

Submission form

Kōrero mai mō te mahere ā-tau Have your say on the Annual Plan

All submissions must be received by midnight **Sunday, 30 April 2023**

You don't have to give feedback on every question – just choose the ones you're interested in. You can only submit once. You can include supporting information along with your submission.

Before you start, read about our Annual Plan and budget, including the changes to fees and user charges, in the engagement document.

Why we're collecting this information

Your feedback matters. This plan is about the future of Wellington, and it affects everyone who lives and works here. That's why we want to hear from as many people as possible. Your views will help us to decide on the next steps we take.

Privacy statement

All submissions (including names and contact details) are provided in their entirety to elected members. Submissions (including names but not contact details) will be made available to the public at our office and on our website.

Your personal information will also be used for the administration of the consultation process, including informing you of the outcome of the consultation.

All information collected will be held by Wellington City Council, 113 The Terrace, Wellington, with submitters having the right to access and correct personal information.

Full name:			
Contact details			
Address:			
Phone number:			
Are you are making this submission as an individual or on behalf of an organisation?			
☐ Individual		☐ Organisation:	
What is your connection to Wellington? (<i>tick all that apply</i>)			
☐ I am a Wellington City Council Ratepayer	☐ I live in Wellington	☐ I work in Wellington	
☐ I own a business in Wellington	☐ I study in Wellington	☐ I am a visitor to Wellington	
We are offering community oral forums to speak to Councillors about your submission (informal 60min table discussion with 4-5 Councillors alongside other submitters). Do you wish to speak to Councillors about your submission at a Community Oral Forum?			
☐ Yes		☐ No	
If yes – please indicate a preferred date and time			
☐ 16 May afternoon	☐ 16 May evening	☐ 17 May morning	☐ 17 May afternoon

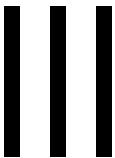
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Free Post Authority Number 2199

Absolutely Positively
Wellington City Council
Me Heke Ki Pōneke



FREEPOST 2199
Planning and Reporting team
PO Box 2199
Wellington 6140

Our work for 2023/24 year

For 2023/24 we plan to continue to deliver on the programme of work set out in the 2021-31 Long-term Plan.

We have a full programme of projects planned across all areas. Many are already underway, have been consulted on, decided on by Council or were included as part of the previous Long-term Plan.

Visit our website to see which projects are in your area: letstalk.wellington.govt.nz/annual-plan-2023-24

This year we are considering a rates increase after growth in the ratepayer base of 12.3 percent. This is equal to the after-growth increase budgeted for in previous plans for this year. In total, the council proposes to collect \$479m (GST exclusive) of rates during 2023/24.

This increase is driven by investment in the city's infrastructure and services signalled in the Long-term Plan, and the impact of increased inflation, borrowing costs, and depreciation.

Council has considered alternative funding mechanisms to absorb some inflationary impacts, and keep rates increases to levels previously signalled. This has resulted in a decision to pause some debt repayments and to fund some initiatives through accumulated surpluses.

Question 1: Do you have any overall feedback on our 2023/24 Annual Plan?

Change to Rates remission and Rates postponement policies

There are several ways to manage rates payments, such as spreading your payments into regular affordable amounts across the year.

Along with Central Government, we have a rates rebate scheme that provides a reduction in rates to those that meet set low-income criteria.

The Council is proposing to make some changes to enable better support to ratepayers facing financial hardship.

The key changes proposed are:

- Increase low-income remission amount from \$500 to \$700
- Engage with DIA to include the Council remission in their rates rebate form
- Eliminate the financial hardship postponement application fee for ratepayers that also qualify for the Central Government rates rebate

Question 2 – Do you support these policy changes?

☐ Yes	☐ No	☐ Neutral/Don't know
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Fees and User Charges

As part of the proposed plan, we have reviewed our fees and charges and are proposing to change some fees and charges.

The full details of our proposed changes can be found here: letstalk.wellington.govt.nz/annual-plan-2023-24

Material changes

The following areas have material increases because of changes to existing Council policies, implementation of new policies. These changes were consulted on, and we are now seeking feedback on the proposed impact on fees in the following areas:

- **Town Belts & Reserves** – implementation of the Trading and Events in Public Places Policy
- **Public health regulation** – registration fee for Responsible dog owners, which has not been adjusted for several years

These two material fee increases are related to the rising costs to Council to offer the service in these two areas

- **Waste minimisation services** – increased ETS costs and Waste Minimisation Act levy
- **Building control and facilitation** – alignment of some existing fees to new fee structure

Question 3 – Do you have any feedback on the proposed material fee increases?

New fees

We are also proposing new fees in the following areas to streamline some Council booking processes or to offer new services:

- **Waterfront Public Spaces** – multiple new fees relating to taking over management from Centreport
- **Swimming pools** – multiple new fees relating to pool party offerings
- **Botanic Gardens** – including new picnic kits and hire rates for Bolton Cottage
- **Sports fields** – including a new sandcourt hire fee and hire rates for the Newton Park function room
- **Recreation Centre** – multiple new fees for booking Ākau Tangi Sport Centre sessions
- **Marinas** – fees for new services for boat pump-out and service outside license agreement
- **Burials and Cremation** – Ash Plots Makara extensions
- **Public Health regulations** – Parklet permissions
- **Building Control & facilitation** – New minor works fee, new LIM fast track option

Question 4: Do you have any feedback on the proposed new fees?

Other fee increases

Finally we are proposing standard inflation increases for the following areas:

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|---------------------------------|--|
| • Parking Encroachment licences | • Burials and cremations |
| • Botanic gardens | • Public health regulations |
| • City Archives | • Building control and facilitation |
| • Waterfront public spaces | • Development control and facilitation |
| • Swimming pools | • Sewerage collection and disposal |
| • Recreation centres | • Waste minimisation |
| • Marinas | |

Question 5: Do you have any additional feedback on the proposed fee changes?