

**PRESENTATION NOTES FOR
THE MAYOR OF WELLINGTON KERRY PRENDERGAST
ON SUSTAINABILITY AND CLIMATE CHANGE
AT THE WORLD CITIES SUMMIT, SINGAPORE
11AM WEDNESDAY 25 JUNE 2008**

GOOD AFTERNOON TO YOU ALL.....I AM DELIGHTED TO BE HERE TODAY AND TO HAVE THE OPPORTUNITY TO TALK TO YOU ABOUT WELLINGTON'S PERSPECTIVE ON CLIMATE CHANGE AND SUSTAINABILITY.

NEW ZEALAND IS WORLD-RENOWNED FOR ITS PRISTINE NATURAL ENVIRONMENT. THIS REPUTATION HASN'T COME ABOUT WITHOUT A LOT OF HARD WORK TO PROTECT OUR ENVIRONMENT FROM UNWELCOME EXPLOITATION... AND THE ADVERSE EFFECTS OF DEVELOPMENT AND GROWTH.

CITY GOVERNMENT HAS PLAYED AN IMPORTANT ROLE IN THIS.... THROUGH OUR LAND USE PLANNING AND ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT ROLES.

IN NEW ZEALAND, CITY GOVERNMENT'S ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY RESPONSIBILITIES DERIVE FROM:

- **REGULATORY OBLIGATIONS UNDER NEW ZEALAND'S PLANNING LAW...THE RESOURCE MANAGEMENT ACT... WHICH REQUIRES SUSTAINABLE MANAGEMENT OF THE ENVIRONMENT. THE ACT REQUIRES EACH CITY OR DISTRICT TO HAVE AN INTEGRATED ENVIRONMENTAL PLANNING FRAMEWORK THAT FOCUSES ON THE POSITIVE**

AND NEGATIVE EFFECTS OF ACTIVITIES, RATHER THAN CONTROLLING THE ACTIVITIES THEMSELVES.

AND

- **FROM RESPONSIBILITIES UNDER THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT. THIS ACT SETS OUT THE FUNCTION AND STRUCTURE OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT IN NEW ZEALAND, AND REQUIRES LOCAL GOVERNMENT TO MANAGE THE EFFECTS OF USE, AND DEVELOPMENT AND PROTECTION OF LAND AND RESOURCES IN AN INTEGRATED WAY. IT REQUIRES CITY AND DISTRICT COUNCILS TO ADOPT POLICIES TO CONSERVE AND PROTECT THE ENVIRONMENT FOR FUTURE GENERATIONS, SO THAT NEW ZEALAND REMAINS A SPECIAL PLACE TO LIVE.**

NOWHERE IS THIS IMPORTANT WORK MORE EVIDENT THAN IN CITIES LIKE WELLINGTON, THE NATION'S CAPITAL.

WELLINGTON CITY HAS A POPULATION OF 180 THOUSAND PEOPLE AND HAS GROWN BY MORE THAN 10 PERCENT SINCE 2001. IT IS AT THE CENTRE OF A REGION OF 450 THOUSAND PEOPLE AND IS ALSO THE HOME OF NEW ZEALAND'S FILM INDUSTRY. PETER JACKSON, THE DIRECTOR OF THE LORD OF THE RINGS FILMS CALLS WELLINGTON HOME....AS DO MANY OF NEW ZEALAND'S CREATIVE INDUSTRIES, FINANCIAL SERVICES BUSINESSES AND ICT COMPANIES.

MY COUNCIL IS VERY CLEAR THAT MAKING WELLINGTON A PLACE WHERE PEOPLE WANT TO COME TO LIVE, WORK AND PLAY MEANS CREATING THE RIGHT CIRCUMSTANCES IN WHICH BUSINESSES CAN THRIVE AND PEOPLE CAN PROSPER....WHILE AT THE SAME TIME BUILDING ON THE CITY'S 'SENSE OF PLACE'

TO PROMOTE A QUALITY OF LIFE THAT APPEALS TO AS MANY PEOPLE AS POSSIBLE GIVES A CITY A COMPETITIVE ADVANTAGE... AND ENSURES THAT IT HAS AN ENVIRONMENTALLY SUSTAINABLE FUTURE.

ADOPTING A SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT APPROACH AND PROACTIVELY ADDRESSING THE CHALLENGES POSED BY CLIMATE CHANGE IS THE KEY TO SUCCESSFULLY MARRYING:

- **THE ACHIEVEMENT OF ECONOMIC GROWTH AND DEVELOPMENT OBJECTIVES WITH...**
- **THE DESIRE TO RETAIN A PEOPLE-FRIENDLY BUILT AND NATURAL ENVIRONMENT.**

NEW ZEALAND'S CHALLENGES IN THE FACE OF CLIMATE CHANGE ARE SOMEWHAT UNIQUE.

OVER 65 PERCENT OF OUR ELECTRICITY IS GENERATED FROM RENEWABLE SOURCES..... GEOTHERMAL, HYDRO AND WIND POWER MAKING US ONE OF THE GREENEST ELECTRICITY USERS ON THE PLANET.

RECENTLY OUR GOVERNMENT SET A TARGET OF 90 PERCENT RENEWABLE ELECTRICITY GENERATION BY 2020.... AND IT IS CURRENTLY PUTTING IN PLACE A MORATORIUM ON NEW THERMAL GENERATION DEVELOPMENTS.

BUT AS A MAJOR FOOD PRODUCER, 50 PERCENT OF OUR NATIONAL GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS COME FROM THE AGRICULTURAL SECTOR.... PRIMARILY IN THE FORM OF METHANE.

UNLIKE MUCH OF THE COUNTRY, THE WELLINGTON ECONOMY DOESN'T RELY ON AGRICULTURE AND IT COULD BE ARGUED THAT, UNLIKE MANY CITIES IN THE DEVELOPED WORLD, WELLINGTON HAS

SOMETHING OF A HEAD START IN RESPONDING TO CLIMATE CHANGE.

WELLINGTON HAS A VERY COMPACT URBAN FORM.... 70 PERCENT OF OUR CITY'S EMPLOYEES ARE LOCATED IN THE CBD CLOSE TO PUBLIC TRANSPORT.... MORE THAN 7 PERCENT OF THE POPULATION ALSO LIVES DOWNTOWN.... AND MORE THAN 60 PERCENT OF NEW RESIDENTIAL GROWTH IS OCCURRING IN THIS AREA.

THE CITY'S COMPACT URBAN FORM IS PARTLY THE RESULT OF ITS MOUNTAINOUS GEOGRAPHY.... WITH DEVELOPMENT NATURALLY CONCENTRATED IN FLATTER AREAS OF THE CITY. BUT THIS HAS BEEN REINFORCED BY DECADES OF CONSCIOUS POLICY TO LIMIT URBAN SPRAWL AND ENCOURAGE INTENSIFICATION.

A GREEN BELT OF PROTECTED REGENERATING FOREST LAND EXTENDS THE ENTIRE LENGTH OF THE CITY'S WESTERN BOUNDARY. THIS PROVIDES AN IMPORTANT WILDLIFE HABITAT, PROTECTS LANDSCAPE VALUES AND PROVIDES RECREATION FOR THE CITY'S RESIDENTS.

OUR CURRENT PRIORITIES ARE TO CONTINUE THIS FOCUS ON COMPACTNESS INCLUDING WORK ON DIRECTING INFILL HOUSING TO AREAS BEST SERVED BY PUBLIC TRANSPORT AND OTHER INFRASTRUCTURE.... AND ENCOURAGING A SPINE OF INTENSIVE HOUSING FROM NORTH TO SOUTH.

THIS IS HELPING TO CREATE A RESILIENT CITY, WHERE PEOPLE HAVE TRANSPORT CHOICES, AND ARE BETTER PLACED TO DEAL WITH THE CHALLENGES OF EXPENSIVE OIL AND THE NEED TO REDUCE CARBON EMISSIONS.

WE HAVE A HIGH PERCENTAGE OF RESIDENTS LIVING IN OUR CENTRAL AREA AND TOGETHER WITH THE CONCENTRATION OF EMPLOYERS IN THE CBD, WE ARE ABLE TO MAKE EFFICIENCIES IN TERMS OF TRANSPORT, INFRASTRUCTURE, DEVELOPMENT AND ENERGY USE.

THE LARGE NUMBERS OF PEOPLE TRAVELLING INTO THE CITY FOR WORK ALREADY DO SO BY PUBLIC TRANSPORT OR WALKING.... SO TRAFFIC CONGESTION AND THE GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS THAT GO WITH IT ARE LOWER THAN OTHER CITIES.

LIKE ALL CITIES WE ARE SEEING HUGE GROWTH IN PUBLIC TRANSPORT USE AS THE COST OF OIL INCREASES AND HOUSEHOLD BUDGETS ARE STRAINED.... SO INVESTING IN NEW PUBLIC TRANSPORT CAPACITY IS IMPORTANT FOR OUR CITY. (OUR TOPOGRAPHY ALSO MAKES IT DIFFICULT TO INCREASE OUR ROADING CAPACITY)

WELLINGTON RESIDENTS ARE ALSO FORTUNATE IN ALREADY HAVING ACCESS TO LARGE AREAS OF PUBLIC GREEN SPACE, SPREAD THROUGHOUT THE CITY OR IN VERY CLOSE PROXIMITY TO IT.

OUR GREEN SPACE PER THOUSAND PEOPLE IS 19 HECTARES THE HIGHEST IN NEW ZEALAND.

IN THE OUTER TOWN BELT, MY COUNCIL HAS RETIRED ALMOST 2 THOUSAND HECTARES OF FARM LAND NOW REGENERATING INTO NATIVE FOREST. THIS IS AN IMPORTANT CARBON SINK FOR THE CITY, AND WE HAVE AGREED TO PLACE MUCH OF THE LAND INTO A PERMANENT FOREST SINK THAT WILL GENERATE CARBON CREDITS

WE CAN TRADE ON THE INTERNATIONAL CARBON MARKET OR USE TO OFFSET OUR CARBON EMISSIONS.

WELLINGTON IS ALSO BLESSED WITH ABUNDANT RENEWABLE ENERGY RESOURCES...SO MUCH SO THAT WE ARE SOMETIMES DESCRIBED AS THE SAUDI ARABIA OF WIND....THEY HAVE HUGE AMOUNTS OF OIL; WE HAVE HUGE AMOUNTS OF WIND.

LARGE COMMERCIAL WIND FARM DEVELOPMENTS WITHIN THE CITY BOUNDARIES ARE EITHER UNDER CONSTRUCTION OR IN THE PLANNING STAGES. WHEN COMPLETED THESE WILL GENERATE ENOUGH ELECTRICITY TO SUPPLY EVERY HOUSEHOLD IN THE WELLINGTON REGION. (WELLINGTON'S WIND IS SOME OF THE MOST CONSISTENT IN THE WORLD)

COOK STRAIT, THE OCEAN BETWEEN THE NORTH AND SOUTH ISLANDS OF NEW ZEALAND, AND WHICH FORMS WELLINGTON CITY'S SOUTHERN COAST IS ESTIMATED TO HAVE SEVEN GIGAWATTS OF ENERGY-GENERATING POTENTIAL. THIS IS ALMOST NEW ZEALAND'S CURRENT TOTAL ANNUAL ENERGY CONSUMPTION.

OUR FIRST TRIAL MARINE TURBINES WILL BE IN PLACE BY THE MIDDLE OF 2009.

DESPITE ALL OF THIS, WELLINGTON CITY COUNCIL ACKNOWLEDGES THAT WE MUST USE ALL OF THE LEVERS AT OUR DISPOSAL TO DO AS MUCH AS POSSIBLE TO PREPARE FOR THE IMPACTS OF CLIMATE CHANGE AND WORK TO REDUCE OUR CONTRIBUTION TO GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS....NOT ONLY IN A LOCAL CONTEXT, BUT ALSO A NATIONAL AND GLOBAL CONTEXT.

BUILDING A RESILIENT COMMUNITY THAT IS ABLE TO FACE THE CHALLENGES OF SEA LEVEL RISES.... INCREASED FREQUENCY OF

EXTREME WEATHER EVENTS.... AND THE SOCIAL AND CULTURAL IMPACTS OF CLIMATE CHANGE IS ALSO IMPORTANT.

MY COUNCIL HAS ALREADY STARTED TO INVEST IN UPGRADING ITS INFRASTRUCTURE TO REFLECT LIKELY FUTURE REQUIREMENTS. IT IS ALSO PARTNERING WITH RESEARCH INSTITUTES AND UNIVERSITIES TO COMPLETE RESEARCH ON THE INFRASTRUCTURAL, SOCIAL AND CULTURAL ADAPTATIONS THAT WILL BE REQUIRED.

WE RECOGNISE THAT CLIMATE CHANGE REPRESENTS AN OPPORTUNITY AS WELL AS A CHALLENGE. THE NATURAL RESOURCES ON THE CITY'S DOORSTEP – THE FAMOUS WELLINGTON WIND AND THE STRONG TIDAL CURRENTS – OFFER SIGNIFICANT SCOPE FOR FURTHER GREENING THE CITY'S ENERGY SUPPLY... AND FOR DEVELOPING GREEN COLLAR JOBS OFF THE BACK OF WIND AND TIDAL POWER GENERATION DEVELOPMENT.

WELLINGTON IS TAKING CLIMATE CHANGE SERIOUSLY. WE HAVE ESTABLISHED A CLIMATE CHANGE OFFICE TO DRIVE ACTION IN OUR CITY. WE ARE MEASURING OUR EMISSIONS AND WE HAVE AN ACTION PLAN TO REDUCE THEM.

WE ARE FOCUSED ON BECOMING CARBON NEUTRAL FOR OUR CORPORATE EMISSIONS BY 2012... AND BECOMING ONE OF THE FIRST GREEN CAPITALS IN THE WORLD.

MY COUNCIL HAS ALSO ADOPTED EMISSION REDUCTION TARGETS. THESE ARE IN LINE WITH THE IPCC TARGETS AND SIMILAR TO THOSE OF MANY CITIES INTERNATIONALLY.

TO ACHIEVE THESE TARGETS WE WILL WORK IN PARTNERSHIP WITH OUR NATIONAL GOVERNMENT, THE BUSINESS COMMUNITY AND OUR RESIDENTS.

WELLINGTON IS CONTINUING TO PLAN AND BUILD A COMMUNITY THAT IS MORE RESILIENT TO THE LIKELY IMPACTS OF CLIMATE CHANGE AND THAT, OVER TIME, REDUCES ITS CONTRIBUTION TO CLIMATE CHANGE.

OUR CARBON NEUTRAL VISION IS ADDING URGENCY TO EXISTING WORK AND REQUIRING NEW THINKING AND ACTIONS. IT DEMANDS A LONG-TERM, COMPREHENSIVE AND INTEGRATED VISION BUT ALSO REQUIRES ACTION NOW.

THAT'S WHY WE ARE ALREADY DOING A RANGE OF THINGS INCLUDING:

- **DEVELOPING SUSTAINABLE PROCUREMENT STANDARDS FOR OUR BUILDINGS AND VEHICLES**
- **CREATING CARBON SINKS ON COUNCIL LAND AND WORKING WITH OTHER LAND OWNERS**
- **UNDERTAKING AN ONGOING PROGRAMME OF ENERGY EFFICIENCY PROJECTS**
- **IMPLEMENTING GREEN BUILDING CONSENT INCENTIVES**
- **ROLLING OUT A SUSTAINABILITY ACCREDITATION PROGRAMME FOR BUSINESSES**
- **COMPLETING FEASIBILITY STUDIES FOR:**
 - **A HYDRO TURBINE IN THE OUTFALL PIPE OF OUR WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANT**
 - **DEVELOPING A WINDFARM ON CAREY'S GULLY - THE LAND SURROUNDING OUR LANDFILL AND**
 - **BUILDING A BIOREACTOR FOR BIOSOLIDS DISPOSAL AND ELECTRICITY GENERATION.**

IN CONCLUSION....WHILE I SHOW YOU SOME OTHER IMAGES OF MY BEAUTIFUL CITY....I'D LIKE TO REITERATE THE FOLLOWING:

ADOPTING A SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT FOCUS AND PROACTIVELY ADDRESSING THE CHALLENGES POSED BY CLIMATE CHANGE IS THE KEY TO SUCCESSFULLY ACHIEVING BOTH ECONOMIC GROWTH AND A PEOPLE-FRIENDLY CITY WITH A GREAT QUALITY OF LIFE.

CLIMATE CHANGE POSES SOME THREATS...BUT ALSO SOME OPPORTUNITIES.

AND IT'S ONLY WHEN ALL OF US COLLECTIVELY AND INDIVIDUALLY TURN OUR MINDS TO THE CHANGES WE NEED TO MAKE TO ENSURE OUR CITIES, OUR COUNTRIES AND OUR PLANET ARE SUSTAINABLE FOR FUTURE GENERATIONS THAT REAL AND LASTING PROGRESS IN DEALING WITH THESE ISSUES WILL OCCUR.

THANK YOU