



## Our Work

Council services touch the lives of all Wellingtonians – at home, work, and play.

### GOVERNANCE

Our governance work includes running local **elections**, holding **meetings of the Council** and its committees, producing policies and strategies to guide our work, **seeking feedback** on our proposals from members of the public, producing annual plans and annual reports to make ourselves **accountable to residents**, engaging with **Māori and stakeholder groups**, and **providing information** about our services and activities.

The key challenges we face are to increase participation levels and to build trust and confidence in civic decision-making.

In 2010/11 we will run the local body elections in October 2010, connect with the community more than 2.5 million times through our contact centre and website, continue to explore new ways of engaging with the community, and respond to any legislative changes.

*Planned 2010/11 operational cost: \$79 per resident<sup>1</sup>.*

### ENVIRONMENT

We look after the city's 34+ square kilometres of parks and **reserve land**, as well as **beaches**, coastline, and **botanical gardens**. We fund **the Zoo** and the **Karori Sanctuary**, and work to develop other world-class nature-based visitor attractions. Our work in this area is supported by the commitments of a large number of volunteers and groups.

We also: provide **water supply**, stormwater and **sewage disposal**; provide **recycling** and **waste disposal** services; offer grants for environmental initiatives; run the Kiwi Point Quarry; and promote **energy efficiency and sustainability**.

The environment is by far our biggest area of spending.

Though Wellington enjoys a stunning natural environment, we also face some significant challenges. Like other cities, we need to find ways of becoming more sustainable and address broad issues such as climate change – by producing fewer greenhouse gas emissions, dumping less waste, using resources such as water and energy more efficiently, and protecting biodiversity and ecosystems.

Priorities for 2010/11 include reduction of greenhouse gas emissions and preparation for the impacts of climate change.

*Planned 2010/11 operational cost: \$644 per resident.*

<sup>1</sup> Based on a resident population estimate of 192,800



## ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

While this plan in entirety can be seen as a commitment to the local economy there are specific steps we are taking to support local businesses and employment. We advocate for the city's interests to central and regional government. We maintain links with other markets through sister city relations. Our initiatives complement the regional economic development programme provided by the regional development agency Grow Wellington.

We also work to attract **major events** that bring new spending to the city such as Rugby World Cup matches, the World of WearableArt Awards and major concerts. And we fund **tourism promotions**, and support attractions such as **Te Papa** and conference venues such as the **Wellington Convention Centre**.

Key economic development challenges are to make the city more internationally competitive, foster innovation and entrepreneurship, and lift Wellington's sustainable economic growth.

Priorities for 2010/11 include:

- preparing for Rugby World Cup 2011 to maximise benefits to the city from hosting Cup matches
- building relationships with local business and employers to better understand what they see as the drivers of our economy and employment in the future.

*Planned 2010/11 operational cost: \$134 per resident.*

## CULTURAL WELL-BEING

We fund the city's popular **art galleries** and museums, operate Toi Pōneke – the Wellington Arts Centre, and support the NZ International Arts Festival, the St James Theatre and the NZ Symphony Orchestra.

We also provide **cultural grants**, support community **events** and **festivals**, and run the City Archives.

Wellington's arts and culture scene is thriving. Our key goal is to maintain this strength, and to ensure that all Wellingtonians can participate in the city's cultural life.

Priorities for 2010/11 include: maintaining Wellington's inclusive culture. In a practical sense this will include continuing to provide a wide range of cultural based festivals and supporting an environment for artistic and cultural expression.

*Planned 2010/11 operational cost: \$77 per resident.*



## SOCIAL AND RECREATION

We provide **homes** for people whose needs are not met by state housing or the private housing market, fund projects to help **homeless people**, support community organisations, and provide **community centres and halls**.

We also work to protect **public health and safety** through projects such as monitoring the city centre, banning liquor consumption in some public parts of the city, **licensing food and liquor outlets, animal control**, regulating other public health risks, providing **toilets and cemeteries**, and preparing the city to deal with emergencies such as **earthquakes**.

Our recreation work includes: providing **libraries, playgrounds, swimming pools, recreation centres, sportsfields and marinas**; running recreation programmes; and reducing the costs of using sport and recreation facilities for people who have community services cards.

Key challenges include providing for a population that is growing in size and diversity, and catering for a growing range of recreation activities.

Priorities for 2010/11 include: managing demand for aquatic facilities, building a 12-court indoor community sports centre; continuing our 20-year upgrade of Council housing stock; carrying out routine upgrades and renewals to some of our other facilities.

*Planned 2010/11 operational cost: \$460 per resident.*

## URBAN DEVELOPMENT

Our urban development work includes enhancing the **waterfront and city and suburban centres**, developing public spaces such as **urban parks and squares**, looking after **heritage sites**, assessing and issuing **building and resource consents**, ensuring earthquake-prone buildings are strengthened, and **planning for the city's future** development.

The significant growth expected in Wellington over the next 20 years creates some challenges. We're aiming to respond to those challenges in ways that are sustainable and preserve the city's special character.

A key priority is to improve land use and transport by focusing development along a 'growth spine' stretching from Johnsonville in the north, to the central city, and Kilbirnie in the south. Other priorities include developing a 30 year framework for the central city and eastern suburbs.

*Planned 2010/11 operational cost: \$132 per resident.*

*"A key priority is to improve land use and transport by focusing development along a 'growth spine'".*



## TRANSPORT

We look after 670km of **streets and roads**, as well as footpaths, cycle lanes, traffic signals, car parks and the like.

We also: **support public transport** through bus priority measures such as bus lanes, letting buses go first at traffic lights, and providing bus shelters; work suburb by suburb to improve **traffic safety**; and plan to ensure the city's transport network meets future needs.

Our transport system is generally performing well – Wellington's streets are safe by national standards, we're relatively high users of public transport, and most residents believe the city is easy to get around.

However, we do face challenges such as ensuring the transport network can keep up with growing demand, and reducing harmful environmental effects such as noise, carbon emissions, and air pollution.

Priorities include: managing demand on the transport network, further developing our bus priority measures and improving access to the port and ferry terminals.

*Planned 2010/11 operational cost: \$258 per resident.*

For information on funding source by strategy see the Cost of Service Statements by Strategy section in the Funding and Financial Statements of this plan. A summary of funding source by operating and capital expenditure is also outlined in the Summary of Rates, Charges and Spending section of this plan.