

# OUR ACTIVITIES AT A GLANCE

WE CARRY OUT WORK IN THESE NINE KEY ACHIEVEMENT AREAS.



## BUILT ENVIRONMENT

Our built environment work includes enhancing the waterfront, developing urban parks and squares, looking after heritage sites and suburban centres, assessing and issuing building and resource consents, ensuring earthquake-prone buildings are upgraded, and planning for the city's future growth and development.

Through this work, we aim to preserve the city's special character and make sure developments are in harmony with their surroundings and enhance residents' quality of life.

### HIGHLIGHTS

- We carried out upgrades of the **Karori Town Centre**, central **Tawa**, **Seatoun Village**, and Riddiford Street in **Newtown**.
- We redeveloped **Glover Park** and made plans for development of Courtenay Park.
- Two major new artworks were unveiled: **Water Whirler** (on the waterfront) and **SkyBlues** (at Post Office Square).
- We proposed several district plan changes to protect **heritage buildings**.
- **Waitangi Park** opened in February, and hosted a series of free concerts during the NZ International Arts Festival. More than 250,000 people visiting during the festival. Progress was made on developments in other parts of the waterfront.
- We managed resource consent hearings for Meridian Energy's proposed **wind farm** at Makara. We also received more than 1,000 other resource consent applications.

### LOOKING AHEAD

Further work is needed to protect heritage buildings, improve overall building design standards, and manage development for the benefit of the city.

Our long-term strategy is to encourage development along a Johnsonville-city-Newtown-Kilbirnie 'growth spine'. This approach will preserve Wellington's compact nature, avoid urban sprawl, and protect the environment by encouraging people to live close to their work or public transport.

## COMMUNITY, HEALTH AND SAFETY

Our community, health and safety work includes: providing social housing; providing community centres and halls; promoting access to information and communications technology; providing grants; and supporting community groups.

Our work also includes city safety work such as monitoring key areas with city safety officers and closed-circuit cameras, and banning liquor consumption in public places in the central city.

In addition, we protect public health by providing toilets and cemeteries, by licensing food and liquor outlets, animal control, and regulating other public health risks, and by preparing the city to deal with emergencies such as earthquakes.

### HIGHLIGHTS

- Our city safety work in partnership with Police and other agencies was recognised when Wellington became the first capital city in the world to achieve World Health Organisation **Safe Community** status.
- We provided grants to more than 40 **community projects**, ranging from repainting Makara Hall to supporting kids' theatre. We also supported 20 community festivals.
- We continued to implement our Mobility Parking Policy, which aims to extend the number of **mobility parks** in the CBD from 23 to 60 within three years.
- We continued to support the Downtown Community Ministry's **Project Margin**, which employs outreach workers to assist long-term homeless people.

### LOOKING AHEAD

Wellington already offers residents a high quality of life. The challenge in coming years is to maintain this strength, and to sustain our strong sense of community as the city becomes more diverse.

This will mean implementing our new Social and Recreation Strategy, which aims to encourage high levels of involvement and participation in community activities, and provide facilities, opportunities and events that bring people together.



## CULTURE AND ARTS

We support Wellington's vibrant arts scene by funding the popular City Art Gallery and museums, providing the Toi Poneke – Wellington Arts Centre, supporting the NZ International Arts Festival, the NZ Symphony Orchestra and the Westpac Saint James Theatre.

We also provide cultural grants, support arts and culture organisations, fund or provide new artworks in public areas, and support community events and festivals which are attended by thousands of people each year.

### HIGHLIGHTS

- The NZ International **Arts Festival** had one of its most successful years ever, with ticket sales for festival events at record levels.
- More than 700,000 people visited an exhibition or event or took part in educational programmes presented by the Wellington Museums Trust. This included more than 230,000 visitors to the **City Art Gallery**.
- A new extension to the Wellington **Cable Car Museum** opened in December.
- **Toi Poneke** – the Wellington Arts Centre celebrated its first full year of operation.
- More than 200,000 people attended free **festivals and events** at Civic Square.

### LOOKING AHEAD

The major challenges for Wellington are to maintain and enhance our reputation as New Zealand's arts and culture capital, and to further develop our sense of shared identity.

In the coming year we'll be expanding Te Ara o Nga Tupuna (the Maori Heritage Trail), providing a permanent home for a National Portrait and Photographic gallery, and extending exhibition space in the City Gallery.

## CITY ECONOMY

We work to attract major events such as the Montana World of WearableArt Awards, which bring visitors to the region and contribute to the city's buzz. We also fund tourism promotions, support visitor attractions such as Te Papa and conference venues such as the Wellington Convention Centre.

To support businesses we: provide free weekend parking in the city; fund business development and incubator programmes through Positively Wellington Business; fund programmes to attract businesses, investors and skilled migrants to the region; provide grants for community projects with economic benefits for the city; and market the city as *Creative Wellington – Innovation Capital*.

### HIGHLIGHTS

- Almost 30,000 people attended the **World of WearableArt Awards**, held in Wellington for the first time. We also helped to bring dozens of other high-profile concerts and events to the region.
- Nine councils came together to complete a **Wellington Regional Strategy** for long-term sustainable economic development.
- We formed a Sister City relationship with **Beijing**.
- **Tourism and retail sales** increased despite a nationwide economic slowdown.

### LOOKING AHEAD

Future prosperity will depend on our ability to cement our reputation as a centre of creativity and innovation, and on the ability of the wider Wellington region to attract business and investment. We'll be giving priority to both of these areas.

## NATURAL ENVIRONMENT

It's our job to look after the city's 34.7 square kilometres of Town Belt, park and reserve land, as well as the city's beaches and coastline, and botanical gardens. This includes maintaining a network of walkways to keep park and reserve areas accessible, controlling pests and weeds, removing hazardous trees, and enhancing open space areas with native or exotic plants.

We also fund the Zoo and the Karori Wildlife Sanctuary, and we are working to develop other world-class nature-based visitor attractions. We provide grants for environmental initiatives, and work with volunteers and other organisations to enhance the city's environment.

### HIGHLIGHTS

- Volunteers involved in the restoration of the **Kaiwharawhara Stream** were recognised for their efforts with two awards.
- 70 tuatara were transferred from Stephens Island to the **Karori Wildlife Sanctuary** – the first transfer of tuatara onto the mainland for over 200 years. In addition, 30 Maud Island frogs were released into the Sanctuary – the first release ever on mainland New Zealand.
- We provided 17,000 eco-sourced **native plants** for over 38 community and school planting projects in city reserve areas, and we planted more than 50,000 eco-sourced native plants on 40 sites throughout the city.
- We finalised plans for the upgrade of **Cog Park**.
- We completed the final section of the 12km **Skyline Walkway** through Otari farms.
- The Wellington section of the national **Te Araroa Walkway** was finalised and identified with signage.

### LOOKING AHEAD

Wellington's record at preserving and enhancing its natural environment is good, though some challenges remain. One high priority for coming years is to improve protection of the city's streams and waterways. We also aim to further develop our partnerships with community organisations involved in environmental protection.



## RESOURCES AND WASTE

Our resources and waste work protects the environment and public safety, and provides the infrastructure the city needs to sustain a strong economy and high quality of life.

This work includes: providing the city's water supply; safely disposing of sewage, stormwater and solid waste; collecting rubbish and recycling; looking after closed landfills; running the Kivi Point Quarry; and promoting efficient use of resources such as water and energy.

### HIGHLIGHTS

- The **Northern Landfill** reached capacity and was closed.
- We trialled a **Kai into Compost** scheme, collecting more than 200 tonnes of food scraps from restaurants and other businesses for composting.
- Over the last three years, the amount of **kerbside recycling** collected has increased by 8.6 percent. Compared to 2004/05 we now collect an additional 943 tonnes a year.
- The central city stormwater upgrade started operation, and significant **flood protection/stormwater** work was carried out in Miramar, Roseneath and Te Aro,
- New **water mains** were installed in Newtown, Miramar and Seatoun, and progress was made on a new 3.5 megalitre water reservoir in Morningson.

### LOOKING AHEAD

We need to make more efficient use of resources such as water and energy to reduce the risk of supplies running out and – in the case of energy – to reduce our contribution to climate change. We also need to reduce the amount of waste we produce.

By encouraging more efficient use of resources, it's anticipated that we'll be able to limit any added costs to ratepayers that would otherwise arise from having to construct additional infrastructure assets.

## RECREATION AND LEISURE

We are Wellington's biggest provider of recreation facilities. Our recreation and leisure work includes: providing playgrounds, swimming pools, recreation centres, sports fields and marinas; providing libraries; providing social and recreational grants, and supporting community groups; running recreation programmes; and reducing the costs of using sport and recreation facilities for people who have community services cards.

### HIGHLIGHTS

- The new **Karori Library** opened and became an instant hit with residents.
- Progress was made on redevelopments of **Karori Park** and **Newtown Park**.
- More than 1.25 million people used Council **swimming pools**.
- Work started on a major extension to the **Wellington Regional Aquatic Centre**.
- We opened a new community recreation facility in **Tawa**.
- We supported the Sink F69 Trust provide a major **dive attraction** off the South Coast.
- We delivered a diverse year-round calendar of **events**, including the Michael Campbell Homecoming Parade, the Diwali festival of lights and the Meridian Energy Summer City programme.

### LOOKING AHEAD

Wellington has high-quality sports and recreation facilities. Many are in the process of being upgraded. One of our priorities in coming years will be to construct the new \$40 million community indoor sports centre. We're also giving priority to encouraging participation in sport and recreation, particularly for young people.



## TRANSPORT

Our transport work includes looking after 670km of streets and roads, as well as footpaths, bridges, tunnels, retaining walls, cycle lanes, signs, traffic signals, and roadside reserve areas.

We manage this network to keep traffic flowing smoothly, and we're planning ahead and working with other agencies to ensure the transport network meets the future needs of the city and wider Wellington region.

We also support public transport through bus priority measures such as bus lanes and letting buses go first at traffic lights, as well as by providing the Lambton Interchange and a network of bus shelters.

We provide car parking (on-street and off-street) in the city centre, and regulate parking in inner-city residential areas. And we're working suburb by suburb to improve road safety through education, enforcement, and measures to slow traffic and protect pedestrians.

### HIGHLIGHTS

- We continued our **bus priority programme** with new lanes on Kent Terrace.
- As part of the **SaferRoads** project, we completed safety-related works in Wilton, Wadestown, Northland and Thorndon. We also started work on a range of traffic calming measures in Karori.
- We reduced **speed limits** in Lambton Quay and Willis Street.
- Significant progress was made on the **Inner City Bypass**.
- We made progress on two road projects in the **northern area** of the city as part of the Northern Growth Framework.

### LOOKING AHEAD

Though most residents regard the city as easy to get around, further work is needed to reduce traffic congestion. We'll be giving high priority to encouraging greater use of public transport and other alternatives to private cars.

## GOVERNANCE AND CITIZEN INFORMATION

Our governance work includes all of the activities that make us accountable to the people of Wellington: running local elections; holding meetings of the Council and its committees, and of community boards; producing annual plans and reports, along with policies and strategies to guide our work; and seeking feedback on our proposals from members of the public, Maori and stakeholder groups.

It also includes informing residents about our activities and services, through our call centre and service centre, and providing historical information through the City Archives.

### HIGHLIGHTS

- We worked alongside iwi, developers and the Historic Places Trust to find a way to preserve intact remains of a **historic pa site** in central Wellington.
- **City Archives** experienced the greatest number of external customers since opening in 1996.
- We started a review of Council's **representation arrangements**, including a review of community boards, to be completed in time for the 2007 election.
- We held over 100 **meetings** and briefings of the Council, its Committees and Subcommittees.
- We reviewed our **strategic direction** and adopted new strategies on urban development, transport, economic development, environment, cultural wellbeing, social and recreation, and governance.
- We adopted a **long-term plan** for our activities over the next decade.

### LOOKING AHEAD

We're aiming to increase levels of participation in city decision-making. This will involve taking steps to build public confidence in our consultation and decisions and increasing opportunities to take part.

Initiatives that we're considering include setting up community panels to give feedback on issues facing the city and making greater use of online tools such as e-petitions.