

VISION STATEMENT

The Outer Green Belt is a continuous green belt following the ridges to the west of the city from the South Coast to Colonial Knob, in which indigenous vegetation is restored and an informal recreation network is widely accessible (Capital Spaces, 1998)¹. (Note: the following order does not imply order of precedence).

- *The Outer Green Belt marks the western edge of the city's urban environment. It is both well defined and widely supported by the people of Wellington. It is not separate from the city, but a vital part of it – a living, functioning, natural and cultural landscape providing a wide variety of tangible and intangible benefits for the city. (supported mainly by objectives 4.1.1)*
- *It comprises both public and private land linked by shared ecological and landscape values, and managed compatibly and sustainably. Like our coastline, it spans the whole city from north to south and is part of our shared identity as a city. (supported mainly by objectives 4.1.1 and 4.2.1)*
- *Where possible, a broad and continuous band of indigenous vegetation will be restored, mainly along the eastern slopes, linking the many stream gullies and bush remnants to create larger interconnected forests which, in turn, link with other natural areas as part of the wider city ecosystem. (supported mainly by objectives 4.3.1)*
- *Land use and management respects and reflects the distinctive ridgetop and hilltop landscapes, which are a mix of natural and human influences. An acknowledgement that some change is inevitable is balanced by a commitment to keep these areas as open and uncluttered as possible. (supported mainly by objectives 4.4.1)*
- *The special relationship between tangata whenua and the land comprising the Outer Green Belt is acknowledged. Provision is made for the kaitiakitanga (guardianship) responsibilities of the tangata whenua and their aspirations to become more actively involved in the management of this taonga. (supported mainly by objectives 4.1 and 4.6)*
- *Each of the many special places along its length has its own unique identity and purpose while contributing to the larger vision. A key uniting feature will be the creation of a continuous Skyline Track running from end to end. This will form part of Te Araroa Walkway running the length of New Zealand. (supported mainly by objectives 4.1.1 and 4.6.1)*
- *Wellington residents greatly enjoy looking at and recreating in the Outer Green Belt. They take pride in the fact their city has such a wonderful, diverse landscape and recreational resource, and that this will be protected for future generations. The Outer Green Belt also provides Wellingtonians with a sense of place and special relationship with the land. (supported mainly by objectives 4.5.1)*
- *Visitors to the city enjoy a uniquely 'Wellington' experience in the Outer Green Belt. Whether immersed in an activity or a place only Wellington can offer, or using the Outer Green Belt as a vantage point to view the rest of the city or the South Island, visitors will long remember visiting one of the world's best urban green belts. (supported mainly by objectives 4.5.1)*

¹ Wellington City Council, 1998