

A message from the Mayor Kerry Prendergast



This plan is about being responsive to the wider environment and the opportunities it brings.

The coming year will see us responding to climate change, maximising the benefits from the Rugby World Cup, strengthening infrastructure and community facilities, and planning for the future of this fantastic city.

September 2011 will see the city host its biggest-ever party as part of the Rugby World Cup. We'll be working hard throughout the year to make sure the city looks its best and is humming ahead of the tournament. The new Wharewaka being built by the Te Wharewaka o Pōneke Charitable Trust on the Waterfront will be at the heart of our festival – offering a unique experience for residents and visitors alike.

Our aim is to ensure that the benefits from being a host city are long-term. For example, with an increase in cruise ships and visitor numbers expected in Wellington for the event, we're bringing forward some planned roading improvements to Waterloo Quay to ensure the work is advanced in time for kick-off. We'll also be adding a major new sculpture by Weta Workshop that showcases Wellington's creativity.

These initiatives add to the existing commitments we've made relating to community assets including the artificial sports fields and the Indoor Community Sports Centre that is currently under construction.

We are also taking steps to deal with the challenges presented by climate change, by reducing greenhouse gas emissions and preparing to deal with the impact of changing weather and tidal patterns. We have included a range of new projects that demonstrates Wellington's commitment, including the trialling of electric vehicles.

We are also responding to changes in demand for community facilities and have adopted a policy to guide our approach over the coming years. This includes improvements to several of the city's swimming pools and the creation of a partnership fund that aims to promote learning to swim and will make greater use of existing facilities in the wider community.

In addition to these initiatives, we'll be strengthen existing infrastructure, maintaining our parks and reserve land, developing plans for the future of the city, holding local government elections in October, regulating building works and food premises, funding environmental attractions and much more to ensure we maintain the city's quality of life and economic vitality.

This plan has developed after public consultation. It builds on the long-term plan that we adopted in 2009. We received 487 submissions on our draft plans. The views expressed informed our decision-making and helped us confirm or make changes to our plans. A summary of the changes made from the draft plan are outlined on pages 9 to 11.

Thank you to those of you that took the time to have your say about the future of our city.

We can all look forward to another truly fantastic year.

Nō reira, noho pai mai i roto i ngā manaakitanga katoa.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Kerry".

KERRY PRENDERGAST