

## YOUR VIEWS

We received 438 written submissions on our draft annual plan.

In addition, 68 people met councillors in person to comment on our plans for the year, and we carried out a public opinion survey to get the views of a wider cross-section of Wellington residents.

All submissions were read and analysed, and all were provided to councillors. They were also made publicly available.

Everyone who makes a submission receives a response from the Council regarding the main points raised in their submission.

Most submitters supported the Council's proposed new projects.

Just over half of the comments we received were about proposals for new projects. For almost all of the proposals, the balance of submissions was in favour of the Council going ahead and funding the project.

Where the Council was proposing to defer or reduce spending in order to keep rates down, the balance of opinion was opposed to these changes.

We've made changes as a result of your feedback.


Our Strategy and Policy Committee – which is made up of elected councillors and the mayor – considered your feedback in mid June. It provided recommendations to Council, which made its final decisions in late June.

The programme outlined in this document is not the same as the one outlined in the draft plan. The changes include:

- We've committed \$200,000 to make progress on our vision of bringing high-speed broadband to the city by 2012. Our proposal is likely to involve a regional approach to the Government's \$500 million Broadband Investment Fund.
- We've decided to hold marina fees at current levels, rather than increase fees as we had proposed in our draft annual plan.
- We've decided not to provide funding for a feasibility study into establishing an orchestral scoring stage in Wellington.
- We've budgeted for a new eco design advisor service to help designers, builders and homeowners with information about making homes more energy-efficient and sustainable. The budget for this project is \$70,000 a year.
- We're increasing resources to allow us to respond to legal challenges to planning decisions. We're budgeting an additional \$430,000 for this work.
- We're budgeting an extra \$60,000 per year to better inform neighbours of adjacent landowners (that have applied for resource consents on residentially zoned sites) about planned developments.
- We've agreed for Wellington Waterfront Ltd to draw-down their funding earlier than originally planned. The additional funding will be repaid in full once the commercial proceeds from waterfront developments are secured.

During the consultation period we also received many requests for funding support. Requests were made to: increase the number of public swimming pools; provide more sportsfields with artificial surfaces, upgrade existing community facilities and establish new ones, help community groups with relocation costs, upgrade Cobham Drive foreshore area, restore the Shipwright building at Shelly Bay, restore sand dunes on the South Coast, upgrade Kelburn Parade and many many more.

Councillors considered all funding requests in detail but did not support them being funded in 2008/09. Like you, we are facing increased inflationary cost pressures and have worked within tight budgetary parameters to deliver this plan and an acceptable rates rise. Any accommodation of the funding requests would have increased the rates rise for 2008/09. In some circumstances, funding requests will be considered further as part of the development of the next long-term plan.

 *We listened to your views before completing this annual plan.*