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Tabled Information reference 119/11P(a)

Submission on the proposed 650,000 feasibility study for a deepwater pool

I neither want the \$650,000 feasibility study for a deepwater swimming pool nor the \$20 million deepwater pool to go ahead.

The Dominion Post (Wednesday, April 13, 2011) reported that Kilbirne had \$47.5 million invested in the indoor sports centre.

And as Kilbirne already have a wonderful complex for example

50 M Heated Pool Including Diving Pool

Hydrotherapy Pool

Toddlers Pool and Spray Waterplay Area

Three Private Spa Pools

They Also Have a Sauna, Fitness Centre, Swim Shop, Creche and Cafe

I live in Churton Park and have done for 20 years across from me on a hill that once had sheep and cows is now full of houses with many more to be built.

My local pool is Johnsonville it has a

25 M Heated Indoor Pool

Diving Pool

Toddler Pool Two Spa Pools

Sauna Leisure Lounge and Barbecue Area

Unlike the Oriental Parade Pool, which appears to be exclusively for lane swimming only. How is it that they got to exclude a large part of our society?

Our pool in Johnsonville caters for our diverse society be it young, old, disabled, able-bodied family friendly Unfortunately there doesn't appear to have been a lot of money spent on the maintenance for the up keep of the Johnsonville swimming pool. For example it's cracked tiles, peeling paint, mildew and mould.

Personally I think there should be a reduction in the \$5.60 fees charged for a swim I believe our council should invest in the Johnsonville pool's redevelopment beginning with the \$650,000.

With further development at a later time, when our country's economic situation has improved.

Then spend your 20 million perhaps on an ozone pool as opposed to chlorine. Perhaps even a family friendly wave pool with a slide and a Hydrotherapy pool.

I believe our council should invest in learn to swim programs, perhaps they could start with building a learn- to-swim pool for the smaller children.

Rather than investing \$20 million in a single deep water pool for Kilbirnie.

I also must say that when I tried to navigate the council's website to make my submission I had to fill in a small questionnaire. One of the questions that bothered me was about no longer supplying libraries with printed newspapers, as people would read them online using a computer. This would exclude part of our society, those of us who go into libraries who may not know how to use a computer specifically to read the newspapers.

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And here is something I found on the net;

Ms Wade-Brown has identified several vital current council projects, including dealing with leaky homes, earthquake-strengthening of buildings, community centres and library updates.

Few council buildings meet earthquake requirements. If a big quake hit now, Wellington could well be left without functioning council offices. Surely earthquake-strengthening should be a priority ahead of a deepwater pool, and certainly ahead of a premature feasibility study.

Ms Wade-Brown suggested operating costs for the proposed new pool could be \$2.3m a year. Wellingtonians will be paying for that one way or another, whether through rates, which are set to rise a further 6.5 per cent, or increased user charges, or both. If the council is considering swimming pools, it should be focusing on learn-to-swim, not a deepwater pool.

LINDA HORMAN

you & Councillors

Thank you for the opportunity to give an oral submission on this years draft annual plan. I'm a passionate ~~I am a proud Wellingtonian~~ ^{Proud Wgtn Wgtn} My father's family ^{arrived} came from England in 1840 on one of the first settlers ships the Mootra Ridgeway. My mother's parents immigrated from England in the 1920's they came to New Zealand because they wanted a better life - ~~for their children~~. Still the case today.

An inclusive society is one where everyone feels valued and participates fully.

Traditionally Wgtn has embraced people from all walks of life affording them the opportunity to take an active role in the shaping of our city.

30 years since the benefit cuts of 1991 the most significant reduction in social security in NZ's history - later this week further cuts will be announced. Since that time foodbanks have been accepted as a way to fill the gap. Foodbanks in our city are struggling to not demand. We have pockets of deprivation in our city, similar to ~~for a~~

Well being is not simply about access to income and resources it is also related to health, education, social, cultural, environmental and political outcomes.

All the people of Wellington, no matter their background have

The right to have a feeling
 of belonging and a real ability
 to participate in our city's future
 to empower communities to participate
 infrastructure needs to be substantiated
 I urge Council to advocate on
 behalf of its citizens. Central
 Government policy is contributing
 to ^{increased} inequalities in our city
 Health cuts will impact on
 organisations working with
 our most vulnerable citizens
 Already the night shelter has
 mattresses in ~~the~~ the corridor
 Cuts in services for mental
 health consumers will result
 in increased numbers of
 homeless people on the streets
 Funding for NGOs is decreasing
 as the demand for these
 services is increasing.
 Many organisations working
 with our most vulnerable
 are in crisis

I attended the entire forum on
 9 May - good to see change in
 format - my group, intercultural
 relationships highlighted for me the
 need for new NZers refugee and
 migrants need some understanding
 of NZ culture as far as
 community service and fundraising
 the reality is we have ~~an~~ increased
 racial tension in our communities.
 Who is taking responsibility to
 deal with this?

User pay increases have featured in Council activity for a number of years. The reality for people on low ~~incomes~~ incomes is that these increases are significant. How does Council measure the social impact of these increases?

Council has the opportunity to work in partnership with central government in addressing inequalities in our city. ^{Council Housing has done some great work} ^{HNZ}

I strongly oppose the proposed \$650,000 for an feasibility study on a deep water pool at this time.

I support \$100,000 for emergency management and \$20,000 to research how best to work with our most vulnerable -

Accessibility Action plan is a step forward

Yesterday I had the privilege to hear Rev Dr James Cooper from Trinity Church, Wall Street New York Wall Street in the wake of the Global Financial Crisis. One of his key messages is raising issues of justice and equity during this Crisis -

Change will not come if we wait for some other person or some other time. We are the ones we've been waiting for. We are the change that we seek. Barack Obama 2010.

Submission to Wellington City Council Annual Plan May 2011

We, the Safe Food Campaign, urge Wellington City Council to adopt policies that reduce and eliminate the use of plastics, especially numbers 3, 6 and 7 (polycarbonate). We applaud the current practice of recycling more plastic in Wellington, including the use of wheelie bins. We offer the following recommendations:

1. That the Council phase out the use of plastic for catering and packaging, eg avoid styrofoam cups, plates, plastic cutlery, and encourage ratepayers to do the same.
2. Make clearer to ratepayers that polystyrene (the plastic currently not recyclable) is no. 6 plastic and includes styrofoam products as well as a wide range of clear, opaque, rigid and brittle products.
3. Encourage, if not require takeaway businesses not to use styrofoam containers to enclose hamburgers, Chinese meals, etc.
4. Encourage caterers to avoid the use of tinned food, and to use instead local, preferably organic, food in season.
5. Encourage employees and caterers not to microwave plastic containers.
6. Eliminate the use of BPA-coated cash receipts.

Below is a reprinted article on plastic, giving more information about which specific plastics it is better to avoid and why, followed by an update.

Plastic

The world is awash with plastics – here **Alison White** looks at three in particular that we should be avoiding for the sake of our health and that of the environment
Article originally published in Organic NZ, May/June 2010

The use of plastic in our modern society is really widespread, and has been increasingly growing over the last 50 years. It is now hard to imagine doing without it: bottles, food containers and wrappings, pipes, lino, electronic goods, cosmetics, CDs, bike helmets – the list goes on and on.

A gathering body of research, however, is showing that certain chemicals which are used make to plastics could have irreversible effects on the body, especially if the foetus is exposed to them. Some of these chemicals could cause you, your child or your progeny unwanted health problems. In addition, particles from plastics are building up in oceans and killing marine life: the UN calculates more than one million birds and 100,000 mammals die every year from plastics, by poisoning, entanglement and choking. Indeed it is estimated that 90% of the flotsam in oceans is plastic, with 46,000 pieces of floating plastic in every square kilometre of ocean, according to the United Nations Environment Programme¹.

Are there some plastics worse than others? In this article I will consider bisphenol-A (BPA), used to make the plastic polycarbonate, and also polyvinyl chloride (PVC) and polystyrene or styrofoam. Other plastics, while having the disadvantage of being largely made from petroleum and having some adverse environmental effects mentioned above, have not had adverse effects on humans associated with them as yet.

BPA

Bisphenol-A (BPA), used primarily to make polycarbonates and epoxy resins, is one of the most used chemicals in the world, and also the most controversial. At least 7 billion pounds of BPA are used in thousands of consumer products, including can linings, baby bottles, coatings on cash register receipts and metal lids for glass jars, plastic water pipes, household appliances, dental sealants and medical equipment ².

BPA is now everywhere - it has been found in air, dust, animals and humans, including human urine, blood (including the cord blood of newborns), placental tissue and breast milk. It is a fat-seeking or lipophilic chemical and is capable of accumulating in the body ³.

So what evidence of harm is there? BPA is widely recognised as an endocrine disruptor, that is, it has the potential to have an effect on the hormonal system in living cells, even or especially at minute doses. In 2007 38 world experts on bisphenol A published a consensus statement, in which they warn regulatory authorities that average levels of BPA in people are above those that cause harm in laboratory studies ⁴.

Indeed nearly 200 scientific studies show that exposures to low doses of BPA, particularly during prenatal development and early infancy, are associated with a wide range of adverse health effects in later life. These effects include increased risk of breast and prostate cancer, genital abnormalities in male babies, infertility in men, early puberty in girls, metabolic disorders such as insulin resistant (Type 2) diabetes and obesity, and neurobehavioral problems such as attention deficit hyperactivity disorder (ADHD). Exposures that occur before birth are particularly troubling, Breast Cancer Fund argues, as the effects on the developing foetus are irreversible ⁵.

The US Food and Drug Administration (FDA) put out an update in January this year, taking steps to reduce human exposure to BPA. These steps include “supporting the industry’s actions to stop producing BPA-containing baby bottles and infant feeding cups for the U.S. market; facilitating the development of alternatives to BPA for the linings of infant formula cans; and supporting efforts to replace BPA or minimize BPA levels in other food can linings.” They warn parents not to heat bottles or plastic containing polycarbonate (no.7) and polyvinyl chloride (no.3), and to discard them if worn or scratched ⁶.

In the meantime, two bills to ban BPA in all food and beverage containers in the US were introduced last year, and several regions of the US, as well as Canada, Denmark, Belgium, France, Norway and Taiwan have proposed or placed restrictions on food and beverage containers and/or on baby bottles with BPA. The European Food Safety Authority will reconsider the issue in May 2010 ^{7 8 9} Food Standards Australia New Zealand and New Zealand Food Safety Authority have yet to be persuaded to do anything.

PVC

PVC or polyvinyl chloride (or just vinyl – plastic no.3), is widely used in construction, clothing, upholstery, flexible tubing, flooring, electrical cable insulation, inflatable structures and toys. Phthalates are often added to PVC to make it pliable, in children’s toys for example, but these are unbound to the plastic so can leach out readily.

These phthalates are of particular concern because of their ability to mimic human hormones and also affect various life forms including fish and invertebrates adversely. Vinyl chloride is a known human carcinogen and damaging to the environment in its manufacture, use and disposal. When

chlorine in PVC is produced or burned, the process creates dioxin, one of the most toxic hazards known to man.

In January 2006, the European Union placed a ban on six types of phthalate softeners, including the most notorious, DEHP (diethylhexyl phthalate), used in toys. In the U.S. most companies have voluntarily stopped manufacturing PVC toys with DEHP. Vinyl IV bags used in neo-natal intensive care units, along with shower curtains, car interiors and flooring have also been shown to release DEHP. The Japanese car companies Toyota, Nissan, and Honda have eliminated PVC in their car interiors starting in 2007 ¹⁰.

Polystyrene

Polystyrene (or styrofoam plastic no.6) can be transparent or take on different colours. It is used in disposable cutlery, foam cups and packaging material. It biodegrades very slowly. Indeed, one estimation is that a foam cup will take more than 500 years to break down. Because it easily clogs up waterways, more than 100 cities in the US have banned polystyrene food packaging ¹¹.

Polystyrene is a suspect carcinogen. An endocrine disruptor, P-nonylphenol, and other alkylphenols have been found to leach from polystyrene products ¹². Nonylphenol has been detected widely in waste water streams across the globe, a concern since it is toxic to many aquatic organisms, and it also bioaccumulates ¹³.

What you can do

- Check out the bottom of your plastic containers and you might see a triangle and a number inside. Check for numbers 3, 6 and 7. Avoid them if you find them, especially important if you are pregnant or breastfeeding. Note: the category 7 covers several types of plastic – avoid the ones marked PC, often a clear plastic that is hard so you can't push it in.
- Ask manufacturers and retailers to not use them.
- Ask councils and other organisations to avoid using disposable polystyrene cups and plates.
- Reduce or eliminate your use of food and drink in cans. Buy fresh instead!
- Don't microwave or heat foods in plastics.
- Recycle the plastics that you can – most local authorities in New Zealand recycle plastics 1 and 2, and some recycle more than this. In Wellington, Auckland, Palmerston North and Christchurch you can also take polystyrene to depots to get recycled ¹⁴.

Plastics to avoid

No. 3 PVC (plastic bottles and containers, children's toys, wall paint, vinyl flooring,)

No. 6 polystyrene (PS – foam cups, disposable cutlery, yoghurt pots, packaging)

No. 7 polycarbonate (PC - in many baby and drink bottles, some microwave cookware).

BPA in canned food

Many manufacturers use a tin lining containing BPA and this could more easily leach into food if heated or if the food is acidic. Indeed, Consumer Reports in the US published a survey in December 2009 which found that almost all of the 19 foods tested contain some BPA, with a wide range. In New Zealand, several people have contacted Ceres, the organic wholesaler in Auckland, about the BPA content of their cans, particularly of the tomatoes. Ceres, however, has only replied when people have persisted, commenting that they are working on the situation and that it was

difficult. Eden cans are believed to be BPA-free.

May 2011 Addendum

More and more research keeps coming out, particularly about the dangers of BPA, and more local authorities and businesses are being proactive about avoiding BPA and other plastics, failing action by regulatory authorities. It has been recently estimated that 94% of Americans have residues of BPA in their bodies, and we could expect similar results in New Zealand. Indeed, the exposure levels in infants are more than 10 times that of the lowest concentrations found to affect animals at similar life stages, and at levels where dozens of studies have found adverse health effects¹⁵. The good news is that BPA levels can be dramatically lowered – by an average of 60% in a study published at the end of March this year – by avoiding canned food and plastic food packaging¹⁶¹

Alison White
Safe Food Campaign
17 May 2011

1 Highest concentrations of BPA are found in fatty and acidic canned foods such as milk based infant dessert, coconut milk, soup, meat and vegetables. Heating the food in the can or container increases the BPA level. US studies have found 80% of tinned food tested positive for BPA.

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- 3 Breast Cancer Fund 2009: *Abstracts of selected bisphenol a (BPA) studies*, March. A pdf file quoting many studies can be found at: www.breastcancerfund.org Accessed 30 March 2010.
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- 5 Breast Cancer Fund 2009: op.cit.
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- 7 Several authors 2010: *Bisphenol A* www.en.wikipedia.org Accessed 30 March 2010.
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- 10 <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/PVC> Accessed 31 March 2010.
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- 13 <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/nonylphenol> Accessed 31 March 2010.
- 14 In Auckland: Expol, Bondor NZ, Transpacific Recycling. In Wellington: Polypalace, Porirua. In Palmerston North a collection cage outside Lanwood. In Christchurch Transpacific Recycling. Info from: www.good.net.nz Accessed 31 March 2010.
- 15 <http://www.breastcancerfund.org/assets/pdfs/publications/what-labels-dont-tell-us-1.pdf> Accessed 16 May 2011.
- 16 Rudel RA, Gray JM, Engel CL, Rawsthorne TW, Dodson RE, et al. (2011) Food Packaging and Bisphenol A and Bis(2-Ethylhexyl) Phthalate Exposure: Findings from a Dietary Intervention. *Environ Health Perspect* doi:10.1289/ehp.1003170

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☞ **Are you hypersensitive to fluoride? Some people are allergic to fluoride** just like any other chemical or medication. Symptoms range from gastrointestinal problems, skin eruptions, eczema, headache and weakness (Physician's Desk Reference) to muscle spasm, chronic fatigue and in rare cases, eventual death. **Doctors are never trained in recognising fluoride toxicity!**

☞ **Bone and joint problems.** 50% of fluoride accumulates in the bones, affecting bone pathology causing skeletal fluorosis, arthritis and increased hip fracture, often fatal in the elderly. No public monitoring has ever been done. Early skeletal fluorosis, expected after 20 years of fluoridation, **will be misdiagnosed as arthritis** - rampant for the last 20 years.

☞ **Alzheimer's Fluoride and Aluminium.** These combined chemicals cause changes in the brain typically associated with Alzheimer's dementia (Varner 1998). They also cause G-Protein malfunctioning (Strunecka 2002), one protein being present in 50% of cancers.

☞ **Fluoride reduces thyroid activity.** The NRC review 2006 found the fluoridated water can definitely affect the thyroid in children with borderline iodine deficiency—common in NZ. This in turn can lower IQ.

☞ **Babies in danger.** Infant formula must never be made with fluoridated water, due to overdosing during the critical first year of life: American Dental Assn, Nov. 2006; NHMRC 1999. Fluoride tablets were banned for pregnant women by the US FDA in 1966.

☞ **Fluoride = Nerve Poison.** Fluoride is a potent enzyme inhibitor. Central Nervous System damage was demonstrated by Westendorf, 1975, Mullinex et al 1995 and Guan et al 2004.

☞ **Bone Cancer (Osteosarcoma):** has been linked to fluoride (American Medical Assn, 1993) and since confirmed by Bassin (2006) in boys drinking fluoridated water at ages 6 to 10. (See info sheet 3)

FLUORIDATION—POISON NOT PROTECTION!

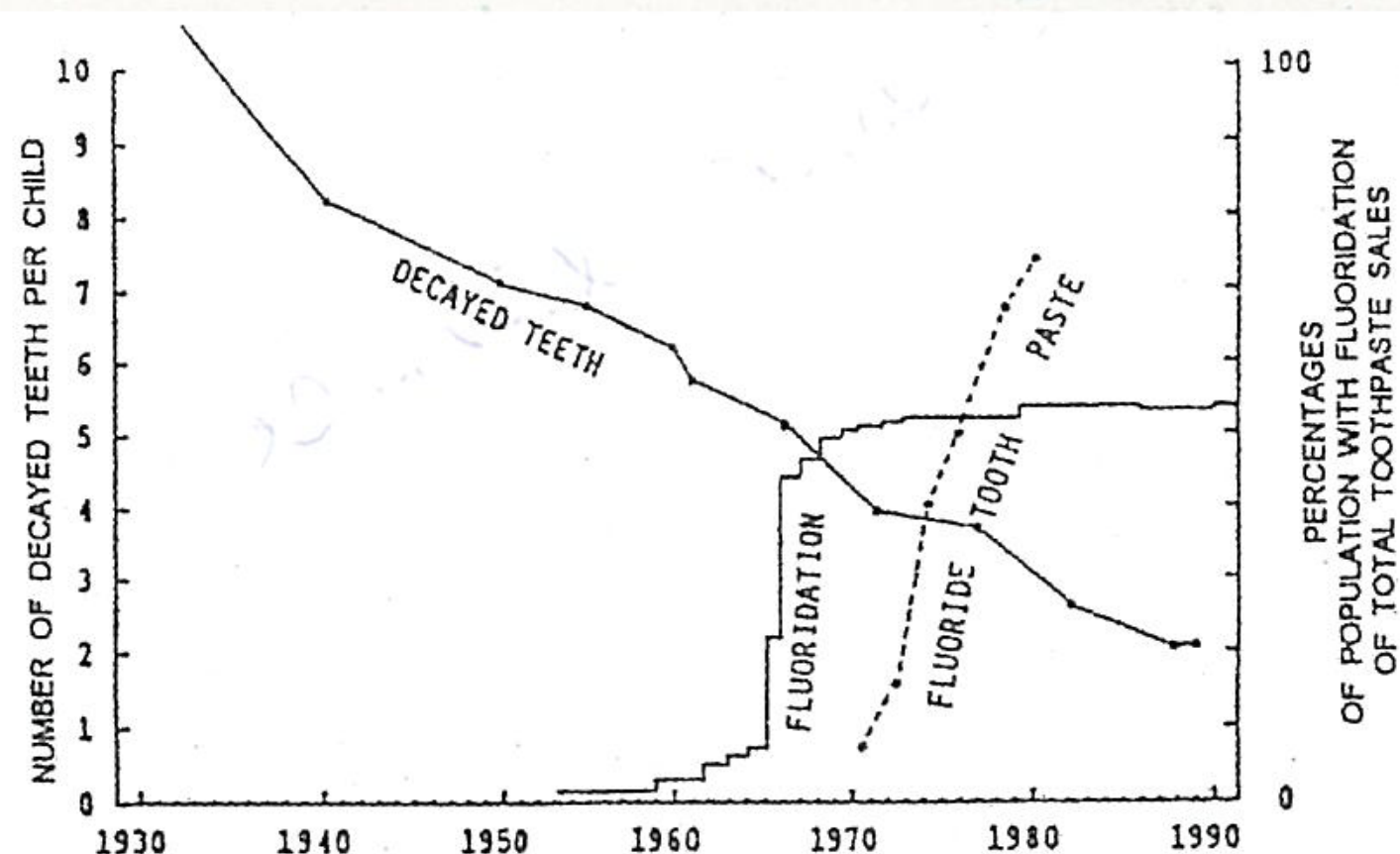
Health information sheet 2 of 3.

Contact FANNZ www.fannz.org.nz; PO Box 9804 Marion Square, Wellington

FLUORIDATION— COLLAPSE OF A FANTASY

- ◆ **The latest internationally recognised research (Australia, 2004) showed ZERO benefit to the permanent teeth from fluoridation.**
- ◆ Timaru stopped fluoridation in 1985. Tooth decay fell from 3.75 to 1.63 by 2004 - less decay than any fluoridated South Island community.
- ◆ The 2004 South Island figures are **1.79** decayed missing or filled teeth (DMFT) in the **fluoridated areas** but only **1.62** in **unfluoridated areas**.
- ◆ **Why:** After 50 years does unfluoridated Napier still has less tooth decay than fluoridated Hastings ?!
- ◆ The Ministry of Health's own statistics confirm that there is no statistically or clinically significant difference in tooth decay in 12 year olds between fluoridated and unfluoridated NZ communities.
- ◆ The NZ dental Journal published a study in 1998 showing no significant difference in dental health where water was fluoridated AND that dental health had improved at the same rate in both fluoridated and unfluoridated areas since 1985.
- ◆ WHO recommend comparisons on 12 year olds as there is well-documented evidence that water fluoridation delays tooth eruption. Thus decay statistics for 5-or-6-year olds as used by promoters instead to show an illusory "benefit" that disappears by age 12.

Steady improvement in NZ dental health -



50-year decline in tooth decay of 5-year-olds, showing steady drop in decay rates long before fluoridation. (Compiled from Health Department records).

Oral Submission to Wellington City Council

By Deb Gully

Nutrition consultant and Chartered Natural Health practitioner

12 Queens Drive, Kilbirnie

deb@frot.co.nz

As an individual, I don't want myself or my family being exposed to fluoride.

I'm a natural Health practitioner, and most of my clients have chronic conditions that are caused directly by our modern lifestyle - stress, poor nutrition, and toxic overload. Fluoride of course isn't solely responsible for this overload, but it is part of it, and may be the final straw for some people. I counsel my clients to make many changes in the way they eat, drink and live their lives. One of those changes is to stop drinking water with fluoride in it.

I'm also a representative of the Weston A Price Foundation. This non-profit organisation is about helping everybody improve their health by eating wholesome, nourishing foods and drinking clean water. These foods and drinks are not always easy to find, and our job as the Wellington chapter is to help people find the resources they need.

We go and get water from Petone for our own use as drinking water, and recommend that others do the same. We're grateful that the resource is there, but it's not always possible or convenient for people to take up that option. It also isn't practical for people to use Petone water for showers and baths.

We want everybody in the whole of Wellington to have access to fluoride free water from their own taps.

There are several reasons why I oppose fluoride in the water supply. To summarise each of them briefly:

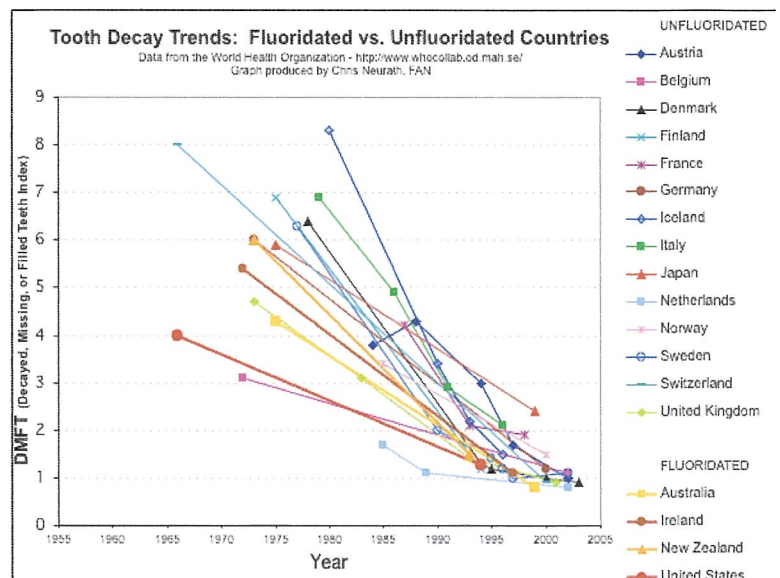
1. It doesn't address the causes of tooth decay.

Fluoride deficiency is not the cause of tooth decay. We know that eating sugar causes decay, but that's not just because it deposits on the teeth causing plaque. It also disrupts the biochemistry. The lack of nutrients in our modern food supply results in deficiencies that also contribute to tooth decay, as well as many other modern diseases. Medicating with fluoride doesn't address this huge problem.

2. It doesn't work.

There is some evidence that external application of fluoride hardens teeth. But the purported evidence that taking it internally helps teeth is weak. Studies that initially seem to support the hypothesis are usually flawed.

If we look at tooth decay levels in non-fluoridated vs fluoridated countries, we can see that levels of tooth decay have reduced across both groups. At the present time,



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there is little difference between the two groups.

3. **It damages dental, physical and mental health.**

There is a lot of evidence that ingesting fluoride is actually harmful to teeth. It's also harmful to other bone tissue, and is a causative factor in osteoporosis, especially hip fractures. It's implicated in many other diseases including cancer, diabetes and chronic fatigue. It impacts on mental and emotional health, causing lowered IQ, depression and inability to concentrate.

Many countries have banned fluoride from their water supplies because they know it's dangerous. As we can see from the above graph, NZ is one of only 4 western countries who fluoridate. Despite the US being one of the 4, even the American Dental Association has recommended that baby formula is made up with non fluoridated water, thus admitting the risks involved.

Despite advising my clients to avoid drinking fluoridated water as much as possible, it had been brought home to me recently that absorbing it through the skin is just as dangerous. Some people are more sensitive to toxins than others, so are affected more.

Two of my clients have been suffering from joint pain that appears to be related to having long baths in fluoridated water. One of them, who is here today and will be speaking later, has been on a therapeutic dietary regime, which included avoiding drinking fluoridated water. She started having detox baths a couple of years ago and after a while started complaining of unexplained joint pain. Since baths are generally considered to be beneficial for pain, it was a long time before we made the connection to the baths. Since she stopped the long baths, the pain has gone away.

Another client has had a habit of long baths to ease muscle and joint pain. In his youth he did a lot of exercise, and soaking in hot water was beneficial for pain and tension. So periodic soaking has been a habit for nearly 30 years. It wasn't until one day he mentioned that he felt worse after a bath, that warning bells started ringing. We realised that he suffers from many of the symptoms of fluoride poisoning, not just the joint pains. Unfortunately, after many years of exposure, his fluoride load is taking longer to reduce and he is still in a lot of pain. Without spending nearly \$4000 on a whole house water filtration system that takes out fluoride, he is unable to completely avoid further exposure.

These are just two small examples, but they are from just bathing in fluoridated water, not from drinking it. Can we afford the risk of continuing to have it in our water supply, if it's even half as dangerous as the evidence, and these two case studies, suggests?

4. **Even if it was effective and safe, it's unethical to mass medicate the population.**

It's a basic human right to be able to choose what we put into our bodies. This right has been taken away from us. Yes, we can go to the Petone aquifer, or buy bottled water. Or buy an expensive filter that only takes out some of the fluoride. But this disadvantages the very segment of the population that you're professing to help – those that can only afford tap water.

The other drawback of mass medication is that the dosage can't be controlled or individualised. A person who drinks a lot gets a far higher dosage than someone who drinks little,

5. **It's wasteful.**

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Only 0.5% of the fluoridated water is ingested. The other 99.5% is used for washing or other uses, and literally goes straight down the drain. So even if fluoride was beneficial, this would be an expensive, wasteful way to use it.

On the other hand, if I'm right, and it's actually very dangerous, a huge amount of it is going into the sewage system. If even the best water filter can't take out all the fluoride, can the sewage treatment systems? Or are we contaminating the environment, and potentially damaging a lot of wildlife?

6. **Danger to NZ exports.**

Some countries are also refusing to import food that's been prepared with fluoridated water. I know that Wellington is only part of this, and the whole country has to change. Forgive me for using a cliché, but until we're part of the solution, in this case we truly are part of the problem.

Fluoride in our water supply is damaging NZ's clean, green image and could potentially have a very negative effect on our export markets.

I understand that the Annual Plan process is about how we spend rate payers funds, and not about changing processes. But as a rate payer, I believe I should have a say in how my rates are spent. And I don't want them spent on putting a toxic waste product in my water. A budget is about deciding what the money is spent on, and that should include reviewing whether expenditure is worth while. If money is being spent on something that's damaging to the population, that should be part of the budget decision making.

I've been forwarded an email from Cr Pannett that makes two further points on this issue.

Firstly that Greater Wellington also have a say in this decision. They have already advised that they will take the fluoride out if any council asks them to. So the process is simple, as that obstacle has already been removed.

Secondly, that everyone in Wellington needs to be consulted on this issue. I disagree. Nobody else in Wellington has the right to say what I should put in my body. If the majority want access to fluoride, they can be supplied it in other forms, where they can control the dosage. But they have no right to force it on those who don't want it, and neither do you.

Since whatever benefits of fluoride exist are topical, and the risks are systemic, it would be safer to apply the fluoride directly to the teeth, for those that want it.

I believe that you councillors want the best for the Wellington public. So I ask you all to look again at the evidence. To look with open hearts and open minds. It's hard to admit we've been wrong. But if you examine the evidence again, please be open to that possibility. As Alan Martin always used to say "It's the putting right that counts".

I know you're all busy people, so if you don't have the time to examine the evidence, it really comes down to this – if there is even a chance that what we're saying is right, the risks are too great to continue mass medicating the people who trust you with wise spending of their money.

If you decide to take fluoride out of the water supply, and I'm wrong, maybe there would be a small negative impact on the region's dental health. But if I'm right, and fluoride stays in the water supply, the results are already much more severe.



**RESTAURANT
ASSOCIATION
OF NEW ZEALAND**

10 – 05 -2011

To the Mayor and Councillors,

As the national president of the Restaurant Association of New Zealand, I write on behalf of the association's members to express our strong concern regarding the proposed increase of paid parking from \$4 per hour to \$5 per hour, and the proposed extension of paid parking to 8pm, Monday – Thursday and 10pm, Friday.

On- street parking is critical to supporting Wellington's arts and entertainment industry, and we believe that increasing the cost and extending the time of paid parking will have a negative impact.

We appreciate the importance the Wellington City Council is putting on improving arts and entertainment within the city. However, we believe the paid parking increase and extension of paid parking hours is in contradiction to the draft Annual Plan. In section 3.2 Business Support, the WCC draft Annual Plan proposes the support and growth of the retail and entertainment districts, celebrate business creativity and that proposed cuts have been mindful to not jeopardise economic recovery and minimise impact. (p.53)

Increasing parking rates and extending the paid parking hours presents a direct charge on the patrons of these industries. This will have a negative impact, and undoubtedly jeopardise the economic situation of local business and will send more Wellingtonians to seek out retail and entertainment in Lower Hutt and Petone as expressed by Chamber of Commerce chief executive Ken Harris in the media release *Wellington Business oppose parking fee increase* (May, 3, 2011)

Seattle, Washington D.C and Austin, Texas have both experienced similar proposals and implementations from their city councils in the past 6 months. In both of these instances there was a strong resistance from small business owners, residents and those in arts and entertainment. Seattle revised their price hikes and an Austin City Council survey results showed that 81% who valued the existing parking system would be less likely to visit down town were the proposal put in place.

In Fayetteville, Arkansas the Council soon scaled back the hours of paid parking to provide immediate relief to local businesses who claimed a 30-40% loss in business as a result.

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We are concerned this proposal will have a similar effect on Wellington business. Consider a couple going out on a Tuesday Night: \$10 pizza special at a local restaurant and \$20 double movie pass at Embassy or Reading. Their total cost is \$30 for an evening's entertainment. Add \$10 for parking and their evening expenditure has increased by 33%.

The week night entertainment goes help maintain the revenue of the local restaurants and businesses that are so often commended for the arts and entertainment culture Wellington boasts. In extending the paid parking time this decision will directly impact the many arts and entertainment businesses that bring pedestrian vitality to the city centre.

We encourage the council to consider this proposal's effects on both patrons and industry, and ultimately on the city if implemented. Wellington is the jewel in New Zealand's crown; a vibrant and creative environment enjoyed by locals and visitors alike. It would be a shame to undo all the good work the Council and residents have done to achieve this.

Yours Sincerely,

Mike Egan

President of the Restaurant Association of New Zealand

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\$5 parking would be highest in NZ

DAVE BURGESS Last updated 12:56 04/05/2011

The Dominion Post

Parking fees had not risen since 2004.

Wellington will have the most expensive street parking in the country if plans to hike rates to \$5 an hour go ahead.

Parking wardens ticket Sunday overstayers

Miramar movie-goers ticketed

A Wellington City Council plan to up pay and display charges from \$4 an hour to \$5 has been widely condemned by the Wellington Employers' Chamber of Commerce, who are labelling it a revenue-gathering exercise.

The plan would also see council charge for two hours extra parking in the evening, and would earn an estimated extra \$2.3 million a year.

Wellington	\$4 an hour
Auckland	\$4 an hour
Dunedin	\$3 an hour
Hamilton	\$2 an hour
Queenstown	\$2 an hour
Palmerston North	\$1.50 an hour
Nelson	50c an hour

It would also see Wellington edge ahead of Auckland for the most expensive city to park. The average price of pay and display parking in the Auckland CBD is \$4 an hour, a council spokeswoman said yesterday.

Motorists part with \$3 an hour to park in the next-most expensive city, Dunedin, which charges that amount from the Octagon to St Andrews before dropping to \$2 an hour, then \$1 outside the one-way system.

In Hamilton a carpark will set you back \$2 an hour, and costs the same in adventure tourism capital Queenstown.

A carpark in inner-city Palmerston North is a lower \$1.50 an hour, while the title of cheapest city to park goes to Nelson, whose council charges a mere \$50 cents an hour.

The charges listed are for street parking (pay and display) only. Carparking became cheaper in most cities the further away from the CDB.

Under the new measures, Wellington's evening parking times would be extended to 8pm Monday till Thursday, and to 10pm on Friday.

The combined fee rise and time extension would boost council coffers by an estimated \$2.3 million a year, made up of \$900,000 from the extended hours and \$1.4m from higher fees. Under the new measures, evening parking times would be extended to 8pm Monday till Thursday, and to 10pm on Friday.

Chamber of Commerce chief executive Ken Harris said the move would have a detrimental effect on the city. "Extending the parking charges into the evening will damage the reputation of Wellington's celebrated night life and disadvantage the hospitality sector."

A vibrant city centre was one of the capital's strongest attractions and there needed to be easy access for people to visit day and night, Mr Harris said. "The CBD already faces a disadvantage in that suburban shopping malls can provide ample free parking. It is important we don't exacerbate that disadvantage by making parking in the city unaffordable."

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Council infrastructure director Stavros Michael said the plans were in line with the "long-held parking policy principle – to encourage vehicle turnover which assists economic activity".

It would also make the council's parking policy more consistent. "Businesses that are open during the day in the CBD benefit from paid parking through higher turnover, while those businesses that operate in the evening do not benefit because people hog the limited number of spaces all night.

"All revenue collected by the council helps to ease the burden on ratepayers who would otherwise be required to shoulder the entire cost of maintaining the city's roading and parking facilities," Mr Michael said.

But Mr Harris said a 25 per cent leap in parking fees came on top of previous increases over the years, which had outstripped the rate of inflation. "It is difficult to see this proposed increase as anything more than a revenue-raising exercise."

The council said parking fees had not risen since 2004. The proposals are included in its draft annual plan, which is open until Thursday next week for the public to have a say.

- The Dominion Post

49 comments

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Liam #49 02:28 pm May 04 2011

Extending the parking free time to 8pm (and 10pm on Friday) when buses are only running once per hour at that time?

Dos dedos, WCC. Dos dedos.

Looks like I won't be coming into the city, then.

Jerry #48 02:12 pm May 04 2011

Its about time the people took back control of their city and kicked these councillors backsides to the pavement. The best way to do this is to avoid patronising the city shops and restaurants at all for an extended period & then sit back and watch the proprietors of these businesses tear the council apart. It never ceases to amaze me the appalling level of logic exercised by the parasites who's incomes are derived from council or Government coffers.

johan #47 01:48 pm May 04 2011

Remember this is the same council that put GPS tracking units in all its council cars. Why? Beats me.

Police don't even have GPS in their cars.

Have to get money from somewhere to do this. Probably had 4 levels of procurement staff involved, numerous meetings, different product trials, reports written etc etc. All this for something that has no practical use.

Your council loves to spend money. Full stop.

johnny utah #46 01:43 pm May 04 2011

WCC lol

Alan #45 12:59 pm May 04 2011

WCC = Wellington Cash Collectors But never fear, none of our objections will wash with what they plan to do. It's called 'consultation' and means we told you what we intend to do so you were 'consulted'.

Discopanda #44 12:52 pm May 04 2011

Have your say by putting in a submission to Wellington city council on the draft annual plan. I hope people will actually act rather than complain about it on here.

<http://www.wellington.govt.nz/haveyoursay/publicinput/2011-2012dap/2011-2012dap.html>

AB #43 12:41 pm May 04 2011

Tabled Information reference 119/11P(e)

The number of times I have parked in Wellington and been stuck having to pay for 10 minutes of parking while I go to get change is ridiculous. I don't know anyone who carries \$8 in coins on them and I'd love to know who will have \$10 for when the fees go up.

Will the council be upgrading the meters to accept notes and how much is that going to cost?

RW #42 12:40 pm May 04 2011

Without both an arm and a leg, how is one expected to drive safely?

Spencer #41 12:22 pm May 04 2011

@ Gaz #6 - yes, and so will those in the eastern suburbs, round the Airport retail park.

Yo #40 12:08 pm May 04 2011

FC_Shaza - you are a such a troll mate, jack of all trades, master of none.

Mel #39 12:03 pm May 04 2011

Extending paid parking till 8pm will kill places like the Opera House and St James - with shows starting at 7.30pm and people often going to dinner beforehand, and I have seen many occasions when Readings carpark is already full on weekends because people want more time...

Nuts!

Drew #38 11:52 am May 04 2011

Mike#25 get real for goodness sake - when did rate rises ever produce better services? All extra money goes into hiring pen-pushers to fill in forms and produce data to justify their own existence: that's the nature of bureaucracies and the unreal world of both national and local governments. Joe public would not complain if extra taxes produced tangible benefits and improved their quality of life. Any organisation which spends more on administration than on production is in trouble - and that's where Wellington, and NZ, is headed.

SC #37 11:37 am May 04 2011

This town is a nightmare to shop in when you have children and you need to get things from several different businesses. The bus isn't an option and finding parks can be a nightmare. We live in Island Bay but choose to go to Lyall Bay or over to Petone or Lower Hutt if we need to shop. I don't work in the CBD so the weekend is the only time we can get out and about.

Armchair Ref #36 11:36 am May 04 2011

As one who frequently parks in the city after 6pm to go to restaurants, I will no longer bother, unless I see an increased frequency and extension of public transport. Who wants to eat etc so late at night? So much for encouraging growth in the CBD. We'll go to Porirua and the Hutt.

FC_Shaza #35 11:31 am May 04 2011

I think I just figured it out. Force all the cars out of the city centre so there is no need for the roads and then celia will have the empty roads for her train set. Robb #2 Spot on mate, council are only there to f#\$% over the people. it is supposed to, but clearly doesn't serve. We have seen it in the middle east, any one fancy an uprising?

Chris #34 11:27 am May 04 2011

I think the Council has completely lost the plot - they are shooting themselves in the foot. For the sake of \$2.3 million a year they are putting a major obstacle in the way of visitors from out of town who otherwise might be inclined to come into town to contribute some of their \$'s to the local economy both in the retail and the entertainment sector.

I was horrified to read the recent reports of Roxy movie-goers being ticketed at night and weekends. A policy of encouraging vehicle turnover may be justified during peak business times - but evenings and weekends is just stupid.

I already limit my visits to Wellington to the absolute minimum because of parking costs. If this is what the Council ends up doing - I will avoid the place altogether - which as a Wellingtonian born and bred will make me a little sad. If I do come in it will only be to drive through not stop and shop.

This is a ridiculous policy and needs to be seen for what it is - cynical revenue gathering from a captive market.

If the Council really wants to do something to lift Wellington's economy and their share of it - they should be encouraging "free" or subsidized parking for visitors to encourage them to come to town. They need to think about the basic the basic rules of marketing - out of town consumers have plenty of choices other than going to Wellington. Take a leaf out of Wairarapa's book - over the hill they make shopping, eating and relaxing a pleasant experience - and the parking is nearly always free. Where would you rather go?

Harry #33 11:21 am May 04 2011

New Zealanders sure love ripping each other off! Surely the backlash isn't too far off now? People are being squeezed slowly but surely. Why don't they come up to the fringe suburbs more often? I live 5 mins walk from the CBD in an inner city st and got home 15 mins ago to see 3 x cars parked illegally in the residents only parking strip. One of them is a WCC vehicle (a building inspector clipping his ticket I think)! Go figure.

Councillor Ngaire Best #32 10:53 am May 04 2011

For those of you who have expressed your views, thanks that is what the consultation period is all about! However, I would suggest that you take a couple more minutes and complete a submission on the Draft Annual Plan to ensure that your views are received formally. Here is the link to the form.

<http://www.wellington.govt.nz/haveyoursay/publicinput/2011-2012dap/2011-2012dap.php>

Steve #31 10:51 am May 04 2011

I know for a fact that the line that they need to encourage vehicle turnover is complete bollocks.

My car was ticketed for not having a rego (fair enough I spose) but the fact that the ticket was issued at 10.08pm on a Monday night in a deserted industrial street really gets me. If the only parking restriction on the street is a clearway on the other side of the road at 7am, why are there parking wardens around? They would have had to drive out there. Id like to see the council explain how this is "encouraging vehicle turnover" rather than blatant revenue gathering...

Scott #30 10:50 am May 04 2011

Businesses do not benefit from higher turn-over of parking spaces. There isn't any turnover now, as spaces are always empty.

These people are idiots.

jamie #29 10:49 am May 04 2011

Drew#1, absolutely spot-on. let us not forget as well that the CEO of WCC is on nearly 500,000 - yes that's right, 500,000 - per annum. Not much of an austerity drive there, methinks. They raise rates and revenue however and whenever they want.

And as for you, Mr. D. - also managed a post as well, eh? I suppose whining about whining isn't really whining, right?

Azza #28 10:42 am May 04 2011

There is a clearway outside our work that opens at 10am. I have often seen wardens hiding in the bus stop at 9:50 so they can ticket those that try to park early. A more honest warden stands in plain sight and the motorists know not to park. If the whole point is 'parking fairness', then why do they hide? Get real guys, its soooo obviously about revenue gathering. WCC, adding to the pain.

Moriarty #27 10:36 am May 04 2011

This is what happens when you have a clueless car hating greenie for a mayor.

Sums her "leadership" up when "I'm a red head" is an excuse.

This increase is money grabbing joke.

George #26 10:36 am May 04 2011

Who gave the elected council the mandate to make the life of Wellington's citizens a misery for the next three years?

Mike #25 10:28 am May 04 2011

Tabled Information reference 119/11P(e)

@ Drew #1 - and why do council staff numbers increase? Because ratepayers demand better and more convenient services and the government pushes more legislation and responsibilities on local councils.

Contrary to your conspiracy theory, councils do not increase staff for the sake of it.

@ Mr D #24 10:26 am May 04 2011

@ Mr D - now don't make up stories! And if you are speaking facts, then name said buildings - I have \$50 bucks here that says you can't.

Gary #23 10:25 am May 04 2011

Council states in draft annual plan that they propose to support Wellington's arts and entertainment, shopping etc, and are mindful of tough economic times - this is a direct charge on the people who support these industries

Toga Woods #22 10:21 am May 04 2011

Thanks WCC, I should get alot of new customers now. Regards Queensgate shop owner.

Jen #21 10:15 am May 04 2011

Seriously? aren't they already looking at an increase on public transport? How about instead of increasing it, look at the parking options that are available, tweak them a bit to make them more user friendly THEN increase if need be. However, in saying this, the council will do what they want anyway. Way to make yourself go broke guys!

Nick #20 10:08 am May 04 2011

I think parking is pricey already and putting it up to \$5 an hour is a bit much. But to me its worse to extend the period that you have to pay until 8pm.

I think businesses in town will suffer as a result. I never understand why rates and parking fees and other forms of council income increase much quicker than inflation without a noticeable corresponding improvement in services.

Sadly the 'new' council doesn't seem to be any better than the old on at budgeting and living within their means.

possum #19 10:04 am May 04 2011

parking is so expensive now i don't actually bother to come into the city. the one exception is to go to the vege markets or out for dinner, because it's free on sundays & in the evenings. now i think i'll turn into a hermit - the buses are so irregular where i am (southern suburbs) that they only go once an hour. \$5 an hour is ridiculous when there isn't the public transport to support anything else.

Sniffles #18 10:03 am May 04 2011

Mark # 13. I doubt it, I don't think a parking warden would be so literate.

I think this Council move is really unfortunate for CBD business, especially the restaurants. I know it will deter me coming into Wellington except for very special occasions and I'll just stick to the suburbs, Porirua and the Hutt Valley.

jim Firth #17 10:01 am May 04 2011

I moved from Wellington to get away from the wardens (in the city and suburbs night and day), why would you want to shop go the movies or dinner when you are limited to 2 hours and have wardens hiding in shop doors. Although I work in the City I refuse to do any shopping here due to the greedy Council

Ted #16 09:47 am May 04 2011

Proof that they are just charging to make money.

We (the taxpayers) own the roads already and pay taxes to use them. I do not believe that they should have the right to impose an additional tax for us to park on our own property.

Mr D #15 09:39 am May 04 2011

Here we go again...

Tabled Information reference 119/11P(e)

Wellington is littered with multi-story and underground car parks which are usually cheaper than parking on the street off peak (Sunday is about \$3.00 all day for example).

These car parks are often no further away than many of the on street parking spots and in some cases could be closer.

I always thought Wellington being described as the windy city was a reference to the weather, perhaps it's actually a reference to the average Wellingtonian - because you certainly like to have a whine about most things on Stuff...!

Nick #14 09:32 am May 04 2011

\$5 an hour? Fair enough. Let's get people using public transport. But 6pm-8pm? Around Courtenay Place maybe it's justified, but just a backhander to the parking companies otherwise - and not really fair when many buses stop running at around 7.00pm.

Mark #13 09:28 am May 04 2011

I wonder if Brent C is a council parking warden???

mike #12 09:12 am May 04 2011

On top of all this is the ridiculous parking penalty. If you missed on a few minutes renewing your parking ticket of \$4, you're charge with \$45.00 fee straight away, then if so happened you did not receive the letter about this penalty for 20 days, another letter arrives saying in your face that the fee is now \$65.00, and if in case you've forgotten this letter, it balloons to \$90. What a money grab, what a shame.

Matt #11 09:10 am May 04 2011

I already think twice before driving into town due to the parking costs. While they're not huge it's enough to deter me. It's far easier to go to Queensgate where the parking is plentiful and free.

Kevin #10 09:10 am May 04 2011

I thought they were increasing vehicle turnover on Sundays by enforcing the 2 hour parking limits. Why can't they do this in the evening instead of charging? I went to a pub quiz in town last night parked at 5.45 so had to pay \$1 till 6, under these new rules I will have to pay \$11.25, probably wouldn't go, therefore business missing out. Would someone else really take this parking space for \$5/hour to replace this business lost, not likely.

Bob #9 09:05 am May 04 2011

They are feeding us this story as a pretence and it is nothing other than another way to fleece the people of Wellington out of more cash to prop up the council's overspending.

There is no problem finding a parking space in the CBD after 6pm on a Monday to Thursday, so the reasoning of "encouraging vehicle turnover" is a whole big load of council hogwash...

lady #8 08:42 am May 04 2011

i already don't come into town if i have to pay for parking, this increase will just mean i don't come in at all especially at \$5 an hour. I tend to go up cuba street as there are time limits ie 60 mins so i can go have a meal but no parking meters and no parking fees.... so i agree that it is nothing other than a money making scheme. you can turnover cars with parking limits without meters. Lets target peoples recreation time while they have less money, well done wellington city council as if life isn't getting way to costly as it is.

Corey #7 08:42 am May 04 2011

\$5 an hour you're Just a bunch of thieves.

Gaz #6 08:40 am May 04 2011

I say "Go for it", the Hutt and Porirua shops, restaraunts and cafes will all welcome the extra revenue from those who choose to boycott the city.

Geoff #5 08:27 am May 04 2011

In this instance, Mr Harris is right. And it's not very seemly to introduce a policy with a threat against rate payers if it isn't implemented. If, on the other hand, higher parking fees somehow meant better public transport in Wellington,

Tabled Information reference 119/11P(e)

one might be more enthusiastic. But our bus and rail service remains, well, less than splendid.

Eddie #4 07:59 am May 04 2011

Try living within your rates budget like everybody rate payer does that way no rates rise but best of all no wage rise for you lot as we the pepole dont get one every year to pay for the increases that you keep putting on us.

Brent C #3 07:59 am May 04 2011

Parking price should follow parking demand. Like any thing in economics, once the demand increases, so should the price. If the price of parking was to reflect the actual price, then those people who want a park will be able to find one when driving around the city. WCC should aim to set prices at a rate where 80-90% of parks are taken, not 95+% because of cheap parking prices. No one enjoys having to look for a car parking space. It can be made easier, but nothing is free these days! I must also state that the city centre offers a lot more than suburban shopping malls. They don't even compare to the atmosphere of the city centre and its attractions.

Robb #2 07:54 am May 04 2011

Wellington City Council has rate payers & business owners best interests in mind, yeah right!

Drew #1 07:42 am May 04 2011

Why should there be any surprises here? No matter what the financial state of the country, the number of council administrative staff always increase at a rate faster than council income. Efficiency doesn't come into the equation - remember that the UK comedy series 'Yes Minister' was not fiction, it was an accurate pastiche on how governments and councils are self-serving bureaucracies. Stavros Michael wants more money for his empire and Joe Public, the council cash cow, will always have to supply it. This blather about 'vehicle turnover' is just a smokescreen invented to justify more tax gathering.