

# FROM THE MAYOR

Wellington is in good shape. In the latest survey of New Zealand's largest cities we once again came out on top, with over 93% of residents rating their quality of life as good or very good.

The vast majority of our residents rate Wellington as a great place to live, work and play. This isn't by accident – it is the result of good planning, great ideas and the hard work of Wellingtonians. My thanks therefore go to our councillors, managers and staff and to the many other people throughout the city whose efforts make Wellington such a fantastic place.

The past year has been one of progress. Among the most notable developments was our agreement with central government to enter a \$220 million partnership to upgrade our social housing.

Karori Park was completed and is now the region's largest outdoor playing fields. We helped low income Wellingtonians insulate their homes, opened a new community centre in Tawa, extended the Johnsonville Community Centre, and continued our support for the hundreds of events and festivals that make this city so vibrant. Other highlights included the centenary celebrations for Otari Wilton's Bush and Wellington Zoo.

We made important steps towards our goals that aim to manage pressure on the city's land and resources as our population grows, and to provide the living standards expected of a world class city while balancing the need to protect and enhance our environment and maintaining infrastructure.

As you glance through this report, you'll see some ambitious programmes – such as becoming the world's first carbon neutral city by 2050, ensuring affordable, high-speed broadband access throughout the city by 2012, working to channel future urban growth and development where the benefits are greatest, working with others to develop a more efficient and convenient public transport service, and working to protect our rugged natural landscape and the city's heritage buildings that are such a big part of the city's character. We've also confirmed our proposal to build a 12 court Indoor Community Sports Centre at Cobham Park.

You'll see how our work to guide growth is also aimed at assisting economic development, and how we're taking a regional, long-term approach to strengthening the region's economy and attracting more and better jobs. You'll also see how we're working to ensure that everyone has an opportunity to share in the many great services that our city offers.

What all of this work has in common is a commitment to improving quality of life for all Wellingtonians, now and into the future.



KERRY PRENDERGAST MAYOR



“POPULATION GROWTH, CHANGING LIFESTYLES, ENVIRONMENTAL PRESSURES AND GROWING PUBLIC EXPECTATIONS ALL CREATE CHALLENGES FOR THE COUNCIL. THIS REPORT EXPLAINS HOW WE’RE RESPONDING TO THOSE CHALLENGES.”