

# Petition: Officers' Response

**Title:** "Let's Build Wellington an Ice Rink"

**Primary Petitioner:** Ash Dearnley  
**Total Signatures:** 1,073 (via ePetition)

**Presented by:** Ash Dearnley  
**Contact officer:** Glenn McGovern – Manager Sports & Recreation Planning  
**Director responsible:** Neville Brown – Director City Services

## **Officers' recommendation:**

Officers recommend that the Committee:

- 1. Receive the information*
- 2. Agree that Council officers continue to talk with potential ice rink investors in regards to the development of a permanent or temporary ice rink.*

## **Background:**

The ePetition "Let's Build Wellington an Ice Rink" was initiated by Ash Dearnley on 15 September 2010 and closed on 15 January 2011.

The purpose of the petition is to encourage Wellington City Council to build an ice rink.

The petition was open to all members of the public with internet access to the Council's website and 1,073 signatures were received. It is understood that the petitioner has gained over 1,000 additional signatures in support of an ice rink.

## **Officers' response:**

Council officers have been investigating the development of an ice rink in Wellington since 2001.

There are indoor ice rink facilities in Auckland (2), Christchurch, Dunedin, Naseby, Queenstown and Gore. New Zealand also has a number of outdoor ice rinks with a number of them being plant assisted. An ice rink has recently been proposed for Taupo.

With funding assistance from Council, a temporary ice rink operated in Wellington in September 2002 and recorded over 20,000 attendances during a two week period. In 2004 the Council agreed to provide funding assistance to a company called Wellington Indoor Sports for the development of a permanent ice rink in the former upper car park at Te Whaea in Newtown (site of the recently completed TeWhaea Artificial Sportsfield). Unfortunately, after considerable work Wellington Indoor Sports decided not to proceed with the ice rink.

Since 2004 Council officers have continued to talk with a number of other potential ice rink investors.

The main barriers affecting the development of an ice rink in Wellington City are:

- the lack of available land
- commercial viability

The only available land that has been identified is on Fraser Avenue in Johnsonville. Council officers have recently been discussing the possibility of a temporary ice rink in the central city with an ice rink supplier.

The cost of constructing an ice rink facility was estimated at \$5M to \$7M in 2004. A number of ice rinks around New Zealand have struggled financially in the past.

Officers recommend that discussions continue with ice rink suppliers and potential investors for the development of a temporary or permanent ice rink.