

Message from the Mayor

The word is out that Wellington is a great place to live. It's compact and vibrant, set on the edge of a beautiful harbour, and offers a great urban lifestyle. In the last five years, the population of Wellington City has grown by nearly 16,000 and is showing no signs of slowing down.

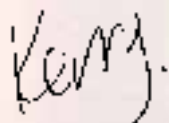
We are getting older too and changing demographics means fewer people are living in each home. That is pushing up demand for infill housing, townhouses and apartments.

How do we accommodate this growth, and protect Wellington's distinctive nature? Our suburbs have their own unique sense of place and identity and are highly accessible to the CBD and other key employment locations. Some are fortunate enough to have retained a lot of their original character and have values worth protecting.

The way we manage residential growth is a key challenge and a high priority for the Council. While housing growth within existing suburbs is needed and encouraged, we should be mindful of the particular qualities that make Wellington so special. We should also ensure that our approach to infill housing is sustainable, promotes the efficient use of resources and meets future demands.

By suggesting areas of change and areas of character protection, this paper builds on the feedback we have received from the community over the last year, and proposes a new way to manage residential growth. I would encourage you to engage in this critical debate on the future of our city.

You can start by commenting on this Discussion Paper on the Council's website www.Wellington.govt.nz or mail or fax, as listed in Have Your Say on the back cover of this booklet.



KERRY PRENDERGAST
Mayor of Wellington

