



Generation Zero

Generation Zero's submission on:

Wellington City Council's Long Term Plan

1. This document is Generation Zero's submission on Wellington City Council's proposed Long Term Plan (2021-31).
2. Generation Zero would like to speak to their submission at the relevant Council meetings.

WCC's obligations under Te Tiriti o Waitangi must be met

Wellington City Council has an obligation to uphold Te Tiriti o Waitangi. We think the Long Term Plan should incorporate actions to uphold these obligations.

Our recommendations - meeting WCC's obligations under Te Tiriti

Generation Zero recommends that WCC:

3. Continues to implement the 'Investment in Partnerships' programme but considers whether \$5 million in Years 1 and 2 of the plan is sufficient given the significant issues facing Wellington.
4. As part of the 'Investment in Partnerships' programme:
 - identifies ways it can co-govern with mana whenua
 - identifies how it can continue to strengthen its existing MoU with mana whenua and Māori strategies (Te Taurapa Strategy and Te Tauihu Te Reo Māori Policy)
 - identifies ways it can decolonise Wellington
5. Implement the actions identified in the 'Investment in Partnership' programme as soon as possible and seek additional funding through Annual Plans and Long Term Plans when required.

6. Commit to establishing a mana whenua lead teams who will engage with mana whenua and Māori.
7. Provides specific funding and support to ensure mana whenua and Māori aspirations and concerns are reflected in the District Plan, and any other plans that are likely to be required under a reformed resource management system.

Why WCC's obligations under Te Tiriti o Waitangi must be reflected in the LTP

8. Wellington City Council has an obligation to uphold Te Tiriti o Waitangi, act as a Treaty partner, and to commit to decolonisation. As a Council WCC needs to take a leadership role in this and bring the community along with it.
9. We recognise that WCC has already taken steps to improve Māori representation in Wellington by establishing voting rights for mana whenua on committees and considering the establishment of a Māori ward. However, we think this is the tip of the iceberg and further work is needed.
10. We want to acknowledge that these recommendations were not developed with input from mana whenua so should be subordinate to those made by them

WCC must increase debt levels to address the issues facing Wellington

Recommendations - increasing debt levels

Generation Zero recommends that WCC:

- Increase its self imposed debt levels to 300%, the maximum allowed by the Local Government Financing Agency.
- Identifies ways this debt can be paid off by the community more equitably. This may involve reviewing the rating system and advocating for changes to legislation.

Why increasing debt levels is critical

- Wellington City Council will need to borrow more money to provide the level of investment required to address the critical issues facing Wellington. This will require WCC to increase its self imposed debt limit to the maximum allowed by the Local Government Funding Agency.
- Borrowing now makes financial sense as low interest rates will reduce the interest repayments in the short term.
- If the debt limit is not raised, critical projects will have to be delayed. Delaying projects will make issues worse and make them more expensive to address in the future. This will push cost onto future generations who are already facing significant financial burdens including unaffordable housing and debt.

Decarbonising Wellington's transport system

Recommendation on transport (general)

Generation Zero recommends that WCC:

11. Reduces funding for roading projects that will lead to an increase in traffic and promote greenfield development.
12. Increase parking fees in the Central Business District but provide relief to people who have to park in it for functional reasons (disabled people, people who work in the CBD and live outside WCC).
13. Does not defer footpath upgrades.
14. Investigate ways it can improve the safety and accessibility of pedestrian spaces in Wellington, particularly in the CBD and Golden Mile.
15. Commit to doubling the small projects fund to creating dedicated funding for small projects that make streets safer and more attractive for pedestrians and other users of active transport.

Recommendations on cycling

Generation Zero recommends that WCC:

16. Adopts Option 4 (accelerated full programme).
17. Update the Cycleway Rollout Plan for Wellington so that it:
 - Identifies targets for cycling usership in Wellington.
 - Identifies what cycling projects will be delivered over the next 10 years and when they will be operational.
 - Prioritises cycleways project that support journeys for children, disabled people and other vulnerable users
 - Identifies how cycleways will maximise safety for its users and pedestrians, including prioritising separated cycleways and improving visibility.

Why decarbonising Wellington's transport system is critical

18. Transport accounts for over 50% of Wellington's emissions, so should be a key focus for reducing Wellington emissions. Investment in active transport is critical to encourage people to move away from private cars. Delaying spend will not result in a decrease in emissions and will further entrench existing behaviours.

Upgrading Wellington's three waters services to ensure it meets current and future demand

Generation Zero recommends that Wellington City Council:

19. Commit to Option 3 Accelerated investment.

20. Develop an Asset Upgrade and Construction Programme that will identify investment must be prioritised over the next three years.
21. Commit to working with Central Government, Water New Zealand and other industry bodies to improve the capability and capacity of the three waters sector.
22. Commit to making a decision on water meters in the next financial year.
23. Commit to investigating ways WCC can better promote the adoption of good practices such as WSUD and Structure Planning and implement these through relevant policy.

Why upgrading three waters services is critical

24. It is clear that WCC needs to invest more in its three waters services (water, wastewater and drinking water) to reduce the number of incidents and ensure the city can continue to grow.
25. Wellington's three waters infrastructure has suffered from decades of under investment and deliberated decisions have been made in the past not to adequately service infrastructure.
26. Council backing off from significant investment will lead to an increase in incidents occurring, and an increase in cost to upgrade infrastructure in the future.
27. In addition to investing more into the delivery of three waters infrastructure council should also consider how it can improve the management of three waters services and ensure the impact of future growth in it can be minimised.

Te Atakura should be fully funded and WCC should also support adaptation planning and community climate action

Recommendations - Te Atakura and climate action

Generation Zero recommends that WCC:

28. Commits to fully funding Te Atakura over 10 years covered by the Long Term Plan.
29. Commits to developing a Climate Adaptation and Managed Retreat Plan in partnership with mana whenua. This Plan must identify how Wellington will respond to the pressures climate change will place on Wellington and be developed with input from marginalised groups and the community.
30. Commits to co-learning with the community on climate mitigation and adaptation
31. Commits to supporting community initiatives to reduce climate emissions such as composting and gardens.

Why funding Te Atakura and climate action is critical

32. If Wellington is going to meet our target of being net zero by 2050, we need to start taking ambitious and urgent action now. Climate change is just starting to impact

Wellington and these effects will only increase in the next few years. To ensure the health and wellbeing of our people and planet, we need to have a fully funded and ambitious plan in place now to eliminate our carbon emissions and adapt to the effects of climate change.

33. For this reason, we support Wellington City Council fully funding their carbon plan, Te Atakura - First to Zero.
34. We also want to acknowledge that achieving an equitable zero carbon city cannot occur without working with mana whenua. We believe the council must prioritise partnering with mana whenua in the implementation of all stages of Te Atakura, and ensure that we transition to a zero-carbon society in a just and equitable way.
35. Partnership with mana whenua is also an essential part to adapting and managing the impacts of climate change. We want the council to partner with mana whenua to develop a Climate Adaptation and Managed Retreat Plan for Wellington. This plan must be prepared with the community and identify how the city will adapt to climate change and begin managed retreat from areas at risk from sea level rise.
36. We need to start planning today to ensure the wellbeing and safety of our community, and we need to work with the community to do this. We want the council to establish a programme to co-learn with the community about how Wellington can reduce its emissions and adapt to climate change.

The central library must be restored, support for pop-up libraries should also continue and council should expand the community spaces it provides

Recommendations - libraries

Generation Zero recommends that WCC:

37. Adopts Option 1 for the respiration of the central library
38. Continues to support pop-up libraries and digital services.

Why the central library must be restore and pop-up libraries should be supported

39. Libraries are a key place for the community in Wellington and this service should be restored. Pop-up libraries should continue to be supported as they increase the reach of Wellington's library services.

Recommendations - community spaces

Generation Zero recommends that WCC:

40. Considers how it can provide 'third spaces' in Wellington that provide spaces for people to use, at no cost in Wellington.
41. Considers how it can support community gardens and composting in Wellington.

Why Council should expand the community facilities it provides

42. Third spaces (places other than home or work) are important for creating a liveable city that supports health and wellbeing.

Funding to Wellington Airport must be stopped and WCC should consider options to divest from the Airport

Recommendations - Wellington Airport

Generation Zero recommends that WCC:

43. Does not provide any funding or grants to Wellington International Airport over the next three years, even if it does affect its shareholdings.
44. Consider the benefits of divesting from the Airport and using the funds to invest in local businesses championing low carbon products and services.

Why Council should provide no funding to the airport and consider divestment

45. The Airport is a significant source of emissions and WCC should not support projects that will lead to an increase in emissions from the airport. This funding can be used for other purposes that promote a reduction in carbon emissions and community wellbeing.
46. Wellington Airport has felt entitled to funding and grants in the past and WCC needs to challenge this entitlement. They do not owe the Airport anything.
47. Divestment from the Airport presents both benefits and risks and we think it is time Council considered these, especially given that they have committed to reducing carbon emissions.

Generation Zero Wellington

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