

# Our areas of focus: three-year priorities

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## For 2009–12, we will focus on the following areas.

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### *We will celebrate diversity and ensure that services meet a wide range of needs.*

This is a diverse city, one in which people of many cultures, ethnicities, stages of life, views and interests mix together and share a common identity as Wellingtonians. We are a small city with a global perspective: residents speak many languages, and have travelled to or lived in other countries. This diversity is at the heart of Wellington's vibrancy.

But growing diversity also creates challenges. A wider range of tastes and interests need to be catered for (as one small example, think of how many sports and recreational interests the city needs to cater for). And, in times of economic uncertainty, social disparities can increase, which can create tensions.

Over the next three years, we will:

- keep celebrating Wellington's diverse population and fostering the city's culture of inclusiveness – for example through events and festivals at which people come together to celebrate and share
- continue to monitor Wellingtonians' attitudes towards diversity
- continue to provide services that are affordable and meet a wide range of needs
- keep supporting and working with a wide range of community organisations to meet Wellingtonians' needs and foster social cohesion.

### *We will provide meaningful ways for residents to have a say about Wellington's future, and we will work with others to achieve benefits for the city.*

'Engagement' is about joining together to achieve common goals; it can mean having a say about the future of the city, or taking part in a local project, or going to an art exhibition or a show or sports event, or working together to build a stronger community or create jobs. It is the bond that holds Wellington's communities together.

In the next three years, Wellington City Council will focus effort on engagement with others to achieve common goals for the city. We will:

- learn more about the wants and needs of Wellington's various communities, so we can advocate on their behalf
- work with central government to ensure that Wellington's interests are reflected in policy decisions
- keep providing new ways for residents to have a say about the city – for example, by developing our online networks
- strengthen our partnership with mana whenua.

### *We will provide opportunities for people to live healthy lifestyles.*

The Council's role is to look after the environment in which people live. That environment influences choices about physical activity whether to walk or drive, whether to play sports, whether to get outside and visit a park or enjoy a bike ride in evenings and weekends. In challenging economic times, it is particularly important to provide opportunities for physical activity and outdoor recreation at little or no cost.

For a significant number of Wellingtonians whose needs are not met by other housing providers, the Council provides homes.

Over the next three years we will:

- continue to upgrade Council housing, adding insulation and other enhancements to make it warmer and healthier
- continue to enhance opportunities for people to take part in sport and other physical activity.

### *We will keep working to enhance the city's transport and communications networks.*

Being 'connected' refers to the ease with which people can move around the city and communicate with each other. Strong transport and communications networks allow people to participate in all the city has to offer – recreation and leisure activities, family and community events, entertainment, employment.

Over the next three years we will:

- continue to focus effort on making the transport network more efficient and to manage demand, in particular by encouraging walking and cycling, and by supporting the city's bus network as a sustainable, affordable way for people to move around the city
- work alongside Greater Wellington and the New Zealand Transport Agency to implement plans to improve the transport corridor between Ngauranga and the Airport
- collaborate with central government and the private sector to enhance the city's broadband network – to ensure Wellington remains internationally competitive; a great place to do business.

***We will do our best to ensure that today's actions don't cause harm tomorrow.***

'Sustainability' means making sure that the Wellingtonians of the future – our children – will continue to enjoy the high quality of life we enjoy today.

It means making sure they have enough drinkable water, can enjoy the city's parks and streams and coastal areas, are safe from extreme weather events, and live in a city that is free from the economic and social harm that could result from climate change.

Over the next three years we will:

- work with other Councils in the region to manage demand for water – because the region's water supplies are nearing capacity, and an appropriate balance must be reached between conservation and new infrastructure to meet the needs of a growing population
- provide leadership in reducing greenhouse gas emissions – by supporting home insulation, and guidance on how to design buildings that are kinder to people and the environment, and by seeking more efficient energy use in Council facilities
- develop a strategic framework for the city's parks, so we can continue to affordably provide Wellingtonians with access to opportunities for outdoor recreation and relaxation
- encourage people and businesses to reduce waste, and to re-use and recycle wherever possible.

***We will provide a safe urban environment.***

Wellington is a safe city. However, in the past two years community concerns about inner city safety have been increasing. The perception of safety is important for the city's vibrancy and quality of life.

As well as dedicated safety initiatives such as monitoring the inner city through closed circuit television cameras and Walkwise Officers, the Council works to build a safer environment by enhancing lighting and visibility in public areas, and providing environments that residents feel proud of and want to be in. Recent developments such as Courtenay Park are an example; further enhancements for Courtenay Place are planned.

***We will ensure that Wellington retains its vibrancy and prospers from being the events capital of New Zealand.***

In challenging economic times, Wellington's programme of festivals and events is more important than ever. They provide opportunities for enjoyment and entertainment, usually at no cost. They bring people together. They attract visitors to the city – in tougher times, New Zealanders are likely to travel closer to home rather than not travel at all. And they keep the city buzzing.

Over the next three years, Wellington will continue to provide a wide range of high quality events, and to focus on events that enhance the city's economic prosperity and our status as New Zealand's arts and culture capital.

We will also keep working to ensure the inner city is a great place to stage events.

***We will focus effort on initiatives that enhance Wellington's competitiveness.***

As a small city, Wellington has to play to its strengths. Over the next three years, we will:

- continue to support Wellington's economy in areas where we can gain a real competitive advantage, such as tourism, creative industries, and education
- continue to provide a high quality urban environment that attracts residents and visitors
- support the development of economic infrastructure such as broadband

- maintain crucial existing infrastructure such as transport and water networks
- consider the employment implications of any decisions we make
- implement the Government's planned Resource Management Act changes
- ensure our own processes make it easy to do business
- maintain the city's reputation as a vibrant, creative and eventful place
- get the city ready to take advantage of the opportunities provided by hosting pool games and quarterfinals at the 2011 Rugby World Cup.

These initiatives together will help Wellington in a more challenging economic environment over the next year or two, and also leave the city in a strong position to take advantage of the economic recovery.



*What do you think?  
Have we got the right  
mix of priorities?  
Would you suggest  
different choices be made?  
Are we focusing in the  
right place given the  
current environment?  
Are there more important  
things we should be  
focusing on in the next  
three years?  
Make a submission.  
Let us know your thoughts.*