

Kōrero mai mō te mahere 10-tau

Have your say on our 10-Year Plan

All submissions must be received by **midnight Sunday 12 May 2024**. You can:

- Email this form to **ltp@wcc.govt.nz**
- Print and post it to the Freepost address at the end of the form, or
- Drop it off at Arapaki Service Centre or any of our libraries.

You don't have to give feedback on every decision – simply 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 big decisions and the other supporting information in this consultation 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 inform the next steps we take.

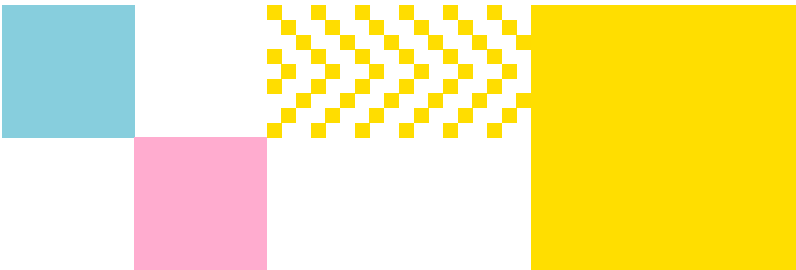
Privacy statement

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? (tick all that apply)		
☐ I own a house in Wellington	☐ I rent in Wellington	☐ I work in Wellington
☐ I own a business in Wellington	☐ I study in Wellington	☐ I am a visitor to Wellington
Do you wish to speak to Councillors about your submission at an Oral Hearing?		
☐ Yes	☐ No	
If yes – please tick which option(s) you would prefer?		
Oral Hearing (formal hearing with set times to speak to full Council, 5mins per individual, 10mins per organisation)	☐ Morning ☐ Afternoon ☐ Evening	



Our three key proposals

The next questions relate to the big decisions for the 10-year plan.

- **Increasing spending on the three waters network to fix the pipes.**
- **Making changes to our waste collection and funding.**
- **Helping reduce some financial risks by setting up a Perpetual Investment Fund through selling our airport shares.**

Detailed information on these decisions are on pages 30 to 47 of the Consultation Document.

Question 4 in this submission form is a place for you to comment or provide any other feedback on the three key proposals. You can also attach further information to your submission at the end of this form.

Questions 5 to 9 relate to the other proposed changes, and questions 10 and 11 seek feedback on the 10-year budget and the supporting information.

1. Increasing spending on the three waters network to fix the pipes		
We know that fixing our three waters network is a top priority for the community. The three waters network is a core service for the Council to deliver, but our network, as well as that of the region, is not performing as required due to its overall age and under-investment issues. We want to get back to having a well-functioning three waters network, but this is going to take time and years of investment. This is not a quick fix. We have worked with our contracted water services provider, Wellington Water, to create three options for how we could invest in our network over the next decade. Council's preferred budget is shown in Option C. This is an increase in the total capital funding for Wellington Water for the three waters network – from \$679 million over 10 years in the 2021 Long-term Plan to \$1.2b over 10 years in this plan. Option C includes operational funding of \$676.7m for Wellington Water over the 10 years of the Long-term Plan. This makes up 2.5% of the proposed rates increase. Options A and B would result in lower overall rates increases due to lower levels of operating funding being provided to Wellington Water. It is important to note that funding for Wellington Water in all the options is still below the required level to address all network issues, and below the recommended maximum deliverable level of funding presented by Wellington Water (\$1.8b capex and \$700m opex over 10 years). This is due to the affordability of increasing above the level in Option C. A summary of the proposed increased spending on the three waters network to fix the pipes is on pages 31 to 33 of the Consultation Document.		
Which of these options do you prefer?		
☐ Option A: Operational funding of \$615.1m plus inflation, and Capital funding of \$896.7m for Wellington Water over 10 years. ■ This is the baseline level of funding for the main nine capital projects outlined in the consultation document and unavoidable operating cost increases. ■ Rates impact: 0.91% rates increase over last year. This option would be a decrease in the proposed 16.4% overall rates increase.	☐ Option B: Operational funding of \$617.5m plus inflation, and Capital funding of \$1.0b for Wellington Water over 10 years. ■ This is the same as Option A, with additional operational funding for a business case for water meters and capital expenditure for installation provisionally budgeted for from Year 4. ■ Rates impact: 1.39% rates increase over last year. This option would be a decrease in the proposed 16.4% overall rates increase.	☐ Option C: (Council's preferred option) Operational funding of \$676.7m plus inflation and Capital funding \$1.2b for Wellington Water over 10 years. ■ This option has the same projects as Options A and B, with additional operational funding for the drinking water network and capital funding for the wastewater network. ■ Rates impact: 2.50% rates increase, which is included in the proposed 16.4% rates increase.
☐ None of these options	☐ Don't know	

2. Changes to our waste collection and funding

We know that Wellingtonians care deeply about our city's environment. Reducing the city's waste is critical to achieving a more sustainable future and will help us to reduce our emissions.

The Council's He anamata para kore mō Pōneke Zero Waste Strategy aims to reuse materials and products for as long as possible in the city (a circular economy) and has the following targets:

- Reduce total waste to landfill by 50% by 2030.
- Reduce per capita kerbside waste to landfill by 40% by 2030.
- Divert 50–70% of organic waste from landfill by 2030.
- Reduce biogenic methane emissions by at least 30% by 2035.

Food scraps and garden waste are at the heart of our waste problem. They make up about 58% of what households put in their rubbish. Therefore we are proposing to introduce a kerbside organics collection for Wellingtonians. Waste collection services work together to influence how people use them and how much waste is diverted. A change to one part of the system means we need to look at the rest.

We are proposing options in two areas:

1. Rubbish and organics

Our preferred option is a rates-funded rubbish wheelie bin that will be collected fortnightly, combined with a rates-funded weekly organics service for food scraps and garden waste (Option F).

2. Recycling and glass

Our preferred option is providing a bigger 240L fortnightly recycling wheelie bin and retaining our 45L fortnightly glass service (Option C).

These options are our preferred options because they will result in the highest amount of waste to be diverted from the landfill and the greatest reuse of materials and products for as long as possible.

Notes on these options are detailed on pages 36 to 37 of the Consultation Document.

Any changes will be implemented from 2026 and more details will be communicated as plans are finalised in the next two years.

Which of these options do you prefer?

Rubbish and organics

☐ Option A: Weekly 50L rubbish bags and no organics collection – status quo ■ Additional operational cost: between \$0m and 11.7m over years 3 to 10 of the plan. ■ Rates impact: None as rubbish remains user pays. ■ Debt impact: None as no change to services.	☐ Option B: Fortnightly 50L rubbish bags and weekly 23L food only bin ■ Additional operational cost: between \$40.4m and \$75.2m over years 3 to 10 of the plan. ■ Rubbish remains user pays. Targeted organics rate (per household): between \$90 and \$124. ■ Debt impact: Between \$0m and \$21.6m.
☐ Option C: Fortnightly 50L rubbish bags and weekly 80L food and garden wheelie bin ■ Additional operational cost: between \$50.6m and \$89.1m over years 3 to 10 of the plan. Rubbish remains user pays. ■ Targeted organics rate (per household): between \$107 and \$147. ■ Debt impact: Between \$0m and \$21.6m.	☐ Option D: Weekly 80L rubbish wheelie bin and no organics collection. ■ Additional operational cost: \$91.9m and \$127.1m over years 3 to 10 of the plan. ■ Targeted rate for rubbish (per household): between \$204 and \$260. No organics collection. ■ Debt impact: Between \$0m and \$3.3m.
☐ Option E: Fortnightly 120L rubbish wheelie bin and weekly 23L food only bin ■ Additional operational cost: between \$103.9m and \$160.5m over years 3 to 10 of the plan. ■ Targeted rates (per household): Rubbish between \$154 and \$210, and Organics between \$90 and \$124. ■ Debt impact: Between \$0m and \$25.1m.	☐ Option F: (Council's preferred option) – Fortnightly 120L rubbish wheelie bin and Weekly 80L food and garden wheelie bin ■ Additional operational cost: between \$114.7m and \$175.0m over years 3 to 10 of the plan. ■ Targeted rates (per household): Rubbish between \$154 and \$210, and Organics between \$109 and \$147. ■ Debt impact: between \$0m and \$25.1m.
☐ None of these options	☐ Don't know

Recycling and glass	
☐ Option A: Fortnightly 140L recycling wheelie bin and fortnightly 45L glass crate – status quo ■ Additional operational cost: between \$5.0m and \$20.6m over years 3 to 10 of the plan. ■ No rates impact – this is funded through a levy on landfill gate fees. ■ Debt impact: Between \$0m and \$5.2m.	☐ Option B: Fortnightly 140L recycling wheelie bin and four-weekly 80L glass wheelie bin ■ Additional operational cost: between \$0m and \$12.4m over years 3-10 of the plan. ■ No rates impact – this is funded through a levy on landfill gate fees. ■ Debt impact: Between \$0m and \$7.4m.
☐ Option C: (Council's preferred option) Fortnightly 240L recycling wheelie bin and fortnightly 45L glass crate ■ Additional operational cost: between \$2.8m and \$20.6m over years 3 to 10 of the plan. ■ No rates impact – this is funded through a levy on landfill gate fees. ■ Debt impact: Between \$0m and \$5.6m.	☐ Option D: Fortnightly 240L recycling wheelie bin and four-weekly 80L glass wheelie bin ■ Additional operational cost: between \$0m and \$12.3m over years 3 to 10 of the plan. ■ No rates impact – this is funded through a levy on landfill gate fees. ■ Debt impact: Between \$0m and \$7.8m.
☐ None of these options	☐ Don't know

3. Setting up a Perpetual Investment Fund and selling airport shares

The Council has two financial challenges that it needs to manage: the increasing difficulty and cost to insure our assets means we are significantly underinsured, and the lack of diversification of our investment portfolio means all our investments are exposed to the same kinds of risk – in other words, all our eggs are in one basket. A summary of the challenges is outlined in our consultation document, with more information available in our Financial Strategy.

The scale of the challenges cannot be ignored – doing nothing leaves the Council exposed to unnecessary risk and any solution needs to address both the insurance and diversification problems. We think the Council's proposed solution achieves this result.

We are proposing to set up a new Perpetual Investment Fund through the sale of our minority 34% shareholding in Wellington International Airport Ltd and reinvesting all the proceeds into the fund. We will also use money from the future sale of some property ground leases to further increase the fund. This will be a publicly owned fund that is intended to continue forever and support generations of Wellington ratepayers by ensuring funding is available to support the city's recovery from natural disasters, including by covering an insurance gap. The proceeds from the sale of airport shares will not be used to pay for Council related projects or pay down debt.

These options will have no impact on Council rates or levels of service as the new investment fund or our current holding in Wellington International Airport will produce a dividend similar to the one currently received. The forecast WIAL dividend offset rates by approximately 2.0% in 2024/25. However, the exact dividend amounts received by the Council varies year on year.

Options A and B frees up some or all of our \$272m of headroom held in our debt to revenue ratio, but this will need to be retained in Option C. It has no impact on the amount of debt Council has.

A summary of the proposed Perpetual Investment Fund and selling airport shares is on pages 42 to 47 of the Consultation Document.

Which of these options do you prefer?

☐ Option A: (Council's preferred option) Sell all airport shares and reinvest into a newly established perpetual investment fund	☐ Option B: Sell some airport shares and reinvest into a newly established perpetual investment fund	☐ Option C: Retain current airport shares, and do not establish a perpetual investment fund	☐ None of these options	☐ Don't know
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4. Comments on Key Proposals

Do you have any comments to share on why you selected your preferred option for any of these decisions, or why you don't support any of the options we proposed? If yes, please indicate which option you would like to provide further feedback on:

- ☐ 1. Increasing spending on the three waters network to fix the pipes
 - ☐ 2. Changes to our waste collection and funding
 - a. Rubbish and organics
 - b. Recycling and glass
 - ☐ 3. Setting up a Perpetual Investment Fund and selling airport shares

Comments

Other proposed changes

The next questions relate to other levels of service changes we have made in response to the financial challenges facing the Council's planning and budget.

5. Parking fee changes

If approved, detailed consultation will occur for each suburban centre individually and for motorcycle parking fees as part of a traffic resolution process to set the location and number of spaces to be charged for, and the relevant fee.

Suburban parking:

We propose to introduce parking fees in the suburban centre shopping precincts to better manage high demand and to take a consistent approach across the city. This affects: Tawa, Johnsonville, Newlands, Khandallah, Northland, Karori, Aro Valley, Kelburn, Newtown, Berhampore, Island Bay, Kilbirnie, Miramar and Rongotai.

If this proposal is adopted, it will increase the proportion of the costs for parking in suburban centres that is directly met by the users and reduce the proportion being funded by rates.

Motorcycle parking fees:

We propose to introduce a parking fee for motorcycle parking in central city motorcycle parking bays to better manage demand. This aligns with the Parking Policy. The proposed fees will be individual to each bay to manage occupancy appropriately.

Do you support the proposed parking fee changes included in the budget?

[illegible]

6. Khandallah Pool

Khandallah Pool is part of Wellington's aquatic facility network that includes seven swimming pools across the city. The open air, unheated pool is open from the start of December until early March, from 11am to 7pm daily. It is the least utilised facility of all the summer pools in the region, with an average annual attendance of 10,339 visits over the past four seasons.

The 2011 Wellington Aquatic Facilities Plan identified that the pool was “well below the current built aquatic facility standards”. In February 2022 Council discussed several options for the future of the pool and passed the resolution to “increase the level of service”, ie a full rebuild of the structure.

However, significant technical analysis completed since then has identified several physical restrictions and risks at the site. These risks and resulting safety assessments, along with several of the pool buildings being identified as earthquake prone and requiring remediation by January 2030, means a full upgrade of the pool is needed to keep it open. Therefore, it is not an option to maintain the current pool or to do a like-for-like replacement.

The cost of \$11.7m to rebuild the pool within the physical site constraints is now significantly more expensive than when it was considered in 2022 (\$8.05m). This estimated cost could result in a potential increase in ratepayer subsidy per swim from \$25 per swim (in the 2022/23 year) to \$60-\$80.

Therefore, as part of this plan the Council is proposing to close the pool and landscape the site at a cost of \$4.5m, which will include improving flood mitigation, and creating a new community space and entranceway into Khandallah Park.

Further information, including the technical reports and Council papers are available here:

wellington.govt.nz/khandallah-pool-redevelopment

Do you support the proposed closure of Khandallah Pool as included in the budget? **Note:** support for this project is for the closure of the pool and the landscaping of the site as a new entrance for Khandallah Park and community space. The other option for this area is to rebuild the pool as outlined on page 49 of the consultation document.

[illegible]

7. Wadestown Community Centre

Wadestown Community Centre (46 Pitt Street, Wadestown) is part of the wider Community Facilities network, which includes community centres, halls, and bookable spaces. Community centres aim to offer resources, services and activities that improve quality of life in our communities.

In 2021, the Council included the intention to sell the centre in the Long-term Plan, due to low use and the accessibility and layout of the site. Te Awe Māpara (our Community Network Plan) describes Wadestown Community Centre as “poorly located on a steep hill, with limited visibility, poor accessibility, no car parking, small size and open layout which limits use and flexibility to provide a range of activities. For these reasons, this building is not viable [as a Community Centre] ...”

In comparison to other similar community facilities, the Wadestown Community Centre has relatively low usage at 29.9% of the hours it is available to be hired – of the 4,380 available usage hours, the community centre averages 1,310 hours of use per year. A good level of usage is above 45%. The location of the site means that it cannot feasibly be modernised to achieve the features required of a modern community centre.

Therefore, as part of this plan the Council is proposing to sell the community centre. The site has a ratable value of \$1.38m, including the land value of \$1.12m. The sale will also achieve \$65,700 per year in net operational saving (expenses less revenue).

Do you support the proposed sale of Wadestown Community Centre as included in the budget? **Note:** support for this project is for sale of the facility. The other option for this area is to retain the facility and complete the deferred maintenance.

[illegible]

8. Other proposals

Along with the proposals above, we have made several changes to our plans to respond to affordability pressures. In some cases this has involved changes to the timing or scope of projects to ensure they remain affordable, others have been proposed for removal, and some changes to fees and charges are proposed to help ease the pressure on rates. These are detailed from pages 48 to 51 of the consultation document.

How much do you support or oppose the following proposals being included in the 2024-34 Long-term Plan?

Note: These proposals are all ones in which we have removed the project from the budget. Support means removing the proposal from the budget and opposing it means retaining it in the budget, which will result in an increase to our capital and operating budgets.

[illegible]

9. Other proposals continued

We have made several changes to our plans to respond to affordability pressures. The changes being asked about in this question are ones where we have made changes to what and how the project is delivered, either through reducing scope, or changing methods. These are detailed from pages 48 to 51 of the consultation document.

Note: Supporting the proposals below means supporting the scaling back of the projects as indicated, opposing means you would like the projects to carry on as initially planned. There is also the ability to indicate you oppose the project entirely (ie support it being removed from the budget completely).

[illegible]

10. Comments on Key Proposals

Do you have any comments you would like to provide about your level of support for these decisions, or why you don't support any of the decisions we have proposed? If yes please indicate which proposal/s you would like to provide further feedback on:

☐ Suburban centre parking	☐ Bike Network
☐ Motorcycle parking	☐ Annual fireworks
☐ Khandallah Pool	☐ Arapaki Service Centre and Temporary Library
☐ Wadestown Community Centre	☐ Skate Park upgrades
☐ Thorndon Quay and Hutt Road project	☐ None of these
☐ City Streets	

Comments

Proposed budget

10. Support for Long-term Plan

Our city is experiencing the impacts of earthquakes, the aftermath of the global pandemic, issues with our ageing three waters network, and climate change. Along with these are financial pressures, with higher inflation and increases in the cost of interest and insurance, as well as higher costs associated with asset ownership (for example, higher depreciation). Put simply, everything we do is costing more to deliver. For residents, the ability to pay more rates is limited, and the Council will need to find ways to deliver our services in a more constrained funding environment.

It is important for the Council to operate a sensible budget.

We have created a budget that results in a rates increase in 2024/25 of 16.4% (after growth) and an average annual increase over the 10 years of the plan of 7%. The sludge levy, which is in addition to general rates, will be introduced from 2024/25 and is a further 1.6% increase. The Council has set an average rates increase limit of between 5-8% (excluding sludge levy) over the ten years of the Long-term Plan.

Do you support the proposed 10-year budget?

☐ I strongly support the proposed budget	☐ I somewhat support the proposed budget	☐ Neutral
☐ I somewhat oppose the proposed budget	☐ I strongly oppose the proposed budget	☐ Don't know

If you stated above that you are neutral or do not support the proposed budget. Do you support increasing or decreasing spend?

☐ I support increasing spend in the current budget	☐ I support keeping the budget the same but with some changes
☐ I support decreasing spend in the current budget	☐ Don't know

Comments

Other feedback

11. Supporting information

The Long-term Plan includes several supporting Strategies and Policies and other underlying information such as Activity Group Statements and Reports. The full list of them is shown below.

Please indicate if you would like to provide any specific feedback on any of these documents. Or if you would like to provide any general additional feedback.

☐

Financial Strategy

☐

Infrastructure Strategy

☐

Significant Forecasting Assumptions

☐

Draft Statements of Service Provision

☐

Draft Revenue and Finance Policy

☐

2024/25 Fees and User charges

☐

Draft Financial Statements

☐

Statement of Significant Accounting Policies

☐

Draft Funding Impact Statements

☐

Draft Development Contributions policy

☐

Draft Rates Postponement Policy and Draft Rates Remission Policy

☐

Investment and Liability Management policies

☐

I would like to provide further general feedback

☐

I have no further feedback to provide

Comments

Thank you for your submission
If you need extra room or have additional information to provide please feel free to attach a document to your submission.

What happens next?
We appreciate the feedback we get, and we take time to consider it.

The Mayor and Councillors are given copies of all submissions. We also prepare reports on the submissions, so Councillors know how many there were and what the main themes and comments are.

If you wish to speak to your submission, please indicate that preference clearly when you make your submission. The start of this form includes a question on oral submissions.

The Mayor and Councillors are scheduled to adopt the final plan on Thursday 27 June 2024.

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Reply



Long-term Plan
Policy and Reporting
Wellington City Council
PO Box 2199
Wellington 6140

Absolutely Positively
Wellington City Council
Me Heke Ki Pōneke