

Annual Report 2009/10

Wellington City Council

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Our vision

to make wellington an affordable, vibrant, and internationally competitive city.

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The Wellington City Council is made up of 15 elected representatives – the mayor and 14 councillors. They are supported by two community boards and 1,500+ staff.

It's the Council's job to look after the well-being of Wellington and its people, and to enable democratic local decision-making.

GOVERNANCE

We inform and involve residents in decisions about the city's future, through elections, consultation, engagement, and publications.

2009/10 operating cost: \$13.2m (\$68 per resident, \$0.18 per resident per day)

ENVIRONMENT

We support conservation-based visitor attractions such as Wellington Zoo, the Karori Sanctuary and four botanical gardens. We also provide the city's 34+ square kilometres of Town Belt and reserve land, parks and coastline. We supplied water to the city's homes and businesses during the year. We also safely disposed of the city's stormwater, sewage, and solid waste, offered grants for environmental initiatives, and promoted energy efficiency and sustainability.

2009/10 operating cost: \$122.9m (\$629 per resident, \$1.72 per resident per day)

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

We support major events such as the IRB Sevens and the World of Wearable Arts and visitor attractions such as Te Papa and the Wellington Convention Centre. We fund tourism promotion and keep the city centre vibrant by providing free weekend parking, and provide grants for community projects with economic benefits.

2009/10 operating cost: 25.0m (\$128 per resident, \$0.35 per resident per day)

CULTURAL WELL-BEING

We fund the city's art galleries and museums, operate Toi Poneke – the Wellington Arts Centre, support the NZ International Arts Festival, and the NZ Symphony Orchestra, operate the City Archives, provide cultural grants, and support a wide array of community events and festivals.

2009/10 operating cost: 13.8m (\$71 per resident, \$0.19 per resident per day)

SOCIAL AND RECREATION

We provide the city's sports fields, swimming pools, recreation centres, playgrounds, and libraries. We also provide over 2,300 homes, and protect public health and safety by monitoring the city centre, controlling liquor and food sales, regulating public health risks, providing toilets, and preparing the city to deal with emergencies such as earthquakes.

2009/10 operating cost: 85.8m (\$439 per resident, \$1.20 per resident per day)

URBAN DEVELOPMENT

We guide and control building and land development, enhance the waterfront and other public areas, and protect the city's built heritage.

2009/10 operating cost: 28.8m (\$147 per resident, \$0.40 per resident per day)

TRANSPORT

We look after 670km of streets and roads, as well as footpaths, cycle lanes, traffic signals, and car parks. We also support public transport through measures such as bus lanes and shelters.

2009/10 operating cost: 47.6m (\$243 per resident, \$0.67 per resident per day)

MAYOR'S REPORT

Wellington has enjoyed another strong year despite global economic turbulence.

There are many forces – local and global – that influence quality of life for Wellington and its residents.

The global economic downturn slowed growth during the year and made affordability a pressing issue for households and businesses. The city continued to face competition for investment, skills and tourism dollars. Environmental issues, from climate change to water use, demanded attention.

But the city continued to grow, and to welcome a wide range of people, representing many cultures and interests.

Our approach in responding to all these trends is to preserve what makes Wellington special, to invest in areas where we have a competitive advantage – for example our compact form, tolerant attitudes, and reputation for being able to deliver major events – and to look after crucial infrastructure such as transport and water networks, while ensuring our services and activities remain affordable.

Although our work programme for the 2009/10 year focused largely on 'business as usual', we did continue to invest in the city's future. That investment is reflected in the completion of exciting visitor attractions such as the new Carter Observatory, Zealandia and the expanded City Gallery; in progress on areas such as the new Indoor Community Sports Centre and the Golden Mile; and in the huge range of events that kept the city humming during the year.

Our decisions throughout the year reflected the significant economic, social and environmental trends. Environmental issues were to the fore, as were preparations for next year's Rugby World Cup.

We also set a direction for the city's community facilities – the pools, libraries and other networks that provide places for people to get together, enjoy themselves, learn and to live healthy lifestyles.

Despite the tough economic environment, Wellington has enjoyed another good year – and we can look forward to an absolutely positive future.

KERRY PRENDERGAST

MAYOR

HIGHLIGHTS

Quality of life

Wellington continued to offer residents a very high quality of life during the year. In our 2010 Residents' Satisfaction Survey, 92 percent rated their quality of life as good or very good.

In the 2010 Mercer Quality of Living Survey, Wellington was ranked 12th best city in the world for quality of life and 5th best eco-city.

Community facilities

In June 2010, the Council approved a new Community Facilities Policy and Implementation Plan. The policy aims to guide future Council investment in community facilities such as pools, recreation centres, libraries, and community centres and halls (see 5.6 Community Participation and Support for details).

As part of implementation, the Council approved improvements to several pools, including a new hydrotherapy pool at the Wellington Regional Aquatic Centre and new indoor teaching pools at Keith Spry Pool in Johnsonville. We also established a new School Pools Partnership Fund aimed at increasing access to community pool space and learn-to-swim programmes.

Wellington's water supply

Every year, Wellingtonians use about 30 million cubic metres of water. This includes household uses such as washing and bathing, as well as commercial and building uses.

While per person use has declined over the past three years, overall use is continuing to grow. Continued growth may eventually lead to shortages, especially during dry periods. Without further action to reduce our usage, we will have to build a potentially costly dam or introduce conservation measures such as metering. The Council does not favour either option in the near future.

Instead, during June 2010, we agreed a draft Water Conservation and Efficiency Plan aimed at stabilising the city's water use. This means reducing water use per person as the city grows. In the coming months we will be seeking residents' views on this plan.

Rugby World Cup

The city is continuing to count down to the Rugby World Cup 2011. This will be a massive event, with tens of thousands of international visitors. Wellington is hosting several teams including South Africa, France, Australia and the All Blacks. The Council is working with rugby authorities, businesses and other local authorities to ensure the region's sports, transport and visitor facilities are ready. As part of our preparations, a 'rugby village' will be developed around the new wharewaka (canoe house) on the waterfront.

Urban development and transport

During the year, we consulted on District Plan changes covering residential areas and suburban centres – that is, most of the city outside the CBD. These changes support our ‘growth spine’ strategy, which aims to focus growth and development in key transport and employment ‘hubs’ such as Johnsonville, Adelaide Rd, Kilbirnie and the city centre. The plan changes provide for more intensive residential development in those areas, introduce new design guides to improve building quality especially in character areas, and introduce controls on ‘big box’ retail developments outside of existing town centres while ensuring we retain quality outdoor green spaces.

The Council made a decision in December 2009 to open Manners Mall to buses in order to provide a quicker, more direct bus route through the central city. As part of the plan, lower Cuba Street will become a shared space and pedestrian links to Civic Square and the waterfront will be improved. Following an Environment Court challenge, work got under way in May 2010. Also during the year, the New Zealand Transport Agency committed to several significant projects in the city, including improvements to the Basin Reserve and the Ngauranga-Aotea Quay stretch of State Highway 1.

The Council and the Government in September 2009 launched The Capital City Initiative – a project to showcase Wellington’s status as New Zealand’s capital, with a range of building and urban design initiatives, many focused on attracting visitors to the ‘Capital Centre’ – the area around Parliament.

Events and attractions

The city maintained its reputation as New Zealand’s events capital during the year, with key events such as the FIFA World Cup qualifying match between the All Whites and Bahrain, the International Festival of the Arts, and numerous community and local festivals.

The Council worked on options to strengthen the city’s arts and events infrastructure. This included work on bringing together management of the St James Theatre, Opera House, and Wellington Convention Centre; working towards establishment of a new Trust to run the Cuba Street Carnival, the Wellington Fringe Festival and other community events; and establishing an arts ‘hub’ at Toi Poneke Arts Centre to provide information for arts practitioners.

Climate change

After extensive consultation, in June 2010 the Council approved a new Climate Change Action Plan, which focuses on mitigating and adapting to the impacts of climate change on the city. As part of this plan, we recommitted to ambitious targets for reduction of greenhouse gases, and to a range of programmes including a pilot of electric vehicles and support for business and household energy efficiency measures.

I attended the Climate Summit for Mayors in Copenhagen in December 2009, held alongside the United Nations climate negotiations. The key message from the summit was that cities cannot wait for world leaders and governments to act on climate change, but should take action now.

International connections

The Council's civic relationships can open doors for businesses, artists and other Wellington residents. In June 2010 I led a 65-person civic, business and cultural delegation to the Shanghai World Expo, the largest international Expo ever held. This trip allowed many leaders from Wellington's creative industries to make contacts and, in some cases, forge deals.

Wellington was recognised as a 'Fair Trade City' by the Fair Trade Association of Australia and New Zealand. Along with Dunedin, Wellington was the first city in New Zealand to achieve 'fair trade' status, which requires fair trade products to be widely available in the city and to be used by the Council.

Working with the region

We are working with other councils on a review of governance arrangements in the Wellington region. The context for the work reflects the move to create a 'supercity' in Auckland but recognises that Wellington has distinctive characteristics, including a history of collaborative relationships such as those that created the Wellington Regional Strategy.

The aim of the review is to identify any governance issues in the region and the ability to respond to drivers of change for the long-term benefit of our communities – it does not leap to any conclusions about structural solutions. The independent firm PricewaterhouseCoopers was appointed to undertake research, analysis and facilitate the process. They are expected to present a discussion paper to the Mayoral Forum in September 2010.

Planning for a prosperous future

During the year, we began a project to learn more about the forces that are likely to shape the city over the next 30 years, and identify how we can respond.

The Wellington 2040 project identifies six 'megatrends' that may be crucial to our future quality of life: the increasing importance of information technology; the ageing population; environmental sustainability; access to basic resources such as water and energy; the increasing importance for cities to offer a sense of place; and the need for smaller cities like Wellington to define their role in the world and tap into larger markets.

This work will set the background and priorities for the long-term plan that we will develop in 2012. We will engage with the public on this work in the coming year.

CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPORT

The Council's activities are at the foundation of city life.

From essential infrastructure to kids' sports to cultural festivals the Council plays an important part in the quality of life that Wellington offers.

This Annual Report explains how we have delivered the Council's varied programme of activities for 2009/10, including achievement of performance targets and budgets.

This programme was set out in the Council's 2009-19 long-term plan, which was prepared against a backdrop of global economic turbulence. In general, that programme aimed for a 'business as usual' approach that ensured affordability, while also investing in areas of competitive advantage.

Overall, the Council and the city have enjoyed another positive year despite the difficult global environment.

As outlined in the financial summary on page XXX, both income and spending were slightly above budget, though the variances were largely due to accounting changes such as asset revaluations (see financial performance below). The Council recorded a small underlying surplus of \$1.5 million, a fair result in the current climate.

As you'll see throughout this report, we are generally performing well against our targets or past achievements. Where we fell short of the levels we expect, we are working to address this and sustain the city's place as an affordable and internationally competitive city.

The projects outlined in the long-term plan were generally completed or on track for completion, except when there were factors beyond our control – for example, legal action delaying the opening of Manners Mall to buses, and central government decisions delaying the planned National Memorial Park.

During the year, we carried out a Council-wide review of health and safety culture and practices. This followed the tragic death of a Council staff member in a vehicle accident at the Southern Landfill in 2008, for which the Council pleaded guilty to a charge under the Health and Safety in Employment Act. The review made a number of recommendations, which we have begun to implement in order to ensure that staff and members of the public are safe in our workplaces.

My thanks to all Council staff for their efforts throughout the year.

HIGHLIGHTS

The city offers a variety of activities – the Council staff and Council-controlled organisations worked hard during the year to deliver the programme for 2009/10 that was set down in the Council’s 2009-19 long-term plan.

Key projects

Key projects we delivered or made progress on included the following:

- Construction of the new \$47.5 million 12-court indoor community sports centre got under way. The centre, which has seating for 1,000 spectators, will provide facilities for netball, basketball and a range of other indoor sports. The centre is on track for completion in winter 2011.
- The City Gallery extension was completed and the gallery was reopened in September 2009. The extension featured a new two-storey tower block and three new gallery spaces, dedicated to Maori and Pacific art, Wellington artists, and the civic art collection. The gallery reopened with *Mirrored Years*, an exhibition by celebrated Japanese artist Yayoi Kusama, which attracted more than 90,000 visitors.
- The refurbished Carter Observatory opened on 27 March 2010, adding to the city’s range of science-based visitor attractions. The observatory attracted more than 26,000 visitors in its first few months.
- Council-funded environmental attractions the Wellington Zoo and Zealandia continued to make great progress in terms of both conservation and visitor experience. The visitor centre at Zealandia opened to the public, featuring multimedia displays and interactive exhibits telling the story of New Zealand’s unique natural history and conservation movement.
- We continued to implement the Council’s ‘growth spine’ strategy, which aims to focus future growth and development in key transport and employment ‘hubs’ such as Johnsonville, Adelaide Rd, Kilbirnie and the city centre. As part of this framework, transport and public space improvements in the Adelaide Road area got under way during the year.
- Following the Council’s decision in December 2009 and a subsequent Environment Court challenge, work began to open Manners Mall to buses and to develop a new shared space in lower Cuba Street.
- Key events included the FIFA World Cup qualifying match between the All Whites and Bahrain, two AC/DC concerts with attendance of over 55,000, *The Lovely Bones* red carpet premiere, world championships events (sailing and unicycling), and regular iconic events such as the NZ International Arts Festival, World of WearableArt and the NZI Sevens.
- As part of implementation of our Biodiversity Action Plan we established weed control programmes at 11 new sites, well in excess of our target of three.

- We worked with the Wellington Regional Council and other territorial authorities to develop a Wellington Regional Open Spaces strategy and work plan, aimed at ensuring a coordinated approach to development and protection of open spaces.

The Council's ongoing, 'business as usual' services included the provision of water to Wellington homes and businesses, management of 670km of roads, support for a variety of community initiatives through our heritage, sports, environmental and social grants, and a huge range of other services – from lending out books to operating pools to planting gardens to promoting tourism to processing building and resource consents. The 'activities in detail' chapters from pages XXX to XXX set out the full range of our services.

Service performance

During the year, Council services generally met and in some cases exceeded expectations. We monitor service performance closely, through resident surveys and a range of other measures – all of which are independently audited for accuracy. A few of the highlights for this year are:

- 75% of residents say the Council's services and facilities are good or very good (up from 71% in 2007 and 73% in 2009).
- 76% rate Council services as good or very good value for money (up 4% on last year).
- 94% agree or strongly agree that Wellington is a great place to live.
- 86% feel a sense of pride in the way the city looks and feels.

In general, residents are positive about the state of facilities and services, ranging from transport networks to water supply to libraries, pools and housing. Full performance results are provided in the 'Our Activities in Detail' section of this report.

Financial performance

As explained in the financial summary (pages XXX to XXX), the Council received income of \$398.6 million and spent \$368.3 million during the year – both slightly above budget. Though the reported surplus is \$30.3 million the majority of this is made up of fair value movements and assets being vested in Council ownership. With these, provisions, and other factors taken into account the underlying position for the year is a surplus of \$1.5 million. The Council's overall finances remain in a healthy state, allowing us to look forward to the future with confidence.

As part of our forward planning, we are making provision for some key liabilities in coming years. The Council agreed in principle to participate in the Government's Financial Assistance Package for Leaky Buildings and work with them and affected territorial authorities on the detail of the package to enable a final decision on our participation to be made in 2010/11. The package aims to help people get their leaky homes fixed faster, and centres on the Government and local authorities each contributing 25% of agreed repair costs. Affected homeowners would fund the remaining 50% backed by a government loan guarantee. The Council will consider future funding once a final decision on participation is made in 2010/11.

AWARDS

- The libraries received a New Zealand Diversity Award from the Race Relations Commissioner for their work at reaching a wide range of people. The libraries created web pages in 21 languages and library users can request an interpreter. The libraries employ a multicultural specialist to work in the community.
- The Contact Centre won first place in the city/regional councils category at the 2009 CRM Contact Centre Awards, and also placed first in the online (web/email) customer service category and third in the Supreme Award. The centre has placed first in the online category every year since 2006.
- The Wellington Waterfront Framework – the Council’s policy on development of the waterfront area – won a Wellington Architecture Award at the 2009 New Zealand Institute of Architects’ Local Architecture Awards.
- The Council won the award for Leading Housing Solutions in the New Zealand section of the 2009 Australian Housing Institute’s Excellence in Social Housing Awards, for its Community Action programme, which is helping Council housing tenants to identify and implement projects – such as community gardens – that improve community spirit.

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SNAPSHOT OF PROGRESS

92% of Wellingtonians say their quality of life is good or very good.

In a global survey, the city ranked 12th in the world for quality of life.

The city's crime rate dropped during the year, leaving most residents feeling safe day and night.

Motor vehicle crashes and road casualties also dropped during the year. These results reflect considerable effort by the Council and communities to improve safety on roads and in the city centre.

Wellington's economy slowed during the year, reflecting the global economic crisis.

Figures from consulting firm Infometrics indicate that the city's GDP per capita has continued to grow during the year (by 0.69%) despite the global slowdown. Despite the slowdown, Wellington continued to attract visitors to the city.

Wellington is one of the greenest capital cities in the world.

The city's total land area is just under 290 square kilometres. Of that, just over 40 square kilometres is protected in the Town Belt and other reserves. We manage this land to maintain its conservation values as well as providing space for outdoor recreation such as walking and mountain biking.

Wellington ranked highly in a global survey of eco-cities.

In the 2010 Mercer Quality of Living Survey's list of eco-cities, Wellington ranked 5th in the world.

This result reflected efforts by the Council and the community to reduce the city's carbon footprint, to cut waste and water use, and to use buses, bikes and other alternatives to private cars when we're travelling to and from the city.

Wellington held on to its reputation as events capital.

A majority of New Zealanders recognise Wellington as the nation's 'events capital' and also as having 'a culturally rich and diverse arts scene'. The city is home to many of the country's foremost arts and culture institutions, such as Te Papa and the NZ International Arts Festival. During the year, events such as the World Press Photo Exhibition and the NZ Affordable Arts show brought thousands of visitors and tens of millions of dollars to the city's economy.

The city has strong and welcoming communities.

In our Residents' Satisfaction Survey, 77% agreed that in Wellington communities work together and people support each other, while 76% agreed that increasing diversity of lifestyles and cultures makes the city a better place to live.

Wellington remains compact and easy to move around despite population growth.

The city's population has grown an estimated 4% (7,800) since the last Census in 2006. Despite this growth, the vast majority (94%) of residents feel the city is easy to walk around. Although only half (49%) feel the city is easy to drive around, 80% of residents feel it easy to access the central city from the suburbs.

People are involved and engaged.

Over 400,000 people attended events during the year. There were 2.6 million visits to our libraries, 1.3 million to our pools and 91,000 are enrolled in aquatic education programmes. Three-quarters (76%) of Wellington residents are either satisfied or neutral in respect of their own involvement in Council decision-making.

The central place of Mana Whenua is increasingly being acknowledged.

Construction started on the wharewaka on the waterfront and a new space dedicated to maori art was opened in the City Gallery. We also continued to work with Port Nicholson Block Settlement Trust to develop a new memoranda of understanding, reflecting the new environment following the 2008 settlement of the Port Nicholson Block Treaty of Waitangi claim.

There are also areas where our performance is declining or has fallen short of the standards we expect.

These include: a decline in use of the Wellington Convention Centre (attributed to economic down turn); delays in processing building consents - 8% took longer than the timeframes that are set; the safety of cycleways (we've committed additional funding in our long term plan to upgrade cycleways); a decline in the use of walking tracks, which is attributed to poor weather but will be monitored over the coming year. As you'll see throughout this report we'll be working to address the areas where performance fell below expectations.

ROLE AND DIRECTION

We are responsible for the well-being of Wellington and its people, now and into the future.

ROLE

Under the Local Government Act 2002, the Council's purposes are:

- to enable democratic local decision-making and action by, and on behalf of, the people of Wellington
- to promote the social, economic, environmental and cultural well-being of the people of Wellington, now and into the future.

The Act also imposes responsibilities relating to water, wastewater and other sanitary works (such as public toilets).

Under other legislation, we are responsible for public health and safety, waste minimisation, civil defence and emergency management, and for regulating building, land use, food and liquor sales, gambling, animal control, and a range of other activities.

The Local Government Act 2002 gives the Council a general right to take actions that are wholly or principally for the benefit of Wellington City. That Act and others give us a wide range of other powers including gathering rates (property tax) and setting bylaws.

The long-term direction of the city is guided by a huge range of factors including community well-being, legal requirements, and costs.

'Well-being' is a very broad concept, and means that Councils are responsible not only for basic infrastructure, but also for helping the community achieve its aspirations for – among others – prosperity, social cohesion, inclusiveness, management of resources and safety.

It is left to the Council, working with the people of Wellington, to determine whether well-being is served by Council action, and if so what type of action the Council should take. To effect the well-being of the city, we can provide services (such as roads and water supply), fund others to provide services, regulate activities (such as building and liquor licensing), or act as an advocate or facilitator working with others in the city's interests.

When we're deciding whether to get involved, and what form our involvement should take, we consider a wide range of factors including: legislative requirements – including the requirement to promote community well-being; contractual obligations; community expectations – as expressed through

'outcomes' (below) and through residents' views on specific proposals; costs, benefits, and risks; and impact on others (for example, is this the Council's responsibility or someone else's? if we provide a service will someone else withdraw?).

OUR AIMS

Our vision is for Wellington to be a vibrant, internationally competitive, and affordable city. As part of our long-term plan we set in place 13 outcomes that describe our 10-year aspirations for the city. The outcomes are: more liveable, stronger sense of place, more compact, more eventful, more inclusive, more actively engaged, better connected, more sustainable, safer, healthier, more prosperous, more competitive, and more entrepreneurial/innovative.

Of our outcomes, the first six can be characterised as seeking a high quality of life. The remaining seven can be characterised as seeking sound city foundations. Everything that we do contributes to one or more of these outcomes and they act as stepping stones to achieving the city's vision.

The outcomes guide our seven strategic areas of focus. These areas are presented as separate chapters within this report. As you read through you'll see the variety of activities that we deliver and the progress that we are making towards the outcomes.

The seven strategic areas are:

- *Governance* – building trust and confidence in decision-making
- *Environment* – protecting and enhancing Wellington's environment
- *Economic Development* – promoting the city's competitive advantages to enhance quality of life
- *Cultural Wellbeing* – reflecting and helping shape Wellington's unique cultural identity
- *Social and Recreation* – sustaining safe, resilient, and healthy communities
- *Urban Development* – preserving Wellington as a compact, vibrant, and attractive city now and into the future
- *Transport* – delivering an efficient and safe transport system that connects people and places.

The strategic areas are structured around the four 'well-beings' outlined in the Local Government Act: cultural, economic, environmental and social. They also cover urban development, transport, and governance reflecting the importance of the role that local authorities have in these areas.

In developing the strategies we considered a wide range of issues such as population growth and diversity, demands on the transport network, changing service needs and retaining the city's character, amongst other issues.

We also reflected on the fact that to respond to these we needed to ensure there are connections in our work. Take for example our approach to urban development. We aim to manage intensive growth along a 'spine' that connects key centres. This maximises the use of existing infrastructure, provides transport choices, including reducing the need to travel, and strengthens 'sense of place' – pride in our local areas.

We are also tailored in our response – the outcomes we seek have subtle changes in emphasis for each strategy. Our outcome to be safer for instance, relates to road safety in transport and to food regulations or safe city initiatives in our social and recreation area.

This integrated approach provides us with clarity of purpose.

EXPLAINING OUR WORK

We aim to keep you informed and make ourselves accountable. In June 2009, the Council adopted our long-term plan for the period 1 July 2009 – 30 June 2019. This outlined the services we planned to deliver for the city for that period. This annual report explains how we've delivered on that first year of that plan.

Our comprehensive reporting reflects the fact that we do a lot. We have structured this report so it is easy to find, in one place, information on an activity of interest. For each activity we explain what we did, how effective we are over time, what it cost and how we performed against budget.

SNAPSHOT OF A CHANGING CITY

	Wellington Now	Wellington Then	Did you know?
People	Wellington city has an estimated population of 195,500 and makes up 40% of the region's total population.	In 2006, the population was 179,466 and made up 40% of the region's total population.	Our population is expected to increase by 22% to 238,700 by 2031.
Capital City status	Wellington is the world's southern most capital city.	In 1839, the first European settlers arrived in Wellington on the ship 'Aurora'. The new arrivals founded the town in 1840. In 1865, it was made the nation's capital.	The Polynesian voyagers Kupe and Ngahue first discovered Wellington when they camped at the southern end of the harbour 1,000 years ago.
Urban form	Wellington has an estimated 665 people per square kilometre. It is the 5 th most densely populated city in New Zealand.	In 2001, our city had an estimated 577 people per square kilometre.	In 1855 a magnitude 8.2 earthquake – the most powerful ever recorded in New Zealand – rocked Wellington. The uplift created a new fringe of beach and rock platforms along the Wellington coast. Blocks of the city's central business district – one of the most densely populated parts of the city – now occupy land that was below sea level before 1855.

Diversity	<p>According to the census 2006:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 70% of people identified themselves as European • 14% as Asian • 8% as Maori • 5% as Pacific People • 2% as either Middle Eastern, Latin American or African; and • 11% as 'other'. 	<p>In 2001:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 82% of people identified themselves as European • 11% as Asian • 8% as Maori • 5% as Pacific Peoples; and • 2% as 'other'. 	<p>Approximately a quarter (27%) of Wellington residents were born overseas.</p>
Recreation	<p>Three-quarters (75%) of Wellingtonians spend more than 2½ hours a week in physical activity.</p>	<p>In 2006, 85% of residents spent more than 2½ hours a week in physical activity.</p>	<p>We are building a new 12 court indoor community sports centre and rolling out a programme of artificial surfaces for our sportsfields to encourage more people to get active.</p>
Knowledge	<p>In 2006, 33% of Wellingtonians over the age of 15 had a bachelor degree or higher level qualification.</p>	<p>In 2001, 27% of Wellingtonians over the age of 15 had a bachelor degree or higher level qualification.</p>	<p>Wellington city has the highest percentage of people with a degree level qualification of New Zealand's major cities.</p>
Workforce	<p>137,970 people were employed in Wellington city in 2009.</p>	<p>134,300 people were employed in Wellington city in 2006.</p>	<p>The public administration and safety industry employs more Wellingtonians than any other industry (17%).</p>
Income	<p>Wellington city employees earn an average of \$31.90 per hour.</p>	<p>In 2006, the average employee earned \$24.99 per hour.</p>	<p>Wellington city employees have the highest average hourly earnings of all major cities in New Zealand.</p>
Transport	<p>Of the residents that travel into the CBD during weekdays, 38% travel by bus, 35% travel by car, 16% walk, and 4% cycle.</p>	<p>In 2007, 28% travelled by bus, 45% drove, 10% walked, and 7% cycled.</p>	<p>Wellington city has the largest proportion of residents who use public transport of all major cities in New Zealand.</p>
Waste	<p>The amount of waste sent to the landfill is 413 kilograms per person.</p>	<p>In 2004, a total of 496 kilograms of waste per person went to the landfill.</p>	<p>Greenhouse gas from the city's Southern Landfill is being used to generate electricity. This year, 7.2GWh were sourced from the Landfill.</p>