> To provide better information at parks and other outdoor areas for</p>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

<p><i>What:</i> Mountain bike tracks  <i>Why:</i> To support promotion of Wellington as a premier mountain biking destination  <i>Cost:</i> \$30,000 in operating expenditure in 2014/15</p>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
<p><i>What:</i> Seawalls and coastal structures  <i>Why:</i> For remedial works on seawalls and coastal slopes damaged by the severe storms in June 2013  <i>Cost:</i> \$847,347 in 2014/15</p>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
<p><i>What:</i> Hazardous tree removal  <i>Why:</i> To remove ageing pines in the Town Belt and on reserves that pose an even greater hazard following the 2013 storms  <i>Cost:</i> \$100,000 per annum</p>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
<p><i>What:</i> Libraries – children’s literacy programmes  <i>Why:</i> To reinstate our children’s literacy programmes including outreach, and to improve the collection refreshment rates  <i>Cost:</i> \$60,000 per annum</p>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
<p><i>What:</i> Newtown Community Hub  <i>Why:</i> To explore the potential of developing a community facility in partnership with others  <i>Cost:</i> \$40,000 (bringing forward funding from 2016/17 to 2014/15)</p>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
<p><i>What:</i> Rural road improvements  <i>Why:</i> To do some minor safety improvements on rural roads in the Makara-Ohariu area  <i>Cost:</i> \$100,000 in 2014/15</p>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

**Proposed changes in capital expenditure**

Do you agree with the proposed changes being introduced?

Proposal	Strongly agree	Agree	Neutral	Disagree	Strongly disagree
<p><i>What:</i> Defer building an artificial sportsfield in the Grenada North/Tawa area  <i>Why:</i> Because two artificial sportsfields have recently been constructed in Porirua and there are plans to improve drainage at three other fields  <i>Reduce capital expenditure in 2014/15:</i> \$1.046m and review in 2015-25 Long-term Plan</p>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
<p><i>What:</i> No longer proceed with the Kilbirnie town centre upgrade (stage 2)  <i>Why:</i> This work is no longer a priority as there is sufficient parking in the area and the anticipated redevelopment of the Bus Barn is not likely in the near future  <i>Reduce capital expenditure in 2014/15:</i> \$555,000</p>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
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*Reduce capital expenditure in 2014/15: \$6.5m*

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**Do you have any feedback on these proposed changes?**

**Comments**

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**Any other comments you would like us to take into consideration before we make decisions?**

**Comments**

I would like to request that the council consider bringing improvements to the Cheyne Walk Play Area in Newlands forward to the 2014-15 annual plan. There is very little equipment for children to play on, and what there is is rusty and squeaky. In winter the play area is too muddy for children to play. There isn't another play area close enough for all the children in our area to walk to. I set up an e-petition on the council website, which will be presented to the council soon. It closes on 13th March. A lot of people in the community supported it and agreed that the play area needs to be improved soon. The Right Hon. Peter Dunne, MP for Ohariu came to the launch of my e-petition and supports my plan to get the playground improved. My class and other classes from my school have visited the play area and mapped it and came up with ideas to improve it.

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## Antoinette Bliss

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**From:** Kareem Omar <kareem.omar29@yahoo.co.nz>  
**Sent:** Monday, 10 March 2014 8:57 p.m.  
**To:** BUS: Annual Plan  
**Subject:** Cheyne Walk Play Area

To whom it may concern,

I would like to request that the council consider bringing improvements to the Cheyne Walk Play Area in Newlands forward to the 2014-15 annual plan. There is very little equipment for children to play on, and what there is is rusty and squeaky. In winter the play area is too muddy for children to play. There isn't another play area close enough for all the children in our area to walk to.

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I hope the council will take my submission seriously and make me and other children in my area happy.

Yours sincerely,

Kareem Omar  
Room 9 (Year 4)  
Bellevue School  
Newlands

or

7c Cheyne Walk  
Newlands  
Wellington 6037

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## Submitter Details

First Name: **Victor**

Last Name: **Anderlini**

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On behalf of: **Wellington Marine Conservation Trustees**

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Mobile: **0211647222**

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Correspondence to:

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*Why:* To provide better information at parks and other outdoor areas for residents and visitors to the city

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*Why:* To reinstate our children's literacy programmes including outreach, and to improve the collection refreshment rates

*Cost:* \$60,000 per annum

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*What:* Defer the extension of the Southern Landfill until 2015/16

*Why:* There is enough capacity for current volumes of refuse

*Reduce capital expenditure in 2014/15:* \$6.5m



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**Do you have any feedback on these proposed changes?**

**Comments**

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**Any other comments you would like us to take into consideration before we make decisions?**

**Comments**

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# WELLINGTON MARINE CONSERVATION TRUST

*Explore, Discover, Learn*

## Wellington Marine Conservation Trust 2014 – 2015 Annual Plan Submission Summary

### **Te Moana – Ocean Exploration Centre Project**

Wellington's rugged South Coast and Cook Strait is home to an array of unique marine life found nowhere else in the world. Community investment in the Moa Point treatment plant and the establishment of the Taputeranga Marine Reserve in recent years has led to a vast improvement in the habitat for marine life in the area. The proposed Te Moana - Ocean Exploration Centre aims to bring that life to the surface.

The South Coast is already within the top 10 destinations of visitors to Wellington. The new Centre would offer a new, hands-on visitor attraction and be a national centre of excellence for public marine education. Additionally, the project incorporates the creation of a new 2700m<sup>2</sup> coastal park, with outdoor exhibits and infrastructure for local residents and visitors alike.

While the new facility is expected to draw people from across the region, two thirds of its visitor's are expected to originate from wider NZ and international markets, establishing Te Moana as a significant addition to Wellington's existing tourism offerings.

The Te Moana project has been developed by the Wellington Marine Conservation Trust which has recently completed a comprehensive, 4 year feasibility study with funding support from Council matched by the Trust. The results of this study were used to prepare a business case for the project and developed exhibit, building and landscape designs.

The business case indicated that the Centre would be financially viable and deliver the educational, environmental, recreational and economic benefits anticipated by the Trust. However, the capital funding strategy for the project to proceed was reliant on obtaining a commitment of a \$17M grant from the Crown, \$10.5M from social donors and \$8M from Council.

Funders subsequently advised the Trust that they did not believe this level of funding, especially from the Crown, would be achievable. Therefore, the Trust decided to reduce the scale of the OEC from a \$36M project to a more modest and achievable \$15M project with equal capital funding coming from Council, Crown and social donors.

Our primary purpose for pursuing this vision for so long has always been to enable more children and adults to see and learn about our fantastic marine life. We still believe that the best way to get people to want to look after NZ's marine environment and resources is have them engaged in hands on encounters with real marine life. Our 18 years of experience at our Island Bay Marine Education Centre have reinforced this belief.

Even in a smaller facility, we're positive we'd still be able to deliver exciting and educational experiences to all visitors. We still strongly believe that our new OEC proposal will be of national importance as a focal point for marine stewardship issues and policies affecting all New Zealand's marine areas.

Being located in Wellington, the Centre would also be a showcase for the government's investment in marine science research and be a forum for all marine users/stakeholders to present their viewpoints in a venue dedicated to inspiring wise stewardship of all New Zealand's marine environments and resources through public education. 448



# WELLINGTON MARINE CONSERVATION TRUST

*Explore, Discover, Learn*

The Trustees are convinced that if we can get resource consent, we'll be able to create a very special, exciting, Marine Education Centre for Wellington and NZ. We'd rather start small and get the Centre going than have the whole concept disappear. Once we're successful, we can always grow!

Since January, the Trust has been developing a revised proposal using the extensive information obtained during the feasibility study to develop a new business plan and preliminary exhibit and building layout designs. The revised proposal will be presented to Council officers later this month for their review.

If Council accepts this proposal for inclusion in the 2014-2015 Annual Plan, the Trust will be seeking funding support from Council, the Crown, and social donors for the resource consent phase of the project. Towards this end, the Council recently supported a \$100K grant from the Regional Amenities Fund conditional on the Trust receiving matching funds.

Contingent on our obtaining the necessary resource consents, the Trust will be seeking capital funding for the Te Moana building and exhibits from social investors and central government. Council's contribution would be in the form of; provision of the land, preparation of the site for construction and funding for the proposed exhibit, amenity areas and infrastructure surrounding the Centre.

The Trust understands that any decision by Council to support the new project proposal will be conditional on the Trust securing funds from the other parties, the testing of visitor projections, and considering any potential long term liabilities, including the need for any ongoing operational funding.

The Wellington Marine Conservation Trust would like to make an oral submission to Council during the consultation period to present the re-scaled project proposal and answer any questions Councillors may have.

Submitted by Dr Victor Anderlini  
Chairman

11 March 2014

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## Submitter Details

First Name: **Rebecca**

Last Name: **Maresca**

Organisation: **Capital BMX Club Inc**

On behalf of: **Capital BMX Club Inc**

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Suburb: **Island Bay**

City: **Wellington**

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eMail: **raff.becs@vodafone.co.nz**

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Our 2012-22 Long-term Plan contained a number of projects to be undertaken in 2014/15 across the range of Council services. We are now proposing to make changes to some of the things we had planned, and we want to know what you think about these.

## Proposal

Strongly Agree Neutral Disagree Strongly disagree

*What:* We plan to invest more in cycling improvements and make this a priority. This includes improving major commuter cycle routes (eg Island

stop boxes) and feeder lanes at busy intersections

*Why:* To make cycling in Wellington safer, easier and more convenient

*Cost:* Increase to \$4.20m in 2014/15 (an extra \$3.25m)

*What:* Lower development compliance costs, more efficient Council processes and other changes

*Why:* To encourage more development – in particular, more quality buildings

*Cost:* There will be no increased costs in 2014/15

*What:* Incentives to strengthen quake-prone buildings

*Why:* A 'do now' option while the Council works with the Government and other organisations on the feasibility of other financial assistance schemes for building owners

*Cost:* Total expected rates remission \$308,000 in 2014/15. This cost will be spread across all ratepayers

### An increase for Council-controlled organisations and contractors is being considered

The Council has committed to a living wage-rate for its staff and is considering it for employees of Council-controlled organisations and contractors that provide Council services. The Living Wage movement aims to reduce poverty and inequality through lifting the wages of the lowest paid.

We propose to direct our Council-controlled organisations, through the statement of intent process, to consider how they would introduce a living wage-rate for their staff and report back to us as part of the 2015-25 Long-term Plan process. Further work will be done on the best way to implement a living wage-rate for employees of Council contractors.

The costs of applying a living wage-rate to these organisations has not been finalised but would be well in excess of \$2 million a year. While it is anticipated that some costs would be offset through improved productivity or savings, the majority would require new funding. The likely options to meet the costs of that are:

- increases or introduction of fees
- increases in rates
- reductions in services.

Do you agree that the Council should introduce a living wage-rate for staff of Council-controlled organisations or Council contractors? [select one]

- Strongly agree
- Agree
- Neutral
- Disagree
- Strongly disagree

### How should the costs of introducing a living wage-rate for staff of Council-controlled organisations or Council contractors be funded?

[tick as many as apply]

- increases or introduction of fees
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Our goal is to direct growth along a 'spine' from Johnsonville in the north, through the CBD, to Kilbirnie.

Proposal	Strongly agree	Agree	Neutral	Disagree	Strongly disagree
<p><i>What:</i> Johnsonville roading improvements  <i>Why:</i> To improve general road safety  <i>Cost:</i> \$3.5m in 2014/15 with contributions from the NZ Transport Agency</p>	<input type="radio"/>				
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<p><i>What:</i> Minor CBD enhancements – information panels, public art and pedestrian route improvements  <i>Why:</i> To maintain the attractiveness, functionality and vibrancy of the central city  <i>Cost:</i> \$100,000 in 2014/15</p>	<input type="radio"/>				
<p><i>What:</i> Lombard Lane upgrade  <i>Why:</i> To contribute to our goal of investing in public spaces that stimulate increased economic and retail activity  <i>Cost:</i> \$1.5m in 2014/15 (subject to private redevelopment taking place)</p>	<input type="radio"/>				

## Are these the most effective investments to support growth?

### Comments

#### Service improvements

We intend to make improvements to some of our existing services

Proposal	Strongly agree	Agree	Neutral	Disagree	Strongly disagree
<p><i>What:</i> Increase investment in Makara Peak Mountain Bike Park  <i>Why:</i> To create a world-class mountain bike track network to establish Wellington as a premiere mountain biking and walking destination  <i>Cost:</i> \$68,000 in 2014/15</p>	<input type="radio"/>				
<p><i>What:</i> Track and walkway renewals  <i>Why:</i> To upgrade reserve tracks and provide the necessary support for on-going community track building  <i>Cost:</i> \$150,000 per annum</p>	<input type="radio"/>				
<p><i>What:</i> Community planting and pest control  <i>Why:</i> To increase support to volunteers who maintain and enhance the city's gardens, coastline, biodiversity and open spaces  <i>Cost:</i> \$75,800 per annum</p>	<input type="radio"/>				
<p><i>What:</i> Project Halo  <i>Why:</i> To preserve and enhance the conservation work being done at Zealandia and increase native biodiversity outside the sanctuary  <i>Cost:</i> \$47,000 in 2014/15</p>	<input type="radio"/>				

*Why:* To provide better information at parks and other outdoor areas for residents and visitors to the city

*Cost:* \$20,000 in operating expenditure in 2014/15

*What:* Mountain bike tracks

*Why:* To support promotion of Wellington as a premier mountain biking destination

*Cost:* \$30,000 in operating expenditure in 2014/15

*What:* Seawalls and coastal structures

*Why:* For remedial works on seawalls and coastal slopes damaged by the severe storms in June 2013

*Cost:* \$847,347 in 2014/15

*What:* Hazardous tree removal

*Why:* To remove ageing pines in the Town Belt and on reserves that pose an even greater hazard following the 2013 storms

*Cost:* \$100,000 per annum

*What:* Libraries – children’s literacy programmes

*Why:* To reinstate our children’s literacy programmes including outreach, and to improve the collection refreshment rates

*Cost:* \$60,000 per annum

*What:* Newtown Community Hub

*Why:* To explore the potential of developing a community facility in partnership with others

*Cost:* \$40,000 (bringing forward funding from 2016/17 to 2014/15)

*What:* Rural road improvements

*Why:* To do some minor safety improvements on rural roads in the Makara-Ohariu area

*Cost:* \$100,000 in 2014/15

## Proposed changes in capital expenditure

Do you agree with the proposed changes being introduced?

Proposal	Strongly agree	Agree	Neutral	Disagree	Strongly disagree
<p><i>What:</i> Defer building an artificial sportsfield in the Grenada North/Tawa area</p> <p><i>Why:</i> Because two artificial sportsfields have recently been constructed in Porirua and there are plans to improve drainage at three other fields</p> <p><i>Reduce capital expenditure in 2014/15:</i> \$1.046m and review in 2015-25 Long-term Plan</p>	<input type="radio"/>				
<p><i>What:</i> No longer proceed with the Kilbirnie town centre upgrade (stage 2)</p> <p><i>Why:</i> This work is no longer a priority as there is sufficient parking in the area and the anticipated redevelopment of the Bus Barn is not likely in the near future</p> <p><i>Reduce capital expenditure in 2014/15:</i> \$555,000</p>	<input type="radio"/>				
<p><i>What:</i> Defer detailed design and construction of the proposed reservoir in Prince of Wales Park in Mt Cook until a feasibility study is complete</p> <p><i>Why:</i> Building a second water pipe across the harbour is a possibility and could reduce the need for this reservoir</p>	<input type="radio"/>				

*What:* Defer the extension of the Southern Landfill until 2015/16

*Why:* There is enough capacity for current volumes of refuse

*Reduce capital expenditure in 2014/15:* \$6.5m

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### **Do you have any feedback on these proposed changes?**

#### **Comments**

Capital BMX Club Inc lend our support to the increased funding of cycling facilities in Wellington. At the heart of this support is a desire to contribute to the number of people being active and getting healthy. We hope to see Council continue to support sport and recreation and encourage an increase in participation and to increase the support given to local sporting clubs as they take responsibility for managing these activities within their own communities. Council's decision to increase funding for cycling is supported by the 2011 Sport NZ survey of 17,000 5 to 18 year olds which showed that cycling / biking (excluding MTB) is the 5th most popular physical activity for young people in Wellington. It is also in the top 10 activities that youth want to do more of. The focus of both Our Capital Spaces and the Recreation Strategy is to encourage increased participation in activities and studies such as these provide the guidance for where investments should be, and is being focused.

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### **Any other comments you would like us to take into consideration before we make decisions?**

#### **Comments**

We would like to mention that the Capital BMX Club track building project fits perfectly with Our Capital Spaces and the Recreation Strategy. Our project will improve the space and the recreation opportunity this area can provide to the community. Our Capital Spaces aims to provide recreation areas so they appeal to a wide range of people and to develop recreational and community hubs to enable people to play in a range of ways. The current site at Ian Galloway Park meets neither of those aims but our track building project will ensure Council, in conjunction with the community, achieves both of these goals at this park. The BMX track project builds on existing strong cycling facilities within Wellington, it will provide a learning platform for budding riders as well as challenges for the elite. The track will enable an increased number of people to access off-road cycling as well as providing an opportunity for multi-disciplinary training within the existing cycling community. The Capital BMX Club foundation goals demonstrate the synergy between Council's vision and our own: create a great new recreational sports facility for Wellington that is free to use. provide a place where children and adults can learn, have fun and compete in the exciting sport of BMX. deliver opportunities for Wellington youth to develop skills in an Olympic sport. make better use of an existing public area that has not been fully utilised or supported. Council can help us complete this project by committing to the funding for cycling in the Annual Plan and including BMX along with road cycling and mountain biking within that strategy framework.

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## Submitter Details

First Name: **John**

Last Name: **Randal**

Organisation: **Makara Peak Mountain Bike Park Supporters**

On behalf of: **Makara Peak Mountain Bike Park Supporters**

Street: **46 Verviers Street**

Suburb: **Karori**

City: **Wellington**

Country: **New Zealand**

PostCode: **6012**

Mobile: **021921531**

eMail: **siftyjohn@gmail.com**

Correspondence to:

- Submitter
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- Both

## Submission

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<i>What:</i> We plan to invest more in cycling improvements and make this a priority. This includes improving major commuter cycle routes (eg Island Bay to the CBD) and putting in more green waiting areas (advanced cycle	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
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<p><i>What:</i> Review existing signage at parks and reserves</p>	<input type="radio"/>				

Cost: \$20,000 in operating expenditure in 2014/15

*What:* Mountain bike tracks

*Why:* To support promotion of Wellington as a premier mountain biking destination

Cost: \$30,000 in operating expenditure in 2014/15

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*Why:* There is enough capacity for current volumes of refuse  
*Reduce capital expenditure in 2014/15:* \$6.5m

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**Do you have any feedback on these proposed changes?**

**Comments**

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**Any other comments you would like us to take into consideration before we make decisions?**

**Comments**

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**Makara Peak Mountain Bike Park Supporters Inc.**  
**Submission to**  
**WCC 2014/15 Draft Annual Plan**

Makara Peak Mountain Bike Park occupies 250 Hectares of WCC land west of Karori. It has a network of almost 40 kilometres of tracks that are visited around 100,000 times per annum. These tracks have been built and are maintained by the Makara Peak Supporters Inc, with support from WCC since 1998. **In the 2013/14 year WCC support was initially scheduled to be \$20,000** (plus some ranger time) but that **was increased to \$40,000 Operational Expenditure and \$28,000 Capital Expenditure** once it was agreed that \$20,000 would be completely insufficient to maintain an asset of this size and popularity.

The **\$68,000 eventually granted** to the Makara Peak Supporters in the 2013/14 year has been supplemented by the Makara Peak Supporters via volunteer work with an **approximate value of \$60,000** (4000 hours at \$15 per hour, see Appendix). We are currently also managing **four external grants of \$29,000**.

Makara Peak is also a Key Native Ecosystem area and generates income for WCC as part of the permanent forest sink initiative. The Makara Peak Supporters help the park function as a carbon sink through its maintenance of over 120 possum bait stations and Timms traps, and planting of over a thousand native seedlings each year.

The goal of the Makara Peak Supporters is to develop a world-class mountain bike park with dual-use tracks in a restored native forest. Makara Peak acts as a sports facility in the same way as many parks – it hosts many competitive events, but is primarily used by individuals for casual recreation. This user base is growing, and changing (see Appendix), with now more young riders being seen in the park. It's high level of volunteer community involvement adds to it's value.

We have made the following realisations since the budget increase

- Makara Peak is in the best condition now of the last decade, due to the combination of WCC-funded contractor work, and MPS volunteer work. As a result, Makara Peak is being used more than ever, and by different riders.
- The funding increase has identified that MPS are ill-equipped to manage the significant contract work done in the park (see Appendix for details of current work).
- A recreation facility of the size, scope and complexity of Makara Peak Mountain Bike Park, needs **appropriate management and funding as a city asset**. Based on our experience since the funding increase, and in particular, WCC Ranger support, we estimate approximately **0.5 of a FTE staff member** would be required to administer contract work within the park. We do not feel that volunteers are capable of fulfilling these task, nor that it would be appropriate to do so. In addition, value could be created by: volunteer recruitment, sponsorship proposal development, and grant applications.
- We estimate a total annual budget, including management, but excluding volunteer contribution, **of \$120,000 per annum**.

We would also like to acknowledge and support the increased WCC funding in support for cycling initiatives. This is a positive step in the right direction. We would like to see some of this resource, or future resources in this area, directed to improving road safety on Karori Road which is a high use corridor for cyclists, including commuters, road cyclists and mountain bikers en-route to Makara Peak.

We would also like to support steps made by the WCC Parks, Sport and Recreation team to

investigate the construction of a grade 2 loop track linking Karori Park with Makara Peak and the Skyline tracks. We understand this proposal, which will cost around \$100,000, would be funded as part of the Our Capital Spaces project. We ask the Council to approve this project as it would be a big step toward the further integration of Makara Peak with the Karori community, towards our ability as the city's Mountain Bike Park to cater to all users and towards our vision of creating a world class mountain bike park.

John Randal

Chair, Makara Peak Mountain Bike Park Supporters Inc.

phone: 021921531

email: [siftyjohn@gmail.com](mailto:siftyjohn@gmail.com)

## Appendix

Volunteer activity in the park (12 months to date of submission):

- 94 volunteer work parties (track building, maintenance, conservation), 691 individuals, 2231 hours
- Pest control (possum bait stations and mustelid traps) – 450 hours
- Committee time (meetings, submissions, planning & design, funding applications, contractor management, event management, etc) – 700 hours
- informal work (line trimming, scrub clearance, structure repairs, track design & maintenance, etc) – 600 hours

Contractor activity in the park (Since 2013/14 funding granted)

- \$47,044 disbursed to six contractors (approx 2100 hours), for work including:
  - vegetation control using line-trimmers, weed spraying
  - remedial track surface work, using kango hammer or light tools
  - track gravelling using power barrow, compactor
  - retaining wall construction
  - overhaul of existing (volunteer-built) track using kango hammer
- this work is almost entirely unsuitable for volunteers



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## Submitter Details

First Name: **Nessa**

Last Name: **Lynch**

Organisation: **Wellington Trails Alliance**

Street: **24 Tannadyce Street,**

Suburb: **Strathmore**

City: **Wellington**

Country: **New Zealand**

PostCode: **6022**

Daytime Phone: **64211243823**

Mobile: **64211243823**

eMail: **nessalynch@hotmail.com**

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Strongly Agree Neutral Disagree Strongly disagree

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462

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<p><i>What:</i> Track and walkway renewals  <i>Why:</i> To upgrade reserve tracks and provide the necessary support for on-going community track building  <i>Cost:</i> \$150,000 per annum</p>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
<p><i>What:</i> Community planting and pest control  <i>Why:</i> To increase support to volunteers who maintain and enhance the city's gardens, coastline, biodiversity and open spaces  <i>Cost:</i> \$75,800 per annum</p>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
<p><i>What:</i> Project Halo  <i>Why:</i> To preserve and enhance the conservation work being done at Zealandia and increase native biodiversity outside the sanctuary  <i>Cost:</i> \$47,000 in 2014/15</p>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
<p><i>What:</i> Review existing signage at parks and reserves</p>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Cost: \$20,000 in operating expenditure in 2014/15

*What:* Mountain bike tracks

*Why:* To support promotion of Wellington as a premier mountain biking destination

Cost: \$30,000 in operating expenditure in 2014/15

*What:* Seawalls and coastal structures

*Why:* For remedial works on seawalls and coastal slopes damaged by the severe storms in June 2013

Cost: \$847,347 in 2014/15

*What:* Hazardous tree removal

*Why:* To remove ageing pines in the Town Belt and on reserves that pose an even greater hazard following the 2013 storms

Cost: \$100,000 per annum

*What:* Libraries – children's literacy programmes

*Why:* To reinstate our children's literacy programmes including outreach, and to improve the collection refreshment rates

Cost: \$60,000 per annum

*What:* Newtown Community Hub

*Why:* To explore the potential of developing a community facility in partnership with others

Cost: \$40,000 (bringing forward funding from 2016/17 to 2014/15)

*What:* Rural road improvements

*Why:* To do some minor safety improvements on rural roads in the Makara-Ohariu area

Cost: \$100,000 in 2014/15

## Proposed changes in capital expenditure

Do you agree with the proposed changes being introduced?

Proposal

Strongly Agree Neutral Disagree Strongly disagree

*What:* Defer building an artificial sportsfield in the Grenada North/Tawa area

*Why:* Because two artificial sportsfields have recently been constructed in Porirua and there are plans to improve drainage at three other fields

*Reduce capital expenditure in 2014/15:* \$1.046m and review in 2015-25 Long-term Plan

*What:* No longer proceed with the Kilbirnie town centre upgrade (stage 2)

*Why:* This work is no longer a priority as there is sufficient parking in the area and the anticipated redevelopment of the Bus Barn is not likely in the near future

*Reduce capital expenditure in 2014/15:* \$555,000

*What:* Defer detailed design and construction of the proposed reservoir in Prince of Wales Park in Mt Cook until a feasibility study is complete

*Why:* Building a second water pipe across the harbour is a possibility and could reduce the need for this reservoir

*Reduce capital expenditure in 2014/15:* \$3.1m and review in 2015-25 Long-term Plan

*Why:* There is enough capacity for current volumes of refuse  
*Reduce capital expenditure in 2014/15:* \$6.5m

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**Do you have any feedback on these proposed changes?**

**Comments**

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**Any other comments you would like us to take into consideration before we make decisions?**

**Comments**

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## Miah Stewart

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**From:** Jak Wild <jakwild@paradise.net.nz>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, 11 March 2014 1:21 p.m.  
**To:** BUS: Annual Plan  
**Subject:** re: Submission 2014/15 plan

### Submission 2014/15 plan

*I call on Wellington City Council, through your 2014/2015 Annual Plan, to:*

Reduce Inequity by:

- Fully implementing the decision to become a 'Living Wage' employer by:
  - o Ensuring a 'living wage' is implemented for all Council workers, including those directly employed and those working through CCOs and contractors
  - o Ensuring a 'living wage' is considered in all applications to WCC for social and recreational grants
  - o Making the 'living wage' a priority in order to:
    - Address inequity in our city
    - 
    - To improve the wellbeing of those on low incomes

Improve Social Housing by:

- Providing greater detail in the Draft plan in regards to the 'Social Housing Review' for example by:
  - o Explaining the reasons on why a review is recommended
  - o Detailing the scope and timeframe of the review
  - o Providing a guarantee it will be robust and can provide confidence to the public by
    - Declaring in the plan the review will have full independence from WCC in the:
      - Design, scope, implementation and recommended outcomes of the review
      - And will have full access to City Housing tenants and WCC and City Housing records

Provide Equal Opportunities by

- Improving vocational, employment and volunteering opportunities for vulnerable people in our community by
  - o Providing volunteering opportunities in all council departments in addition to existing paid roles
  - o Providing employment opportunities for WCC tenants such as tenant led services and roles within the social housing portfolios
  - o Providing free services for the assistant/companion of any disabled person, when they are relied on to help access council social and recreational facilities

**Jak Wild**

129 Old Porirua Rd,  
 Ngaio,

Wellington 6035

cell 021 888 996

Email: [jakwild@paradise.net.nz](mailto:jakwild@paradise.net.nz)



**SUBMISSION TO  
WELLINGTON CITY COUNCIL  
DRAFT ANNUAL PLAN 2014-15  
WELLINGTON EMPLOYERS' CHAMBER OF COMMERCE  
MARCH 2014**

## **INTRODUCTION**

The Wellington Employers' Chamber of Commerce is pleased to be able to make this submission on Wellington City Council's 2014-15 Draft Annual Plan ("DAP"). The Chamber has been the voice of business in Wellington since 1856 and advocates policies that reflect the interest of Wellington's business community, and the development of the Wellington economy as a whole. The Chamber is also accredited through the New Zealand Chamber of Commerce network and through Business Central as one of the four regional divisions of BusinessNZ.

Wellington businesses pay nearly half of the Wellington City Council's total rate-take. As such, the business community has a significant interest in the operation, structure and performance of Wellington's local government, given their contribution and the impact Councils' actions have on the business environment and the city's economic growth.

This submission follows in two parts; the first half looks at the Council finances, revenue and expenditure, and the second half considers several projects planned over the next year, providing commentary on proposals of key interest to the Chamber.

## **OVERVIEW**

Overall the Chamber is confident about Wellington and the opportunities ahead for our city. We absolutely positively believe that our city is the coolest little capital, with all the ingredients to encourage an environment for innovation, growth, and success. Despite naysayer's doubt, the

Chamber believes that our prospects and fortunes can only be further enriched by ensuring that we have the right people, at the right time, working together. We have a real opportunity before us to start joining up the dots.

There's no doubt that the performance and activities of Wellington City Council have a large influence on the outcome of the city. The Chamber's submission on the DAP focuses on areas we see for council improvement – on what and how we are spending ratepayers money. We first want to congratulate the Council in delivering the Draft Annual Plan so quickly after inauguration. This is an extremely positive head start for Wellington in 2014, creating elements of certainty for businesses, painting an early picture for the city's future activities and projects. While producing this document early has meant some compromise on aspects of proposals, we applaud the work that has gone into the Draft Annual Plan and acknowledge that the Council is the first Council in New Zealand to introduce their Draft Annual Plan for 2014/15. The Chamber also wishes to acknowledge the vision and challenge that has been set out through the priority growth agenda. We are eager to get into further detail on each of the eight proposals that sit underneath this programme.

Our members share this positive outlook on the city too, as demonstrated by the Chamber's December 2013 quarterly business confidence survey, showing a net 40% of business respondents expect the Wellington economy to improve over the next 12 months, compared with a net 27.6% saying in August 2013 they expected the economy to improve, and 18.4% in May 2013.

With all bouquets there are realities. The Chamber continues to be concerned that spending is too high and an overhaul is needed to reduce the growth in both council expenditure and the rate take. We are concerned expenditure has grown too much in recent years and that total borrowing of the city, at \$404.2 million, is 104.56% of city's total operating funding. Regardless of the overall balance sheet, or the Council's standard and poor's credit rating, servicing this debt and paying it down needs to be made a number one priority. Increasing the debt this year by \$46 million, some of which to fund what ought to be opex items, is not justifiable or prudent economic management. We believe that the Council's and city's performance and activities needs to be clearer in this document and this increased transparency will enable rate-payers to assess whether the allocation and level of Council expenditure is appropriate.

Our concern about the Council's current level of debt, and this year's increase, is not to say that we are against future investment or the consideration of future project expenditure, particularly with the Council's priority growth agenda on the horizon. But we are concerned about adding to this debt. The DAP includes no apparent plan to pay the debt down beyond the sale of \$2 million of assets, which would be just 0.49% of the current total owing. For any future proposals, the Chamber would need to see the following:

1. An investment strategy with a robust business case, including a convincing cost benefit analysis and return on investment, with funding in collaboration with commercial partners.
2. A repayment strategy, with a solid plan and commitment to service and pay down the debt quickly.

We are also concerned about Wellington's economic indicators and results. While the Council's ten year trends tell a strong long term narrative, the current perception and reality has to be addressed with urgency. There are too many retail vacancies on the golden mile which are all too visually confronting. Our annual economic growth to September 2013 was just 1.6% compared with the national average of 2.6%. And while business and consumer confidence is high, employers are telling us that skilled labour is becoming harder to find in the industries in which Wellington excels.

The weight of responsibility to turn these indicators around doesn't rest with the Council alone. We understand there are pressures outside of Councils' control. However it's about ensuring Council does the very best with what they do control, the city's finances. Council needs to ensure that the city has what it needs, to generate business activity, to make our city regionally, nationally and internationally attractive and vibrant. The Chamber acknowledges the good work to date on event attraction and support.

There is much work to be done. The DAP sets out some ways of achieving further growth, but needs to be careful not to limit options open to our region. Working with business and the wider community is essential to achieving the city's potential and we welcome future opportunities to progress our relationship.

## I. COUNCIL SPENDING AND RATE TAKE

### *Council Finances*

The Chamber is concerned that the DAP does not properly articulate the current economic environment that Wellington City Council and its rate-payers face, as was outlined in last year's DAP. While business and consumer confidence is high, and economic indicators are showing promise, it is imperative to continue to operate within financial constraints as the economic recovery begins to take shape. More importantly though, with continued uncertainty about future liabilities relating to earthquake strengthening of Council buildings such as the town hall, legal action from leaky homes, and as the region awaits the outcome from the Local Government Commission's reorganisation proposal it is important that all nonessential expenditure within the Council's operations is eliminated.

As such, we are pleased that the Council is seeking efficiencies and reprioritised spending, through the CCO merger and other projects, but we strongly believe that overall spending is still too high and a significant overhaul is needed to reduce the growth in Wellington City Council's overall expenditure and rate-take.

In particular, the Chamber is concerned that the Council's AA Standard and Poor's rating is championed as a justification to raise revenue through debt to fund future projects, such as those contained in the '8 Big Ideas'. The Chamber would be very concerned if this financial policy setting is pursued – to raise even more debt, especially when a robust business case is yet to be put forward for these projects.

The current spending proposals in the DAP mean a total average rate rise of 3% with a target of 2.5% taking into account growth in the rate base. This increase is too high. The Chamber's view is there needs to be a zero rate rise or even a reduction. Firstly, the increase is actually quite high in real, inflation-adjusted terms (the latest CPI increase to Dec 2013 was 1.6%).

While we note that there is a projected operating surplus of \$26.3 million, and acknowledge the Council's AA credit rating, the Chamber still has concerns about the Council's overall finances. The Chamber notes that total Council debt is projected to hit \$404.2 million which is greater than the annual operating funding of \$386.551 million for the next year. Total borrowing now sits a

104.56% of operating funding. We believe this is an important measure of ongoing debt feasibility.

We are concerned that this debt to operating expenditure and revenue ratio may in the longer term be a liability, particularly if the Council continues to borrow at its current pace without further servicing its borrowings. Carrying this level of debt comparative to revenue also may, in the longer term, have an impact on the Council's future ability to make decisions if new capital opportunities were to arise, or unexpected crises were to incur significant cost or create revenue loss.

We are also concerned that this year an additional \$46 million will be borrowed. While the financial strategy set a borrowings funded capital investment target of \$45 million for each three-yearly Council triennium, and a borrowings funded capital investment limit of \$60 million for each three yearly Council Triennium, we believe borrowing caps and targets is not a sensible long term plan to fund projects.

We support the property assets disposal proposal of \$2 million and are pleased that proceeds are marked to reduce Council borrowings. However, in the face of total debt of \$404.2 million, \$2 million appear inconsequential for servicing total borrowings just 0.49% of the total borrowings.

The Chamber is concerned that there are several line items that appear to be funded through borrowings, rather than operating expenditure. One such example is the economic development fund of \$3.1 million. We do not support the move to fund economic development from borrowings. Attempting to grow business by increasing the ratepayer burden is counter productive, particularly when it is not clear how this fund will actually achieve what the line item's name sets out to do.

### ***Costs need to better lie where they fall***

The Chamber takes objection to the way in which the DAP attributes costs to a yearly and weekly per resident figure. This gives a false impression and fails to accurately attribute where the costs of rates revenue really lies. It does not acknowledge the contribution business makes – which is nearly half of the total rate take. We have calculated what the share of costs is for business, as appears in the second half of this submission.

We are also concerned about the cost to ratepayers of subsidised activity where the Council should be operating commercially. One example in the DAP is the current subsidy used to operate the city's public funded swim facilities. The current ratepayer subsidy of each swim is above 60%. An adult swimmer pays just \$5.90 per swim, while the real total cost is \$14.80. This is an unjustifiable use of ratepayer's money, undermining the market.

Given the recently enacted local government legislation, the purpose of local government is much narrower than it used to be. We are wary of the scope of local government activities expanding too broadly and we support the narrower scope under the new Act notwithstanding some of the grey areas that have arisen in terms of definition.

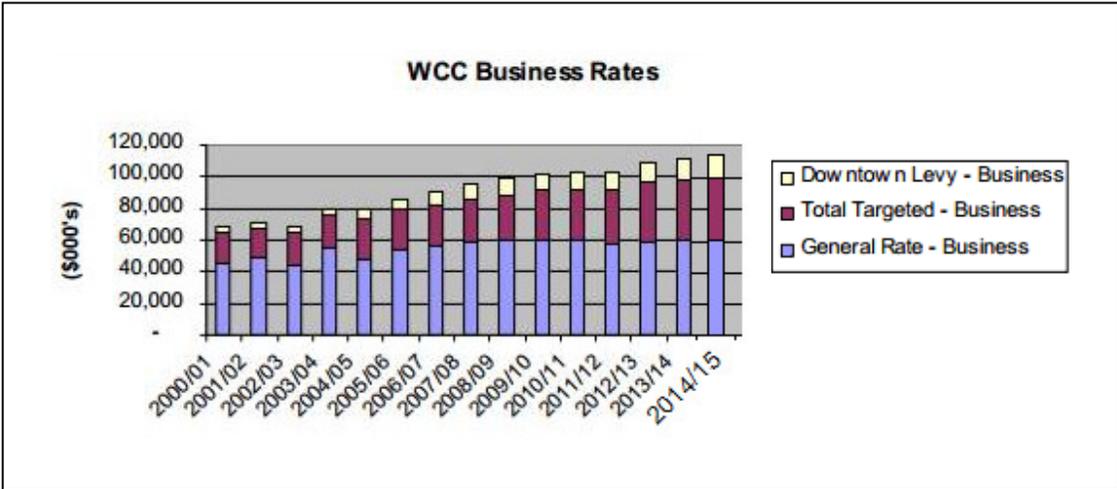
It is important for Wellington that the Council does not stray outside its core business nor grows relative to the size of the overall economy. All Council expenditure needs to meet the criteria that that it makes the city a better place live work or do business and not be something that the private sector or central government is better placed to do. We also encourage Council to work closely with central government to better leverage strategic investment through partnered costs.

### ***Burden of rates on business***

In addition to the overall rise in Council spending and rates, we have strong concerns about the burden of rates falling unfairly on business vis a vis other categories of ratepayers. The fact that several Council activities funded by business rates are more to the benefit of residential ratepayers is a longstanding concern.

It is essential that WCC does not overcharge Wellington businesses if it wants to attract and retain businesses in the city. Businesses provide employment, pay wages, produce goods and services, and determine the depth of the rating base. If businesses are ill-treated by Council rating policies they are liable to relocate, close down or downsize.

The Chamber's view is that rates should reflect the benefits received and should not be unfairly applied to businesses as a revenue raising mechanism. The Chamber believes Councils should substantiate the benefits to businesses before applying differential and targeted rates and be transparent in doing so.



In the coming year, business ratepayers will pay around 45% of the total rate-take. This excludes development contributions and other revenue (fees and charges etc). This figure and the information is obtainable from the DAP but is not readily accessible. It would be good if this information were more transparent in the DAP. It is not clear from the plan what proportion of the latter is paid by businesses but it is likely to be the greater part. Again, this is something else that should be made transparent.

Currently the Council applies a 2.8 differential rate to property used by 'commercial, industrial and business' (business) ratepayer. Accordingly, businesses pay 2.8 times more than residential ratepayers per dollar of rateable property. This differential was phased down from the early 2000s, which was greatly welcomed by the Chamber. This phase down was completed two years ago leaving it at the current 2.8. The phase-down of the differential was about reducing a major cross-subsidy paid to residential ratepayers by business ratepayers. As the cross-subsidy reduced, businesses' rates became more in keeping with the benefits they receive and their ability to pay. Even so, businesses still pay 2.8 times as much as residential ratepayers per dollar of rateable property irrespective of the benefits they receive. In fact the benefits received principle seems to be totally ignored by Council officials when assessing the differential. Businesses are not happy with this.

Auckland and Christchurch both charge a business differential. Both these Councils have also been phasing them down to ensure that their businesses remain competitive. Comparisons are difficult because of the particular circumstances those cities face (earthquake recovery and

super city formation) but last year they were both lower than Wellington's. This is very relevant given that Wellington in one sense is 'competing' with the cities to attract and retain businesses.

We think that the Council needs to keep thinking about its funding policies and how to ensure costs better lie where they fall so that the funding burden on business is not too high. The differential is not justified and we think a continued phase down of the business rating differential is required. This is particularly important with the possibility that the Local Government's draft reorganisation proposal may amalgamate of the Wellington region's Councils. We are strong supporters of amalgamation but we would be concerned if the local government appetite to rely on the business sector to fund its activities was extended to an amalgamated Council and that the Wellington CBD ended up overly subsidising the rest of the region. Our submissions to-date on amalgamation have emphasised this point.

It is important to note that because rates are collected from property owners who pass them on to tenants (business and residential) - usually in a non-transparent fashion (i.e. the commercial property sector rentals applies gross rentals in Wellington meaning rates aren't displayed at all), a large section of the community are oblivious to the high cost of funding the Council. Transparency and decision making would be improved greatly if citizens knew how much Council activities were costing the community and themselves indirectly.

### ***Commercial Sector Targeted Rate – Events Attraction and Support***

The Commercial Sector Targeted Rate is paid by businesses across the city to fund 'events attraction and support'. It will collect \$5.040 million in 2014/15. This rate is paid solely by businesses city-wide, not just those in the CBD. Events activity receives its entire rate funding from this commercial rate. Wellington City Council's events programme makes an important contribution to the city. As well as the direct economic contributions these events provide, they enhance the reputation of the city and make it a better place to live or visit. We fully support the Council's role in events attraction but this area of activity has grown significantly in recent years and this is another area where we think there needs to be more transparency.

There also needs to be a debate as to how the events activity is funded. Some central city businesses (particularly those in the hospitality, accommodation and retail sectors) are beneficiaries but residents also enjoy these events. Under the current arrangements it is

businesses, including suburban businesses, which pay 100% of this expenditure. There is no reason why businesses should be singled out, particularly non-hospitality businesses and suburban businesses.

The Council has a good record with events attractions to-date and a good reputation for hosting international sporting events. Opportunities such as the ICC Cricket World Cup 2015 are important. The games that have been allocated to Wellington will be high profile and ought to provide increased economic activity and attract visitors from around New Zealand and the World. We support the investment the city makes in the events where events have a direct economic benefit for the city as well as serving to promote the city through the positive exposure they receive.

However, it needs to be emphasised that there are significant risks attached to events activity. As competition from other cities to host events increases, Wellington needs to be clever in how and which events it attracts. This might mean focussing on events in which the city has a natural advantage over other cities due to its special characteristics, rather than throw increasing sums of money at events. With Auckland having increased expenditure on events attraction, and desire to be the events centre, Wellington must on events which play to our strengths, and leverage these to our unique advantage.

Finally, on the subject of events funding, the proposition that there is a 1:20 ratio of Council spend to economic impact of the events fund needs to be questioned. This clearly overstates the economic return as much of the expenditure is substituted i.e. a Wellington resident's expenditure on the event and associated activities is often just diverted away from spending on some activity in the city. There needs to be a better measure of benefit to the city if the event funding formula is to withstand scrutiny. 'Event related spending in the city which would not otherwise have occurred', 'spending that has come from outside the city' or simply 'visitor numbers' are alternative measures that should be considered.

### ***The Downtown Levy***

The downtown levy is paid by the city's CBD businesses and is used to pay for 'tourism promotion' and facilitation of 'free weekend parking'. The levy also pays for 70% of the 'visitor attractions' activity and 25% of the 'city galleries and museums' activity. The Chamber believes

that the Council's funding commitments from the downtown levy benefit the area in which the money has been generated. Accordingly, the Chamber encourages greater interaction between those who contribute to the downtown levy and the allocation of the funds generated. However, businesses do not have a good understanding of it or how the levy is spent.

We fully support targeted rates like the downtown levy. There is a good argument for central city businesses to club together and pay a levy to fund services from which they can benefit. But this is not currently the case with all of the downtown levy revenue. A significant amount is diverted by the Council for other activities and it is not clear that the return is there for some of the expenditure. The downtown levy is paid by all central city businesses whilst not all directly benefit from what it funds.

The Chamber is concerned that last year's Christmas period lacked any festivities in the CBD, with many businesses disappointed given the lack of celebration and atmosphere. We have expressed this view to the Council and are pleased that there have been informal indications that will remedy this for Christmas 2014. This is an example where attraction funding ought to be spent, at a time where there is a premium for return on investment, rather than during the seasonally quiet periods.

A large proportion of the downtown levy pays for Te Papa and the Carter Observatory yet all ratepayers enjoy these facilities. The Carter Observatory is not in the CBD. Te Papa is an iconic Wellington institution and we support a Council contribution but we recommend the Council better leverage its existing funding whilst increasing consultation on how Te Papa operates to obtain clear agreement as to how the funding is to be used. This will result in downtown levy payers having more say in how the levy is allocated. A key criterion should be to ensure that levy payers receive a payback on the money spent.

On the subject of targeted business rates, we welcome the creation of the business district improvement ("BID") in Miramar. The Chamber is very supportive of this type of initiative, local business taking action to support their communities. Business improvement districts are a positive endeavour for businesses to support targeted levying and resourcing for local projects and improvements. The Chamber is pleased to have been able to lend our support in the initial stages of this process and we are encouraged by this successful outcome. We are supportive of further investigation to follow this model for application to the downtown levy.

## ***Fees and Charges***

The DAP aims to set fees and charges at appropriate levels so that individuals that directly benefit from a service pay an appropriate contribution towards the cost of providing that service. The Chamber supports this goal. The amount collected from the user vis a vis the rates contribution should reflect the costs and benefits of the service and where they fall.

However, a glance at the schedule of fees and charges reveal that too many fees are increasing at rates in excess of inflation (1.6%) suggesting that they are simply another revenue raising mechanism for the Council. This is not acceptable.

## **II. THE WORK OF THE COUNCIL**

### ***Overview***

The Chamber has examined the DAP and would like to provide comment on some of the Council's proposals and programmes. A general comment is that while there are some projects and proposals identified under each themed chapter area (e.g. Governance, Environment, Transport, etc), not all project and programme funding is clearly allocated or attributable to a line item. The downside of this is that there will be projects worthy of comment, yet without being able to go through these it limits the richness in analysis as to whether these projects merit ratepayer expenditure. We have provided general comments under each of the section headings, which are set out as follows.

### ***Governance***

As the DAP sets out, the proposed 2014/15 operational cost is around \$74 per resident, \$1.42 per resident per week, or looking how the cost is actually shared, \$6,802,200 to business, a total of \$15,116,000. The Chamber supports efficient and effective **governance** of the city. On the proposal of greater **shared services**, we would encourage that the work being undertaken with other Councils in the region look to find alignment beyond shared services, given the current proposals being considered. We would also encourage Councils to look to share more than just back office services, but also infrastructural development and strategy.

The most significant programme of new expenditure of which the Chamber has greatest concern in this year's plan is the adoption of the **Living Wage**. The Chamber does not support the living wage and is concerned with the method in which the Council has made the decision. We have significant reservations about this decision. Though a living wage is well-intentioned, and we all want everyone to be paid more, what is not clear is how the proposal is going to help the city grow so everyone can enjoy higher wages.

The living wage commitment by the Council incurs an additional operating cost on the city and rate payers which should not be within the City Councils mandate. Minimum wage and employee income subsidies are a central government issue for which individual and business contribute through tax.

There are public policy concerns over the accuracy of the living wage and questions as to whether it will achieve what it is intended to do, which we have raised with the Council previously. A report produced by the New Zealand Treasury and a comprehensive study from Brian Scott has released figures questioning the methodology and data used by the Living Wage campaign in determining the wage rate of \$18.40 p/h. The reports highlight the following concerns:

- Two-parent, two-children households make up just 6 per cent of families earning less than \$18.40 p/h.
- Almost 80% of New Zealanders earning less than \$18.40 an hour, including young people and students, don't have children.
- Of those earning below \$18.40 p/h one in five family household incomes earn more than \$80,000 P/A.
- A low income family with two parents and two children would only gain \$63 a week from the living wage while the Government would gain (via abatements and extra tax) \$126 a week.
- The "living wage" would least help low-income families whose welfare support would abate as their income rose. In those cases, the main beneficiary of the living wage would effectively be the Government because it would receive more in tax and pay out less through abated transfers.
- 43% of those who earn below the living wage are aged under 30.
- The living wage would only reduce the relative poverty rate by 0.3%.

- The proposed \$18.40 living wage is high compared to the other living wage rates being proposed by similar groups overseas. Compared to Australia, Canada, USA, and the UK, it is the highest proposed living wage relative to GDP per capita.
- Only 12.5% of fulltime employees are paid less than 2/3rds of the median wage which is one of the lowest proportions in the OECD. The US is 24.8%, UK 20.6%, Canada 20.5% and Australia 14.4%.

The Chamber concerns have grown in light of developments relating to an increase to the living wage rate. In the last month, Living Wage Aotearoa announced an increase in the Living wage from \$18.40 to \$18.80 after having conducted an annual review of the rate (see the report February 2014). Further analysis of the report released by Living Wage Aotearoa shows that the methodology used to calculate the \$18.80 rate appears to be different to the one used to calculate the \$18.40 rate. Under the original methodology (as applied by the Council to calculate the living wage rate for direct employees) a figure of \$22.89 an hour is produced. As you are aware, we repeatedly raised concerns about the methodology during the period when the Council was considering adopting the living wage. Our concerns remain.

However, if the methodology was sound (as the Council has stated) the new figure (\$22.89) should have been adopted by Living Wage Aotearoa as the new living wage rate. The fact that it has not, we believe, provides further evidence that the whole approach is flawed and totally unacceptable for the Council to use to set pay rates. In any event, to help the Chamber better understand the Council's position and rationale, we wish to raise the following questions that are not clear in the DAP:

- Will the Council be moving all staff to the new rate? If so, which rate? If not, how can the Council claim to continue to have "adopted the living wage"?
- If the Council are moving to the rate of \$18.80 what are the cost implications of this on top of what has already been publicised?
- What pay rises, if any, will be given to staff whose salaries are the same or only slightly higher than the 'Living Wage' rate?
- Given parking services are being moved in house from 1 July, what additional costs will be incurred to include this new group of direct staff?

- Furthermore if the Council is not adopting the higher rate of \$22.89 that the original methodology produces how is this justified given the same methodology was implicitly endorsed by adopting the concept in the first place?

The Chamber knows families have had it tough in the last few years. Many of our members who operate businesses have also had it tough – it has been hard for some to stay afloat. But we do not believe the living wage is the answer. It is not the way to achieve higher wages which we absolutely want to see. We want to work with Council and other local government agencies to achieve higher wages for all Wellingtonians, and in order to do this we need to grow the Wellington economy. As a business organisation we have to question whether the adoption of the living wage is a prudent business decision. Lifting everyone's wages is something we should all be aiming for, but it is a matter of how we do that and the basis for it. And it is not done by a stroke of a pen.

### ***Environment***

The DAP states that the proposed 2014/15 operational cost is \$732 per resident, \$14.07 per resident per week or looking how the cost is actually shared, \$51,457,000 to business, a total of \$114,349,000. The chamber supports the **emergency preparedness** proposals. We support efforts to implement a programme of activities that seeks to improve the city's resilience to extreme weather events. We would be interested in further detail on these, especially as they relate to business. We believe this ought to happen with some sense of urgency, given the previous year's events. The storms and events of 2013 reinforce that the city's resilience is important. We support the budgeted remedial works where this will ensure further resilience.

### ***Economic development***

The DAP states that the proposed 2014/15 operational cost is \$113 per resident, \$2.18 per resident per week or looking how the cost is actually shared, \$9,734,900 to business a total of \$21,633,000. The Chamber supports a focus on business and supporting businesses to thrive. However, we believe there needs to be more understanding on how the \$3 million **Economic Development Fund** is to operate, and what criteria will be set around the grants. Investment in business to create jobs and support growth needs to be thoroughly considered with a strong business case for investment. Ratepayers should expect a significant return on investment from

any venture capital awarded to business prospects. As noted earlier in this submission, the Chamber is concerned that these grants will be funded through borrowings, rather than operating expenditure. We do not support the move to fund economic development from borrowings as this is counter productive to attempt to grow business by increasing the ratepayer burden, particularly when it is not clear how this fund will actually achieve what the line item's name sets out to do.

We support the **open for business** project and are encouraged by Council commitment so that businesses can transact and connect with the Council in an easy and cost-effective manner. However, we are very interested in seeing future proposals in this area as it now sits in the '8 Big Ideas', including policy detail to reduce real costs beyond Council office transactions.

The City Council's proposal to **merge Positively Wellington Tourism and Positively Wellington Venues** is a positive step toward improving the city's economic performance. We believe the alignment will provide strategic benefits to better deliver for ratepayers. Bringing two of the main drivers of economic activity into one should result in a more co-ordinated and highly tuned organisation which can better deliver on what the city needs from tourism and events. These are two of the city's biggest strengths. This is a step towards what we know works well in the New Zealand context. Feedback from the Auckland model is resoundingly positive and we would welcome further consideration to include the economic delivery arm too. Freeing-up \$500,000 from all this for other projects is also most welcome, but the Chamber does expect to see this money ring-fenced. The funders of both organisations – CBD businesses, via the Downtown Levy - will expect to see direct benefits from the savings, either by being returned to the contributors or through prudent investment. The businesses that contribute will expect consultation around the detail and 100 per cent transparency around this. It also makes sense to absorb Wellington Waterfront Ltd and Wellington Cable Car Ltd back into the Council.

A project which has potential to create a significant contribution to local economic development is the **extension of the airport runway**. Long haul flights out of Wellington are essential to attracting businesses to Wellington and we fully support the moves Council has made to kick-start the extension of Wellington Airport's runway. It's important that progress on this proposal is made, and that the robust business case be put for the investment. Further on this point, our region needs to be supported by a modern and efficient motorway system to allow Wellington to maintain its competitive CBD to airport linkage. This in turn needs to include a modern and

efficient public transport network. Although improved investment in cycleways is nice to have, the development needs to be seen in the above context.

### ***Cultural wellbeing***

The DAP states that the proposed 2014/15 operational cost: \$92 per resident, \$1.78 per resident per week, or looking how the cost is actually shared, \$8,193,200 to business, totalling \$18,207,000. The Chamber supports a strong arts and culture sector, but would caution that spending needs to demonstrably justifiable. There also needs to be alignment between activities in this area, and those funded through economic development. One such example is the **regional amenities fund**, which is a top up fund for attractions and events. We would question why this sits outside of the other Council events and attraction activity.

### ***Social and recreation***

The DAP states that the proposed 2014/15 operational cost is \$503 per resident, \$9.67 per resident per week, or looking how the cost is actually shared, \$37,229,000 to business, totalling \$82,732,000. We support the activities, however, as discussed earlier in this submission the Chamber believes that **subsidised activities**, such as a swim at the pool, should be set a reasonable level of subsidy. The current example requires further ratepayers funding of over 60%. This is not acceptable. The Zoo's costs are another example, where it costs \$21 for an adult to visit the Zoo, but without the subsidy provided by ratepayers it would cost \$33.

### ***Urban Development***

The DAP states that the proposed 2014/15 operational cost is \$155 per resident, \$2.98 per resident per week, or looking how the cost is actually shared, \$12,404,000 to business, totalling \$27,585,000. The Chamber believes that urban planning and policy, building control and facilitation, development control and facilitation, earthquake risk mitigation and public spaces development are of paramount importance to the city.

In our submission on the DAP 2013/14 we question the need for the **changes to Civic Square** given it is in relatively good shape, but we support a further investigation of options given the future of the Civic Square precinct including the decision over the Town Hall. We would strongly

support the Council to consider alternative options with regard to strengthening the existing town hall, given there are further costs than first anticipated. Attractive public spaces are good for visitors and residents alike and make the city a more attractive place to live, visit and do business. We also wonder whether central government could contribute further to the cost of the **Parliamentary precinct**.

The chamber supports **incentives to support and encourage earthquake strengthening**. The proposal to provide rates relief for buildings not earning an income during earthquake strengthening of buildings is sensible. We note that rates relief actually abates an increase which would not have been achieved had no upgrades been undertaken in any case. In fact the rates generated by earthquake prone buildings that are not addressed could reasonable be expected to decrease further over the coming decade as demand for such buildings is expected to remain in low demand and owners ability to meet rates payments will become strained. We have seen cases where there is real pressure coming on to companies that have been forced out of buildings because of structural issues caused by the earthquakes and on building owners whose buildings are not earning an income, so this is timely. Council and other partners must continue to do all we can to retain the businesses we have, while working to attract new ones and these moves will make a big difference.

The change in **development contributions payments** makes good sense and we support the initiatives to encourage green buildings although these should be quantified against targeted reduction in demand on municipal services as a result of efficiency gains. In this way there is clear associated benefit to the city that is acknowledged in the incentive.

The Chamber would like to see further detail on the **minor CBD improvement** proposals, as we are concerned that \$100,000 is to be spent on to better label building's street numbers.

We are also concerned about the **Lombard Lane** proposal, which proposes an increase to capex by \$1.5 million to redevelop the Lombard Lane area (including Denton Park and part of Bond Street), subject to private redevelopment. The Chamber would be interested to see the further details of this 'private redevelopment'. We are concerned that given the already high number of vacancies of retail shops in Wellington golden mile, whether this investment is a justifiable spend to attract and support the creation of more retail space.

The Chamber is concerned that despite being a previous focus of the DAP, this year's document **leaky homes** is mentioned briefly and has been budgeted to see a decrease. Given the recent legal cases, where settlement exceeded \$1 million in each case, it is unclear as to why there would be a decrease, given the perceptions and legal risks. We note that this issue is yet to be considered by the Transport and Urban Development Committee post election 2013. We would recommend this be a priority.

### ***Transport***

The DAP states that the proposed 2014/15 operational cost is \$276 per resident, \$5.31 per resident per week, or looking how the cost is actually shared, \$15,307,000 to business, totalling \$34,016,000. We support the Council's focus on maintaining and operating the transport network. We support the **Johnsonville roading improvements** to address long-standing deficiencies in the local roading network. In particular the Chamber is supportive of the Council's commitment to ongoing state highway projects such as the **Airport to Levin project**, which includes the Basin Reserve, Memorial Park, Inner City Bypass capacity, and the Buckle Street to Cobham Drive project including Mt Victoria Tunnel duplication.

The Chamber questions the cost of **cycleway improvements**, and we would want to see a robust investment case. The proposed increase to the cycling budget, of \$4.3 million seems excessive (an extra \$3 million capital expenditure and \$250,000 operating expenditure).

Regarding **CBD car parking charges**, the Chamber is pleased that the Council has not attempted to raise them this year.

### ***Projects on the Horizon – Council's 8 Big Ideas and Priority Growth Agenda***

The Chamber are supportive of the Council is establishing a **priority growth agenda** that sets out some bold plans to lift the city's performance, and are eager to see further details. At this stage the **8 Big Ideas** have been presented without any business case, return on investment assessment or cost benefit analysis, of which the Chamber would need to see to continue our support. We are positive about the commitment from Council that funding will only be recommended if business cases "stack up". Again we would caution the Council about looking to increase our current level debt to fund any of these projects.

We support the points made by TIA Wellington hotels in their DAP submission. The Council should investigate which project and actions will make a difference sooner rather than later, and progress them. We strongly concur that Wellington must remain competitive with other New Zealand cities as a place to do business if our economy is to grow. Adding vibrancy to the city streets during events and Christmas as well as building a parking regime which will make the visitor feel welcome to Wellington are all important projects.

*In association with*



11 March, 2014

### **Accessibility Advisory Group**

Submission: Draft Annual Plan, 2014/15

By 2033, it is estimated that 30% of Wellingtonians will have an impairment. In addition, the ageing population will increase as people are living longer. Taking these two factors into context, it is vital that accessibility be at the forefront of everything Council plans to do now and into the future.

The Accessibility Advisory Group (AAG) commends Wellington City Council officers for engaging with our group about accessibility issues. Particularly, individuals from urban design and housing business units regularly approach the AAG to discuss alterations to city spaces and housing.

The Draft Annual Plan 2014/15 was made available to Wellingtonians in a number of formats, which were accessible to blind/visually impaired individuals. These formats included ePub (eBook format), HTML and Microsoft Word Format.

AAG would like to commend the Annual Plan team - Great job on this document.

The Draft Annual Plan 2014/15 lists a number of projects for the year ahead. AAG believes that feel that it can make an excellent contribution and are keen to work with Council officers throughout the duration of these projects.

A few of these include:

- Early input on bus stop and waiting areas during the Johnsonville roading improvements
- Early discussion about the Kilbirnie cycle and walkway to ensure accessibility for everyone.
- Early input into the Lombard Lane and Denton Park improvements.

If accessibility is prioritised at the beginning of a project then:

- The project is accessible to all Wellingtonians,
- Money is saved as issues would not have to be corrected at a later time.

AAG believe that by consistently engaging with Council officers, that they are working to ensure Wellington is the most accessible city in New Zealand.

## Wellington City Council 2014/2015 Annual Plan Submission

I call on Wellington City Council, through your 2014/2015 Annual Plan, to:

- Fully implement your decision to become a Living Wage employer and ensure all Council workers, including directly employed and those working through CCOs and contractors, are paid a living wage
- Make this a priority in order to address inequality in our city and recognising that the benefits of a living wage far out-weigh the costs
- Meet the cost through a range of measures, including from the Council's current wage budget and through negotiation with relevant contractors. Any cost to ratepayers will be staged as contracts come up for renegotiation.

I support the Wellington becoming a living wage council because:

fair wages (Living Wage) will mean people will be able to actively participate in life without worrying about budget or work times.

As a low paid hard worker and Wellingtonian I am fully endorsing the Living Wage Campaign, and the positive changes it is/will bring to the region.

I am prepared to speak to this at public submissions.

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## PSA Submission on WCC Draft Annual Plan 2014 - 15

Submission to the Wellington City Council by the New Zealand Public Service Association: Te Pūkenga Here Tikanga Mahi

### 1 Introduction

- 1.1 The New Zealand Public Service Association : Te Pūkenga Here Tikanga Mahi (the PSA) represents over 58,000 public sector workers, who work in the public service, state sector, DHBs and community public services as well as local government, where we are the largest union representing local government workers. The PSA represents approximately 8000 members who live and work in Wellington City, over 300 of whom work for the council or its agencies. We welcome the opportunity to make a submission on the Wellington City Council (WCC) draft annual plan and to discuss issues facing our members who work for the council and our members who live in the city.
- 1.2 The PSA has recently made a number of statements in the media and presented at council meetings regarding restructuring and outsourcing of council services. The PSA is concerned about the direction this council has taken over the last 12 months and fears the change process has resulted in many valued staff members leaving the organization, either voluntarily or through redundancy. However we are committed to building a constructive engagement with the council to help build a better working life for WCC staff and an effective and highly productive council that serves the Wellington public.

### 2 Executive Summary

- 2.1 In The 2013 submission on the WCC Annual Plan we stated the following:

Constant restructuring and reorganisation in WCC in recent years has led to significant job losses, and to a culture of constant change and uncertainty for the remaining staff, who have to manage high and difficult workloads. It is unclear what benefit, if any, this restructuring has brought the council.

Despite calls for a moratorium on further restructuring the WCC workforce have continued to go through change processes where job losses and significant organisational change are a feature.

In mid-2013 Wellington City Council began a Culture Change project aimed at improving the workplace and to reduce staff turnover. Whilst the idea behind this project was noble it is yet to produce any tangible results thus far.

- 2.2 In 2012 the PSA reported that the Wellington Library budget had faced cuts of \$2 million since 2010, which have led to service reductions and job losses. The PSA stated that:

*Libraries make a major contribution to all the well-being of the community, and we believe that cuts in this area are short-sighted in light of the ambitions in 'Towards Wellington 2040: Smart Capital Vision'.*

The PSA acknowledge the proposal to make a small increase to the Library budget in this Annual Plan. This move is welcomed, but clearly more needs to be done to reverse the cuts to the Library budget in recent years.

- 2.3 Last year we reported that:

Several council services have been outsourced to the private sector in recent years and the PSA does not believe there has been any benefit to the Wellington public as a result. The PSA strongly opposes outsourcing where a compelling business case does not exist, and recommends that the council should review its approach and practice on outsourcing.

We acknowledge the decision in late 2013 to bring back in house the Wellington City Council parking wardens. However a large number of council's services continue to be delivered by private contractors, a number of whom engage in questionable employment practices.

- 2.4 The PSA acknowledge the decision to bring back in house a couple of Council Controlled Organisations, namely Wellington Cable Car and Wellington Waterfront. The PSA question the rationale for the remaining CCOs not also being brought back in house, as it's unclear what the benefit of the CCO model is.
- 2.5 The PSA understand there is a move to change Capacity, the organisation that currently is contracted to do water supply maintenance work for Wellington, Lower Hutt, Upper Hutt and now also Porirua City Council. We understand that there is now a proposal to also include the Greater Wellington Water supply unit into a new joint venture called Wellington Water which would also encompass work currently done by Capacity. The PSA have concerns about this proposal and what it will mean for our members and for water delivery in Wellington. There are concerns that this could lead to privatisation of water and a reduction of democratic control water supply in Wellington.
- 2.6 The PSA congratulates Wellington City Council's decision to support the Living Wage and lift the lowest pay rates for directly employed council workers to \$18.40. There is still work to be done regarding workers employed by CCOs and contracted services and budgeting for future adjustments to the Living Wage rate. However we understand that implementing the living wage will take time and we welcome Wellington City Council's first step.

### **3 Further Changes to the Local Government legislation.**

- 3.1 The PSA believe that changes to the Local Government Act in 2012 were flawed and the removal of the four social well beings will have a detrimental impact on the service local government provides to New Zealand communities.
- 3.2 In 2014 the government is proposing yet further amendments to the Local Government Act. These changes will further restrict local government and undermine local democracy.
- 3.3 The PSA note the wording of the 1994 South African Constitution it explicitly states that Local Government is part of the governmental system of the federation. Local government is specifically regarded as a 'sphere' of government rather than a tier. Sadly local government in New Zealand does not share the same constitutional status as in South Africa.

#### **4 Culture Change project at Wellington City Council**

- 4.1 As noted in 2.1 WCC has initiated a culture change project in mid- 2013. This project was initiated by WCC in part as a response to a Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987 request regarding staff turnover. This OIA revealed that 462 staff members had resigned from WCC between 1 July 2011 and 30 March 2013. In that same time period 94 staff members were made redundant. It's worth noting that since this OIA request staff turnover at WCC remains significantly higher than other local authorities in the region.
- 4.2 So far WCC have set up a Culture Change group which is open for interested employees to belong to. Members of the PSA delegate team are part of this Culture Change group. The feedback that has come from council workers at Culture Change meetings that were recorded. Whilst the PSA has not seen the DVD to-date members have reported that in the DVD WCC employees state the following:
- That there is a culture of micromanagement which a number of employees find to be bullying by WCC managers
  - There are limited opportunities to give constructive feedback or influence the direction of the organisation as a staff member.
  - Staff induction and training is not adequate for new employees
  - On-going career development opportunities can be limited in many parts of council
  - The restructuring in recent years has meant many current employees feel insecure in their role at council and are actively seeking work elsewhere.

The PSA have requested to view this DVD. At the time of publication this request was still being considered by Kevin Lavery and head of WCC Human Resources Nicola Brown.

- 4.3 The PSA recently released its Transforming the Workplace agenda. This agenda is for all sections of the PSA including local government. There are six elements or strands to this agenda:
- Fair and secure workplaces where there are decent conditions and job security.
  - Healthy and safe workplaces
  - Career development at work, through training and development

- Personalised: workplaces where members are supported and valued as individuals.
- Trust and effectiveness in the workplace so workers can contribute and be productive in a high trust workplace

We see a strong alignment between the goals of the WCC Culture Change project and the PSA's Transforming the Workplace agenda. We believe WCC need to engage with the PSA in a comprehensive and genuine manner and will be continuing to work with Kevin Lavery to try and make this happen.

- 4.4 In the last two years we have been working with Auckland Council on a project to try and build a high trust high performance workplace and we would like to do the same with Wellington City Council.

## 5 Restructuring at WCC

- 5.1 The PSA has previously raised serious concern at the level of restructuring at Wellington City Council. When we talk to members about the low morale in council and the reason for high staff turnover this remains the main reason given.
- 5.2 On October 14th PSA Organiser Nick Kelly wrote to WCC Chief Executive Kevin Lavery expressing concern on behalf of PSA members at WCC about continued Restructuring at WCC. Kevin Responded on the 23rd of February with the following:

*Thanks for the email of 14 October. I have noted your concerns about restructuring within the Council organisation. It is true that restructuring is continuing within some sections of the organisation as we continue to realign ourselves to deliver on our priorities. You will know I am on the record as saying that I do not support the idea of constant restructuring. I am particularly aware that restructuring has an impact on staff turnover and morale. I want stability at the Council and so large-scale restructuring will not be the norm on my watch. That being said, I cannot give you the assurance you seek - that there will be no more structural changes at the Council in the 2013-16 triennium. I have to be able to make organisational changes that help keep costs under control, improve services or meet changes in demand. For example I have started the Project Odyssey initiative which aims to transform the Council's IT capabilities. The principal aims are to both save money and improve services. It is likely the proposed changes will eventually have an impact on staffing numbers but it is likely to be 2-3 years before they are fully implemented. I believe we will be able to manage most of the required staffing reduction through natural attrition and redeployment, although some redundancies cannot be ruled out. In terms of your mention of the debate regarding regional amalgamation, I do not believe the public will accept a situation where the Council is in limbo until this debate reaches some conclusion. If some form of amalgamation is to occur, personally I think it will take several years for a new regional structure to be introduced and I want Wellington City Council to be in the best possible shape to respond to regional reorganisation.'*

- 5.3 Since the last Annual Report submission the PSA made in April 2013 the following WCC Business Units have been through restructuring:
- Parks and Recreation
  - Marketing and Communication

- Wellington Regional Aquatic Centre (Kilbirnie Pool Swim School)
- Democratic Services

5.4 In a number of cases, newly created positions remain vacant months after the restructure or employees who were redeployed or reconfirmed have decided to leave employment. Remaining employees across the organisation continue to complain of being overworked due to their unit being short staffed. It is unclear what benefit, if any, this restructuring has brought the council. Again the PSA recommend a moratorium on further restructuring pending a review of the impact these restructures has had on council.

## 6 Library budget

6.1 In our 2013 submission we reported that cuts to the Library budget in the 2012/13 and 2013/14 financial years of nearly two million dollars had resulted in the loss of 20 Full Time Equivalent staff positions being lost cut from the Library services. We talked about the impact this was having on employees, especially in the branch libraries. We also highlighted the following is list of reductions to the library service from 2011 to 2013:

- Stock rotation ceased in 2011 - the result being smaller library branches having a reduced selection to choose from as their collections are no longer regularly refreshed, and the library needs to buy more copies of individual titles to compensate.
- There has been a reduction of professional level staff in the libraries. Prior to 2011 WCC employed more qualified librarians in specialist positions.
- Children's book clubs have been cancelled and replaced with an on-line version. Whilst this suits some library users, many have now stopped using this service.
- Holiday programmes run for children have been reduced. Not all library branches now run holiday programmes, whereas in the past all did.
- Weekly preschool story times have been reduced significantly.
- No reference magazines are now held at the central library - previously the most recent copy was reference only, meaning current copies were available at the central library. This has resulted in negative feedback from library users.
- There have been changes to housebound loan periods from 4 to 6 weeks.
- WCC libraries now employ fewer customer service staff.
- Customer service desks at the central library have been reduced, especially at night. At the end of 2009 there were 9 points of contact for customers (fiction enquiries, issues, information, returns, membership, children's enquiries, 2nd floor enquiries, science and humanities enquiries, arts music and literature enquiries); now there are 7 during the day and only 5 at night. The closing off of the returns area in 2010 had a negative impact and library users continue to complain about it.
- Reduction of customer service points of contact at Karori library.

- 6.2 In this year's annual plan the Council propose to increase the budget by \$60,000 and use this money to reinstate children's literacy programs and for customer service and collection refreshment<sup>ii</sup>. For staff this will mean an increase of 1.5 FTE's. This increase in funding is welcomed and appreciated by PSA members.
- 6.3 The PSA, while strongly supporting this increase, continues to point out that most of the services listed in 6.1 will still not be restored as a result of this year's budget. Also we point out that even after this budget increase, the library will still have 18.5 fewer FTE staff positions in the library than there were at the start of 2012.
- 6.4 Last year we reported that "*Frontline staffing levels in the Libraries are reportedly getting to breaking point*". One year later we continue to have reports of libraries being short staffed. In particular we hear reports of branch libraries being significantly short staffed when people call in sick and nobody is able to cover. This proposed increase will allow for some extra staffing for Library front line staff, but the PSA remain concerned that staffing levels remain too light in this area.
- 6.5 We again draw councillors' attention to the September 2012 report from Queensland on 'The Library Dividend'<sup>iii</sup>. This report shows that the socio-economic return to Queensland is \$230 for every \$100 invested in public libraries. Their cost-benefit analysis showed that the quantified benefits included: literacy initiatives, improved education and career outcomes, services such as computer classes for seniors, social interaction and a sense of place, and environmental savings. There are no comparable figures for a library dividend for Wellington. As part of the PSA's library campaign we are running nationally we are talking to other agencies about trying to produce this sort of research in New Zealand.
- 6.6 Library services are consistently rated as the services most valued by New Zealanders, as measured in the State Service Commission's Kiwis Count survey. Wellingtonians value their libraries, which are a vital community, educational and social asset. We appreciated the move in 2014 to start improving the library service, and we hope this work will continue in subsequent years.

## 7 Living Wage

- 7.1 The PSA congratulates the Mayor and council on their decision to lift the wages of the lowest paid council staff to \$18.40 and to consider extending this to Council Controlled Organisations and contracted workers. This is an important line in the sand for council to draw – that poverty wages are not acceptable in this city and we commend the mayor and councillors for their leadership in establishing this principle for our capital city. Many of WCC's lowest paid employees have received little to no pay rise in a number of years. It makes good economic sense for Wellington to support the living wage as over time it will increase spending in the city.
- 7.2 On 17th February councillors were sent an email stating that the Living Wage rate had increased to \$18.80 Living Wage Aotearoa foreshadowed this in the report presented to council in December 2013 where the following statement was made in the introduction regarding the living wage rate:

*"The figure will be reviewed annually with the outcome of the first review due to be announced in February 2014"*<sup>iv</sup>

- 7.3 The PSA fully understands the financial constraints faced by council. We realise that any increase to wages needs to be done in a way that is financially sustainable. We accept that at this stage WCC can only afford to move the lowest rate to \$18.40. After this the next priority should be raising the lowest pay rates for people employed by CCO's and contractors. We understand that any further increases to pay rates need to be considered in relation the wider council budget. Our members are also rate payers and understand the need for council to act in financially sustainable ways. The Living Wage project took over 10 years to be fully established in London, and we understand that full implementation will take time in Wellington too.
- 7.4 Opponents of the Living Wage in Wellington lack any alternative. An example of this was a letter sent by the Wellington Employers Chamber of Commerce to Mayor Celia Wade Brown on 25 February 2014, in which they stated the following:

Like you, we know families have had it tough in the last few years. Many of our members who operate businesses have also had it tough – it has been hard for some to stay afloat. But we do not believe the 'Living Wage' is the answer. It is not the way to achieve higher wages which we absolutely want to see.

Apart from mention of economic growth, the Wellington Employers Chamber of Commerce offered no solutions to increasing low wages or ending poverty in the city. We are not aware of practical alternative solutions being offered by other opponents of the living wage.

The PSA and others involved in Living Wage Aotearoa understand that raising low wages is not the sole way to alleviate poverty or reduce inequality. But it is one practical and realistic way to make progress.

## **8 Pay and Collective Bargaining**

- 8.1 The PSA is about to go into negotiations for a new collective agreement at Council. Presently we have collective agreements in the Libraries and Building Consents council business units. Most other WCC employees are not currently covered by a collective agreement. Our aim is to have one collective agreement at Council so that there are consistent terms and conditions of employment, a situation quite different to what currently exists. Most other councils where the PSA organises, including Hutt City and Greater Wellington Regional Councils, have one collective agreement covering the majority of its employees.
- 8.2 One of the major issues we wish to address in bargaining is the current council pay system. WCC's Chief Executive Kevin Lavery has said to the PSA that he would like a review of the current council pay system, as it has contributed to the negative culture at council and has failed in its aim to incentivise performance. WCC in 2013 paid below the local government market rates that Strategic Pay produce each year. In addition a number of employees have received little to no pay rise at all in recent years at this council.

The PSA have concerns with the way the current pay system uses Strategic Pay's data without considering other relevant information such as the of cost of living. Also there is no ability to bargain pay rates and have an open discussion between the union and the employer about how pay is set. Pay rates are effectively imposed on the workforce by the employer. This is in contrast to how pay setting is done in the DHBs for example, where there is an open and transparent discussion about pay setting (though the issue of underfunding is a problem here too).

## 9 Outsourcing

9.1 Last year the PSA reported that WCC had outsourced the following council services since 1 July 2010:

- Kerbside Recycling
- Drainage Maintenance (excludes CCTV drainage Team)
- Election Processing
- Southern Landfill Operations

At an extraordinary council meeting on 4 April 2013 the council voted 8 to 7 to outsource the suburban street cleaning team, with the mayor using her casting vote to push this through.

9.2 In late 2013 the Wellington City Council made a decision to bring back in house the Wellington parking wardens who in recent years have been contracted to Armorgard. The PSA supports this decision. However, we are unclear at this stage whether all current Wellington parking wardens will automatically be transferred from Armorgard through to WCC with recognised service and on the same terms and conditions. The union believes this is what should happen when outsourced workers are brought back in house

9.3 The PSA does not believe there has been any benefit to the Wellington public as a result of services being outsourced. In the past the justification for outsourcing has been based on an assumption that the private sector can deliver better services to the rate payer than an in-house council business unit can. The PSA believes this argument is based on ideology rather than fact. There is no intrinsic reason why WCC cannot run these services efficiently itself.

9.4 The PSA is not saying there is no place for the private sector in delivering some council services. We understand that there will be occasions when private contractors need to be used by council to deliver services. An example of this is private construction companies used to build the new Kilbirnie Recreation Centre or security companies engaged by WCC during the 2011 Rugby World Cup.

9.5 The PSA have concerns around the tendering process for outsourced council work. An example of this is the contract awarded to Leightons on 1 July 2013. This contract was won by Leightons by undercutting the previous contractor Transfield by \$1 million.

9.5.1 Specifically the PSA was disappointed that the employees who had previously worked for Transfield and in some cases had been in the role since the time it was still part of WCC Citi Operations were not automatically transferred into employment with Leightons.

9.5.2 Those staff that did not get a job with Leightons received no redundancy compensation when they lost their jobs.

9.5.3 Those employees that did get jobs with Leightons were put on 90 day probation periods, despite often having many years doing exactly the same job for council under a different employer.

A PSA delegates was among those who lost his position under the 90 day rule. Even though the employer's behaviour was inconsistent and there was no hard evidence of wrong doing, the PSA was not able to challenge it

This was an effective PSA delegate who signed up their workmates to the union. We believe this employer has used the 90 day law in this case to sack our delegate.

The PSA oppose the 90 day probation law and see this as an example of how employers can use this to attack union members. We believe WCC should make not using the 90 day law a condition of tendering.

- 9.5.4 A number of the workers at Leightons have been engaged through labour hire companies. A number of them have been promised permanent contracts but these never arrive. Workers in this situation have no job security as they can lose this work with only 24 hours' notice. This also means these employees don't get the normal entitlements of permanent employees such as sick or annual leave. It is hard to see how this sort of casualised working arrangement is consistent with section 36 of the Local Government Act which states that councils should comply with the 'Principle of being a good employer'.

## **10 Capacity and water supply**

- 10.1 The PSA understand that their will soon be a proposal to change the entity currently known at Capacity to a new organisation which will not only do its current water management work, but also include the current water supply work that is currently done by Greater Wellington.
- 10.2 It is unclear what benefits Capacity as a shared service has brought to the councils involved. Members have seen no evidence of improved service or efficiencies through doing this shared service in this way.
- 10.3 There is certainly no evidence that there would be improve water services or efficiencies in the region by having the Greater Wellington water supply team moved into such an entity. The PSA do see a risk of these staff members losing terms and conditions of employment with a transfer of employment situation. It's also likely that highly skilled workers with many years' experience will leave the organisation if these conditions are lost.
- 10.4 Long term there is also the potential for to be the start of water privatisation in Wellington. Given the significant increases the NZ public have faced since the privatisation of electricity in the 1990s the PSA is very concerned about the potential impact of this happening with water in the region.
- 10.5 Under the section Our Work in the annual plan it states that 'managing water supply' is essential to retaining a healthy population. Therefore it would make sense that this service run by a democratically elected body, which Capacity is not. The PSA suggest that rather than move the water supply group from Greater Wellington to Capacity, that perhaps the councils should consider transferring the work currently carried out by Capacity to Greater Wellington.

## 11 The CCO model

- 11.1 The PSA congratulates the Council on its recent decision to bring back in house the Council Controlled Organisations (CCO) Wellington Cable Car and Wellington Waterfront. The validity of the CCO model is questionable, as it adds cost into the overall system through transactions between CCOs and other factors such as directors' fees. In addition, there is a weakening of accountability and control by Council. The PSA recommends WCC consider the future of other CCOs such as the Museums Trust and Wellington Venues as there appears to be little value of these council's services being run in this way.
- 11.2 Further we note that under the section Our Work, subsection Economic Development it talks about "supporting tourism promotions and attractions such as Te Papa and conference venues". Again it's unclear how having council venues managed by a CCO helps achieve this goal.

## 12 Conclusion

- 12.1 The last 2-3 years have been a difficult time to WCC employees. The organisation has gone through considerable restructuring and budget cuts, often taking a toll on WCC employees. There is a feeling currently that decisions to restructure or outsource council services are not made after genuine consultation and engagement with the council staff who deliver the service. The result has been high staff turnover and a workplace culture where morale is low.
- 12.2 However it is important to note the positive moves made by council in the last twelve months to improve things for council workers. The first is the decision to support and implement the Living Wage at WCC. This will do a lot to improve the wages of the 450 employees currently earning less than \$18.40. The second has been to start improving the library funding which will make a small improvement to staff levels and increase services to the public. The third is the decision to bring back in- house the council parking wardens which reverses the trend of outsourcing council services in recent years.
- 12.3 The PSA look forward to working with WCC in 2014 on the Culture Change project and other measures that can help improve the working lives of council employees.

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<sup>i</sup> Email from WCC CE Kevin Lavery to PSA Organiser Nick Kelly, October 23 2013

<sup>ii</sup> Wellington City Council's 2014/15 Draft Annual Plan pp17

<sup>iii</sup> Queensland Library Dividend research paper, 2012

<sup>iv</sup> The Living Wage in the People-Centred, Smart Capital of Aotearoa New Zealand – Addressing inequality starting with Wellington City Council. Pp7



11 March 2014

Wellington City Council

Re. Submission to Annual Plan 2014-2015

This paper is being submitted as part of the Annual Plan 2014-2015 on behalf of Surf Life Saving New Zealand for the provision of Regional Lifeguard Services at Oriental Bay, Lyall Bay and Scorching Bay during the peak summer holiday period. We wish to thank the council for the partnership which ensures that there is continued funding for the Lifeguard service at these Beaches over the summer holiday period.

There are a number of key ways this service links some key to current Council strategies, these are the following:

- People Centered City – Providing a safe environment for our community and a valuable resource in the event of an emergency.
- Eco-City – Enabling people to use the City's aquatic environment in a safe healthy manner.
- Dynamic Central City – Providing safety for events that make the City dynamic.

The budgets within the attached documents show the main costs associated with the Regional Lifeguard Service within Wellington over the next three summer seasons. Please note these are subject to change but are provided to give a likely estimate to assist in long term budget planning.

- 2014-15: \$ 81,531.40 (+GST)
- 2015-16: \$ 85,118.32 (+GST)
- 2016-17: \$ 85,118.32 ( +GST )

It is important to note that these costs do not include the training and skill development programs plus the majority of the administration that this programme requires.

Surf Life Saving New Zealand understands that council are obliged to apply annual inflation to these annual budgets as per the CPI adjustment and appreciates this consideration as our costs continually to incrementally increase.

We would like to take the opportunity to present our submission and answer any questions the councillors may have regarding the Provision of a Regional Lifeguard Service within the Wellington area.

SLSNZ acknowledges and values the on-going support of Wellington City Council and is proud of the collaborative relationship shared both with the council and the Lifeguard Services which provides positive impact to those who live and choose to recreate at Beaches and within the wider community.



**SURF LIFE SAVING**  
NEW ZEALAND

Yours Sincerely,

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Surf Life Saving New Zealand

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**SURF LIFE SAVING**  
NEW ZEALAND

# Provision of a Regional Lifeguard Service Wellington City

March 2014

Contents

- 1. Background..... 2
  - 1.1 Introduction..... 2
  - 1.2 Wellington City..... 2
- 2. Community Needs Identified..... 3
  - 2.1 Objectives..... 3
  - 2.2 Who Will Benefit..... 4
  - 2.3 Link to Council Priorities..... 4
- 3. Service Provision..... 4
  - 3.1 Current Service Provided..... 4
  - 3.2 Recommended Service..... 5
- 4. Funding and Resources..... 5
  - 4.1 Current Funding Provided..... 5
  - 4.2 Funding Requested from Wellington City Council..... 5
  - 4.3 Total Cost to Deliver Recommended Service..... 5
  - 4.4 Wellington City Council..... 6
  - 4.5 Surf Life Saving New Zealand..... 6
- 5. Reporting..... 6
- Appendix A..... 7
- Long Term Drowning & Injury Prevention Planning: Wellington City..... 7

# 1. Background

## 1.1 Introduction

The purpose of our organisation is protecting our Community in the Water. In the summer of 2010/11 we celebrated our centenary of 100 years of Surf Life Saving in New Zealand. The summer celebrated the developments in rescue and education throughout those 100 years, as well as the 50,000 people saved and also the stories of the people who have volunteered and built the organisation to what it is today. We are excited about moving into the next centenary of volunteering, education, and delivering programmes and services in our communities.

Our current focuses are:

- To be New Zealand's leading aquatic essential service.
- To be recognised as the #1 authority in drowning and prevention.
- To have effective partnerships in the aquatic sector.
- To be flexible and responsive to community needs in water safety.
- To have Clubs and the national organization functioning effectively
- To have 'one organization' view to drowning prevention and our sport.
- To ensure all stakeholders reflect positively on their relationship with SLS.

We have a range of activities, services and programmes that enable us to achieve our purpose, these include:

- Lifesaving
  - The support of the 73 active voluntary lifeguard services throughout the country.
  - The management and administration of the Regional Lifeguard service.
- Education
  - The organization provides Beach Education, City Nippers and Surf to Schools programmes to over 40,000 children nationwide.
  - Our Education pathway for membership extends from junior through to masters level.
- Sport
  - Maintaining and developing the pathway from junior surf to high performance.
- Volunteer support
  - Subsidised courses in first aid, radio operation, Inflatable Rescue Boats and the National Lifeguard School.
  - Providing coaching courses for our 16,000+ members.
  - Professional support from Club Development Officers throughout the country to ensure the sustainable development of our clubs and volunteer lifeguard services.
- Community
  - Programmes and services that focus on enhancing community wellbeing services. These are provided on and off the beach and include workplace seminars, research and education forums, and rescue emergency services collaboration.
- Event Safety
  - Event safety services for community events.

## 1.2 Wellington City

In Wellington City there has been a service contract for Regional Lifeguard Services at the Lyall Bay and Oriental Bay beaches. A great deal more volunteer hours are put in by the SLS membership in Wellington that provides the same service, these volunteer hours are not part of the Regional Lifeguard Service.

One of the key safety interventions as defined by the Coastal Public Safety Assessment (CPSA), surf lifeguards on beaches, has been subject to additional risk modelling. The recommendations provided are based on analysis of the following data:

- Beach morphology and physical hazard rating.
- Visitation profile.
- User demographic.

- Activity profile.
- Projected population growth/trends (Census Data, Statistic New Zealand).

The risk modelling has yielded the following with regards to surf lifeguarding servicing within the Wellington Area (assessed sites only):

*Extend existing surf lifeguarding service (or satellite):*

- Lyall Bay
- Oriental Bay
- Scorching Bay

The professional lifeguarding service should continue to run from late December to the end of January (to cover the summer school holidays) at Lyall Bay Beach and Oriental Bay Beach extending by one hour each day. Further extension into February is also suggested for these sites in year four. This service would operate during weekday afternoons (e.g. 4:00 pm – 7:00 pm) during February. This has not been included in the request for funds at this stage.

A minimum of three lifeguards should be stationed at all sites due to the nature of the beach and wave conditions. This is the minimum number required to safely utilise an inflatable rescue boat (IRB) in the lifeguarding operation, and thus 3 lifeguards are necessary as an IRB should be utilised at all sites. Further lifeguards are required over peak periods due to greater beach use.

*Refer appendix (A) for more detail on the Coastal Public Safety Assessment.*

## 2. Community Needs Identified

### 2.1 Objectives

The main objective of the service is to prevent death and injury at Wellington Beaches. Funding will provide the means to have patrolled beach areas during the busiest weeks.

A regional lifeguard service provides a safe swimming area for beach users during the summer holiday period. Qualified surf lifeguards assess the safety of the conditions, and establish a patrolled area if conditions are suitable. Swimmers who follow the directions of lifeguards and swim between the flags can enjoy the beach safely. Lifeguards also monitor areas outside the flags and perform preventative actions to reduce the risk of drowning and injury.

A key objective is to reduce the number of rescues required by performing preventative actions. This may include advising against swimming in a designated area because of:

- Sea conditions such as rips, holes, strong undertows, and the size of the surf and force of waves which may be considered dangerous.
- Presence of stingers in the water such as jellyfish and stingrays.
- Presence of dangerous/high risk sea life such as sharks.
- Pollution problems.
- Inappropriate or incorrect use of surfboards, boogie boards or other floatation devices used in the water.
- Warning swimmers who are venturing past safe limits in relation to their swimming abilities.

Proactive preventative actions aim to prevent beach users from getting into danger while at the beach and educate them in ways to enjoy the sea environment safely through interaction with the surf lifeguards. If conditions are deemed unsafe for swimming, the lifeguards remain on duty to advise the public against swimming, and perform any preventative actions or rescues as required throughout the day.

Should people become endangered, the safe return of people to the beach, without drowning or injury, is a surf lifeguard's main objective.

Regional surf lifeguards also provide the following services to the public and emergency services should the need arise:

- Administering first aid.
- Carrying out searches (shore or sea based).

- On Call emergency services should the seriousness of an incident require it.
- Working with the Coastguard and Police as required.
- Providing important information to the public.
- The delivery of public education messages proactively and directly to beach users.

## 2.2 Who Will Benefit

- Local residents.
- Beach going public of all ages and cultural backgrounds.
- Visitors to the Region.
- Local youth through employment opportunities.
- Local businesses.

### Patrol Statistics 2012 / 2013

Location	Rescues	First Aids	Searches	Preventative Actions	No of People involved in Preventatives
Lyllall Bay	1	4	0	99	146
Oriental Bay	3	2	0	143	312
<b>Totals</b>	4	6	0	242	548

### Patrol Statistics 2013 / 2014

Location	Rescues	First Aids	Searches	Preventative Actions	No of People involved in Preventatives
Lyllall Bay	5	3	0	577	343
Oriental Bay	3	2	0	495	489
<b>Totals</b>	8	5	0	1072	832

## 2.3 Link to Council Priorities

There are a number of key areas this service will link into Council strategies and priorities these are the following:

- People Centred City – Providing a safe environment for our community and a valuable resource in the event of an emergency.
- Eco-City – Enabling people to use the City's aquatic environment in a safe healthy manner.
- Dynamic Central City – Providing safety for events that make the City dynamic.

## 3. Service Provision

### 3.1 Current Service Provided

Location	Total Number Days	No of Lifeguards	Days per Week	Hours Per Day
Lyllall Bay	30	3	5	7.5
Oriental Bay	30	3	5	7.5
Scorching Bay	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil

## 3.2 Recommended Service

The coastal public safety assessment has yielded the following with regards to surf lifeguarding services within Wellington City (assessed sites only):

*Extend surf lifeguarding service (or satellite):*

- Lyall Bay
- Oriental Bay
- Scorching Bay

Location	Total Number Days			No of Lifeguards	Days per Week	Hours Per Day
	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15			
Lyall Bay (Dec-Jan)	30	30	30	3	5	8
(Feb)	10	10	10	3	5	3
Oriental Bay(Dec-Jan)	30	30	30	3	5	8
(Feb)	10	10	10	3	5	3
Scorching Bay (Dec-Jan)	30	30	30	3	5	8
(Feb)	10	10	10	3	5	3

## 4. Funding and Resources

### 4.1 Current Funding Provided

- Wellington City Council \$40,000.00 (+GST)

### 4.2 Funding Requested from Wellington City Council

- 2014-15: \$ 81,531.40 (+GST)
- 2015-16: \$ 85,118.32 (+GST)
- 2016-17: \$85,118.32 (+GST)

### 4.3 Total Cost to Deliver Recommended Service

Expenditure	2014 / 2015	2015 / 2016	2016/2017
Uniforms	\$ 3,600.00	\$ 3,600.00	\$3600
Fuel	\$ 1,920.00	\$ 1,920.00	\$1920
Equipment / Repairs	\$ 4,500.00	\$ 4,500.00	\$4500
SLSNZ Insurance	\$ 360.00	\$ 360.00	\$360
ACC	\$ 1,266.98	\$ 1,333.67	\$1333.67
Wages	\$ 62,106.96	\$ 65,375.75	\$65375
Supervision	\$3000.00	\$3000.00	\$3000.00
Management	\$ 4,777.46	\$ 5,028.90	\$5028
<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURE</b>	<b>\$81531.40</b>	<b>\$85118.32</b>	<b>\$85118.32</b>

## 4.4 Wellington City Council

The Council will be responsible for the Funding of the Regional Lifeguard service to the level recommended in the Coastal Public Survey for the expenses identified by SLSNZ.

## 4.5 Surf Life Saving New Zealand

Surf Life Saving New Zealand will be responsible for and supply the following:

- Recruitment, appointment and human resource management related to this service along with any transportation of personnel and equipment.
- Supply of rescue and first aid equipment, IRB's (inflatable rescue boats), communication equipment at locations where a SLSNZ affiliated Club is located.
- Supply of Clubrooms for administering first aid, storage of all equipment, and staff requirements at locations where a SLSNZ affiliated Club is located.

## 5. Reporting

Surf Life Saving New Zealand will undertake a full review of the service on completion of the services provided. This review along with a written report will be completed and reported back to the Council on contract completion.

The report provided to the Wellington City Council will include:

- Summary of patrol statistics
- Type of rescues performed, equipment used
- Details on types of first aids performed and cause
- Detail of any influences on the delivery of the service, e.g. weather conditions, king tides, events occurring in the area.
- Any other information that will assist in the delivery of the service now and in the future.
- Any recommendations to improve the service, or the safety of beach goers.

## Appendix A

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# Long Term Drowning & Injury Prevention Planning: Wellington City

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This paper serves to provide an overview of the resources and services recommended for Wellington City over the next 10 years to help prevent drowning and injury on the coast. The recommendations are derived from risk assessments conducted at sites on the Wellington City coastline.

Drowning is the third highest cause of unintentional death in New Zealand. Since 2002, 17 people have drowned on the greater Wellington coastline. On the Wellington City coastline 215 people have been saved by surf lifeguards, 144 injured have been treated, 14 searches have been conducted and 10,500 people have been removed from danger prior to getting into difficulty. In response to these alarming figures Surf Life Saving New Zealand (SLSNZ) developed a Coastal Public Safety Strategy to provide a framework for evidence-based drowning and injury prevention. Essential to this strategy was the instigation of a risk assessment programme (referred to as Coastal Public Safety Assessments) to enable the water safety sector to make informed decisions, based on quality evidence, to ensure high risk coastal locations are identified and resourced accordingly.

### 1. Coastal Public Safety Assessment (CPSA)

Each CPSA involves a thorough analysis of the coastal environment (beach and surrounding dunes, surf zone, and offshore environment) and the interaction of people with this environment. The process includes identifying, logging and analysing numerous contributory factors, including:

- Hazards (i.e. shifting sand bars, deep holes, rip currents, large waves, submerged rocks etc.).
- Beach structures, facilities or existing infrastructure.
- Tourist attractions and other visitation drivers.
- Access points.
- Site usage trends.
- Demographic profiles.
- Activity profiles.
- Existing rescue/incident profile (to identify trouble spots).
- Existing emergency response to the site.

This data was collected using a range of critical sources including local community members, local coastal users (e.g. surfers), existing surf lifesaving services, police, ambulance, fire service, coastguard, iwi, and territorial authorities.

As each site and surrounding community is unique, a thorough risk assessment is required to ensure the factors contributing to incidents at particular sites are fully understood, ensuring the formulation of a comprehensive risk mitigation plan, which is effective and sustainable.

Surf Life Saving New Zealand will collate the data, consider the input from all data sources, and develop a ten year implementation plan to enhance public safety at the site. For example, this may include, but is not limited to, the installation of water safety signage, instigation of beach education programmes, or extension of lifeguarding services. Surf Life Saving New Zealand will work with the community and other key stakeholders to ensure that the initiatives required for

the site are implemented and the safety of the public is enhanced to enable people to enjoy the marine environment safely.

## 2. Wellington Coastal Public Safety Assessments

Coastal Public Safety Assessments were conducted at eight sites on the Wellington City coastline (Figure 1). The sites assessed included, Oriental Bay, Balaena Bay, Scorching Bay, Worser Bay, Breaker Bay, Lyall Bay, Houghton Bay and Island Bay. These sites were selected based on their perceived level of risk and the presence of existing surf lifesaving services.



Figure 1: Sites subject to Coastal Public Safety Assessments in Wellington City.

## 3. Summary of findings

- There is a high level of risk of drowning and injury at Lyall Bay and a moderate level at Oriental Bay, Balaena Bay, Scorching Bay, Worser Bay, Breaker Bay, Houghton Bay and Island Bay. Drowning prevention measures have been implemented in varying forms and capacities at the assessed sites. Additional measures are still required to mitigate the level of risk further.
- Oriental Bay, Balaena Bay, Scorching Bay, Worser Bay, Breaker Bay, Lyall Bay and Island Bay have no water safety signage. The signage at Houghton Bay is unsuitable and needs to be replaced.
- There is an absence of easily accessible emergency communications devices at some sites. This could have an adverse impact on the timely response of emergency services in the event of an incident.
- The Wellington coastline is well used by local residents and tourist alike for a range of recreational purposes, particularly during the summer season.

- Car parking and basic facilities (e.g. public toilets) are provided at popular beaches on the Wellington City coastline.
- Volunteer and professional surf lifesaving services are effective at reducing drowning and injury over the peak summer period. On average approximately 35 people have been saved, 21 injured have been treated, two searches have been conducted and 1,690 people have been removed from dangerous situations by surf lifeguards every year (over the past five years).
- Surf lifesaving clubs in Wellington City provide a call-out service, responding to near shore water emergencies. Availability and the time of response of this service vary from club to club.
- Beach safety programmes (Beach Education) are run at surf lifesaving clubs in Wellington City, teaching children how to stay safe in the surf.

#### 4. Summary of recommendations

- Water safety signage which meets the requirements of the combined Australian/New Zealand Standard (AS/NZS 2416:2010) should be installed at Oriental Bay, Balaena Bay, Scorching Bay, Worsler Bay, Breaker Bay, Lyall Bay, Houghton Bay and Island Bay. Highest risk sites should be prioritised. SLSNZ can provide the specific signage requirements, as detailed in the Coastal Public Safety Reports.
- The provision of lifeguarding services should be extended beyond their current capacity (as detailed in section 4.1). In addition, Coastal Public Safety Assessments should be conducted at other sites, to investigate the requirement for lifeguarding services in popular yet unpatrolled locations.
- An integrated approach to coastal callouts and/or emergencies should be established between all relevant stakeholders at this site. A prioritized first step should be a meeting between surf lifesaving, coastguard, fire service, and police.
- A network of permanent emergency response beacons (ERB) should be installed at all assessed sites in Wellington City to enable prompt, direct, two-way communication with emergency services. As a result, an effective, timely response can be executed in an effort to minimise the consequences when an incident occurs.
- Coastal safety material should be provided by all accommodation venues relevant to the sites assessed. This will expose domestic and international visitors to some water safety education prior to entering the coastal environment.
- Beach safety information specific to the coastal sites should be incorporated on the websites of territorial authorities and applicable tourism companies. These websites should link to Surf Life Saving New Zealand's [www.findabeach.co.nz](http://www.findabeach.co.nz) website.
- Daily information signage should be displayed at main entry points throughout the year with local community members trained, by SLSNZ, regarding how to display this information.
- A holistic approach regarding coastal public safety should be incorporated into all future planning at coastal sites on the Wellington City coastline. This will likely see the introduction of other drowning prevention initiatives. SLSNZ should be consulted regarding any future development of beach access and/or infrastructure in an effort to ensure public safety is appropriately considered.

#### 4.1 Surf Lifeguard Service Extension

One of the key safety interventions as defined by the CPSA, surf lifeguards on beaches, has been subject to additional risk modelling. The recommendations provided are based on analysis of the following data:

- Beach morphology and physical hazard rating.
- Visitation profile.
- User demographic.
- Activity profile.
- Projected population growth/trends (Census Data, Statistics New Zealand).

The risk modelling has yielded the following results with regards to (professional) surf lifeguarding servicing within Wellington City (assessed sites only):

*Maintain existing surf lifeguarding service:*

n/a

*Extend existing surf lifeguarding service (or satellite):*

- Oriental Bay, Lyall Bay.

*Investigate potential surf lifeguarding service extension and/or satellite patrol:*

- Scorching Bay, Worser Bay and Island Bay.

The professional lifeguard service should be extended to run from late December to the end of January (to cover the summer school holidays) at Lyall Bay and Oriental Bay. Further extension into February should be investigated for these two sites, such as a service that operates during weekday afternoons (e.g. 4:00 pm - 7:30 pm) during this month.

A professional lifeguarding service should be established at Scorching Bay and run from early January to late January. As required the length of this service may change to fulfil the risk profile of this site. In addition, professional lifeguarding services should be investigated to run over the peak summer period at Worser Bay and Island Bay. This may operate from late December to early January. These latter services should be investigated further prior to instigation.

A minimum of two lifeguards should be stationed at beaches in Wellington Harbour. An inflatable rescue boat (IRB) should be utilised along much of the south coast due to the beach and wave conditions. This requires a minimum of three lifeguards at each site. The actual number of lifeguards may be greater than the minimum requirements in many cases.

The success of a professional lifeguarding service should be evaluated annually. Any evaluation should take into account the quality of weather experienced during any given summer, as well as other factors which may influence the use of this service by members of the public.

In addition, investment in a support service (mobile water unit) should be investigated. This service could provide mobile surveillance along the Wellington City coastline over the peak summer period.

#### 5. Future research: Coastal Public Safety Assessments

As only eight sites have been assessed in Wellington City it is essential to conduct additional Coastal Public Safety Assessments to identify the need for lifeguarding services in other popular, yet unpatrolled locations.

*Recommendations:*

- An additional two sites should be assessed in the next two years. A methodological approach should be taken in selecting the site, with comprehensive reasoning to support the perceived highest risk site to undergo a risk assessment.
- The safety interventions recommended for the site following a Coastal Public Safety Assessment be implemented.

## 6. Conclusion

- A range of safety interventions (including water safety signage, lifeguard service extension, emergency response beacons, and education programmes) are required to reduce the risk of drowning and injury on the Wellington City coastline.
- The provision of these safety interventions should be incorporated into future plans for the coastal environment by the Wellington City Council and other water safety stakeholders.

## 7. Further details

This paper provides a brief summary of the results of the Coastal Public Safety Assessments conducted in Wellington City. Extensive information on each individual beach and their recommended safety interventions is detailed within their Coastal Public Safety Reports. These reports will be available online via a freely accessible web database, known as Code Blue ([www.codeblue.org.nz](http://www.codeblue.org.nz)). Please note these recommendations are subject to change following consultation with stakeholders at each site and/or changing situations for a particular site.

P.O.Box 13532  
 Johnsonville  
 Wellington

10 March 2013

Dear Sir,

Please find a submission to Wellington's draft annual plan.

Our submission requests that further wide-spread consultation be taken immediately in regards to the safety of fluoridating the Wellington water supply. In particular, we have concerns around the safety of water-introduced fluoride being administered to bottle-fed infants.

We recently returned to Wellington to live after 7 years abroad in Scotland, where there is no water fluoridation. In fact, following a further review of fluoridation by the Scottish Executive 2005, (which was widely reported on) the policy of fluoride in water was again rejected due to the associated **well-documented health concerns** and **ethical issues** that public water fluoridation presents.

By contrast, the ChildSmile program (a dental hygiene initiative in schools) in Scotland **has reduced tooth decay by remarkable amounts**. Refer to the Scottish Government website for Child Smile.

(Quote: "Children's dental health across Scotland is better than ever before, with figures released at the end of last year showing that for the first time all NHS boards met the Scottish Government target for 60 per cent of primary sevens to have no obvious signs of tooth decay")

My wife and I have a young child and many young children in our extended family. Like other families, we are extremely concerned that there is a vast quantity of reliable scientific evidence available in the public domain that demonstrates; in particular that children and babies neither need fluoride, a proven neurotoxin, nor can they safely ingest it:

- Mothers milk does not contain fluoride except in minute trace quantities
- Fluoride is not a nutrient
- The dosage received by individuals cannot be controlled
- Fluoride is well-documented to have a detrimental effect on a child's development, in particular IQ (Refer Harvard University study funded by the US NIH). Hence, naturally incurring fluoride is removed from water in many countries.
- It is indiscriminately administered, for example to bottle fed / formula fed infants, despite new-born infants having NO TEETH.
- Mounting evidence shows it is **topical** use, **not ingested** use that shows any benefit (as admitted by the USA CDC).

**Questions we expect WCC to answer on this issue:**

Does Wellington City Council have access to greater and better quality evidence for continuing with fluoridation, particularly when such developed and scientifically-minded countries such as Germany,

France, Switzerland and Sweden, (in fact 97% of Western Europe) does not fluoridate water? (Sweden banned the practice largely because the long term effects were never understood).

Can Wellington City Council confirm that other highly dangerous contaminants, such as arsenic or lead, are not present in ANY quantity in the fluoride administered to our water?

Is Council **completely convinced** that Wellington's infants, in particular bottle-fed, are safe and protected from any cumulative long term health impacts of exposure to (unquantifiable) amounts of fluoride? Are they aware that there are no benefits, only risks to infants? **If not, then the practice of fluoridating water should be immediately stopped abandoned.**

What Randomized Controlled Trial (RCT) does the WCC (or the NZ Ministry of Health from whom we assume WCC receives its advice) refer to in order to confirm the safety of water fluoridation? Are WCC aware that a systematic review of the literature commissioned by the British Government (the "York Review") found that, under current standards for what constitutes good medical evidence, there has not yet been a single high-quality study demonstrating fluoridation's benefits — despite over 50 years of fluoridating water?

We firmly believe that Wellington City Council is participating in a lottery with the health of Wellington based children, in particular, our infants. And, of course, it is the poorer families that cannot opt out of fluoridation due to the very high expense of obtaining filters to remove it.

We should all have freedom to decide how and when we or our children are medicated, or administered with any chemical.

It is entirely unethical that in Wellington, the freedom to drink **uncontaminated, fresh drinking** water is not possible because the Council has decided to add fluoride, and cannot control the dosage administered to individuals.

**In summary**, we propose for the draft annual plan, that WCC **seize fluoridating** public water supplies. We need dental care, not chemicals in the water. Dental caries can be prevented with means other than fluoridation, thereby avoiding the adverse effects of fluoride.

Use the money saved, to investigate and potentially start a **new initiative** along the lines of the very successful Scottish ChildSmile program.

Kind regards,

Chris Lawton and Dr Rachel Kent-Lawton  
32 Tawa Terrace  
Tawa  
Wellington

Chris.Lawton@maxnet.co.nz

**Antoinette Bliss**

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**From:** Robin Boldarin <robin.boldarin@xtra.co.nz>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, 12 March 2014 8:26 a.m.  
**To:** BUS: Annual Plan  
**Subject:** Miramar/Maupuia Progressive Association

Thank you for the opportunity to make a submission on this.

In the cultural/educational arena we suggest that entry to the Zoo be on the same (current) level as Zealandia. It was clearly evident that the lowered entry fee (for Zealandia) encouraged a greater attendance by the public. The Zoo is both an educational tool and a conservation tool and that should be factored into any price changes.

We believe that the upgrade of Kilbirnie should be completed i.e. the lower edges of Coutts Street in close proximity to Bay Road. The project has been scheduled, its funding approved and would be the logical final step to take in the process. This should take precedence over the proposed Cycle Way, which, although admirable in environmental/safety terms, will not have the same monetary impact.

We strongly support the retention of the Town Hall as an icon within the city. It holds an enviable position as a very fine acoustic auditorium as well as being of notable heritage value.

We would also like to make an oral submission on this and city-safety issues and would appreciate a time slot to do so.

Yours sincerely

Robin Boldarin  
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NAME	Submission to WCC 2014/15 Draft Annual Plan
PREPARED FOR	Wellington City Council
PREPARED BY	VUWSA Executive
DATE	07/03/2014

## **Contents:**

1. Introduction
2. Executive Summary
3. Comment on Living Wage
4. Comment on Urban Development
5. Comment on Other Sections
6. Contact

### **1. Introduction**

- 1.1 The Victoria University of Wellington Students' Association (VUWSA) welcomes the opportunity to make a submission on the Wellington City Council's 2014-15 Draft Annual Plan. We would also like to appear in person to present an oral submission.
- 1.2 VUWSA is the oldest student association in the country, established in 1899. We exist to represent the thousands of students who attend our city's largest tertiary institution.
- 1.3 Victoria University has over 22,000 students who make up a significant portion of the city's population. VUWSA aims to encourage participation and increase their representation in decisions being made by the council. This submission is one way of doing that; however we hope that WCC will continue to engage directly with us to ensure the views of students are included in the wider dialogue of council operations.
- 1.4 This year our strategic community focus is ensuring that our students are able to live in safe, healthy and affordable flats. This sits alongside our continued support for the Living Wage Aotearoa Campaign.

## **2. Executive Summary**

This Submission briefly touches on many aspects of the Draft Annual Plan. Specifically we want to show our support for the introduction of a Living Wage, commend moves to improve earthquake standards while also recommending changes to improve the Urban Development section. We also include comments on cycle ways, lighting and other service improvements.

## **3. Comment on Living Wage**

- 3.1 VUWSA welcomes the commitment of WCC to introduce a Living Wage for all directly employed staff. We see this as an important step towards addressing inequality in our city and something which will help improve the wellbeing of our students who work for the council.
- 3.2 VUWSA is surprised at the cost estimation for extending the living wage to CCOs and contractors and believes that this is a significant over estimation. Costing's done for Auckland Council suggest that it would cost them 0.015% of their total spending which is drastically smaller than WCC's estimate.
- 3.3 VUWSA implores the Council to ensure that CCOs and contractors are directed to implement a living wage over the coming years as contracts come up for renegotiation. This will ensure that the numerous students employed by these entities receive the same positive benefits as those directly employed by the Council. We believe that this will have a great impact on students, enabling them to focus on their studies instead of worrying over their financial situation.

## **4. Comment on Urban Development**

- 4.1 VUWSA welcomes the initiatives proposed to improve the earthquake standards of housing in Wellington. However, we believe that more could be done to ensure Tenants have an avenue to ensure that their landlords inspect and bring their properties up to standard if need be.
- 4.2 During the aftermath of the 2013 earthquakes, VUWSA noticed a distinct lack of readily available information for tenants on how they can ensure that their flat is safe to live in. This led to anxiety issues and had a detrimental effect on overall wellbeing and ability to focus on academic study.

4.3 VUWSA notes that there is currently no regulation for minimal standards regarding insulation, ventilation and heating for rental properties in the city. These are crucial measures to improve the health of students and others living in rental accommodation which will have significant wider community benefits. Minimum rental standards will also have wider economic benefits as tenants will spend less money on heating and health costs meaning more can be spent at local businesses. VUWSA strongly encourages WCC to make substantive moves towards introducing standards and we look forward to working closely in the development of them.

## **5. Comment on Other Sections**

5.1 VUWSA supports the proposal for increased spending on cycle ways. We see this as a positive move to improve the safety of cyclists, many of whom are students, and encourage active modes of transport. We would be very interested in discussing improved cycling access to our Kelburn campus and see how planned cycle routes could provide better access to other campuses.

5.2 VUWSA notes the need for continual improvements in street and footpath lighting around campuses and throughout the city to help with the safety of students walking at night.

5.3 VUWSA also supports moves to make service improvements. We see this as a positive move to help make Wellington an even better place to live and study in. We would like to see these improvements include the needs and interests of tertiary students.

## **6. Contact**

We would be delighted to discuss our submission in more detail in person, please contact us to arrange this or if you have any questions regarding the content of our submission:

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