

Wellington Local Government Policy 2023

Supporting and developing vibrant, thriving whānau in Wellington.

We stand for a city where the wellbeing of generations to come is central for decisions made today. We want a city where everyone can have a decent place to live, enjoy a thriving community which cares for its environment, and be confident that the infrastructure meets the needs of people and the planet. We want a city where it's easy to get around, and it's fun, safe and healthy to live, learn, work, and play. We will join the Global Rainbow Cities Network as a Rainbow City.

We will continue to champion and maintain Wellington City Council's Living Wage accreditation as a living wage employer. We will also seek formal accreditation for the Greater Wellington Regional Council. We will look for opportunities to bring work in-house and to reduce contracting out, to improve services for Wellingtonians, and to reduce our reliance on the private sector to deliver important work. We will retain public ownership of public assets.

Infrastructure

We will prioritise investment into Wellington's transport infrastructure so we can meet the city's future needs and progress our goal of zero carbon by 2050.

We will push for faster progress on the next phase of Let's Get Wellington Moving: a second tunnel for Mt Victoria as per the Let's Get Wellington Moving preferred option and rapid public transport for the south and east.

As members of Wellington City Council we will advocate to:

- Support the Government's three water reforms and ensure that Wellington City Council drives effective investment in our aging water infrastructure
- Establish more bus priority lanes across the city
- Roll out the full cycle network across the city to ensure safer journeys for cyclists and to provide separation where possible from pedestrians
- Complete a walking strategy for the city to ensure safe, accessible walking routes for journeys throughout the city
- Complete the roll out of TravelWell to all schools in the city - making school journeys safer, reducing traffic congestion, and encouraging sustainable transport choices

As members of Greater Wellington Regional Council we will advocate to:

- Roll out integrated ticketing system for trains and buses
- Lower public transport fares
- Invest in new regional trains and tracks
- Expand bus and train services, with more cross city services

- Expand the on-demand bus service trial to other Wellington City suburbs
- Complete the new interislander terminal

Housing and Urban Development

In Wellington City alone, over 40% of households are renting. We must continue to prioritise building more healthy homes, including mixed developments, to meet housing needs for today and tomorrow. The city's renters need the option of homeownership.

As members of Wellington City Council we will advocate to:

- Strengthen and support the Spatial Plan and District Plan to maximise the delivery of accessible, affordable housing choices throughout the city
- Drive an urban re-development programme as part of Lets Get Wellington Moving between the CBD and Newtown that includes housing, retail, business and light industry
- Drive and resource increased and faster consenting of housing development
- Implement a targeted rate to discourage land banking and promote new housing
- Refresh the Te Mahana Homelessness Strategy, taking into account the latest evidence and increasing support to DCM and Wellington City Mission to eliminate homelessness
- Prioritise affordable residents-only parking where possible during the transition to Let's Get Wellington Moving where there is intensification of housing in pre-1930s areas; and where parking has been reduced to make way for bus and cycleway network improvements

Climate Change and the Environment

We will continue our commitment to Tikanga and Tūpiki Ora Strategy for the natural Environment. We will support new environmental initiatives that are mātauranga Māori-led.

As members of Wellington City Council we will advocate to:

- Increase money for native tree regeneration
- Implement and fund Te Atakura - First to Zero (Blueprint to make Wellington City a zero carbon capital)
- Start a city-wide food and green waste collection to reduce waste, with the goal to move to a circular economy that would allow the winding down of the landfill, ending the need for further extensions of the current size
- Develop a climate change adaptation pathway for residents, based on engagement with impacted communities to ensure that they are supported in a just transition

As members of Greater Wellington Regional Council we will advocate to:

- Develop a regional action plan for reducing regional climate emissions
- Support further electrification of the public transport network
- Consolidate the regional parks network, including a regional park for Wellington City

As members of Wellington City Council and Greater Wellington Regional Council (Combined) we will advocate to:

- Support quality mass rapid transit, the creation of a new tunnel through Mt Victoria, putting in additional capacity for public and active transport in the existing tunnel, and grade separation at the Basin Reserve
- Extend the Predator Free 2050 Programme across Wellington City and support a network of fenced sanctuaries
- Continue the revegetation of city and regional parks, and restoration of wetlands
- Remove all sewage discharges to urban streams
- Work with mana whenua on the restoration and daylighting of urban streams in Wellington

Recreation

Recreation in Wellington is key to our families' and communities' mental and physical wellbeing. Financial barriers should not exclude our city's children from accessing sport and recreation.

As members of Wellington City Council we will advocate to:

- Expand discounts available to the LeisureCard
- Work with clubs, schools and sporting organisations so that every child in a low-income family can play sport
- Implement a ten year capital upgrade programme for playgrounds, libraries, and community and recreational facilities across the city to support the increased population and housing supply
- Expand community library hours to be more family-friendly
- Fund swimming lessons for low-income families
- Ensure that indoor and outdoor sports are equally supported in terms of the subsidies on Council facility use

City Safety

Wellington City Council needs to continue to take a lead in creating crime-preventing environments to minimise alcohol-related crime, sexual violence, theft, and damage.

As members of Wellington City Council we will advocate to:

- Engage with neighbourhood police teams and communities affected by repeated crime to look at community alternatives e.g. wardens
- Require urban and housing development to adopt environmental design principles that help prevent crime
- Monitor the effectiveness of the Pōneke Promise (coordinated community action to keep our city safe) and implement the findings

Supporting the Arts and Communities

Wellington is the creative capital of New Zealand and we must continue to support and fund our creative sector.

As members of Wellington City Council we will advocate to:

- Progress and complete a medium size venue for our artists
- Implement Aho Tini 2030 action plan so Wellingtonians can enjoy more access to arts and cultural experiences
- Support national arts organisations to remain based in Wellington
- Create an activity and support programme for young Wellingtonians out of the upcoming Youth Hub

Mana Whenua

We will continue on our commitment to Whakatairanga I te ao Māori Te reo Revitalisation and deepen the commitments made in Tākai Here (the relationship agreement between WCC and mana whenua).

As members of Wellington City Council and Greater Wellington Regional Council we will advocate to:

- Continue to work with mana whenua to expand opportunities for decision-making input, guided by Tākai Here and building on Māori ward and mana whenua representation
- Work in partnership with mana whenua and tāngata whenua to develop a language strategy for the region based on a shared vision for success by 2040, including a plan to restore Te Reo Māori place names
- Explore opportunities to support and resource mana whenua and tāngata whenua to play a strengthened role in our natural environment

Transparency and Open Government

We want to increase transparency and participation in Local Government by making more information available to the city's residents around Council decision-making.

As members of Wellington City Council and Greater Wellington Regional Council we will advocate to:

- Publish an online, publicly-accessible record of both Councils decisions and voting records
- Reduce the number of closed Council and Committee meetings to only those that are strictly necessary i.e. legally privileged and commercially in confidence
- Require greater accountability from Wellington International Airport and Wellington Water through to the major shareholders, including Wellington City Council

Governance and Decision-Making

We will participate in the local government reforms and seek to revive local democracy and address low voter turnout in Wellington local body elections.

We will implement an ambitious Accessibility Plan developed in partnership with disabled people to deliver improvements across all relevant Council business for disabled people and to meet our obligations under UNCRPD.

We need to strengthen participatory democracy in decision-making processes. Councils need to engage with residents in a respectful and consistent manner with robust reporting throughout the decision-making process.

As members of Wellington City Council and Greater Wellington Regional Council we will advocate to:

- Engage with mana whenua as set out in Tākai Here (the relationship agreement between WCC and mana whenua)
- Establish an overarching structure and process for consulting communities and Māori in Te Whanganui-a-Tara
- Provide access to key documents and information relevant to the consultation during a consultation process
- Set up a formalised report-back process when a final decision has been made to the communities that have been consulted