

# Our Wellington

Absolutely

POSITIVELY

ME HEKE KI PŌNEKE Wellington  
WELLINGTON CITY COUNCIL

Your weekly Council guide to your city

3 July 2008



We plan to continue the anti-graffiti flying squad to discourage taggers.

## Rates to rise by 5.18 percent

The Council has approved its Annual Plan for 2008/09, with an average real rates increase of 5.18 percent.

The rates increase is slightly up on the 4.79 percent increase proposed in this year's Draft Annual Plan, but below the 7 percent forecast in the Long Term Council Community Plan. The percentage increase will vary for individual ratepayers depending on capital value changes and the effect of the rates differential between businesses and households.

Mayor Kerry Prendergast says the increase is one of the lowest compared with the other major cities.

"The Council would have liked to have been able to keep the rates increase below 5.1 percent to assist ratepayers who are feeling the strain of rising fuel and food prices, but could not do so without cuts to services," she says.

"Although a small number of people who commented on our Draft Annual Plan asked us to defer non-urgent spending to keep the rates increase down, the balance of opinion was clearly in favour of the limited number of new projects that we are proposing for the coming year, so we have approved those."

Mayor Prendergast says while the Council has committed to some new projects for 2008/09, to a large extent the increase in total rates reflects increasing cost pressures we face in providing key services such as maintaining the transport network and looking after the city's environment. The Council is facing increased fuel and energy costs too.

"It's important to remember that most of the rates we collect pays for things the city can't do without like roads, pipes, community centres, sportsfields and taking care of the environment."

The new initiatives include plans to investigate how Wellingtonians use transport and make transport choices to determine how to encourage more sustainable options, such as walking, cycling or taking the train or bus. It includes building consent fee concessions for new buildings that incorporate sustainable features like solar water heating and better insulation; and funds to improve safety in

Courtenay Place, continue the anti-graffiti flying squad, support the Pasifika festival and replace the Thistle Hall floor.

The Council will spend more money controlling pest animals and weeds in areas identified as key native eco-systems. Just over \$750,000 a year is currently spent doing work agreed as part of the city's Pest Management Plan. That will increase to \$832,000 in 2008/09, rising over several years to reach \$1 million in 2014/15.

As part of the city's goal to be carbon-neutral, the Council will also look at the feasibility of establishing a small-scale wind farm at Carey's Gully, the site of the Southern Landfill. It also plans to look at sustainable ways of disposing sewage sludge from the Moa Point sewage treatment plant. One option that will be investigated is converting organic waste and sludge into electricity or LPG using a bioreactor.

**FREE guided tours**  
**MAKARA PEAK**  
mountain bike park

This is open to anyone keen to explore this fantastic park.  
Tours are held first Sunday of the month at 10am, starting Sunday 6 July.  
Meet in the car park on South Karori Road. Allow 1.5 hours.



[www.feelinggreat.co.nz](http://www.feelinggreat.co.nz)

### College Street sewer and stormwater upgrade

An upgrade of the sewer and stormwater mains in College Street and Cambridge Terrace, under way since April, is now expected to be completed by the end of July.

The work is taking place mostly during the day, except for work on Cambridge Terrace that is likely to affect State Highway 1 traffic. This will take place at night from 7pm to 6am, Monday to Saturday.

For more information, please call Nistar Idris on 910 3810 or email [nistar.idris@capacity.net.nz](mailto:nistar.idris@capacity.net.nz)

### Safer roads ahead for Newtown and Berhampore

Residents have less than two weeks to have their say on road safety changes proposed for Newtown and Berhampore.

The Council has proposed a number of safety measures including lowering the speed limit to 40kmh on most residential streets in Newtown and Berhampore and introducing traffic lights at key locations. It also includes traffic-calming devices, such as speed humps and kerb extensions, and driver feedback signs to show motorists what speed they are travelling.

The consultation period ends at 5pm on Monday 14 July. All submissions will be analysed and summarised in a final Consultation Feedback and Implementation Plan. This is expected to be available to view online in September.

For more information about the proposed changes, the Newtown and Berhampore Technical Report can be downloaded from our website, or phone 499 4444 for a copy.

### Notice of intention to 'stop' and sell part of Pitt Street, Wadestown

The City Council proposes to 'stop' an 80 square metre portion of Pitt Street no longer needed for roading.

The land (Section 1 SO 400676), is adjacent to 69 Pitt Street. If the road-stopping process is confirmed, the land will be sold to the owner of 69 Pitt Street and the land titles amalgamated.

The road stopping is being done under Section 342(f) of the Local Government Act 1974. The area to be stopped will be subject to the activities and rules of the District Plan. A copy of the road-stopping report and the plan (SO 400676) defining the road area can be obtained from the Central Library or the Council Service Centre, ground floor, 101 Wakefield Street. The information is also available on our website.

Objections to this proposal must be sent in writing to Paul Davidson, Property Services, Wellington City Council, PO Box 2199, or left at City Council reception, ground floor, 101 Wakefield Street.

Any objections must be received before 5pm, Friday 15 August.  
Garry Poole, Chief Executive Officer



### Draft waterfront development plan – have your say

The draft waterfront development plan for 2008/09 is open for consultation now and Wellington City Council wants your feedback.

In summary, the draft plan proposes:

- further planning work in 2008/09 for the remaining Kumutoto sites, Frank Kitts Park, the Taranaki Street Wharf and Queens Wharf. This covers both commercial and public space projects.
- planning work to continue on the Taranaki Street Wharf Lagoon.
- work to continue with the Wellington Tenth Trust on the design and development of the wharewaka.

The draft plan focuses only on the 2008/09 year both to take into account the adjusted timings of commercial payments and because the Council has resolved to review the years 2009/10 to 2019/20 as part of the Long-Term Community Council Plan. You can view the plan at any Wellington library or online at [www.Wellington.govt.nz](http://www.Wellington.govt.nz)

Submissions are due by 5pm Thursday 31 July. You can provide feedback in writing, online or in person.



### General grants round closes 31 July

Applications for the next round of Council general grants close at 5pm on Thursday 31 July.

The Council has three funding rounds a year to consider all types of applications from community organisations. The grants are grouped in four key strategic areas – social, cultural, environmental and economic.

The last cultural round funded projects including the Dance Your Socks Off! Festival (pictured), starting in September; a visual artists' support programme in Wellington and a mural painting by children from Berhampore School on the retaining walls on Britomart and Stanley streets to deter tagging.

Other funds closing at the end of the month are the Sports Development Fund and the Built Heritage Incentive Fund.

Information on criteria and application forms can found on our website in the Services and Information section.

For any grants queries, call the Grants Team on 499 4444.

### We're accredited!

Wellington City Council is now a registered Building Consent Authority (BCA).

The Council's Certificate of Registration and Certificate of Accreditation has been received from the Department of Building and Housing.

Registration as a Building Consent Authority became necessary with the Building Act 2004. The Act required all Councils to gain accreditation as a BCA to carry out their building consent functions. The aim is to enhance building control in New Zealand so that buildings are safe, well constructed and healthy.

Assessment for accreditation was carried out by International Accreditation New Zealand (IANZ), an independent assessment body appointed by the Department of Building and Housing. IANZ assessed the Council's policies, procedures and systems to ensure they met the requirements of the regulations.

This assessment covered all parts of the building consent process, from the advice available for customers and how we assess applications for building consents to inspections and the issue of code compliance certificates. It included ensuring we have competent, well-trained employees with the resources to do their jobs. It also looked at how we keep records.

The Council has worked with neighbouring local authorities in the development of these processes to ensure consistency and to make the building consent process easier for customers.

### Council reports on dog control policy

The Council's annual report on its dog control policy and practices is now available.

The Council is required to manage and enforce provisions of the Dog Control Act 1996 and subsequent amendments in 2003, 2004 and 2006. Section 10A of the Act requires the Council to report annually to the Secretary for Local Government on its dog control policy and practices. This year's report fulfils this statutory requirement for the dog registration year from 1 July 2006 to 30 June 2007.

The report is available from the Council offices at 101 Wakefield Street and from our website.



### When the lights go out ...

Wellington City provides about 16,000 street lights and sometimes faults occur. We need you to call us as soon as you notice a faulty light.

Street lights help to reduce night-time accidents and make walking easier for pedestrians.

Street lighting is important and we try to keep as many lights going as possible.

Most lighting faults involve just one or a few lights and are repaired by our contractors within three working days.

However, if all the lights in your street go out – five or more lights in a row – the cause will be a fault in the street lighting power supply network. This network is owned and managed by UnitedNetworks.

The time required to identify and fix a network fault depends on many factors, including location, weather and other work priorities. UnitedNetworks aims to repair such faults within five working days.

The sooner we are aware of network faults, the better, so we can pass them on to UnitedNetworks.

Street lights are an essential service so, even though we are saving energy, street lighting will stay on.

We appreciate your help, so please call 499 4444.

For more information phone 499 4444 or visit [www.Wellington.govt.nz](http://www.Wellington.govt.nz)