

A series of thin, white, curved lines that originate from the left side of the page, sweep upwards and across the middle section, and then sweep downwards and across the bottom section. The lines are layered, creating a sense of movement and flow.

Our work at a glance

URBAN DEVELOPMENT

Our built environment 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 growth and development.

The key challenge we face is to manage growth in ways that are sustainable and retain the city's special character.

Highlights

- The opening of Meridian Energy's five star green rated head office and the surrounding public space marked an important milestone in the redevelopment of the Kumutoto area of the waterfront.
- Residents' views were sought on Johnsonville town centre, Adelaide Road, suburban centres, and retail developments.
- We dealt with resource consents for Bowen Campus, New Zealand's biggest office development, and the proposed Mill Creek wind farm and many others.

Awards

Wellington waterfront projects won several major awards.

At the 2008 NZ Institute of Landscape Architects Awards, the redevelopment of Kumutoto won the George Malcolm Supreme Award, Waitangi Park won the Sustainability Award of Excellence. Plans for Frank Kitts Park also won an award.

The Len Lye 'Water Whirler' sculpture and the redevelopment of Shed 13 won 2007 NZ Institute of Architects Wellington awards.

TRANSPORT

We look after 670km of streets and roads, as well as footpaths, cycle lanes, traffic signals, car parks and so on. 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 road safety; and plan to ensure the city's transport network meets future needs.

The key challenges we face are to deal with congestion and support healthy, sustainable alternatives to the private car.

Highlights

- We continued our on-going safer roads programme, including the 'Stop, Look, Live' and 'Cycle to be Seen' campaigns.
- More than 4,600 people gave their views on plans for the transport corridor between Ngauranga and the Airport.
- We developed plans to improve the environment for walking and cycling.

Awards

The inner city bypass team won a Greater Wellington Regional Council Environmental Award.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Our economic strategy is to keep Wellington vital – to provide a great place for workers and their families to live and for businesses to locate.

We: support major events such as the IRB Sevens and the Homegrown Music Festival; fund tourism promotions; support attractions such as Te Papa; provide venues such as the Wellington Convention Centre; keep the city centre vibrant by providing free weekend parking; provide grants for community projects with economic benefits; and market the city as a great place to live, work and visit.

We also support the Wellington Regional Strategy that guides the work of the regional economic development agency Grow Wellington.

Highlights

- About 70,000 people went to the IRB Sevens and tens of thousands saw David Beckham and his LA Galaxy football team.
- We started redeveloping the Carter Observatory as a visitor attraction.

ENVIRONMENT

We look after the city's 34+ square kilometres of reserve land, as well as beaches, coastline, and world class botanical gardens. We fund Wellington Zoo and the Karori Sanctuary, and work to develop other world-class nature-based visitor attractions such as the Marine Education Centre.

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

All cities face significant environmental challenges in responding to climate change, using resources such as water and energy wisely, and managing waste.

Highlights

- A new water reservoir was built to serve growth in the north of the city.
- A new generator was installed at the Southern Landfill to convert methane to electricity.
- Wellington Zoo opened its new giraffe house, and visitor numbers increased.
- Upgrades of Mount Victoria, Cog Park and the entrance to Red Rocks were completed.
- We established a climate change office to reduce the Council's environmental footprint.

Awards

The Karori Sanctuary won the 2008 New Zealand Tourism Awards Conservation in Action category. The sanctuary also won the Wellington city supreme award and the city and regional heritage and environment prizes at the 2007 Wellington Airport Regional Community Awards.

The Mount Victoria redevelopment won a 2008 NZ Institute of Landscape Architects bronze award.

CULTURAL WELL-BEING

We fund the city's popular art galleries and museums, operate Toi Poneke – 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.

Highlights

- Tens of thousands of residents enjoyed festivals including Summer City, Cuba Carnival, Matariki, Pasifika, Diwali and more.
- Te Ara o Nga Tupuna – the Maori heritage trail was extended.
- Several major new sculptures added to the cityscape including Te Waka Pou in Waitangi Park and Solace in the Wind on the waterfront.
- The NZ International Arts Festival lit up the city with more than 125,000 tickets sold.

SOCIAL AND RECREATION

We provide housing 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.

Our sports fields, swimming pools and recreation centres provide places for people to congregate and get active.

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

Challenges include responding to the demands of a growing population with increasingly diverse needs, maintaining the city's excellent safety record, and dealing with the effects of weather on sports grounds.

Highlights

- The new waterplay area opened at Wellington Regional Aquatic Centre.
- We upgraded play areas in Tawa, Miramar, Newlands and Island Bay.
- A new tsunami warning system was put in place.

Awards

The Council's Stay Safe in the City programme won the "outstanding community safety and/or injury prevention initiative or programme" at the New Zealand Community Safety and Injury Prevention Awards 2007.

New Zealand's top cricketers voted the Basin Reserve the country's top cricket ground, and Council groundsman Bernard Tribe was named Cricket Wellington's Groundsman of the Year for Karori Park.

ENGAGEMENT/GOVERNANCE

Our governance work includes all of the activities that make us accountable to the people of Wellington. This includes: running local elections; holding meetings; informing residents about the city and our work; and seeking input from residents into our decision-making.

While Wellington residents generally feel well informed and reasonably well consulted, there are challenges. In particular, participation in elections is declining in Wellington – as in other cities.

Highlights

- Local body elections were held in 2007.
- Our website introduced an online petition feature.
- More than half a million people got in touch with our Contact Centre.

Awards

Our website (www.Wellington.govt.nz), Call Centre and annual report have won many awards in recent years. At the Association of Local Government Information Management (ALGIM) 2008 Web Symposium, our website's e-Petitions function won the 'best new feature' award.

At the CRM Contact Centre Awards, the Contact Centre won the online (web/email) customer service category for the third consecutive year.

The NZ Institute of Chartered Accountants, at its 2008 awards, judged our annual report the country's best for the third year running. The report also won the best local authority award for the fourth time in five years, and picked up a commendation for governance reporting for the second year in a row.