

Wellington City Council

Annual Report

2008/09

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The Wellington City Council is made up of 15 elected representatives – the mayor and 14 councillors.

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

Our vision is to make Wellington an affordable, vibrant, and internationally competitive city.

URBAN DEVELOPMENT

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

08/09 operating cost: \$3.39 per resident per week

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.

08/09 operating cost: \$4.60 per resident per week

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.

08/09 operating cost: \$2.22 per resident per week

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 more than 29.9 million cubic metres of 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.

08/09 operating cost: \$12.06 per resident per week

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.

08/09 operating cost: \$1.40 per resident per week

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.

08/09 operating cost: \$8.38 per resident per week

ENGAGEMENT AND GOVERNANCE

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

08/09 operating cost: \$1.34 per resident per week¹

¹A further \$1.93 per resident per week is attributed to Council (including overheads).

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Our direction

WHO WE ARE

The Wellington City Council is made up of 15 elected representatives – the mayor and 14 councillors. It's their job to make bylaws, set the city's overall strategic direction, and approve budgets, policies and plans aimed at achieving that direction. Part of their role is to listen and take the pulse of the community before making decisions.

They are supported in their governance role by two community boards.

The elected representatives are supported by the Council's chief executive and 1500+ staff, who provide advice, implement Council decisions, and look after the city's day-to-day operations.

OUR AIMS

Our vision is for Wellington to be a vibrant, internationally competitive, and affordable city. In 2006 we set in place 13 Council outcomes which 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 and 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.

Our work is organised into the following seven interrelated strategies that guide the delivery of our services. At the start of each strategy we outline in detail the outcomes and our progress towards achieving them.

The seven strategy areas are:

- *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

- *Economic Development* – promoting the city's competitive advantages to enhance quality of life
- *Environment* – protecting and enhancing Wellington's environment
- *Cultural Wellbeing* – reflecting and helping shape Wellington's unique cultural identity
- *Social and Recreation* – sustaining safe, resilient, and healthy communities
- *Engagement* – delivering trust and confidence in decision-making.

EXPLAINING OUR WORK

We aim to keep you informed and make ourselves accountable. In June 2008, the Council adopted our annual plan for the period 1 July 2008 – 30 June 2009. This outlined the services we planned to deliver for that year. This annual report explains how we've delivered on that plan.

We've gone to great lengths to ensure our work is fully explained. If this document is long, we don't apologise. We are responsible to our ratepayers and we are committed to providing comprehensive information about our work.

We have structured this report so it is easy to find, in one place, information on an activity of interest.

In this report you'll be able to find information about the state of the city – everything from the transport network to the state of the environment to the strength of Wellington's communities.

You'll be able to find comprehensive information – presented succinctly – about our work. For each activity we explain exactly what we did, how effective we are being over time, what it cost and how we performed against budget.

This report also contains a 'Governance and Management' section (page XX) a detailed 'real world' account of how we receive input from residents and make decisions.

MAP

[Insert Map of Wellington - publication]

SNAPSHOT OF A CHANGING CITY

	Wellington Now	Wellington Then	Did you know?
People	Wellington city has an estimated population of 192,400. Wellington city makes up 40.7% of the region's total population.	In 2006, our city had a population of 179,466 and made up 40.0% of the region's total population.	Our population is expected to increase to 215,700 by 2021.
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. Maori have visited and lived here since the 10th century.
Urban form	Wellington has an estimated 620.9 people per square kilometre.	In 2001, our city had an estimated 576.5 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	According to the census 2006: 70.1% of people identified themselves as European 13.2% as Asian 7.7% as Maori 5.2% as Pacific People 2.1% as either Middle Eastern, Latin American or African; and 10.6% as 'other'.	In 2001: 81.7% of people identified themselves as European 10.8% as Asian 7.6% as Maori 5.3% as Pacific Peoples; and 1.7% as 'other'.	More 28% of Wellington residents were born overseas.
Recreation	Most Wellington residents (73%) spend more than 2½ hours a week in physical activity.	In 2006, 85% of residents were spending more than 2½ hours a week in physical activity.	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.
Knowledge	In 2006, 32.9% of Wellingtonians over the age of 15 had a degree level qualification.	In 2001, 26.7% of Wellingtonians over the age of 15 had a degree level qualification.	Wellington city has the highest percentage of people with a degree level qualification of New Zealand's major cities.

Workforce	140,730 people were employed in Wellington city in 2008.	134,300 people were employed in Wellington city in 2006.	The public administration and safety industry employs more Wellingtonians than any other industry (17%).
Income	Wellington city employees earn an average of \$28.79 per hour.	In 2006, the average employee earned \$24.99 per hour.	Wellington city employees have the highest average hourly earnings of all major cities in New Zealand.
Travel	38% of Wellingtonians who travel into central Wellington on a weekday use public transport, 36% use a car and 17% walk.	In 2006, 34% of people used public transport 45% drove and 10% walked.	Wellington city has the largest proportion of residents who use public transport of all major cities in New Zealand.
Waste	The amount of waste sent to the landfill is 415 kilograms per person.	In 2004, a total of 496 kilograms of waste per person went to the landfill.	Greenhouse gas from the city's Southern Landfill is being used to generate electricity.
Assets	This year the Council's total assets are valued at \$6.3 billion	In 1999 they were valued at \$2.3 billion	The Council's infrastructural assets, including our roads and drainage, waste and water assets make up 81% of our asset base.

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