

**Oral Submission to the Wellington City Council, Thursday 23 May 2013  
on behalf of the Vogelmorn Kingston Residents Association  
WCC DRAFT ANNUAL PLAN 2013/14**

**References: WCC's Draft Annual Plan (detailed version)**

**Local Electoral Amendment Bill (No. 2)**

- Purpose:**
- 1 Improve provisions for conduct of local elections;**
  - 2 Increase transparency and accountability in the provision, receipt, disclosure, recording, and reporting by candidates of electoral donations; and**
  - 3 Strengthen the integrity and efficiency of the local electoral system.**

**Local Government Commission determination of structure of W.C.C. for 2013 local government elections.**

**Local Government Act 2002 Amendment Act 2012**

**Introduction**

Members attention is directed to the attachment to my submission on behalf of VKRA, which was prepared for all members of the Federation of Wellington Progressive and Residents Associations. It was intended to draw attention to aspects of the detailed Draft Annual plan for information purposes only. Federation was denied the opportunity for early involvement in the preparation of the Draft plan as a recommendation from their meeting in Committee Room 2 last year.

As Secretary for VKRA, communication with local residents is primarily through the internet. Should any matters arise likely to have any notable effect on our community, suitable meetings arise in my home e.g. Carey's Gully, or the Vogelmorn Hall e.g. Carey's Gully, Disposal of Vogelmorn Hall/11 Vennell St. Involvement with festivals at the Ridgway School, and the Vogelmorn Tennis Club as a Life Member, enable continuous awareness of most community activities. A recent social evening at the Vogelmorn Bowling Club drew attention to further concerns regarding 11 Vennell St., once again. Proposed changes at the Brooklyn library also aroused an attendance of an estimated 100 people at St. Bernard's school hall, which resulted in a desired review of those changes (refer page 17 of the DAP). Regrettably, and luckily, I was unable to attend due to a visit to Christchurch that day.

Regular attendance at meetings of the Brooklyn and Newtown Residents Associations, and the Community Liason Group at Carey's Gully involving VKRA, BRA, OBRA, W.C.C., G.W.R.C. and Capacity and Veolia representatives, is my continuing obligation to the Southern Ward. Regular shopping in the Island Bay and Berhampore areas completes the picture since 1935.

- 3 Our approach to developing this draft plan (page 16)
- (i) 4 - Primary question of W.C.C. having "business units" as a Public benefit entity". Is this to enable G.S.T to be charged as well, where rates are a statutory levy to fund the purpose of local government without additional taxes i.e. for goods and services.
- (ii) 7 - What cost increases arise from 'reactive maintenance costs being higher than budgeted in the L T P, for bulk water, and expenditure on rates rising due to land revaluations.'?
- (iii) 8 - Key new initiatives in the first year after the 10 year Long Term Plan (LTP) is clearly indicative of the insincerity of the LTP to the community. Where vested interests are able to add additional expenditure to the formal strategic plans of the city, indicates a mockery of the LTP process, or a glaring indifference to the governance of the city by the members' advisers, or the members themselves. The residents and businesses of Wellington are in the sixth year of a global recession, yet this reality seems to be completely unknown to the governors of this city. Simply 'tinkering' with numbers, instead of generating the alternatives that will make meaningful changes to the economic, social and environmental future of the city, is completely disheartening to those reliant upon their decisions. The city and we, the source of the necessary funding, deserve and expect better.

### Financial Overview

I have been told that journalists are required to present readers of their efforts with information understood by those with the mental age of 12 year 'olds'. There is therefore surely a greater need for residents and businesses to have no doubts whatsoever, regarding the operational and capital budgets they fund in excess of \$400 million every year. Is that evident from the content of pages 24 - 28 of the Draft Annual Plan? I suggest that it is anything but and instance the following:

"The financial strategy is founded on the following five guiding principles:

- fairness and equity
- willingness to pay
- value for money
- risk management and assessment
- good financial governance and stewardship"

To whom is this 'apple pie' comment supposed to appeal? Anyone? Or are they just the honeyed words of the spin doctors under direction from ?

Percentage increases of prior year expenditure is certainly NOT 'prudent financial management. Zero based budgeting in times of global recession is the imperative, to provide the assurance for those struggling to survive on the basics. It serves little purpose to provide assurances to those with sound employment and comfortable incomes.

The use of financial jargon instead of a common language is unacceptable. Financial statements serve the only purpose of stating that the organisation is in good standing, or the means by which that situation will be achieved. What the inland revenue department requires is their business; what